American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
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ASGE AND ASGE FOUNDATION HOLD CRYSTAL AWARDS DINNER AS PART OF DIGESTIVE DISEASE WEEK®, MAY 17, AT RONALD REAGAN BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC – MAY 17, 2015 – The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) will honor important contributions to the field of endoscopy during the eleventh annual ASGE Crystal Awards on Sunday, May 17, 2015. Hosted by ASGE and the ASGE Foundation, this year’s event will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, DC.

Held in conjunction with Digestive Disease Week (DDW®), the ASGE Crystal Awards will recognize this year’s award winners for their achievements and contributions to the profession and the society. Proceeds from the Crystal Awards support ASGE’s clinical research, physician education and public outreach initiatives.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to the ASGE Foundation, stop by the ASGE Resource Center located in Concourse B on Level C at DDW® or visit www.asge.org or call (630) 573-0600 or (800) 343-ASGE (2743).

Award Recipients

Rudolf V. Schindler Award
ASGE’s highest honor, this award is given to a member whose accomplishments in endoscopic research, teaching and/or service to ASGE exemplifies the standards and traditions of Rudolf V. Schindler, MD, founder of the American Gastroscopic Club, the forerunner of ASGE.

Robert H. Hawes, MD, FASGE, Florida Hospital Orlando, Orlando, Florida

Distinguished Service Awards
This award is granted to an individual who has made long-term contributions to GI endoscopy in the areas of equipment research and development, as well as an individual who has been a strong supporter of the educational and research mission of the society.

Robert A. Ganz, MD, FASGE, Minnesota Gastroenterology, Saint Paul, Minnesota
Jacques Van Dam, MD, PhD, FASGE, USC Medical Center, Los Angeles, California
Karen L. Woods, MD, FASGE, Methodist Hospital, Houston, Texas

Distinguished Educator Awards
Physician as educator is the focus of this award, recognizing contributions to the education of fellows through endoscopy seminars, participation in national postgraduate courses and published scholarly reviews or educational materials, including videos.

David L. Jaffe, MD, FASGE, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Klaus Mergener, MD, PhD, MBA, FASGE, Digestive Health Specialists, Tacoma, Washington
**Master Endoscopist Award**
This award recognizes a physician who spends the majority of their time in patient care and is recognized regionally or nationally for their expertise and longitudinal contributions to the practice of gastrointestinal endoscopy.

**Michael L. Kochman, MD, FASGE, University of Pennsylvania Health System, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

**Distinguished Endoscopic Research Mentoring Award**
This award recognizes outstanding career achievement by an ASGE member in the mentoring of faculty or gastroenterology trainees in clinical or lab-related endoscopic research. This distinguished honor recognizes mentors who have devoted substantial time and effort to develop and nurture the next generation of endoscopic investigators.

**Christopher J. Gostout, MD, FASGE, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota**

**International Service Award**
This award was created to recognize outstanding service by an international member who has made long-term contributions to GI endoscopy, as well as an individual who has been a strong supporter of the educational and research mission of the society.

**Hironori Yamamoto, MD, FASGE, Jichi Medical University, Tochigi, Japan**

**President’s Award**
Awarded at the discretion of the ASGE President, the President’s Award distinguishes those individuals who make exceptional contributions to the Society and its mission. Whether through organized volunteer opportunities or singular initiatives supporting the goals of ASGE, honorees are recognized for this assistance by the President.

**M. Brian Fennerty, MD, FASGE, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, Oregon**

**Congressional Service Awards**
This award recognizes legislators in the United States Congress who are committed to developing and championing healthcare legislation that advances digestive health and gastroenterological services and care.

**U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH)**
**Congressman Donald Payne Jr. (D-PA-10)**

**Endoscopic Research Awards (ERA)**
After undergoing a rigorous peer-review process, ERA grants are awarded to physicians who received the highest scores for projects in basic, translational and clinical research in GI endoscopy.

**Jonathan M. Buscaglia, MD, FASGE, Stony Brook University Medical Center Endoscopy Unit, Stony Brook, New York**
**Sachin B. Wani, MD, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, Colorado**

**NYSGE Florence Lefcourt Award**
This award supports collaborative educational outreach projects in the greater New York area, and is funded by the New York Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (NYSGE) Endowment Fund. It is named to honor the late Florence Lefcourt, NYSGE’s Executive Director, who served the Society since 1976 and remained a tireless and devoted leader in the GI endoscopy community.

**Robin Mendelsohn, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York**

**Cook Medical Don Wilson Awards**
The Don Wilson Award provides advanced fellows or junior faculty with the opportunity to train outside of their home country with a premier GI endoscopist or group to advance their training. The award was named to honor the late Dr. Don Wilson, a strong advocate and supporter of international education and training in GI endoscopy. The awards are underwritten by a grant from Cook Medical.

**Aziz Aadam, MD, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois**
**Vincent Dusabejambo, MD, Kigali University Teaching Hospital, Kigali, Rwanda**
**Salvatore Francesco Vadala di Prampero, MD, PhD, University Hospital of Udine, Udine, Italy**
**Cook Medical Marsha Dreyer Awards**

Marsha Dreyer was passionately committed to the support of continuing education opportunities for GI professionals around the globe. In a fitting tribute to her, Cook Medical established the Marsha Dreyer Award to provide scholarships for international physicians to attend DDW.

Yuichi Mori, MD, PhD, Showa University Yokohama Northern Hospital, Yokohama, Japan
Salvatore Oliva, MD, Sapienza - University of Rome, Rome, Italy
Nikhil Vergis, BMBCH, St Mary's Hospital, Imperial College, London, United Kingdom

**Diversity Awards**

The Diversity Award is granted to physicians who submitted outstanding abstracts for DDW, promoting gender- and ethnicity-related healthcare research.

Ananya Das, MD, FASGE, Arizona Digestive Health PC, Gilbert, Arizona
Jennifer H. Lai, MD, California Pacific Medical Center, San Francisco, California

**Endoscopic Audiovisual Awards**

The Audiovisual Awards recognize outstanding educational productions related to GI endoscopy techniques. The videos demonstrate accepted techniques or show difficult cases, complications or innovations within the field of endoscopy and are showcased at the ASGE Learning Center at DDW.

Wajeeh Salah, MD, Mayo Clinic, Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Shou-Jiang Tang, MD, FASGE, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, Mississippi
Vinay Dhir, MD, Baldota Institute of Digestive Sciences, Mumbai, India

**ASGE Outstanding Manuscript Award**

The ASGE Outstanding Manuscript Award recognizes an outstanding manuscript written by a fellow and published in *GIE: Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*.

Yamile Haito Chavez, MD, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland

**ASGE Community Outreach Awards**

This ASGE Community Outreach Award for trainees is aimed at recognizing trainees for doing good works in their community related to digestive health.

Sarah Flores, MD, MPH, UC Irvine Medical Center, Irvine, California
Sameer Siddique, MD, MRCP, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri

**Lectures**

These lectures, presented during DDW, are sponsored by the ASGE Foundation.

- **Annual Postgraduate Course - Monday, May 18**
  Basil I. Hirschowitz, MD Endowed Lecture
  Colleen M. Schmitt, MD, MHS, FASGE, Galen Medical Group, Chattanooga, Tennessee

- **Scott Zarrow Memorial Lecture**
  Supported by The Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation.
  Francis A. Farraye, MD, FASGE, Boston Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts

- **AGA/ASGE Presidential Plenary Session – Sunday, May 17**
  J. Edward Berk, MD, DSc, FASGE Endowed Lecture
  Tonya R. Kaltenbach, MD, FASGE, VA Palo Alto, Palo Alto, California

- **Jack A. Vennes, MD and Stephen E. Silvis, MD Endowed Lecture**
  Bret T. Petersen, MD, FASGE, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota
ASGE Ambassador Program

- **ASGE Ambassador - Solomon Islands**
  John Baillie, MBChB, FASGE, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia

- **ASGE Ambassadors - Serbia**
  Neil Gupta, MD, MPH, Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, Illinois
  Ivan Jovanovic, MD, PhD, FASGE, Clinical Center of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia
  R. Michael Mitchell, MD, Belfast City Hospital, Belfast, Ireland
  Ali Siddiqui, MD, Thomas Jefferson University Digestive Disease Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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About the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
Since its founding in 1941, the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) has been dedicated to advancing patient care and digestive health by promoting excellence and innovation in gastrointestinal endoscopy. ASGE, with more than 12,000 members worldwide, promotes the highest standards for endoscopic training and practice, fosters endoscopic research, recognizes distinguished contributions to endoscopy, and is the foremost resource for endoscopic education. Visit [www.asge.org](http://www.asge.org) and [www.screen4coloncancer.org](http://www.screen4coloncancer.org) for more information and to find a qualified doctor in your area.

About Endoscopy
Endoscopy is performed by specially-trained physicians called endoscopists using the most current technology to diagnose and treat diseases of the gastrointestinal tract. Using flexible, thin tubes called endoscopes, endoscopists are able to access the human digestive tract without incisions via natural orifices. Endoscopes are designed with high-intensity lighting and fitted with precision devices that allow viewing and treatment of the gastrointestinal system.

About Digestive Disease Week (DDW®)
Digestive Disease Week® (DDW®) is the largest international gathering of physicians, researchers and academics in the fields of gastroenterology, hepatology, endoscopy and gastrointestinal surgery. Jointly sponsored by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD), the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) Institute, the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) and the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT), DDW takes place May 16 – 19, 2015, at Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC. The meeting showcases more than 5,000 abstracts and hundreds of lectures on the latest advances in GI research, medicine and technology. More information can be found at [www.ddw.org](http://www.ddw.org).