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Media Contact: Gina Steiner
(630) 570-5635
gsteiner@asge.org

American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
3300 Woodcreek Drive
Downers Grove, IL 60515
P (630) 573-0600
F (630) 963-8607
www.asge.org
www.screen4coloncancer.org

ASGE AND ASGE FOUNDATION HOLD CRYSTAL AWARDS 1940s-THEMED GALA AS PART OF DIGESTIVE DISEASE WEEK®, MAY 22, AT THE US GRANT HOTEL

SAN DIEGO, CA – MAY 20, 2016 – The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) will celebrate its 75th Anniversary and honor important contributions to the field of GI endoscopy during the Crystal Awards on Sunday, May 22, 2016. Hosted by ASGE and the ASGE Foundation, this exciting 1940s-themed gala will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the iconic US Grant Hotel and feature special guest Emcee Kathy Ireland. The celebration will continue immediately following the program with an exciting after party with live music and dancing.

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

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

**Distinguished Service Award**
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.
Jonathan Cohen, MD, FASGE, *New York University School of Medicine, New York, New York*

**Distinguished Educator Award**
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.
Robert E. Sedlack, MD, MHPE, FASGE, *Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota*
**Master Endoscopist Award**
This award recognizes a physician who spends the majority of his/her time in patient care and is recognized regionally or nationally for his/her expertise and longitudinal contributions to the practice of gastrointestinal endoscopy.

*Bret T. Petersen, MD, FASGE, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota*

**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.

*Gregory G. Ginsberg, MD, FASGE, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

**International Service Awards**
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.

*Juergen H. Hochberger, MD, PhD, FASGE, Strasbourg University Hospitals, Strasbourg, France*

*Zeyad K. Sharaiha, MD, Amman Surgical Hospital, Amman, Jordan*

**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.

*Thomas M. Deas Jr., MD, MMM, FASGE, North Texas Specialty Physicians, Fort Worth, Texas*

**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.

*Representative Diane Black (R-TN-6)*
*Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA)*

**Endoscopic Research Awards**
After undergoing a rigorous peer-review process, ASGE’s Endoscopic Research Awards are granted to physicians who received the highest scores for projects in basic, translational and clinical research in endoscopy.

*Vani Konda, MD, FASGE, University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois*
*Felix W. Leung, MD, VA Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center, North Hills, California*
*Tilak Shah, MD, Hunter Holmes McGuire Hospital, Richmond, Virginia*
*Andrew W. Yen, MD, FASGE, Sacramento VA Medical Center, Mather, California*

**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.

*Shailja Shah, MD, Mount Sinai Hospital, 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 awards are underwritten by a grant from Cook Medical and named to honor the late Dr. Don Wilson, a strong advocate and supporter of international education and training in GI endoscopy.
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.

Nancy E. Aguilar-Olivos, MD, Instituto Nacional De Ciencia, Mecheas Y Nutricion "Salvador Zubiran", Ciudad De Mexico, Mexico

Madalin Ionut Costache, MD, Department of Gastroenterology Research Center of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Craiova, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Craiova, Romania

Kesavan Kandiah, MBChB, Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth University Hospital NHS Trust, Portsmouth, United Kingdom

Arun Rajendran, MD, St Mark's Hospital, Harrow, United Kingdom

Alvin Y.S. Ting, MD, Monash Medical Centre, Clayton, Australia

Diversity Awards

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

Elisabeth Waldmann, MD, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Rena Yadlapati, MD, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois

Endoscopic Audiovisual Award

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.

Michael Chang, MD, University of California San Diego, San Diego, California

ASGE Outstanding Manuscript Award

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

Dennis Yang, MD, University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, Florida

ASGE Community Outreach Awards

This ASGE Community Outreach Award recognizes trainees for doing good works in their community related to digestive health.

Bhaumik Brahmbhatt, MD, Mayo Clinic Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Jacksonville, Florida

Leila Kia, MD, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois

Lectureships

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

Annual Postgraduate Course - Sunday, May 22

Basil I. Hirschowitz, MD Endowed Lecture

John J. Vargo II, MD, MPH, FASGE, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio

Scott Zarrow Memorial Lecture

Supported by The Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation.

Tonya R. Kaltenbach, MD, MS, FASGE, VA Palo Alto, Palo Alto, California
ASGE Presidential Plenary Session – Monday, May 23
J. Edward Berk, MD, DSc, FASGE Endowed Lecture
Michael L. Kochman, MD, FASGE, *University of Pennsylvania Health System, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Jack A. Vennes, MD and Stephen E. Silvis, MD Endowed Lecture
Grace H. Elta, MD, FASGE, *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan*

ASGE Ambassador Program

**ASGE Ambassador-Solomon Islands**
Nicholas J. Nickl, MD, *University Hospital Chandler Medical Center, Lexington, Kentucky*

**ASGE Ambassadors-Myanmar**
Than Than Aye, MBBS, *Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital, Yangon, Myanmar*
Amol Bapaye, MD, FASGE, *Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital & Research Center, Pune, India*
Alan N. Barkun, MD, CM, MSc, FASGE, *McGill University, The Montreal General Hospital, Montreal, Canada*
Annette Fritscher-Ravens, MD, PhD, FASGE, *University Hospital, Kiel, Germany*
Nwe Ni, MD, *Mandalay General Hospital, Mandalay, Myanmar*
Amrita Sethi, MD, *Columbia University Medical Center, New York, New York*

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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 14,000 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 21 – 24, 2016, at the San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, California. 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).