

INTERNATIONAL

ASGE Ambassador Program traveled to Ecuador and Solomon Islands in 2011



Two teams of ASGE-member volunteers helped train physicians in Cuenca, Ecuador, and the Solomon Islands at the end of 2011 through the ASGE Ambassador Program.

Cuenca, Ecuador

Thirty physicians from throughout Ecuador participated in the training, held in November 2011. The program focused on upper GI tract malignancies and GI bleeding (variceal and non-variceal). Approximately 55 patients underwent diagnostic and/or therapeutic endoscopies during the program.

“It was an amazing experience working with both the Ecuadorian gastroenterologists and my Ambassador colleagues,” said ASGE International Committee Chair Ian M. Gralnek, MD, MSHS, FASGE. “It was an honor to represent ASGE in this international philanthropic program.”

In addition to Dr. Gralnek from Rambam Health Care Campus, Haifa, Israel, the following ASGE members offered their time and expertise to serve as Ambassadors in Ecuador: Simon K. Lo, MD, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, Calif.; Kulwinder S. Dua, MD, FASGE, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisc.; and Dayna S. Early, MD, FASGE, Washington University School of Medicine, GI Division, Saint Louis, Mo. (*Read more from the Ambassadors on pg. 35.*)

Solomon Islands

The Ambassador Program in the Solomon Islands was held in conjunction with the Solomon Island Living Memorial Project in December 2011. Solomon Islands is a developing country located in the southwestern Pacific. The country’s main hospital for its 600,000 residents, the National Referral Hospital, is located on the Guadalcanal. The training provided basic instruction in upper endoscopy, colonoscopy and the care and management of equipment. Twenty physicians participated in the training, and approximately twenty patients were treated during the program. This was a unique opportunity to carry out a training program in a developing country.

The ASGE members who volunteered to serve as Ambassadors in the Solomon Islands were: Stuart R. Gordon, MD, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, N.H.; Nicholas J. Nickl, MD, University Hospital Chandler Medical Center, Lexington, Ky; and Vance Rodgers, MD, Central Coast Gastroenterology, San Luis Obispo, Calif. (*Read more from the Ambassadors on pg. 34.*)

Taipei, Taiwan

The next ASGE Ambassador Program is scheduled for Taipei, Taiwan, Feb. 4–11, 2012. This program will help the Taiwanese government and the Taiwanese endoscopy society to develop and implement a national, formal pancreatico-biliary endoscopy training program; no such formal training program currently exists. Look for more information about this program in future issues of *ASGE News*.

About the Ambassador Program

Conceptualized in 2009, the ASGE Ambassador Program was developed to export two of the society’s greatest assets throughout the world — basic and advanced endoscopic medical care and training expertise. ASGE launched its first Ambassador Program in February 2010 in Cairo, Egypt, followed by visits to Hue City and Nha Trang, Vietnam, in November 2010.

These programs would not be possible without the grant funding and equipment provided by our industry partners: Cook Medical, Olympus Corporation of the Americas and Pentax Medical Company.

Click on the [ASGE Ambassador Program](#) for more information, to contribute to future programs or contact Holly Becker, manager, International Member Relations, via email at hbecker@asge.org or telephone at 630-570-5631.