



# WGO 2019 Annual Report

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## Mission / Vision

### Mission of the WGO

To promote, to the general public and healthcare professional alike, an awareness of the world-wide prevalence and optimal care of gastrointestinal and liver disorders, and to improve care of these disorders, through the provision of high quality, accessible and independent education and training.

### WGO Vision

Gastrointestinal and liver disorders are preeminent among healthcare issues globally, a significant burden to national healthcare budgets and the single greatest cause of cancer death. While an increasing awareness of causative factors, coupled with dramatic advances in diagnostic and therapeutic approaches have led to improvements in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of gastrointestinal and liver disorders, these benefits have not been transmitted equally across the world and, especially, to those in greatest need.

As the global representative for gastroenterology and hepatology, the role of WGO is to:

- Increase global public awareness of gastrointestinal and liver disorders
- Provide independent and high quality educational opportunities to medical, nursing and other healthcare professionals in gastrointestinal and liver disorders throughout the world, regardless of location
- Promote international collaboration in digestive health education, training and research
- Support healthcare professionals who care for those with gastrointestinal and liver disorders throughout the world

# Message from the President



## *A View of 2019*

Since its establishment in 1958, the World of Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) has disseminated medical education to gastroenterologists, hepatologists, endoscopists, and other related disciplines across the entire world.

Over the past twenty years, the WGO has developed new education programs that uniquely fulfill a niche that is not offered by any national or regional societies. These include the Train the Trainer workshops that are run in conjunction with our member societies; the creation of 23 Training Centers, many in collaboration with the WGO member societies, enabling gastroenterologists, hepatologists and related disciplines to become specialists in their part of the world; the unique Global Guidelines that incorporate cascades and are translated into five major languages, thereby ensuring that the best clinical practice can be delivered in both developed and developing countries; and the organization of the annual World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) campaign that highlights important GI issues to the public at large. We must also recognize our other programs and committees that are leading the charge in research, education, and training: Clinical Research Committee; Scientific Programs Committee; Publications Committee; e-WGN Editorial Board; Endoscopy Interest Group, Hepatology Interest Group; and WGO Foundation.

## *Look Back at 2019*

As we look back on a historical record setting year, we are proud of the work that has been achieved as WGO continues to extend its education and training across the global community. During 2019, the WGO set several records, which demonstrates our progress. For the first time, the World Congress of Gastroenterology (WCOG) moved to a two-year cycle and was held in Istanbul, Turkey in partnership with the Turkish Society of Gastroenterology (TSG). The congress had an exceptional scientific program and over 1,000 abstracts were submitted. For the first time, WGO awarded 72 travel grants to recipients from both WGO Training Centers and member societies across all four regions. It was also during the World Congress that the first woman was appointed President of the WGO. Additionally, I have the privilege to be the first person from Africa to serve as President.

In 2019 WGO's membership increased gaining two new societies, The Azerbaijan Association for Surgeons and Gastroenterologists and the Egyptian Association for Research and Training in Hepatogastroenterology (EARTH), bringing our total to 115 member societies.

Additionally, in collaboration with the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, WGO co-organized the 28th Train the Trainers Workshop in Bucharest, Romania. This course had 49 in attendance, bringing our total to over 1100 participants from 100 different countries since 2001. This is a testament to WGO's commitment to focus on the improvement and accessibility of education and training.

In this report, you will find additional benchmarks and activities highlighting WGO's programs and

initiatives from 2019, and I am especially proud that we had nearly 200 volunteers serve as members on WGO's committees and interest groups. Thank you to our members and volunteers for your continued support and dedication to WGO! You will also find on **pages 4 and 5** the Governing Council members appointed for the 2019 – 2021 term. I encourage you to please reach out to them and share your ideas.

### *Looking Forward*

WGO continues to be a global leader and together we will continue to make an impact on GI health. During the next two years we will work towards three main objectives: to attract more young physicians, to encourage females to serve on WGO committees to have more impact in the global community, and to increase efforts toward growing our membership in Africa as well as in all parts of the world. With your commitment, support, and confidence we will help raise our position as the global federation of national societies dedicated to digestive health.

While we are operating in times of uncertainty due to this pandemic, as a federation, it is through the work and alliance with our societies and members that we will come out stronger and overcome this. We continue to offer our solidarity and moral support to all of our colleagues and friends, especially those working as first responders combating this pandemic.

Together we will prevail.

We hope to see you soon at our upcoming Gastro 2020 Prague, organized jointly by the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) and the Czech Society of Gastroenterology (ČGS), to be held on December 3-5, 2020 in Prague. For more information, please visit <https://www.gastro2020prague.org/>

With regards,



Professor Naima Lahbabi-Amrani  
WGO President



3-5 DECEMBER 2020  
PRAGUE CZECH REPUBLIC  
O<sub>2</sub> UNIVERSUM

# Governing Council

## Executive Committee

### President

**Prof. Naima Lahbabi-Amrani**



*Morocco*  
Professor of Medicine,  
Faculty of Medicine  
Mohammed V  
University  
Rabat

### President-Elect and Chair of the WGO Foundation

**Prof. Guilherme Macedo**



*Portugal*  
Centro Hospitalar São  
João  
Porto

### Secretary General

**Prof. Geoffrey Metz**



*Australia*  
Epworth Hospital  
Richmond, VIC

### Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee

**Dr. Mark Topazian**



*USA*

### Past President and Chair of Nominations

**Prof. Cihan Yurdaydin**



*Turkey*  
Koc University Medical  
School  
Dept. of Gastroenterol-  
ogy and Hepatology  
Istanbul

## Council of Chairs

The WGO Council of Chairs is comprised of the Executive Committee, the Chairs of the following WGO Committees and Interest Groups, and the Councilors at Large.

### Chair, Clinical Research Committee

**Prof. Desmond Leddin**



*Canada*  
Victoria General  
Hospital  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

### Chair, Endoscopy, Other Procedures and Outreach Interest Group

**Dr. Andrew Veitch**



*United Kingdom*  
New Cross Hospital  
Department of  
Gastroenterology  
Wolverhampton

### Chair, Guidelines Committee

**Prof. David Armstrong**



*Canada*  
McMaster University  
Department of  
Medicine  
Hamilton, Ontario

### Chair, Hepatology Interest Group

**Prof. Saeed Hamid**



*Pakistan*  
Aga Khan  
University Hospital,  
Department of  
Medicine  
Karachi

### Chair, Scientific Programs Committee

**Prof. Carolina Olano**



*Uruguay*  
Associate Professor  
- Universidad de La  
República  
Montevideo

### Chair, Training Centers Committee

**Prof. Finlay Macrae**



*Australia*  
The Royal  
Melbourne Hospital,  
Head, Colorectal  
Medicine and  
Genetics  
Melbourne, Victoria

### Chair, Train the Trainers Committee

**Prof. Jean-Christophe Saurin**



*France*  
Hôpital Edouard  
Herriot, Hépatol-  
ogist  
Gastroentérologie  
Lyon Cedex 03  
Councilors at Large



# Governing Council, *continued*

## Councilors at Large

*Chair, Publications Committee*

**Prof. Alejandro Piscoya**

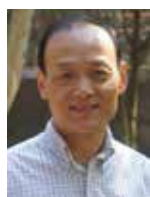


*Peru*

Hospital Guillermo  
Kaelin de La Fuente  
Lima

*Promotion of Education in  
Asia-Pacific Region*

**Prof. Kaichun Wu**



*China*

Xijing Hospital of  
Digestive Diseases  
Xi'an, Shaanxi  
Regional Association  
Chairs/Presidents

## Regional Association Chairs/Presidents

*Pan-American Gastroenterological  
Association (OPGE)*

**Prof. Eduardo Gutierrez Galiana**



*Uruguay*

Clinica Platinum  
Montevideo

*Asian Pacific Association of  
Gastroenterology (APAGE)*

**Prof. Daiming Fan**



*China*

Xijing Hospital of  
Digestive Diseases  
Fourth Military  
Medical University  
Xi'an

*African Middle East Association  
of Gastroenterology (AMAGE)*

**Prof. Reda Elwakil**



*Egypt*

Emeritus Professor of  
Tropical Medicine  
Ain Shams University  
Cairo

*United European  
Gastroenterology (UEG)*

**Prof. Axel Dignass**



*Germany*

Agaplesion Markus  
Hospital  
Frankfurt

## WGO Secretariat Staff



**Marissa Lopez, CAE**

Executive Director

**Ashley Huren-Johnson, MBA**

Communications and Development Manager

**Jim Melberg**

Program Manager, Membership, Guidelines and Publications

**Krystal Livingston**

Education and Meetings Manager

**Robert Kopchinski**

Assistant Director of Development

### WGO Executive Secretariat

555 East Wells Street, Suite 1100  
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3823 USA

Phone: +1 414 918-9798 • Fax: +1 414 276-3349

E-mail: [info@worldgastroenterology.org](mailto:info@worldgastroenterology.org)



# WGO Volunteers

The leadership of the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) consists of the following bodies, each contributing to the activities of the organization:

- Governing Council
- Clinical Research Committee
- Endoscopy, Other Procedures and Outreach Interest Group
- e-WGN Editorial Board
- Finance Committee
- Global Guidelines Committee
- Hepatology Interest Group
- Nominations Committee
- Publications Committee
- Scientific Programs Committee
- Training Centers Committee
- Train the Trainers Committee

## Volunteers by Gender



## Volunteers by Region

Africa/Middle East - 40

Americas - 56

Asia Pacific - 64

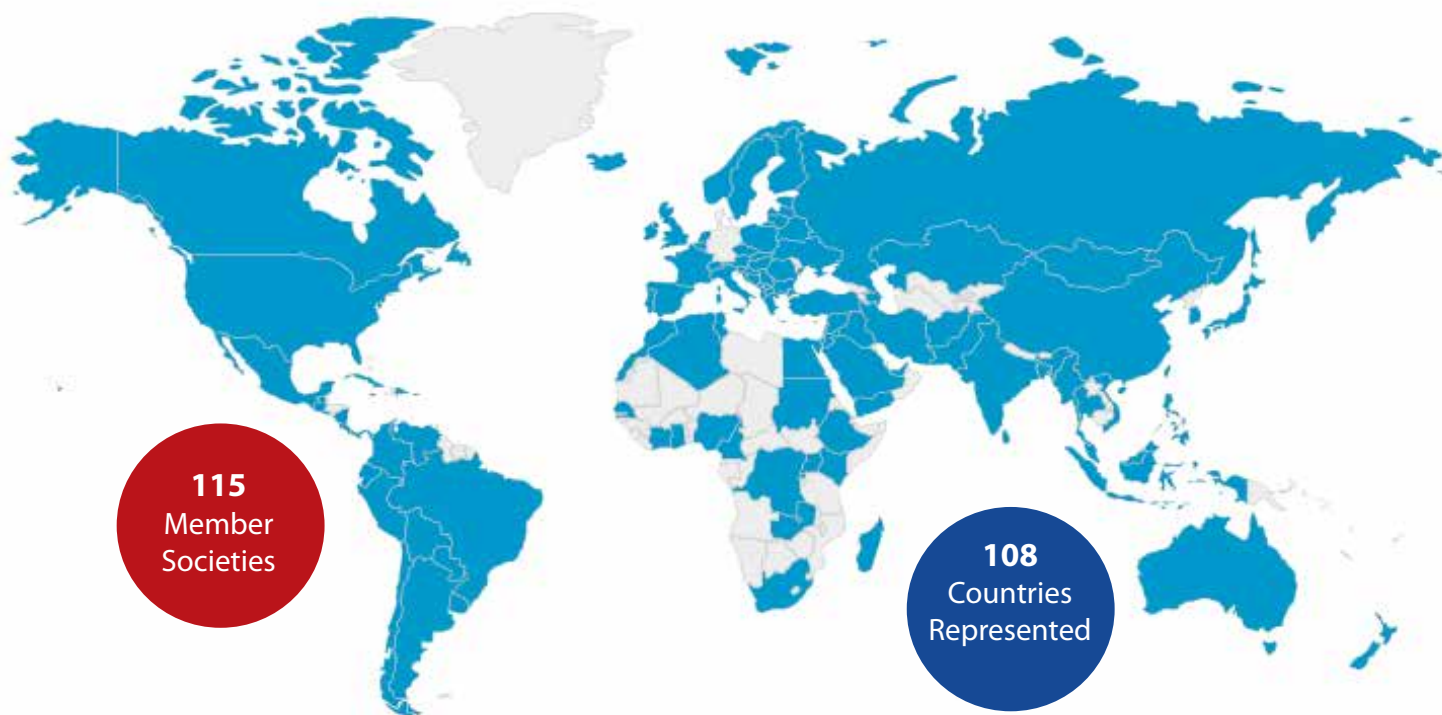
Europe - 33

**Thank you to all of committee volunteers  
for your commitment and dedication to WGO!**



# Membership

The World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) is a global federation of 115 Member Societies representing over 50,000 individual gastroenterologists, hepatologists, endoscopists, GI surgeons, and other health care professionals. WGO programs and activities are dedicated to serving the needs of its members and promoting digestive health worldwide, especially in developing and emerging societies.



## *WGO Member Societies by Region*

Africa/Middle East - **33**

Americas - **24**

Asia Pacific - **21**

Europe - **37**

## Welcome our New 2019 WGO Member Societies!



Azerbaijan Gastroenterologists and Hepatologists Society

Egyptian Association for Research and Training in Hepatogastroenterology (EARTH)



# Programs / Services

## Training

Education and Training represents a core primary program for the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO). Since 1998, the WGO has provided training and education to the global gastroenterology community reaching over 2,500 trainees through its 23 Training Centers and over 1,100 participants from 100 countries through its Train the Trainers courses.

### Training Centers

#### 2019 Grants Program

Total number of trainees who were awarded grants to attend a training course at a WGO Training Center in 2019



#### Training Centers

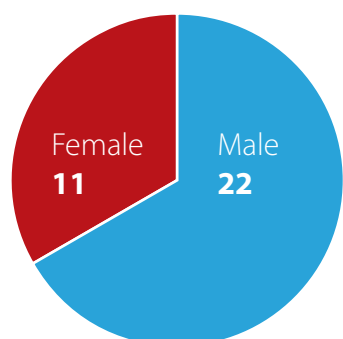
Training Centers awarded Educational Activity funds



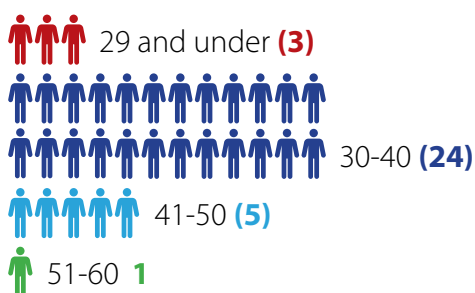
#### 2019 Grants Program Recipients

33 Trainees\*

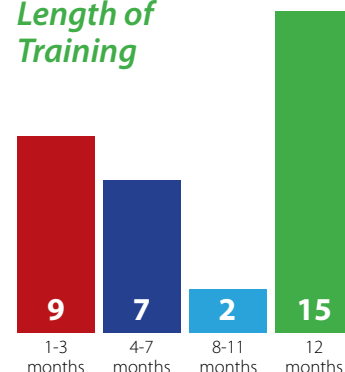
##### Gender



##### Ages



##### Length of Training



Number training outside their country of residence

24

“ My training in a WGO center was an invaluable experience I was lucky to have. It helped to materialize my dream of becoming a gastroenterologist. Thank you WGO, Thank you SAGES-ADD, Thank you Baragwanath Hospital. ”

“ After training I will critically appraise and adapt the different GI/ hepatology guidelines to my clinical practice, and train registrars in upper and lower endoscopy. ”

“ I was a self-sponsored GI fellow, with limited resources during my training period. The WGO grant enabled me to attend local conferences and purchase some study material. I was fortunate to have received this grant. Thank you very much. I hope other GI fellows will benefit from this grant too. ”

\*36 were awarded grants, however, only 33 accepted their awards.

# Programs / Services, *continued*

## Train the Trainers

In collaboration with the Romanian Society of Gastroenterology & Hepatology (SRGH), the 28th Train the Trainers course was held in Bucharest, Romania from 1-4 April 2019.

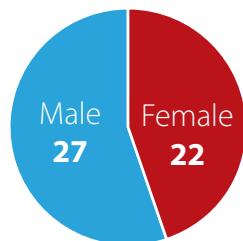
**49**

Number of Participants

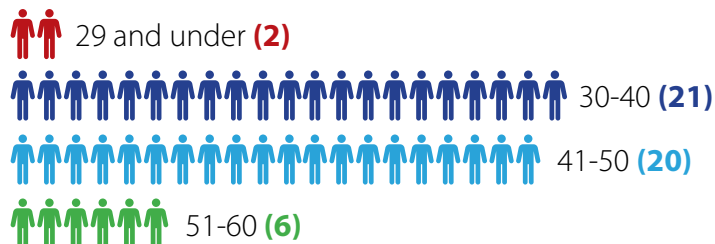
**23**

Total number of countries attendees (faculty and participant) came from

### Gender



### Ages of Participants



“ I’m really glad to participate in the TTT workshop. It’s a rare opportunity to know different educational culture between western countries and Asia. ”



“ The workshop was very useful to me personally because I am a young lecturer at the beginning of my career. I loved the fact that we were all involved in different activities. ”

## ERCP Course

In collaboration with the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG), WGO co-led a two day ERCP Trainers workshop from 4-5 July 2019 in London, U.K. Four representatives from three WGO Training Centers (Bangkok, Nairobi and Porto) and two additional participants that BSG invited participated in the course that provided attendees practiced didactic, simulator, and clinical ERCP instruction, under the guidance of BSG staff. The course also provided a comprehensive approach to best practices in providing trainee feedback and structuring an ERCP training program.



# Programs / Services, *continued*

## Education

### WGO Global Guidelines and Cascades

The WGO Guidelines Library contains 26 practice guidelines that are globally applicable by the nature of their cascades, which identify other ways of achieving the best possible outcome by taking the available resources into account. While each guideline includes references to other relevant guidelines, WGO is the only organization who has adopted a global focus. In addition, each guideline review team includes non-Western experts with direct knowledge of conditions in their regions.



**A Resource Sensitive Solution**

#### *Updated and/or Newly Published Guidelines in 2019*

- Endoscope Disinfection (Update)
- Pancreatic Cystic Lesions (New)

#### *Most Popular Titles in 2019*

- Probiotics and prebiotics
- Acute diarrhea
- IBD
- IBS

#### *Languages Available*

- English
- French
- Mandarin
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish





# Outreach / Advocacy

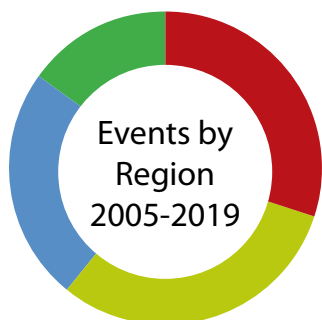
## World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) 2019

Every 29th May, the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO), in collaboration with the WGO Foundation (WGOF), celebrates World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) and initiates a yearlong, worldwide, public health campaign through 115 WGO Member Societies which reach over 50,000 individuals worldwide, WGO Training Centers, Regional Affiliate Associations and other WGO global partners. Each year focuses upon a particular digestive disease and/or disorder in order to increase general public awareness of prevention, prevalence, diagnosis, management and treatment of the disease and/or disorder.

*The theme for World Digestive Health Day 2019 was "Early Diagnosis and Treatment of GI Cancer"*

### Website Stats

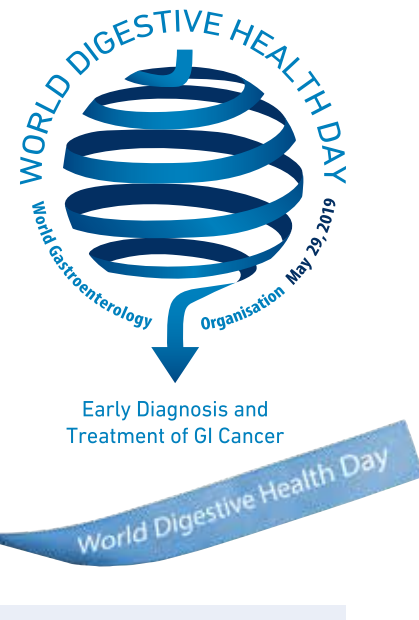
The WGO website received 2,029 sessions on 29 May 2019 (World Digestive Health Day), which was the highest ever for a single day!



- Americas **30%**
- Asia Pacific **31%**
- Europe **24%**
- Africa/Middle East **15%**



- Professional development for physicians and healthcare professionals **26%**
- Media collaboration **22%**
- General public awareness campaign or distribution of WGO tools **20%**
- Publications **16%**
- Other **16%**



### 2019 WDHD Events Around the Globe

Press Conference

**Argentina**

Presentation on the prevention of gastrointestinal cancer

**Brazil**

Scientific session dedicated to WDHD

**Cuba**

Lectures to physicians and surgeons

**India**

Free medical consultation camp

**India**

Public education program with educational brochures

**India**

Presentation on Digestive Oncology

**Latvia**

Public talk and health education

**Myanmar**

Seminar on screening and early diagnosis of GI cancers

**Pakistan**

Workshop on evidence based cancer therapies

**Poland**

Informational blog

**United States**

Scientific multidisciplinary activity

**Uruguay**

Inter-hospital meeting on the treatment of gastrointestinal cancer

**Venezuela**

Over 100,  
in 23  
Countries!

### Countries that participated

Argentina • Australia • Brazil • Cuba • India • Iran • Italy • Latvia  
Myanmar • Nepal • Nigeria • Pakistan • Poland • Spain • Ukraine  
United States • Uruguay • Venezuela

# Congress and Meetings

## World Congress of Gastroenterology 2019 Istanbul

The World Congress of Gastroenterology 2019, was held in partnership with the Turkish Society of Gastroenterology, 21-24 September 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey. The congress had an exceptional scientific program and over 1,000 abstracts were submitted. For the first time, WGO awarded 72 travel grants to recipients from both WGO Training Centers and member societies across all four regions.

The WCOG has historically been held every four years, starting with the first World Congress in Washington, DC, USA in 1958. The World Congress rotates between four regions: the Americas, Europe, Africa/Middle East, and Asia Pacific.



### Total number of Abstracts

**1,016**

### Number of Abstracts by Region

Africa/Middle East - **525**

Americas - **69**

Asia Pacific - **248**

Europe - **174**

### Travel Grants (dollars awarded and/or grants awarded)

**\$56,749.79/ 72** grants awarded (**40** from WGO Training Centers and **32** from member societies)

### Attendance

**2,500** (estimated) representing **95** Countries



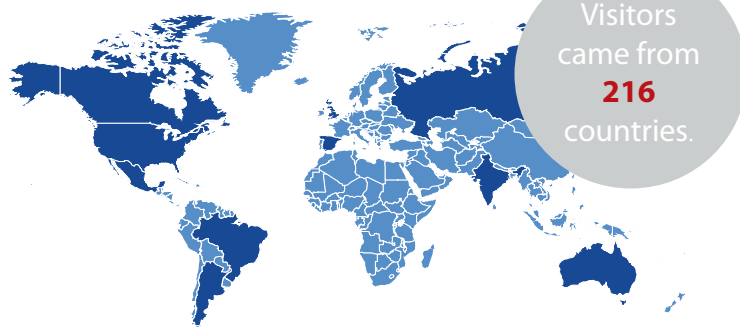


# Reach / Engagement

## Website



### Top Countries



### Did you know...

Almost half of the visitors came from Latin America, Asia and Africa

## Circulation/Reach

### e-WGN

The official newsletter of WGO, the electronic World Gastroenterology News (e-WGN), is available in an online format. It is distributed three times per year and is accessible free of charge as an easily printable PDF.



Sent to **41,000** recipients 3-4 times per year

## Social Media



5,558 followers on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram combined, a 69% increase from 2018.

Instagram launched in September 2019.

# Awards

The World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) presents a number of awards in conjunction with each World Congress of Gastroenterology and at the meetings of the WGO Regional Affiliate Associations. These include:

## Masters of WGO

The Master of the WGO Award is the highest honor the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) can bestow on a member and is granted only to those individuals who have provided outstanding dedication to the mission of the WGO and achieved distinction in such areas as scholarly research, teaching, and service to WGO and the community at large.

The 2019 Masters of the WGO were recognized at an awards ceremony that took place during the World Congress of Gastroenterology 2019, in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 September 2019.



## The Bockus Medal and Lecture

A medal, known as the Henry L. Bockus Medal, is awarded at each World Congress to a gastroenterologist who has made a distinguished contribution to the clinical practice, science and/or teaching of gastroenterology.



### 2019 Recipient

Richard Kozarek (USA)  
Lecture: The Evolution of Therapeutic Endoscopy: Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going?

## The Brohée Medal and Lecture

A Brohée Lecture is delivered during each World Congress of Gastroenterology to commemorate Georges Brohée, the founder of the first International Association of Gastroenterology. The Brohée Lecturer is chosen by the WGO Governing Council from either the host country or the respective region. A Medal is presented to the nominated lecturer during the World Congress by the Belgian Society of Gastroenterology.



### 2019 Recipient

Michael Fried (Switzerland)  
Lecture: Evidence Based Medicine: How Good is the Evidence?

## Awards, *continued*

### The WGO Distinguished Global Lecture

The World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) believes that it is important to continuously expand the ways in which WGO supports its Member Societies and Regional Affiliate Associations and their activities. With this goal in mind, WGO has established the “WGO Distinguished Global Lecture” as one means by which WGO can even more effectively demonstrate its commitment to participating in and supporting the major annual or biannual meetings of the Regional Affiliate Associations. The central aim of the WGO Distinguished Global Lecture is to contribute from a global perspective to the education and training being offered on a regional basis by the four WGO Regional Affiliate Associations:



African Middle East Association of Gastroenterology (AMAGE)

Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE)



Pan-American Gastroenterological Association (OPGE)

United European Gastroenterology (UEG)



### 2019 Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE) Recipient

D Nageshwar Reddy (India)  
Lecture: “Metabolic endoscopy- Is it only about obesity?” at Asian Pacific Digestive Week 2019 in Kolkata, India.



### Sponsors and Partners

The World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) is grateful to industry, foundations, and the individuals that supported our mission and therefore helping us to make a positive impact in the world in 2019. With the funds received we were able to assist Training Centers with their educational activities, support the attendance of trainees at the Training Centers, support the participation of key faculty for Train the Trainers and provide travel grants to 72 individuals who would otherwise not have been able to attend the 2019 World Congress of Gastroenterology.







**WGO Executive Secretariat**

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[www.worldgastroenterology.org/](http://www.worldgastroenterology.org/)

