The ACG Institute covers travel costs and honorarium for the ACG Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship Program. This program honors former ACG Institute Director Edgar Achkar, MD, MACG, and provides an exciting opportunity for a national expert to visit your institution, spend time with your fellows, educate colleagues and visit with young faculty as mentors. You chose the speakers. Through a grant, the ACG Institute covers the costs associated with the ACG Visiting Professorship.

RATIONALE
At a time when financial pressures on hospitals and academic medical centers mean that resources are limited to fund visiting speakers, the American College of Gastroenterology sees an unmet need for a national speakers program in clinical gastroenterology to provide high-quality visiting professors to GI training programs, as well as educational opportunities for local ACG members.

BACKGROUND
The ACG Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship Program facilitates visits to a range of North American institutions. Topics are chosen by grant recipients in collaboration with visiting professors for a dynamic learning experience. Thus far, presentations have addressed health information technology and utilization, irritable bowel disease, esophageal disorders and motility, chronic liver disease, hepatitis treatment update, functional bowel disorders, diverticular disease, lower GI bleeding, diet and IBS, upper GI motility and endoscopic ultrasound, and pancreatic disease.

GOALS
The College aims to bring nationally recognized speakers as faculty for medical grand rounds presentations to enhance the educational experience for GI fellows-in-training and to provide objective, timely and clinically relevant presentations to GI physicians in the community.

The goal of the ACG Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship Program is to enable GI fellowship programs to have high-quality visiting professors to bolster the training program by providing lectures, small group discussions and one-on-one visits with trainees and faculty. In addition, the program will show ACG support for a local gut club and the practitioner component of the ACG membership by creating an opportunity for a talk the evening before or after the visit at the academic center, if appropriate.

The ACG Institute will support travel expenses and honorarium for expert speakers to participate in a day of lectures and meetings with fellows and junior faculty at an academic institution, with the possibility of an evening gut club presentation, although the costs of such an event would not be covered by this program.
**MODEL SCHEDULE**

*(sample schedule, depends on local needs and availability)*

**DAY 1:**
- 5 pm  Arrival at city
- 7 pm  Dinner meeting at local restaurant or other venue for community

**DAY 2:**
- 8 am  Research symposium or presentation
- 9 am  Visits with faculty and trainees
- 11 am  Case presentations
- 12 pm  Clinical lecture
- 1 pm  Departure for airport

*Topics would depend on the visiting professor’s interests and the local institution’s needs. Content would be educational and suitable for CME, should the institution choose to pursue it.*

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**HOW IT WORKS**

The program is supported and administered by the College through the ACG Institute. ACG invites applications from interested GI training programs. Qualifying institutions will commit to promote the talk, recruit participants, and create opportunities for faculty and trainees to interact with the speaker during a day-long visit. The academic center will gauge interest and enthusiasm for a local gut club presentation, and the College will help coordinate an evening presentation, either before or after the talk at the academic venue. All travel expenses and the speaker honorarium would be covered by the ACG through unrestricted support from the ACG Institute for Clinical Research & Education; however, support for the local gut club event is not included.

**TO APPLY**

Institutions are invited to complete the online application form and to upload a one-page letter of interest addressed to the ACG Institute Director. The letter should include a statement of need outlining the training program’s objectives and how this talk will advance GI training at the institution. The letter should also specify dinner presentation, as appropriate. To apply: [gi.org/acg-institute/acg-edgar-achkar-visiting-professorship/](http://gi.org/acg-institute/acg-edgar-achkar-visiting-professorship/). For any questions, email: acginstitute@gi.org

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**Application Deadline: Friday, July 19, 2019**