

# ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS COMMITTEE

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Sarah M. Enslin, PA-C

## OBJECTIVES

1. Develop and provide relevant educational and professional resources for Gastroenterology and Hepatology APPs.
2. Identify and address challenges in APP practice by sharing ideas, defining best practices, and presenting solutions that improve patient care delivery.
3. Increase APP awareness of, and active engagement with, the College.
4. Provide a forum for APPs in gastroenterology and hepatology to connect, collaborate and network.
5. Promote and optimize the role of APPs to expand practice capacity, improve efficiency, and advance the quality of GI care.

## COMMITTEE REPORT

The ACG Advanced Practice Providers Committee was established by the ACG Board of Trustees in 2018. The Committee was initially comprised of a group of ten members. By 2025, it has expanded to 41 members representing a wide range of practice settings and geographic locations. The Committee's work is supported by 5 subcommittees: Education, Awards, Mentorship, Practice Management, and Social Media & Member Engagement.

If you are an APP ACG member interested in joining the APP Committee beginning in the fall of 2026, visit the ACG website for more information: [gi.org/about/committees](https://gi.org/about/committees).

### Education Subcommittee

#### **ACG APP GI Training Series: Introduction to GI Modules**

The primary goal of the Committee is to provide education and resources to advanced practice providers to further advance knowledge, skills and best practices in gastroenterology and hepatology.

In collaboration with the Educational Affairs Committee and the Education Universe editors, the APP Committee has developed the ACG APP GI Training series – a comprehensive online curriculum designed specifically for APPs.



The series includes modules covering both organ systems and disease states in gastroenterology and hepatology, all accessible on the ACG Education Universe: [education.gi.org/search?events=150](https://education.gi.org/search?events=150). As of August 2025, these modules have been viewed more than 60,655 times.

The APP GI Training Series can be readily integrated into APP orientation programs, used as adjunctive learning in GI/Hepatology practices, or leveraged to obtain continuing education credit toward certification requirements. These modules undergo periodic reviews and updates to remain relevant and consistent with current guidelines and best practices.

There are a total of 14 APP modules (12 core modules and 2 advanced) encompassing 123 lectures in content areas including: colon, esophagus, functional, GI bleeding, hepatology, advanced hepatology, IBD (plus the 2025 supplement), advanced IBD, in patient, mixed subject area, pancreaticobiliary, small bowel, and stomach. These modules are presented by APP and physician content experts and provide a total of 55.75 CME credits and 8.75 Pharmacology CE credits. Users can obtain CME credits by answering questions at the conclusion of each presentation. Content presentations are 15-30 minutes in length so users can easily complete each lecture.

This year the Committee added 12 new presentations to existing modules:

1. Anal Cancer Guidelines – Colon Module
2. *Clostridium difficile* Infection – Colon Module
3. Opioid Induced Constipation – Colon Module
4. Eosinophilic Esophagitis – Esophagus Module
5. Esophageal Motility Disorders – Esophagus Module
6. Hepatic Encephalopathy – Hepatology Module
7. Patient Education & Efficiency Charting – Mixed Subject Area Module
8. GLP-1 Agonists – Mixed Subject Area Module
9. Approach to the Bloating Patient – Mixed Subject Area Module

# ACG's Committees (cont.)

## **Advanced Practice Providers Committee** (cont.)

10. Sexually Transmitted Infections – Mixed Subject Area Module
11. Introduction to the Gut Microbiome & Microbiota – Mixed Subject Area Module
12. Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth & Intestinal Methanogen Overgrowth – Small Bowel Module

In addition, the following 5 talks originally presented at the 2024 Annual Meeting were added as an IBD Supplement module:

1. Management of Complex Crohn's Disease
2. Positioning IBD Therapies for UC: Where to Start and When to Switch
3. Risks of Adverse Side Effects With New IBD Therapies: Selecting Treatment Based on Safety
4. Improving Outcomes for the Hospitalized IBD Patient: Strategies for Optimizing Inpatient Care
5. The Crohn's Disease Patient Presenting With Obstructive Symptoms – What Is the Best Intervention?

### **APP Scholarship Program**

ACG recognizes that limited CME funding can be a barrier for APPs wishing to attend the ACG Annual Meeting & Postgraduate Course. To help address this need, the college established the APP Scholarship Program, which awards a limited number of scholarships in the form of a stipend — up to \$2,000 each — to support APP attendance at these events. Scholarship recipients must be an ACG member in good standing, a nationally certified nurse practitioner or physician assistant through their respective accrediting organizations and actively practicing in gastroenterology and/or hepatology with a minimum of 1 year of experience in GI and/or hepatology.

Congratulations to the 2025 scholarship recipients: Amia Bolin, NP, Jordyn Dalby, NP, Sabrina Daughtry, NP, Ashley Foster, NP, Christine Obregon, NP, Emily Raffay, PA-C, Amy Seale, NP, Stephanie Vogel, NP, Lindsey Weiss, NP

### **Awards Subcommittee**

#### **NP/PA Award for Clinical Excellence**

Established in 2022, this award represents an opportunity to recognize up to two NPs/PAs who are members of the College and have shown long standing contributions to advancing clinical practice, professional growth, and patient care. Nominations are reviewed by the APP Awards Subcommittee and forwarded to the ACG Awards Committee for final selection.

This year's recipient is Sharon L. Dudley-Brown, NP.

#### **Distinguished NP/PA Teaching Award**

Established in 2024, the Distinguished NP/PA Teaching Award recognizes a distinguished NP or PA who has shown long-standing contributions to educating and mentoring APPs in the field of gastroenterology and/or hepatology. Recipient(s) demonstrate excellence in mentorship, preceptorship, curriculum development and/or other educational activities that have a lasting impact on the profession.

This year's recipients are Jessica E. Crimaldi, NP-C and Victoria S. Louwagie, DMSc, MS, PA.



We encourage all ACG members to nominate an outstanding NP or PA for next year's awards. Full nomination guidelines for both awards can be found on the ACG website: [gi.org/about/awards/award-nomination-guidelines](https://gi.org/about/awards/award-nomination-guidelines).

### **APP Abstract Award**

Created in collaboration with the Educational Affairs Committee in 2024, the APP Abstract Award recognizes excellence in research among certified NPs and PAs. One award of \$1,000 is presented to the primary author of the top-ranked abstract submitted by an APP.

This year's recipient of the APP Abstract Award is Donna Ortiz, DNP, APRN, FNP-C. Stop by the exhibit hall in Phoenix to view her poster (#5314 on Tuesday, October 28) – "Implementation of a Nurse Practitioner-Led Rapid Access Clinic for Patients With Inflammatory Bowel Disease: A Quality Improvement Project".

### **Mentorship Subcommittee**

The Mentorship Subcommittee is committed to identifying and addressing the mentoring needs of GI APPs. Its mission is to foster professional and personal growth by building meaningful mentor-mentee relationships that extend beyond individual institutions and promote peer networking across the broader GI community.

Following a 2024 needs assessment survey, 16 small groups were formed, pairing 49 mentors with mentees in targeted areas such as early-career development, leadership, sub-specialization, teaching, industry, well-being and public speaking.

The program kicked off in March 2025 with a virtual orientation and resource toolkit, followed by small group meetings in April. Throughout the year, participants will engage in guided discussions, peer support, and skill-building activities.

Planned evaluations in 2026 will measure impact, gather feedback and help refine future offerings. This initiative represents one of the first structured mentorship programs for APPs in gastroenterology, with the goal of sharing results to advance mentorship best practices across the specialty.

### **Practice Management Subcommittee**

The Practice Management Subcommittee works to provide APP members with timely, practical information on practice operations, quality, safety, coding, and reimbursement. In partnership with the Practice Management Committee, the APP subcommittee published its second toolbox article in November 2024 entitled "Optimizing the Role of the APP in GI". This article, aimed at physicians, practice managers/administrators, and APP leaders, provides insights into key areas such as role clarity, practice models, subspecialty clinics, productivity metrics, compensation, professional development, and the future of GI APP practice. It complements the first APP toolbox

article, “Incorporating APPs into GI Practices” which was published in July 2023.

In collaboration with the Education Subcommittee, the Practice Management subcommittee also organized the second annual APP Networking Lunch at the Annual Meeting in Phoenix, entitled “Beyond the Clinic: APP Networking for Career Growth in GI.” This event is free for APP attendees and is designed to expand professional networks, foster mentorship and provide career development tools to support long-term career growth both within and beyond the clinical setting. The luncheon will feature a dynamic panel of six committee members representing diverse geographic regions, clinical environments, and career stages. Panelists will share insights from their professional journeys, discuss strategies for career growth and offer guidance on navigating evolving roles within GI practices.

### **Social Media and Member Engagement Subcommittee**

The APP Social Media and Member Engagement Subcommittee aims to increase awareness of ACG resources and APP-related topics across various social media platforms, strengthen engagement among APP members, and create a venue for APPs to connect with colleagues nationally and internationally.

To support these goals, the subcommittee has created two online communities — the ACG GI APP Group on Facebook and the Advanced Practice Providers Working in Gastroenterology and Hepatology on LinkedIn. If you are an ACG APP member interested in joining the conversation with your colleagues via either group, please use the QR codes below:

Facebook Group:



LinkedIn Group:



In addition, the subcommittee hosts virtual social meetings designed to foster networking, share experiences, and build professional relationships among APPs across the country.

### **Other Projects**

1. APP Committee representatives participated in the ACG 2025 Annual Meeting Planning Subcommittee meeting in January 2025.
2. ACG APP Resource Center - Located under the membership tab on the main ACG website: [gi.org/advanced-practice-providers](https://gi.org/advanced-practice-providers).

Features of the webpage include a monthly APP member spotlight, links to educational resources, training and fellowship programs, ACG member benefits and career opportunities, clinical guidelines, access to the GI Circles, and professional development tools and patient education materials.