

## EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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*Anita Afzali, MD, MPH, MHCM, FACG*

## RESPONSIBILITIES AS STATED IN THE ACG BYLAWS

This Committee shall be responsible for all Postgraduate educational activities of the College including the Annual Postgraduate Course and the Scientific Program for the Annual Meeting of the College (including the solicitation of abstracts, the selection and invitation of special guest speakers, and the printing and distribution of the final Scientific Program). It shall be responsible for reviewing and approving all continuing education courses submitted to the College for approval or co-sponsorship, and enforcing all administrative and financial guidelines for the conduct of such courses. The Director of the Annual Postgraduate Course of the College shall be an ex-officio member of the Committee.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Develop the final program for the Annual Scientific Meeting, including clinical symposia, bonus (formerly breakfast) sessions, and abstract presentations.
2. Develop CME and MOC activities, including Regional Postgraduate Courses, one-day Courses/Schools, Self-Assessment Tests, Virtual Grand Rounds, etc.
3. Curate and archive current content and develop new content for the Education Universe.
4. Evaluate and endorse international meetings to address the needs of our international members.

## COMMITTEE REPORT

The Educational Affairs Committee is committed to maintaining ACG's role as a leading provider of high quality continuing medical and professional education for digestive disease health care providers. The Committee continues to establish state-of-the-art educational activities in a variety of venues and formats to allow ACG members and others to be lifelong learners regarding the prevention, treatment, and cure of digestive diseases. The Committee does so by soliciting suggestions and recommendations from our distinguished members and Fellows, as well as reviewing member-based needs assessment data, and data analyses of attendee evaluations from past meetings. The Committee looks forward to and will continue to bring quality CME to clinicians in the field of gastroenterology.

The Educational Affairs Committee and its Subcommittees met on three occasions over the last year. The full committee met in October to discuss the past and upcoming year. The Annual Meeting Program Planning Subcommittee met in January 2025 to plan the educational offerings for the 2025 Annual Meeting. ACG 2025 is being offered as a hybrid event both live in Philadelphia and with virtual components in October 2025. The Abstract Selection Subcommittee then met in June 2025 to select oral presentations, poster presentations, and abstract awards for the 2025 meeting.

### ACG 2025

The Abstract Selection Subcommittee met in June 2025. Over 7,300 abstracts were submitted, and 69 of the top-rated abstracts were selected for oral presentation.

For the thirteenth year, the College offered an Endoscopy Video Forum abstract category. Video abstracts focusing on endoscopic techniques, as well as challenging or unique cases, were invited for submission. Six abstracts were selected for presentation at the 13th Annual Endoscopy Video Forum. Authors of accepted videos will present their videos in person and answer questions from the judges and the audience. During the session, the audience, along with the judges, will vote to select the best video of ACG 2025.

Forty-five of the top abstracts were identified as award recipients, with \$45,000 to be distributed among award winners, including: 3 ACG Auxiliary Awards, 2 ACG Case Reports Journal Awards, 30 Outstanding Research Category Awards (15 specifically for Trainees), 1 Outstanding Research Award by an APP, 5 ACG Governors Awards for Excellence in Clinical Research (2 specifically for Trainees), 1 Radhika Srinivasan Gender-Based Research Award, 1 Health Equity Research Award, 1 International Award, 1 Lawlor Resident Award, and 1 Medical Student Award. This year was also the second time ACG awarded 3 International Travel Grants to presenting authors from countries classified by the World Bank as Lower to Lower-Middle Income (LLMI). The goal of these grants is to encourage research in gastroenterology in LLMI countries and inspire researchers to present their research at the ACG Annual Meeting. In addition, late breaking abstracts of exceptional scientific merit were considered for oral presentation at the Annual Meeting.

Over 6,400 abstracts were selected for poster presentation in 2025. Experts and College leaders will once again be asked to select the top presenter from their assigned categories and award them with an Outstanding Poster Presenter designation, distinguished by a red ribbon on the poster in Philadelphia as well as a certificate of recognition following the meeting.

The final program for the ACG 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting was developed collaboratively after extensive discussion with the Educational Affairs Committee, chaired by Anita Afzali, MD, MPH, MHCM, FACG, with input from ACG President Amy S. Oxentenko, MD, MACG, and the ACG Board of Trustees. The program includes 8 ignite sessions (formerly breakfast) sessions, 12 clinical symposia, nearly 70 oral presentations, and over 6,400 poster presentations.

On Friday, October 24, 2025, seven additional educational offerings are available:

1. **NEW! Joint ASGE/ACG Endoscopy Course** – led by Course Co-Directors Seth A. Gross, MD, FACG, FASGE; Vanessa M. Shami, MD, FACG, FASGE; Sachin B. Wani, MD, FASGE, will feature live and streaming sessions from 7:25 am – 5:30 pm Mountain Time.
2. **What's New in GI Pharmacology Course** – led by Course Co-Directors Brooks D. Cash, MD, FACG, and Shailja C. Shah, MD, MPH, will feature live and streaming sessions from 7:55 am – 11:45 am Mountain Time.
3. **GI Pathophysiology Course** – led by Course Co-Directors Darwin L. Conwell, MD, MS, FACG, Rachel B. Issaka, MD, and Joy J. Liu, MD, will feature live and streaming sessions from 1:00 pm – 6:30 pm Mountain Time.

# ACG's Committees (cont.)

## **Educational Affairs Committee** (cont.)

4. **NEW! Advanced Practice Provider Leadership Summit** – led by Sarah M. Enslin, PA-C, Monica R. Nandwani, DNP, RN, FNP-BC, and Dayna S. Early, MD, FACP, will feature live sessions from 1:00 pm – 6:30 pm Mountain Time, with on-demand sessions available following the course.
5. **Practice Management Summit: “Research to Reality: Enriching Clinical Practice”** – led by Course Co-Directors: Andy Tau, MD, and Kunjali Padhya, MD, FACP, will feature live sessions from 1:30 pm – 6:30 pm Mountain Time, with on-demand sessions available following the course.
6. **WISE GI: Women’s Initiative for Success and Elevation in Gastroenterology Course** – led by Course Co-Directors: Calley H. Levine, MD, FACP, and Judy A. Trieu, MD, MPH, will feature live sessions from 1:45 pm – 6:30 pm Mountain Time, with on-demand sessions available following the course.
7. **ACG Guide to the Guidelines Course** – led by Course Co-Directors: Brennan M. Spiegel, MD, MSHS, FACP, and Hetal A. Karsan, MD, FACP, will feature live sessions from 6:45 pm – 9:30 pm Mountain Time, with on-demand sessions available following the course.

On October 25 – 26, 2025, the Postgraduate Course will be held under the leadership of Course Co-Directors Tauseef Ali, MD, FACP, and Linda Anh B. Nguyen, MD, FACP. The Self-Assessment Test, prepared under the direction of Amol Sharma, MD, MSc, FACP, with content from the Postgraduate Course faculty and Educational Affairs Committee members, will be distributed once again in booklet form to all in-person Postgraduate Course attendees; online access will be provided for ALL Postgraduate Course attendees.

After completion of the SAT, learners will receive:

- A personalized scoring profile, including overall and category scores as well as comparison data to their peers.
- Detailed answers and explanations.
- Supporting references with links in the online version to PubMed for further study.
- An evaluation form to obtain *AMA PRA Category 1 credits™* and ABIM MOC points.

Access to courses on the digital platform will be available to both live and virtual attendees until March 31, 2026.

## **Additional Educational Initiatives/Projects**

### **Live Educational Offerings**

In addition to planning this year’s Annual Meeting educational activities, the Educational Affairs Committee has continued to work on the following future educational initiatives and projects:

## 2025 Meetings

**ACG’s Hepatology School & ACG Southern Regional Postgraduate Course**  
December 5-7, 2025  
Renaissance Hotel  
Nashville, Tennessee

## 2026 Meetings

**ACG’s IBD School & 2026 ACG Board of Governors/ASGE Best Practices Course Agenda**  
January 30- February 1, 2026  
Mandalay Resort  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**ACG’s Endoscopy School & ACG/LGS Regional Course**  
March 6-8, 2026  
Holton New Orleans Riverside  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**ACG’s Hepatology School & ACG/FGS Annual Spring Symposium**  
March 20-22, 2026  
Hyatt Regency Coconut Point  
Naples, Florida

**ACG’s IBD School & ACG’s Esophagus School**  
June 5-7, 2026  
Marriott Metro Center  
Washington, DC

**ACG’s Functional GI Disorders School & ACG Midwest Regional Postgraduate Course**  
August 14-16, 2026  
Fort Pontchartrain Hotel  
Detroit, Michigan

**NEW! ACG’s Metabolic & Obesity School & ACG/VGS/MASGNA Regional Postgraduate Course**  
August 28-30, 2026 (NEW WEEKEND!!!)  
Williamsburg Lodge  
Williamsburg, Virginia

**ACG 2026**  
October 9-14, 2026  
Music City Center  
Nashville, Tennessee

**NEW! ACG’s Metabolic & Obesity School & ACG Southern Regional Course**  
December 4-6, 2026  
Hyatt Regency Louisville  
Louisville, Kentucky

### ***Navigating the ABIM’s MOC Program***

The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) continues to update the requirements for its Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. ACG strives to do everything it can to make ABIM’s MOC process simple for members to navigate. As such, the College has MOC modules available for members at [satstest.gi.org](https://www.satstest.gi.org) and [sapmoc.gi.org](https://www.sapmoc.gi.org) to make ABIM’s MOC process as easy as possible to fulfill.

ACG continues to offer ABIM MOC points for all live meetings including the regional postgraduate courses, Friday Schools, as well as all the courses and bonus sessions at ACG 2025.

#### **ACG Online Self-Assessment Test**

The 2023 through 2025 Self-Assessment Tests (SAT) are available online, with each test featuring 300 multiple choice questions organized by organ system. The online SAT tracks user responses, provides overall/category scores and comparison data to other test-takers, as well as detailed explanations for each answer, and linked references for further study.

This user-friendly study tool is an excellent choice for members who are preparing for the board/recertification exam, need CME/MOC credits, or are simply looking for a way to keep current in gastroenterology.

#### **ACG Education Universe**

The ACG Education Universe is an online, self-directed CME program that provides a way for all gastroenterologists to access outstanding tools in preparing for the GI boards, recertification, or obtaining necessary CME credits outside of the ACG meetings. Users can choose the topics they want to learn about, the format of the information, and how much time they want to devote to learning any given topic. A wide variety of educational materials including lectures, journal articles, and learning modules allow the user to cater to his or her needs and interests. The system also tracks how much CME users earn and can print certificates, or a statement of CME credits completed.

The ACG Education Universe also hosts a “Training Pathway” available to GI Program Directors and fellows that provides educational materials (lectures, journal articles, and self-assessment test questions) organized into categories that align with the GI Core Curriculum. Program Directors have the ability to assign homework to their GI trainees, comprised of content of their choosing, and monitor the trainees’ progress and completion of assignments.

The Training Pathway also includes “A Gastroenterology Fellowship Program Director’s Toolkit: Utilizing Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) to Teach and Evaluate Fellows’ Performance in Communication, Professionalism, and Other Key ACGME Competencies.” ACG worked with NYU Langone School of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology, to develop and make this Toolkit available. It includes all of the necessary instructions, materials, and templates needed for a training program to offer a comprehensive OSCE program. The materials include detailed clinical scenarios with evaluation objectives and related ACGME milestones; OSCE station set-up instructions; in-depth character profiles and dialogue cues for the standardized patients or professionals; instructions for the participating fellows; checklists to assist the standardized patient and faculty observers in providing verbal feedback to the fellows; sample fellow report cards and evaluation surveys; and instructions on how to use these materials. Importantly, each clinical case is developed with the goal of evaluating the fellows’ performance in accordance with designated ACGME milestones.

#### **Virtual Grand Rounds**

In response to the changing needs of GI clinicians during the COVID-19 pandemic, ACG began offering Virtual Grand Rounds in March 2020. These weekly webinars are offered on Thursdays from

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm Eastern and are rebroadcast from 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm Eastern. They are open-access and offered on a variety of clinical GI topics. Registration for this popular activity has surpassed 90,000 clinicians. The College plans to continue offering these Virtual Grand Rounds as a valuable element of ACG’s educational programming. The majority of Virtual Grand Rounds are offered for both CME and ABIM MOC points. If you are not able to join the Virtual Grand Rounds live, they are all archived on the ACG Education Universe ([education.gi.org](https://education.gi.org)).

#### **International Webinar Series**

The OPGE (Pan American GI Society) Webinar series was initiated in March 2019. Starting in March 2021, this opportunity was opened up to all international GI societies. Past and future topics can be accessed at [gi.org/education/international-virtual-grand-rounds](https://gi.org/education/international-virtual-grand-rounds).

#### **International Endorsed Courses**

In an effort to expand the ACG’s educational offerings to our international members, the Committee approved the following 2025 international courses for endorsement by the College:

##### **ESDE Live Endoscopy 2025**

Egyptian Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
Arabic Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
January 24 – 25, 2025

##### **Digestive Endoscopy Workshop (DEW-2025) 9th edition**

Hotel Taj Coromandel, Chennai, India  
February 22 – 23, 2025, followed by  
Hands-on Training February 24 – 25, 2025

##### **International Webinars on Gastroenterology An Initiative of MedIndia Academy & Hospital**

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM (India time)

**April 24, 2025:** 1. Type 2 Diabetes – Current Guidelines & Management, and 2. Diabetes & GI Tract

**May 29, 2025:** 1. Systemic Hypertension Management Protocols, and 2. Pharmacotherapy of Portal Hypertension in the background of Systemic Hypertension

**June 26, 2025:** 1. Current Management of Dyslipidemia in 2025, and 2. Fat & Liver

**July 31, 2025:** 1. Pharmacotherapy of Obesity, and 2. Endoscopic & Surgical Management of Obesity

**August 28, 2025:** 1. Doctor & Law, and 2. Doctor & Ethics

**September 11, 2025:** 1. Doctor & Research, and 2. Doctor & Research Grants

**October 16, 2025:** 1. Doctor & Finance, and 2. Doctor & Entrepreneurship

**November 20, 2025:** Research Methodology – Part 1: 1. How to choose a research question?, and 2. Choosing the most appropriate study design

**December 4, 2025:** Research Methodology – Part 2: 1. How to analyze the data?, and 2. Manuscript writing and publication!