WOMEN IN GASTROENTEROLOGY COMMITTEE

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Kathryn E. Hutchins, MD, FACG

RESPONSIBILITIES AS STATED IN THE ACG BYLAWS

This Committee shall be responsible for identifying and evaluating issues that pertain to women in the field of gastroenterology and formulating means to assure that desired goals are met.

OBJECTIVES

1. Encourage participation, membership, and advancement of female gastroenterologists in the ACG.
2. Promote research and understanding of gender differences in gastrointestinal diseases.
3. Encourage women to pursue a career in gastroenterology and provide resources to aid in their success.
4. Foster mentors for students, residents, and fellows in medical training programs.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Navigating, Networking, and Negotiating Your First Job Workshop
This workshop is designed to equip fellows and junior faculty with essential skills in contract negotiation and professional networking—critical competencies for early career success and leadership development. New for 2026, the program also includes a session to prepare trainees to thrive in an AI-enabled gastroenterology landscape. Ongoing outreach and marketing efforts continue to expand visibility and engagement for this workshop across the American College of Gastroenterology community.

The workshop will be held in person at the Annual Meeting on Friday, October 24, from 5:45 pm to 8:30 pm, and is co-chaired by Drs. Yesenia Greeff and Emily Leven.

Career Opportunities for Women in GI Luncheon
This career-focused symposium, held in conjunction with the ACG Postgraduate Course, highlights the breadth of career paths available within gastroenterology. The program features accomplished female gastroenterologists representing diverse subspecialties and practice settings, offering practical guidance on career navigation and advancement.

The luncheon will feature a dynamic panel of speakers and is co-chaired by Drs. Jessica Dahmus and Sarah Malik and will take place on Saturday, October 10, from 12:20 pm to 1:35 pm.

Leadership Conference
Led by Drs. Kathryn Hutchins and Amanda Pressman, the ACG Leadership Conference continues to serve as a cornerstone initiative supporting professional development and leadership advancement. The 2026 conference, held in Washington, DC as part of the ACG Summer School Series, focused on strategies for balancing professional growth with personal well-being.

Building on prior success, the task force is actively reviewing past programming and participant feedback to inform planning for future conferences, with an emphasis on innovation, relevance, and long-term career sustainability.

Women in GI Online Task Force
Co-chaired by Drs. Anoushka Dua and Lauren Feld, this task force continues to expand the digital presence of women in gastroenterology while promoting ACG initiatives. Building on the successful launch of the Pregnancy Monograph podcast series, the group has developed a broader content strategy that includes diverse clinical, professional development, and career-readiness topics in the newly branded Women in Gastroenterology Podcast.

The task force is actively curating and refining future podcast and digital content, with a focus on inclusivity, topical relevance, and alignment with broader ACG educational initiatives. This year, the subcommittee has developed and released podcast episodes exploring topics such as balancing work and motherhood, pay equity, and parental leave, in addition to miniseries highlighting post-training fellowships and financial literacy for gastroenterologists. The podcast has seen a dramatic increase in listenership and engagement across streaming platforms.

GI Workshop – WISE (Women's Initiative for Success and Empowerment in Gastroenterology Leadership)
Under the leadership of Drs. Calley Levine and Alana Persaud, the WISE program remains a key professional development offering for women across all stages of their careers.

The 2026 course has been formally approved and will be held as a half-day session at the Annual Meeting on Friday, October 9, from 1:00 PM to 5:50 PM. In parallel, the task force has begun early planning for the 2027 program with the goal of increasing member engagement in program development and shaping future content.

Nutrition Initiative
Led by Drs. Jennifer Katz and Victoria Howard, this initiative is expanding efforts to integrate practical nutrition education into gastroenterology practice. Current activities focus on developing resources for clinicians, including dietary guidance, patient education tools, and disease-specific materials.

The group is also exploring collaborative opportunities with dietitians and digital platforms, including potential podcast content, to enhance physician education and patient care.

Regional Breakfast Roundtables
Co-led by Drs. Sheila Rustgi and Kerri Glassner, this initiative promotes networking and mentorship at the regional level. In 2026, dedicated Women in GI networking breakfasts will be held at select Regional Courses, including the Midwest and Southern meetings. Efforts are underway to increase visibility, participation, and integration into broader regional programming.

Well-Being and Work-Life Balance Task Force
Led by Drs. Katherine Scholand and Tamara Koritarov, this task force continues to prioritize initiatives that support physician wellness.

At the 2026 Annual Meeting, the group will host a yoga session during the Postgraduate Course, complemented by enhanced attendee experience planning. Additional wellness programming—including potential networking or social events—is under consideration, informed by prior attendance and member feedback.

ACG MAGAZINE *Articles*
Co-chaired by Drs. Katie Dunleavy and Maithili Chitnavis, taskforce continues to contribute to ACG thought leadership through publication initiatives. Current efforts include the development of multiple article pitches focused on evolving career pathways and job diversification within gastroenterology.

In addition to submitting an article entitled "Beyond the Clinic: Side Gigs and Career Diversification in Gastroenterology" for an upcoming issue of the *ACG MAGAZINE*, the group also remains engaged in broader educational collaborations, including participation in trainee transition-to-practice initiatives and exploration of content synergies with digital and podcast platforms.