

Mission

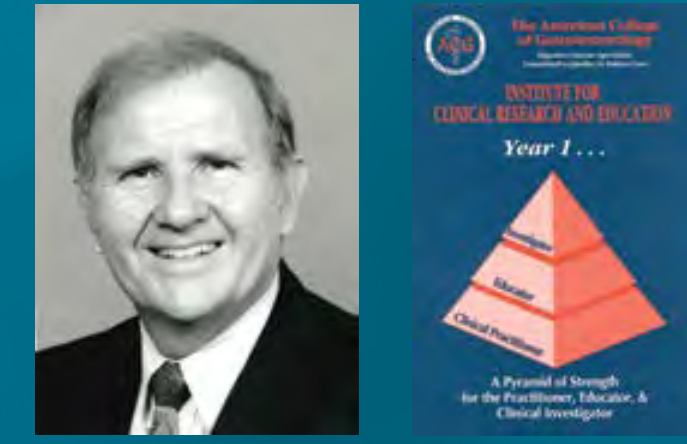
The mission of the ACG Institute for Clinical Research and Education is to promote digestive health through education of the clinician, the patient, and the public, to support clinical research and innovation in gastroenterology and hepatology, and to raise public awareness about prevention of digestive disease.

“Among the Institute’s greatest strengths is its significant commitment to excellent clinical research coupled with its flexible and innovative development of targeted new educational initiatives.”

— Edgar Achkar, MD, MACG,
Institute Director 2004-2014

1994

Establishment
ACG Institute for Clinical Research & Education Founded



Dr. Donald O. Castell appointed as first ACG Institute Director during the term of ACG President William D. Carey, MD, MACG.

1995

Answering “Burning Questions” on the
Heartburn Hotline with *USA Today*



ACG physicians staff phonebank
answering questions about heartburn

1996

Dr. Joel E. Richter becomes Institute
Director (1994-2004)



Dr. Richter’s leadership makes an
indelible mark on the early history of the
ACG Institute and his expertise
on esophageal disease helps guide
ACG’s national GERD Awareness
Campaign.

ACG 1996-2004 GERD Awareness
Campaign making “GERD” a
Household Word

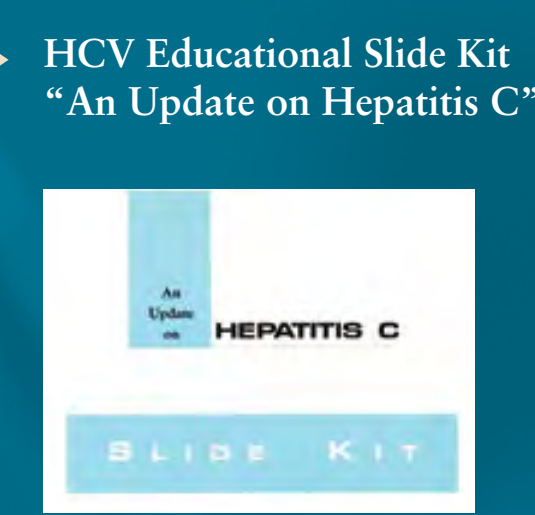
More than one million heartburn
sufferers call 1-800-HRT-BURN
hotline and 2.3 million receive
education materials about frequent,
unresolved heartburn.



1997

Launch of Junior Faculty Development
Grants

Established to foster clinical research
careers



Dr. William D. Carey and a panel of
experts developed this kit at a time
when the paradigm for diagnosis had
shifted with the introduction of a
reliable antibody test and only three
interferons approved by the FDA for
use in HCV. ACG identifies
the need to educate community
gastroenterologists on this public
health challenge.

1998

Colorectal Cancer Screening
Awareness



National public relations efforts
encourage colonoscopy for average
risk individuals and raise
awareness of new Medicare
colorectal cancer screening benefit.

GI Disorders in Pregnancy Monograph



ACG Women in GI Committee
addresses diagnostic dilemmas which
arise as complications of pregnancy or
when GI diseases occur in pregnant
patients.

2000

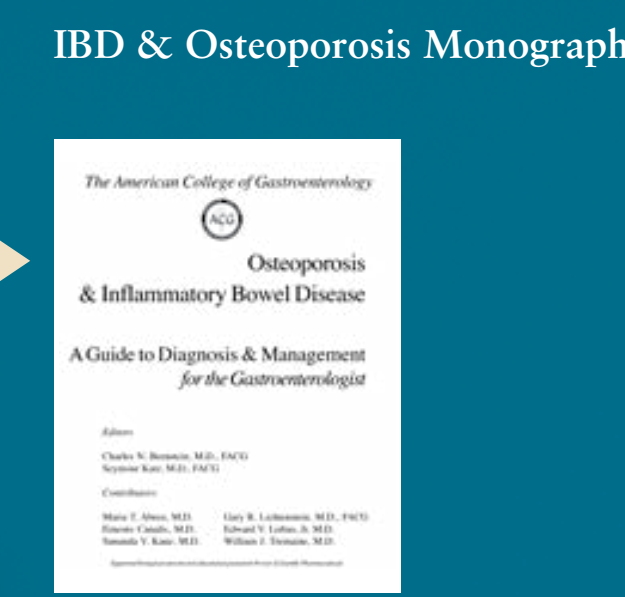
NSAIDs and the Risk of GI Bleeding

The Institute educates patients
about the role of NSAIDs in ulcers
and GI bleeding.



2001

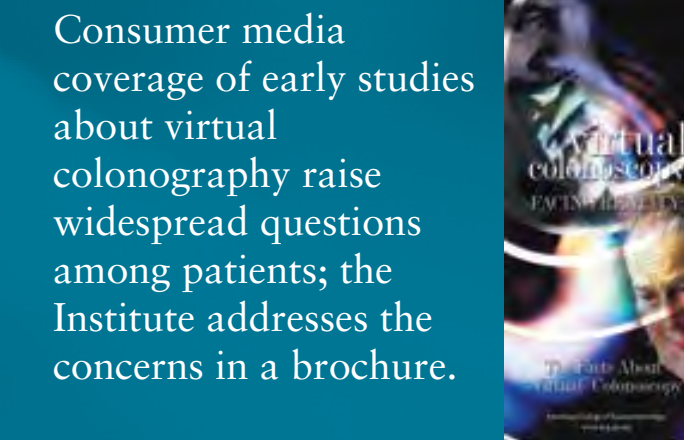
Junior Faculty Development Award
increases to \$50,000 per year for two
years



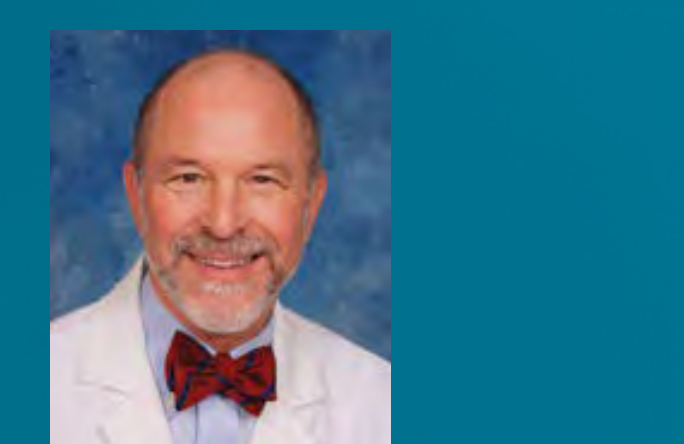
Dr. Seymour Katz and Dr. Charles N.
Bernstein provide a balanced and
practical approach to IBD patients
inquiring about risks of osteoporosis
and susceptibility to fracture.

2002

Putting Virtual Colonography into
Perspective



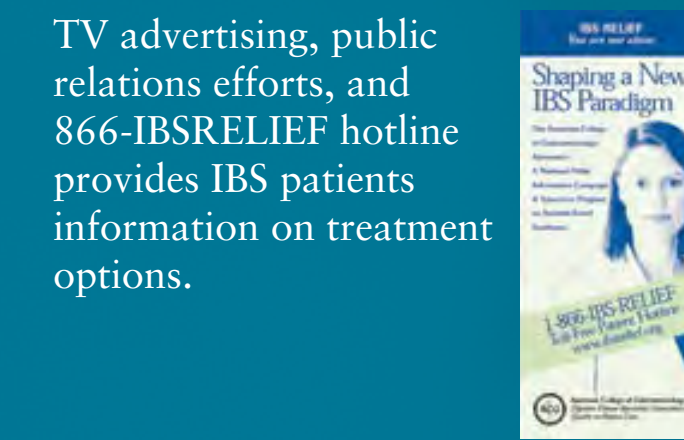
Consumer media
coverage of early studies about
virtual colonography raise
widespread questions
among patients; the
Institute addresses the
concerns in a brochure.



ACG Past President Lawrence J.
Brandt, MD, MACG guides first task
force on functional GI disorders and
publishes evidence-based monograph.

2003

Public Awareness Campaign Brings
Attention to IBS Symptoms



History of Berk/Eise Clinical
Achievement Award



A generous gift from ACG Past
President J. Edward Berk, MD,
MACG prompts Institute and
College leadership to rename a
distinguished award for him. With
characteristic humility, Dr. Berk
persuades ACG leaders to include
then Executive Director Thomas F.
Eise, Esq. in the name of this annual
award.

2004

Edgar Achkar MD, MACG is appointed
ACG Institute Director (2004-2014)



Edgar Achkar, MD, MACG

He served as ACG President from 2001-
2002, and as Chair of the Board of
Governors and Chair of the Educational
Affairs Committee.

Messages Reinforce Importance of
Quality Exams for Colorectal Cancer
Prevention



Colorectal cancer awareness continues to
remain a top priority for the ACG
Institute in a campaign which addresses
questions of quality and the unique
training and qualifications of
gastroenterologists in performing
colonoscopies.

Junior Faculty Development Award—
increases to \$75K for two years

Capital Campaign reaches \$12M goal



Inaugural Graham Lecture endowed by
a gift to the Institute’s Capital
Campaign in honor of Dr. David Y.
Graham, who delivers first address on
Helicobacter pylori.

2005

NSAIDs and Risk of GI Bleeding
Awareness Campaign

After FDA removes COX-II inhibitors
from the market, concern arises that
patients might revert back to
OTC NSAIDs. ACG
Institute publishes
comprehensive resource kit for
primary care physicians,
gastroenterologists, and
patients on safe and
appropriate options for
pain management and the
prevention of NSAID-
induced GI injury and
bleeding.



2005

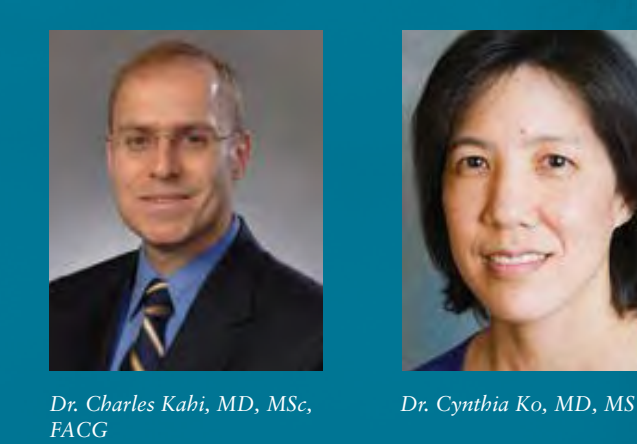
Institute invests \$6.6M in grants for
386 clinical investigators since 1994



Dr. Lawrence J. Brandt, MD,
MACG chairs expert task force
that publishes meta-analysis and
recommendations on chronic
constipation.

2006

Introducing the Colorectal Cancer
Prevention Action Plan



Institute funds almost \$500,000 in
grants on quality
performance of
colorectal cancer
screening tests to
reduce cancer
incidence and
mortality and
supports work by Dr. Charles Kahi,
Dr. Linda Rabeneck, and Dr. Cynthia Ko.

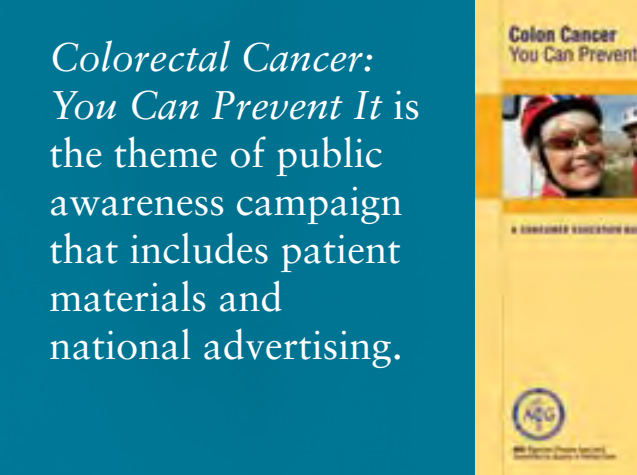
2007

Saturday with GI Experts



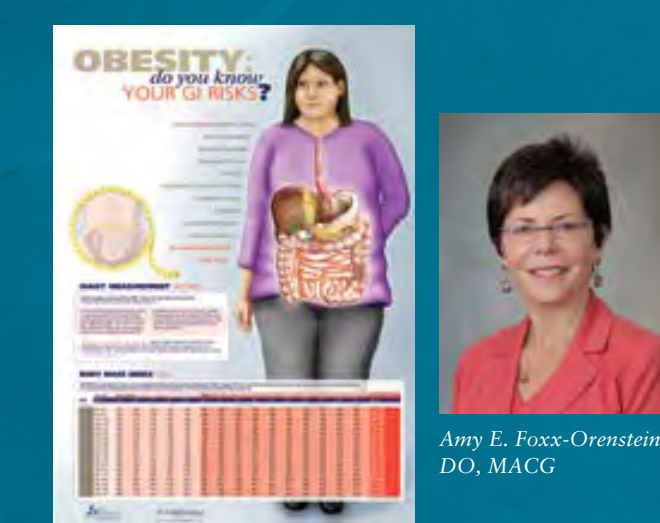
A series of day-long Saturday programs
brings key clinical takeaways from the
Annual Scientific Meeting and
encourages dialogue with well-known
experts.

Colorectal Cancer Patient Education:
A Top Priority



2008

Starting the Conversation with Patients
about Obesity and GI Risks



ACG Past President Amy E. Fox-
Orenstein, DO, MACG leads initiative
addressing challenges of GI complications
among overweight and obese patients.

ACG Leadership Initiative—Salix
Leadership Training Awards

Training and skill development for ACG
leaders, including ACG Salix Leadership
Training Awards which support executive
leadership courses at some of the top U.S.
business schools

2009

Grants exceed \$10M for clinical GI
research support

Updated IBS Monograph published



As therapies for functional GI disorders
evolve, the underlying meta analyses are
updated and revised monograph published
under the leadership of Eamonn M.M.
Quigley, MD, MACG.

2010

Hepatitis C Resource Kit for
GI Physicians



A resource kit for community GI
physicians addresses clinical challenges
in managing HCV patients.

Funding for clinical research surpasses
\$1M per year

2011

AJG’s Red Section Highlights Institute’s
Evolution



AJG publishes review of ACG Institute’s
achievements and value to GI profession.

Evidence-Based Approach to Medical
Management of IBD



Monograph published on management of
IBD by expert working group convened
under leadership of Nicholas J. Talley, MD,
PhD, MACG.

2012

ACG Scholars



The Institute introduces the designation of
ACG Scholar to recognize the achievements
of the group of ACG Junior Faculty Awardees
for their productivity and academic
achievements, and creates a sense of identity
and community among the recipients.

2013

Hepatitis School Launched



At a pivotal time in 2013
when the CDC announced
HCV screening guidelines
for Baby Boomers (born
1945-1965), the Institute
introduces daylong
interactive program in HCV management.

2014

Nicholas J. Shaheen, MD, MPH, FACG,
becomes Institute Director



Nicholas J. Shaheen, MD, MPH, FACG

A former Junior Faculty Development
Award recipient, Dr. Shaheen served on the
College’s Research Committee starting in
2002 and served as chair from 2006 to
2009.

Visiting Professors Program launched



To provide fellows with access to expertise
beyond their own institutions, new Visiting
Professors Program sponsors four faculty
visits in 2014 to GI training programs
and engages community gastroenterologists.

2015

Junior Faculty Development Award Expands
to Three Years



Visiting Professors Program Named for
Dr. Edgar Achkar in honor of his service
and vision



Dr. Hanauer Provides Help for Ulcerative
Colitis Patients



ACG Past President Stephen B. Hanauer,
MD, FACG appears in video and edits
patient education booklet that is widely
distributed to patients.

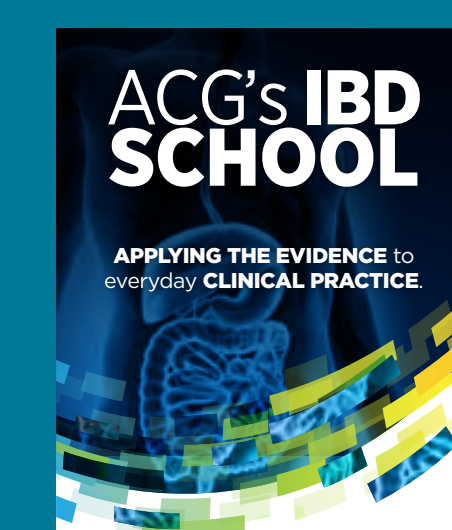
2016

Edgar Achkar Visiting Professors
Program Expands to 12 GI training
programs, reaching hundreds of fellows
and ACG members

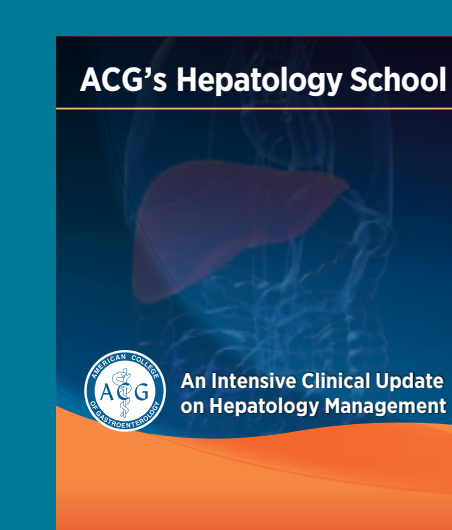


2017

ACG introduces IBD School under
leadership of Dr. Sumanta V. Kane and
Dr. David T. Rubin.



Evolving Mission: Hepatitis School is
renamed Hepatology School to address
evolving challenges of managing liver
diseases beyond chronic viral hepatitis.



Edgar Achkar Visiting Professors
program saw 14 visits to diverse GI
training programs by renowned experts.



2018

ACG Young Physician Leadership
Scholars



Thanks to
the vision of
Dr. David J. Hass and Dr. Mark B.
Pochapin, a cohort of 30 young
physicians engage in training and
networking and join ACG Governors in
Washington, DC for legislative visits.

2018

Edgar Achkar Visiting Professors

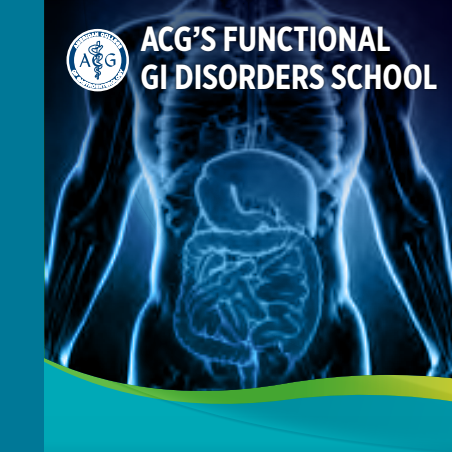


Visits to 14 training programs in 2018
provide noteworthy speakers who
engage with GI fellows and participate
in events for ACG members in the
community.

2019

More than \$20M provided in clinical
research grants since 1994

Functional GI Disorders School
Launched



One-day interactive educational
program focuses on diagnosis,
treatment, and understanding of IBS and
other functional disease states with a
curriculum designed to meet the needs of
the entire GI team.

New awards announced for residents
and medical students recognize and
support promising young investigators
as they develop an interest in
gastroenterology.

Defining and Tracking Quality for
Acute Pancreatitis



Validated acute pancreatitis quality
indicators developed by ACG task force
and published in AJG provide a
dependable quantitative framework for
health systems to monitor the quality of
care.

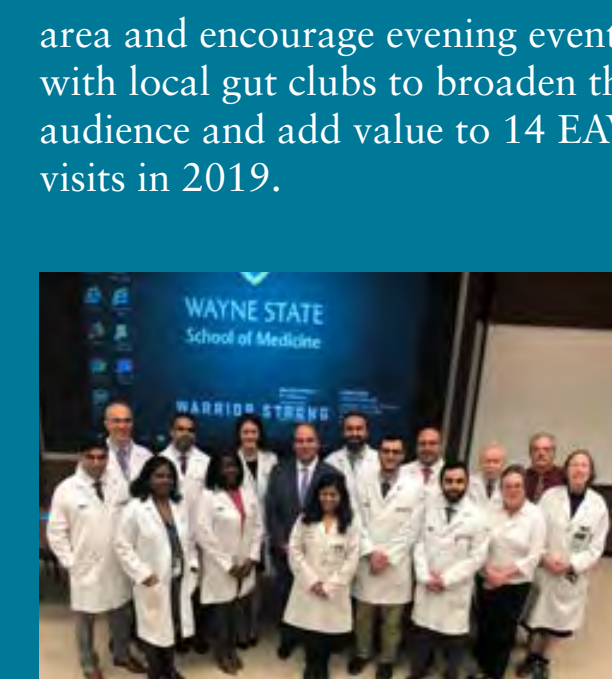
2019

Introducing New IBS Online Patient
Tools



Helping patients with functional GI
disorders identify their symptoms
and start the conversation with their
physician is the goal of two new
online tools developed based upon
the clinical foundation of ACG’s
updated Evidence-Based Monograph
on the Management of IBS.

Edgar Achkar Visiting Professors
invite ACG members in the local
area and encourage evening events
with local gut clubs to broaden the
audience and add value to 14 EAVP
visits in 2019.



Introducing the G.U.T. Fund:
Grow. Uplift. Transform.



This ongoing Fund will sustain
the mission and evolving
priorities of the ACG Institute.

Transforming Gastroenterology for
25 Years



Since 1994, the ACG Institute’s
priorities have evolved to reflect
the realities of GI practice, the
changing financial landscape
supporting clinical research, and
competing demands on GI
specialists. Now more than ever,
our ability to provide increasing
levels of research support and
innovative educational offerings
is a rare and important
achievement.

“The ACG Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship is an innovative and effective way to foster the exchange of knowledge at the forefront of GI and further the education of gastroenterology trainees directly from highly regarded subspecialty experts.”

—Chung Sang Tse, MD, Gastroenterology Fellow