



# INSTITUTE IN FOCUS

An Impact Report for Members

2025-2026

# ACG INSTITUTE FOR CLINICAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION



Neena S. Abraham,  
MD, MSc (Epid), MACG



To learn more, visit:  
[gi.org/acg-institute/about](https://gi.org/acg-institute/about)

## Message from the Institute Director

Welcome to the Institute in Focus, where you will find the details of the Institute's continued support of Clinical Research, Educational Resources, and Leadership Training opportunities through the robust competitive clinical research programs, provider monographs, disease-state specific schools, the Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorships, and the Institute's Leadership, Ethics & Equity Center. Learn more about the ACG Institute for Clinical Research and Education in this booklet or online: [gi.org/acg-institute/about](https://gi.org/acg-institute/about)

## ACG Institute Mission Statement

The mission of the American College of Gastroenterology 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.

## ACG Institute Vision Statement

Promoting education, supporting clinical science, and raising public awareness for the prevention and treatment of digestive disease.

## ACG Institute Board of Directors



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MACG, *Director, ACG  
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*ACG Executive Director*



### Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship

*Includes Visiting Scholar in Equity, Diversity, and Ethical Care*

2026 Applications: July 21 - August 20, 2025

2026 Visits start: January 1, 2026



### Clinical Research Awards

2026 Applications: September 2 - December 1, 2025

Awards start: July 1, 2026

2027 Applications: September 8 - December 7, 2026

Awards start: July 1, 2027



### ACG INSTITUTE LEADERSHIP YOU

*Apply for the program that matches your experience!*

2026 Applications: September 15 - November 14, 2025

Courses: Summer 2026

- **Emerging Leadership Program**

U.S.-based ACG member physicians in their 3rd and 4th years of fellowship training. ***Application Deadline for Emerging Leadership Program is November 24.***

- **Early Career Leadership Program**

U.S.-based ACG member physicians 1-5 years post-fellowship completion. Must have completed one full year of practice after terminal GI or hepatology fellowship.

- **Advanced Leadership Program**

U.S.-based ACG member physicians 10-20 years post-fellowship completion.

- **Clinical Research Leadership Program**

U.S.-based ACG member physicians 2-15 years post-fellowship completion. Recipients of grant funding from any institution or society (non-trainee, non-fellow) in the last 10 years.

NOTE: Most programs include ACG membership requirements  
[gi.org/join-acg](https://gi.org/join-acg)



# ACG CLINICAL RESEARCH AWARDS

A Focus on Clinical Research and Innovation

2026 Clinical Research Awards Deadline: **December 1, 2025**

**\$2.3 MILLION**  
IN RESEARCH AWARDS FOR 2025

ESTABLISHED INVESTIGATOR  
BRIDGE AWARD

**\$300,000**

LEONIDAS BERRY HEALTH EQUITY  
RESEARCH AWARD

**\$75,000**

(\$50K YEAR-ONE, \$25K YEAR-TWO  
BASED ON PROGRESS)

ACG/ASGE EPIDEMIOLOGIC  
RESEARCH AWARD IN  
GASTROINTESTINAL ENDOSCOPY

**\$50,000**

CLINICAL RESEARCH AWARD

**NEW**

**\$100,000**

HIGHER FUNDING AMOUNTS FOR 2026

PILOT AWARD

**NEW**

**\$30,000**

HIGHER FUNDING AMOUNTS FOR 2026

MEDICAL RESIDENT CLINICAL RESEARCH AWARD

**\$10,000**

(PLUS TRAVEL TO ANNUAL MEETING)

MEDICAL STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD

**\$5,000**

(PLUS TRAVEL TO ANNUAL MEETING)

JUNIOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

**\$450,000**

(PER PARTICIPANT)

**\$150,000**

(ANNUALLY)

1994-2025 ACG INSTITUTE

FUNDED

**764**

INVESTIGATORS

TOTALING MORE THAN

**\$34.2 MILLION**

TO INVESTIGATORS

EXPANDED FROM

**1 to 8**

RESEARCH AWARDS

# ACG 2025 Junior Faculty Development Awardees

The ACG Institute is proud of its investment since 1997 of more than \$19.7 million in career development which recognizes and supports promising clinical researchers.



**Claire Beveridge, MD**  
Cleveland Clinic  
*Alternatives to Endoscopic Biopsies in Eosinophilic Esophagitis*



**Erica J. Brenner, MD, MSCR**  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
*Safety and Effectiveness of Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs in Women with Crohn's Disease*



**Phillip Gu, MD**  
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center  
*A Multiorgan Radiomic Approach Towards Precision Medicine in Acute Severe Ulcerative Colitis*

The ACG Institute is proud to announce that the Health Equity Research Award is now renamed in honor of the life and legacy of Leonidas H. Berry, MD, MACG. The College and the ACG Institute recognize his contributions to gastroenterology, and tireless efforts to end discrimination in medicine and medical schools.



Learn more about the innovative clinical research supported by the Institute or apply at [gi.org/research-awards](https://gi.org/research-awards)

# THE ACG INSTITUTE CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP, ETHICS & EQUITY (THE LE&E CENTER)



## Meeting the Moment and Transforming the Future

The LE&E Center addresses the contemporary need for leadership training, equitable delivery of care, and ethically-based decision-making with a suite of training programs and activities to provide transformational tools and experiences for GI clinicians. The programs under the LE&E Center include:

### ACG Institute Leadership YOU:

- **Emerging Leadership Program** (3rd and 4th years of GI fellowship training)
- **Early Career Leadership Program** (1-5 years post-fellowship completion)
- **Advanced Leadership Program** (10-20 years post-fellowship completion)
- **Clinical Research Leadership Program** (clinical investigators with recent funding, 2-15 years post-fellowship completion)

### Additional LE&E Center Programs:

- **Leonidas Berry Health Equity Research Award**
- **Visiting Scholar in Equity, Diversity & Ethical Care**
- **Scholarships for High School Students Through the Prescriptions for Success: Careers in Medicine High School Visit**

## The LE&E Center Advisory Board



Neena S. Abraham,  
MD, MSc (Epid),  
MACG, Director, ACG  
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MD, FACP



Bradley C. Stillman, Esq.,  
ACG Executive  
Director (ex-officio)

### The LE&E Center Vision Council

The Vision Council serves to involve and seek insight from industry partners who support the core values and mission of the LE&E Center. Council members provide input and serve as a resource in identifying areas of urgent need and in developing collaborative opportunities to improve health equity, diversity, and inclusion. The Institute recognizes with gratitude the following Vision Council members:

abbvie

 Bristol Myers Squibb™

  
Ironwood

Johnson&Johnson



# ACG Institute Leadership **YOU**

Leadership Training for Every Level

Courses: **June 6-8, 2025**, in Washington, DC

Deadline for 2026 Applications: **November 14, 2025**



**NEW for 2025!** Leadership YOU provides an opportunity for all four leadership program cohorts to network and engage in shared learning sessions, in addition to cohort-specific professional development, during one weekend. Each program is tailored to a distinct career stage.

[www.gi.org/leadership-you](http://www.gi.org/leadership-you)

Scan the QR Code to learn more about  
the ACG Institute LE&E Leadership Programs





# EMERGING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Leadership Skills for the Future of GI

Deadline for 2026 Applications: **November 14, 2025**

The LE&E Center Emerging Leadership Programs provides leadership training for fellows-in-training who are U.S.-based ACG member physicians (in their 3rd or 4th year of GI fellowship training) to develop, build, and maintain success as future leaders.

**2025 Course Directors:**

Olufemi Kassim, MD, Andrew Moon, MD, MPH, and Josh Steinberg, MD



I plan to bring elements of ELP back to my home program, really taking to heart that “the best leaders create more leaders.” I think many of my co-fellows can certainly benefit from an introduction to the leadership topics and time management strategies we discussed in ELP. I will also be making a more concerted effort to examine how diversity is considered in the match process.

**Averill Guo, MD (ELP ‘23)**

#### Course Topics:

- Change Management Introduction and Overview
- Leading With Change
- Implicit Bias Introduction
- Effective Team Building in the Era of Diversity
- Time Management Introduction and Overview
- Finding Your Focus – Skills and Tips to Make the Most Out of Your Day
- Communication and Negotiation Introduction and Overview
- Communication as a Physician and Gastroenterologist
- Negotiation for the Early Career Gastroenterologist



The program has encouraged me to be more thoughtful in how I spend my time and how I show my professionalism. It gave me some terrific tools for saying “no” in a way that is both respectful and, I believe, likely to lead to better opportunities down the road. Additionally, I would be interested in starting a leadership curriculum when I join the faculty since I think the information that we learned here would benefit all GI fellows.

**Christina Kratschmer, MD (ELP ‘23)**





# EARLY CAREER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Elevating Great Doctors into Great Leaders

Deadline for 2026 Applications: **November 14, 2025**

The LE&E Center Early Career Leadership Program (ECLP) develops future leaders in clinical gastroenterology by providing leadership and policy training to early career physicians. These physicians have completed one full year of practice after their terminal GI or hepatology fellowship and are in their first five years of clinical practice.

**2025 Course Directors:**

**Andy Tau, MD, and Judy A. Trieu, MD, MPH**



I really enjoyed the ACG fly-in event! It felt great to know that we could help change health care policy. I especially enjoyed my interactions with the ACG governors and learnt a lot from them. I hope to become a future ACG governor.

**Ngozi Enwerem, MD, MPH (ECLP '23)**

The LE&E Center Early Career Leadership Program features:

- Participation in ACG Governor's Washington, DC Fly-in
- In-person course in June 2025

The program will cover:

- Leadership Styles and Behaviors: Adapting to Your Situation
- Self-Talk, Self-Confidence, and Leadership Trajectory
- Creating an Inclusive Environment: Two Sides of the Same Coin
- Art of Delegation and Promoting Growth
- Building a Collaborative/Positive Work Environment
- Disruption and Innovation: Pioneering Your Path
- It Begins With One: How to be a Successful Mentor
- Build Your Network: How to be an Effective Collaborator
- Self-Promotion and Overcoming the Imposter Syndrome



Early Career physicians should participate in ECLP because these topics and strategies come up daily in our interactions and are not something we learn in traditional medical teaching. Leadership is an art. Thus it is helpful to learn from seasoned GI leaders to avoid common pitfalls that can take over a decade to learn from trial and error alone.

**Justin Brandler, MD (ECLP '23)**





# ADVANCED LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Elevated Leadership Tools for Advanced Leaders

Deadline for 2026 Applications: **November 14, 2025**

The LE&E Center Advanced Leadership Program (ALP) aims to develop a cohesive group of peer leaders who will serve as problem-solving consultants for each other and the College. This program offers mid-career physicians (10-20 years post-fellowship completion) the opportunity to develop comprehensive leadership skills.

**2025 Course Directors:**

**Neena S. Abraham, MD, MSc (Epid), MACG,  
and Patrick E. Young, MD, FACC**



The Advanced Leadership Program encourages a growth mindset like no other leadership program. The opportunities to network, develop leadership skills, and grow as a physician and person are tremendous when you have a fierce team of faculty rooting for you.

**Swati Pawa, MD, FACP (ALP '23)**

#### Course Topics:

- Creating Culture, Managing Relationships and Mastering Office Politics
- How to Run an Effective and Impactful Meeting
- Financial Literacy for the Physician Leader
- Communication – How to Become Comfortable With the Uncomfortable
- Actionable Emotional Intelligence
- How to Elevate Colleagues and Trainees Through Mentorship and Sponsorship
- Navigating Career Transitions
- Recognizing the Importance of Work-Life Integration and the Power of Gratitude
- Becoming Comfortable With Vulnerability
- Developing Strategic Thinking Skills and Intentionality When Leading



Our GI societies offer lots of phenomenal educational opportunities for GI conditions, but very few on leadership. The Advanced Leadership Program is a game-changer – it offers insight into leadership skills and emotional intelligence that will be a useful asset at work and in life.

**Bryan Sauer, MD, MSc, FACP (ALP '23)**





# CLINICAL RESEARCH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Elevating Leadership Skills for Clinical Researchers

Deadline for 2026 Applications: **November 14, 2025**

The Clinical Research Leadership Program is a signature program of the ACG Institute's Center for Leadership, Ethics & Equity. Receiving a grant award is a celebratory milestone, inherent with several new responsibilities for the awardee – as a scientific leader, financial administrator, manager, and mentor. This unique interactive program will provide funded clinician investigators with the skill set to start, grow and maintain success as research leaders. Participants will learn research leadership skills to maintain a successful independent research program.

The goal of the program is to provide leadership training for early to mid-career clinical investigators who are ACG member physicians (between 2-15 years out of fellowship training), are working in the U.S., and have active or recent funding as a Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator.

## 2025 Course Directors:

**Millie D. Long, MD, MPH, FACG, and Brennan Spiegel, MD, MSHS, FACG**

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The candid advice and guidance given at the CRLP will undoubtedly shape my career in GI and clinical research. The program demonstrates the ACG's commitment to fostering excellence within our research community, opening opportunities for young investigators, and providing mentoring circles with faculty who lift us up in this wild ride.

**Joy Chang, MD, MS (CRLP '24)**

The LE&E Center Clinical Research Leadership Program features:

- Pre-course assignments
- In-person course (lectures, interactive 1:1, small group sessions, individual assignments)
- Virtual sessions

The program will cover:

- Grant Finance and Administration
- Research Operations and Strategy
- Fostering a Collaborative and Productive Team Environment
- How to Integrate Opportunities for Mentees
- Diversifying Your Funding Portfolio
- Grant Writing
- Advice for the Early-Career, Mid-Career, and Senior Investigators
- Guide to Creating a Research Network



“

The ACG CRLP is an incredibly high yield program for junior investigators. It focuses on core items to grow a research enterprise, highlights how to navigate future funding [including how to avoid gaps], and gives individual-specific tactics to approach potential obstacles. The course is incredibly well run, allows you to learn from world-renowned faculty in a small group setting, and helps build a peer support system that will aid future collaboration and ensure the group's future success.

**Adam S. Faye, MD, MS (CRLP '24)**



# THE ACG EDGAR ACHKAR VISITING PROFESSORSHIP

Providing Noteworthy Speakers for Training in Your Community

Deadline for 2026 Applications: **August 20, 2025**

EAVP NUMBERS



NUMBER OF VISITS

132



NUMBER OF STATES

32



NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS

101



YEARS RUNNING

11



APPROVED APPLICATIONS

83%

TOPICS COVERED

- Anorectal Problems
- Artificial Intelligence in Endoscopy
- Barrett's Esophagus
- Bile Duct Disorders
- *C. difficile*
- CardioGastroenterology
- Chronic Liver Disease
- Colon Cancer
- Colonoscopies
- Colorectal Cancer Screening
- Diet and Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- Dietary Myths and Diverticular Disease
- Digital Health
- Dyspepsia
- Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection
- Eosinophilic Esophagitis
- Esophageal Disorders and Motility
- Functional Bowel Disorders
- GERD
- GI Motility Disorders
- Health Information Outcomes Technology and Utilization
- Health IT in Improving Healthcare Delivery
- Hepatic Porphyria
- Hepatitis Treatment Update
- Hepatology and Liver Transplantation
- IBD and Management of Pregnancy
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Lower GI Bleeding
- NAFLD
- Nutrition, Microbiome, Immunology
- Obesity
- Pancreatic Disease
- Pancreatobiliary and Interventional Endoscopy
- Per-oral Endoscopic Myotomy (POEM)
- QI Programs
- Robotic Endoscopy
- Small Bowel Bleeding
- The Effects of Sleep on GI Health
- Ulcerative Colitis Management
- Upper GI Motility and Endoscopic Ultrasound
- Video Capsule Training

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND ETHICAL CARE TOPICS COVERED

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- DEI and Colorectal Cancer Screening
- Disparities in Care
- Ethical Issues in the Care of Patients With Liver Diseases
- Health Disparities in GI, and Diversity in GI
- How Implicit Bias Affects Healthcare Outcomes
- Applying Neurogastroenterology/Motility Principles to Historically Marginalized Communities
- Colorectal Cancer Screening: Meeting Patients Where They Are
- LGBTQ+ Inclusive Care for Individuals With IBD

MOST REQUESTED TOPICS



DIET AND IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME



ENDOSCOPY



ESOPHAGEAL DISORDERS AND MOTILITY



HEPATOLOGY



INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

The Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship Program, which honors former ACG Institute Director, Edgar Achkar, MD, MACG, enables GI fellowship programs to host high quality visiting professors to enhance the training program with lectures, small group discussions, and one-on-one visits with trainees and faculty. Additionally, this program allows community gastroenterologists to learn from an expert through an evening event or medical grand rounds.



Edgar Achkar, MD, MACG and  
Tyler Berzin, MD, FACP at Cleveland Clinic



The ACG Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship is an outstanding and noble service gift from ACG to both the institution that has significant gaps and unmet needs in education and training and a most rewarding and personally inspiring experience for the professor.

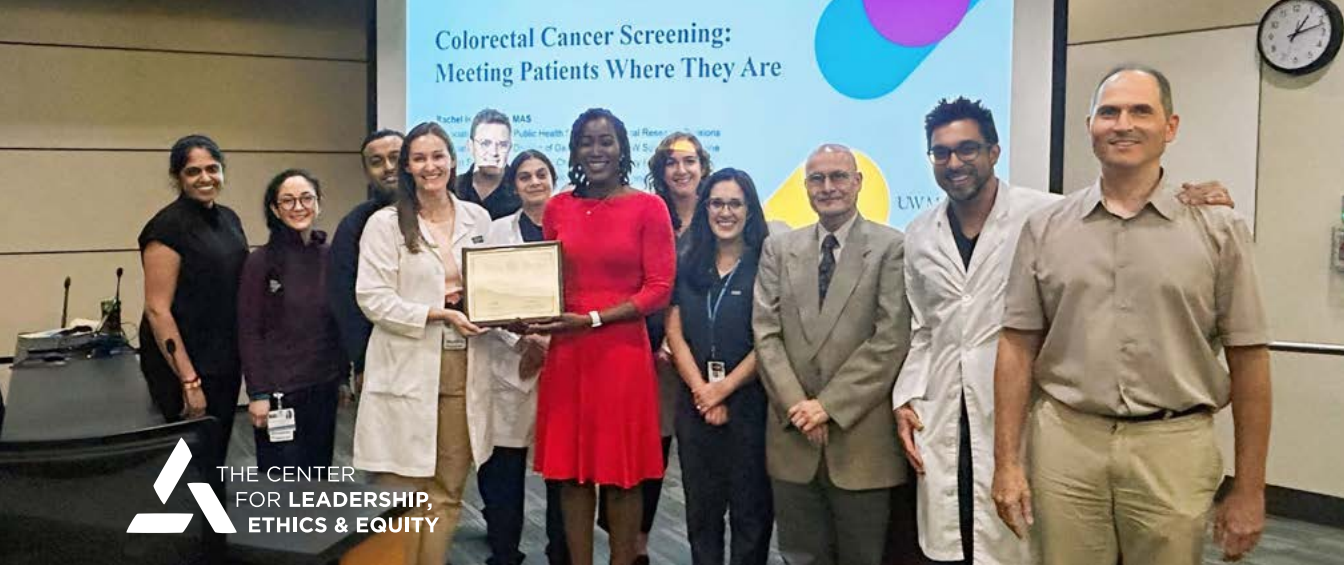
**Satish S.C. Rao, MD, PhD, FACG, visiting professor at Creighton University**



Dr. Long's visit has greatly enhanced our understanding of advanced therapies and holistic treatment objectives for IBD. Through a series of four meticulously crafted talks and ample opportunity for inquiry, it felt akin to a comprehensive postgraduate course on the subject. Her presentations were highly relevant to our daily clinical practice. Particularly impressive was her ability to address each query with precise data, including trial references, and provide insights into her approach to managing complex cases. Despite our experience as practicing gastroenterologists, Dr. Long's expertise challenged several of our preconceptions regarding the safety of IBD medications. One notable takeaway is her assertion that "the safest drug in Crohn's disease is the most effective drug."

**Yesenia Greeff, MD, FACP, GI Fellowship Program Director,  
UMass Chan - Baystate Health**





# THE VISITING SCHOLAR IN EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND ETHICAL CARE

Providing Noteworthy Speakers for Equity  
and Diversity Training in Your Communities

Deadline for 2026 Applications: **August 20, 2025**

As a cornerstone of the offerings of the LE&E Center, the Visiting Scholar in Equity, Diversity, and Ethical Care is part of the well-regarded Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship program. In its third year, the LE&E Center will be supporting five visits for this program that aims to create awareness around issues and challenges of delivering equitable care, respecting diversity, and instilling ethical decision-making.



Dr. Issaka has a wealth of knowledge and was an inspiration to junior and early career faculty. I truly enjoyed her journey and her passion and eagerness to make a change in the underserved community. I can attest to the health care disparity as I grew up in a rural underserved community and seeing her drive to make a difference in these communities was a rewarding experience. Listening to her talk and meeting her in person made me and my colleagues realize how to better circumnavigate and balance patient care, research and administrative roles that one is passionate about.

**Brijesh Patel, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of South Florida**

This program will provide onsite lectures and grand rounds as an added component to the current ACG Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship Program. Visits will be provided to requesting institutions and can be done in conjunction with a disease state topic-driven visit (i.e., IBD / Equity, Diversity, Ethical Care).

The Visiting Scholar in Equity, Diversity, & Ethical Care Program provides:

- Lectures
- Small Group Discussions
- Panel Discussions
- One-on-one visits with trainees and faculty
- Diversity, equity, and ethical care-centered topics



## The Visiting Scholar in Equity, Diversity, and Ethical Care



“

Dr. Chedid's visit created more interest in giving care to our LGBTQ population and our fellows requested more lectures addressing this in the future.

**Chad Burski, MD & Patricia Ajayi-Fox, MD,  
Associate & Assistant Professors, University of Alabama at Birmingham**



“

Programs such as this not only help the speaker gain perspective but also provide the forum for bringing a variety of speakers to programs and teach them on topics which would not have been perhaps on their radar.

**Baharak Moshiree, MD, MSc, FACC, visiting scholar at University of Miami**



“

In academic medicine, we often talk in our own echo chambers: institution, discipline, or social media. Offering my outside perspective to another set of people helped stimulate new conversations. I feel particularly passionate about digestive health in historically marginalized communities as such efforts are under increasing pressure. This is what makes efforts like the ACG’s Edgar Achkar Visiting Scholar initiative so critical. Even if everyone does not agree about every aspect of approaches to certain diseases or communities of interest, it is imperative for us to be open to new views and reach across the other side of the room. This is what makes our profession ever inquisitive and allows for its evolution.

**Christopher D. Vélez, MD, visiting scholar at Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center**



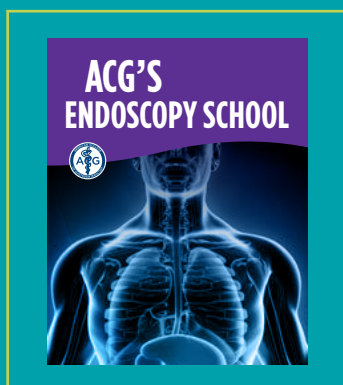
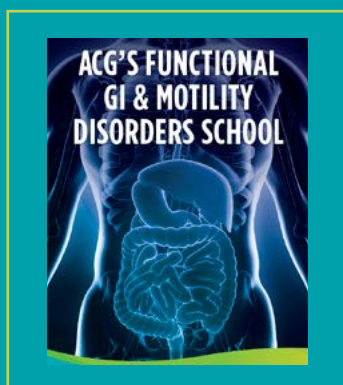
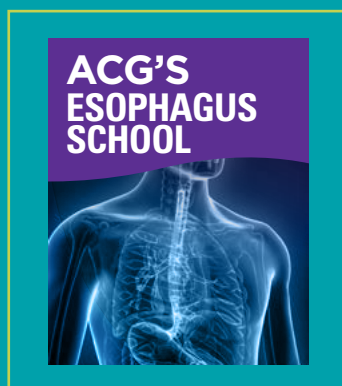
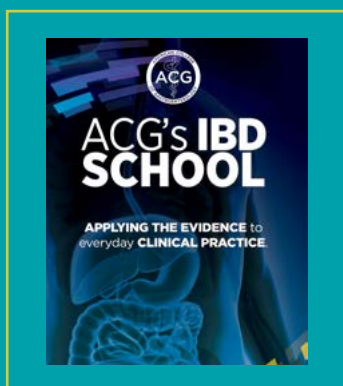
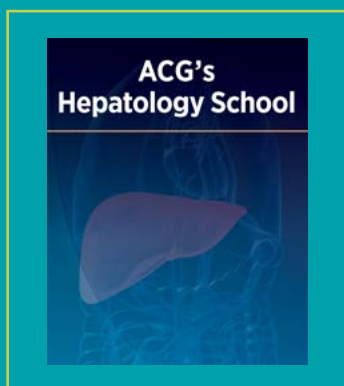
# ACG DISEASE STATE FOCUSED SCHOOLS

## A Focus on Educating Clinicians

The ACG Institute for Clinical Research and Education serves as a resource for comprehensive education for GI clinicians, patients, and raising public awareness of GI disorders. The Schools developed by the ACG Institute are single-day, regionally- focused, disease state-specific clinical education programs that provide the most up-to-date and relevant information on treatment and clinical care. These programs are held in conjunction with select ACG Regional Postgraduate Courses and are offered on a rotating schedule.

Find the next course:

[bit.ly/Educational-Resources](https://bit.ly/Educational-Resources)



Scan the QR Code to learn more about the ACG Disease State Focused Schools

## Esophagus School

ACG's Esophagus School is a day-long educational program that highlights best practices and offers clinical education for esophageal states. The goal of the program is to educate attendees on the increased diagnoses and available treatment for eosinophilic esophagitis, erosive / non-erosive esophagitis, GERD, and other conditions.

### Course Date:

Williamsburg, VA, September 5, 2025

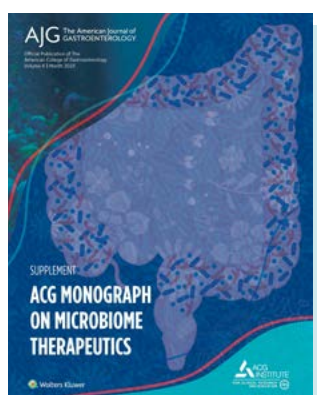
## Endoscopy School

ACG's Endoscopy School is a day-long educational program that highlights best practices and provides updates on new devices and endoscopic techniques. The goal of the program is to both educate attendees on the best endoscopic approaches and offer the opportunity to learn techniques in the form of hands-on workshops. This program will also allow those in practice an opportunity to upskill to the latest technology and techniques no matter how long they have been out of formal training.

### Course Date:

Washington, DC, June 6, 2025

## ACG Monograph on Microbiome Therapeutics



The ACG Institute and LE&E Center are proud to share the **Monograph on Microbiome Therapeutics**, published as a supplement to the January 2024 issue of *The American Journal of Gastroenterology*. This comprehensive update on the new developments and innovations related to the microbiome in GI covers the current state of biome science, non-prescription and prescription therapeutics, future biome therapeutics, and the biome in liver disease. The monograph features seven chapters of concise, clinically relevant summaries on the latest scientific insights into the microbiome with emphasis on the rapidly evolving therapeutic armamentarium.

Editors: Neil H. Stollman, MD, FACG, and Colleen R. Kelly, MD, FACG

Read the ACG Microbiome Monograph: [amjgastro.com](https://amjgastro.com)



The G.U.T. Fund is ACG's ongoing fundraising campaign that provides the necessary funds to support important programs sponsored by the ACG Institute. Charitable gifts to the G.U.T. Fund take GI forward, blazing new paths for science, clinical practice, and education for physicians, advance practice providers, and patients. Donors to the G.U.T. Fund have a meaningful impact on the direction of transformative ACG programs and, in the process, leave a lasting legacy.

The ACG Institute gratefully acknowledges the following industry partners who have made leadership commitments to support the G.U.T. Fund.

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**Director's Circle**

  
**Pillar**

  
**Leader**

 **Bristol Myers Squibb™**  
**Benefactor**

**Johnson & Johnson**  
**Benefactor**



Scan the QR Code to support the important work of the ACG Institute  
and learn more about the G.U.T. Fund