



2022

Annual Report

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Mission / Vision

Mission of WGO

To promote, to the general public and healthcare professional alike, an awareness of the worldwide prevalence and optimal care of gastrointestinal and liver disorders, and to improve care of these disorders, through the provision of high quality, accessible and independent education and training.

WGO Vision

Gastrointestinal and liver disorders are preeminent among healthcare issues globally, a significant burden to national healthcare budgets and the single greatest cause of cancer death. While an increasing awareness of causative factors, coupled with dramatic advances in diagnostic and therapeutic approaches have led to improvements in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of gastrointestinal and liver disorders, these benefits have not been transmitted equally across the world and, especially, to those in greatest need.

As the global representative for gastroenterology and hepatology, the role of WGO is to:

- Increase global public awareness of gastrointestinal and liver disorders
- Provide independent and high quality educational opportunities to medical, nursing and other healthcare professionals in gastrointestinal and liver disorders throughout the world, regardless of location
- Promote international collaboration in digestive health education, training and research
- Support healthcare professionals who care for those with gastrointestinal and liver disorders throughout the world

Governing Council

The Governing Council is comprised of 20 members which include the Executive Committee, Committee and Interest Group Chairs, and the Regional Associations Presidents/Chairs.

Executive Committee



President
Prof. Guilherme Macedo
Porto, Portugal
Centro Hospitalar São João



Past President and Chair, Nominations Committee
Prof. Naima Lahbabi-Amrani
Rabat, Morocco
Professor of Medicine, Mohammed V University



President-Elect and Chair, Climate Change Working Group
Prof. Geoffrey Metz
Richmond, VIC, Australia
Epworth Hospital



Treasurer and Chair, Finance Committee
Prof. Mark Topazian
Rochester, Minnesota, USA



Secretary General
Prof. Carolina Olano
Montevideo, Uruguay
Associate Professor, Universidad de La República



Executive At-Large Member and Chair, Foundation Committee
Prof. Kaichun Wu
Xi'an, China
Xijing Hospital of Digestive Diseases

Committee and Interest Group Chairs



Chair, Clinical Research Committee
Prof. Govind Makharia
New Delhi, India
All India Institute of Medical Sciences



Chair, Publications Committee
Prof. Dan Dumitrascu
Cluj-Napoca, Romania
University of Medicine and Pharmacy



Chair, Guidelines Committee
Prof. Alejandro Piscoya
Lima, Peru
Hospital Guillermo Kaelin de La Fuente



Chair, Scientific Programs Committee
Prof. Joost Drenth
Nijmegen, The Netherlands
Radboud UMC



Promotion of Education in Asia-Pacific Region
Prof. Varocha Mahachai
Bangkok, Thailand
Gastro Network



Chair, Training Centers Committee
Prof. Luis Carlos Sabbagh
Bogota, Colombia
Sanitas University Foundation

Governing Council, *continued*

Committee and Interest Group Chairs



Chair, Train the Trainers Committee
Prof. Kelly Burak
Calgary, Canada
University of Calgary Liver Unit



Chair, Endoscopy, Other Procedures and Outreach Interest Group
Prof. Vivek Kaul
Rochester, New York, USA
University of Rochester Medical Center



Chair, Young GIs Committee
Prof. Aasma Shaukat
New York, New York, USA
NYU Langone Health



Chair, Hepatology Interest Group
Prof. Nancy Reau
Chicago, Illinois, United States
Rush University Medical Center

Regional Association Chairs/Presidents



African Middle East Association of Gastroenterology (AMAGE)
Prof. Abdelmounem Abdo
Khartoum, Sudan
Ibn Sina Hospital



Pan-American Gastroenterological Association (OPGE)
Prof. Arnoldo Riquelme
Santiago, Chile
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile



Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE)
Prof. Justin Che-Yuen Wu
Hong Kong
Prince of Wales Hospital



United European Gastroenterology (UEG)
Prof. Helena Cortez-Pinto
Lisbon, Portugal
Centro Hospitalar Lisboa Norte, HSM

Secretariat Staff



Executive Director
Marissa Lopez, CAE



Program Manager
Jim Melberg



Senior Development and Communications Manager
Zachary Blevins



Education and Meetings Manager
Milly Gonzalez



Communications Manager
Caitlin Brandstatter



Program Manager
Ellist Muniz

Volunteers

WGO consists of the following bodies, each contributing to the activities of the organization.

- Executive Committee
- Governing Council
- Climate Change Working Group
- Clinical Research Committee
- Endoscopy, Other Procedures and Outreach Interest Group
- e-WGN Editorial Board
- Finance Committee
- Foundation Committee
- Global Guidelines Committee
- Hepatology Interest Group
- Mentorship Program
- Nominations Committee
- Publications Committee
- Scientific Programs Committee
- Training Centers Committee
- Train the Trainers Committee
- World Digestive Health Day Task Force
- Young GIs Committee

Volunteers by Gender



Volunteers by Region

Africa/Middle East - **72**

Americas - **82**

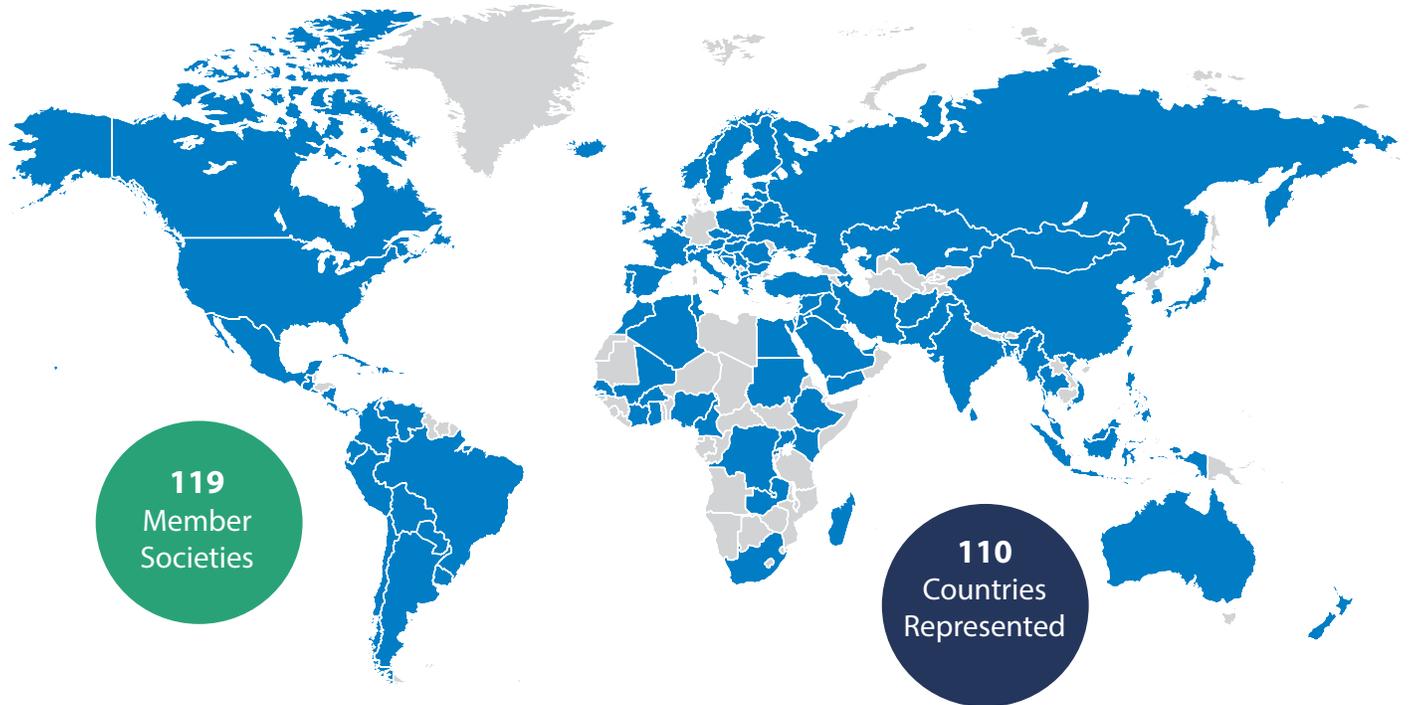
Asia Pacific - **85**

Europe - **55**

**Thank you to all of committee volunteers
for your commitment and dedication to WGO!**

Membership

The World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) is a global federation of 119 Member Societies representing over 66,500 individual gastroenterologists, hepatologists, endoscopists, GI surgeons, and other healthcare professionals. WGO programs and activities are dedicated to serving the needs of its members and promoting digestive health worldwide, especially in developing and emerging societies.



WGO Member Societies by Region

Africa/Middle East - **35**

Americas - **26**

Asia Pacific - **21**

Europe - **37**

Welcome Our New 2022 WGO Member Societies!

Haiti
Haitian Gastroenterology Association

Mali
Societe Malienne des Maladies de l'Appareil Digestif (SOMMAD)

Programs / Services

Training

Education and Training represents a core primary program for WGO. Since 1998, WGO has provided training and education to the global gastroenterology community reaching over 2,500 trainees through its 23 Training Centers and over 1,100 participants from 100 countries through its Train the Trainers courses.

Training Centers

WGO endorses 23 centers globally in Asia-Pacific, Europe, Africa/Middle East and the Americas. Although many of our centers were impacted by the pandemic, many were able to pivot and offer virtual courses and trainings.

WGO awarded grants to a number of trainees so that they may attend a training course at a WGO Training Center in 2022. In addition, many Training Centers were awarded Educational Activity funds to support their efforts.

“ I thank the World Gastroenterology Organisation for providing me with this opportunity to train in my dream specialty. I do not take it for granted. ”

“ The role of WGO and its interest in encouraging students to continue studying in large Training Centers with the guidance of people trained in different areas is remarkable. ”

Climate Change Working Group

WGO's Climate Change Working Group's (CCWG) objective is to assist GI health providers worldwide to adapt to, and mitigate, the effects of climate change on health. The CCWG has members from 18 countries representing high, medium and low-income populations. It aims to review the scientific literature on climate and GI health, to encourage education and the undertaking of actionable measures including advocacy, and to further research and collaborations within the global GI community.

In March 2022 the CCWG contacted all presidents of WGO Member Societies with a survey on climate change and digestive health. Society replies were received from all global geographic and economic zones, giving an accurate picture of current attitudes of global GI leadership, the structures in place in national societies, and the perceived barriers to tackling the climate crisis.

The results were published in a commentary in GUT in October 2022 entitled "Climate change: a survey of global gastroenterology society leadership."

Major barriers for the gastroenterology (GI) societies to move from being concerned to taking action as related to climate change. Three types of obstacles are major impediments to moving from the primary current sentiment of being concerned to take active measures. The three types of barriers are: (1) financial incentives and disincentives, (2) systemic issues such as a lack of knowledge and education on the topic and an absence of an administrative structure and (3) psychological barriers.



Programs / Services, *continued*

Train the Trainers

Despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, Train the Trainers workshops were successfully held in 2022 with much excitement from faculty and participants. The Polish Society of Gastroenterology (PSG) and the Federación Argentina de Gastroenterología (FAGE) were amazing hosts as we relaunched the traditional 4-day Train the Trainers workshop in Warsaw in early August and for the first time a one-day Spanish language workshop in Mendoza in mid-September. Not only was TTT launched with a new logo, the updated curriculum was also refreshed with new modules focused on medical education and improving participant skills as a teacher. A new commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion resulted in an equal number of women invited to participate as faculty.

Warsaw, Poland, 3-6 August 2022

As always, team building was a critical part of the TTT, which began the first night with a cooking competition that challenged the six small groups to prepare various traditional Polish dishes. The cultural night highlighted the diverse backgrounds of our nine faculty and 41 participants, who came from 22 countries.

Mendoza, Argentina, 14-15 September 2022

This workshop was held as a pre-course to the 2022 Gastro Endo Argentine Congress in Mendoza. To help with group dynamics and team building for this brief course, four small groups were established ahead of time on WhatsApp and were tasked to come up with a group name. On the first evening, groups revealed their group name and introduced their members, after which we all enjoyed Argentinian wine and food while getting to know each other. There were 27 participants and six faculty from six different countries participating in this Teaching Impact course.



Programs / Services, *continued*

Emerging Leaders Mentorship Program

2022 was the first full year of the Emerging Leaders Mentorship Program. This is part of our ongoing commitment to training and education. Over a yearlong partnership, six mentors imparted knowledge and expertise in the areas of clinical practice, education, and research, catering to the interests and specific needs of the mentees.

The program initially focused on twelve young professionals as mentees. Special consideration was given to young GI professionals in regions where access to needed resources may be limited.

The six mentors were chosen from among established experts who have a demonstrated track record of successful mentorship and who have a first-hand knowledge of issues in GI in their region.

Education

WGO Global Guidelines and Cascades

The WGO Guidelines Library contains 27 practice guidelines that are globally applicable by the nature of their cascades, which identify other ways of achieving the best possible outcome by taking the available resources into account. While each guideline includes references to other relevant guidelines, WGO is the only organization who has adopted a global focus. In addition, each guideline review team includes non-Western experts with direct knowledge of conditions in their regions.



A Resource Sensitive Solution

Newly Published Guidelines in the JCG in 2022

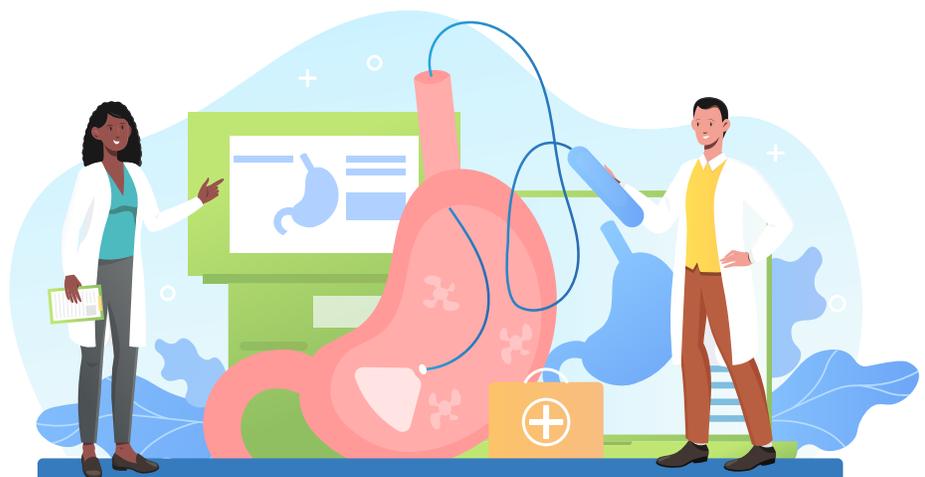
- Endoscope Disinfection
- *Helicobacter Pylori*

Most Popular Titles in 2022

- Probiotics and Prebiotics
- Acute Diarrhea
- *Helicobacter Pylori*
- IBS

Languages Available

- English
- French
- Mandarin
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish



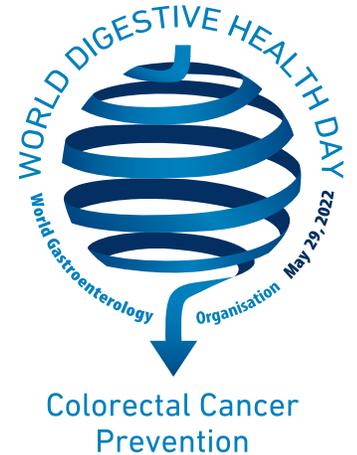
Outreach / Advocacy

World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) 2022

Every 29th May, WGO celebrates World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) and initiates a yearlong, worldwide, public health campaign through 119 WGO Member Societies, which reach over 65,000 individuals worldwide, WGO Training Centers, Regional Affiliate Associations and other WGO global partners. Each year focuses upon a particular digestive disease and/or disorder in order to increase general public awareness of prevention, prevalence, diagnosis, management and treatment of the disease and/or disorder.

The theme for World Digestive Health Day 2022 was “Colorectal Cancer Prevention: Getting Back on Track.”

As part of the campaign, WGO members were asked to take a selfie card photo, amplifying short messages related to colorectal cancer prevention and screening efforts. Healthcare professionals and the public shared their photos with WGO, with submissions received from all parts of the world. WGO was delighted to feature these photos throughout various platforms, including WGO’s social media channels, e-WGN, and the WDHD website.



Website Stats

The WGO website received 2,572 sessions on 29 May 2022, far above WGO’s average web traffic.



Congress and Meetings

World Congress of Gastroenterology 2022

In collaboration with the Emirates Gastroenterology & Hepatology Society (EGHS), the World Congress of Gastroenterology was successfully held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 12-14 December 2022. WGO received numerous positive comments following the Congress from attendees, faculty and industry alike. There were 1,494 registrants, with 1,362 in-person attendance. The Congress included a robust scientific program, inclusive of keynote lectures, a post-graduate course, 36 general symposiums, several industry symposiums, and special sessions. There were 77 oral abstracts and 228 poster abstracts displayed at the Congress. The World Congress of Gastroenterology was accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) to provide 32 CME credits for medical specialists.



“ It was a splendid chance for young specialists to be ‘on the pulse’ in gastroenterology and know modern scientific research directions. Meeting colleagues from many countries with different experiences is the globalization of such an extensive specialty like ours. ”

Reach / Engagement

Website



20,290 average monthly visits.

WGO continues to give its website a fresh look and maintain its consistent branding. It stays up to date with the latest WGO has to offer in news, workshops, publications, and more. The WGO website is user-friendly, displays a cohesive layout, and is compatible with Google Translate.

Visitors came from 227 countries.

Top Countries



Did you know...

Almost half of the visitors came from Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

Circulation/Reach

e-WGN

The official newsletter of WGO, the electronic World Gastroenterology News (e-WGN), is available in an online format. The publication is produced on a quarterly basis and is accessible free of charge as a PDF. In March, WGO released a special issue focused on the International Women's Day. Additional issues were released in May, September, and December, featuring a wide array of articles and topics including Expert Point of View articles, WGO Global Guidelines updates, member society news, and more.



Sent to 50,000 recipients per issue



Social Media

15,895 combined followers on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn, a 40% increase from 2021.

Awards

2022 Georges Brohée Medal Recipient

Dr. Maryam Al Khatri of the United Arab Emirates received the Georges Brohée Medal and presented her lecture on the topic, "State of the Art Update on Endoscopic Bariatric and Metabolic Therapies." This session took place during the World Congress of Gastroenterology 2022 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



2022 Henry L. Bockus Medal Recipient

Dr. Henry Cohen of Uruguay received the Henry L. Bockus Medal and presented his lecture on the topic, "Project ECHO: Democratizing medical care, demonopolizing medical knowledge, worldwide." This session took place during the World Congress of Gastroenterology 2022 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



2022 Masters of the WGO

The 2022 Masters of the WGO were recognized at an awards ceremony that took place during the World Congress of Gastroenterology 2022, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 12 December 2022. The following recipients were honored:

Salim Awadh Sabih, MWGO
United Arab Emirates

Justus Krabshuis, MWGO
France

Damon Bizos, MWGO
South Africa

KR Palaniswamy, MWGO
India

Elias Makhoul, MWGO
Lebanon

Christina Surawicz, MWGO
USA

Eduardo Mauriño, MWGO
Argentina

Nurdan Tözün, MWGO
Turkey



Sponsors and Partners

WGO is grateful to industry, foundations, and the individuals that supported our mission and therefore helping us to make a positive impact in the world in 2022. With the funds received we were able to assist Training Centers with their educational activities, support the attendance of trainees at the Training Centers, support the participation of key faculty for Train the Trainers and much more, furthering WGO's mission and vision as the global representative for gastroenterology and related fields.



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