



2023

# Annual Report

# Contents

- MISSION / VISION .....1**
  - Mission of WGO ..... 1
  - WGO Vision ..... 1
  - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement. ....2
  
- GOVERNING COUNCIL .....3**
  - Executive Committee ..... 3
  - Committee Chairs ..... 3
  - Regional Association Chairs/Presidents .....4
  - Secretariat Staff .....4
  
- VOLUNTEERS.....5**
  
- MEMBERSHIP .....5**
  - WGO Member Societies and Regional Associations.....6
  
- PROGRAMS / SERVICES .....8**
  - Training Centers.....8
  - Train the Trainers.....9
  - WGO Global Guidelines and Cascades .....10
  - Webinars .....11
  
- OUTREACH / ADVOCACY .....13**
  - World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) 2023 .....13
  
- MEETINGS.....14**
  - General Assembly .....14
  
- REACH / ENGAGEMENT .....15**
  - Website.....15
  - Circulation/Reach .....15
  - WGO’s Merchandise Store .....16
  
- SPONSORS AND PARTNERS .....16**



## 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 education, training and advocacy.

### WGO Vision

Gastrointestinal and liver disorders are very important 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 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 throughout the world who care for those with gastrointestinal and liver disorders



## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement

In 2023, WGO adopted its new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement. This statement is a testament to WGO's dedication to global diversity, equal representation and inclusivity for all.

### One Voice, Advancing the Specialty Together

As one of the oldest and leading global organizations for gastroenterology, diversity, equity and inclusion are at the core of our Vision, Mission and Values. It is our responsibility to be a model for our members and ensure that this is a fundamental principle and practice across all that we do.

As we celebrated 65 years in 2023, WGO aims to provide quality programs and education, deliver exceptional scientific meetings, and increase opportunities for our members to participate in WGO initiatives. We strive to provide a space for our global GI community that is diverse, inclusive and balanced, respecting the dignity of all persons and representing all of the regions and professional levels of the members we serve. We encourage members from high and low resource countries to be actively engaged in making available the appropriate tools for teaching and training emerging and established specialists.

The more inclusive we are, the better our organization will be.

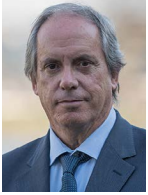
### In addition, WGO pledges to:

- Promote education as a driving force that encompasses the values of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Prioritize diversity and inclusion across all of our programs, policies and procedures
- Foster a culture of inclusion beginning at the leadership and committee levels
- Support members from high and low resource countries and/or underrepresented groups in their professional journeys
- Increase opportunities for members to participate in WGO committees, activities, and workshops

# Governing Council

The Governing Council is comprised of 20 members which include the Executive Committee, Committee 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*  
Mohammed V University



*President-Elect and Chair, Climate Change Committee*  
**Prof. Geoffrey Metz**  
*Melbourne, VIC, Australia*  
Epworth Hospital



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



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



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

## Committee Chairs



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



*Chair, Hepatology Committee*  
**Prof. Nancy Reau**  
*Chicago, Illinois, USA*  
Rush University Medical Center



*Chair, Endoscopy Committee*  
**Prof. Vivek Kaul**  
*Rochester, New York, USA*  
University of Rochester Medical Center



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



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



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

# Governing Council, *continued*

## Committee Chairs



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



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



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



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

## 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. Alejandro Piscoya**  
*Lima, Peru*  
Hospital Guillermo Kaelin de La Fuente



*Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE)*  
**Prof. Choon-Jin Ooi**  
*Singapore*  
Gleneagles Hospital



*United European Gastroenterology (UEG)*  
**Prof. Matthias Löhr**  
*Stockholm, Sweden*  
Karolinska Institutet

## Secretariat Staff



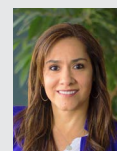
*Executive Director*  
**Marissa Lopez, CAE**



*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**

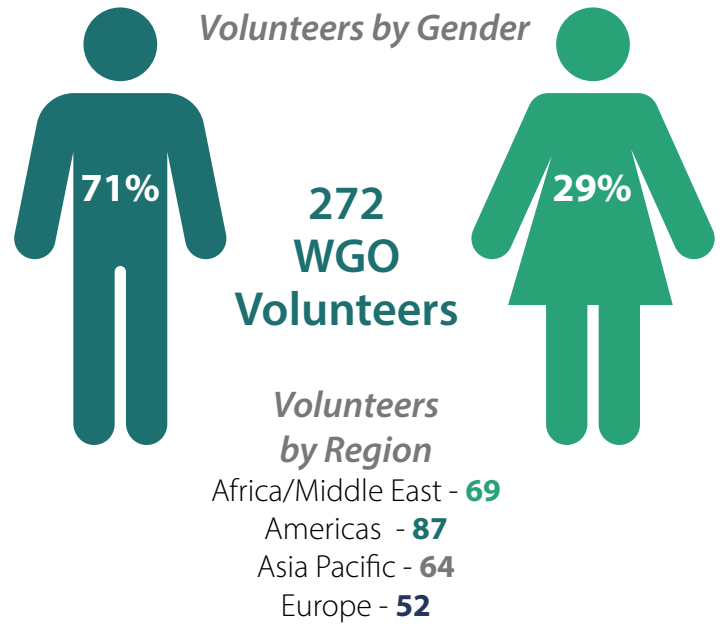


*Administrative Manager*  
**Maria Segura**

# Volunteers

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

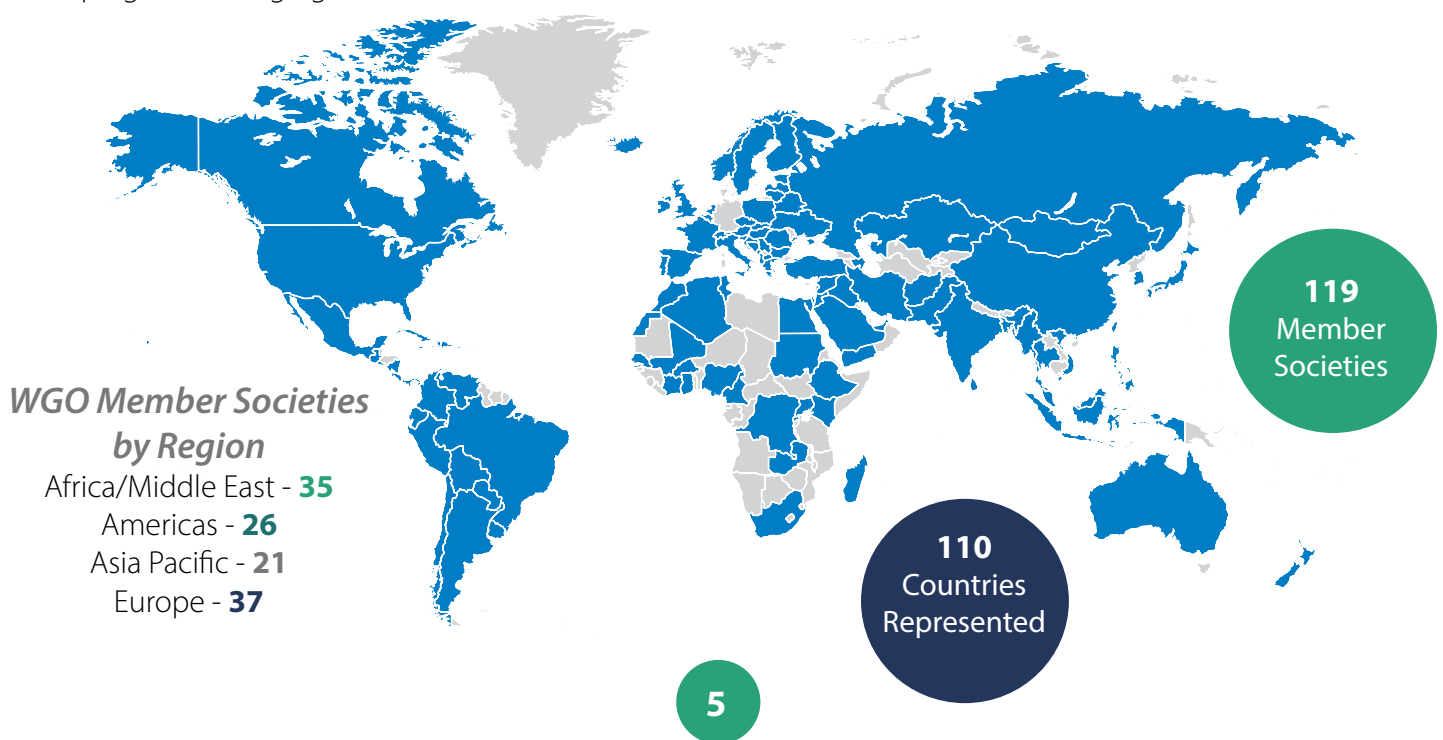
- Executive Committee
- Governing Council
- Climate Change Committee
- Clinical Research Committee
- Endoscopy Committee
- e-WGN Editorial Board
- Finance Committee
- Foundation Committee
- Global Guidelines Committee
- Hepatology Committee
- Mentorship Program
- *News You Can Use* Editorial Board
- Nominations Committee
- Publications Committee
- Scientific Programs Committee
- Training Centers Committee
- Train the Trainers Committee
- World Digestive Health Day Task Force
- Young GIs Committee



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

# Membership

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.



# Membership

## Thank you to all of our WGO Member Societies and Regional Associations



Afghanistan Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Society  
Albanian Association of Gastroenterology & Hepatology  
Société Algérienne D'hepato-gastro-entérologie  
Federacion Argentina de Gastroenterologia (FAGE)  
Sociedad Argentina De Gastroenterologia (SAGE)  
Gastroenterological Society of Australia  
Austrian Society of Gastroenterology & Hepatology  
Azerbaijan Gastroenterologists and Hepatologists Society  
Bangladesh Gastroenterology Society  
Byelorussian Gastroenterology Association  
Société Royale Belge de Gastro-Entérologie  
Vlaamse Vereniging Voor Gastroenterologie (WVGE)  
Sociedad Boliviana de Gastroenterología Y Endoscopia Digestiva  
Association of Gastroenterologists & Hepatologists of Bosnia & Herzegovina  
Federação Brasileira De Gastroenterologia  
Bulgarian Society of Gastroenterology  
Société Burkinabè D'Hépatogastro-Entérologie Et D'Endoscopie Digestive  
Societe Camerounaise De Gastroenterologie  
Canadian Association of Gastroenterology  
Sociedad Chilena de Gastroenterología  
Chinese Society of Gastroenterology  
Asociación Colombiana De Gastroenterologia  
Asoc. De Especialistas En Gastroenterología Y Endoscopia Digestiva De Costa Rica  
Société Ivoirienne De Gastro-entérologie Et D'endoscopie Digestive (SIGEED)  
Croatian Society of Gastroenterology  
Sociedad Cubana De Gastroenterologia  
Czech Society of Gastroenterology  
Congolese Association of Gastroenterology, D.R. Congo (SOCONGE)  
Sociedad Dominicana De Gastroenterología  
Sociedad Ecuatoriana De Gastroenterologia  
Egyptian Association for Research and Training in Hepatogastroenterology (EARTH)  
Egyptian Association for Study of Liver and Gastrointestinal Diseases (EASLGD)  
Egyptian Society of Gastroenterology  
Asociación de Gastroenterología Y Endoscopia Digestiva de El Salvador  
Estonian Society of Gastroenterology  
Ethiopian Gastroenterology Association (EGA)  
Finnish Society of Gastroenterology  
Société Nationale Française de Gastro-Entérologie  
Ghana Association for the Study of Liver and Digestive Diseases  
Hellenic Society of Gastroenterology  
Asoc. Guatemalteca de Gastroenterología, Hepatología Y Endoscopia Gastrointestinal  
Haitian Gastroenterology Association  
The Hong Kong Society of Gastroenterology  
Hungarian Society of Gastroenterology  
The Icelandic Gastroenterology Society  
Indian Society of Gastroenterology  
Indonesian Society of Gastroenterology  
Iranian Association of Gastroenterology and Hepatology  
Iraqi Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology  
Irish Society of Gastroenterology  
The Israeli Society of Gastroenterology and Liver Disease  
Società Italiana Di Gastroenterologia Ed Endoscopia Digestiva  
Association of West Indian Gastroenterologists  
The Japanese Society of Gastroenterology  
Jordanian Society of Gastroenterology & Hepatology  
National Association of Gastroenterology of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
Gastroenterology Society of Kenya  
The Korean Society of Gastroenterology  
Latvian Association of Gastroenterologists  
Lebanese Society of Gastroenterology



# Membership

## Thank you to all of our WGO Member Societies and Regional Associations

Lithuanian Society of Gastroenterology

Association de Gastro-Enterologie de Madagascar (AGEM)

Société Malgache D'Hepato-gastro-enterologie Et D'Endoscopie Digestive

Malaysian Society of Gastroenterology & Hepatology

Societe Malienne Des Maladies de L'Appareil Digestif (SOMMAD)

Asociacion Mexicana de Gastroenterologia, A.C.

Mongolian Gastroenterology Association

Gastroenterohepatology Association of Montenegro (GAM)

Société Marocaine Des Maladies de L'Appareil Digestif

Myanmar Gastroenterology & Liver Society

Nederlandse Vereniging Voor Gastro-enterologie

New Zealand Society of Gastroenterology Inc.

Asociacion Centroamericana De Gastroenterología Y Endoscopia Digestiva

Sociedad Nicaragüense Gastroenterología Y Endoscopia Digestiva (SONIGED)

Society for Gastroenterology and Hepatology in Nigeria (SOGHIN)

Macedonian Society of Gastroenterohepatology

Norwegian Gastroenterological Association

Pakistan Society of Gastroenterology & GI Endoscopy

Asociacion Panameña De Gastroenterología Y Endoscopia Digestiva (APGED)

Sociedad Paraguaya De Gastroenterología

Sociedad de Gastroenterología Del Perú

Philippine Society of Gastroenterology

Polish Society of Gastroenterology

Sociedade Portuguesa de Gastrenterología

Asociación Puertorriqueña de Gastroenterología

Romanian Society of Gastroenterology & Hepatology

Gastroenterological Scientific Society of Russia

Russian Gastroenterological Association

Rwandan Society for Endoscopy

Saudi Gastroenterology Association

Société Sénégalaise De Gastro-entérologie Et D'hépatologie (SOSEGH)

Association of Serbian Gastroenterologists

Gastroenterological Society of Singapore

Slovak Gastroenterological Society

Slovenian Society for Gastroenterology and Hepatology

South African Gastroenterological Society

Asociacion Espanola de Gastroenterologia (AEG)

Sociedad Espanola De Patologia Digestiva (SEPD)

Sri Lanka Society of Gastroenterology

Palestinian Society of Gastroenterology

Sudanese Society of Gastroenterology

Swedish Society for Gastroenterology

Swiss Society of Gastroenterology

Syrian Society of Gastroenterology

The Gastroenterological Society of Taiwan

Gastroenterological Association of Thailand

Tunisian Society of Gastroenterology

Turkish Society of Gastroenterology

Uganda Gastroenterology Society

Ukrainian Gastroenterology Association

Emirates Gastroenterology & Hepatology Society

British Society of Gastroenterology

American College of Gastroenterology

American Gastroenterological Association

Sociedad de Gastroenterología Del Uruguay

Sociedad Venezolana de Gastroenterología

Vietnam Association of Gastroenterology (VNAGE)

Yemen Gastroenterological Association

Zambia Association for Gastroenterology & Nutrition (ZAGAN)

United European Gastroenterology (UEG)

Pan-American Gastroenterological Association (OPGE)

African Middle East Association of Gastroenterology (AMAGE)

Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology (APAGE)

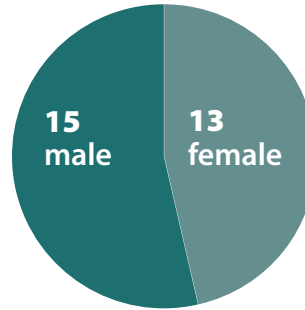
# Programs / Services

## 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 24 Training Centers and over 1,300 participants from 100 countries through its Train the Trainers courses.



*Training Centers*  
Training Centers awarded Educational Activity funds



*2023 Grants Program Recipients*

**28** recipients

*Number Training Outside their Country*



“ Through fostering cultural competency, interdisciplinary collaboration, and resilience, premedical students emerge as compassionate and capable healthcare providers who are poised to address health disparities across different cultures. ”

“ 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. ”

## Training Centers

WGO endorses 24 centers globally in Asia-Pacific, Europe, Africa/Middle East and the Americas. WGO awarded grants to a number of trainees so that they may attend a training course at a WGO Training Center in 2023. 11 Training Centers were awarded Educational Activity funds to support their efforts.



In 2023, WGO inaugurated its latest Training Center in Brasilia, Brazil. This center celebrated its grand opening on 15 July 2023 and is under the direction of Prof. Liliana Sampaio Costa Mendes. The mission of this Training Center is to further assist in the medical education and training of gastrointestinal diseases and provide the highest level of medical care to the local population.

# Programs / Services, *continued*

## Train the Trainers

In 2023, Train the Trainers launched new and creative initiatives to further innovate the realm of educational workshops and expand the global community of WGO. The TTT course continues to utilize multiple teaching methods including lectures, small group breakouts with report back, active learning workshops, combined with social activities. A new addition to the program this year was the introduction of a TTT Teaser. This shortened course was held over two days, alongside the Romanian National Congress of Gastroenterology, and gave a glimpse into what a full educational course may be like. Also, in collaboration with the Colombian Association of Gastroenterology, WGO proudly launched the Spanish version of the Advanced TTT in Medical Education in Pereira, Colombia.

### *Isai, Romania, 6-7 June 2023*

This abbreviated version of the course aimed to provide a taste of what is covered in a TTT, help participants become better medical educators and inspire future participation in our Train the Trainers courses. The first day consisted of an hour and a half worth of modules with day two consisting of four hours. This teaser included an adult education workshop, lectures, breakouts, and report back sessions.



### *Pereira, Colombia, 16-18 August 2023*

Expanding the Train the Trainers course to two days of content allowed for the introduction of several new Med Ed modules, while also repurposing other existing modules into more interactive workshops. Having fun while learning remains a key component to the success of TTT. Despite the shortened duration of the course, we were able to visit the beautiful town of Filandia during our local tour. While enjoying a great dinner, we learned how to prepare the perfect cup of Colombian coffee accompanied by endless memories of singing and dancing!

#### *Introduction of New Modules*

**Simulation in Med Ed.** - Although simulation has long been a part of a TTT course by using endoscopy simulators to demonstrate how to teach a skill, there has never been a formal module dedicated to the role of simulation in medical education. Participants learned that simulation is a teaching technique rather than a technology.

**Learner in Difficulty** – This new module highlighted that identifying “problem trainees” is important because it predicts future problems, such as unprofessional behaviors, and because remediation works!

**Communication and Conflict Resolution** – This workshop allowed participants to learn the importance of active listening and non-verbal communication. While practicing their negotiations skills, the participants had fun engaging in the “Two Dollar Game” activity.

**Innovation and Scholarship** – The module introduced participants on how to design quality studies in Med Ed., including the importance of a proper literature review. It contrasted quantitative and qualitative research methodologies and highlighted a mixed methods study “the flipped classroom” as a recent innovation in medical education.

# Programs / Services, *continued*

## 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 which has adopted a global focus. In addition, each guideline review team includes non-Western experts with direct knowledge of conditions in their regions. The *Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology (JCG)* is the official publication platform for the WGO's Global Guidelines in the English language.

#### *Newly Published Updated Guidelines in the JCG in 2023*

- Obesity
- Probiotics and Prebiotics

The **Obesity Guideline** was published in partnership with the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders (IFSO). This joint IFSO and WGO effort gives clinicians a tool to use when dealing with people with obesity. The Guideline was led by Drs. Scott Shikora (USA), Reem Sharaiha (USA), Kevin P. White (Canada), Guilherme Macedo (Portugal), James Toouli (Australia) and Lilian Kow (Australia). Prof. Macedo is President of WGO (2021-2023) and Prof. Toouli is a Past President of WGO (2013-2015).

An Executive Summary as well as the “Methodology and results of a joint IFSO-WGO Delphi Survey of 94 intercontinental, interdisciplinary experts in obesity management” were also released in conjunction with the updated Obesity Guideline.

The **Probiotics and Prebiotics Guideline** was led by Prof. Francisco Guarner, MD, PhD, a clinical gastroenterologist and researcher in probiotics and prebiotics in Spain, and brought together experts in gastroenterology, pediatrics, family medicine, probiotics, and prebiotics. Prof. Hania Szajewska, MD, PhD, a clinical pediatrician and clinical researcher in probiotics from the Medical University of Warsaw, Poland, was integral to assessing evidence for pediatric populations for the guidelines. Mary Ellen Sanders PhD of the International Scientific Association for Probiotics and Prebiotics (ISAPP) co-chaired the project. The Review Team of international experts consisted of Drs. Henry Cohen (Uruguay), Rami Eliakim (Israel), Claudia Herrera (Guatemala), Tarkan Karakan (Türkiye), Dan Merenstein (USA), Alejandro Piscocoya (Peru), Balakrishnan Ramakrishna (India), and Seppo Salminen (Finland).



**A Resource Sensitive Solution**

#### *Most Popular Guidelines Accessed in 2023*

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

#### *Languages Available*

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

# Programs / Services, *continued*

## Webinars

In 2023, WGO created and produced 15 webinars on a wide range of topics and specialties. Webinars are used as a free online educational tool to provide our members with access to digestive healthcare experts and their abundance of knowledge and experience. The online courses featured both live and pre-recorded sessions. All these resources were provided at no-cost and all recorded webinars became accessible on WGO's website.

### ***Women in GI Webinar Series***

***22 Feb. – 13 Dec.***

This quarterly webinar series brought together women leading their fields and male allies from around the world. Throughout the series many powerful discussions were had surrounding the obstacles, stereotypes and opportunities women in medicine are presented with.

### ***Liver Disease in Pregnancy: Navigating the Complexities on a Global Scale*** ***17 April***

In celebration of World Liver Day, WGO's Hepatology Committee created a webinar with a focus on pregnancy and liver disease in a cascade approach. Topics covered included viral hepatitis in pregnancy, pregnancy specific liver diseases, chronic liver disease in pregnancy and autoimmune hepatitis, and more!

### ***DILI Diagnosis: More Than Guilt By Association*** ***19 June***

The webinar was focused on the identification and diagnosis of drug- and herb-induced liver injury. Each topic was chosen based on a key publication that addressed an important challenge in drug-induced liver injury. Topics included an algorithm to identify drug-induced liver injury, the genetic risk score for the diagnosis, a causality assessment of herbal and dietary supplement induced liver injury and several others.



# Programs / Services, *continued*

## Webinars, *continued*

### **WGO's Climate Course on Global Gastroenterology**

WGO's Climate Change Committee's objective is to assist GI health providers worldwide to adapt to, and mitigate, the effects of climate change on health. In 2023 the Committee had members from 18 countries representing high, medium and low-income populations. It aimed 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.

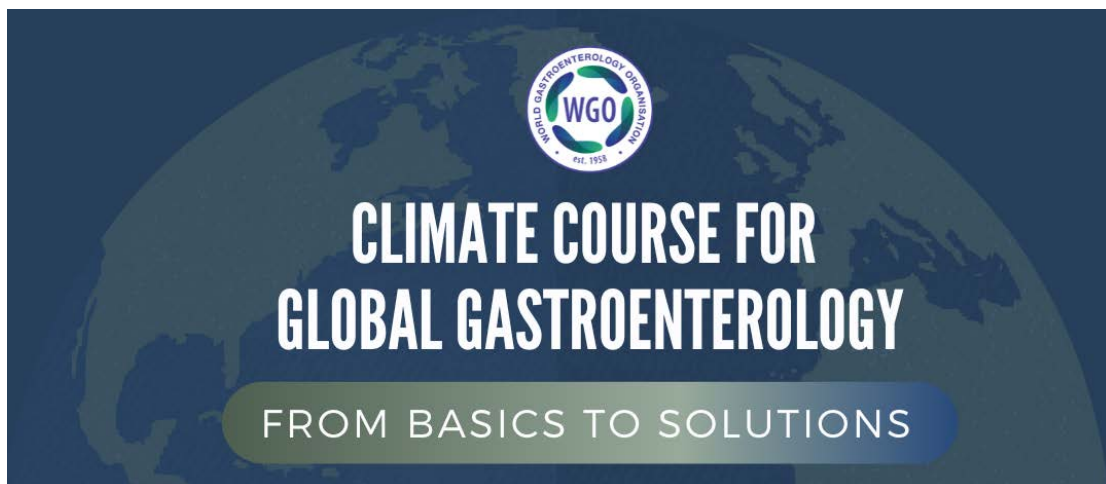
To increase awareness and educate health providers, WGO broadcast a series of nine interactive webinars, one hour each, occurring every two weeks from March until June 2023. We assembled experts from around the world who are the leading authorities on the subjects that were presented. Upon completion of this course attendees had a clear understanding of the issues and are now prepared to take positive actions to help adapt to, and mitigate, climate change.

The topics were:

1. Overview of Course and Climate Change Fundamentals
2. Climate Change and GI Health
3. Food, Water Security, and Vulnerable Populations
4. Adaptation, Resilience, and Industry Partnership
5. Understanding the Carbon Footprint of GI Care
6. Greening Endoscopy and Reducing Waste
7. Personal, Systems Advocacy, and Nursing Efforts to Mitigate the Climate Crisis
8. Perspectives on Pediatric Health, Trainees, and Early Career Providers
9. Building a Brighter, Sustainable, and Better Future

### ***Gut Commentary Series on Digestive Health and Climate Change***

WGO was pleased to work with *Gut* to publish a compendium of nine commentaries, each summarizing one, or a hybrid, of the educational webinars. These nine commentaries published by *Gut* in the December 2023 issue were coauthored by the webinar speakers and colleagues and provide a synopsis of the webinar topics and related resources and references. They also serve as a compendium of the impact of climate change on gastrointestinal health for readers worldwide to use.



# Outreach / Advocacy

## World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) 2023

Every 29th May, WGO celebrates World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) and initiates a 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 2023 was “Your Digestive Health: A Healthy Gut From the Start.”*



Your Digestive Health:  
A Healthy Gut From the Start

WGO remains committed to providing simple messages for the general public in order to assist in the understanding of the important role of diet in GI health, and we shared the following resources during this campaign. These sites give practical information for adults, children, patients, and providers about healthy diet and other healthy habits.

**GIKids.org** - Geared towards children, parents, and healthcare professionals, GI Kids offers comprehensive and reliable information on pediatric digestive disorders, liver diseases, and nutritional concerns

**The Doc's Kitchen** - Healthy recipes, eating resources, videos, and more are available to help you and your patients lead a healthier and happier life

**Healthy Eating for Children** - Emphasizes the important role of caregivers of children in learning healthy eating habits, such as three meals a day and one to three healthy snacks a day

**Advice for Parents of Healthy-Weight Children** - Advice for parents of healthy-weight children, such as role modeling, physical activity, child size portions, and how to pack a healthy school lunch

**Dietary Guidelines for Americans** - Addresses every part of the life span: infants and toddlers, children and adolescents, adults, pregnant women, and older adults

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.



# Meetings

## General Assembly

The General Assembly is comprised of representatives from all WGO member societies and regional associations. The members of the assembly review the work of the Governing Council, vote on amendments to the WGO statutes and bylaws, as well as approve the election of WGO officers. The General Assembly also ratifies the selected bid for each World Congress of Gastroenterology. There shall be only one vote for each member society. In 2023, WGO held two General Assembly meetings, one in May and one in December.

### *May*

The first assembly took place in-person at Digestive Disease Week 2023 (DDW) in Chicago, Illinois, USA. WGO President Prof. Guilherme Macedo addressed the member society representatives and provided an overview of recent accomplishments within the organization. Also, inside of this meeting was the formal approval of two new member societies joining WGO, the Haitian Gastroenterology Association and Societe Malienne des Maladies de l'Appareil Digestif (SOMMAD). There was diverse representation from around the world and many society leaders in attendance.



### *December*

The second General Assembly of 2023 was offered virtually. During this meeting Prof. Guilherme Macedo thanked those in attendance for their support during his presidency and thanked those rotating off the Governing Council at the start of 2024. Prof. Macedo introduced Prof. Geoffrey Metz as the incoming President and welcomed in his new leadership. Additional highlights of the meeting included the ratifications of new Governing Council members, approval of changes inside of WGO bylaws and the announcement of several new committees including the Media and Community Engagement Committee, Climate Change Committee and IBD Committee.





# Reach / Engagement

## Website

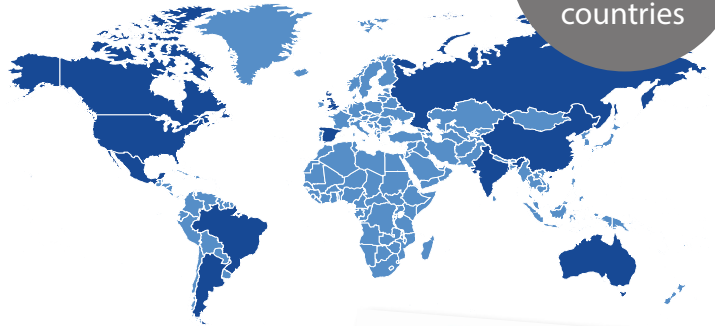


23,168 average monthly visits

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 224 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. WGO released issues in March, June, 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. e-WGN serves as a source of gastroenterology news and is designed to reflect the diversity of WGO and its member societies. In 2023 WGO launched its digital submission portal, making submitting content easier than ever.



Sent to 55,000 recipients per issue



## WGO News You Can Use

In 2023, WGO launched a bi-weekly digital news brief including the latest articles from around the world in gastroenterology. This brief is used as an additional tool to promote WGO activities as well as upcoming events of WGO member societies.

## Social Media

19,443 combined followers on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn, a 22% increase from 2022.

# Reach / Engagement, *continued*

## WGO's Merchandise Store

In December of 2023, WGO announced the exciting launch of its official merchandise store! We believed in creating merchandise to help build a greater sense of community through our brand awareness and promotion of our global programs. Our products are perfect for Train the Trainers alumni, former and current committee members, Training Center participants, and anyone else who belongs to our global community!

Inside the store, shoppers can explore a wide array of items. Apparel, office supplies, everyday items, and more are all available for purchase! Many of these products are customizable and can be made to perfectly reflect any individual's style.



## 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 2023. 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.



**WGO Executive Secretariat**

555 East Wells Street, Suite 1100  
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3823 USA

Phone: +1 414 918-9798 • Fax: +1 414 276-3349

E-mail: [info@worldgastroenterology.org](mailto:info@worldgastroenterology.org)

[www.worldgastroenterology.org](http://www.worldgastroenterology.org)

