

scope...



AGS 2017 Annual Conference

July 1-2, 2017
Hilton Sandestin

The agenda is set and registration is open for AGS's 2017 Annual Conference. **See the full agenda on page 4.**

If you have not already reserved a room, rooms at the Hilton are based on availability at the regular hotel rate. Call (850) 267-9500 ext. 3047. For overflow accommodation options visit www.alagastro.org/annual-conference. If you have a reservation in the AGS room block at the Hilton and need to cancel, please notify Jennifer Hayes at jhayes@alamedical.org so we can try to fill the spot with another AGS conference attendee.

Register online at www.tinyurl.com/AGS2017 or print a registration form at www.alagastro.org/annual-conference and mail to: AGS Conference, Attn. Jennifer Hayes, PO Box 1900, Montgomery, AL 36102-1900. 

AGA releases best practice advice on long-term PPI use

GIs should weigh the risks and benefits of PPIs when given for common conditions.

American Gastroenterological Association

The long-term use of proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) by patients for GERD, Barrett's esophagus and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) bleeding prophylaxis doubled in the U.S. from 1999 to 2012. Studies have shown that the number of adverse events doubled during the same period.

In an AGA Clinical Practice Update published in *Gastroenterology*, Daniel E. Freedberg and colleagues determined that when PPIs are appropriately prescribed, their benefits are likely to outweigh their risks. Further, they state that there is currently insufficient evidence to recommend specific strategies for mitigating PPI adverse effects. They provide best practice advice based on expert opinion and on relevant publications:

- Patients with GERD and acid-related complications should take a PPI for short-term healing, maintenance of healing and long-term symptom control.
- Patients with uncomplicated GERD who respond to short-term PPIs should subsequently attempt to stop or reduce them. Patients who cannot reduce PPIs should consider ambulatory esophageal pH/impedance monitoring before committing to lifelong PPIs to help distinguish GERD from a functional syndrome.

AGA tools help GIs participate in MACRA

AGA offers opportunities (both in-person and on-demand) for GIs to learn about and discuss participation in MACRA.

American Gastroenterological Association

AGA wants to help you thrive under MACRA (Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015). While it seems overwhelming, there are steps that you can take to get ready. Using AGA tools can help you plan for implementation.

To Watch

AGA MACRA webinars will help you learn more about the CMS program, including practical tips for preparing yourself and your practice to succeed. The webinars can be viewed on the AGA Community (login required):

- **Intro to MACRA** focuses on the Merit-based Incentive Program (MIPS), advanced alternative payment models (APMs), tracking basics and qualification.
- **Preparing for MIPS** (Merit-based Incentive Program) provides guidance on how to prepare for participation in the MIPS program.
- **Thriving Under MACRA for Mid to Large GI Practices** discusses how to optimize participation under MIPS in 2017 to maximize potential reimbursement increases in 2019 and beyond.

For a quick update on your three options for participating in MACRA, watch this brief [video interview with Lawrence Kosinski, MD, AGAF](#).

To Read

- **GI's Guide to MACRA** walks you through basic information about key programs.
- **MIPS At-a-Glance** (PDF) provides a comprehensive, but plain-language analysis of MIPS requirements.

To Attend

Making MACRA Work for Your Practice: The Shift to Value-Based Care: During Digestive Disease Week® (DDW), chairs Sarah E. Streett, MD, AGAF, and Peter S. Margolis, MD, AGAF, will lead a session during which participants will learn what they need to do to deliver high-quality, value-based care under MACRA. The session takes place on Sunday, May 7, 2017, at 10 a.m. CT in room S104 in McCormick Place.

Tales from the Front Lines: How GI Practices are Using Quality Measurement to Drive Improvement: Chairs Ziad F. Gellad, MD, MPH, AGAF, and Megan A. Adams, MD, JD, MSc, will lead a session during which participants will learn how to recognize and explain the use of quality measurement to drive improvement in gastroenterology, as well as how using quality measurement can help GIs qualify for MACRA. The session takes place on Tuesday, May 9, at 8 a.m. CT in room S102d in McCormick Place.

To Discuss

Visit [AGA Community](#) to join the discussion and ask your questions about MACRA and quality measurement before DDW. 

Digestive Disease Week

The First & Foremost GI Event in the World

McCormick Place,
Chicago, Ill.
May 6-9, 2017

Recognized as one of the top 50 medical meetings by HCEA, Digestive Disease Week® (DDW) is the world's largest gathering of physicians, researchers and industry in the fields of gastroenterology, hepatology, endoscopy and gastrointestinal surgery.

Update Your Knowledge

Attend high-quality sessions where you can get practical and useful take-home information.

View Cutting-Edge Research

Get exclusive access to top-tier research and discuss changes in GI with leaders in the field.

Meet Thought Leaders

In-person networking allows you to meet and collaborate with your colleagues from around the world.

DDW On Demand

More than 400 hours of session recordings from DDW 2017 is included with the cost of registration – a \$1,200 value. Attendee schedules at DDW are full, and by offering this resource as part of registration, you'll be able to maximize your experience and have a better balance of education, networking and free time.

Learn more at
<http://www.ddw.org/home>.

Welcome New Members!

W. Keith Adkins, MD, Auburn
Gastroenterology

Danielle Blackard, CRNP, Southeast
Gastro, Pelham

Jessica P. Collins, CRNP, Birmingham
Gastroenterology Associates, PC

Adam L. Edwards, MD, UAB
Division of Gastroenterology and
Hepatology, Birmingham

Andy Franklin, Digestive Health
Specialists, Dothan

Allison Hall, CRNP, Digestive Health
Specialists, Dothan

Mark Johnson, Gastroenterology
Associates NAPC, Birmingham

Kondal Kyanam, MD, UAB, Vestavia

Paul Lamb, MD, Digestive Health
Specialists, Dothan

William Chris Lopez, MD,
Gastroenterology Associates of
NAPC, Birmingham

Robert Malik, MD, Gastroenterology
Associates of NAPC

Mohit Mehra, MD, Gastroenterology
Associates NAPC, Birmingham

Jose Ramon Mestre, MD, UAB
Department of Pediatrics,
Birmingham

George A. Nelson IV, MD,
UAB Gastroenterology and
Hepatology, Birmingham

Beth Rutland, MD, Digestive Health
Specialists, Dothan

Scott A. Sarrels, MD, Digestive Health
Specialists, Dothan

Viplove Senadhi, DO, Greater
Montgomery Patient Centered
Gastroenterology and
Hepatology, Montgomery

If you have not renewed your dues for 2017, you may renew with our online meeting registration form, whether or not you are registering for our meeting. Just choose 2017 Membership Dues at check out. Visit www.tinyurl.com/AGS2017.

You may also download a dues form from www.alagastro.org/joinags.

To arrange group billing for your practice, contact Charlotte Morris at cmorris@alamedical.org or call (334) 954-2531.

Long-term PPI use continued from page 1

- Patients with Barrett's esophagus and symptomatic GERD should take a long-term PPI.
- Asymptomatic patients with Barrett's esophagus should consider a long-term PPI.
- Patients at high risk for ulcer-related bleeding from NSAIDs should take a PPI, if they continue to take NSAIDs.
- The dose of long-term PPIs should be periodically reevaluated so that the lowest effective PPI dose can be prescribed to manage the condition.
- Long-term PPI users should not routinely use probiotics to prevent infection.
- Long-term PPI users should not routinely raise their intake of calcium, vitamin B12 or magnesium beyond the recommended dietary allowance.
- Long-term PPI users should not routinely screen or monitor bone mineral density, serum creatinine, magnesium or vitamin B12.
- Specific PPI formulations should not be selected based on potential risks.

Talk to Your Patients

Discussions with your patients are necessary to ensuring high-quality patient care. To help your patients understand the importance of using PPIs as directed, AGA has developed talking points you can use to help facilitate discussions about the need to correctly use PPI for condition and symptom management. [Learn more.](#)

Join the discussion

Dr. Larry Kim has posted a *case-based question in the AGA Community* about PPI use, based on the AGA CPU. Answer the question and join the conversation. [S](#)

World Congress of Gastroenterology @ ACG2017

Orlando, Fla

October 13-18, 2017



At the World Congress of Gastroenterology at ACG2017 there are a number of opportunities to network with your peers and have some fun as well! Learn what ACG and the WGO are doing for you, see training programs compete in GI Jeopardy, go on an ACG Auxiliary tour, and attend one of the many company-sponsored events. Learn more at <http://worldcongressacg2017.org>. [S](#)



Alabama Gastroenterological Society

19 S. Jackson Street | Montgomery, AL 36104 | (334) 954-2500 | Fax (334) 269-5200

Alabama Gastroenterological Society 2016-2018 Officers

DeWayne Tooson, MD — President

Bradley Rice, MD — Vice President

Kenneth Sigman, MD — Secretary

Mohamad Eloubeidi, MD — Treasurer

Robert Shaffer, MD — Immediate Past President

DeWayne Tooson, MD — Publisher

Jennifer Hayes — Executive Editor

Charlotte Morris — Senior Editor

Send article submissions and comments to Charlotte Morris at cmorris@alamedical.org two weeks in advance. Scope is printed bimonthly. Comments and letters to the editor are welcome.

AGS Annual Conference

July 1-2, 2017 • Hilton Sandestin



AGS Conference Agenda • July 1-2, 2017

SATURDAY, JULY 1

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Attendee Registration/Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

J. DeWayne Tooson, MD, AGS President

8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

ICD-10 and MIPS: The Key to Survival

Kristin Vaughn, CPC, Ask Mueller Consulting

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Biologics in IBD: Optimizing Therapy and Emerging Agents

Peter Mannon, MD, Professor, UAB School of Medicine

10:15 a.m.

Morning Break with Exhibitors

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Improving the Revenue Cycle of Your Practice

James A. Stroud, CPA, Warren Averett

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Update in NAFLD

Phillip Henderson, DO, Clinical Instructor of Medicine, USA College of Medicine

12:30 p.m.

Business Session

6:30 p.m.

Welcome Dinner

SUNDAY, JULY 2

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Attendee Registration/Breakfast with Exhibitors

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Best Case Scenario

Stephen Shows, JD, Senior Risk Resource Advisor, ProAssurance

10:00 a.m.

Morning Break with Exhibitors

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Update in Biliary-Pancreatic Endoscopy

Kenneth M. Sigman, MD, Birmingham Gastroenterology Associates

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

The Chronic Cough Consult: Reflux, Reflux or Rubbish

James P. Callaway, MD

Assistant Professor, UAB School of Medicine

12:15 p.m.

Evaluation and Adjourn

Welcome Dinner

Bring your family and join us on the Sunset Deck for our Welcome Dinner Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious buffet and family-friendly activities. Live music to be provided by acoustic duo Light Travelers.



REGISTRATION

Register online at www.tinyurl.com/AGS2017 or print a registration form at www.alagastro.org/annual-conference.

www.alagastro.org • (334) 954-2500 • JHayes@alamedical.org

AGS Annual Conference

July 1-2, 2017 • Hilton Sandestin



**Alabama
Gastroenterological
Society**

www.alagastro.org

2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ MD DO Other _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Dietary Needs _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Office Contact _____ E-mail _____

FEES (Before May 27 | After May 27 add \$100)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physician Member \$375 | <input type="checkbox"/> Physician Non-Member \$475 | <input type="checkbox"/> Retiree - \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Member \$275 | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Non-Member \$375 | <input type="checkbox"/> Resident/Student - Free |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Practice Manager \$150 | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse and guests are free | | |

_____ Total number of adults attending dinner.

_____ Total number of kids attending dinner.

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Go to www.tinyurl.com/AGS2017 to register online.

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have not already reserved a room, rooms at the Hilton are based on availability at the regular hotel rate. Call (850) 267-9500 ext. 3047. For overflow accommodation options visit www.alagastro.org/annual-conference. If you have a reservation in the AGS room block at the Hilton and need to cancel, please notify Jennifer Hayes at jhayes@alamedical.org so we can try to fill the spot with another AGS conference attendee.

If you have special needs or need assistance, please contact Jennifer Hayes, at (334) 954-2500 or JHayes@alamedical.org.

PAYMENT

Credit Card: VISA MasterCard American Express Check made payable to AGS

Cardholder Name _____ E-mail address for receipt _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

Billing Address _____ City, State ZIP _____

Signature _____ Amount: \$ _____

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT TO

AGS Annual Conference | Attn. Jennifer Hayes | PO Box 1900 | Montgomery, AL 36102-1900