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**Final Call:  
Preregistration  
closes on  
Friday, June 23**



**July 1-2, 2017  
Hilton Sandestin**

Register online at [www.tinyurl.com/AGS2017](http://www.tinyurl.com/AGS2017) or use the form on page 5 and fax to: Jennifer Hayes, AGS executive director, at 334-269-5200. 

## Alabama Gastroenterological Society partners with the Medical Association for legislative efforts

The AGS Board of Directors has unanimously approved a partnership with the Medical Association of the State of Alabama to compile a list of regional leaders who will step up when there is a legislative call to action within the State Senate. Regional leaders will be the point person when contacting senators in specific areas of the state, and also will ask other gastroenterologists in the area to help.

This joint effort between AGS and the Medical Association will increase the overall effectiveness, specifically addressing issues proactively and defensively, on scope of practice issues that gastroenterologists face each year. In addition to issues specific to gastroenterologists, there are other specialties that may also be affected that would increase the coverage of physicians reaching out to senators on the same issue.

Two specific issues that are relevant now are the Maintenance of Certification and liability issues, although there are always other important issues.

The state of Alabama has been divided into seven regions. AGS appreciates the willingness of the following volunteers to serve as regional leaders:

North Alabama - **Brad Rice, MD**, Huntsville  
West Alabama - **Donnie R. Smith, MD**, Tuscaloosa  
Birmingham Metro - **Tim Denton, MD**, Birmingham  
East Alabama - **Mohamad Eloubeydi, MD**, Anniston  
Central Alabama - **Mark M. Anderson, MD**, Montgomery  
Southwest Alabama - **Cody Barnett, MD**, Mobile  
Southeast Alabama - **OPEN**

If you practice in Southeast Alabama and have a relationship with any senator in your area that you can encourage to support physician issues when a call to action is needed, then we ask you to volunteer as a regional leader. Please contact AGS Executive Director Jennifer Hayes at [jbhayes@alamedical.org](mailto:jbhayes@alamedical.org). 

## CMS approves GIQuIC as a Qualified Clinical Data Registry for 2017

BETHESDA, MD, June 1, 2017 – The GI Quality Improvement Consortium, Ltd. (GIQuIC) Registry has been approved as a Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR) for reporting to the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) for the 2017 reporting year.

“GIQuIC is pleased to announce the Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR) approval for the 2017 reporting year. Since 2014, CMS has offered the QCDR reporting mechanism for what was the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS). Now, with MIPS in 2017, GIQuIC, as an approved QCDR, will allow providers to report on measures that are meaningful to their specialty practice and will foster improvement in the quality of care provided to patients, while being in compliance with reporting requirements,” said Glenn M. Eisen, MD, MPH, FASGE, president of the GIQuIC board of directors.

Since 2010, GIQuIC has grown in value as a clinical benchmarking tool for gastroenterology practices, with over 4 million colonoscopy cases in January 2017 and growing. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved GIQuIC as a QCDR for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 PQRS reporting years, facilitating endoscopists’ documentation of compliance with quality measures. The QCDR reporting mechanism is a dynamic reporting option that allows providers to report on MIPS and non-MIPS measures that are meaningful to

*continued on page 3*

## Five ways for healthcare providers to get ready for new Medicare cards

by Richard E. Wild, MD, FACEP, Chief Medical Officer  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid  
Region IV (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)

Medicare is taking steps to remove Social Security numbers from Medicare cards. Through this initiative the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will prevent fraud, fight identity theft and protect essential program funding, and the private healthcare and financial information of our Medicare beneficiaries.



CMS will issue new Medicare cards with a new unique, randomly-assigned number called a Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) to replace the existing Social Security-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) both on the cards and in various CMS systems we use now. **We'll start mailing new cards to people with Medicare benefits in April 2018.** All Medicare cards will be replaced by April 2019.

CMS is committed to helping providers by giving them the tools they need. We want to make this process as easy as possible for you, your patients and your staff. Based on feedback from healthcare providers, practice managers and other stakeholders, CMS is developing capabilities where doctors and other healthcare providers will be able to look up the new MBI through a secure tool at the point of service. To make this change easier for you and your business operations, there is a 21-month transition period where all healthcare providers will be able to use either the MBI or the HICN for billing purposes.

Even though, your systems will need the capability to accept the new MBI format by April 2018, you can continue to bill and file healthcare claims using a patient's HICN during the transition period. We encourage you to work with your billing vendor to make sure that your system will be updated to reflect these changes as well.

Beginning in April 2018, Medicare patients will come to your office with new cards in hand. We're committed to giving you information you need to help your office get ready for new Medicare cards and MBIs.

### Here are 5 steps you can take today to help your office or healthcare facility get ready:

- Go to our [provider website](#) and sign-up for the weekly *MLN Connects*<sup>®</sup> newsletter.
- Attend our quarterly calls to get more information. We'll let you know when calls are scheduled in the *MLN Connects* newsletter.
- Verify all of your Medicare patients' addresses. If the addresses you have on file are different than the Medicare address you get on electronic eligibility transactions, ask your patients to contact Social Security and update their Medicare records.
- Work with us to help your Medicare patients adjust to their new Medicare card. When available later this fall, you can display helpful information about the new Medicare cards. Hang posters about the change in your offices to help us spread the word.
- Test your system changes and work with your billing office staff to be sure your office is ready to use the new MBI format.

We'll keep working closely with you to answer your questions and hear your concerns. To learn more, visit: [cms.gov/Medicare/SSNRI/Providers/Providers.html](https://cms.gov/Medicare/SSNRI/Providers/Providers.html). 

## World Congress of Gastroenterology @ ACG2017

October 13-18, 2017

Orange County Convention Center  
Orlando, Fla.



The World Congress of Gastroenterology at ACG2017 will provide 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>.

Rooms have been booked at eight hotels in close proximity to the Orange County Convention Center. The Hyatt Regency Orlando,

located at 9801 International Drive, will be the official ACG & WGO headquarters hotel. Book your room now through the [WCOG at ACG2017 housing website](#). The cutoff date for reservations at the group rate is Sept. 20, 2017. 

### GIQuIC continued from page 2

their specialty practice and foster improvement in the quality of care provided to patients. More than 600 GIQuIC participants elected to utilize the GIQuIC QCDR for their 2014 PQRS reporting; more than 1,100 participants did so for their 2015 PQRS reporting; and more than 1,300 did so for 2016 PQRS reporting.

GIQuIC hosted an informational webinar on January 20 on the role of QCDRs in fulfilling MIPS requirements, noting this was Part 1. To access the slide deck and recording from this webinar, visit [giquic.gi.org/gpp.asp](http://giquic.gi.org/gpp.asp). Now that GIQuIC has officially been approved as a QCDR for the 2017 reporting year, the Part 2 webinar is being planned to provide the details surrounding the QCDR reporting option and how the GIQuIC Registry can help satisfy MIPS requirements for the 2017 reporting year.

For more information on the Medicare Quality Payment Program, visit:

- [CMS Quality Payment Program website](#)
- [ACG's National Affairs website](#)
- [ASGE's MACRA Resource Center](#)
- [More information on the GIQuIC registry](#) 



#### 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](mailto:cmorris@alamedical.org) two weeks in advance. Scope is printed bimonthly. Comments and letters to the editor are welcome.

## The AGS 2018 meeting is in February instead of July.

*Laissez les bons temps rouler!*

### Feb. 17-18, 2018

Hyatt Centric French Quarter New Orleans  
800 Iberville Street, New Orleans, LA 70112

The room block is open!

Visit [www.alagastro.org](http://www.alagastro.org) for details.



# 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



Bring your family and join us on the Sunset Deck for a delicious buffet and family-friendly activities. Live music to be provided by acoustic duo Light Travelers.

### 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

Joseph S. Miller, JD, Starnes, Davis, and Florie, LLP

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, Reflex or Rubbish

James P. Callaway, MD

Assistant Professor, UAB School of Medicine

12:15 p.m.

Evaluation and Adjourn

### ACCREDITATION STATEMENT

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama through the joint providership of the Medical Foundation of Alabama and the Alabama Gastroenterological Society. The Medical Foundation of Alabama is accredited by the Medical Association of the State of Alabama to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

### DESIGNATION STATEMENT

The Medical Foundation of Alabama designates this live activity for a maximum of 8 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*<sup>™</sup>. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

### REGISTRATION

Register online at [www.tinyurl.com/AGS2017](http://www.tinyurl.com/AGS2017) or print a registration form at [www.alagastro.org/annual-conference](http://www.alagastro.org/annual-conference).  
[www.alagastro.org](http://www.alagastro.org) • (334) 954-2500 • [JHayes@alamedical.org](mailto:JHayes@alamedical.org)

# AGS Annual Conference

July 1-2, 2017 • Hilton Sandestin



**Alabama  
Gastroenterological  
Society**

[www.alagastro.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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