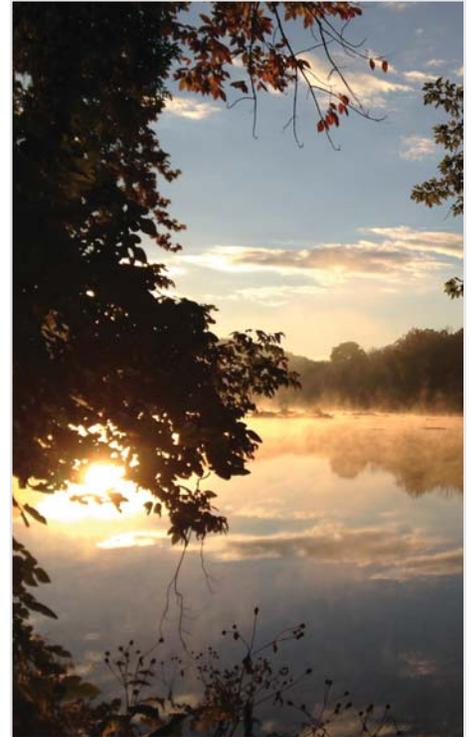


scope...



See the
2017 AGS
Annual
Conference
wrap-up on
page 2

The AGS 2018
Conference
is in
February
instead
of July.
Join us in
New Orleans
Feb. 17-18

Register for the
Conference online
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AGS2018](http://www.tinyurl.com/AGS2018)

Physician pay cuts: A message from AGS President DeWayne Tooson, MD

Well it's that time of year again. Fall is near, and 'tis this season for more pay cuts from CMS and insurance companies. Are there any other health-related professions that receive across the board pay cuts? I know of none. Please be sure to contact me by my email address listed below if I am mistaken.

The US healthcare mega-complex includes not only physicians, but hospital administrators, legions of hospital vice presidents, insurance company executives, elected politicians, federal employees at CMS, hospital employees, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pharmaceutical executives, nurses and so on. So why are we targeted?

The salaries of gastroenterologists cannot be used as a logical argument, as our salaries are dwarfed by those of SOME of the occupations listed above. One also has to consider the number of hours worked per week, and the need to respond to emergencies at night, and on weekends. Are we then targeted because we as a group have refused to stand up for our patients and our profession?

Please listen and pay attention. The time has come for each of us to carefully evaluate all proposed fee schedules before they become permanent. Health care premiums for our staffs continue to rise. Our utility costs have not decreased. Medical supply and drug costs increase every year. I fear that any further pay cuts will lead to further job dissatisfaction, bitterness, and more physician retirements. Recruitment of young gastroenterologists to Alabama would become even more difficult. All of these factors result in a decrease in patient access to care, at a time when Colon Cancer is the number 2 cause of cancer death in America.

In conclusion, we can no longer afford "to roll over and play dead." All of us need to be active in verbalizing our concerns to the policymakers. The AGS will continue to monitor and provide information to all members. The time for action is upon us. We have to take a stand for our patients, our nurses and support staff, and our specialty. Please contact me jdtooson@bellsouth.net with comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

J. DeWayne Tooson, MD
AGS president

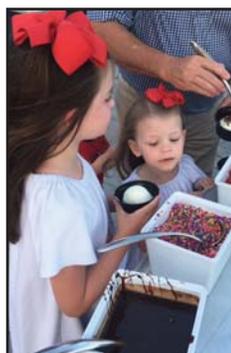
2017 Conference Wrap-up

NSA's 2017 Conference provided attendees with eight hours of Category 1 CME, time to visit with vendors in the exhibit hall and to socialize with colleagues at the Saturday night welcome dinner.



AGS thanks our sponsors and exhibitors for helping make our 2017 Conference a success.

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FDA Reauthorization Act aims to lower costs of 'overpriced' generic drugs

by Ryan McDonald, helio.com

The long-term effects of the FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017 – signed into law by President Donald J. Trump on August 21 – may include savings in drug-related Medicare expenses due to increased competition encouraged by the FDA by fast-tracking generic competitor approvals, according to an expert.

“All things considered, this bill is mostly a good thing,” David Gortler, PharmD, FCCP, a professor of pharmacology and biotechnology at the George Washington School of Medicine & Health Sciences told *Healio.com*. “It has been praised by several long time FDA officials and seems to give the FDA more power in several areas. Even President Trump’s most vigilant detractors will be hard-pressed to find faults with the FDA Reauthorization Act.”

Passed by the U.S. House of Representatives by a voice vote in July and by the Senate in August, the FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017 (H.R. 2430) aims to reauthorize the Prescription Drug User Fee Act, the Medical Device User Fee Amendments, the Generic Drug User Fee Amendments and the Biosimilar User Fee Act and includes several provisions to improve the FDA’s drug review process.

The act would ensure the FDA has the tools to deliver safe and effective drugs, devices and treatments to patients more swiftly, according to a press release from the Energy and Commerce Committee.

One of the significant possible medium- and long-term benefits of the act is the savings in Medicare costs associated with generic drugs that do not have any market competition, according to Gortler.

“We have seen the prices of some of these historically inexpensive generic ‘niche’ drugs like pyrimethamine (Daraprim, Turing Pharmaceuticals) randomly go up quite high when they do not have competitors,” he said. “There are provisions in the FDA Reauthorization Act to give priority review status to generic drug applications to lower the costs of these overpriced drugs, devices or biosimilar compounds.”

Additionally, Gortler said that there is a “a well-needed provision [in the act] for collecting real-time clinical use data from patients earlier in the development and marketing of a new drug, as opposed to relying solely on clinical trial findings.”

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](http://wcoag2017housing.com). The cutoff date for reservations at the group rate is Sept. 20, 2017.



Welcome New Members!

Manish Arora, MD, Decatur
Lindsay Smith, Pelham
Paula Watkins, CRNP, Anniston

Visit AGS online at
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Alabama Gastroenterological Society

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AGS 2018 Annual Conference

Feb. 17-18, 2018

Hyatt Centric French Quarter
New Orleans



www.alagastro.org



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Dietary Needs _____ First time attendee? (check if yes)

FEES (After Feb. 9 add \$100)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> AGS Physician Member or Out of State Physician \$375 | <input type="checkbox"/> Physician Nonmember \$475 |
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**The medical science liaison's company must be a registered vendor at the conference. Contact Jennifer Hayes for details.*

_____ Total number of adults attending reception

Guest Name(s): _____

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Go to www.tinyurl.com/AGS2018 to register online.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Reserve a room at the Hyatt Centric French Quarter online at www.tinyurl.com/2018AGSReservations or call 888-421-1442 and ask for the Alabama Gastroenterological Society room block. Rates begin at \$229 per night and are valid for three days before and three days after the conference based on availability.

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

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