

scope...

Renew your membership for 2018

Dear Colleague:

I wish to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for allowing me to represent you as President of the AGS for the past year and a half. The position has allowed me to get to know many of you personally, and the learning experience has been tremendous. A special thanks goes out to our Executive Director, Mrs. Jennifer Hayes, our officers, and our Board of Directors. We will be voting on new officers at our next Annual Meeting, which is scheduled in New Orleans on February 17-18, 2018. Please be sure to make hotel reservations soon at the Hyatt Centric French Quarter hotel.



Current Nominations are as follows:

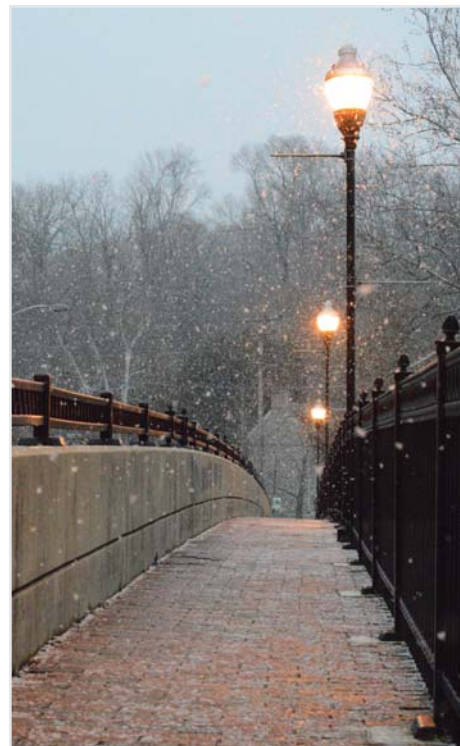
- President : Bradley Rice, MD, Huntsville
- Vice President: Kenneth Sigman, MD, Birmingham
- Secretary: Travis Rutland, MD , Dothan
- Treasurer: Mohamad Eloubeidi, MD, Anniston

If anyone is interested in serving on our Board of Directors, please feel free to notify me by email at jdtooson@bellsouth.net. Other nominations can also be sent to my email address.

In conclusion, please take this year-end opportunity to renew your membership dues, and have a Happy Holiday season!

Sincerely,

J. DeWayne Tooson, MD, FACP, FACG, CPE
President



What's Inside

AGS 2018 Conference Agenda	2
AGS 2018 Conference Registration	3
Quality Payment Program reporting for 2018 raises the bar	4
FDA approves first device to treat opioid withdrawal	2

**The AGS 2018
Conference
is Feb. 17-18
in
New Orleans
Feb. 17-18.**

Register Today!

**See pages 2 and 3
for details.**

AGS 2018 Annual Conference

Feb. 17-18, 2018

Hyatt Centric French Quarter
New Orleans



www.alagastro.org



AGS Conference Agenda

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

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.

HCV Transplant Cholestatic Liver Disease

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

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Advances in Pancreatic and Biliary Endoscopy

Kenneth Sigman, MD, Birmingham Gastroenterology
Associates

10:15 a.m.

Morning Break with Exhibitors

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Management of Liver Tumors

David Fettig, MD, Birmingham Gastroenterology
Associates

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Management of Refractory IBD

Steve Hanauer, MD, Professor of Medicine,
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Mardi Gras Lunch Party with Exhibitors

2:30 p.m.

Enjoy the rest of your day in the City of New Orleans

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

Breakfast with Exhibitors

7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Business Session, Installation of 2018-2020 Officers

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Coding Pitfalls in Ambulatory Surgery Centers

Kristin Vaughn, CPC, Ask Mueller Consulting, LLC

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

GI Practice Management, Ancillary Opportunities in GI

Reed Hogan, MD, GI Associates and Endoscopy Center

10:00 a.m.

Morning Break with Exhibitors

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Management of Achalasia

Mouen Khashab, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine
and Director of Therapeutic Endoscopy, Johns Hopkins
Hospital, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Advances in Therapeutic Endoscopy

Mouen Khashab, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine
and Director of Therapeutic Endoscopy, Johns Hopkins
Hospital, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

12:15 p.m.

Evaluation and Adjourn

The 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.

AGS 2018 Annual Conference

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2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ MD DO CRNP PA PharmD Medical Science Liaison*

Practice Name _____ Resident/Fellow Student Other _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Office Manager _____ Office Manager's E-mail _____

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

FEES (After Feb. 9 add \$100)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AGS Physician Member or Out of State Physician \$375 | <input type="checkbox"/> Physician Nonmember \$475 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AGS Associate Member or Out of State Non Physician Clinician \$275 | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Nonmember \$375 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retiree - \$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> Resident - Free |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Science Liaison* \$475 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student - Free |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Practice Manager \$150 | |

*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): _____

ONLINE REGISTRATION

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. **The room block expires Jan. 24, 2018, but the room block is almost sold out.** Call AGS Executive Director Jennifer Hayes at (334) 954-2513 if you have trouble getting a room.

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 | Fax (334) 269-5200

Quality Payment Program reporting for 2018 raises the bar But, there's still time to avoid a payment penalty for the 2017 reporting year

American Gastroenterological Association

CMS released the final rule updating the calendar year (CY) **2018 Medicare Quality Payment Program (QPP)** that was established under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) and includes the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS).

What should I do right now?

Make sure your practice is prepared for the 2017 performance year. If you are eligible to participate in 2017, but choose not to, your rates will decrease by 4 percent in 2019. The **AGA MACRA Resource Center** provides customized advice based on your practice situation to get you on track. **Get started now.**

Key changes for 2018


MIPS participation requirements increase for 2018, but a phased approach remains.

- Cost Performance category = 10 percent of your final score.
- Quality Performance category = 50 percent of your final score, but will be more difficult to earn.
 - Fewer points will be awarded for measures that don't meet data completeness requirements.
 - Data completeness requirements increase to 60 percent.
 - A higher final MIPS score will be needed to avoid a payment penalty.

- Exemptions from MIPS participation were expanded by increasing the low-volume threshold to \$90,000 or less in Part B allowed charges or 200 or fewer unique Medicare patients per year.
- CMS will continue to accept 2014 edition Certified Electronic Health Record Technology (CEHRT).
- Eligible clinicians can earn bonus points for:
 - Caring for complex patients.
 - Using 2015 edition CEHRT exclusively.
 - Improvement in quality and cost performance.
- Small practices benefit from increased flexibilities, including:
 - A new hardship exception for clinicians in small practices under the Advancing Care Information performance category.
 - Bonus points to the final score of clinicians in small practices.
 - Three points awarded for measures in the Quality Performance category that don't meet data completeness requirements.

CMS also offers a **26-page fact sheet on the QPP.**

When do changes take effect?

Changes take effect with the performance period that begins on Jan. 1, 2018. Performance during 2018 impacts payment for services in 2020. 

FDA approves first device to treat opioid withdrawal

www.medpagetoday.com

A first-in-class neurostimulation device to relieve symptoms of opioid withdrawal is approved for marketing.


The NSS-2 Bridge device is a small, battery-powered electrical nerve stimulator that is placed behind a patient's ear and emits electrical pulses to stimulate branches of certain cranial nerves. Patients can use the device for up to five days during the acute physical withdrawal phase.

The device, made by Innovative Health Solutions, was previously cleared by the FDA in 2014 for use in acupuncture.

"Given the scope of the epidemic of opioid addiction, we need to find innovative new ways to help those currently addicted live lives of sobriety with the assistance of medically assisted treatment," said FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, MD, in an agency press release. "While we continue to pursue better medicines for the treatment of opioid use disorder, we also need to look to devices that can assist in this therapy."

Device approval was based on a study that evaluated the clinical opiate withdrawal scale (COWS) score – measuring symptoms on a scale of 0 to more than 36 (0 being the least severe) – in 73 patients undergoing opioid physical withdrawal. Study results showed that all patients had a reduction in COWS of at least 31% within 30 minutes of

using the device and that 88% of patients transitioned to medication-assisted therapy after five days.

The device is available only by prescription and is contraindicated for patients with hemophilia, cardiac pacemakers, and psoriasis vulgaris. 



Alabama Gastroenterological Society

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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.

Please make corrections or additions below.

One form per member. Blank forms are available at www.alagastro.org/joinAGS. You may also complete the form online at www.tinyurl.com/AGS2018.

Name of Member: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-mail Address of Member: _____

Name of Your Practice: _____

Practice Administrator's Name and E-mail Address: _____

SELECT A DUES CATEGORY:

Active Membership \$250

Associate Membership \$100

(Non-physician clinicians, certified registered nurse practitioners and physician assistants)

Government/Academic \$100

Resident and Student FREE

Total enclosed: _____

- Make checks payable to Alabama Gastroenterological Society (AGS).
- Mail payment and updated contact information to: AGS | c/o Jennifer Hayes | P.O. Box 1900 | Montgomery, AL 36102-1900
- Watch your e-mail for ASG's bi-monthly newsletter, *Scope*.
- Make your plans to attend AGS's 2018 Annual Conference | February 17-18 | New Orleans, La.

Credit Card: VISA MasterCard American Express

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP!