

*scope...*



## AGS welcomes new president

I hope everyone is gearing up for a great summer this year! I would like to personally thank Dr. Tooson and his administrator Chris Martin for all their work during the Annual Conference and during transition. They have done an outstanding job, and I really appreciate all their planning. Until our next conference in August 2019, we are going to focus on membership and combatting the insurance issues associated with our field of gastroenterology. If you have any questions, concerns or issues that you are facing in your practice, please let us know so that we can be proactive during these changing times in medicine.

### About Bradley S. Rice, MD

Bradley S. Rice, MD, was born and raised in Evansville, Ind. In 1999, he graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in biology. Dr. Rice served as Alpha Epsilon Delta president, Phi Beta Kappa and earned other honors while in college.

Dr. Rice received his medical degree from the University of South Alabama School of Medicine in 2003. He completed his internal medicine residency program and gastroenterology/hepatology

fellowship at the University of Louisville where he served as chief gastroenterology fellow.


Dr. Rice is board certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology/hepatology. His expertise includes endoscopic retrograde cholangio pancreatography (ERCP),

Barrett's ablation with BARRX and advanced therapeutic endoscopy. He practices at Crestwood Medical Center in Huntsville and Madison Surgery Center.

Dr. Rice currently serves as chief of internal medicine at Crestwood Medical Center and codirector of Crestwood Medical Center Endoscopy Center.

Dr. Rice just completed a three-year appointment on the board of censors of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and the Alabama Department of Public Health Board, and is currently on the board of trustees for the Madison County Medical Society.

He took office as president of the Alabama Gastroenterological Society at their annual conference in February and will serve a two-year term.

In his leisure time, Dr. Rice enjoys traveling, fishing, playing golf, watching Alabama football and spending time with his wife, Lindsay, and son, Sam. 



## Meet your 2018-2020 officers and board of directors

### Vice President: Kenneth Sigman, MD



Before becoming a partner at Birmingham Gastroenterology Assoc., PC, Kenneth M. Sigman, MD, of Birmingham, was on faculty of the Division of Gastroenterology at the University of Alabama - Birmingham. He also serves as chief of the GI Division and director of the endoscopy lab at Grandview Medical Center.

Dr. Sigman earned his bachelor's degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and his medical degree from Ohio State University College of Medicine in Columbus. He completed his residency and gastroenterology fellowship at Ohio State University in 1986. He is board certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology.

Dr. Sigman has a special interest in the diagnosis and treatment of pancreatic and biliary diseases and has been instrumental in building state-of-the-art facilities in Birmingham for evaluation of these disorders.

He is a member of the American College of Gastroenterology, American Gastroenterological Association, American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, Alabama Gastroenterological Society and the Medical Association of the State of Alabama.

### Secretary: Travis Rutland, MD



Travis Rutland, MD, practices at Digestive Health Specialists in Dothan.

Originally a native of Biloxi, Miss., Dr. Rutland, graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of South Alabama with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a minor in Spanish. He was then accepted into the University of South Alabama College of Medicine where he went on to do his residency in internal medicine. Specializing in gastroenterology, Dr. Rutland became a fellow in 2006.

Dr. Rutland is certified in both internal medicine and gastroenterology with the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM).

His passion for gastroenterology is evident through the numerous lectures given on issues such as serotonin and the GI tract and liver disease in pregnancy.

He is a member of the American College of Gastroenterology, American Gastroenterology Association, Medical Association of the State of Alabama, and the Alabama Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.

### Treasurer: Mohamad A. Eloubeidi, MD, MHS, FACP, FACG, AGAF, FASGE



Dr. Eloubeidi, of Anniston, is president of Anniston Digestive Health, PC, and a professor of medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine and associate chair for Clinical Affairs at the American University of Beirut.

He earned his doctorate in medicine from the American University of Beirut. He is Board Certified with the American Board of Internal Medicine, and is Certified in the Subspecialty of Gastroenterology.

His major area of research is gastrointestinal pre-malignant and malignant conditions such as Barrett's esophagus, esophageal cancer, colon cancer and polyps, and pancreatic cancer. More specifically, his focus is on the role and impact of endoscopic

## ACS issues new colorectal cancer screening guidelines

The American Cancer Society has released new guidelines for colorectal cancer screenings, urging Americans to begin screening 5 years earlier than previously recommended.

The American Cancer Society 2018 guideline for colorectal cancer screening recommends that average-risk adults aged 45 years and older undergo regular screening with either a high-sensitivity stool-based test or a structural (visual) exam, based on personal preferences and test availability. As a part of the screening process, all positive results on non-colonoscopy screening tests should be followed up with timely colonoscopy.

ACS cites a steep increase in deaths from colon and rectal cancers among men and women under the age of 50, the previously recommended age to begin screening as the reason for the change in policy. According to the Society, colon and rectal deaths have increased 51% among adults under the age of 50 since 1994.

The group also said that the first screening doesn't have to be a colonoscopy, which is many times viewed as a time consuming and unpleasant procedure, but could instead be one of several other tests, even a stool sample that could be taken at home and mailed in.

AGS is drafting a letter of support for the new guidelines.

### Read more:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2018/05/30/american-cancer-society-colon-cancer-screening-45/651959002/>

<https://www.npr.org/2018/05/30/615166384/get-screened-earlier-for-colon-cancer-urges-american-cancer-society>

## Your membership matters: Renew today!

We thank you for your continued support of AGS, the only state organization representing gastroenterologists in Alabama. Your membership gives us strength when advocating on behalf of gastroenterologists to government agencies and insurers as well as at the Alabama State House and lawmakers in Washington, D.C.

Listed below are our members for 2018. We offer a variety of membership categories to correspond with your practice situation. If you have not renewed, please use the form on page 6. If you believe you renewed your membership and do not see your name, please contact Charlotte Morris at [cmorris@alamedical.org](mailto:cmorris@alamedical.org).

### Active

◆ Rishi K. Agarwal, MD, Birmingham Gastroenterology Associates PC, Birmingham

Robert Philip Albares, MD, Digestive Health Specialists of the Southeast, Dothan

Cody B. Barnett, MD, Alabama Medical Group, PC, Mobile

Brent Barranco, MD, Southeast Gastro, Birmingham

Jeffrey S. Barton, MD, Medical Specialists of North Alabama, PC, Cordova

Michael Alan Berry, MD, Gastroenterologists PC, Foley

Tyler Black, MD, Digestive Health Specialists of the Southeast, Dothan

Charles Sherman Bluhm, MD, Birmingham Gastroenterology Associates PC, Birmingham

Allison D. Bridges, MD, Southeast Gastro, Birmingham

Brian Brunson, MD, Southeast Gastro, Alabaster

Gregory L. Champion, MD, Southeast Gastro, Birmingham

Marc Lewis Clark, MD, Digestive Health Specialists of the Southeast, Dothan

Joseph Lynn Cochran, MD, Birmingham Gastroenterology Associates PC, Birmingham

Jeffrey J. Crittenden, MD, Digestive Health Specialists of the Southeast, Dothan

John Philip Day, MD, Southeast Gastro, Alabaster

William Timothy Denton, MD, Southeast Gastro, Birmingham

Mohamad A. Eloubeidi, MD, Anniston Digestive Health, Anniston

◆ David M. Fettig, MD, Birmingham Gastroenterology Associates PC, Birmingham

Susan Ellen Bonfili Fleet, MD, Alabama Medical Group, PC, Mobile

Miles E. Gresham, MD, Southeast Gastro, Birmingham

Thomas L. Hagood, MD, Gastroenterologists PC, Foley

William Henry Halama, III, MD, Southeast Gastro, Birmingham

Colin Alexander Helman, MD, Gastroenterology Associates Central, Birmingham

James Swann Hixon, MD, Internal Medicine Associates PC, Anniston

Derek K. Holcombe, MD, Central Alabama Gastroenterology, Alexander City

Daniel Forrest Jackson III, MD, Digestive Health Specialists of the Southeast, Dothan

Deryck Aaland Joseph, MD, Simon-Williamson Clinic PC-West, Birmingham

Pankaj Kumar Kashyap, MD, Anniston Gastroenterology Associates, Anniston

Paul Lamb, MD, Digestive Health Specialists of the Southeast, Dothan

### AGS Officers and Board continued from page 2

ultrasonography in the evaluation of these conditions. In addition, the evaluation of the role of fine needle aspiration biopsy in diagnosing these conditions as a minimally invasive technique.

In 2012, Dr. Eloubeidi was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical honor society and has been listed in America's Top Doctors for multiple years.

### Immediate Past President: J. De Wayne Tooson, MD



J. DeWayne Tooson, MD, of Tuscaloosa, is president of GI Associates of West Alabama, PC, and CEO of North River Surgical Center, LLC. Previous leadership roles include chief of the GI Division, medical director of the endoscopy lab, and chairman of internal medicine at DCH Regional Medical Center.

Dr. Tooson obtained a bachelor's degree in microbiology and medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine.

His internship and residency in internal medicine were completed at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, and his fellowship in gastroenterology was completed at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. He is board certified in gastroenterology.

His interests include colorectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, gastrointestinal bleeding and small bowel capsule endoscopy.

He is a member of the Alabama Gastroenterological Society, American College of Gastroenterology, American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, the American College of Physicians, the Tuscaloosa County Medical Society and the Medical Association of the State of Alabama.

### Board Members

Cody B. Barnett, MD, Mobile

Robert R. Brinson, MD, Montgomery

Timothy Denton, MD, Birmingham

Michael Passarella, MD, Alabaster

Travis J. Rutland, MD, Dothan

Winter B. Wilson, MD, Guntersville 

◆ *New Member*

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**AGS Membership continued from page 3**

- David J. Landy, MD, Birmingham  
Gastroenterology Associates PC,  
Birmingham
- Donald W. Laney, MD, Pediatric  
Gastroenterology Associates PC,  
Huntsville
- William Chris Lopez, MD, Southeast  
Gastro, Birmingham
- Robert David Loudon, MD, Southeast  
Gastro, Alabaster
- Ralph Thomas Lyerly Jr., MD, Walker  
Gastroenterology, Jasper
- Rohit Malik, MD, Southeast Gastro,  
Birmingham
- Robert Darryl Marks, MD, Southeast  
Gastro, Alabaster
- Randall D. McClellan, MD, Pediatric  
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- William Davis McLaughlin, MD,  
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Southeast, Dothan
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Birmingham
- ◆ Molly C. McVey, MD, Southeast  
Gastro, Birmingham
- Mohit Mehra, MD, Southeast Gastro,  
Birmingham
- Mukul Mehra, MD, Southeast Gastro,  
Birmingham
- P. David Miller, MD, Birmingham  
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Birmingham
- Barbara Louise O'Brien, MD,  
Gastroenterologists PC, Foley
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West Alabama, PC, Tuscaloosa
- Michael Palmer, MD, GI Associates of  
West Alabama, PC, Tuscaloosa
- Rajat N. Parikh, MD, Birmingham  
Gastroenterology Associates PC,  
Birmingham
- Michael Joseph Passarella, MD, Shelby  
Gastroenterology, Alabaster
- H. Craig Philpot, MD, Birmingham  
Gastroenterology Associates PC,  
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Gadsden
- Adishesha Bellam Reddy, MD, GastroCare  
PC, Tuscaloosa
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and Gastro, PC, Huntsville
- Lindsay South Robison, MD, Southeast  
Gastro, Birmingham
- Donald C. Rosen, MD, Alabama  
Gastroenterology Center, Anniston
- Gardner Rowell, MD, GI Associates of  
West Alabama, PC, Tuscaloosa
- Bradley A. Rubery, MD, Southeast Gastro,  
Alabaster
- Beth Rutland, MD, Digestive Health  
Specialists of the Southeast, Dothan
- Travis James Rutland, MD, Digestive  
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Dothan
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Specialists of the Southeast, Dothan
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Montgomery Patient Centered  
Gastroenterology, Montgomery
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Birmingham
- Smita S. Shah, MD, Alabama Digestive  
Disorders Center PC, Huntsville
- J. Cotton Shallcross Jr., MD, Birmingham  
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Birmingham
- Christopher P. Shaver, MD, Birmingham  
Gastroenterology Associates PC,  
Birmingham
- Jonathan D. Siegel, MD, Alabama  
Medical Group, PC, Mobile
- Kenneth M. Sigman, MD, Birmingham  
Gastroenterology Associates PC,  
Birmingham
- Samuel Joseph Tarwater, MD, Digestive  
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Dothan
- DeWayne Tooson, MD, GI Associates of  
West Alabama, PC, Tuscaloosa
- ◆ Wiley D. Truss, MD, Southeast Gastro,  
Birmingham
- Winter Bertling Wilson, DO, Medical  
Specialists of North Alabama,  
Guntersville
- Amy Roberts Woods, MD,  
Gastroenterologists PC, Foley
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Birmingham
- Charles Alexander Dasher, MD, UAB,  
Birmingham
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- Resident**
- Adam L. Edwards, MD, UAB Division  
of Gastroenterology and Hepatology,  
Birmingham
- Associate**
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- ◆ Brooklyn Green, Alabama Colon and  
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- Allison Hall, CRNP, Digestive Health  
Specialists of the Southeast, Dothan
- Mark Johnson, Southeast Gastro,  
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Gastroenterology Associates PC,  
Birmingham
- ◆ Lindsay Rice, Alabama Colon and  
Gastro, PC, Huntsville
- ◆ I. Jesslyn Whitehead, GI Associates of  
West Alabama, PC, Tuscaloosa
- Retired**
- Michael Weinrib, MD, Montgomery

◆ *New Member*

# Save the date for AGS' 2019 Annual Conference

Join us August 17-19, 2019, at the Ritz-Carlton Reynolds on Lake Oconee Trail in Greensboro, GA, for AGS's 2019 Conference.

## About our venue

Set along 30 acres of shoreline and cradled by Georgia pines, this lakeside resort is a place of peace, exploration and connection. Affectionately called Linger Longer by the family born to the land, Lake Oconee and its nearby antebellum towns entice visitors to stay, and the hotel offers plenty of opportunities to fill the time including:

- Five championship golf courses with 99 holes of golf
- A sprawling spa with Southern-inspired treatments
- Lodge-inspired luxury accommodations including cottages and the three-floor Lake House
- Seven dining experiences including a steakhouse and BBQ Butler
- Fishing, kayaking, Schiller Water Bikes and other outdoor activities



## Accommodations

The discounted room rate for the conference is \$269 per night and is available for three days before and three days after the event based on availability. Call (800) 944-5884 and mention the Alabama Gastroenterological Society Annual Meeting.

[www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/georgia/reynolds](http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/georgia/reynolds)



## ACG 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting & Postgraduate Course

Registration is open for the American College of Gastroenterology 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting  
**Oct. 5-10, 2018**  
**Pennsylvania Convention Center**  
**Philadelphia, PA**

Rooms have been booked at nine hotels in close proximity to the Philadelphia Convention Center. The Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, located at 1201 Market Street, will be the official ACG headquarters hotel. Book your room now through the official **ACG 2018 Housing Bureau**. For any questions, please call 888-863-7817.

The cutoff date for hotel reservations at the group rate is Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018.

Note: The deadline to submit abstracts is Monday, June 25, 2018 at 10:59 p.m.

Visit <http://gi.org> for meeting details and registration.



### Alabama Gastroenterological Society

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

### Alabama Gastroenterological Society 2018-2020 Officers

Bradley Rice, MD — President  
 Kenneth Sigman, MD — Vice President  
 Travis Rutland, MD — Secretary  
 Mohamad Eloubeidi, MD — Treasurer  
 DeWayne Tooson, MD — Immediate Past President

Bradley Rice, MD — Publisher  
 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.

**Please make corrections or additions below.**

**One form per member. Blank forms are available at [www.alagastro.org/joinAGS](http://www.alagastro.org/joinAGS).**

Name of Member: \_\_\_\_\_

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Practice Administrator's Name and E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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- Watch your e-mail for ASG's bi-monthly newsletter, *Scope*.
- Make your plans to attend AGS's 2019 Annual Conference | August 17-19 | Greensboro, Ga.

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**