

# scope...

## President's Message

As we finish 2018 and gear up for the new year, I would like for us to change the way we look at things in 2019. We have some great ideas ready to put into motion in the next year, and I'm eager to see how we can strategically plan for the changing field of medicine.

Our Board elected to hire an independent director a few months ago, and I'm thrilled to announce that Jill Smith is our new Managing Director. Jill has a strong background in managing medical organizations and conferences. She is going to focus on membership and will be visiting many of our

members during 2019 and potential members throughout the state. Our organization is truly fortunate to have a leader like Jill who will focus on helping us grow and become a more established force in the state.

We are only strong when we are united as a solid front to combat the ever-changing climate of insurances and different aspects of medicine. I'm excited and thankful that many board members have stepped up to work on advocacy for our organization, and we hope to continue with this theme over the new few months.

I want to invite you to

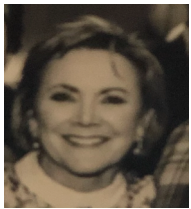
renew your AGS membership and please make plans to attend our annual conference in August 2019 at the Ritz Carlton Reynolds Lake Oconee in Greensboro, Georgia. (Information for each is attached). We have a list of fantastic speakers and this property has it all—a lake, golf and spa. We hope to encourage gastroenterologists from Georgia to attend the conference also in order to network on how they are dealing with the changes in our field of medicine.



## LOOK WHAT'S NEW

### Quarterly Journal Club Spring 2019

The practice of medicine is constantly changing and the time needed to stay up to date is getting harder to carve out of the day. Starting in the Spring of 2019 AGS will be offering a time to get together to discuss the newest/latest information with colleagues. The plan is to have these programs on Saturday and change locations around the state. Dr. Eloubeidi has spoken to some vendors who would be willing to cover some or part of the cost of the meeting. If you would like to participate, please contact Jill Smith at [alabamagastrosociety@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagastrosociety@gmail.com) or call 334-702-3535.



### New AGS Executive Manager

Join us as we welcome Jill Smith, our new Executive Manager. Jill is a graduate of Auburn University with a degree in Secondary Education. She has worked part time with the Medical Association of the State of Alabama for the last 4 years as the CME Coordinator as well as assisting with the five specialty societies managed by the Medical Association. For the last 13 years, she has been the Executive Director of the Houston County Medical Society. As Executive Director, she has worked closely with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the University of South Alabama as well as other Medical Schools in administering the Wilson Hudson Turner Scholarship for pre-med students from southeast Alabama. Mrs. Smith is very active in her community where she helps organize delivery of 2500 meals to families in need, serves at the local Rescue Mission and is on various committees at her church. In her spare time, she enjoys interior decorating and spending time with her family.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Share This Update With Referring Physicians

Cologuard is a new colorectal cancer screening modality that detects both hemoglobin and abnormal DNA in the stool. Cologuard is intended for use with patients, age 50 years and older, at average risk who are typical candidates for colorectal cancer screening. It is not indicated for use in high risk patients including those with a family history of colon cancer or polyps, personal history of colon cancer or polyps or history of inflammatory bowel disease. We unfortunately have seen a lot of use of the Cologuard tests in these at risk individuals who must then also have a colonoscopy.

The Cologuard test uses a patient's screening benefit with their insurance carrier. If the test is positive, the patient must then have a diagnostic colonoscopy and since their screening benefit is already used their deductible and copay will apply. If the initial Cologuard test is negative the current recommendation is to repeat it every three years. Currently Medicare pays \$508.87 for the Cologuard test, thus, in a decade total cost is approximately \$2036 (years 0,3,6 and 9). This compares to one colonoscopy per decade at a total cost to Medicare of approximately \$631 (Professional fee \$180.47, facility fee \$330.59 and anesthesia \$120).

We feel there is a place for Cologuard as a screening test but based on the fact that it is less sensitive, less specific and more expensive than colonoscopy we believe it is best used only for those who refuse to have a colonoscopy (and then only if they would agree to have one if the Cologuard is positive).

If you would like a copy of this article to share, contact Jill Smith at [alabamagastrosociety@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagastrosociety@gmail.com)

### 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. To make a reservation, call (800) 944-5884 and mention the Alabama Gastroenterological Society Annual Meeting or email

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

### Conference Registration

<http://www.alagastro.org/annual-conference/>

# Join us at the Ritz-Carlton Reynolds Lake Oconee August 16-18, 2019 Greensboro, Georgia



**Alabama Gastroenterological Society**  
P.O. Box 5527 | Dothan, AL 36302 | (334) 702-3535

#### 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  
Jill Smith — Senior Editor

Send article submissions and comments to Jill at [alabamagastrology@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagastrology@gmail.com) two weeks in advance.  
Scope is printed quarterly. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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 Jill Smith | P.O. Box 5527 | Dothan, AL 36302
- Watch your e-mail for ASG's quarterly newsletter, *Scope*.
- Make your plans to attend AGS's 2019 Annual Conference | August 16-18 | Greensboro, Ga.

Credit Card:  VISA  MasterCard  American Express

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address for receipt: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**



## 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

MD  DO  CRNP  PA  Administrator  Medical Science Liaison  
 Resident/Fellow  Student  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Practice Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Office Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Office Manager's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### FEES (After May 15 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 Jill Smith for details.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of adults attending Saturday dinner (\$50 charge if more than adult per registered conference attendee)

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of children attending Saturday dinner

### ONLINE REGISTRATION

Go to <http://www.alagastro.org/annual-conference/> to register online.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Reserve a room at the Ritz Carlton online at [www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/georgia/reynolds](http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/georgia/reynolds) or call (800) 944-5884 and ask for the Alabama Gastroenterological Society room block. Rates begin at \$269 per night and are valid for three days before and three days after the conference based on availability.

If you have need assistance, contact Jill Smith, at (334) 702-3535 or [alabamagastrosociety@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagastrosociety@gmail.com)

### 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 | Jill Smith | PO Box 5527 | Dothan, AL 36302