



WGO Training Centers:

Join us as a Training Center Partner

The World Gastroenterology Organisation has since 1999 established a number of training centers to enable young gastroenterologists especially those from developing, low resource countries to experience the very best training opportunities at an international standard.

We are keen to ensure a sustainable future for our current centers and at the same time to expand the programme by creating some new centers. We are also planning to formalise inter-continental training networks to build capacity and enhance local sustainability.

We cannot do all of this alone. We need financial support, additional faculty who would be willing to visit the Training Centers and participate in training courses and additional institutions who would be able to receive WGO trainees for short training experiences out of their own country.

We therefore are inviting you to select from a range of opportunities to join the WGO as a 'WGO Training Center Partner'.

About WGO

The World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) is a federation of 104 national societies and 4 regional associations of gastroenterology representing over 50 000 individual members worldwide. Formed in 1935 and incorporated in 1958, WGO was originally known as Organisation Mondiale de Gastro enterologie (OMGE) and renamed in 2006.

The WGO, a US 501 (c3) tax exempt organisation, focuses on the improvement of standards in gastroenterology training and education on a global scale.

Mission

To promote awareness of the worldwide prevalence of digestive disorders to the general public and healthcare professionals and to make a significant and sustainable difference by providing high quality, accessible and independent education and training programs.

Goals of the WGO Training Centers:

- To promote and deliver the highest standards in training in gastroenterology digestive surgery, hepatology, nutrition, paediatric gastroenterology and endoscopy in the region
- To develop curricula for training in gastroenterology based on current science, ethical principles and relevant to local and regional care needs
- To expose young gastroenterologists-in-training to the most current knowledge in gastroenterology especially those from developing, low resource countries
- To promulgate best practice guidelines in all aspects of gastroenterology

Embedded in a local hospital / clinic, the WGO Training Training Centers – with financial and expertise support from WGO – promote and facilitate the highest standards in gastroenterology training within best practice guidelines.

To date, 13 Training Training Centers have been established and more than 1100 participants have benefited from the training programme. WGO plans for the Training Centers includes the development of a global “Baccalaureate” in gastroenterology with WGO accreditation.

The Centers

Currently there are 13 WGO Training Centers:

- **Bangkok, Thailand**
- **Bogota, Colombia**
- **Cairo, Egypt**
- **Karachi, Pakistan**
- **La Paz, Bolivia**
- **La Plata, Argentina**
- **Mexico City, Mexico**
- **Rabat, Morocco**
- **Ribeirao Preto, Brazil**
- **Rome, Italy**
- **Santiago, Chile**
- **Soweto, South Africa**
- **Suva, Fiji**

WGO Training Center Guidelines

WGO Training Center guidelines are available on our website. You can download the respective guidelines here:

WGO Training Center Guidelines (pdf)

Future

WGO is ambitious for the future of its training programmes. We need your support to continue this programme and would like to suggest a number of possible ways in which you could become a Training Center Partner. Partnerships already exist with societies. In La Paz, the ASGE, the Spanish Association of GE (AEG) and Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) have committed faculty to annual courses and teaching trainees locally at the center.

Similar commitments have been made in Rabat by the French and Belgian GI societies, as well as ASNEMGE.

The Gastroenterological Society of Australia has made a commitment to training in Fiji for doctors in the Pacific islands.

The WGO wish to formalise the existing relationships as well as inviting other National societies to become involved as training partners. We propose a finite year commitment to a Training Center which would be renewable after the defined period and with review by the society the Training Center and WGO.

How you could become a Training Center Partner?

- Sponsor trainees at an established Training Center by making an annual donation for a defined period to support scholarships for the trainees. The amount required will depend on the center and is to be negotiated with each society.
- Fund post graduate courses at the Training Center .This may be done in conjunction with industry or with overseas aid funds ,as appropriate.
- Provide and fund experienced Faculty, say two each year, to visit a center at least once a year and participate in training programmes in the center. Choice of a Training Center will be decided in consultation with the center and the WGO. Consultation will determine the need and how any support can dovetail into the existing activities of the Training Center and its staff and trainees. WGO would seek a commitment beyond one year between a partner National society and the center. WGO believes that training

provided locally helps to stem the brain drain from developing countries and as such this activity is central to our mission.

- Receive trainees from the Training Center which you sponsor into a host institution in your country, say two each year and provide local accommodation and free tuition during a predetermined period.
- Provide training materials for the Training Centers
- Assist in electronic linkages between the Training Centers

Benefits of a WGO Training Center Partnership

Desmond Ledin, Past president of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology has had first hand experience as a contributor to one of the WGO centers and has highlighted his experience through an editorial in the Canadian Journal of Gastroenterology 20: 603 -604 2006. titled "An invitation to Bolivia". In his editorial he points out the following benefits to National societies and their membership.

- Clinical – The ability to contribute to the treatment of gastrointestinal disease on a global stage
- Education – The opportunity for the partnering society's educators to interact with educators in the developing world, as well as exposure to diseases which might not normally be encountered and new teaching techniques
- Research – Introduces the opportunity for collaborative research in areas which are often relatively untapped
- Administrative – Increases the international profile of the partnering society

Commenting on his work at the La Paz Center, Dr Ledin, stated "The greatest reward for me in working with Guido has been the opportunity to interact in a culture which I could, at best, only experience as a tourist under normal circumstances. Most of us are pretty well travelled but the opportunity to work with international colleagues leads you to see life from their perspective, which in turn changes your own perspective."

Once a society is part of the partnering network, society members may also have the opportunity to work in other WGO centers around the world. WGO believes that this network has the potential for an enormous amount of goodwill and success.

Recognition as a WGO Training Center Partner

Full acknowledgement of your contribution as a training partner to your chosen Training Center would be made in all of our promotional literature including on the WGO website.

WE WELCOME YOUR SUGGESTIONS AND DISCUSSION ON BECOMING A TRAINING CENTER PARTNER. WE INVITE YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST SO THAT FURTHER MORE SPECIFIC DISCUSSION MAY PROCEED.

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