

Amy Papoccia

From: ASGE Scope [scope@asge.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2007 3:23 PM
To: Amy Papoccia
Subject: SCOPE 5/2007: Screening bills in Congress, DDW highlights, Custom Ultrasonics...

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• AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR GASTROINTESTINAL ENDOSCOPY •



SCOPE

May 2007

SCOPE THIS MONTH...
[Custom Ultrasonics Update](#)
[Antibiotics & Endocarditis](#)
[PQRI Conference Call](#)
[Washington News](#)
[DDW 2007 Highlights](#)
[New Videos Now Available](#)
[Advanced Capsule course](#)
[Invention Innovation SIG](#)
[NOTES Conference](#)
[Completing Your Training?](#)
[GIE June Features](#)

Course Calendar

May 19-24

[Digestive Disease Week®](#)
[Washington Convention](#)
[Center](#)

Washington, D.C.

May 23-24

[GI Endoscopy](#)
[Best Practices:](#)
[Today and Tomorrow](#)
[—ASGE Annual](#)
[Postgraduate Course](#)

Washington, D.C.

Jun. 15-16

[Advanced Capsule](#)
[Endoscopy Users Course](#)

FDA TO CUSTOM ULTRASONICS: YOU ARE NOW IN COMPLIANCE

In February, ASGE informed members about an FDA alert stating that Custom Ultrasonics had agreed to stop manufacturing and distributing all devices, including its endoscope washers/disinfectors. The affected products included the System 83 Plus Washer/Disinfectant, the System 83 Plus MiniFlex Washer/Disinfectant and all accessories. Here is a [link to the February FDA alert](#).

ASGE was recently informed that Custom Ultrasonics has received a letter from the FDA stating that it is now in compliance. The letter is reproduced on the homepage of [Custom Ultrasonics' Web site](#). In addition, contact information is provided on the homepage for those who would like to request a faxed copy of the signed letter from the FDA. Please contact Custom Ultrasonics directly with any questions.

AHA GUIDELINE: ANTIBIOTICS NOT RECOMMENDED TO PREVENT ENDOCARDITIS FOR GI PROCEDURES

A recently published guideline of the American Heart Association (AHA) states that "administration of antibiotics solely to prevent endocarditis is not recommended for patients who undergo a genitourinary or gastrointestinal tract procedure." [Read more...](#)

ASGE MEMBER EXCLUSIVE— PQRI CONFERENCE CALL WITH CMS!

"Nuts & Bolts of Applying PQRI to Your GI Practice"

8:00 – 9:30 PM EDT

Monday, June 4, 2007

Susan Nedza, MD, MBA

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Save the Date! ASGE invites you and your staff to participate in this important conference call. In less than 60 days Medicare will initiate the Physician Initiative (PQRI) – a voluntary quality reporting program that offers you an opportunity to receive a bonus payment up to 1.5% of your Medicare charges for the reporting period of July 1-December 31, 2007. Don't miss out on this

Oak Brook, Ill.

Aug. 4-5

Aug. 18-19

Aug. 25-26

Sep. 29-30

Oct. 6-7

**First Year Fellows'
Endoscopy Course**

Oak Brook, Ill.

Aug. 4-5

**ASGE Workshop on
Achieving Academic
Success**

Washington, D.C.

Aug. 16-19

**GI Outlook 2007--
Solutions for Successful
Practice Management**

Seattle, Wash.

Oct. 12

**Innovation and Paradigm
Shifts: The GI
Endoscopist of the
Future (in conjunction
with ACG meeting)**

Philadelphia, Pa.

Oct. 26-27

**NEW COURSE:
Advanced Endoscopy
Series: Enteroscopy in
the 21st Century**

Oak Brook, Ill.

Nov. 2

**Endoscopic Management
of End Stage Liver
Disease: Challenges and
Controversies (ASGE
Postgraduate Course
in conjunction with
AASLD meeting)**

Boston, Mass.

Nov. 2-3

**Advanced Capsule
Endoscopy Users Course**

Oak Brook, Ill.

Nov. 16-17

**Advanced Endoscopy
Series: Beyond the
Basics**

Oak Brook, Ill.

Nov. 30-Dec. 1

**NEW COURSE:
Advanced Endoscopy
Series: Sedation and
Monitoring**

Oak Brook, Ill.

Visit **ASGE's Course
Calendar on the Web** for
information on these and
other educational

unique opportunity to get essential information and guidance on PQRI
implementation directly from Medicare staff!

Conference call registration details coming soon—Watch your e-mail!

WASHINGTON NEWS

- **Bills of Interest to Gastroenterologists and Endoscopists**

Two bills have been introduced in Congress recently that are of interest to GI physicians. The first addresses the low utilization of the Medicare colon cancer screening benefit; the second would assist small physician practices in the adoption of health information technology.

The Colon Cancer Screen for Life Act of 2007 (S 1164 & HR 1926) intends to increase the Part B reimbursement for colorectal cancer (CRC) screening and diagnostic tests, provide Medicare coverage for office visits or consultations prior to screening and create an amendment to waive deductibles for CRC screening tests, allowing waivers when screening resulted in treatment. ASGE supports this bill, believing that it will encourage wider use of the Medicare CRC screening benefit.

A second bill, HR 1952 The National Health Information Incentive Act of 2007, aims at helping small practices take advantage of health information technology. It would offer grants, loans and tax incentives to help offset costs of the new technology.

- ASGE joined 85 other physician specialties in urging Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to apply the \$1.35 billion fund to the 2008 conversion factor. On April 18, ASGE cosigned a letter to Leslie Norwalk, CMS administrator, urging him to use the fund created by HR 6111, The Tax Relief Fund and Health Care Act of 2006, to counterbalance the reduction of the 2008 conversion factor; to use a smaller productivity factor in the Medical Economic Index; to remove physician-administered drugs from the Sustainable Growth Rate and modify the way CMS treats new coverage decisions in the SGR.

- ASGE-member Maurits Wiersema, MD has been elected to fill the rotating internal medicine seat at the AMA/Specialty Society Relative Value Update Committee (RUC). The RUC recommends physician work and practice values to CPT to CMS. "It is very helpful to all gastroenterologists to have someone of [Wiersema's] experience and ability represent the specialty at the AMA RUC," said ASGE president Gary W. Falk, MD.

DDW BOUND? DON'T MISS THESE ASGE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Best Practices: Today and Tomorrow**

ASGE Annual Postgraduate Course features symposia on a variety of GI problems, including stricture management, pre-malignant screening and endoscopic therapy for malignancies. An audience-response system will provide real-time feedback from colleagues. For information, visit [ASGE's Web site](#). To register, go to the [DDW Site](#).



- **Hands-On Sessions**

Monday–Wednesday, Noon–2:00 pm, Renaissance Washington D.C. Hotel

The ASGE Hands-On Sessions will provide an opportunity for participants to gain practical hands-on experience using different techniques in each session.

Monday, May 21

opportunities.



Invest in the Future of
GI Endoscopy...
Encouraging Research,
Educating the Public



The Blue Star:
Symbol of
Colorectal Cancer
Awareness

Click here to
get involved !

Endoscopic Ablation Techniques (presented by Herbert C. Wolfsen, MD and Ram Chuttani, MD)
Capsule Endoscopy (presented by Glenn M. Eisen, MD, MPH, FASGE)

Tuesday, May 22

Advances in Esophageal Therapies (presented by Steven A. Edmundowicz, MD, FASGE)

Wednesday, May 23

EMR and Clipping for Mucosal Defects (presented by Irving Waxman, MD, FASGE)

Session Fee: ASGE Member \$225, Nonmember \$275, Trainee Member \$100

Register at the [DDW Web site](#)

● **Reserve Your Seat Now—2007 ASGE Crystal Awards**

Sunday, May 20, Ronald Reagan Building/International Trade Center
Reception: 6:30 pm, Dinner/Awards: 7:30 pm

Hosted by ASGE and the ASGE Foundation, the 2007 ASGE Crystal Awards symbolize the finest in leadership, research and scientific pursuit. Dress is business attire. **Online reservations will close Monday, May 14.** Visit the [ASGE Web Site](#) and log on to E-services to purchase tickets. For additional information or to make reservations, please contact ASGE at 866-353-ASGE (2743) or send an e-mail to foundation@asge.org. Onsite reservations are extremely limited; visit the ASGE Store at the Washington Convention Center to check availability.

NEW VIDEOS AVAILABLE AT DDW 2007

Be sure to stop by the ASGE Learning Center and the ASGE Store to sample and purchase ASGE's newest additions to its Endoscopic Learning Library...

- **Esophageal Capsule for the Diagnosis of Esophageal Disease**
- **Colonoscopy Technique: Basic and Advanced**
- **Polypectomy Technique**
- **EUS in Hand**
- **Endoscopic Interpretation and Therapy of Severe Lower GI Bleeding**
- **Endoscopic Removal of Submucosal Tumors**
- **Small Bowel Imaging**
- **Biliary Access Techniques: Basic and Advanced**



AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ is available for all the above titles

ADVANCED CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY USERS COURSE

June 15-16, Oak Brook, Ill.



Addressing the needs of established capsule endoscopy users, this course will emphasize proper diagnosis, localization, interpretation and management decisions. Attendees will also learn to identify look-alikes such as bulges, red spots, and other normal variants; performing capsule endoscopy in patients with special needs; and the latest in patient preparation.

[Get More Information](#)

[Download Brochure with registration form](#) (PDF)

FROM THE INVENTION & INNOVATION SIG

Breaking News about the ASGE Invention & Innovation Special Interest Group: A message from its chair, Naomi Nakao, MD, FASGE

If you have an interest in innovation, you may wish to join the ASGE Invention & Innovation Special Interest Group.

Selected as ASGE's 2007 Featured SIG, Invention & Innovation SIG members will showcase their inventions at the ASGE Learning center. Please be sure to visit the "Inventor's Corner" in the Learning Center Sunday through Wednesday at DDW.

Invention & Innovation (II) SIG Meeting: Monday, May 21, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm, Renaissance Hotel Ballroom West A

2007 NOTES™ CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPENS

The 2nd International Conference on Natural Orifice Translumenal Endoscopic Surgery™ will be held July 13-14, 2007 at the Westin Copley Place in Boston, Massachusetts.

The conference is designed for teams of experts in flexible interventional endoscopy and laparoscopic surgery to explore and set a course of action to resolve the challenges involved in bringing transgastric endotherapy into the clinical realm.

Please visit [the NOSCAR™ Web site](#) for more information, or go directly to the [NOTES™ Online Registration page](#) to register your team for this state-of-the-art program and exchange of ideas!

COMPLETING YOUR GI TRAINING IN 2007?

If you are a current ASGE Trainee member, ASGE will automatically upgrade your membership from Trainee to Active when you successfully complete your training program in 2007.

If you have moved, ASGE needs your current address! To continue receiving your member benefits, update your member profile online at [the ASGE Web site](#). Contact the Customer Care Team (toll-free) at 866-353-ASGE (2743) or at 630-573-0600.

GASTROINTESTINAL ENDOSCOPY JUNE ISSUE FEATURES ...

- Remodeling of the gastroesophageal junction after gastroplication
- Colorectal neoplasia in asymptomatic Asians
- Magnifying endoscopy with NBI for diagnosis of colorectal tumors
- Endoscopic treatment of cystic duct leakage after cholecystectomy
- EUS elastography of the pancreas
- Pancreatic stents for prevention of post-ERCP pancreatitis

ASGE/ConMed Award:

Outstanding Manuscript by a Fellow/Resident

ASGE and ConMed Endoscopic Technologies sponsor the annual ASGE/ConMed Outstanding Manuscript Award. The prize consists of \$10,000 cash award to the Fellow or Resident in training in a gastroenterology or a surgical GI endoscopic program whose manuscript is accepted for publication in *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy* during 2007. More information and application is available in [PDF form at ASGE's Website](#) [2 MB].