



3300 Woodcreek Drive
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515
Phone: 630-573-0600 / Fax: 630-963-8607
Email: info@asge.org
Web site: www.asge.org

February 26, 2015

2014-2015 GOVERNING BOARD

President

COLLEEN M. SCHMITT, MD, MHS, FASGE
Galen Medical Group – Chattanooga
cschmitt7@comcast.net
423-643-2500

The Honorable Peter Roskam
U.S. House of Representatives
2246 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

President-elect

DOUGLAS O. FAIGEL, MD, FASGE
Mayo Clinic – Scottsdale
faigel.douglas@mayo.edu
480-301-6990

Dear Representative Roskam:

Secretary

KENNETH R. McQUAID, MD, FASGE
VA Medical Center – San Francisco
kenneth.mcquaid@va.gov
415-221-4810 x3842

On behalf of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), I am writing to express our support for the *Developing an Innovative Strategy for Antimicrobial Resistant Microorganisms (DISARM) Act of 2015* (H.R. 512) to promote research and development for new antimicrobial products.

Treasurer

STEVEN A. EDMUNDOWICZ, MD, FASGE
Washington Univ. School of Medicine – St. Louis
sedmundo@dom.wustl.edu
314-454-5960

Since its founding in 1941, ASGE has been dedicated to advancing patient care and digestive health by promoting excellence and innovation in gastrointestinal endoscopy. ASGE, with more than 13,000 members worldwide, fosters endoscopic research, promotes the highest standards for endoscopic training and practice, and is the foremost resource for endoscopic education.

Secretary-elect

JOHN J. VARGO II, MD, MPH, FASGE
Cleveland Clinic – Cleveland
vargoj@ccf.org
216-445-5012

Antibiotic resistance is one of the most pressing public health issues facing the world today and puts at risk patients who are often the most vulnerable, including those in need of surgery, organ transplant, or chemotherapy. In fact, all procedures carry risk of infection, including procedures performed by gastroenterologists. In addition to educating patients and providers on the judicious and appropriate use of antibiotics, we need newer antibiotics that can effectively treat infections caused by drug-resistant organisms. We believe your bill would complement the Administration's recent Executive Order launching federal efforts to combat the rise in antibiotic-resistant bacteria and hope that Congress will increase Federal funding for antibiotic resistance initiatives.

Past Presidents

KENNETH K. WANG, MD, FASGE
Rochester, Minnesota

THOMAS M. DEAS JR., MD, FASGE
Fort Worth, Texas

Councilors

IAN M. GRALNEK, MD, MSHS, FASGE
Haifa, Israel

BRIAN C. JACOBSON, MD, MPH, FASGE
Boston, Massachusetts

BRET T. PETERSEN, MD, FASGE
Rochester, Minnesota

DOUGLAS K. REX, MD, FASGE
Indianapolis, Indiana

SARAH A. (BETSY) RODRIGUEZ, MD
Portland, Oregon

WILLIAM M. TIERNEY, MD, FASGE
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

ASGE Foundation Chair

ROBERT A. GANZ, MD, FASGE
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Gastrointestinal Endoscopy – Editor

GLENN M. EISEN, MD, MPH, FASGE
Portland, Oregon

Chief Executive Officer

PATRICIA V. BLAKE, FASAE, CAE
Downers Grove, Illinois

The ASGE thanks you for your leadership in this critical effort, which promises to greatly improve the pace in the essential development of new and more effective antibiotics.

Sincerely,

Colleen M. Schmitt, MD, MHS, FASGE
President
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy