



# UPDATE

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA GASTROENTEROLOGY ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2021

## 2020-2022 OFFICERS

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John K. Corless, MD, AGAF  
SCGA President 2020-2022

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The temperatures are rising, the flowers are in bloom, and once again it's time for the SCGA Spring Update! SCGA leadership has been busy behind the scenes on a number of fronts. Our recent Annual Meeting was again virtual, but a "new & improved" virtual experience featuring an impressive exhibit hall, virtual Starbucks' coffee breaks, a Total Wine raffle, two stellar speaker presentations, a spirited Q&A session, our yearly SCGA Business Meeting, and a special breakout session designed for GI Administrators. Recordings of the meeting are currently available for those who couldn't attend or would like to review the detailed lectures. We look forward to gathering in person for next year's annual meeting in Spartanburg.

We've secured our organization on a firmer financial footing by increasing the support of our corporate partners while providing them with a clearly defined grid of engagement and benefits. Sponsors are vital to growing our organization, and their appreciation & acknowledgement by SCGA members goes a long way to ensuring our continued success.

The SCGA has reached out to a number of organizations whose mission and purpose align well with ours, including MUSC Digestive Health, USC's Colon Cancer Prevention Network, the American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network, the Digestive Disease National Coalition, and the State GI Societies of Ohio and North Carolina, to name but a few. We hope to continue similar outreach as we go forward in a spirit of collaboration, coordination, and collegiality.

Even as COVID-19 continues to subside, we as gastroenterologists need to prepare for the twin tsunamis of NAFLD and CRC in younger adults. The obesity epidemic continues to grow, and NASH is on track to overtake HCV as the most common cause of liver transplantation. Recent data presented at the 7th Annual Early-Age Onset Colorectal Cancer Summit predicts that by 2030, CRC will be the #1 cancer killer of 20-49 year olds. I'm confident that SC GI physicians will rise to this challenge, and that the SCGA will do its part to promote effective educational and awareness efforts. After all, we're in this together and failure is not an option!

Stay well —

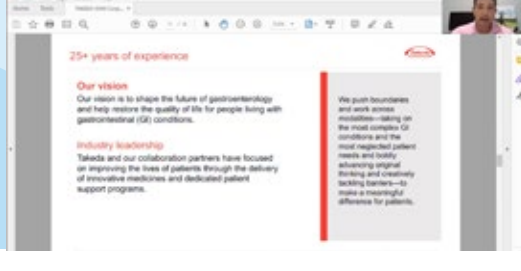
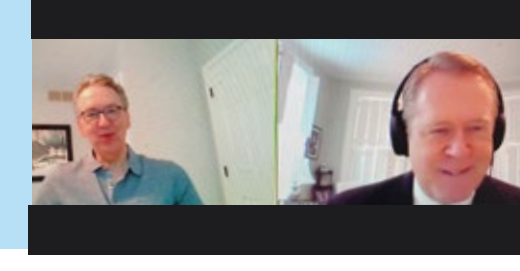
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*The purpose of the South Carolina Gastroenterology Association (SCGA) is to: promote the digestive health of South Carolinians, to foster the development and fellowship of physicians and medical professionals with similar interests in the practice of gastroenterology and endoscopy, and to maintain the highest standard of clinical practice in gastroenterology and endoscopy.*



The 2021 SCGA Annual Meeting was held virtually on Saturday, April 24. SCGA's annual conference featured presentations by two recognized experts in GI Practice Management and Endoscopy, Dr. Sapna Thomas and Dr. Douglas Rex. Dr. Thomas, President of the Ohio GI Society & Co-Director of the 2020 ACG Practice Management Summit brought our members pearls from that summit. Dr. Rex, Distinguished Emeritus Professor at the Indiana University School of Medicine, presented on optimizing polypectomy. The presentations were followed by lively Q&A and closed with our General Membership Business Meeting. A separate breakout session was designed for the GI Administrators. This was our most well attended annual conference, but if you happened to miss the meeting, please contact Shannon for a link to the video recordings and/or a copy of the meeting summary.



## Introducing... THE NEW SCGA WEBSITE

One of the projects facilitating SCGA's growth and development over the past year is the upgraded website. We redesigned the new site with a more modern look and greater functionality. The upgrade includes a clickable map of SCGA member physicians and practices by region. The upgrade also allowed us to host a virtual exhibit hall with virtual exhibit space. It also gives us greater capability to showcase our sponsors and member practices.

### Redesigned SCGA Website



### DOCTOR OF THE DAY

Thank you to Drs. John Corless, Chris Fyock, Bryan Green, March Seabrook, Gary Vukov for serving as SCMA Doctor of the Day this spring. Please consider serving as Doctor of the Day for the upcoming legislative year and look out for correspondence regarding available dates.



### SCGA Interactive Member Map



### Virtual Exhibit Hall



## ADVOCACY & AWARENESS



### DRESS IN BLUE DAY / √ ur :

Thank you to Charleston Gastroenterology Specialists, Consultants in Gastroenterology, Digestive Disease Group, Elms Digestive, Gastroenterology Associates, MUSC Health, Strand GI Associates and Endoscopy Center and Sumter Gastroenterology for participating in the fundraiser to support the SCGA Foundation and spreading awareness.



### COLORECTAL CANCER DAY AT THE SC STATE HOUSE

On March 10th Dr John Corless and Dr Rajeev Vasudeva joined partners CCCR/USC and ACS CAN to hear Gov. Henry McMaster officially proclaim March Colorectal Awareness Month in South Carolina.



### CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Dr. Rajeev Vasudeva who was awarded The Order of the Palmetto this year for outstanding service to the medical community and the citizens of SC!

Thank you to our Corporate Partners



### CRC AWARENESS VIDEOCASTS

In partnership with the SC Cancer Alliance & the SCGA Foundation, 3 SCGA member gastroenterologists were our shining stars for videocasts launched on social media for March Colorectal Cancer Awareness. Topics of the video clips were Early Onset CRC, Disparities in CRC & Changing Trends. To view the videos go to the Foundation webpage or follow us on Facebook @scgastrofoundation



Dr Seabrook and Dr Vasudeva wore their Check Your Colon masks & landed some airtime with Columbia's local station and Dawndy Mercer-Plank to discuss why the recommended age for an average risk colon screening is now 45.



The Digestive Disease National Coalition (DDNC), a national advocacy organization for patients with digestive illnesses, hosted its 31st annual Public Policy Forum virtually March 4th through 9th. Dr. Bryan Green, President of the SCGA Foundation is also serving a two year term as President of the DDNC. The DDNC was integral in advocating for the successful passage of legislation last year to remove the "Polyp Penalty" whereby a Medicare screening colonoscopy would become diagnostic if a polyp was removed during the procedure and thus require cost sharing by the patient rather than being fully covered as preventative. The DDNC's current major legislative objective is preventing cost shifting by insurance companies and pharmacy benefit managers (PBM) to increase the cost of medications to patients along with preventing non-medical switching of medications by insurers.



# Save the Date!

SATURDAY  
APRIL 23, 2022  
AT  
SPARTANBURG  
MARRIOTT

## JOIN THE SCGA!

*We are here to support the interests of our SC gastroenterologists.*

It is essential to increase membership in order to expand the activities of the association and keep the organization viable. Please renew and encourage your colleagues to join. To join the SCGA, text or call Shannon Johnson at (843) 530-3482 or email sjohnson@scgastroassn.com. We now accept credit card payments and Zelle for dues.