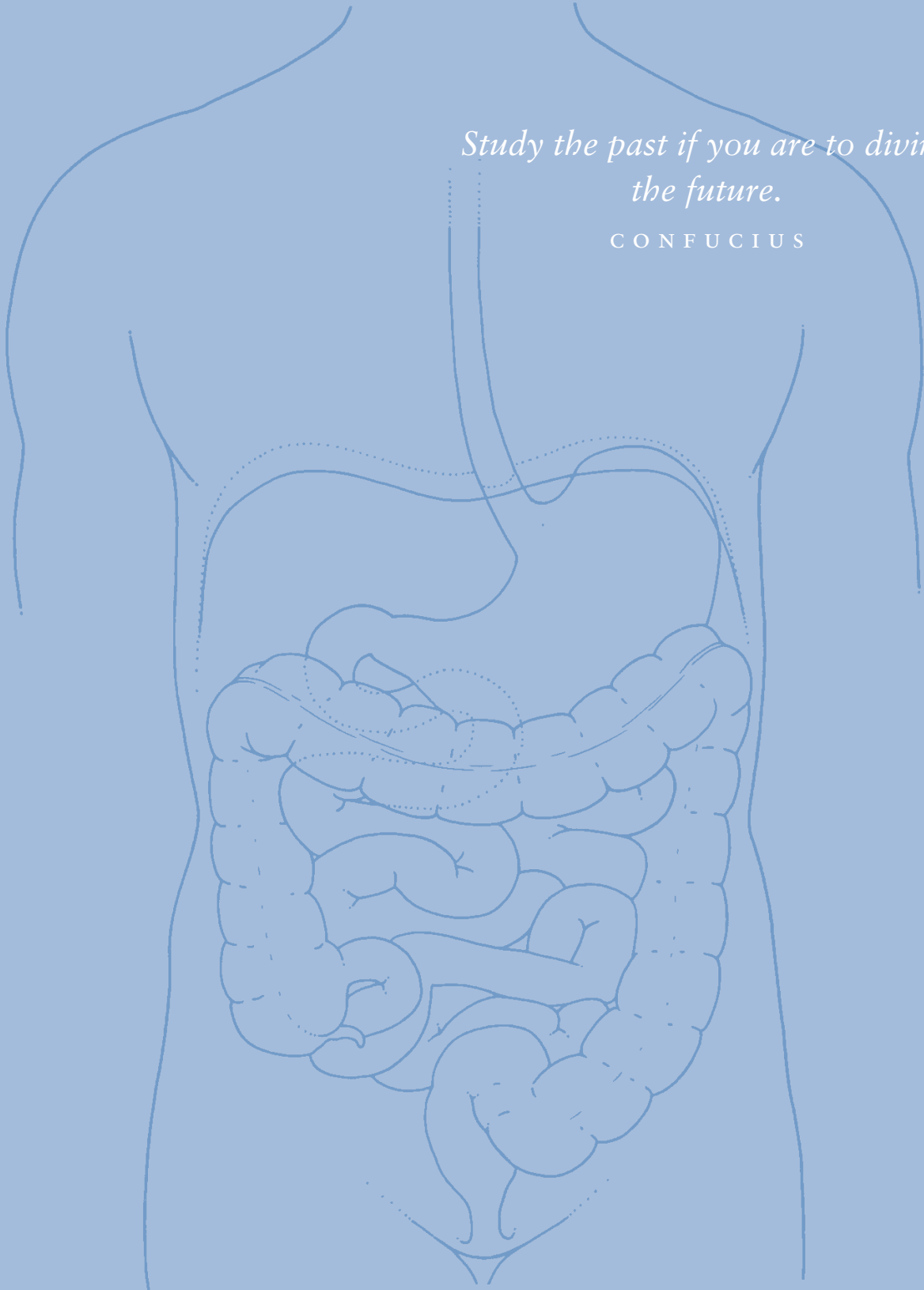




**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF
GASTROENTEROLOGY, 1932–2007**

*Study the past if you are to divine
the future.*

CONFUCIUS



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GASTROENTEROLOGY, 1932–2007

**Seventy-Five Years of Commitment to
Clinical Gastroenterology, Gastroenterologists,
and Patient Health**

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

Bethesda, Maryland

2007

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DEDICATION

On the occasion of its 75th anniversary,
the American College of Gastroenterology dedicates
this volume with gratitude to

ALBERT CARL SVOBODA, JR., MD, MACG
(July 27, 1931–September 14, 2006)

His vision, collegiality, and dedicated service as Chair of the ACG Archives Committee and his editorial contributions helped to engender this project and to enrich the life of the College. Dr. Svoboda exemplified the spirit of physician volunteerism as ACG Governor and Chair of the Board of Governors, and by representing the College at the AMA House of Delegates. We regret that he is no longer with us to open the pages of this book.

FOREWORD

The American College of Gastroenterology is a national organization with a strong grassroots constituency. In this book, we attempt to record its seventy-five-year history by presenting facts without embellishment. However, it may not be possible to have a historical document written entirely in a blandly objective manner. The writing style is not consistent from chapter to chapter, as many sections will read as the contributors submitted them, with sentiment and personal recollections.

Many individuals contributed to the development of this text in important ways: preparing material solicited by the Archives Committee; reviewing and editing drafts; retrieving data stored in the College archives; and contributing ideas, personal anecdotes, encouragement, and administrative support. We regret that all information submitted could not be included due to constraints imposed by space and cost limits. We have recognized all contributors in the Acknowledgments section.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Albert C. Svoboda, Jr., MD, MACG
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The American College of Gastroenterology extends grateful appreciation for the significant contributions of the editors of this book. Their extensive knowledge of, and unparalleled enthusiasm for, the history of ACG, combined with Herculean efforts to corral and integrate the recollections and contributions of many, have resulted in a work that will stand as an important and enduring contribution to the College.

ACG Archives Committee, Subcommittee on 75th Anniversary

Arvey I. Rogers, MD, MACG, Chair
Robert E. Kravetz, MD, MACG
Marvin M. Schuster, MD, MACG
Edward S. Schneir, MD, MACG

From the initial inception of the 75th-anniversary history project, this brain trust worked tirelessly to envision and to execute this ambitious effort. The College recognizes with thanks the particular contributions of Dr. Schneir, past Chair of the Archives Committee, whose 1997 history of ACG provided the strong foundation for the current volume. With Dr. Schneir's death in 2007, the College has lost a great friend and dedicated archivist of ACG history.

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This book came to fruition under the leadership of several ACG Presidents, without whose support for the project and commitment to its success this volume would not have been possible.

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The College acknowledges the indispensable role and contributions of the ACG Archives Committee, particularly its past Chair, Dr. Svoboda, and current Chair, Dr. Olden, to the development of this book and to preserving the history of the College for generations of gastroenterologists to come.

ACG 2006–2007 Officers & Board of Trustees

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The leadership of the College gratefully recognizes the able assistance of ACG staff to the development of this book.

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The College extends its appreciation for the gracious collaboration of staff from the Dittrick Medical History Center at the Allen Medical Library at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, home of the ACG Archives. The generous contributions of archival materials, historical photographs, guidance, and the loan of medical artifacts to ACG's archival projects generally, and to this volume in particular, are recognized with thanks.

Peter R. McNally, DO, FACG

Dr. McNally, a past Trustee of the College, in his capacity as a U.S. Army physician, made an impor-

tant contribution to the archives of the College by facilitating the gift of old volumes of *The American Journal of Gastroenterology* from the medical library of the Letterman Army Medical Center at the Presidio of San Francisco, California.

Thanks

Thomas F. Fise
(*ACG Director, Policy & Strategic Initiatives; ACG
Executive Director 1984–2005*)

The College recognizes Tom Fise's encyclopedic knowledge and keen understanding of ACG's past, present, and future. ACG is grateful for his contributions to our growth and numerous achievements, and we value his long and humble service to ensuring that our physician leaders shine. The ACG leadership thanks Tom for his role as a dedicated guardian of the College's traditions, its reputation, its resources, and its most valuable asset, its people.

Bradley C. Stillman
(*ACG Executive Director*)

The College is grateful to Brad Stillman for his energy, vision, and service to making ACG's goals a reality. His capable leadership heralds the arrival of a new era for ACG.

Sandra Tillisch-Svoboda

The College thanks Sandy Svoboda, whose loving support for her late husband, Al Svoboda, included significant administrative contributions to the genesis of this book.

In November 1932, the organization we know today as the American College of Gastroenterology was organized and named the Society for the Advancement of Gastroenterology. The following time line provides a chronology of important dates, events, and people, and it is being presented early in the text for those readers who wish to get a quick overview of the College's history.

Robert Kravetz, MD, MACG, ACG archivist, medical historian, and past chairman of the Archives Committee; and Thomas Fise, ACG's former executive director, have painstakingly searched the College archives and assembled this time line. Any omissions of important dates, events, and people are unintended oversights.

1932–1939

1932 In November, a small group of physicians forms the Society for the Advancement of Gastroenterology. They perceive the need for an association for physicians with a clinical or research interest in gastrointestinal (GI) diseases.

December 27: The society is incorporated by twelve physicians from New York City, Brooklyn, and Long Island.

1936 In June, the society's first annual scientific convention takes place in Atlantic City, New Jersey. A total of twelve papers are presented.

1939 The number of issues of the review is increased from four to six per year. Because of the association's many Latin American members, a Spanish edition is initiated.

1932

1934

1936

1938

1939

1934 Plans for expansion of the Society for the Advancement of Gastroenterology are detailed in an undated document, probably written sometime this year.

The society's flagship publication, *The Review of Gastroenterology*, makes its debut in March. One of the society's charter members, Samuel Weiss, MD, of New York City, is selected as editor.

In September, the organization's name is changed to the National Society for the Advancement of Gastroenterology.

1938 At a special meeting of the membership, the name of the society is changed again to the National Gastroenterological Association. In January, the first headquarters opens in New York City with a staff of three.

1940–1949

1941 Daniel Weiss is appointed as the association's first executive director.

1947 On October 10, the commissioned Ryan Report, *A Study on Organization of the National Gastroenterological Association*, is issued. On November 17, the Executive Board receives the report.

The number of issues of *The Review of Gastroenterology* is increased from six to twelve per year.

1949 President William Morrison helps establish the association's first postgraduate course.

1941

1946

1947

1948

1949

1946 The *Bulletin of the National Gastroenterological Association* is first published; it would cease publication in 1982.

The association holds its first post-war scientific convention, which is a huge success.

An annual prize contest is inaugurated for the best unpublished contribution to gastroenterology. The contest is discontinued in 1973.

1948 The Board of Trustees revises the constitution and bylaws and reorganizes the administration of the association. Limits are placed on the terms of office, and a vice president is elected from each of four designated regions of the country.

1960–1969

1965 First editor-in-chief Samuel Weiss retires and is named editor emeritus.

1968 The Stuart Distinguished Lecture is inaugurated to honor physicians who have made exceptional contributions to gastroenterology.

1965

1966

1968

1966 The Samuel S. Weiss Award for outstanding service to the College is created, to be awarded biannually.

1950–1959

1950 The association's leaders establish the Board of Governors, which replaces the old National Council.

1954 The annual convention format is changed to three days of meetings followed by the postgraduate course.

The Review of Gastroenterology is renamed *The American Journal of Gastroenterology*.

At a membership meeting in Washington, DC, the name American College of Gastroenterology is adopted.

1958 Upon the renewal of the meetings of the World Organization of Gastroenterology (OMGE), the College begins sending representatives to all OMGE meetings.

1950

1953

1954

1955

1958

1953 The Ladies' Auxiliary, which has supplied helpful support to the organization through the years, is formed.

1955 The name of the organization is officially changed from the National Gastroenterological Association to the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG).

The inaugural meeting of the Board of Governors is announced by its first chair, Henry Baker, MD.

1970–1979

1970 An Advisory Council of Past Presidents is formed.

1974 The Henry Baker Presidential Lectureship is established.

1978 The Ladies' Auxiliary establishes a lecture to be given annually by an outstanding woman in the field of gastroenterology.

1970

1973

1974

1977

1978

1979

1973 Richard Marshak, radiologist at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, establishes an award for the best radiological paper published in the journal.

1977 ACG is designated a separate and alternate delegate to the American Medical Association House of Delegates.

ACG establishes the David Sun Memorial Lecture, to be given annually at the postgraduate course.

The College sends an official delegation to the First International Conference on Gastrointestinal Cancer, held in Israel.

1979 The first retreat of the Board of Trustees is held at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

1980–1989

1981 Daniel Weiss, executive director for forty years, retires.

ACG leaders recruit a management firm, the Professional Relations & Research Institute, to manage the business affairs of the College. Gardner McCormick is recruited to serve as executive director.

A Board of Governors' task force meets at the Rye Town Hilton in New York to discuss the future of the Board of Governors and its relation to the membership and the Board of Trustees.

The College serves as the host organization for the Inter-American Society of Gastroenterology held in Bal Harbour, Florida.

1982 The College celebrates its fiftieth anniversary.

Guidelines for the training of gastroenterologists are prepared and published.

1986 The Ad Hoc Membership Committee sets goals to increase membership among women, trainees, and the academic community.

John Papp testifies on Capitol Hill regarding proposals for methods by which Medicare will pay physicians.

1987 ACG retains the Washington-based firm Health & Medicine Counsel of Washington, and later Medical Advocacy Services, Inc., to represent clinical gastroenterological interests politically.

In January, Thomas Fise becomes the fourth executive director of the College.

The first ACG Clinical Achievement Award is presented to Leonidas Berry, MD, in recognition of a lifetime of distinguished contributions to clinical gastroenterology.

1981–82

1983–85

1986–87

1988–89

1983 The constitution and bylaws are revised to further streamline the organization.

The Research Committee becomes a standing committee.

Clinical research awards are established, and the first three winners are announced.

1985 ACG begins offering a board review course in alternating years at the annual meeting.

The three U.S.-based societies devoted to GI medicine—the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), and the ACG—hold their first joint conference.

Daniel Barrett of the Professional Relations & Research Institute replaces Gardner McCormick as executive director.

The National Affairs Committee is established.

1988 ACG headquarters moves to Arlington, Virginia.

The first ACG self-assessment test is introduced.

At ACG's annual meeting, the first practice management seminar is introduced to aid members in coping with practice management problems.

1989 The Board of Governors now has representation from every state.

The title of master of the American College of Gastroenterology (MACG) is introduced.

A governor is designated for every province in Canada.

ACG develops "Current Topics in Gastroenterology."

"The Governor's Update" is designed to encourage all ACG governors to communicate regularly with their constituents at the local and state levels.

In May, Chesley Hines, Jr., MD, FACC, and Sarkis J. Chobanian, MD, MACG, are invited to testify before the House Ways and Means Committee.

Thomas Fise is appointed ACG Washington representative to work with the National Affairs Committee.

1990–1995

1990 Regional postgraduate courses are initiated.

The Regional Council of Governors is established.

The ACG Patient Care Committee Speakers' Manual program is initiated.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Women in Gastroenterology is formed.

President Ronald Reagan is awarded the American College of Gastroenterology's Distinguished Service Award.

1993 As a result of President Clinton's proposed national health care reforms, ACG mandates a special dues assessment in March to marshal resources to participate in health care reform and to begin the push for a Medicare colorectal cancer screening benefit. ACG initiates a working relationship with Patton Boggs as legislative counsel.

ACG sponsors its first summer camp for children with GI conditions.

The first ACG legislative fly-in takes place.

ACG's first GI physiology course is held in conjunction with the annual scientific meeting and postgraduate course.

1995 ACG practice management publications are released to aid the GI practitioner.

The International Relations Committee initiates an international training grants program that supports bringing selected physicians from around the world to the United States or Canada for additional education, training, and clinical research under ACG supervision.

1990

1991–92

1993

1994

1995

1991 ACG initiates challenge to the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) on global surgery and the Resource-Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS) fee schedule.

1992 The ACG, AGA, ASGE, and the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) establish the Gastroenterology Leadership Council (GLC).

1994 The ACG Institute for Clinical Research & Education (ACG Institute) is established. During the first year, more than \$8 million is raised to educate physicians and the public about common GI diseases.

Astra Merck Inc. awards grant to AGA for *H. pylori* research.

1996–1999

1996 The ACG Institute, with support from Astra Merck, initiates the ACG National Public Information and Education Campaign on GERD.

The first ACG Board of Governors course is held.

The William D. Carey Award, Freshman Governor's Award, and Senior Governor's Award are established.

1998 Christina M. Surawicz is elected as the College's first woman president.

The Junior Faculty Development Award grant is increased to \$40,000 per year for two years.

1996

1997

1998

1999

1997 In May, ACG trustees visit the White House to receive a briefing from leading Clinton administration officials on the Medicare program, the prospect on legislation to enact preventive benefits for colorectal cancer screening, HCFA's anticipated rule-making on practice expenses, and the recently concluded balanced budget agreement.

In August, President Clinton signs into law the bill enacting a Medicare colorectal cancer screening benefit.

The first GI structure and function course is held in conjunction with the annual scientific meeting and postgraduate course.

The ACG Institute initiates a Junior Faculty Development Award. This two-year award is designed to support a junior faculty member or midcareer clinical investigator of outstanding promise and to assist in facilitating his/her progress into an independent productive career in gastroenterology or hepatology. In the first year of the program, the grant is \$30,000 per year for two years.

The Stuart Distinguished Lecture is changed to the J. Edward Berk Lecture to honor this past president.

Representative Benjamin L. Cardin (D-MD), a dedicated champion of the issue of colorectal cancer screening in Congress, is awarded the ACG's Distinguished Service Award at the annual scientific meeting.

1999 The first GI pharmacology course is held in conjunction with the annual scientific meeting and postgraduate course.

2000–Present

2000 In July, ACG President-elect Rowen K. Zetterman (also acting as chair-elect of the Board of Regents of the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine) presented testimony before the House Energy and Commerce Committee relating to HCFA's site-of-service differential policy, including the proposed legislative fix crafted by ACG's National Affairs Committee.

Virginia state Senator Emily Couric is awarded the American College of Gastroenterology's Distinguished Service Award in October for her successful efforts in sponsoring Virginia's new colon cancer screening law, which is the most comprehensive in the nation.

2001 The Junior Faculty Development Award grant is increased to \$50,000 per year for two years.

2003 The ACG Clinical Achievement Award is renamed the Berk/Fise Clinical Achievement Award in honor of J. Edward Berk and Thomas Fise.

First ACG Governors fly-in to Washington, DC, is held.

The College introduces the patient education component of the multiyear, multimedia IBS campaign initiative.

The American Journal of Gastroenterology Lecture is initiated at the annual meeting.

Joel Richter, MD, MACG and Nicholas Talley, MD, PhD, FACC become the first co-editors of *The American Journal of Gastroenterology*.

2006 Thomas Fise, Esq., retires as Executive Director; Bradley C. Stillman, Esq., becomes the College's fifth Executive Director.

ACG introduces ACG Education Universe, an online, self-directed continuing medical education program.

ACG introduces the online self-assessment test, a detailed examination for trainees and established practitioners.

The Emily Couric Memorial Lecture is founded to honor the Virginia state senator who helped establish state-based guidelines for colorectal cancer screening.

2000–01

2002

2002 The ACG Institute begins a capital campaign with the goal of doubling its grant-making capacity and resources available for educational programs.

In November, the College introduces an irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) education campaign with the publication of evidence-based recommendations on IBS treatment as a supplement to *The American Journal of Gastroenterology*.

2003

2004

2004 The first GI recertification course is held in conjunction with the annual scientific meeting and postgraduate course.

The annual David Y. Graham Lecture is established at the annual scientific meeting.

2005 In February, ACG moves to its new headquarters building in Bethesda, Maryland.

The Junior Faculty Development Award grant is increased to \$75,000 per year for two years.

The first phase of the ACG Institute's \$12 million capital campaign is achieved.

The *ACG SmartBrief* twice-weekly electronic newsletter is established.

2006

