



Digestive Health
Institute

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hoag.org/dhi2026



Hoag Digestive Health Institute Presents

Digestive Health Symposium

October 2 – 3, 2026

Hyatt Regency Irvine
Orange County, California



Conference Venue and Accommodations

Hyatt Regency Irvine, Orange County, California

Hoag's Digestive Health Symposium will be held at Hyatt Regency located in Irvine, California. The Hyatt Regency is conveniently located one hour from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and just minutes away from John Wayne Airport, Orange County (SNA).

A discounted room block has been secured for this meeting until Thursday, September 10th, 2026. Room block rates for this conference begin at \$225 + taxes, per evening. Rooms are based on availability and subject to being sold out. To make room accommodations, please call 402-952-1166, or go to www.hoag.org/dhi2026 and click on the "HOTEL" tab for the booking link.

While staying at the Hyatt Regency Irvine, you will enjoy a central location with convenient access to Orange County's premier coastal and cultural attractions – an ideal setting for the October 2 – 4, 2026 weekend. Just minutes away, Newport Beach offers waterfront dining, sandy beaches, and harbor cruises, while the scenic coastline and art galleries of Laguna Beach provide a relaxed coastal escape. For arts and shopping, the Segerstrom Center for the Arts and South Coast Plaza are less than 10 minutes away, and Disneyland Park & Disney California Adventure Park are minutes away. On October 3 – 4, experience the thrilling aerial performances of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and the Canadian Forces Snowbirds at the Pacific Airshow in Huntington Beach – just 25–30 minutes from the hotel. This premier event is complimentary and open to the public.

Educational Objectives

- Apply current evidence-based guidelines to the diagnosis and management of foregut disorders, pancreaticobiliary diseases, colon and liver conditions, and obesity-related pathology.
- Describe the latest advances in endoscopic, surgical, and pharmacologic therapies across the digestive health spectrum.
- Interpret emerging translational research and its implications for clinical practice.
- Develop multidisciplinary treatment strategies for complex gastrointestinal and hepatic conditions.
- Recognize the role of behavioral health, nutrition, and the microbiome in the prevention and management of digestive diseases.



Accreditation

Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian is accredited by the California Medical Association (CMA) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Credit Designation

Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian designates this educational activity for the maximum of 13.25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. This credit can apply to the CMA Certification of Continuing Medical Education.

Board of Registered Nursing

This conference has been approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, with provider number 17163, for a total of 12 Contact Hours (6.0 for Friday and 6.0 for Saturday), of continuing education credit for registered nurses.



Conference *Overview*

Live cases, expert-led presentations, and interactive panel discussions will showcase nationally and internationally recognized leaders in digestive health. This program is designed for primary care physicians, gastroenterologists, general surgeons, advanced practice providers, and nurses, and will feature comprehensive, clinically relevant sessions spanning foregut disorders, motility, pancreaticobiliary disease, bariatrics, hepatology, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), and colorectal care—equipping providers across the care continuum with practical insights to support patient management. Upon completion, participants will be equipped with updated, evidence-based strategies to optimize patient outcomes across the continuum of digestive care.



Program Faculty

Program Director

Christy M. Dunst, MD, FACS, FAFS

Division Chief, Foregut Surgery
Hoag Digestive Health Institute
President-elect,
American Foregut society

Keynote Presenter

Lee Swanström, MD, FACS, FASGE, FAFS, FRCSEng

Clinical Professor of Surgery, Oregon Health and Science University
Chief Innovation Officer, IRCAD-Asia / Show Chwan Health System, Taiwan
CIO/Scientific Director emeritus - IHU-Strasbourg, Strasbourg, France

CME Peer Review Director

Donald Abraham, MD

Gastroenterologist
Hoag Digestive Health Institute

Invited Presenters

Maria T. Abreu, MD, AGAF

Past-President, AGA Institute
Executive Director, Widjaja Inflammatory Bowel Disease Institute
Cedars-Sinai

Elham Afghani, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Silvana Peretta, MD

Chief of Foregut Surgery and Advanced Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Division
Director of the Esophageal Motility Laboratory
NHC University Hospital, Strasbourg, France

Bo Shen, MD

Professor of Medicine and Surgical Sciences
The Edelman-Jarislowsky Professor of Surgical Sciences
Medical Director of IBD Center
Columbia University Irving Medical Center/New York Presbyterian Hospital

Nirav Thosani, MD, MHA

Professor, Department of Internal Medicine
Director, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition
Director, Center for Interventional Gastroenterology at UTHealth (iGUT)
Atilla Ertan MD Endowed Chair in Gastroenterology
McGovern Medical School at UTHealth, Houston, Texas
Chair, ASGE Standards of Practice Committee

Mark H. Whiteford, MD, FACS, FASCRS

The Oregon Clinic,
Center for Advanced Surgery
Director, Colon and Rectal Surgery, Providence Portland Cancer Institute
Rectal Cancer Program Director, National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer Accredited Site
Affiliate Professor of Surgery, Oregon Health & Science University

Hoag Presenters

Aaron Ahearn, MD, PhD

Surgical Director, Liver and Kidney Transplant Program
Hoag Digestive Health Institute

David T. Ahn, MD, MPH

Endocrinologist,
Chief of Diabetes Services
Kris V. Iyer Endowed Chair in Diabetes Care at The Mary and Dick Allen Diabetes Center

Katherine S. Blevins, MD

Chair, Hoag Surgery Department
Foregut and Bariatric Surgeon
Hoag Digestive Health Institute

Kenneth J. Chang, MD, MASGE, AGAF, FACG, FJGES, FAFS

Executive Medical Director,
Hoag Digestive Health Institute;
James & Pamela Muzzy Endowed Chair in GI Cancer

Christine Chung, DO

Hepatobiliary & Pancreas Surgeon
Hoag Family Cancer Institute

Melissa L. DeSouza, MD
Foregut and Bariatric Surgeon
Director of Foregut Clinical Research
Hoag Digestive Health Institute

Adrian B. Dobrowolsky, MD, FACS, FASMBS
Director of MBSAQIP Bariatric Surgery Program
Bariatric and Foregut Surgeon
Hoag Digestive Health Institute

Caroline Hwang, MD
Margolis Family Endowed Chair in Inflammatory Bowel Disease
Hoag Digestive Health Institute

Ravi J. Kankotia, MD
Advanced Endoscopy
Hoag Digestive Health Institute

Paul J. Korc, MD
Medical Director, GI Laboratory
Hoag Digestive Health Institute

Brian T. Lee, MD
Director, Hoag Liver Program
Hoag Digestive Health Institute

Patrick Lee, MD
Hepatologist
Hoag Digestive Health Institute

Catherine B. Ngo, MD
Program Director, Hoag Motility Program
Hoag Digestive Health Institute

Linda Nguyen, MD, FACG, AGAF
Division Chief,
Gastroenterology & Hepatology
Hoag Digestive Health Institute

Puong (Phoenix) Nguyen, MD
Medical Director, Hoag Newport Beach Advanced Endoscopy
Hoag Digestive Health Institute

Abhay Parikh, MD
Eric & Shiela Samson Endowed Chair in Gastrointestinal Health
Hoag Digestive Health Institute

Daryl P. Pearlstein, MD
Director, Thoracic Surgery & the Lung Cancer Program
Hoag Family Cancer Institute

Jennifer Phan, MD
Medical Director, Hoag Irvine Advanced Endoscopy
Director of Bariatric Endoscopy
Hoag Digestive Health Institute

Elizabeth R. Raskin, MD
Surgical Director, Margolis Family Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program
Hoag Digestive Health Institute

Kelly A. Scheneman, PsyD
Clinical Psychology
Hoag Hospital

Daniel D. Von Hoff, MD, FACP, FASCO, FAACR
Distinguished Professor, Clinical Genomics and Therapeutics, Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen); Virginia G Piper Distinguished Chair for Innovative Cancer Research - HonorHealth Emeritus
Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic
Distinguished Professor, Department of Medical Oncology and Therapeutic Research, City of Hope

Ronald Wolf, MD
Medical Director, Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery Program
Hoag Family Cancer Institute



Course Agenda – Day One – Friday, October 2, 2026

Foregut Session – Moderated by Dr. Melissa DeSouza

7 – 8 AM	Registration, Breakfast and Exhibits
8 – 8:05 AM	Welcome and Introduction Dr. Melissa DeSouza
8:05 – 8:20 AM	Acid, Motility, and Mayhem: The Biology of GERD Dr. Christy Dunst
8:20 – 8:35 AM	Not Slow, Just Off: Rethinking Chronic Nausea and Dyspepsia Dr. Catherine Ngo
8:35 – 8:55 AM	From Scope to Surgery: Managing Esophagogastric Cancer Dr. Melissa DeSouza
8:55 – 9:15 AM	The Road to COE: The cTIF Story Dr. Kenneth Chang
9:15 – 9:30 AM	Q&A
9:30 – 10:15 AM	Morning Break, Refreshments and Exhibits
10:15 – 11:15 AM	Live Cases – Foregut

Pancreaticobiliary Session – Moderated by Dr. Phoenix Nguyen

11:15 – 11:20 AM	Introduction Dr. Phoenix Nguyen
11:20 – 11:35 AM	Early Detection of Pancreatic Cancer Dr. Elham Afghani
11:35 – 11:55 AM	Pearls in the Management of Pancreatic Cysts Dr. Christine Chung
11:55 AM – 12:10 PM	Pancreatic Tumor Ablation: Endoscopic Ultrasound-Guided Therapy Dr. Nirav Thosani
12:10 – 12:30 PM	Developing Survival – Improving Science Against Pancreatic Cancer Dr. Daniel Von Hoff
12:30 – 12:45 PM	Q&A
12:45 – 1:45 PM	Lunch and Exhibits
1:45 – 2:45 PM	Live Cases – Pancreaticobiliary
2:45 – 3:30 PM	Afternoon Break, Refreshments and Exhibits

Colon Health Session – Moderated by Dr. Caroline Hwang

3:30 – 3:35 PM	Introduction Dr. Caroline Hwang
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3:35 – 3:55 PM	Gut Check: Food, Permeability, and Functional GI Symptoms Dr. Linda Nguyen
3:55 – 4:10 PM	Scopes with Strategy: Interventional Endoscopy for IBD Care Dr. Bo Shen
4:10 – 4:25 PM	What Keeps Us Up at Night: Our IBD Research Agenda Dr. Caroline Hwang
4:25 – 4:45 PM	Management of Early Rectal Cancer Dr. Mark Whiteford
4:45 – 5 PM	Q&A
5 – 6 PM	Networking Cocktail Reception

Course Agenda – Day Two – Saturday, October 3, 2026

Liver Session – Moderated by Dr. Brian T. Lee

7 – 8 AM	Registration, Breakfast and Exhibits
8 – 8:05 AM	Welcome and Introduction Dr. Brian T. Lee
8:05 – 8:20 AM	An Integrated Approach to Alcohol-Associated Liver Disease and Alcohol Use Disorder: HEAL-ALD Dr. Brian T. Lee
8:20 – 8:40 AM	Liver Transplantation: Current Era of Practice and Future Developments Dr. Aaron Ahearn
8:40 – 9 AM	MetHBV: A New Perspective on Patients with Both MASLD and Chronic Hepatitis B Dr. Patrick Lee
9 – 9:15 AM	Psychology Behind Obesity: Understanding Behavior in MASLD Dr. Kelly Scheneman
9:15 – 9:30 AM	Q&A
9:30 – 10:15 AM	Morning Break, Refreshments and Exhibits

Weight Management Session – Moderated by Dr. Adrian Dobrowolsky

10:15 – 10:20 AM	Introduction Dr. Adrian Dobrowolsky
10:20 – 10:40 AM	Targeting the Root Cause: Obesity Pathophysiology and the Science Behind Today's Medications Dr. David Ahn

10:40 – 10:55 AM	The Gut Instinct: Endoscopic Approach to Weight and Diabetes Management Dr. Jennifer Phan
10:55 – 11:10 AM	Beyond the Knife: How Bariatric Surgery Rewires Metabolism Dr. Katherine Blevins
11:10 – 11:30 AM	Beyond the Scale: Building a World-Class Bariatric Program That Delivers Dr. Adrian Dobrowolsky
11:30 – 11:45 AM	Q&A
11:45 AM – 12:15 PM	KEYNOTE PRESENTATION From Average to Exceptional: The Mastery Model in Digestive Health Dr. Lee Swanström
12:15 – 1:15 PM	Lunch and Exhibits

Frontiers in Gut Health Session – Moderated by Dr. Christy Dunst

1:15 – 1:20 PM	Introduction Dr. Christy Dunst
1:20 – 1:35 PM	Ceremony in Surgery Dr. Elizabeth Raskin
1:35 – 1:50 PM	Ultimate Collaboration: Flexible Endoscopic Surgery Dr. Silvana Peretta
1:50 – 2:10 PM	Microbiome and Nutrition in Management of Inflammatory Bowel Disease Dr. Maria T. Abreu
2:20 – 2:30 PM	Q&A
2:30 – 2:35 PM	Multidisciplinary Conference Session Introduction Dr. Christy Dunst
2:35 – 3:10 PM	Afternoon Break, Refreshments and Exhibits

Multidisciplinary – Moderated by Dr. Linda Nguyen

3:10 – 3:25 PM	Case Conference: IBD
3:25 – 3:50 PM	Case Conference: Hepatopancreatobiliary (HPB)
3:50 – 4:15 PM	Case Conference: Obesity
4:15 – 4:40 PM	Case Conference: Foregut
5 – 6 PM	Reception and Tour Sun Family Campus Hoag Digestive Health Institute (transportation provided)

Registration Information

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Registration Fees

Early Bird Registration
valid through August 14, 2026

Hoag MD/DO: **\$150**

Non-Hoag MD/DO: **\$300**

Non-Hoag PA, NP, RN: **\$150**

Hoag PA, NP, RN and all Fellows:

Complimentary registration with
\$50 refundable credit card deposit

General Registration
valid after August 14, 2026

Hoag MD/DO: **\$200**

Non-Hoag MD/DO: **\$400**

Non-Hoag PA, NP, RN: **\$200**

Hoag PA, NP, RN and all Fellows:

Complimentary registration with
\$50 refundable credit card deposit

Registration includes breakfast, lunch, refreshments, and Friday & Saturday receptions.

Parking

Daily valet parking: **\$47**

Daily self-parking: **\$27**

Conference attendees are responsible for vehicle parking charges.

Cancellations

3% Administrative cancellation fee applies to all cancellations.