



25TH DIGESTIVE DISEASES OF THE CARIBBEAN



**CELEBRATING HALF
A CENTURY OF GI
AND HEPATOLOGY
ADVANCES
AND INNOVATION**

Sheraton Convention Center
March 5-8, 2026



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FACULTY:

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University School of Medicine
Brenda and Marshall B. Brown Master
Clinician in Innovation and Discovery
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Nitya Raj, MD

Vice Chair, Quality Assurance, Department of
Medicine
Medical Site Director, Laurence S.
Rockefeller Outpatient Pavilion at 53rd
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Center

Aatur D. Singhi, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Pathology Division of
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Uzma D. Siddiqui, MD, MASGE

Professor of Medicine
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Norah Terrault, MD, MPH, FAASLD

Professor of Medicine
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Neil Kaplowitz Chair in Liver Diseases
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Lisa VanWagner MD, MSc, FAST, FAHA, FAASLD

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Jessica Widmer, DO

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LOCAL FACULTY:

Marcia Cruz Correa MD, PhD, FAAAS, AGAF, FASG

Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry
UPR School of Medicine
San Juan, PR

Nelson Valentín, MD, MSc

Neurogastroenterologist
Manatí, PR

Kathia Rosado, MD

GI Pathologist
Hato Rey Pathology
San Juan, PR



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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM: THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

6:00 PM Registration and Welcome Reception

DDC'2026 Keynote Lecture:

7:00 PM Where do We Stand in Hepatitis C Eradication? HCV: 25 years of history
Dr. Norah Terrault

8:00 PM Dinner

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

7:00 AM Registration /Breakfast/ Exhibit Hall

Esophageal and Gastric Neoplasia

8:05 AM **What's New with Barrett's Esophagus in 2026** - Dr. Amitabh Chak

8:35 AM **Gastric Intestinal Metaplasia; Deciphering the Maze**
Dr. Arnaldo Riquelme Pérez

9:05 AM **Gastric and Proximal Small Bowel Neuroendocrine Tumors** - Dr. Nitya Raj

9:35 AM **Controversies and Pitfalls in Barrett Esophagus, Gastric Neoplasia, and Celiac Disease; A Pathologist's Perspective** - Dr. Kathia Rosado

10:05 AM Q & A

10:15 AM Break/Exhibit Hall

Pancreatic Malignancy and New Challenges in Diagnosis and Management

10:45 AM **From Dismal to Optimal- Strategies to Improve Detection of Early Pancreatic Cancer** - Dr. Uzma Siddiqui

11:15 AM **The Holy Grail of Pancreatic Cysts and Cancer; Is Molecular Testing the Answer?** - Dr. Aatur Singhi

11:45 AM **Management of Early Pancreatic Cancer: Current Standards and Evolving Strategies** - Dr. Uzma Siddiqui

12:15 PM Lunch/Exhibit Hall

1:15 PM **Past, Present, & Future of ERCP** - Dr. Jessica Widmer

Update in IBD and Duodenal Neoplasia

1:45 PM **IBD in Special Population: Females and the Elderly** - Dr. Aline Charabaty

2:15 PM **Management of Non-ampullary Duodenal Adenomas** - Dr. Jessica Widmer

2:45 PM **New IBD Therapies: What is in the Pipeline and How Can We Best use this Information in our Practice?** - Dr. Aline Charabaty

3:15 PM Break/ Exhibit Hall

Motility Disorders of GI

3:45 PM **Multimodality Evaluation of Swallowing Disorders and Dysphagia**
Dr. Nelson Valentín



The Colon Conundrum

5:00 PM Meeting Adjourn

1:30 PM **Poster Presentations**

11:45 AM Closing Remarks



CREDIT DESIGNATION - The Ponce Medical School Foundation, Inc designates this education activity for a maximum of **16 Category 1 Credits™**. Health should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



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SOCIAL EVENTS

**@ the 25th Digestive
Diseases of the Caribbean**

Thursday March 5, 2025

Welcome Reception & Dinner

Friday March 6, 2026

10th DDC Wine Fest

Saturday March 7, 2026

25th Anniversary Gala

Featuring:
Joseph Fonseca &
Cuenta Regresiva



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UPDATE IN GI NURSING

March 6, 2025 • Sheraton Convention Center
Continuing Education Proposal for GI Nurses

FACULTY:

Veroushka Ballester, MD, MS, AGAF

Gastroenterologist & GI Oncologist
Subspecialist / Assistant Professor in
Medicine / University of Puerto Rico School
of Medicine / San Juan, PR

Javier Cerra, MD

Interventional Gastroenterologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine Ponce
Health Sciences University, Ponce, PR

Kermit Richiez, MD

Gastroenterologist / President – Puerto Rico
Gastroenterology Association

Loscar Santiago, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine
University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine
San Juan, PR

Doris H. Toro, MD, AGAF, FACP, FACP

Professor of Medicine
University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine
Training Program Director, GI Fellowship,
Chief of Medicine VA Caribbean Healthcare
System, San Juan, PR

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM:

7:30 AM Registration / Breakfast - Exhibition Hall

8:30 AM **Welcome Message** - Dr. Karla Amaral, MD

8:35 AM **ACG Clinical Guidance: Diagnosis and Management of
Eosinophilic Esophagitis** - Dr. Loscar Santiago

9:30 AM **ACG Clinical Guideline: Treatment of Helicobacter Pylori**
Dr. Doris Toro

10:30 AM Break

11:00 AM **ACG Clinical Guideline for the Diagnosis and
Management of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease**
Dr. Javier Cerra

11:45 PM **Colon Cancer Screening and Surveillance of Colon
Polyps** - Dr. Veroushka Ballester

12:30 PM **Quality Indicators for Colonoscopy** - Dr. Kermit Richiez

1:15 PM **Q&A**



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SPONSORSHIP STATEMENT - This activity is jointly sponsored by The Ponce School of Medicine and Sociedad Puertorriqueña de Asistentes de Gastroenterología.

CREDIT DESIGNATION - The Ponce School of Medicine submitted to the Nursing Board (ORCPS) for accreditation of this educational activity for a maximum of **4.5 AMA Category 1 Credits™** subject to approval.



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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

HOTEL RESERVATION: Congress participants can book hotel rooms at a special rate of \$259, plus resort fees, and taxes. Individual reservations can be made directly with Marriott reservations 1-866-932-7269, directly with the Hotel 787-993-3500 or group reservations website.

CONGRESS REGISTRATION FEE:

	BEFORE JAN 15, 2026	AFTER JAN 15, 2026
Congress Registration fee for APG Members * (2026 dues paid)	\$425.00	\$450.00
Congress Registration fee for Non-Members Physicians *	\$525.00	\$575.00
GI Nursing Symposium **	\$125.00	\$125.00
25th Anniversary Gala for members:	\$75.00 pp	
25th Anniversary Gala for non-members:	\$125.00 pp	

* Physician registration includes a CME Certificate, continental breakfasts, coffee breaks, lunches, and access to the Thursday Reception, Dinner, and Friday Wine Fest. Please note, the 25th Anniversary Gala is not included in the congress registration fee

** Nurse registration includes CE Certificate / Continental breakfast and lunch

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

RIVS Marketing (787)-548-0047 or

EMAIL: apg@rivsmarketing.com