

# DDC



## **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:

### **Amitabh Chak, MD, MS, MASGE**

Professor of Medicine and Oncology  
Case Western Reserve University  
University School of Medicine  
Brenda and Marshall B. Brown Master  
Clinician in innovation and Discovery  
University Hospitals; Cleveland Medical  
Center, Cleveland, OH

### **Aline Charabaty, MD, AGAF, FACC**

Professor of Medicine  
University of Maryland School of Medicine  
Director of the IBD Center  
University of Maryland Medical Center  
Baltimore, MD

### **Leticia Moreira, MD, PhD**

Professor of Medicine  
Gastroenterology Department  
Hospital Clinic  
Barcelona, España

### **Andrew J. Muir, MD, MHS**

Professor of Medicine & Chief, Division of  
Gastroenterology Duke University Health  
System Durham, NC

### **Anjana Pillai, MD**

Professor of Medicine & Surgery  
Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition  
Section  
Department of Medicine University of  
Chicago, Chicago, IL

### **Arnoldo Riquelme Pérez, MD, MmedEd**

Profesor titular, Departamento de  
Gastroenterología  
Jefe, Departamento de Ciencias de la Salud,  
Facultad de Medicina  
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile  
Santiago, Chile

### **Nitya Raj, MD**

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

### **Aatur D. Singhi, MD, PhD**

Associate Professor of Pathology Division of  
Anatomic Pathology University of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, PA

### **Uzma D. Siddiqui, MD, MASGE**

Professor of Medicine  
Director of the Center for Endoscopic  
Research and Therapeutics &  
Advanced Endoscopy Training Program  
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

### **Norah Terrault, MD, MPH, FAASLD**

Professor of Medicine  
Chief, Division of GI and Liver  
Neil Kaplowitz Chair in Liver Diseases  
Research, Keck School of Medicine of USC  
Los Angeles, CA

### **Lisa VanWagner MD, MSc, FAST, FAHA, FAASLD**

Associate Professor of Medicine & Director  
of Clinical Research  
Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical  
Center, Dallas, TX

### **Jessica Widmer, DO**

Associate Professor  
Department of Medicine  
NYU Grossman Long Island School of  
Medicine  
Chief, Division of Gastroenterology &  
Program Director, Advanced Endoscopy  
Fellowship Program  
NYU Langone Hospital, Long Island, NY

## 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





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### The Colon Conundrum

- 4:05 PM **Colonoscopy vs Non-invasive Test in Colorectal Cancer Screening**  
Dr. Leticia Moreira
- 4:20 PM **Genetic and Molecular Biomarkers in the Evaluation of Colorectal Neoplasia** - Dr. Marcia Cruz-Correa
- 4:40 PM **Serrated Polyps' Clinical Significance and Detection Challenges**  
Dr. Leticia Moreira
- 5:00 PM Meeting Adjourn

## SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026

7:00 AM CME Registration / Breakfast / Exhibit Hall

### Cutting-Edge Approaches to Liver Diseases: From Autoimmune Disorders to Transplantation

- 8:15 AM **New Therapies for Autoimmune Cholestatic Liver Diseases**  
Dr. Andrew Muir
- 8:45 AM **Innovations in Liver Transplant Oncology: Can We Transplant Metastatic Colorectal Cancer?** - Dr. Anjana Pillai
- 9:15 AM **MASH from Cardiovascular Perspective** - Dr. Lisa VanWagner
- 9:45 AM **When to Treat Immune Tolerant HBV?** - Dr. Norah Terrault
- 10:15 AM Break / Exhibit Hall

### Tumor Board

- 10:45 AM **Tumor Board (Expert Panel)**  
Moderators: Dr. José Rivera & Dr. Marcia Cruz-Correa  
Panel: Dr. Andrew Muir, Dr. Arnaldo Riquelme, Dr. Leticia Moreira, Dr. Amitabh Chak
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:30 PM **Poster Presentations**

## SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

- 9:00 AM CME Registration & Breakfast
- 9:30 AM **Oral Research Presentations** - Dr. Juan Tomasini Clinical Research Award
- 10:00 AM **GI Case Presentations** - Moderator: Dr. Karla Amaral
- 11:45 AM Closing Remarks



**PONCE**  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
PONCE MEDICAL SCHOOL FOUNDATION, INC.

Education (ACCME), Provider's No. 0007249, to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The Ponce Medical School Foundation, Inc is accredited by the Puerto Rico Board of Licensing and Medical Disciplines, provider's No. 016-DC26-JLDM.

**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.

**SPONSORSHIP STATEMENT** - This activity is sponsored by The Ponce Medical School Foundation, Inc. and Asociación Puertorriqueña de Gastroenterología.

**ACCREDITATION STATEMENT** - This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the Ponce Medical School Foundation, Inc., and the Asociación Puertorriqueña de Gastroenterología. The Ponce Medical School Foundation, Inc is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), Provider's No. 0007249, to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The Ponce Medical School Foundation, Inc is accredited by the Puerto Rico Board of Licensing and Medical Disciplines, provider's No. 016-DC26-JLDM.



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## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

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

**Thursday March 5, 2026**

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, 2026 • 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](mailto:apg@rivsmarketing.com)