

DDC



25TH DIGESTIVE DISEASES AT THE CARIBBEAN

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

Sheraton Convention Center
March 5-8, 2026

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WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great enthusiasm that we commemorate the **25th DDC in San Juan, Puerto Rico**. This historic event invites us to reflect on the contributions of the many men and women of science who have made this organization a powerful and essential engine of knowledge for its members and colleagues. Science moves forward not through solitary effort, but through shared insight. We remain in perpetual debt to all the professionals who, over the past 50 years, have accepted the invitation to participate as speakers in this program. Many of them have become our collaborators, friends, and even family—but above all, they have become changemakers in our clinical practice, research endeavors, and service to our patients.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Scientific Committee and the Organizing Committee for developing a superb program featuring world-renowned experts in gastroenterology and hepatology, while preserving the intellectual rigor and excellence that have characterized this meeting for the past twenty-five editions. We must also recognize the contributions of all colleagues who have served on previous organizing committees throughout these five decades. Your altruistic efforts and selfless dedication, often carried out behind the scenes, are now part of the enduring history of Puerto Rican medicine.

This is also a moment to acknowledge the essential role of our members. It is your continued and passionate support that has made the DDC a singular scientific achievement. In these challenging times for science and medicine, your steadfast commitment will ensure the continuity and vitality of this public-spirited endeavor.

To our young graduates and fellows, we extend a particularly heartfelt invitation to join this Association and make it your professional home. You represent the future of gastroenterology and hepatology in Puerto Rico, and your curiosity, talent, and commitment to excellence are essential for the continued growth of our discipline. Within this community you will find mentorship, collaboration, lifelong learning, and the opportunity to shape the next chapters of our shared history. We encourage you to take an active role, bring forward your ideas, and allow this Association to accompany you in the development of a meaningful and impactful career in service of our patients and our country.

Finally, I wish to honor all our previous presidents who, in their respective moments, humbly accepted the responsibility of guiding the Asociación Puertorriqueña de Gastroenterología with energy, knowledge, leadership, and vision. Many of you continue to serve as my mentors, intellectual guides, and sources of profound pride and admiration. I look forward to greeting you in the coming days as we continue to build strong professional networks and lasting memories together.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JR' or similar initials.

DR. JOSÉ RIVERA-ACOSTA

President

Puerto Rican Gastroenterology Association



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25TH DIGESTIVE DISEASES AT THE CARIBBEAN

WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE OUR PAST PRESIDENTS...

Dr. Ramón Fernández Sifre

Dr. Federico Hernández Morales

Dr. José Roberts

Dr. Filiberto Colón Rodríguez

Dr. Adam Nigaglioni

Dr. Carlos Rubio

Dr. José Manach

Dr. Juan Tomasini

Dr. Acisclo M. Marxuach

Dr. Juan Colón Pagán

Dra. Esther Torres

Dr. Pedro Lorenzi

Dr. Manuel Santini

Dr. Juan Zaiter

Dr. Wilmer Rodríguez

Dr. Wilfredo Pagani

Dr. Joham Senior

Dr. Cristóbal Gómez

Dr. Rafael Medina

Dr. Rafael Mosquera

Dr. Roberto Casanova

Dra. Marcia Cruz Correa

Dra. Suzette Rivera

Dr. Víctor Carlo

Dr. Iván Antúnez

Dr. Carlos Micames

Dr. Federico Rodríguez

Dr. Kermit Richiez

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FACULTY:

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School of Medicine
Brenda and Marshall B. Brown Master
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Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
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Jefe, Departamento de Ciencias de la Salud,
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25TH DIGESTIVE DISEASES AT THE CARIBBEAN

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 **CME Registration /Breakfast/ Exhibit Hall**

Esophageal and Gastric Neoplasia Moderator: **Dr. Rafael Medina-Prieto**

8:00 AM Welcome - **Dr. José Rivera Acosta**

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. Arnoldo 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 Moderator: **Ricardo Marrero, MD**

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 Moderator: **Dr. Suzette Rivera**

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**

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FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026 (CONT.)

3:15 PM **Break/ Exhibit Hall**

Motility Disorders of GI
Moderator: Dr. José Muñoz

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

The Colon Conundrum
Moderator: Dr. Veroushka Ballester

4:05 PM Colonoscopy vs Non-invasive Testing Colorectal Cancer Screening
Dr. Leticia Moreira

4:20 PM Genetics 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
Moderator: Dr. Bárbara Rosado

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**

10:45 AM **Tumor Board**
Moderators: Dr. José Rivera & Dr. Marcia Cruz-Correa
Panel: Dr. Anjana Pillai, Dr. Arnaldo Riquelme, Dr. Leticia Moreira, Dr. Amitabh Chak, Dr. Miguel Colon Donate, Dr. Juan del Rio, Dr. Kathia Rosado, Dr. Carlos Micames, Dr. Jorge Sánchez Vivaldi

12:15 PM **Lunch**

1:30 PM **Poster Presentations**

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

9:00 AM CME Registration & Breakfast

Moderator: Dr. Karla Amaral

9:30 AM **Oral Research Presentations**
Dr. Juan Tomasini Clinical Research Award

10:00 AM GI Case Presentations

11:30 AM Closing Remarks



DDC

25TH DIGESTIVE DISEASES AT THE CARIBBEAN

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



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