World Gastroenterology Organisation
Global Guardian of Digestive Health. Serving the World.

Meet the 2026-2027 WGO President, President-Elect, and Governing Council

It is with great pride and excitement that WGO announces its new leadership for the 2026-2027 term, elected during the General Assembly meeting held in Melbourne, Australia, in September 2025.



Professor Carolina Olano, President

Dr. Carolina Olano, MD, MSc (Ed), is Professor of Gastroenterology and Director of the Department of Gastroenterology at the Universidad de la República (UDELAR), in Montevideo, Uruguay. As WGO's second female president, she is the first woman from the Americas region to hold the position. With special interests in intestinal diseases and medical education, she brings to the role both deep expertise and a strong commitment to WGO's emphasis on educational programs.

Throughout her many years of volunteering with WGO, Dr. Olano has held several roles within the organization, including Secretary General, Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, Train the Trainers faculty member, and member of the IBS and Celiac Disease guidelines task forces. Her broad experience across WGO's program areas has provided her with unique insight into the organization and has guided the development of the four pillars that define her term: Belonging, Excellence, Sustainability, and Transparency (BEST).

Dr. Olano received Fellow status from the American Gastroenterological Association in 2016 and the Rome Foundation in 2022. She is a member of the Rome V Overlap Working Team (Rome Foundation) and the International Relationships Committee of the Pan-American Gastroenterology Organisation. Dr. Olano also serves as co-editor of *Endoscopy International Open* and a member of the *Nature Reviews Gastroenterology and Hepatology* journal advisory committee. She has held several leadership positions in the Uruguayan Society of Gastroenterology, including President, Secretary, and President of

International Affairs.

In her inaugural address, Dr. Olano reflects on the honor of being named president with gratitude, writing, "I begin this journey with profound respect for the distinguished leaders who have guided WGO over the years, and with appreciation for the unwavering dedication of our Governing Council, our member societies, our global partners, and the countless colleagues and volunteers who have built and sustained this remarkable organization." Click here to read her full message.



Professor Vivek Kaul, President-Elect
Dr. Vivek Kaul, MD, FACG, FASGE, AGAF, NYSGEF, is Professor of Medicine in the Gastroenterology & Hepatology Division at the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, NY, USA and brings a distinguished record of clinical expertise, leadership, scholarship, and service to the global gastroenterology community. His clinical, research, and medical education efforts are focused on Therapeutic Endoscopy, Barrett's/Esophageal cancer, and Pancreaticobiliary disease. He is a PI or co-investigator for several national and international trials in endoscopy and pancreatic and esophageal disease, including NIH funded trials.

Dr. Kaul has served in leadership roles in several gastroenterology and endoscopy professional societies within the United States (ACG, AGA, ASGE). Most recently, he served as Secretary General for WGO and has been a member of the WGO Governing Council, and the Executive and Finance Committees. He is past chair of the WGO Endoscopy Committee and is a member of the Climate Change Committee. He has contributed to several WGO initiatives over the years, including mentorship programs, TTT workshops, and World Congresses of Gastroenterology. In addition, Dr. Kaul has also helped develop several new global collaborative partnerships centered around education, training, and professional development in gastroenterology.

As President-Elect, Dr. Kaul will work closely with WGO President Dr. Carolina Olano and the WGO Governing Council and Executive Committee to advance WGO's mission of promoting digestive health worldwide through education, training, and advocacy.

With a career dedicated to improving gastrointestinal care and fostering international collaboration, Dr. Kaul's vision aligns with WGO's commitment to equity, excellence, and global partnership. "I am very humbled and honored to be able to serve in this role and will do everything I can to further the legacy and missions of the WGO with the help and

goodwill of our incredibly talented colleagues on the WGO team and around the world," said Kaul.

WGO congratulates Drs. Olano and Kaul on their well-deserved appointments and looks forward to their leadership in helping shape the future of gastroenterology around the world.

Please join us in welcoming the members of the 2026-2027 WGO Governing Council:



Past President and Chair of Nominations Committee
Professor Geoffrey Metz
Australia



Secretary General
Professor Anita Afzali
USA



Treasurer and Chair of Finance Committee
Professor Kaichun Wu
China



Director At-Large
Professor Dan Dumitrascu
Romania



Chair, Climate Change Committee
Professor Anahita Sadeghi
Iran



Chair, Education Committee
Professor Kelly Burak
Canada



Chair, Endoscopy Committee
Professor Nazish Butt
Pakistan



Chair, Hepatology Committee
Professor Alice Lee
Australia



Chair, IBD Committee
Professor Susana Lopes
Portugal



Chair, Media and Community Engagement Committee
Professor Tony Tham
Ireland



Chair, Train the Trainers Committee
Professor Wojciech Marlicz
Poland



Chair, Training Centers Committee
Professor Luis Carlos Sabbagh
Colombia



Chair, Young GI Committee
Professor Georgiana-Emmanuela Gîlcă-Blanariu
Romania