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Media Contact:

Gina Steiner, MS

gsteiner@asge.org

630-570-5635

312-318-3129 during DDW

New Association for Bariatric Endoscopy Promotes Education and Best Practices in Endoscopic Therapies for Weight Loss

DOWNERS GROVE, Ill. -- The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), building on its sustained growth and emergence as the leader in advancing patient care through excellence and innovation in endoscopy, announces the launch of a new organization, the Association for Bariatric Endoscopy (ABE). ABE, a Division of ASGE, is dedicated to promoting the safe and effective integration of endoscopic bariatric therapies (EBTs) into practice. The first ABE Annual Meeting takes place on Friday, May 20, 2016 in San Diego as GI experts gather for Digestive Disease Week.

With leadership from members of ASGE's Bariatric Endoscopy Special Interest Group and Bariatric Endoscopy Task Force, ABE was established to provide its members with state-of-the-art information, education and practice support related to endoscopic bariatric therapies that improve the health and wellness of patients with obesity.

With the approval of two new intragastric balloon devices earlier this year, the field is growing and offers new, minimally invasive options for patients who may not be good candidates for (or may not be ready for) weight loss surgery.

The new association is located alongside the ASGE Institute for Training and Technology, a state-of-the-art medical training facility located in Downers Grove, Ill. ABE is led by Christopher Thompson, MD, MSc, FASGE, who is Director of Therapeutic Endoscopy at Brigham and Women's Hospital, an Associate Professor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School, and a researcher in the field of bariatric endoscopy. In addition, the ABE Advisory Board includes top experts in the field, including gastroenterologists with medical bariatric expertise, researchers in the field of weight loss therapies, and surgical thought leaders.

More than one-third of adults in the U.S. are considered obese, and about 1 in 20 have extreme obesity. Treatment options range from diet and lifestyle therapy to surgery. Bariatric endoscopic

procedures offer a less invasive option compared with surgery, and they are provided in a multidisciplinary setting that includes psychological, nutritional and lifestyle support.

According to Dr. Thompson, “Gastrointestinal endoscopists have the training to expertly and safely apply these devices, monitor their patient’s condition throughout the months of therapy, and bring the therapy to a successful conclusion. In collaboration with obesity specialists, nutritionists, psychologists and other members of the healthcare team, endoscopists have a key role in the latest approaches to weight loss through EBTs.”

More than 425 experts in gastrointestinal endoscopy have joined ABE since its launch in October 2015. The ABE Advisory Board has planned a series of courses, webinars and other educational offerings to support the safe and effective use of EBTs, including a half-day course at its annual meeting on May 20. The group also will help its members to effectively manage their practices for maximum support of patients with obesity, including multidisciplinary approaches that address the full range of physical and psychological needs of the patient. ABE will join with ASGE in continuing to provide the latest research and guidelines related to endoscopic bariatrics.

“It’s exciting for our members to be playing a role in improving patients’ lives in this way, and we look forward to working collaboratively with other societies who care for these patients moving forward,” said Dr. Thompson.

The ABE Advisory Board members are:

Christopher Thompson, MD, MSc, FASGE (Chair)
Barham Abu Dayyeh, MD, MPH
Brian Dunkin, MD
Manoel Galvao Neto, MD
Victoria Gomez, MD
Sreenivasa Jonnalagadda, MD, FASGE
Nitin Kumar, MD
Vivek Kumbhari, MD
Michael Larsen, MD
Rahul Pannala, MD, MPH
Marvin Ryou, MD
Shelby Sullivan, MD
Erik Wilson, MD

ASGE President, 2015-16: Douglas O. Faigel, MD, FASGE
ASGE President, 2016-17: Kenneth R. McQuaid, MD, FASGE

For more information: www.bariendo.org

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