



WGO Young Members Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2026

Meeting via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87081037700>

The primary aims of the WGO Young Members Committee is to bring together a committee of young Gastroenterologists, Hepatologists and Endoscopists from different fields of expertise, who will work together with WGO to identify and manage the key issues affecting the specialty. The focus of the committee will be on advancing international collaboration amongst young Gastroenterologists, Hepatologists and Endoscopists in education, research, and training. The Young Members Committee will aim, to regularly submit topics of interest for consideration to WGO for World Congresses and interim meetings.

Chair: Georgiana Gîlcă-Blanariu, Romania

Vice Chair: Wai Kay Seto, Hong Kong

Attendees:

Radu Alexandru Fărcaș (RAF) Romania,
Enrik John T. Aguila (EA) Philippine,
Burcu Gürbüz (BG) Turkey,
Yana Nikiforova (YN) Ukraine,
Ren Mao (RM) China,
Andrés Martín Gutiérrez Moreira (AM) Uruguay,
Jimil Shah (JS) India

Luis Raúl Valdovinos García (LVG) Mexico,
Uyen Pham-Phuong Vo (UV) Vietnam,
Chalapathi Rao Achanta (CA) India,
Luis Correia Gomes (LCG) Portugal,
Oliver Tavabie (OT) United Kingdom,
Talat Khurshid (TK) Pakistan,
Apichat Kaewdech (AK) Thailand

Regrets:

Alexandra Ginesta Frings (AGF) Chile,
Muhammad Firhat Idrus (MI) Indonesia,
Maria De Los Angeles Daca Alvarez (MA) Spain,
Juan Sebastián Peinado Acevedo (JPA) Colombia,
Nabila Elgazzar (NE) Egypt,

Farhana Kayani (FK) Pakistan,
Marianela Bedini (MB) Argentina,
Andrea Carlin Ronquillo (ACR) Peru,
Farah Kassamali (FK) United States,
Harold Eduardo Benites Goñi (HBG) Peru,

Staff Liaison: Maria Segura (MS) & Marissa Lopez (ML)

- Welcome** – GGB opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and initiated a round of introductions, inviting each committee member to briefly introduce themselves, their background, and their role or interests within the Young GI Committee Meeting
- Review and approval of minutes from March**
The minutes from the previous meeting held on March 6, 2026, were reviewed and formally approved by the committee.
- WCOG2026India- New Delhi-**
Hot Topic – World Café- Flash sessions- The group discussed plans for the World Congress in New Delhi, requesting attendees to confirm their participation and willingness to present on Young GI career development during the World Café sessions. Dr. Rao Chalapati, Dr. Jimil Shah, and Dr. Luis Raúl Valdovinos García confirmed their attendance, volunteered to host, and agreed to deliver presentations. Young GI's will conduct "mini flash sessions" during the World Café, scheduled in session breaks. These will consist of short presentations (5–7 slides, ~10 minutes each). The total number of sessions will depend on the number of volunteers attending the Congress and willing to contribute, with an estimated 3–4 presentation slots, subject to final program approval. The group agreed to refine proposed topics into specific, well-defined session proposals, including clear session titles and finalized presentation topics, prior to coordination with the scientific committee. Proposed thematic areas include: **Endoscopy, Young GI perspectives, Career Development , Use of AI in Gastroenterology Training.** Participants emphasized the importance of focused, practical, and actionable topics. Final speaker assignments will be determined based on confirmed slots and volunteer availability.

Presentation Topics mentioned by Committee Members:

- Career development for Young GI's - How to navigate your early career in GI

- Mentor– Mentee relationship
- Managing burnout in clinical practice
- Managing on-call challenges
- Early career navigation in gastroenterology
- Understanding evolving subspecialties - What are the subspecialties evolving and evolved subspecialties within GI
- How to do an effective collaboration within the department, intra-department, as well as across the globe.
- How to do a good publication of the research activities in different areas like the pedagogy or acute or endoscopic related are
- Fostering effective collaboration within and across institutions
- Strategies for successful research publication
- Strategies for early-career researchers to create international collaborations
- Ergonomic Strategies for Young Endoscopists - preventing spinal problems
- Handling adversity in endoscopy
- Overseas advanced training opportunities
- People skills and networking
- Tracks when starting your career in GI (academe, research, clinical),
- Overcoming impostor syndrome.
- One good practice also is to bring the experts (e.g., Prof. Reddy, etc.) into an interactive discussion with the young GIs.
- How to use AI effectively in your clinical practice or hazards of AI
- How to contribute to a journal as reviewer or editor
- Neuromodulators in Gastroenterology
- Proposing a training for early-career researchers on how to review journal manuscripts and participate in the editorial process.

Action: Interested participants to submit session title and willingness to actively deliver content at WCOG within 2 weeks and finalize proposals for the proposed session(s).

Update: Maria Rodriguez confirmed with Lizzie that it would be (4 sessions x3 days October 1-3) = 12 sessions. These slots will be divided among the three groups, with allocation for participation by Young GI members, MACE and ISG. Depending on the interest, It could be (6) ten minute sessions or (4) 15 minutes mini flash sessions.

5. News You Can Use Opportunity: Young GIs are invited to join the “News You Can Use” editorial board. This involves writing a short article summary every 8 weeks. The goal is to show consistent contributions from young GIs. This would help justify creating a dedicated Young GI section (“corner”) in EWGN. Chair emphasizes that regular contributions are required first before requesting that dedicated space.

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| Issue 3 | o Content Deadline – 10 July 2026 |
| | o Publication Date – 09 September 2026 |
| Issue 4. | o Content Deadline – 09 October 2026 |
| | o Publication Date – 09 December 2026 |

Action: Volunteers should express interest and get connected with the Liaison and will get you connected with Communications Manager.

6. eWGN contributions- Many participants expressed interest during the meeting to contribute to eWGN with articles so that we can have a consistent contribution in the following months, so that we can see/ analyze whether we can support a dedicated Young GI in the spotlight/ Young GI highlights section in the future.

Action: item was also to send proposals for the contributions and mention to which issue they are able to contribute- deadline 1 month maximum for sending proposed titles and dates.

7. Open for Discussion/ New ideas/Other Initiatives: A proposal was raised to establish regular online academic activities (monthly or bi-monthly), such as webinars or workshops, led by the Young GI community. These would support teaching, knowledge sharing, and international collaboration in both clinical and translational research. It was noted that there is 1 webinar left but a finalized plan needs to get submitted and approved in order to fill that slot. Webinars will likely need to be pre-recorded due to time and technical constraints.

Action: Develop a complete webinar proposal: Need topic/title. Moderator and speakers Finalize proposal within 1 month (by July 10). Submit finalized plan to Elise Muniz (webinar coordinator)

Future Committee Meetings

There are two remaining online meetings this year, scheduled for September and December. At this time, planning efforts are focused on the September meeting. The Chair and Vice Chair will work on confirming the date, and a Doodle poll will be created and circulated by the Liaison to identify the most suitable date for participants.

Meeting adjourned: 9:08am