



World Gastroenterology Organisation

Global Guardian of Digestive Health. Serving the World.

WGO President's Letter

This is my last president's letter as my term ends at the General Assembly to be held in Brisbane during Gastro 2015.

It has been an enormous honor and privilege to have been WGO President over the last two years.

I have had the pleasure of working with a very dedicated group of colleagues on the Executive who have provided constant support and guidance. In addition the Governing Council is made up of individuals who share the vision as well as mission of WGO. I thank all for their support.

My deepest gratitude goes to Caley Mutrie and the staff in EDI for their support, work ethic, and dedication. We are very fortunate in WGO to have them support our activities.

WGO is changing and I hope that you, my colleagues, agree that it is changing for the better. I wish to list some of these changes as a tribute to the work of all of my colleagues who have helped in bringing them to fruition.

1. Twenty-three Training Centers encompassing all continents
2. A highly successful TTTs which is being produced in multiple languages
3. Outstanding Guidelines with the uniqueness of the cascade concept and translation in six languages
4. World Congresses every two years in partnership with our member societies
5. A Council of 12 incorporating the chairs of our major programs and an Executive who shall take us forward as a confident and proud organization
6. Annual meetings of the WGO Council of Chairs and committees and interest groups in conjunction with WGO sponsored congresses and NOT at DDW
7. Individual memberships, which will add value to the basic membership, enjoyed as a consequence of being a member of a member society but also affording membership to colleagues where there is no member society
8. A WGO journal made available electronically to those who chose to take up the added benefits of individual membership
9. Scholarships for trainees attending the WGO Training Centers
10. Funding for educational events at the Training Centers

I do believe that these changes which have been brought about in recent years shall sustain the organization well into the future.

Thank you for electing me as your President. I have the honor to have been the first surgeon to hold this position and the first from Australia.

WGO is a unique organization with an unsurpassed vision for the world of gastroenterology, i.e. to provide **equal access** to **high quality patient care** for digestive disorders on a **global scale**. I am very proud to have helped over my years with the organization in promoting this vision through helping establish a number of very effective educational programs.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Toouli'.

James Toouli
Emeritus Professor of Surgery
President, World Gastroenterology Organisation