Course Objectives
The 38th Annual Advances in Gastroenterology Conference will feature a multidisciplinary approach to the treatment and management of patients with both common, as well as critical, gastroenterology diseases presenting in the office of the gastrointestinal specialist, primary care practitioner, internist, surgeon, and nurse/nurse practitioner. Special emphasis will be placed on new approaches to prevention, diagnosis and management of *Clostridium difficile* colitis.

At the conclusion of this conference, participants should be able to:

**Integrate an evidence-based approach to the diagnosis and management of**
- esophageal and gastroduodenal disorders with emphasis on risks of PPI use, Barrett’s esophagus, dyspepsia and foreign bodies of the UGI tract.
- small bowel and colonic disorders, including updated patient and management strategies for irritable bowel syndrome, extraintestinal manifestations of IBD and anorectal disorders.
- hepatobiliary diseases, including non-invasive management of liver fibrosis, primary biliary cholangitis, liver resections, and hepatocellular carcinoma.
- patients undergoing endoscopic procedures, particularly endobariatrics, recurrent GI bleeding and management of antiplatelet and anticoagulants.
- *C. difficile* colitis, with emphasis on the emerging diagnostic, preventative and therapeutic approaches.

**Improve patient care and outcomes through**
- Analysis of updated strategies for developing a direct access colon cancer screening program and techniques in removing large colon polyps.
- Review and critique of relevant practice guidelines.
- Adopting strategies to integrate evidence based guidelines into practice.

**Assess their individual practice in light of the information and discussions during the course, and identify specific strategies to implement as part of a continuing improvement process for their practices.**