

SUNY Downstate's Digestive Disease Center Wins Recognition from National Standards Organization

The Digestive Disease Center at SUNY Downstate Medical Center has received the "Certificate of Recognition for Promoting Quality in Endoscopy" from the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE). ASGE is a national organization that sets standards of excellence in endoscopy through safety guidelines and the training of members.

The certificate is granted through ASGE's new Endoscopy Unit Recognition Program. To receive the certificate, endoscopy center staff must complete educational course work that includes improving patient satisfaction, endoscopy-related infections, endoscope reprocessing, designing and implementing a quality improvement program, training and credentialing, strategies for accreditation, and quality in sedation and monitoring.

The SUNY Downstate Digestive Disease Center, under the direction of Frank Gress, MD, professor of medicine and chief of gastroenterology and hepatology, was one of 56 endoscopy centers across the country to win recognition in this new program, and the first in Brooklyn. The center offers a full range of services, including consultations and office visits, upper endoscopy, colonoscopy, colorectal cancer screening, motility studies, 24-hour pH studies, capsule endoscopy, and treatment for Barrett's Esophagus, a condition that can result from prolonged gastro-esophageal reflux disease (GERD) and if left untreated may lead to cancer.

Dr. Gress is a pioneer in the development of diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopic ultrasound (EUS), a non-surgical, minimally invasive technique that is an extremely accurate non-surgical method of diagnosing and treating certain illnesses.

SUNY Downstate Medical Center, founded in 1860, was the first medical school in the United States to bring teaching out of the lecture hall and to the patient's bedside. A center of innovation and excellence in research and clinical service delivery, SUNY Downstate Medical Center comprises a College of Medicine, Colleges of Nursing and Health Related Professions, a School of Graduate Studies, a Graduate Public Health Program, University Hospital of Brooklyn, and an Advanced Biotechnology Park and Biotechnology Incubator.

SUNY Downstate ranks eighth nationally in the number of alumni who are on the faculty of American medical schools. More physicians practicing in New York City have graduated from SUNY Downstate than from any other medical school.

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