

ACG Obesity Initiative

Obesity: A Growing and Dangerous Public Health Challenge

Why Obesity?

The American College of Gastroenterology recognizes that the epidemic of obesity is a problem at the forefront of American public health concerns and considers it imperative that GI physicians engage in efforts to define new treatment options, refine existing approaches and enhance the management of associated complications. The growing epidemic of obesity is of particular relevance to gastroenterologists because of the clearly documented associations of obesity with a number of gastrointestinal disease risk factors and outcomes, including mortality rates and unfavorable risk profiles.

Why ACG and Obesity?

With a new appreciation for obesity as a disease and global well-being in mind, the American College of Gastroenterology has developed new tools to help physicians incorporate patient education on the GI risks of overweight and obesity. The College's primary objective in encouraging an enhanced focus on nutrition, metabolism and obesity is to bring the clinical and scientific expertise of GI physicians to bear in formulating solutions to the obesity epidemic – both at the national health policy level and in terms of advancing clinical practice.

The College invited a distinguished Task Force on Obesity to develop materials for both GI physicians and their patients. The College is grateful to the following physicians for their leadership and contributions to the work of the Obesity Task Force:

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Link to [Patient Obesity and Your Digestive Health](#). Do you know the risks?