

San José Training Center – WGO General Information

Location: San José, Costa Rica
Center Director: Dr. Herbert Burgos

Introduction:

The San José Training Center was inaugurated in March 2010. The Center is in the Gastro Clinica, where work in Gastroenterology began about 15 years before through the development of therapeutic techniques. Over the last 13 years focus has also been given to research to improve the accuracy and sensitivity in the diagnosis of gastrointestinal disease with the use of Image Enhanced Endoscopy. The current development of new technology in diagnostic and therapeutic Endoscopy increasingly challenges the practice of Gastroenterology. Advances in therapeutic Endoscopy have created a new approach to diseases that previously had only a surgical approach. Added to this aspect, the latest developments in diagnostic Endoscopy related to the use of High Resolution – Magnification Endoscopy and the application of Spectral Image Processing have taken diagnosis to a new era of histo-morphological interpretation of endoscopic findings.



This development creates an important knowledge gap between conventional Endoscopy and the new paradigms. The Endoscopy industry competes for better systems and new applications which drives the need to create a new language for interpretation and applications on therapy.

Through research, the Center seeks to disseminate the application of new techniques in the diagnosis of diseases of the GI tract, mainly related to detection of premalignant disease, inflammatory and infectious disease, and immunologic disease. In addition, the Center seeks to improve the classifications of premalignant and malignant disease. The Center has a special interest in inflammatory bowel disease and celiac disease, as these diseases are common in the local population. The Center has also recently developed interest in the documentation and implementation of monitoring in sedation, mostly those related to Capnography monitoring as a method to decrease sedation adverse events.

Goals and Objectives:

The main goals of the Center are the development of the histo-morphological interpretation data related mainly to the diagnosis of premalignant diseases and early cancer in the GI tract as well as the improvement of early detection of malignant disease mostly as premalignant condition to reduce the severe impact of this disease on patients and community and to reduce the economic impact that generates the treatment of advanced disease.

The main objective of the Center is the promotion of the highest standards in the practice of gastrointestinal Endoscopy with the implementation of new diagnostic technology, in developing countries on areas where access to high-quality training in gastroenterology is poorly developed.

The specific objectives are:

- The teaching of application of High-Resolution Magnification Endoscopy at the GI tract
- The application of Spectral imaging in Upper and Lower GI Endoscopy

- The training on interpretation of histo-morphological images
- The development of programs and strategies for screening of premalignant disease at the GI tract
- The creation of protocols in the therapeutic approach to findings
- The development of cohort screening programs to reduce the impact of the cost of treatment by preventative measures.
- To tailor the screening programs based on the accuracy and sensitivity of these techniques.
- The application of Spectral imaging in Enteroscopy
- The teaching of newer techniques in Trans-Nasal Endoscopy
- The teaching of practice of sedation by non-anesthesiologists
- Research in anesthesia patient monitoring
- The application of Endosonography in the GI tract
- Capsule Endoscopy
- Research based activities to improve knowledge in these areas.

Facilities:

The WGO San José Training Center is located within Gastro Clinica as a new gastrointestinal Endoscopy center. The new facilities measure 500 square meters, composed of 5 endoscopy suites, a recovery area, an endoscope processing area, and conference rooms with live transmission in high definition from the Endoscopy suites.



The entire center measures some 4000 square meters and is designed as an ambulatory center for outpatient and ambulatory surgery, with other medical services such as a pharmacy, laboratory, radiological unit, and other specialties.

The faculty includes 7 GI specialists, 4 GI nurse assistants, 2 secretaries and administration.

The actual annual workload at the Center is approximately 5000 endoscopic procedures, but this number is expected to increase with the opening of the further 5 simultaneous Endoscopy suites.

Research carried out within the Center is done according to the Good Medical Practice protocols and supported mainly by the Center's own funds.

Teaching Facilities:

- A maximum of 10 trainees can undergo training simultaneously
- Accommodation is available for 20 students and 5 Faculty members.

Faculty and Staff

GI Specialists:

- Dr Herbert Burgos (Center Director)
- Dra Marcela Porras (Sub-director)
- Dr Jose Manuel Calvo
- Dr. Cesar Quirós
- Dr Federico Salom
- Dr. Gabriel Rodriguez

- Dr. Kenneth Ernest

Senior GI Specialists:

- Dr Edgar Izquierdo

Pathology Specialist

- Dr. Fernando Brenes Pino
- Dr. Eduardo Alfaro

Anesthesia Specialist

- Dr Floria Leiva
- Dr. Alfredo Ugalde
- Dr. Marcela Agudelo

Areas of Training:

The training is based on independent modules, with assisted live endoscopic procedures and video practices. Every module has a duration of one week for a total length of three months. The one week modules can be adapted to the needs of the participant. The main advantage of the modules is that the participant can choose the desired area of development.

The main modules are:

- Basic concepts in High Resolution magnification and Spectral images
- Application in esophageal disease
- Application in Upper GI diseases
- Application in Lower GI diseases
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Detection of premalignant disease
- Pathology applied in GI Diseases
- Design of cohort protocols related to Endoscopy in GI disease
- Endosonography in GI disease; Basic application (Auxiliary)
- Sedation by non-anesthesiologist; Applications (Auxiliary)
- Trans-Nasal Upper GI Endoscopy (Auxiliary)
- Double Balloon Enteroscopy (Auxiliary)
- Capsule Endoscopy (Auxiliary)

These areas of development will be covered through a variety of academic activities, such as specific workshops, and the training of doctors, nurses and health care workers according to specific requirements. Master Classes and Seminars in Endoscopy will introduce new techniques to places where they have not previously existed and will support the ongoing training of physicians and surgeons who have been trained in gastroenterology.

Trainee Application Process:

Applications should be submitted directly to the Center. In order to be considered for training at the Center, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Gastroenterology Specialist or Resident with at least 10 months of Endoscopic experience
- General MD with at least 1 year of endoscopic experience
- Recommendation from local national GI society or University

Application materials include:

- Application Form
- Certification of Recommendation from local national GI society or University
- Certification of Endoscopic Skills
- Curriculum Vitae

Further Academic Activities:

Trainees will be able to participate in the GI medical rounds with the Costa Rican Society of Gastroenterology as well as other Societies in the diffusion of new concepts in GI disease.

In addition trainees will be exposed to other health centers in order to gain an understanding of the health system in Costa Rica.

Endorsements:

The San José Training Center has been endorsed by

- The World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO)
- Costa Rican Society of Gastroenterology

Funding / Sponsorship:

Funding and sponsorship is currently received from the following sources:

- Gastro Clinica
- FUJI FILM Latin America

Philanthropic Endeavors:

Twenty percent of Endoscopy patients at the Center are treated free of charge.