



AWE Week 2026

June 27–30



Endoscopy Around the World

9th Annual Interventional Endoscopy Course

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[FREE](#)



UCSD Center for the Future of Surgery

19515 Gilman Dr. La Jolla CA 92093

In-person & Virtual

Program Description:

The Association of Women Endoscopists (AWE) is an organization whose mission is to inspire, empower, and advance women in the dynamic field of interventional endoscopy. Our organization aims to promote knowledge of recent and cutting-edge approaches in interventional GI. AWE accomplishes this goal through a variety of annual educational activities, including regional and international educational symposia, international medical outreach, and a comprehensive four-day educational event (AWE Week). These activities are supported by the University of California San Diego Medical Center, the Divisions of Gastroenterology at Hoag Hospital, and Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

AWE 2026 is focused on innovations in several exciting and complex areas in the field of endoscopy: 1) innovative interventional techniques in endoscopic ultrasound; 2) advances in luminal tissue resection; 3) novel endoscopic approaches to the management of GERD, metabolic diseases, and obesity; 4) endoscopic advances in pancreato-biliary endoscopy.

Accreditation Statement:

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of The University of California San Diego School of Medicine and The Association of Women Endoscopists (AWE). The University of California San Diego School of Medicine is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The University of California San Diego School of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of **6.5 MA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the participant to earn up to **6.5 MOC** points in the American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit participant completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABIM MOC credit.

Southern California Society of Gastroenterology Nurses & Associates (SCSGNA) is an approved and accredited provider by California BRN #02169 for **10 Continuing Education Units** for this program.



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Program Objectives

The objectives of the course are to educate physicians, GI fellows, nurses and allied health professionals on diagnosis and management strategies for complex gastrointestinal pathology. Patient selection, indications for intervention, advanced endoscopic and surgical options, and future device development and design will be discussed.

At the conclusion of this activity, participants will:

- Explain the advantages and disadvantages of advanced endoscopic techniques
- Explore innovations in endoscopic management of esophageal disease
- Leverage endoscopy in preventative context for diseases from GERD to cancer
- Become familiar with novel endoscopic approaches to GERD management
- Explore innovations in endoscopic ultrasound for application in endohepatology
- Become familiar with novel applications of lumen-apposing metal stents
- Explore role of endoscopic interventions in management of malignant gastrointestinal obstruction
- Become familiar with judicious use of fluoroscopy in ERCP
- Utilize advanced cannulation techniques for ERCP
- Explore the role of single-use duodenoscopes in the management of patients at high-risk for duodenoscope-associated infection
- Assess advances in cholangioscopy
- Become familiar with advances in biliary metal stenting
- Identify novel approaches to endoscopic mucosal resection and submucosal dissection
- Explore with various methods of endoscopic tissue closure
- Become familiar with endoscopic suturing
- Explain management of anticoagulation prior to routine endoscopic procedures
- Discuss strategies for endoscopic management of metabolic diseases

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Course Directors

Laurel L. Branch, MD

Mary Lee Krinsky, DO

Phoenix Nguyen, MD

Sonya Reicher, MD, FACP, FASGE

Advanced Endoscopy
Ochsner Clinic Foundation
New Orleans, LA USA

Clinical Professor of Medicine
Advanced Endoscopy
University of California, San
Diego

Medical Director
Advanced Endoscopy
Hoag Hospital Newport

Clinical Professor of Medicine
David Geffen School of Medicine UCLA
Chief, Division of Gastroenterology
Director of Endoscopy
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

Course Speakers

Kenneth J. Chang, MD, MASGE, FACP, AGAF, FAFS, FJGES

Executive Medical Director
Hoag Digestive Health Institute
James and Pamela Muzzy Executive Endowed Chair in GI
Cancer
Newport Beach, CA USA

Muhammad Hasan, MD

Medical Director
Center for Interventional Endoscopy
Advent Health
Professor of Medicine
University of Central Florida
College of Medicine
Orlando, FL USA

Andrew Giap, MD

Chief, Gastroenterology Orange County
Regional Chief, Gastroenterology SCPMG
Endoscopic Ultrasound, Biliary and Advanced Endoscopy
Anaheim, CA USA

Thomas Savides, MD

Distinguished Professor of Clinical Medicine
University of California, San Diego
San Diego, CA USA

Janak Shah, MD

Advanced Endoscopy
Gastroenterology Department Chair
Ochsner Clinic Foundation
New Orleans, LA USA

Uzma Siddiqui, MD

Professor of Medicine
University of Chicago
Director
Center for Endoscopic Research and Therapeutics
Director
Endoscopic Ultrasound and Advanced Endoscopy
Training
Chicago, IL USA

Rena Yadlapati, MD

Professor, Division of Gastroenterology
Medical Director, UCSD Center for Esophageal Diseases
Director, GI Motility Lab
Program Director, Advanced Esophageal Fellowship
University of California, San Diego
San Diego, CA USA

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Course Faculty

Rashmi Advani, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Director
System Integration for Advanced Endoscopy
Cedars Sinai Medical Center
Los Angeles, CA USA

Katherine Blevins, MD, PhD

Foregut and Bariatric Surgery
Hoag Hospital
Newport Beach, CA USA

Viktor E Eysselein, MD

Clinical Professor of Medicine
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
Associate Chief, Division of Gastroenterology
Director Advanced Fellowship Program
Harbor UCLA Medical Center
Torrance, CA USA

Jeanin Van Hooft, MD, PhD, MBA

Professor Gastroenterology
Chair of the Department of Gastroenterology and
Hepatology
Leiden University Medical Center
Leiden, Netherlands

Ravi Kankotia, MD

Therapeutic endoscopy
Hoag hospital
Newport Beach, CA USA

Woojin Kim, MD

Advanced Endoscopy
Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles Medical Center
Los Angeles, CA USA

Jennifer Kolb, MD, MS

Assistant Professor of Medicine
David Geffen School of Medicine at
UCLA Gastroenterology
West Los Angeles VA Center
Los Angeles, CA USA

Paul Korc, MD

Advanced Endoscopy
Medical Director
Endoscopy Unit Hoag Hospital
Hoag Hospital
Newport Beach, CA USA

Jennifer Phan, MD

Director of Bariatric Endoscopy
Hoag hospital
Irvine, CA USA

Carlos Robles-Medranda, MD, FASGE, AGAF

Director, Ecuadorian Institute of Digestive Diseases
Professor of Gastroenterology
Espiritu Santo University
Samborodon, Ecuador

Ara Sahakian, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
Keck School of Medicine of USC
Director of Endoscopy
Director of GI Service
Keck Hospital
Los Angeles, CA USA

Rabindra Watson, MD, FASGE

Associate Professor of Medicine
Director
Metabolic Health Program
Cedars Sinai Medical Center
Los Angeles, CA USA

Ming Ming X. Xu, MD

Interventional Gastroenterology Kaiser
Permanente West Los Angeles Medical Center
Los Angeles, CA USA

Endoscopy around the World 2026 - Course Schedule

Moderators: Mary Lee Krinsky DO, Phoenix Nguyen MD, Sonya Reicher MD

Saturday, June 27

In-person Lecture & Hands-On Experience at the Forefront of Endoscopy

8 AM—3 PM

Center for the Future of Surgery, San Diego, CA

7:30-8:00 am Breakfast & Introductions

Lectures (15 min)

8:00-10:15 am

Post-POEM GERD: Controlling the Burn

Rena Yadlapati, MD

Biliary stones: To lead or not

Janak Shah, MD

Recent advances in endoscopic treatment of GERD

Kenneth Chang, MD

Refining luminal tissue resection in 2026

Muhammad Hasan, MD

Gastrointestinal obstruction: endoscopic solutions in 2026

Thomas Savides, MD

EUS-guided gallbladder drainage: when and how

Uzma Siddiqui, MD

To Hold or Not to Hold? Anticoagulation Management in Routine Colonoscopy

Andrew Q. Giap, MD

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Moderators: Mary Lee Krinsky DO, Laurel Branch MD, Phoenix Nguyen MD, Sonya Reicher MD

10:15-10:30 am Break

10:30am-12:00 pm

What would you do: Call the expert

Panel: Rashmi Advani, Laurel Branch, Kenneth Chang, Andrew Giap, Muhammad Hasan, Thomas Savides, Janak Shah, Uzma Siddiqui, Rena Yadlapati

12:00-1:00 pm Lunch

Hot topics in Endoscopy

1:00-3:00 pm Hands-on Workshop

Hands-on ex vivo demonstrations may include:

Advances in cholangioscopy LAMS novel applications

Through-the-scope esophageal stent placement

G-POEM & Endoflip Impedance System

Endoscopic suturing

Spray cryotherapy

EUS-guided radiofrequency ablation

Advances in cannulation techniques

Transoral Incisionless Fundoplication (TIF)

ESD/EMR

Tissue closure

EUS liver biopsy & PPG

Full Thickness Resection (FTRD)

Sunday June 28

AWE Vietnam Live Case Discussions & Expert Insights

Virtual Session 2 (1 hour)

Panelists: Woojin Kim, Jennifer Kolb, Carlos Robles-Medranda, Ara Sahakian, Jeanin Van Hooft

Monday June 29

AWE Vietnam Case Presentation

Virtual Session 3 (1 hour)

Panelists: Woojin Kim, Jennifer Kolb, Carlos Robles-Medranda, Ara Sahakian, Jeanin Van Hooft

Tuesday June 30 Future of

Future of Pancreato-biliary endoscopy

Virtual Session 4 (1 hour)

Endoscopic Ultrasound: expanding diagnostic indications in 2026.

Speaker: Jeanin Van Hooft

AI in the management of pancreato-biliary diseases.

Speaker: Carlos Robles-Medranda