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## **From the Editor**

Dear colleagues:

As we nearing 2018, on behalf of the editorial board of the Turkish Journal of Gastroenterology, we wish you a happy new year 2018 and hope that the new year brings more peace, wealth, happiness, and more scientific developments. We are also expecting more qualified submissions to the Turkish Journal of Gastroenterology. Besides, the cover page and the article pages of the journal are re-designed for the first volume of the new year. We hope you to enjoy it.

The Turkish National Gastroenterology Week was held on December 1–6, 2017, in Antalya. Highly scientific activities were conducted. The Congress and Course Scientific secretaries, Prof. Dr. Dinç Dinçer and Prof. Dr. Fulya Günşar, respectively, wrote the highlights of the 34<sup>th</sup> Turkish National Gastroenterology Week for the Turkish Journal of Gastroenterology. They are mentioned below.

### **Highlights of the 34<sup>th</sup> Turkish National Gastroenterology Week**

The Turkish National Gastroenterology Week, which was organized by the Turkish Gastroenterology Society (Turkish Journal of Gastroenterology), was held on December 1-6, 2017, in Antalya. Also post-graduate course took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of December. During the Congress, in which approximately 900 people enrolled, endoscopic interventions were performed live from the Antalya Training and Research Hospital in parallel during the combined days, ultrasonography course, endoscopy course, joint meeting of internal diseases and gastroenterology, congress of gastroenterology nurses and technicians, basic life support, and motility course for nurses and technicians have also been realized in parallel sessions. Twelve of the 191 speakers of our Congress came

from foreign countries and 25 participants from foreign countries participated in the Congress; 71 oral presentations, 349 e-posters and 12 video presentations took place. Seventy-nine companies attended with the stand, and nine satellite symposia were held. Topics such as the endoscopic treatment of obesity, treatment of achalasia by POEM, ERCP, and endoscopic submucosal resection of gastrointestinal tumors were at sessions and also took place in the broadcast live demonstration. The other topics discussed by experts were recent developments in gastroesophageal reflux disease, inflammatory bowel disease, food allergies, microbiota, functional digestive system diseases, colon cancer, fatty liver, viral hepatitis, cirrhosis, liver cancer, and liver transplantation. For the first time in Turkey, endoscopic sleeve gastropasty was performed live by Reem z. Sharaiha which was watched by the participants. Other topics that were attractive among the participants were new diagnostic tests in functional esophageal diseases, therapeutic modulation of gut microbiota, and new endoscopic treatments in GERD. We would like to thank all those who contributed to the Congress. We received very positive feedback from the participants after the Congress in terms of both scientific and social programs held and we hope that the next year's Congress will be even better.

### **Highlights of the Courses of the 34<sup>th</sup> Turkish National Gastroenterology Week**

Two courses were held on the first day of the Congress. The title of the first course was "Diseases in which the diagnosis and treatments are controversial." The first topic was the treatment of dyspepsia with *Helicobacter pylori* eradication therapy. *H. pylori* eradication therapy has been recommended for dyspeptic patients according to many guidelines. It was mentioned that resistance to antibiotics is very important; therefore, the decision for



performing *H. pylori* eradication therapy had to be individualized according to the presence of symptoms or risk factors. Another controversial topic was the follow-up of patients with atrophic gastritis and intestinal metaplasia where endoscopic surveillance in these patients every three years was recommended. In this topic, ASGE's recommendation of suggesting endoscopic surveillance in patients with a family history of gastric cancer and high risk of ethnicity was highlighted. The other attractive topic was the treatment and follow-up of neuroendocrine tumors (NETs). It was mentioned the most common type of NETs was type 1, that gastrin levels were high in type 1 and type 2 NETS, and that the worst prognosis was in type 3 NETs. Endoscopic surveillance was recommended once a year in type 1 NETs, and gastric antral resection was suggested as the surgical option for multiple, recurrent tumors larger than >2 cm in type 1 NETs.

The other topic was anticoagulation in cirrhotic patients, which was recommended prophylactic anticoagulant treatments with low molecular weight heparin for the risk of portal vein thrombosis in cirrhotic patients, particularly in the transplant waiting list, after hepatic resections and splenic embolization. The title of the second course was "What is new in 2017." There were also famous international scientists as speakers for that course. The treatment and management of patients with primary biliary cholangitis and primary sclerosing cholangitis in 2017 were summarized according to the EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines.

New developments in functional gastrointestinal and inflammatory bowel and pancreatic diseases were discussed at a highly scientific level. Recent literature on endoscopic ultrasound was emphasized. The importance of the magnetic compression anastomosis technique was mentioned for difficult cases during ERCP. On Sunday, there were four mini-courses on inflammatory bowel diseases, acid peptic diseases, viral hepatitis B and C, and functional gastrointestinal diseases. They were very much interested. The new treatments of chronic hepatitis B on the horizon were summarized. The importance of microbiota was emphasized in inflammatory bowel disease and irritable bowel syndrome. The gray zone in inflammatory bowel diseases was revealed, and it was remarked that new studies are needed for individualized treatments based on new biomarkers. The course of experimental animal studies, which was very useful for young investigators, was held on Sunday afternoon. These courses attracted a lot of attention by the participants. As part of the organization committee, we are proud and happy to have arranged these useful courses. We would like to thank all speakers, chairmen, and participants of the courses.

Sincerely,

***Dinç Dinçer-Fulya Günşar***

*Scientific Secretary of the Congress Scientific Secretary of Courses*