

**Request for Applications
for Position of Editor,
*GI & Hepatology News***



American Gastroenterological Association
4930 Del Ray Ave.
Bethesda, MD 20814

In a world of information abundance, it's more important than ever for GI professionals to stay abreast of developments in the field. *GI & Hepatology News*, the official newspaper of the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), delivers this information in a one-stop resource that is timely and accessible, focusing on the needs of busy practitioners and physician investigators. To maintain the newspaper's success and to elevate it to new levels, the AGA is looking for a forward-thinking, enthusiastic individual who tracks breaking research and emerging trends to serve as its next editor. See below to learn more about *GI & Hepatology News* and what it takes to become the next editor.

What is *GI & Hepatology News*?

[*GI & Hepatology News*](#) is a monthly newspaper that covers cutting-edge clinical research, technological advances, health economics and policy updates from the fields of gastroenterology, endoscopy and hepatology. AGA members look to the newspaper as a primary source for the latest scientific and clinical developments and for ideas to enhance their clinical practice. *GI & Hepatology News* is also well known—it ranks high in readership recognition among GI publications.

What Do Readers Find in Each Issue?

A typical issue of *GI & Hepatology News* comprises hot-topic news categorized by endoscopy, GI oncology, IBD & intestinal disorders, liver disease, obesity, pancreas & biliary, practice management and upper GI. News stories are developed by our publishing partner, Frontline Medical Communications Inc, based on coverage of research findings and relevant major North American and selected international meetings.

Additional content includes coverage of AGA and AGA Foundation news and events; summaries and commentaries on articles published in the AGA journals; invited commentaries from relevant experts; a "Practice Management Toolbox" column with content invited by AGA's Practice Management and Economics Committee; and a bi-monthly "Perspectives" column, featuring pro/con debates invited by a section editor on the *GI & Hepatology News* board of editors. The newspaper also keeps its readers engaged by publishing special features such as image challenges, quick quizzes from the AGA Digestive Diseases Self-Education Program (DDSEP®), and highlights from the annual AGA Postgraduate Course and Presidential Plenary sessions featured at Digestive Disease Week (DDW)®.

[*The New Gastroenterologist*](#) (*TNG*) is a supplement to *GI & Hepatology News* and its content is overseen by an Editor-in-Chief whose appointment is separate from this request for applications. *TNG* publishes a quarterly "[In Focus](#)" column in *GI & Hepatology News*.

How is *GI & Hepatology News* Delivered?

The print version of the newspaper is published monthly and is delivered as a benefit to over 10,000 AGA members in North America.

To provide real-time access to news as it breaks, all *GI & Hepatology News* articles are published on a rolling basis on our [website](#). Readers can also access [online versions](#) of past print issues in PDF format.

Support for the Editor

Board of Editors

Up to six associate editors will help maintain the reputation and quality of the newspaper. Specifically, they will review stories related to their area(s) of expertise for accuracy, timeliness and pertinence, and provide commentary or suggest experts to comment on select, important stories. They will also suggest topics and/or meetings for coverage and will provide ongoing counsel to the editor and the staff regarding the content, policies, initiatives and direction of the newspaper. In addition, one associate editor will oversee the “Perspectives” section by suggesting topics and authors for future columns.

Editorial Offices

The editor will be fully supported by a permanent editorial office located at the AGA national headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland. The staff assists in the development, implementation and evaluation of new content, initiatives, policies and procedures. The editor will also collaborate with the editorial staff of Frontline Medical Communications, located in Rockville, Maryland, on matters related to content development/review, production, digital presence, marketing and new business opportunities.

The Successful Candidate

The successful candidate will have experience identifying and promoting newsworthy content, as well as excellent judgment that expands the outstanding reputation of the newspaper and AGA. Experience in medical, scientific or news-related publishing is required. Familiarity with the AGA and its priorities, activities and stances on important issues is ideal, preferably via past volunteer member experience with the Association. The editor must be able to devote sufficient time to newspaper matters and may not accept editorial appointments to competing publications during their tenure as editor. The successful candidate must demonstrate an outstanding record of academic achievement as evidenced by publications and professional activities. Board certification in gastroenterology and hepatology is required.

Expectations?

General Responsibilities

The editor of *GI & Hepatology News* will be tasked with the following general responsibilities:

1. Work cooperatively with the AGA, Frontline and the board of editors to establish and maintain the highest standards of quality for the content, integrity and appearance of the newspaper.
2. Ensure the relevancy of *GI & Hepatology News* to AGA’s clinician members and others interested in clinical aspects of GI. To help facilitate this, selecting one associate editor in private practice to review related content is required.
3. Maintain the fiscal integrity of *GI & Hepatology News* in cooperation with the AGA staff to achieve the financial objectives established by the AGA Institute Governing Board. These objectives will be accomplished under the operational authority and responsibility of the publications committee.
4. Engage the readership of the newspaper by providing direction for the editorial content and suggesting innovative ways to enhance the quality, delivery and impact of the newspaper.
5. Maintain the quality, efficiency and accuracy of the review process by directing the activities of the board of editors and editorial office staff.

Specific Responsibilities

To accomplish the general responsibilities, the editor will be assigned the following specific tasks:

1. Stay current with the latest news and research in the fields of gastroenterology, hepatology and endoscopy and suggest hot topics to be covered in *GI & Hepatology News*.
2. Review and rate approximately 20 potential articles (typically sent in batches of 3 – 4 at a time) each month. Articles need to be reviewed promptly—comments must be returned within one business day of receipt. The editor may also suggest specific associate editors to provide additional review and insight, or outside experts to be contacted for commentary. The editor will retain final authority over - and responsibility for - the content that is ultimately published.
3. Coordinate the activities of the board of editors, to include assigning articles related to their area(s) of expertise for review and ensuring that they complete their duties in a timely and appropriate manner.
4. Work with Frontline's editor to provide guidance on content (e.g., accuracy and appropriateness of headlines) and layout (e.g., organizing front page articles based on importance).
5. Review a proof of each issue and provide corrections within two business days.
6. Provide opinions regarding newspaper policies and procedures as needed.
7. Together with the AGA staff:
 - a) Ensure that editorial processes and policies are efficient, fair and enforced.
 - b) Establish specifications for the physical quality, style and appearance of the newspaper.
 - c) Suggest and evaluate creative ideas related to content (type and delivery).
 - d) Review select advertisements and sponsored supplements to ensure they align with the professional and educational reputation of the AGA.
8. Attend all publications committee meetings as an *ex-officio* member of the committee.
9. Lead the annual *GI & Hepatology News* board of editors meeting at DDW to review editorial operations, the publisher's report and advertising revenue and to discuss future initiatives.

The Term?

October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2026.

Reporting

To maintain the quality and fiscal viability of the newspaper, the editor will report to the AGA Institute publications committee. The committee will evaluate and approve proposed changes to *GI & Hepatology News's* mission, structure, format, finances or editorial philosophy. In some cases, the AGA Institute Governing Board must also approve such changes.

The editor will retain primary authority over all decisions regarding the content published in the newspaper. However, to preserve and protect its professional and educational reputation, the AGA Institute will have supervisory authority over the content and editorial policy of the newspaper.

Honorarium

The editor will receive an annual honorarium of \$7,500. The associate editors will each receive a personal honorarium for their services. Expenses such as AGA business travel and per diem will be reimbursed per AGA policy.

To apply

To apply, please submit the following:

1. A current curriculum vitae with relevant publishing-related activities highlighted.
2. A completed conflict of interest form.
3. A statement of views on the primary mission and audience(s) for *GI & Hepatology News*. This evaluation should include an assessment of the value of the newspaper to clinical researchers and practicing gastroenterologists.
4. An evaluation of *GI & Hepatology News*'s current content, organization, physical appearance and policies, along with recommendations for change, if any.
5. An evaluation for the current modes of content delivery and suggestions for new ones.
6. Names and descriptions of a proposed board of editors comprising associate editors (including at least one in private practice and a section editor to oversee the "Perspectives" column), along with their areas of interest and the institutions with which they are affiliated. It is vital that the board of editors reflects the makeup of the GI community. To that end, and to align with AGA's efforts around diversity, equity and inclusion, we strongly encourage you consider the gender, race, ethnicity, and geographic location of the individuals you select for your board. For more information on the demographic breakdown of the GI community contact Jillian Schweitzer, jschweitzer@gastro.org. The application should include letters of support/interest from the appointees that note their ability to quickly provide feedback on their assigned stories (typically within two business days). Please note that proposed associate editors must comply with the AGA's conflict of interest policy—that is, they cannot serve on the boards of editors of competing publications. Please take this into consideration when selecting associate editors.
7. Any other information you would like to include. Applicants are encouraged to contact *GI & Hepatology News*' managing editor to obtain data to inform their application.

A comprehensive application addressing all the foregoing items should be sent in a single PDF document via email to:

Jillian L. Schweitzer
Managing Editor, *GI & Hepatology News*
jschweitzer@gastro.org Tel: 301-272-1183

Deadline for receipt of applications is February 1, 2021.

All inquiries regarding this position are confidential.