

### **Johns Hopkins and AANP Lead Evidence-based Performance Improvement Initiative to Deliver Tangible Benefits in Constipation Treatment & Outcomes**

*Johns Hopkins & American Academy of Nurse Practitioners launch results-driven program to address doctors' performance gaps and improve patient care*

**NEW YORK CITY – October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008** – The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) today announced the launch of the Performance Improvement component of the Educational Initiative on Constipation (EIC) at the *Collective Clinical Forum®*: EIC, a satellite symposium taking place during the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) annual meeting on October 5, 2008 in Orlando, Fla. The evidence-based, participatory performance improvement activity enables healthcare providers to apply performance measures related to constipation to their current practice and then assess their performance for significant care delivery improvements according to outcomes-based metrics.

“The Performance Improvement activity, a core element of the EIC, allows gastroenterologists, physicians and other clinicians to learn established best practices for treating chronic constipation (CC) and irritable bowel syndrome-constipation (IBS-C) through a collaborative, multi-interventional process,” said Mark Donowitz, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Physiology, the LeBoff Professor for Research in Digestive Diseases at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and past president of the American Gastroenterology Association Institute, and EIC Course Director. “As a result, participants will be able to successfully implement performance changes to their own practice, resulting in improved patient diagnosis, treatment and quality of life.”

The 6-month Performance Improvement activity is designed to enhance the quality of patient care by implementing the following strategies:

- Allow healthcare providers to obtain a “snapshot” of their current practice patterns
- Leverage tools and resources based on Rome III criteria to improve the quality of care delivered
- Reevaluate practice and providers post-program for measurable trends based on their performance

In 2006, the Rome Foundation issued the Rome III criteria to establish symptom-based diagnostic criteria for functional gastrointestinal disorders, including chronic constipation and IBS-C, due to a lack of diagnostic biologic markers. However, this diagnostic criteria still has not yet reached many providers, contributing significantly to patients being misdiagnosed or underdiagnosed, adversely affecting their quality of life.

“This national program is the first of its kind to offer healthcare providers the opportunity to participate in an evidence-based, multidisciplinary activity leading to measurable changes in their practice and in patient outcomes,” said Julia Pallentino M.S.N., J.D., A.R.N.P. at GI Associates of Tallahassee, and affiliated with the AANP. “The Performance Improvement activity aligns with both the Rome III clinical criteria and the American Board of Medical Specialties' (ABS) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) criteria, supplying providers with the knowledge to comply with these professional guidelines.”

The Performance Improvement activity will launch during the ACG annual meeting at the *Collective Clinical Forum®* on October 5, 2008, at the Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center in Orlando, Fla. The *Collective Clinical Forum®* is a satellite symposium that is neither sponsored nor endorsed by the ACG. The EIC Course Directors and co-chairs of the *Collective Clinical Forum®* include Mark Donowitz, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Physiology, Director of The Hopkins Center for Epithelial Disorders, LeBoff Professor for Research in Digestive Diseases, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. and Henry Parkman, M.D., Director, Gastrointestinal Motility Laboratory Director, Temple Clinical Research Unit Chair, Research Committee, Department of Medicine, Professor of Medicine, Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pa.

Participants in the Performance Improvement activity may qualify for a maximum of 20 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ through the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The program is supported by an educational grant from Sucampo Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America, Inc. For more information or to register, visit [www.hopkinscme.edu/ofp/eic](http://www.hopkinscme.edu/ofp/eic) or call 908-253-9001.

As part of the broader EIC program, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine has launched the Award for Clinical Excellence (ACE™) program. This professional award recognizes physicians, physician groups, nurse practitioners and physician assistants who have demonstrated expanded knowledge, skills and attitudes, as well as improved care and positive results for patients with chronic constipation and irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) with constipation (IBS-C) as a result of their participation in the JHU and AANP EIC initiative.

#### **About the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine**

In July 2008, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the Johns Hopkins Hospital #1 among American hospitals for the 18th consecutive year. In 2006, the Johns Hopkins Office of CME received “Accreditation with Commendation” for six years, the highest ranking issued by the ACCME. Hopkins CME has been recognized as a center for “Best Practices” and as a resource to ACCME-accredited providers. For more information, please visit [www.hopkinscme.edu](http://www.hopkinscme.edu) or contact Victor Marrow, Ph.D., Executive Director, CME’s Office of Funded Programs at [vmarrow@jhmi.edu](mailto:vmarrow@jhmi.edu).

#### **About the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners**

With over 25,000 individual members and 154 group members, AANP represents the interests of over 125,000 nurse practitioners. AANP has steadily expanded its services and priorities to meet its mission to serve as a resource for nurse practitioners (NPs), their patients and other healthcare consumers; to promote excellence in practice, education and research; to provide legislative leadership; to advance health policy and establish healthcare standards; and to advocate for access to quality and cost effective healthcare by NPs. As the largest and only full-service national, professional membership organization for NPs of all specialties, AANP advocates at local, state, and federal levels for the recognition of NPs as providers of high-quality, cost-effective, and personalized healthcare. For more information, please visit [www.aanp.org](http://www.aanp.org).

#### **About the Educational Initiative on Constipation**

The EIC is a multidisciplinary, performance improvement (PI) CME/CE educational initiative designed to measurably improve the treatment of chronic constipation and IBS-C by gastroenterologists, primary care physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. The foundation for this program is a live symposium held at the American College of Gastroenterology 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course in Orlando, Florida, on October 3-8, 2008.

The core curriculum will focus on improving the knowledge and behavior of healthcare providers in the areas of IBS-C and chronic constipation. The educational program will be presented to participants in various modules containing interventions ranging from a performance improvement component to webinars and video satellite broadcasts.