



About the Gastrointestinal Society

Registered Canadian Charity

Our Mission

As the Canadian leader in providing trusted, evidence-based information on all areas of the gastrointestinal tract, the Gastrointestinal Society is committed to improving the lives of people with gastrointestinal and liver conditions, supporting research, advocating for appropriate patient access to health care, and promoting gastrointestinal and liver health.

The Need

Gastrointestinal (GI) and liver conditions affect 60% of Canadians of all ages, in urban and rural communities, across the country. There are as many as 6 million Canadians with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and nearly 10 million who experience substantial upper GI issues, such as gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and functional dyspepsia. Our country also has a prevalence of inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis) that is among the highest reported in the world – about 1 in every 150 Canadians. There are also a significant number of rare GI diseases, disorders, and cancers.

Despite these alarming statistics, funding for patient information resources and awareness initiatives across the gastrointestinal and liver therapeutic areas is sorely lacking.

How We Help

The GI Society was formed in 2008 on the foundation of its partner organization, the Canadian Society of Intestinal Research (CSIR), founded in 1976. The staff of the GI Society run CSIR, but both organizations have a separate board of directors. Funds from both organizations support our core programs which focus on providing Canadians with trusted medically sound information to promote digestive and liver health.

Our Core Programs

The GI Society and its partner charity the Canadian Society of Intestinal Research collaborate to provide a number of core programs and services that focus on providing Canadians with trusted medically sound information on digestive health. This section briefly outlines how we address great need with limited resources.

BadGut® Lectures

These free public forums cover various digestive topics for patients, caregivers, health care professionals, and other interested individuals across the country. We choose well-recognized experts to give each lecture, and a lively question and answer period always follows. You can find a list of upcoming, and past lectures at www.badgut.org/events.

The Inside Tract® Newsletter

Canada's quarterly gastrointestinal and liver disease and disorder publication, the *Inside Tract® | Du coeur au ventre^{MD}* newsletter, contains current information on GI and liver research, medications, alternative therapies, specific diet and nutrition guidelines, new technologies, helpful hints, Health Canada warnings, and explanations of disease processes. Subscription is \$20 annually, which covers our postage cost and supports the production and distribution of valuable digestive health articles.



Information Pamphlets

We publish a complete series of free patient information pamphlets that explain an array of complex gastrointestinal conditions in lay terms, while answering frequently asked questions. These valued educational resources are shipped for free to individuals and health care facilities throughout Canada.

Our current patient information pamphlet series (available in English and French) includes:

- Aging Digestive Tract
- Biologic Medicines and Biosimilars
- Celiac Disease
- *Clostridium difficile* Infection
- Constipation
- Crohn's Disease
- Diverticular Disease
- Dysphagia
- Eosinophilic Gastrointestinal Disease
- Functional Dyspepsia
- Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)
- Gastroparesis
- Hemorrhoids



- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Hiatus Hernia
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)
- Intestinal Gas
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)
- Lactose Intolerance
- Medical Cannabis
- Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease
- Pancreatic Exocrine Insufficiency
- Pancreatitis
- Short Bowel Syndrome
- Stress Management
- Support Groups
- Ulcer Disease
- Ulcerative Colitis
- Ulcerative Proctitis

Outreach & Patient Advocacy

Our highly-trained staff and volunteers offer additional patient resources, including responding to information requests and participating in community initiatives. Staff and advisors work closely with health care professionals and governments at all levels on behalf of patients. Several of our targeted public awareness campaigns focus on empowering, encouraging, and educating persons living with various GI illnesses.

Awareness

We were successful in having April proclaimed as *Irritable Bowel Syndrome Awareness Month*, recognized by Health Canada. Every year we try to include an awareness campaign to support IBS patients.

Our website, www.badgut.org, contains hundreds of articles and information on digestive and liver subjects as well as current information about our Societies events. The site is viewable on desktop and mobile devices.

We frequently publish on our website and social media accounts. Stay in touch with us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram. Watch, like, and share our educational videos from our YouTube channel. Most importantly, when you hear digestive health information that doesn't seem medically sound, tell us about it or refer people to our website to get the facts right.

Our Team

Board of Directors

Our voluntary Board of Directors is comprised of individuals from diverse backgrounds including business, health, and financial sectors. They dedicate their time and expertise toward developing strategic goals and collaborating with staff in furthering our mission.

Medical Advisory Council (MAC)

Our voluntary MAC consists of medical professionals including gastroenterologists, surgeons, and pharmacists with recognized standing in their fields. This body ensures the accuracy and quality of our patient resources, reviews applications for our research grants, and consults with staff on special projects.

Staff

Our small and dynamic office team works closely with the Board of Directors and Medical Advisory Council and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Society.

Office & Event Volunteers

We rely heavily on volunteers to help keep administration costs down. They generously donate time to ship pamphlets to health care professionals and hospitals, prepare the *Inside Tract*® newsletter for mailing, assist with administrative tasks, and support special events and educational sessions.

Get Involved

Volunteer

Each individual has their own set of skills and attributes, so if you think you have something special to offer the GI Society we would love to hear from you!

Donate

We need your ongoing support to continue to help the millions of Canadians who live with gastrointestinal and liver diseases and disorders, and for those who want to maintain a healthy digestive tract. The GI Society is a registered Canadian charity and can issue tax receipts for donations from Canadian addresses. The GI Society's registered charity number is 817065352RR0001.

The GI Society guards donor dollars rigorously, ensuring maximum yield. We are frugal and efficient, spending far less than the national charitable average on governance and administration.

Visit our website, www.badgut.org, to complete your secure payment online or send a gift by filling in the form on the back of this pamphlet.

Gastrointestinal Society

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