

WEO Centers of Excellence Membership Criteria



The WEO Centers of Excellence Program recognizes the best endoscopy units in the world. These units distinguish themselves through the performance of high-quality cutting-edge endoscopic procedures, educational programs, research and have achieved international reputations.

Criteria:

- The chief endoscopist of the center must be a WEO individual member and be board certified, or its equivalent, in gastroenterology or surgery, have received formal endoscopic training, and be recognized within their own community and beyond for their technical expertise.
- The chief endoscopist must be in a leadership role in that center for a period of 3 years prior to consideration of the unit as a Center of Excellence.
- The center must demonstrate excellence in the performance of endoscopic procedures, education and research as follows:

Excellence in Endoscopic Care

The center must have a state-of-the-art endoscopy center, either freestanding or within a hospital setting, with video endoscopic systems, computer support and appropriate accessory equipment. The center must attest that they adhere to internationally recognized disinfection/sterilization and infection guidelines (e.g., ASGE or ESGE guidelines). The center must have an adequate patient load to assure broad exposure and adequate hands-on experience for advanced endoscopic techniques, which may include one or more of the following: ERCP, EUS, deep enteroscopy, mucosectomy, Image-enhanced endoscopy (IEE), ESD, STER, POEM, Zenker's diverticulectomy, luminal stenting (SEMS), endobariatrics, and other third space or transmural procedures.

Excellence in Education and Training

The center must have programs for training residents and fellows in standard and advanced endoscopic techniques and include the training or education of international trainees. The center should have adequate faculty and a defined training curriculum in advanced endoscopic techniques and indicate its current training models (didactic, hands-on plastic, silicon, animal, computer generated etc.). It must state which mechanisms are used to define outcomes/results and indicate whether a formal morbidity/mortality conference is in place. The center must undertake regular courses on endoscopic topics that may include live demonstrations and/or hands-on training.

Excellence in Research

The center must engage in research projects and trials aimed at advancing endoscopic practice. This should be evidenced by multiple publications in highly regarded journals and presentations at international meetings.

A unit which strives to be recognized as a WEO Center of Excellence must be appraised and confirmed by the WEO Education Committee and by the WEO Executive Committee.