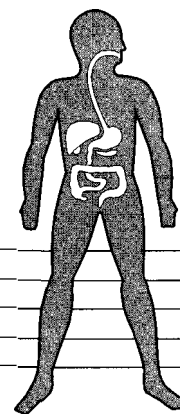


# Digestive Disease National Coalition



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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Diane Paley, Chairperson  
James DeGerome, MD, President  
Andrew Spiegel, Vice-Chairperson  
Costas Kefalas, MD, Vice President  
Amy Kornbluth, Secretary  
Alice Bast, Treasurer

## Members-at-Large:

Carla H. Ginsburg, MD  
Erika Hanson Brown  
Maurice Cerulli, MD  
David Becker, MD

## Immediate Past-Chairperson:

Jane Holt

## Immediate Past-President:

Peter A. Banks, MD

## CONSTITUENT MEMBERS:

American Celiac Society/Dietary Support Coalition  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Liver Foundation  
American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society  
American Pancreatic Association  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition  
Association of Gastrointestinal Motility Disorders, Inc.  
Celiac Disease Foundation  
Celiac Sprue Association/  
United States of America, Inc.  
C3: Colorectal Cancer Coalition  
Colon Cancer Alliance  
Colontown  
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America  
Esophageal Cancer Action Network  
Florida Gastroenterologic Society  
Georgia Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Society  
G-PACT  
Hepatitis Foundation International  
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders  
Louisiana State GI Society  
National Foundation for Celiac Awareness  
National Pancreas Foundation  
New Jersey Gastroenterology & Endoscopy Society  
New York Society For Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition  
North American Society for the Study of Celiac Disease  
North Carolina Society of Gastroenterology  
Ohio Gastroenterology Society  
Oley Foundation  
Pennsylvania Society of Gastroenterology  
Puerto Rico GI Association  
Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc.  
South Carolina Gastroenterology Association  
Texas Society for Gastroenterology and Endoscopy  
United Ostomy Associations of America

## INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

Bracco Diagnostic, Inc.  
Given Imaging, Inc.  
Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson  
Medtronic, Inc.  
Salix Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
Shire Pharmaceuticals, Inc.  
Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America, Inc.  
United Chemical Companies of Belgium

## ADMINISTRATION

Health & Medicine Counsel of  
Washington  
DALE P. DIRKS

Founder & President Emeritus  
Suzanne Rosenthal

## Membership in the Digestive Disease National Coalition

For over thirty years, the Digestive Disease National Coalition (DDNC) has provided national leadership on behalf of patient organizations, professional societies, and industry interested in the full spectrum of digestive disorders. The DDNC is highly regarded on Capitol Hill and throughout Washington as an influential and credible resource among committees, staff, and federal executives.

The DDNC's leadership is highly diverse and represents patients, professionals, and industry on issues of common concern. The DDNC takes positions on issues that reflect a broad consensus among its constituent organizations. The DDNC is not perceived as a narrow interest group, but rather as a broad-based coalition advocating for important public health initiatives.

The DDNC has been a consistent and effective advocate for funding for digestive diseases within the National Institutes of Health including funding for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) and other related institutes and agencies within the Public Health Service. DDNC is recognized by the research community as a loyal ally and a valuable resource in creating public awareness of digestive diseases, as well as a strong partner in the effort to develop new treatments and improve medical understanding of these conditions.

The DDNC has established itself as a leader in representing the interests of the digestive disease community in health care reform legislation. Most recently, the DDNC has worked to establish a Digestive Disease Congressional Caucus, and is currently gathering support for the *Inflammatory Bowel Disease Research Enhancement Act* (H.R.2275/S.981) which is a follow-up bill to the IBD legislation successfully passed in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress.

For the last twenty years, the DDNC has held an annual Public Policy Forum in Washington, D.C., which provides two days of policy briefings and legislative visits for patients, physicians, and industry representatives. Additionally, the DDNC hosts a one-day annual Institutional Member Forum, during which industry Institutional Members have an opportunity to learn about current policy issues facing the healthcare and medical fields first-hand from policy-makers, offer input into the development of DDNC policy positions, and to establish collaborative efforts with professional, patient, and other corporate organizations.

The DDNC is governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors comprised of individuals representing patient organizations and professional societies. Its board selects the DDNC's legislative and program priorities and oversees their implementation. Professional Washington representation is provided by the Health and Medicine Counsel of Washington (HMCW).

The DDNC is an effective, well respected, and credible advocate on issues broadly affecting the digestive disease community.

### **Benefits of Supporting the DDNC**

When the DDNC was established in 1978, the federal impact on medical technology and the delivery and financing of health care was not as widely recognized as it is today. For many of its members, the DDNC was their primary method of influencing federal decisions. In the intervening period, and particularly within the last five years, federal relations and the impact of national decisions has become a primary concern for patients, health professionals, and industry alike. Today, many DDNC members allocate significant resources to monitor federal actions and have developed their own individual mechanisms to track and influence issues of particular significance to their constituency. All members of the DDNC recognize the unique contribution and value associated with supporting the Coalition. DDNC members receive many benefits from their support of the DDNC.

- 1) The DDNC is a forum in which members are able to work cooperatively on issues of common concern and to recruit allies on issues central to their specific interests from the broader digestive disease community.
- 2) The DDNC skillfully combines patients, physicians, and industry representatives in its legislative efforts, thereby lending weight and credibility to their positions.
- 3) The DDNC monitors and plays a significant role in higher level, strategic public health issues (e.g. managed care reform, FDA reform/funding, etc.) often placed on the back burner by individual organizations because of the pressure of more immediate concerns.