

**VIRTUA DOCTOR NAMED FELLOW OF THE  
AMERICAN GASTROENTEROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**

*Fellowship Honors Superior Professional Achievement in GI Field*

**MOUNT HOLLY, NJ** – Virtua announced today that Jeffrey J. Kutscher MD AGAF has been named Fellow of the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), the nation’s oldest medical society dedicated to disorders of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. Through the fellowship program, the AGA honors superior professional achievement in clinical private or academic practice and in basic or clinical research. Fellowships are awarded to AGA members whose accomplishments and contributions demonstrate personal commitment to the field of gastroenterology.

Dr Kutscher who has been Chief of Gastroenterology at Virtua Memorial since 1988 is one of 3 physicians in New Jersey and 97 nationally to have been elected to fellowship this year. He is a founding partner of Gastroenterology Consultants of South Jersey and the medical director of the Burlington County Endoscopy Center.

The mission of the AGA is to promote the science and practice of gastroenterology through the support of research, education, advocacy and practice.

“We are pleased to welcome the most recent nominees for the AGA Fellowship program,” said Gail A. Hecht, MD, MS, AGAF, AGA Institute President. “Individuals accepted as AGA Fellows have made and continue to make important contributions to patient care and to the science of gastroenterology.”

About Digestive Diseases

An estimated 60 to 70 million Americans are affected by digestive diseases, according to the National Institute of Health’s (NIH) National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), and more than 230,000 deaths occur from GI disorders, including cancers. Direct medical expenses for digestive diseases are estimated to cost more than \$100 billion. About 10 percent of hospitalizations and 15 percent of in-patient hospital procedures are attributed annually to the treatment of digestive diseases and an additional 105 million visits to doctors’ offices related to digestive diseases occur each year.

About the AGA

The American Gastroenterological Association is the trusted voice of the GI community. Founded in 1897, the AGA has grown to include 17,000 members from around the globe who are involved in all aspects of the science, practice and advancement of gastroenterology. The AGA Institute administers the practice, research and educational programs of the organization. [www.gastro.org](http://www.gastro.org).

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