



# Long Island Center for Digestive Health

## Celebrates Three Years of Service and Commitment to the Community

BY CAROL STOPA

The Long Island Center for Digestive Health (LICDH), an ambulatory endoscopy center (AEC) located in Garden City, New York, recently celebrated its three-year anniversary.

Its development was a collaborative effort between the physicians of Gastroenterology Associates, PC (Robert Bartolomeo, MD; Perry Gould, MD; Gary Schwartz, MD; Leonard Stein, MD and Andrew Rosenberg, MD) and Physicians

Endoscopy, LLC (PE). The physicians' professional practice, one of the oldest on Long Island, had been performing office-based endoscopy since the early 1980s. They recognized that as the practice grew and procedure volume increased, the development of an AEC would be an integral part of their plan to continue to provide for the needs of their patient population and to optimize the delivery of endoscopic services. "Over the years, we have always sought to meet the highest standards of clinical practice. We, therefore, decided to develop an AEC, as its function would be required to meet the highest regulatory, clinical and operational standards to achieve accreditation. We wanted to meet this challenge and to practice in this type of environment," says LICDH's Medical Director, Leonard B. Stein, MD, FACP, FACG.

He adds, "Given the monumental tasks of administrative approval, development and construction of an AEC, our physicians agreed that we would partner with a professional." Though there were several options, their decision became clear shortly after meeting with Barry Tanner, Chief Ex-

ecutive Officer of PE. "Barry and his team guided us through every step of the journey, providing expertise and reassurance along the way," continues Dr. Stein.

LICDH was licensed in June 2006 and received AAAHC early accreditation shortly thereafter. A three-year accreditation was granted in January 2007. As part of the center's commitment to quality care, it plans to participate in the ASGE's Endoscopy Unit Recognition Program in the coming year.

LICDH's Board of Managers (Drs. Stein and Schwartz, and Karen Sabylak, Chief Financial Officer of PE) is responsible for ensuring that LICDH's mission statement is recognized and upheld by its physicians and staff. The Board meets regularly to monitor the center's processes, and to make necessary changes in policies and procedures in an attempt to maximize quality of care and ensure patient safety. Dr. Stein and Ms. Sabylak also speak frequently by phone to discuss day-to-day operations of the center. According to Dr. Stein, "Karen has been an invaluable teammate... much of the success of LICDH is a direct result of her hard work and commitment to the process."

While a modest amount of growth was predicted given the addition of Drs. Felice Mirsky and E. Michael Sullivan to Gastroenterology Associates, PC, the center has realized an even greater than anticipated increase in procedure volume over the past two years. This is



Standing (L-R) – Gary Schwartz, MD; Allan Schuss, MD; Leonard Stein, MD; Andrew Rosenberg, MD; E. Michael Sullivan, DO

Sitting (L-R) – Felice Mirsky, MD; Robert Bartolomeo, MD; Perry Gould, MD; Bridget McAuley, ANP

Perhaps the greatest factor contributing to the growth and success of LICDH is its staff. "We are very fortunate to be working with a dedicated group of people who take pride in their work. Our employees consistently receive high marks of praise from our patients, and have shown a genuine interest in doing their best to maintain the quality of care in the center. Our staff is our greatest marketing tool," says Dr. Stein. In his opinion, the center's success supports the notion that "If you build it (and staff it well!), they will come."

in part due to the efficiency achieved with full-day block time. Furthermore, through the efforts of PE, the center reached its goal of successfully contracting with its area's major payers in 2008.

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Named one of the 2009 top doctors in **Becker's ASC Review – 23 Gastroenterologists to Know**

**Leonard Stein, MD, FACP, FACG.** Dr. Stein is the medical director at the Long Island Center for Digestive Health, an ambulatory endoscopy center in Garden City, NY. The facility, opened in 2006, is AAAHC-accredited and performs approximately 6,000 procedures per year. Its endoscopists are physician members of Gastroenterology Associates, PC, a single-specialty group also located in Garden City.

Dr. Stein completed a gastroenterology fellowship at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia. He has been an active participant in the internal medicine residency and gastroenterology fellowship programs at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, NY, and has been honored with the "Outstanding Attending of the Year" award. He is a diplomate of the American Boards of Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology and a fellow of the ACP and the ACG. He also serves as a clinical assistant professor of medicine at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.