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Digestive Health Specialists Applaud Efforts to Fight Obesity & Overweight
American College of Gastroenterology Supports CEO in *Call to Action* to Raise Awareness

Washington, DC, May 16, 2008 – The American College of Gastroenterology congratulates the Campaign to End Obesity on its Health Policy and Fitness Fair on Capitol Hill and the release of its *Call to Action* report. The College is committed to making a meaningful contribution to the nation’s public health policy, clinical practice and clinical research relating to obesity and shares CEO’s appeal to Congress and other policy makers to take action to address the national health threat of obesity.

Gastrointestinal specialists are on the front line in diagnosing and treating patients with a range of digestive diseases and complications directly related to obesity, particularly colorectal and esophageal cancer, NAFLD, gallbladder disease and complications of bariatric surgery, including nutritional deficiencies and other adverse effects. In the future, gastroenterologists may play an even greater role in treating obesity, not just managing its complications, as the understanding of the GI tract’s role in the control of appetite grows and as new interventions and novel therapeutic approaches related to the gut emerge.

According to ACG President Amy E. Foxx-Orenstein, D.O., FACG, “As physicians, we see the consequences of overweight and obesity every day in our practices. The American College of Gastroenterology is pleased to support the work of the Campaign to End Obesity and its crucial efforts to educate policymakers on the nexus between obesity and many of the nation’s major public health challenges. We look forward to working with the Campaign and the Congress to ensure that the healthcare system can appropriately treat overweight and obese patients and to address obesity.”

This year the College has made obesity a priority focus of its educational, public policy and research missions under Dr. Foxx-Orenstein’s leadership.

“The magnitude of the obesity crisis, coupled with new understanding of the role of gastrointestinal microflora in metabolism, as well as the role of gut hormones in appetite and weight regulation, points to a role for GI specialists in the management of obesity as the next generation of endoscopic, pharmacological and nutritional therapies emerge,” explained Dr. Foxx-Orenstein.

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