 The DDNC held its annual Public Policy Forum and Advocacy Day meetings Mar 5 & 6, 2018  
  
on Capitol Hill . There were over 180 attendees from our 35 Constituent Member advocacy or-  
  
ganizations, including also representatives from ACG, AGA, SGNA , and numerous state GI  
  
Societies . 25 teams made up of a Gastroenterologist, SGNA nurse,and patients met with the  
  
healthcare experts of Senators and Congressmen throughout the day. Senator Bill Cassidy of  
  
La , a Hepatologist , was awarded our DDNC service award for 2018 at our awards luncheon.   
  
  Basic goals for this year.s advocacy included the following:  
  
        1) $36 billion for NIH ,including $50 mill for CDC CRC Prevention Program, $62 mill for  
  
            CDC Viral Hepatitis Program, and $1 mill for IBD .Overall, $2.16 bil for NIDDK .  
  
         2) Legislative priorities include passage of SCREEN Act and Removal of Barriers to CRC  
  
             Screening Act - eliminating cost sharing for Medicare recipients if Px is done during screen-  
  
             Ing and for necessary follow-up colonoscopy .  
  
         3) FDA regulatory pathway for approval of biosimilars that emphasize patient safety and efficacy,  
  
         4) Patient access to nutritional care with coverage for nutritional treatments and pathways for   
  
              medical foods and labeling of gluten in medicines and foods.  
  
          5) preservation of basic patient protections esp. discrimination against patients with pre-existing   
  
                conditions ; out of pocket maximums; allowance of children to stay of parents healthcare plan  
  
                 to age 26.  
  
  DDNC Fall Institutional Member Policy Roundtable will be held on Tues. Oct 30 on Capitol Hill and will  
  
Include Global Healthy Living’s Cory Greenblatt and reps from Turpin, Downs on “Key Patient Access  
  
Issues, Federal and State” and presentations by our Institutional Members (AbbVie, Pfizer, Takeda, et al)  
  
  Once again, the DDNC would like to express our deep gratitude to the FGS for their steadfast and loyal  
  
support .                                                                           James DeGerome, MD,FACP,FACG  
                                                                                         Director of Development, DDNC