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