



April 16, 2007

Dear Colleague,

As an Executive Committee member of the Digestive Center for Women Network, I am writing to share my enthusiasm for this unique organization and encourage you to become a member as well.

#### **WHO WE ARE**

The Digestive Center for Women Network (DCWN) is the only consortium of female gastroenterologists with the common goal of promoting excellence in the care of our female patients with digestive disorders.

#### **OUR PHILOSOPHY**

We believe that female patients should have access to quality care by female physicians. As numerous studies have recently shown, female patients who have digestive disorders often prefer to be treated by female physicians, particularly for endoscopic procedures. As you know, female gastroenterologists comprise only about 10% of the field. DCWN aims to implement research, mentoring and educational initiatives to change this statistic.

#### **OUR FOCUS**

- 1. Accessibility** – To create a directory of female gastroenterologists to help female patients find the doctors they seek more easily.
- 2. Networking** – To ensure continuous career advancement of current and future female gastroenterologists DCWN strives to offer unique networking and coalition-building opportunities to its constituents.
- 3. Clinical Advancement** – DCWN is at the forefront of improving patient care through promotion of collaborative research projects and emerging studies.
- 4. Business** – By breaking-down the ever-present barriers of gender disparity, DCWN aims to empower female gastroenterologists in a range of practice settings. We encourage female physicians to engage in leadership roles within their practices, while providing them with the resources they need to be successful business women.
- 5. Work/Life Balance** – We seek to help our members maintain harmony in their professional and personal lives.

#### **WHY BECOME A MEMBER?**

- By including your name in our Directory your practice will benefit from increased exposure and access by patients seeking female gastroenterologists.
- As a cohesive group we have the strength to successfully advocate better for our patients and for ourselves.
- As a group, we are being sought out by various organizations and the pharmaceutical industry to conduct research and offer our valuable opinions.
- We will benefit from sharing our experiences with each other and help ourselves and our younger colleagues.

DCWN is dedicated to taking action to improve the quality of care for female patients. Your support is absolutely vital to our ability to take on issues of gender disparity and access. Membership in the organization is *free*—we ask simply that you provide minimal time (1-2 hours per year) in terms of your expertise to further our goals. In return, DCWN will continue to provide you with exclusive resources, information and networking opportunities to support your own practice. As a member of DCWN, your name and information will *never* be disclosed to pharmaceutical or medical device companies for the purposes of solicitation.



I personally find value in joining DCWN, and based on your reputation as an outstanding gastroenterologist and your passion for the field, I think you will find the same.

If you would like to join DCWN, please visit our website ([www.dawn.org](http://www.dawn.org)) and click the "Join the Network Now" link on our homepage. If you have any additional questions regarding membership, please contact Juliane Oliver, DCWN Program Coordinator at [joliver@dawn.org](mailto:joliver@dawn.org).

Finally, we invite you and your colleagues to learn more about DCWN at our Membership Kick-Off Cocktail Event during Digestive Diseases Week 2007 in Washington, DC. Mark your calendar for Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> – it's time to come together to make a difference! Invitation to follow.

*A network of female gastroenterologists devoted to providing female patients greater access to the physicians they seek.*

Best regards,

**Robynne Chutkan, MD**  
Co-Chair

**Susan Lucak, MD**  
Co-Chair

**DCWN Executive Committee**

Laurel Fisher, MD • Lauren Gerson, MD, MSc • Albena Halpert, MD • Suzanne Rose, MD, MEd  
Deborah C. Rubin, MD • Sarah Streett, MD