# Outcomes of the Inaugural Gastroenterology and Hepatology Advanced Practitioner Provider National Conference, an Unparalleled Opportunity for Tailored Education, Professional Development and Networking

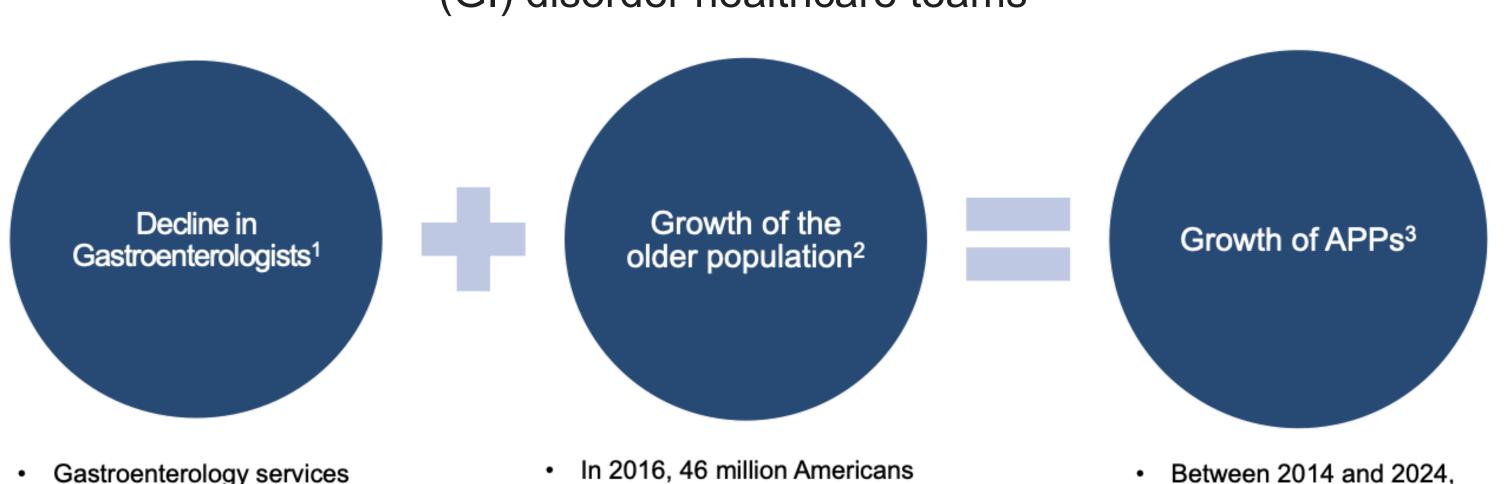


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#### BACKGROUND

Nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs), known collectively as advanced practice providers (APPs), have become important members of chronic liver disease (CLD) and gastrointestinal (GI) disorder healthcare teams



ages 65 and older was reported

By 2060, 98 million Americans

ages 65 and older is projected

the number of PAs in the

healthcare workforce is

projected to grow by 30%

- APPs hold prescriptive privileges in all 50 states in the US<sup>1</sup>
- APPs have the ability to attain full-practice authority in 21 states<sup>1</sup>
- Integrating APPs into the gastroenterology practice offers multiple proven benefits to providers and patients, including<sup>4,5</sup>:

Improved outcomes

are in increased demand

Projected shortfall of ~1050

gastroenterologists by 2020

- Greater patient satisfaction
- Superior patient education
- Improved patient access
- Better provider face-time
- Enhanced physician work-life balance
- Increased practice efficiency and revenue

#### RATIONALE

- There is no formal training process for APPs in gastroenterology, so backgrounds vary amongst APPs<sup>6</sup>
- Supporting and expanding the development and implementation of additional APP training programs could bolster existing gastroenterology practices<sup>7</sup>
- APP education is consistently needed in CLD and GI disorders
- There are no CLD and GI educational and training conferences specifically designed to meet the needs of the APP audience

### AIM

- Recognizing this unmet need, the Chronic Liver Disease Foundation (CLDF) and the Gi Health Foundation (GiHF) proposed the inaugural GI and Hepatology Advanced Practice Provider (GHAPP) National Conference
- This is the only conference specifically designed by APPs for APPs who specialize in the management of patients with CLD and GI disorders
- The goals of the GHAPP multi-day conference were to provide APPs with:
- Professional development opportunities
- Access to the latest research
- A venue to network with colleagues

#### METHODS

- APPs from leading academic centers in hepatology and gastroenterology were identified
- The GHAPP executive committee was formed and consisted of the following members:



Sharon Dudley-Brown PhD, FNP-BC, FAAN Johns Hopkins University





University of California, San Diego Mayo Clinic







Northwestern Memorial Hospital



Augusta Vascular Center



April Morris, FNP Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center

- In September 2017, the executive committee held a faculty meeting, called the GHAPP Summit, of 79 leading GI and liver APPs from 45 states
- The purpose of the GHAPP Summit was to assist in the development of curriculum and content for platforms with expanded APP outreach
- At the summit, rich interactions took place and ideas were exchanged between APPs on the most clinically relevant topics

#### **KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE 2017 GHAPP SUMMIT**



Strong interest for







Require flexibility in educational offerings as APPs typically work through lunch hour

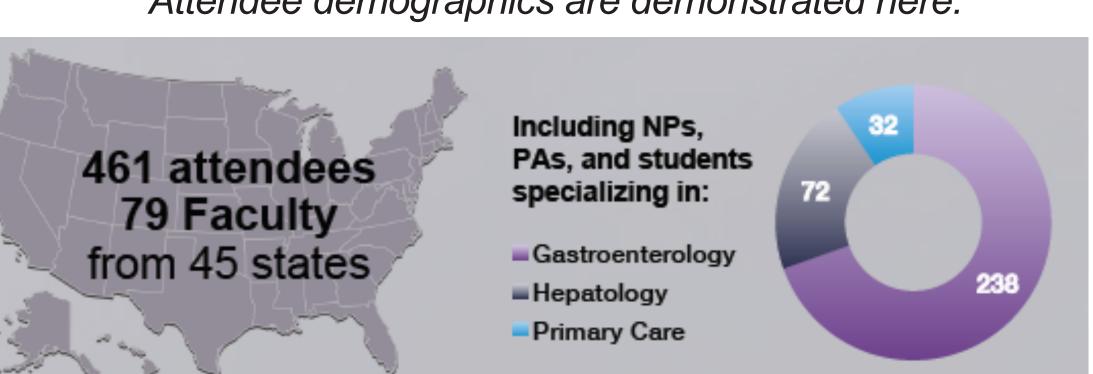


Need for development of tools for in-office use

#### RESULTS

- As a result of the summit, the GHAPP Community Educator Network was launched
- The network is an APP-led working group dedicated to educating allied health care professionals on emerging developments in the management of CLD and GI disorders
- The Community Educators will champion the delivery of CLDF and/or GiHF educational initiatives for APPs within his/ her respective community
- Each Community Educator has been provided with an individual homepage that will serve as the portal to all of his/her educational offerings including live events, web-based education, slides, teleconferences and printed material
- The Community Educator member portals will be featured prominently on www.GHAPP.org and will be individually marketed to each local community

The inaugural GHAPP was held September 7 – 9, 2018 in Las Vegas, Nevada Attendee demographics are demonstrated here:

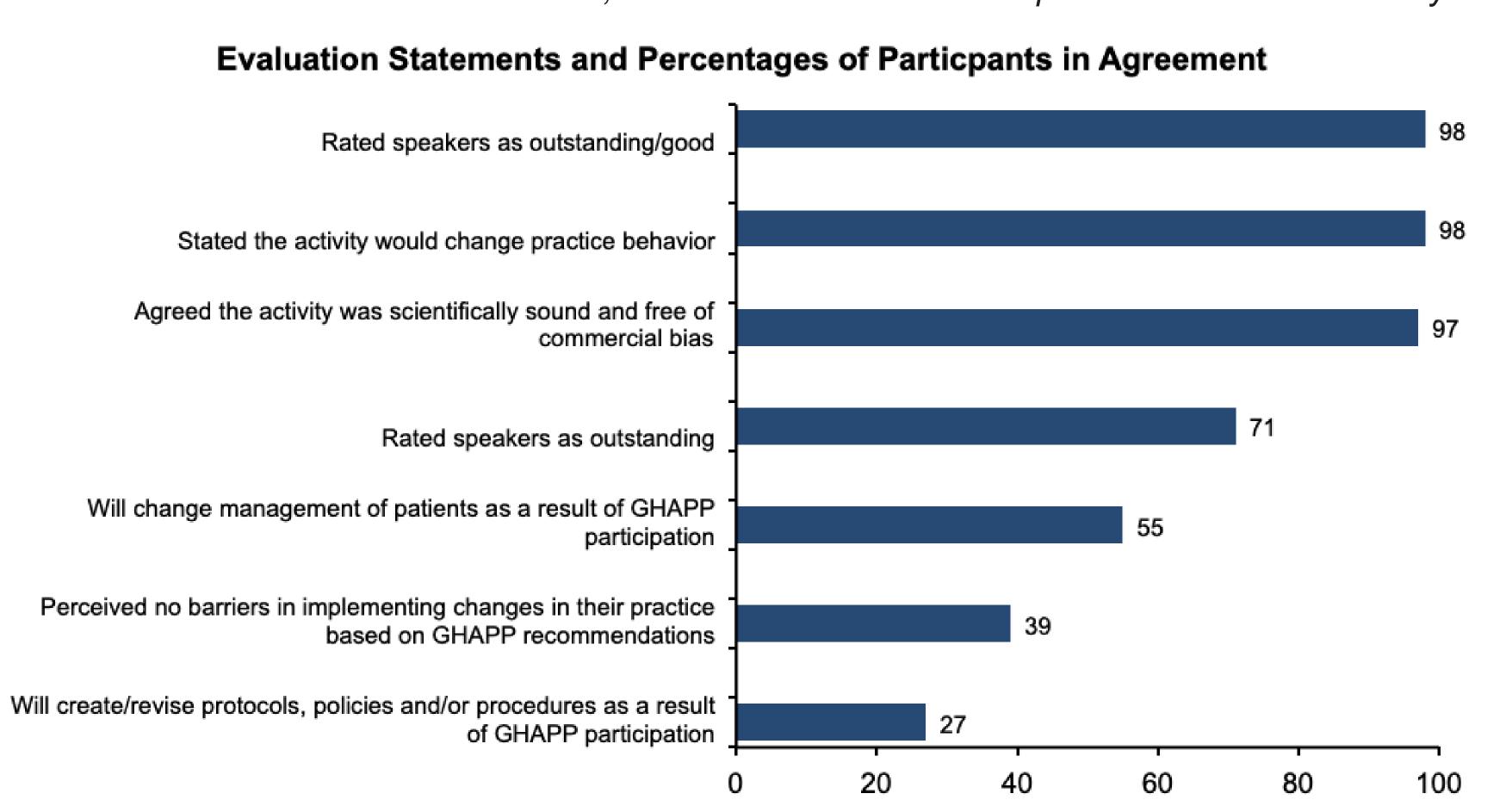




## RESULTS (CONT.)

- As a result of the summit, the inaugural GHAPP Conference was designed – The conference design included:
- In-depth, clinically relevant reviews and discussions
- Content on the latest developments and important current concepts in the multidisciplinary management of GI and hepatology disorders
- Plenary lectures and interactive workshops
- Upon completion of the inaugural GHAPP Conference, participants were able to:
- Describe current screening, diagnosis and management options for patients with CLD and GI disorders
- Optimize treatment results for patients with CLD and GI disorders
- Compare and contrast currently available treatment modalities for CLD and GI disorders
- Participants completed an evaluation survey at the conclusion of GHAPP

At the conclusion of the conference, a total of 180 attendees completed the evaluation survey





Attendees indicated that new information was

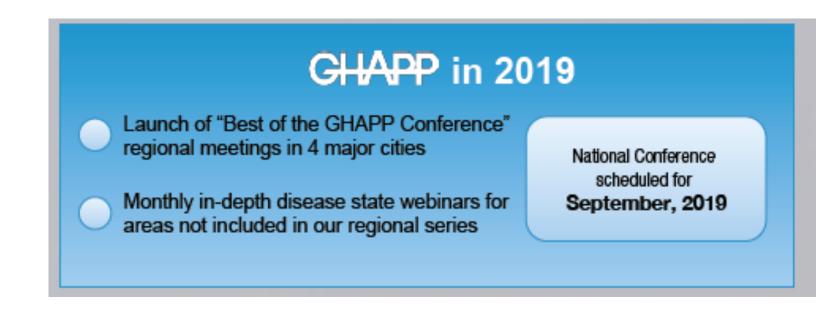
Evaluation forms included accolades such as:

"I learned so much [I] could not list it all."

"GHAPP reinforced what [I] am currently doing and strengthened [my] knowledge base."

## CONCLUSIONS

- The outstanding outcomes demonstrate that the goal of GHAPP was realized
- Never before has there been a program that met these needs and did so with the audience's own key opinion leaders
- The role of the APP is expanding beyond that of a physician colleague; more platforms like GHAPP can help to facilitate this growth
- Future programs are planned



## DISCLOSURES

- G. Cooper, R. Bejarano: Nothing to disclose
- E. Evans: Speakers Bureau Support from Janssen, Pfizer, Prometheus, Takeda, UCB

## REFERENCES

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