



OCTOBER 2026

AFS Welcomes Dr. Christy Dunst as President

The American Foregut Society is pleased to welcome Christy Dunst, MD, as its new president following the passing of the presidential gavel from Stuart Spechler, MD, AGAF, FACG, at the 2026 AFS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

AFS extends its sincere appreciation to Dr. Spechler for his leadership and service to the Society. A renowned expert in diseases of the esophagus, Dr. Spechler has dedicated his career to treating, researching, and advancing the understanding of conditions including gastroesophageal reflux disease, Barrett's esophagus, eosinophilic esophagitis, and esophageal motility disorders. His extensive contributions to the field have included research, publications, professional leadership, and national and international presentations.

Taking the gavel is Dr. Dunst, Chief of Foregut Surgery at Hoag, who brings extensive expertise in foregut disease and a strong commitment to multidisciplinary care, education, and innovation.



“I’m honored to serve as president of the American Foregut Society to help shape the future of the field of foregut disease alongside the world’s leading experts,” said Dr. Dunst. “As the field continues to evolve, we have an opportunity to rethink how we train physicians, embrace new technologies, and ensure that patients have access to the most advanced care.”

During her term, Dr. Dunst plans to build on AFS’s strong emphasis on education and training while developing new initiatives and partnerships and addressing the evolving challenges facing the foregut community. Her multidisciplinary approach to patient care closely reflects the AFS philosophy of “better together,” bringing surgeons, gastroenterologists, endoscopists, and other specialists together to improve patient care.

AFS looks forward to continuing this work under Dr. Dunst’s leadership and building on the strong foundation established by Dr. Spechler and previous Society leaders.

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who joined us. This year's meeting was defined by the people in the room: surgeons, gastroenterologists, researchers, industry partners, and rising leaders in foregut care, all committed to advancing the field. The conversations, collaborations, and connections made this week will shape the work ahead. Take a look below for highlights from all the fun!



Foregut Friday Spotlight



How would you manage this case?

Every Friday, the AFS CPC Committee brings real-world foregut cases and emerging topics to Foregut Fridays on DocMatter. Join colleagues from across the field to discuss different approaches, share your perspective, and learn from others.

[JOIN THE CONVERSATIONS](#)

2026 Hoag Digestive Health Symposium Starts Tomorrow



October 2–3, 2026
Hyatt Regency Irvine
Orange County, California

This year's program features comprehensive education across the full spectrum of digestive health, including dedicated sessions on GERD, foregut surgery, esophageal disease, motility disorders, pancreaticobiliary disease, liver disease, obesity medicine, inflammatory bowel disease, and colorectal care.

Highlights include live clinical cases, multidisciplinary discussions, and presentations from internationally recognized faculty led by Dr. Christy Dunst, Dr. Kenneth Chang, and keynote speaker Dr. Lee Swanström.

Whether you're a gastroenterologist, foregut surgeon, advanced endoscopist, or other digestive health professional, you'll leave with practical, evidence-based strategies you can immediately apply in your practice.

Registration includes educational sessions, networking receptions, breakfast, lunch, and continuing medical education opportunities.

[THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER](#)

Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership

Don't miss out on everything AFS has to offer in 2026. Renew your membership today if you have not already to continue accessing exclusive educational content, discounted event registrations, and the support of a thriving professional community.

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