

Accreditation Statement



This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of Louisiana Children's Medical Center/LCMC Health and LSU School of Medicine-New Orleans. The LSU School of Medicine is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians

Credit Designation Statement

The LSU School of Medicine-New Orleans designates this live activity for a maximum of 6.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Program Overview & Target Audience

Despite significant advances in the diagnosis and multimodal treatment of upper gastrointestinal (UGI) malignancies practitioners across Louisiana and the Gulf South demonstrate inconsistency in:

- Integrating evolving systemic therapy options into individualized treatment planning for esophageal and gastric cancers.
- Applying updated screening and surveillance protocols for precancerous esophageal and gastric conditions, including Barrett's esophagus and hereditary cancer syndromes.
- Selecting among minimally invasive surgical approaches on oncological and technical considerations.
- Coordinating multidisciplinary care for patients with complex UGI malignancies.
- Recognizing and managing rare UGI tumors such as GISTs and neuroendocrine tumors, as well as GEJ tumors with distinct molecular subtypes.
- Providing appropriate post-treatment surveillance and recognizing common barriers to optimal follow-up care.

This live educational activity was developed in response to a needs assessment identifying gaps in knowledge and practice related to upper gastric cancers. The gaps in knowledge are attributed to the following:

- Knowledge gaps: The therapeutic landscape for UGI cancers has evolved rapidly with immunotherapy approvals, precision oncology biomarkers, and new surgical techniques. Many clinicians lack current, comprehensive knowledge of these developments.
- Competence gaps: Practitioners may be aware of newer options but lack the practical framework to apply them particularly in selecting systemic therapy regimens, determining surgical approach, or integrating genetic counseling into their workflow.
- Limited regional infrastructure: There is currently no regional symposium dedicated specifically to UGI malignancies in the Gulf South. Clinicians managing these cancers have limited access to local, multidisciplinary, case-relevant education.
- Need for multidisciplinary perspective: UGI cancers require tight collaboration across gastroenterology, surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, and genetics.

Learning Objectives

As a result of attending this activity, participants should be better able to:

- Describe current evidence-based screening, diagnosis, and endoscopic management strategies for precancerous and malignant esophageal and gastric conditions.
- Integrate updated systemic therapy options including immunotherapy, HER2-directed agents, and targeted therapies into individualized treatment plans for patients with esophageal and gastric cancers.
- Evaluate the role of radiation therapy in the multimodal management of esophageal and gastric malignancies.
- Apply a multidisciplinary framework incorporating surgery, oncology, radiation, genetics, and gastroenterology to the comprehensive management of UGI cancers.

- Recognize molecular subtypes and therapeutic implications of gastroesophageal junction tumors, rare UGI tumors (GISTs, NETs), and metastatic upper GI malignancies.
- Identify common pitfalls and barriers to optimal care and implement post-treatment surveillance strategies for patients with esophageal and gastric cancers.

Instructions for Obtaining Credit

To claim *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*TM for your participation in this activity, learners must:

1. Sign-in at the registration desk or use the QR code if attending in person. If attending via Zoom, learners **MUST** include their professional email address in their Zoom profile and for their duration on Zoom.
2. Participate in the activity and complete an evaluation form
3. Attendance will be adjusted for time spent in the activity

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The following faculty and planning committee members have reported they do not have any financial relationships with ineligible entities:

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The following presenters and planners reported the following relationships with ineligible entities:

Name	Relationship	Ineligible Entity
Jaffar Ajani, MD	Advisor ad hoc Grant Reviewer	MBS, Jaz, Be One, Henlius, Gilead

These relationships have been mitigated.