

Kelowna 2012 – Keynote Speaker

Sheila E. Crowe, MD
Professor of Medicine
University of California
San Diego, CA



Dr. Crowe is a Professor in the Division of Gastroenterology in the Department of Medicine at the University of California in San Diego (UCSD). She received her medical degree in 1982 from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and completed postgraduate training in internal medicine and gastroenterology at McMaster University. After additional research training in the Intestinal Diseases Research Unit at McMaster University and at the University of Toronto, she joined the faculty at McMaster University before moving to the United States in 1992. She spent 9 years at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston where she served as the Gastroenterology Fellowship Training Program Director before moving to the University of Virginia in 2001. There she served as the Director of the UVA Celiac Disease Center, Director of Endoscopy in the UVA Outpatient Surgical Center, Director of the Training in Digestive Diseases T32 Grant, and a member of the Department of Medicine Committee Residency Education. She joined UCSD in July 2011 as the Director of Research in the Division of Gastroenterology and Director of the UCSD Gastroenterology T32 Training Grant.

As a clinician-scientist, Dr. Crowe has been active in bench research, clinical care, and teaching in the field of gastroenterology. Dr. Crowe has been named in the *Best Doctors in America* for her clinical interests in inflammatory bowel disease, gastrointestinal food allergy and celiac disease, and peptic ulcer disease. She has served as a medical advisor for local disease support groups including the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America and celiac disease support groups in Houston, TX and in Charlottesville, VA. Dr. Crowe has been very active in the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) previously serving as a member of their Research Committee, Education Committee, Nominating Committee, Women's Committee, and Council. She was recognized as one of a select group of women as an AGA Outstanding Women in Science in 2008. She is currently Councillor-at-Large on the Governing Board of the AGA and in this role she chairs the AGA Publication Committee and is the Editor of AGA Perspectives. Dr. Crowe is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada, the American College of Physicians, the American College of Gastroenterology, and the AGA.

Dr. Crowe served a 4 year term as a permanent member of the Clinical and Integrative Gastrointestinal Pathobiology National Institutes of Health Study Section that reviews research grant proposals and she served on the editorial boards of the *American Journal of Physiology: Gastrointestinal and Liver*, *Alimentary Pharmacology and Therapeutics*, and *Mucosal Immunology*. She currently serves on the NIDDK "Fellowships in Digestive Diseases & Nutrition" Panel as its Chair. Her research centers on understanding immune-epithelial interactions involved in inflammatory, infectious, and allergic gastrointestinal diseases including *Helicobacter pylori* infection. She has received various research grants and career awards and has been funded by National Institute of Health to examine the role of oxidative stress in the gastric mucosa as a mediator of gastric epithelial injury. She

recently received the 2008 AGA Funderburg Award for Research in Gastric Biology. Dr. Crowe is the author of various articles and book chapters, and she is invited often to lecture nationally and internationally in the areas of her expertise. As recognition of her expertise as an educator, Dr. Crowe was selected Director of the 2010 AGA Spring Postgraduate Course.

Of note, Dr. Crowe has had a long-standing interest in celiac disease dating back over thirty years. Her mother-in-law, Mrs. Kay Ernst, now deceased, co-founded the Canadian Celiac Association (CCA) 40 years ago. Dr. Crowe has been involved with local celiac disease support groups in Ontario, Texas, and Virginia and has participated in various celiac disease conferences nationally and internationally. She was a Medical Advisor for the Houston Celiac Sprue Association Support Group, the Medical Advisor for the UVA Celiac Support Group, "Charlottesville" and she is the Director of the National Foundation for Celiac Awareness Scientific/Medical Advisory Board. Dr. Crowe helped organize a special symposium on celiac disease sponsored by the AGA in September 2009 in which specialists from North America and elsewhere discussed new developments in clinical and research aspects of the disease. She enjoys the opportunity to speak often on the topic of celiac disease educating gastroenterologists and other health care providers about celiac disease at many venues including the annual postgraduate courses of the two major US national GI societies, the annual American College of Physicians meetings, Medicine Grand Rounds and many other settings.

Dr. Crowe may be one of the few gastroenterologists in North America, who has learned to bake and prepare gluten free foods and actually understands the complexity of issues experienced by celiac patients and their families including adhering to their dietary treatment! Dr. Crowe enjoys writing both for professional journals and for the general public. She co-authored "Celiac Disease for Dummies" with Dr. Ian Blumer and she served as a Consultant "Ask the Expert" for the New York Times Health online section on the topic of celiac disease. With a team of nutritionists, nurses, and other expert health care professionals Dr. Crowe oversaw the care of a large group of patients with celiac disease at the UVA Health Sciences Center. She is now seeing patients at UCSD with celiac disease and other forms of gluten intolerance. She is a member of the UCSD Warren Celiac Disease Center and is involved in an ongoing study comparing patients with celiac disease to those with non-celiac gluten intolerance.

"I am delighted to be involved in the 2012 Annual CCA meeting. It is my first time to participate in a CCA meeting and to speak to Canadians about celiac disease".