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**LOMA LINDA and RIVERSIDE CA., August 24, 2016** – The first Inland Empire-GI Society meeting was held on Thursday evening, August 18, at the Riverside Medical Clinic and Medical Center, Riverside, CA, with visiting professor, Prasad G. Iyer, MD, MS, FACG of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN.

Tejinder M. Kalra, MD, Director of Clinical Gastroenterology Loma Linda University Medical Center, and associate professor of medicine, Gastroenterology for the School of Medicine, was elected to lead the newly formed Inland Empire Chapter of the Society of Gastroenterology by community Gastroenterologists.

Kalra said, "Michael Volk, MD, head, division of Gastroenterology, Loma Linda Medical Center, and I have been planning this event since last year. We wanted to take advantage of the Visiting Professorship program started by the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) about 3 years ago, that supports academic and clinical programs for the GI faculty, Fellows, and trainees as well as for the community of practicing physicians. Forming the Inland Empire Gastroenterology Society offers a platform for this and other learning opportunities."

"We were very fortunate to have Dr. Iyer with us and to have active participation of the community gastroenterologists."

Iyer spoke to the group on the diagnosis, management and surveillance of the cancer risk of a malady known as Barrett's Esophagus, of which Iyer is a world-renowned authority.

On Aug 19th Dr. Iyer addressed Loma Linda University GI Division's faculty members and fellows on Barrett's and other esophageal disorders. He followed his lecture by consulting with individual faculty on difficult cases and research ideas.

## **About the Inland Empire GI Society**

The IE GI Society is an independent nonprofit organization founded in 2016, dedicated to providing continuing education for GI physicians in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Officers include Dr. Tejinder Kalra from Loma Linda (President), Dr. Mamta Mehta from Palm Springs (Secretary) and Dr. Kaunteya Reddy from Beaumont (Treasurer). The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday December 15, hosting Dr. William Chey from the University of Michigan as a visiting speaker.

## **About Loma Linda University Health**

Loma Linda University Health includes Loma Linda University's eight professional schools, Loma Linda University Medical Center's six hospitals and more than 900 faculty physicians located in the Inland Empire of Southern California. Established in 1905, Loma Linda University Health is a global leader in education, research and clinical care. It offers over 100 academic programs and provides quality health care to over 40,000 inpatients and 1.5 million outpatients each year. A Seventh-day Adventist organization, Loma Linda University Health is a faith-based health system with a mission "to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ."