

Family Social – Friday, July 6

Conference attendees and their family members are invited to join us for a fun, upbeat family social, followed by a fundraising walk. Please invite friends and family to join us – there is no cost to participate. A deejay will keep the children entertained while adults have the opportunity to meet and network with one another. The walk will take place afterward in the beautiful Harbor Island Park, just a short distance from the hotel.

Main Sessions – Saturday, July 7

Overview of Eosinophilic Gastrointestinal Disorders (EGIDs)

Learn the basics of EGIDs: what these disorders are, who is affected, and how the conditions are best managed.

Under the Microscope – Eosinophilic Esophagitis (EoE), Gastritis (EG), Gastroenteritis (EGE) and Colitis (EC)

When a biopsy is performed, what are doctors looking for? Attendees will gain knowledge and understanding of characteristics of EGIDs, and how eosinophils in these diseases cause injury and illness.

Diagnosis of EGIDs: Endoscopy, Biopsy, and Other Methods

Learn from one of the field's leading experts about methods used to accurately diagnose an EGID. The latest updated Consensus Recommendations from the experts on the diagnosis of EoE will be reviewed. Advances in diagnosis of EG, EGE and EC will be discussed.

Allergy Testing: Who Needs It and Why?

For some patients, symptoms are triggered by specific foods. In this session, attendees will learn which patients are candidates for allergy testing. Learn about different types of allergy testing and how they are performed.

Treatment of EGIDs

The treatment of EGIDs may be complex. Attendees will hear from a medical professional who explains common treatment options.

Adults: Just Big Kids?

This session will discuss diagnosis and treatment options for adults, and highlight ways in which recommendations for adults and children may differ.

Breakout Sessions

Customize your conference experience by selecting two breakout sessions that best suit your interest.

Basics of Tube Feeding: How to tube-feed, feeding schedules, common problems and suggested solutions are some of the topics covered in this discussion group. Learn practical tips from other "tubies."

Parenting a Pre-School Age or School Age Child: Teaching a child management of a medical condition starts early in life. Learn age-appropriate ways to educate and involve your child in disease management.

Parenting a Tween or Teen: Teaching a teen responsibility and helping them cope with and manage their illness will be the topic of discussion in this session.

Adults Living with an EGID: Attendees will meet to discuss topics of interest with an adult EGID physician expert and among their peers, such as managing social engagements, relationships, and traveling with dietary restrictions to name some examples.

Managing a Restricted Diet: Label-reading strategies, substitutions, tips for dining away from home and more will be shared among attendees.

Special Session for Teens and Tweens

Designed specifically for tweens and teens ages 11-19, this special session offers the opportunity for open discussion about topics of interest. From understanding a diagnosis, to tips and strategies for diet management in social settings, attendees will learn from experts in the field as well as from their peers.

HOPE for the Future: APFED's Research Initiative

Learn how this research initiative funds medical advancements in the field of Eosinophilic Disorders. This session will provide an update on this program, including research projects that have received grants and their primary objectives.

Allergen-free Cooking Demonstration

Attendees who are eliminating common food allergens from their diets will gain a better understanding of ingredient substitution and food preparation. A must-attend session for the newly diagnosed who may be struggling with learning a new way to cook.

Main Sessions – Sunday, July 8

Advocating in Schools

How do you put a health plan in place for your special-needs school-age child? Where do you start and who do you talk to? Find out in this session, led right-to-learn advocate Jennifer Cardenas.

Managing Restricted Diets and Food Reintroduction

Elimination diets require strict avoidance of an offending food. Learn best strategies for allergen avoidance, and when and how to reintroduce a food back into the diet.

Chronic Illness and Successful Families

Why do some families seem to have an easier time managing a chronic illness? How can your family be successful, too? Learn tips and strategies from a leading expert that will help pave the way for success.

Patient Perspectives: Parent, Teen and Adult

Always a favorite - Hear directly from speakers who offer unique perspectives and share their experiences about living with an Eosinophilic Disorder.

CME Sessions

Professionals looking to earn CME credits may attend special sessions on Sunday hosted by Rady Children's hospital that provide clinical information on the basics of EGIDs and diagnosis, as well as more in-depth discussions regarding management of EoE and treatment options. Attendees are invited to bring their own case studies for discussion during the Q&A. Details will be available in April on APFED's Healthcare Professional Page and Rady Children's website.