**Gastrointestinal Physiology Course for Medical School**

The aim of this course is to help students to acquire the basic knowledge of the main physiological function of gastrointestinal tract (GIT), and the mechanisms of absorption, digestion and metabolism.

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to provide an understanding of the:

* General organization and functions of the GIT.
* Innervation of GIT and enteric nervous system (ENS).
* Physiological process of mastication (chewing) and salivary secretion.
* Gastric secretions, motility & gastric emptying.
* Hepathobiliary function and related disorders including obstruction, cellular damage and portal hypertension.
* Bilirubin metabolism and excretion.
* Role of pancreas and its secretion in digestion and absorption.
* Secretions of small intestine, intestinal motility and sphincter control
* Primary function of the large intestine.

**Rationale:**

First, GIT provides the body with a continual supply of water, electrolytes, and nutrients. It is the source of energy and metabolism. Therefore, understanding the physiological events, such as digestion, absorption and metabolism in this system is essential for medical students. Second, GIT is susceptible to disease, producing specific symptoms and signs that require specific management. Therefore, understanding the related physiology aspect is essential for medical students to distinguish normal from pathological conditions.