

## Robert A. Ganz



**Author photo 1.** At an investigator meeting for the magnetic sphincter device (Torax Medical, Shoreview, Minn), in 2012, with Tom DeMeester, Jeff Peters, John Lipham, and others.

Dr Robert A. Ganz (Author photos 1-11, Video 1 available online at [www.VideoGIE.org](http://www.VideoGIE.org)) was born in Chicago, Illinois. He went to Niles West High School in Niles, Illinois, and then graduated summa cum laude from the University of Illinois with honors in biology. He attended the University of Illinois Abraham Lincoln School of Medicine, where he became interested in GI physiology and acid-related disorders. He then completed his fellowship in gastroenterology at Northwestern University. Shortly thereafter, Dr Ganz moved to Minneapolis, where he went into private practice with Minnesota Gastroenterology, Minneapolis, Minn. He also joined the faculty at the University of Minnesota, becoming a tenured Associate Professor of Medicine.

Dr Ganz has had an active research career, with over 100 peer-reviewed published articles and over 150 abstracts. His main research focus has been on treatment

for diseases of the esophagus and stomach, particularly novel device therapy for *Helicobacter pylori*, acid reflux, and Barrett's esophagus. He is an avid inventor, with over 25 patents in the field of medicine. Highlights of his research career include the following:

1. Dr Ganz is the inventor of balloon-based radio-frequency therapy for Barrett's esophagus, and he co-founded BARRX Medical. He performed the first balloon-based ablation of Barrett's esophagus in the world.
2. He co-wrote the original method patent for using radiofrequency energy to treat gastroesophageal reflux disease.
3. He was the first to identify that *H pylori* can be treated with phototherapy, specifically identifying that *H pylori* is sensitive to and can be eradicated with 405 nm light.
4. He performed the first case of photodynamic therapy for cancer of the esophagus in the Republic of South Korea.
5. He helped develop the magnetic sphincter implant (LINX) for gastroesophageal reflux and led the first implantation in a patient in the world.



**Author photo 2.** With Gene Overholt and his wife at DDW, 2011.



**Author photo 4.** With John Pandolfino, DDW, 2013.



**Author photo 3.** With Charlie Lightdale, DDW, 2013.

6. His other inventions include the CLO-temp incubator, a rotatable biopsy forceps, and a laterally deflecting ERCP cannula.
7. His work has been featured on the covers of 7 medical journals.
8. He was named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year at his high school in 2016 (Niles West High School; Niles, Illinois).
9. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy in 2015, and the Rudolph V. Schindler Award in 2017.
10. He has made the “Top Physician of the Twin Cities” list every year since 1992.
11. Most importantly, he has been voted “Top Dad” by his children every year since they were born (although there is only 1 father on the ballot).

Dr Ganz has also been very active in the ASGE. He was Chair of the ASGE Health and Public Policy Committee for 6 years, served on the Governing Board of the Society for 3 years, was a trustee on the ASGE Foundation Board for 2 years, and then was Chair of the Foundation Board for 3 years. As Foundation Chair, Dr Ganz doubled the Foundation assets from \$10 million to \$20 million. He is very interested in practice economics, and he lectures



**Author photo 5.** At an ASGE Foundation Board Meeting, Chicago, Ill, 2014.

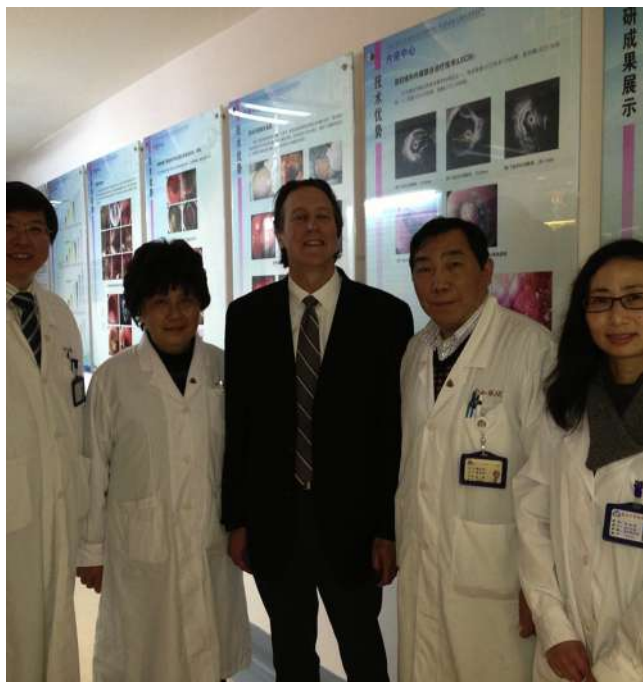


**Author photo 6.** Teaching in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2010.



**Author photo 7.** At the first magnetic sphincter augmentation procedure in the world, Abbott-Northwestern Hospital, Minneapolis, Minn, February 2007.

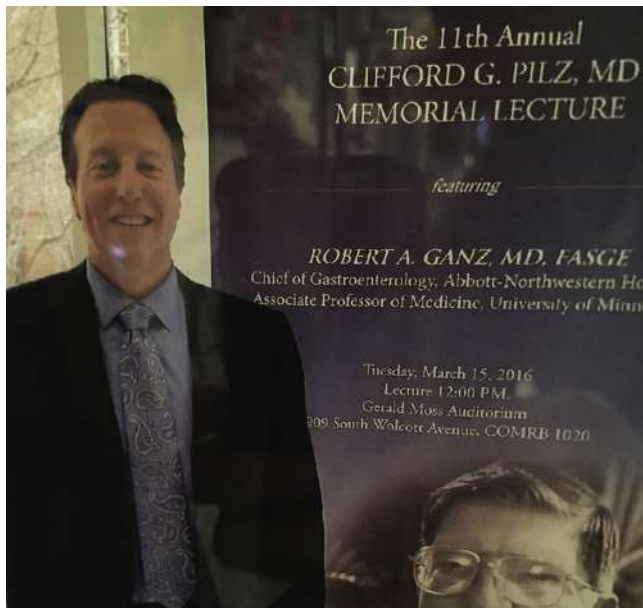




**Author photo 8.** Teaching at Shanghai University, Shanghai, China, with Jiyao Wang and colleagues, March 2013.



**Author photo 10.** Teaching radiofrequency ablation, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2010.



**Author photo 9.** Delivering the Clifford G. Pilz Memorial Lecture at the University of Illinois, Chicago, Ill, March 2016.



**Author photo 11.** Teaching ablation techniques, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2010.

widely on political and economic issues pertaining to the field of gastroenterology.

Most importantly, Dr Ganz had been blessed with a wonderful family: his cherished and loving wife, Keri, and 3 loving children, Gabriel, Zander, and Harlow.

**DISCLOSURE**

*The author disclosed no financial relationships relevant to this publication.*