



**For Immediate Release**

## **Internal Medicine Associates Receive *Leaders in Healthcare* Award**

**Merrillville, IN. (March 26, 2013)** - [Internal Medicine Associates](#) (IMA), a specialty medical office providing care for patients with cardiac, gastrointestinal, pulmonary and other related disorders, will receive a *Leaders in Healthcare* award tomorrow for their work in Transoral Incisionless Fundoplication (TIF), a minimally invasive approach to perform anti-reflux surgery (ARS).

“We are honored to receive this *Leaders In Healthcare* award and it is a team effort,” said Dr. Peter Mavrelis of IMA. “Our Gastroenterologists, Cardiologists and Pulmonologists continue to explore newer and better ways to provide our patients with quality healthcare.” Dr. Eric Beier, Chief Medical Officer of [MediGain](#) added, “The doctors at IMA recognized the value of the TIF technology to patients early on and were very proactive about making this advanced therapy accessible to patients in Northwest Indiana. The IMA gastroenterologists are in a very special class of the very few gastroenterologists who can perform the TIF procedure in the US.”

Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) is one of the most common conditions that occur in people as they age. It essentially involves the reflux of very strong acid from the stomach into the esophagus (food tube from the throat to the stomach), and can cause severe pain and other problems. In some patients, chronic GERD can even lead to esophageal cancer. The TIF procedure is a major advancement in GERD therapy for patients with moderate to severe GERD in whom medications are not sufficient to control their symptoms. The TIF procedure adheres to the same principles of conventional anti-reflux surgery that have been used for over 70 years, but it is much improved over other surgical treatments for GERD in that the TIF procedure is much less invasive, provides a much quicker patient recovery from surgery, and usually provides better overall results for the patient.

“MediGain has the privilege to service a wide range of physicians in multiple specialties across the U.S.,” said Greg Hackney, CEO of MediGain. “The recipients of these awards are nominated by their peers or their patients. We do extensive research into the nominee regarding their use of the latest techniques, the quality of healthcare they provide their patients, and their works within their local community and around the world.”

In addition, as a component of their leadership in performing the TIF procedure, the IMA gastroenterologists are currently involved with two very important TIF clinical studies. The first clinical study is the US Based, Multi-Center, Prospective TIF Registry, a 500 patient registry with a 6-month and 12-month follow-up. The 6-month data from this study was recently presented at a large medical conference (Digestive Disease Week) and was published in the Journal of American College of Surgeons, JACS December 2012 edition. The second study, called TEMPO, compares patient benefits and outcomes from the TIF procedure to a common medication used to treat GERD. The results of this study are very promising. The study has been submitted to Digestive Disease Week 2013 for abstract presentation and publication in 2013.

### About MediGain

[MediGain](#) offers a variety of services for U.S. physicians including revenue cycle analytics and automation software, consulting and full-service billing and reimbursements. MediGain provides solutions for physician groups, provider networks, [ambulatory surgery centers](#) and hospitals enabling them to reach their maximum potential through improved operational, financial, and clinical outcomes. For more information visit [www.MediGain.com](http://www.MediGain.com)