

UCSD Division of Gastroenterology Newsletter

Spring 2011 | Volume 5. Issue 3



LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Friends

It is with great pleasure that I write my inaugural "Letter from the Chief" as the new GI Division Chief at UCSD. My wife Kenna and I arrived from Minnesota on January 7th, and have received a warm welcome from the Division and the University. The coming months and years will be a period of substantial growth for the Division, and I am very optimistic about the future here. I will give a brief overview of some of the changes to come, to be followed by more details in the current and future issues of the Divisional newsletter.



First, I want to comment on recent recruitments and the new Divisional leadership team. In addition to myself, new recruitments to the Division include Robert Gish MD from California Pacific Medical Center (new Section Chief of Hepatology and Director of the new Center for Hepatology and Abdominal Transplantation [CHAT]), Sheila Crowe MD from University of Virginia (new Director of Research for the Division, PI on the renewal of our NIH funded T32 training grant, with a clinical practice focused on celiac disease and gastric disorders), and Jesus Rivera MD from University of Colorado (mucosal immunologist, with a clinical practice focused on IBD at the VA hospital). Additional recruitments are planned. The new Divisional leadership team is comprised of William Sandborn (Division Chief), Thomas Savides (Clinical Service Chief and Fellowship Director), Robert Gish (Section Chief of Hepatology), Samuel Ho (Section Chief at the VA), Sheila Crowe (Director of Research), Lars Eckmann (PI on the NIH funded GI DDRDC), and June Boyer (Division Administrator). This group meets as a Division Executive Committee, and brings a diverse set of backgrounds, experiences and skills together to set policy, solve problems, and plan for the future. It is hard to imagine a better team, and I feel fortunate to work with them.

Second, I will comment on strategic initiatives and areas of growth in the Division. There are three major areas of growth that are planned for the Division: 1) liver disease (in particular viral hepatitis, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and steatohepatitis, hepatobiliary malignancies, and liver transplant); 2) pancreaticobiliary disease and advanced endoscopy; and 3) inflammatory bowel disease. We will strive to make UCSD both a regional and national referral center of excellence in these areas, achieving excellence in clinical care, clinical research, and translational and basic research. The Division's historic focus and expertise on gastrointestinal tract cancers will be maintained across these three focus areas, specifically in the areas of hepatocellular carcinoma, cholangiocarcinoma, pancreatic cancer, and colon cancer. Elsewhere in this newsletter, the plans for growth in liver disease and CHAT will be described in more detail. In upcoming editions of the newsletter, Tom Savides and I will give more details regarding the pancreaticobiliary and IBD centers.

Third, I would like to comment briefly on the growth of our physical space and facilities. In the fall of 2011 the UCSD clinical practices for hepatology and gastroenterology in La Jolla will move into a significantly larger space in the Perlman Building, and the administrative offices for the Division will move from the west UCSD campus in La Jolla into the new East Campus Office Building (ECOB), directly adjacent to the Perlman Building and the Thornton Hospital and the new cardiovascular center. We will share the ECOB building with the Clinical and Translational Research Institute (CTRI) which will be a new state-of-the-art clinical research facility. We are also expanding our procedure practice at the University Ambulatory Surgery Center (UASC) and looking at ways to expand the procedure practice at the UCSD Medical Center in Hillcrest. Finally, we are negotiating for new wet lab space for the laboratory investigators in the Division, with the goal of consolidating our considerable research activities in gastrointestinal tract inflammation and liver inflammation into a single research unit.

Finally, I want to comment on the human capital of the Division. Over the last three months I have begun to become acquainted with clinicians and researcher physician and scientist faculty in the Division, as well as the gastroenterology fellows and the nurses, endoscopy technicians, schedulers, medical assistants, and administrative assistants. It really is a fantastic group of people, which will be further strengthened by our recent recruitments and additional future recruitments. In this vein, I would like to finish by publicly thanking the previous Division Chief, John Carethers, for his vision and leadership in recruiting such a great faculty, Thomas Savides for the outstanding job that he did as Interim Division Chief and for all of the help, support, and guidance that he has provided to me before and after I arrived on issues related to the clinical practice and the fellowship, and Lars Eckmann for his invaluable assistance in helping me begin to come up to speed on the research activities in our Division and on issues related to academic promotions. The future for the Division is bright, and we have assembled a team that I believe will do great things. So, STAY TUNED!

Faculty Spotlight

Robert Gish, M.D.



BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Gish began his medical training in 1974 when he was enrolled into the Pharmacy School at the University of Kansas. Dr. Gish transferred to the University of Kansas Medical School in 1977 and finished his MD degree in 1980. Dr. Gish went on to



complete a 3 year Internal Medicine residency at the University of California, San Diego and a 4 year Gastroenterology and Hepatology fellowship at the University of California Los Angeles during which time he was awarded the NIH Physician Scientist Award to study calcium signaling in liver cells. After completing his training, Dr. Gish moved to San Francisco and took a position at the California Pacific Medical Center (formerly known as Pacific Presbyterian Hospital). He became the Co-Medical Director of the Liver Transplant Program in 1988 and then the Medical Director of the Liver Transplant Program in 1994. In that role he developed an outreach program that eventually served over 35,000 patients in the Northern California and Nevada regions, and made the CPMC a leading liver transplant center.

Dr. Gish has had and continues to have an active research program in viral hepatitis, liver transplant, bioartificial liver, and public policy especially related to liver cancer, liver transplantation and viral hepatitis. Although his primary research focus is clinical research, he frequently collaborates with basic scientists in his research activities. He has published more than 500 original articles, review articles, abstracts and book chapters. Dr. Gish is also actively involved in numerous professional societies, including the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease and the American Society of Transplant Physicians. He is a fellow of both the American College of Physicians and a long-term member of the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease. Dr. Gish has served on the editorial boards of American Journal of Gastroenterology, Journal of Hepatology, Digestive Diseases and Sciences, Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Liver Transplantation and Surgery, and Journal of Viral Hepatitis.

In December 2010, Dr. Gish moved to San Diego to join the faculty of UCSD as a Professor of Clinical Medicine, Section Chief of Hepatology, and Director of the Center of Excellence for Hepatobiliary Disease and Abdominal Transplantation (CHAT).



UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
MEDICAL CENTER

CENTER FOR HEPATOBILIARY DISEASES AND
ABDOMINAL TRANSPLANTATION
C.H.A.T.

**CENTER FOR HEPATOBILIARY DISEASES AND ABDOMINAL TRANSPLANTATION
(CHAT)**

As the only academic medical center in San Diego, UC San Diego Health System has created a Center of Excellence in Hepatobiliary Disease and Abdominal Transplantation (CHAT) which became operational in 2011. CHAT is a multidisciplinary team comprised of hepatologists from the Division of Gastroenterology and hepatobiliary and transplant surgeons from the Department of Surgery as well as nurse practitioners, pharmacists and members of our Nephrology and Infectious Disease groups. The medical co-director of CHAT is Dr. Robert Gish and the surgical co-director is Dr. Alan Hemming. On the medical side, in addition to Dr. Gish, the other hepatologists working in CHAT include Drs. Alexander Kuo, Heather Patton, Rohit Loomba, and Yuko Kono. On the surgical team, the other transplant surgeons working with Dr. Hemming include Drs. Kristin Mekeel, Ajai Khanna and Angeles Baquerizo. The vision for CHAT includes merging clinical care, research, and education for liver disease, kidney disease and diabetes (for those patients in need of pancreas transplant) into one group. The clinical care functions will include the diagnosis and medical and surgical therapy of hepatobiliary cancers, the medical therapy of viral hepatitis B and C, the diagnosis and treatment of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), liver transplantation, as well as renal and pancreas transplantation. Research programs include novel approaches to screening for hepatitis B in high risk populations, novel chemotherapy and interventional radiology approaches to the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma, novel agents for the treatment of hepatitis B and C, and important new treatments of NASH. Education programs include new hepatology fellowships for gastroenterologists and nurse practitioners as well as an educational program for visiting providers from our region. To refer patients with hepatobiliary diseases for evaluation and treatment in CHAT, please use the following contact information for referring doctors: 1- 888-UCSD LVR or 619-5432451 to initiate referrals.



Annual GI Research Symposium

Saturday, February 12, 2011

We are pleased to congratulate Rohit Loomba, MD, MHS, as this year's organizer, he helped host a successful GI Research Symposium. He put together a great program, composed of 8 individual lectures and various panel discussions. With a focus on Epidemiology and Outcomes Research, Dr. Loomba secured guest speakers from various UCSD departments as well as some of our Kaiser affiliates. This year's keynote speaker, Brent A. Neuschwander-Tetri, MD, gave a great lecture entitled "Challenges and compromises in NASH trials: lessons learned from Rosiglitazone to Vitamin E". This year's symposium was one of our most successful GI events to date. With a great number of commercial support, we were able to offer all of those in attendance a better conference experience. We would also like to thank all of our guest speakers for their participation.

From Left to Right: Drs. Hofmann, Sandborn, Tetri, Loomba, Barrett-Connor, Gish, Mittal and Ho

Enjoying a delicious breakfast.



Goldberg Auditorium



Division Awards & Recognitions



Congratulations to **Declan McCole, PhD** on his two recent appointments, one as the new Chair of the Programming Committee of the GI & Liver Section of the American Physiological Society, and the second as Secretary of the West Coast Salt and Water Club. Dr. McCole received the New Investigator of the Year Award from the American Physiological Society, Gastrointestinal & Liver Section, at the Experimental Biology meeting in Washington D.C.

- **Ekhiro Seki, MD** received R01 grant by the NIH, the major goal of this project is to determine a specific intracellular signaling pathway in TLR4/TAK1 signaling in hepatic stellate cells, the Bambi promoter activity regulated by TLR4 signaling, and the role of TLR4-induced CX3CL1 and CX3CR1 in hepatic fibrosis.
- Congratulations to **Michael Docherty, MD** on being named Health Hero by the Combined Health Agencies of San Diego for his volunteer work with the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America.

Division Awards & Recognitions Cont'd

- **Prof. Alan F. Hofmann** received the Herbert Faulk Medal at the October 2010 Bile Acid Meeting as part of the IV. Faulk Gastro Conference in Germany. As the first and only recipient, we are honored that such a recognition was given to a member of our division.
- Congratulations to our fellows, **Suresh Pola, MD** and **Ingrid Gonzalez, MD** on receiving scholarships to attend the Rocky Mountain Interventional Endoscopy Course and the ASGE Video Editing Conference.
- **David Brenner, MD**, Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences and Dean, School of Medicine has been elected President of the American Association of Physicians.
- We are proud to announce that our fellow, **Amir Zarrinpar, MD** is this year's winner of the San Diego Gastroenterology Society abstract competition. The abstract entitled "Temporally Restricted Feeding Prevents Obesity and Other Metabolic Disorders Associated with a High Fat Diet in Mice" was co-authored with Christopher Vollmers, Sheena Keding, and Satchidananda Panda.

Recent Division Publications

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Van Kleek E, Liu S, Conn LM, Hoadley A, **Ho SB**. Improving the effectiveness of fecal occult blood testing in a primary care clinic by direct colonoscopy referral for positive tests. *J Health Qual*. 2010 Nov-Dec;32(6):62-9. doi: 10.1111/j.1945-1474.2009.00071.x.

Kanwal F, Kramer J, Asch SM, El-Serag H, Edmundowicz S, Sanyal, AJ, Dominitz, JA, McQuaid KR, Martin P, Keeffe EB, Friedman, **Ho SB**, Durazo F, Bacon, BR. Measuring quality of care in patients with cirrhosis: development of an explicit quality indicator set. *Clin Gastro Hepatol* 2010 Aug;8(8):709-17.

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Senapati S, **Ho SB**, Sharma P, Das S, Chakraborty S, Niehans GH, Batra SK. Expression of intestinal MUC17 membrane-bound mucin in inflammatory and neoplastic diseases of the colon *J Clin Pathol* 2010;63(8):702-7.

Mall AS, Tyler MG, **Ho SB**, Krige JE, Kahn D, Spearman W, Myer L, Govender D. The expression of MUC mucin in cholangiocarcinoma. *Pathol Res Pract*. 2010 Dec 15;206(12):805-9.

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Recent Division Publications Cont'd

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Parsons CJ, Stefanovic B, **Seki E**, Aoyama T, Latour AM, Marzluff WF, Rippe RA, Brenner DA. Mutation of the 5' untranslated region stem-loop structure inhibits $\alpha 1(I)$ collagen expression *in vivo*. *J. Biol. Chem*, published December 30, 2010 as doi:10.1074/jbc.M110.189118.

Miura K, **Seki E**, Ohnishi H, Brenner DA. Role of Toll-like receptors and their downstream molecules in the development of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. *Gastroenterol Res Pract* 2010; 2010: 362847. Epub 2011 Jan 17. Review.

Gao B, **Seki E**, Brenner DA, Friedman SL, Cohen J, Nagy LE, Szabo G, Zakhari S. Innate immunity and alcohol liver disease. *Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol*. 2011 Jan 20. Review. [Epub ahead of print]

Other:

Pola, S. (Dec 23 2010). Amebic Colitis. *The DAVE Project*. Retrieved Mar, 18, 2011, from http://daveproject.org/viewfilms.cfm?film_id=958
Times viewed since Feb 2006: 2134

2011 Endowed Jon I. Isenberg Lecture

Wednesday, April 20, 2011

The Endowed Jon I. Isenberg lecture is held on an annual basis in honor of our late Division Chief, Jon I. Isenberg, MD. This year's guest speaker was John Inadomi, MD, Professor and Head of the Division of Gastroenterology at University of Washington's Seattle campus. His talk, "Surveillance for Barrett's Esophagus: A Failed Premise," was enjoyed by all those in attendance.



Above: John Inadomi, MD, guest lecturer



Graduating Fellows

Congratulations to our 4th year fellows on their upcoming graduation. We wish you the best of luck on your future endeavors.



Marianne Fahmy, MD
IBD Fellowship at UCSD



Ben Cohen, MD
IBD Fellowship at Mt. Sinai, New York



Ingrid Gonzalez, MD
Adv. Endoscopy Fellowship at UCSD



James Ling, MD
ValleyCare Health Systems, Pleasanton, CA



Mamie Dong, MD
Kaiser Permanente

Incoming Fellows

We'd like to welcome our incoming fellows, they will begin their clinical work on July 1, 2011.

Wilson Kwong, MD — Mass General, Clinical Fellow



Michael McTigue, MD — UCLA, Clinical Fellow

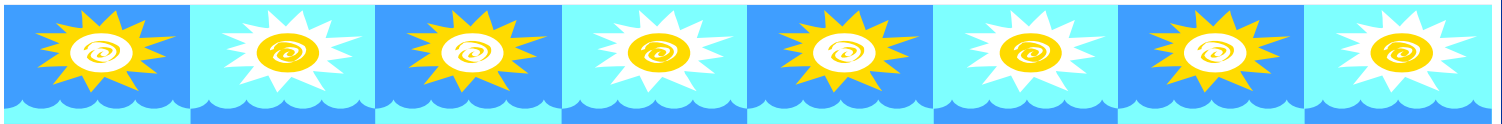


Ashish Shah, MD — University of Michigan, Clinical Fellow



Mazen Nouredin, MD — USC/NIH, Research Fellow





Organization Statement

The UCSD GI Division will provide the best clinical care to those afflicted with gastrointestinal and liver diseases, investigate at the clinical and basic levels the best way to improve those diseases, and educate trainees on how to best approach the care of patients with those diseases. The UCSD GI Division will strive to be nationally recognized through its faculty as well as innovations that will improve the care of patients with gastrointestinal and liver diseases nationwide.

The UCSD GI Division was founded in 1970 by Henry Wheeler, M.D. who served as its first Division Chief. Later, Jon I. Isenberg, M.D. led the Division from 1979 to 1993, followed by C. Richard Boland, M.D. from 1995 to 2003, John M. Carethers, M.D., From 2004 - 2009 and William J. Sandborn from 2011-Present. The GI fellowship Training Program commenced in 1974 and the NIH Training Grant was initially funded in 1976. The Division has trained several local gastroenterologists in San Diego, as well as developed several academicians at University-based medical schools, including some with leadership and administrative positions.

Main Campus - GI Academic Offices

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General GI: (619) 543-2347

Hepatology: (619) 543-6303

Interventional Endoscopy: (858) 657-6882

Motility: (619) 543-6834

IBD: (858) 657-6327

Celiac: (619) 543-2347

UCSD GI DDW RECEPTION

Sunday, May 8, 2011

Hyatt Regency Chicago

151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois, 60601

Gold Coast Room

6:00-8:00pm

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