

Division of Gastroenterology

UC San Diego
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Letter from the Chief

Dear Colleagues and Friends,



Welcome to the combined 2nd Quarter/3rd Quarter 2015 issue of the Division of Gastroenterology Newsletter. In this issue, you will meet two new faculty members: John Dever, MD, and Wilson Kwong, MD, and see an update on the exciting research work of our Associate Director of Clinical Research, physician-scientist Rohit Loomba, MD, MHSc. We also honor our graduating fellows, introduce you to our six incoming fellows for 2015 and present a glimpse of our patient-friendly University Ambulatory Surgery Center endoscopy services.

This issue of our newsletter offers you a broad and detailed look at the opportunities we offer for trainee research in digestive diseases. You will find updates on the work of each one of our T32 training grant- and non-T32-supported fellows and learn about a new program we have developed to engage internal medicine residents in digestive diseases research.

We designed this newsletter coverage, along with a corresponding expansion on our division website (<http://gastro.ucsd.edu/Pages/default.aspx>), to showcase our current trainees' research activities and to boost our efforts to continue to recruit the best of the best applicants for our gastroenterology fellowship program.

You will also see from our publication lists that our faculty members and fellows continue to make a strong showing in major gastroenterology journals and at national professional meetings.

We celebrate our continued growth and expansion and our significant upward move in the annual "Best Hospitals" rankings from *U.S. News & World Report*. A total of 1,572 GI programs were evaluated, and the top 50 are ranked. Prior to 2013, UCSD had never been ranked in the top 50. In 2013 we ranked 31, in 2014 we ranked 38, and in 2015 we are ranked number 24 in the nation. This is a remarkable accomplishment and it is only made possible by the hard work of each and every member of the Gastroenterology Division, including research personnel, administrative personnel, educational personnel, clinic and endoscopy unit personnel, the GI fellows, and the GI faculty scientists and physicians. I would like to thank all of them for helping to provide excellent care for our GI and Liver patients and conducting the research that we do. It is only by working together as a team that this accomplishment is made possible.

Best regards,

William Sandborn, MD
Professor and Chief, Division of Gastroenterology

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New Faculty Spotlight



Welcoming Dr. John B. Dever to the UC San Diego GI Faculty

The Division of Gastroenterology is pleased to welcome Assistant Clinical Professor John B. Dever, MD, to the faculty.

Dr. Dever has been a gastroenterologist at the VA San Diego Healthcare System since completing his fellowship training at the University of California, San Francisco's Fresno Gastroenterology & Hepatology Fellowship Program in July 2014.

His research interests include liver diseases, and he practices general gastroenterology. Dr. Dever is first author of articles published in peer-reviewed journals such as *Alimentary Pharmacology and Therapeutics*, *Digestive Diseases and Sciences*, *Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology*, and *Expert Opinion on Medical Diagnostics*. His abstract entitled "Engagement in care of high-risk hepatitis C patients with interferon-free therapies" was accepted to the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) Meeting, which he will be presenting in November 2015.

"Having the opportunity to care for patients at such a renowned institution is a privilege and joy. UC San Diego is one of the best in the West," says Dr. Dever.

Dr. Dever earned his Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and received his MD degree at Saba University School of Medicine in the Netherlands-Antilles. He completed his internship at Roger Williams Medical Center at Boston University in Providence, Rhode Island, and received his internal medicine residency training at Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle, Washington.

He is board-certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology. Dr. Dever's mentors have included Drs. Kris Kowdley and Richard Kozarek.

Dr. Dever's interests include spending time with family (and is expecting his first child in October 2015), personal narrative writing, traveling, and foreign medical service. During the month of February 2011, he served at the Cholera Clinic at Hôpital Sacré Coeur, operated by the Center for the Rural Development of Milot in northern Haiti.

"Having the opportunity to care for patients at such a renowned institution is a privilege and joy. UC San Diego is one of the best in the West. "

New Faculty Spotlight

Welcoming Dr. Wilson T. Kwong to the UC San Diego GI Faculty

We are pleased to welcome Wilson T. Kwong, MD, graduate of the UC San Diego Gastroenterology and Advanced Endoscopy fellowship program, to the Division of Gastroenterology faculty.

After completing his fellowship training in gastroenterology in 2014, he spent an extra fellowship year to receive additional training in advanced and complex procedures. During that year, he also served as a gastroenterology attending physician at UC San Diego and the VA San Diego Healthcare System.

Dr. Kwong also received further training at the Mayo Clinic, where he was a fellow in the only pancreatology fellowship available in the United States.

In his faculty position as an interventional endoscopist and pancreatologist in the Division of Gastroenterology at UC San Diego, he will have a special interest in GI oncology, pancreatic cysts and acute pancreatitis. In collaboration with Dr. Raul Coimbra in the Department of Surgery, he will help develop a pancreatitis center based at Hillcrest to provide specialized care to patients with pancreatic disorders. He will continue his clinical research in the areas of acute pancreatitis and management of pancreatic cysts.

Prior to arriving at UC San Diego, Dr. Kwong completed his BS with distinction and his MS in biological sciences at Stanford University and his MD at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, where he graduated with the top ranking out of 220 medical students and was a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society. He was awarded the Hemphill-Gojer Award as the top medical student in internal medicine. He went on to complete his internal medicine residency at Massachusetts General Hospital – the teaching hospital for Harvard Medical School.

Publications

RD Lawson, GC Hunt, AQ. Giap, ML. Krinsky, J Slezak, RS Tang, I Gonzalez, WT Kwong, SA Fehmi, TJ Savides. Pancreatic cysts suspected to be branch duct intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasm without concerning features have low risk for development of pancreatic cancer. *Annals of Gastroenterology* (2015) 28, 1-8.

Dubin SM, Kwong WT, Kalmaz D, Savides TJ. Low yield of routine duodenal biopsies for evaluation of abdominal pain. *World J Gastroenterol*. 2015 Jun 28;21(24):7495-9. doi: 10.3748/wjg.v21.i24.7495. PMID: 26139995.

Kwong WT, Lawson RD, Hunt G, Fehmi SM, Proudfoot JA, Xu R, Giap A, Tang RS, Gonzalez I, Krinsky ML, Savides TJ. Rapid Growth Rates of Suspected Pancreatic Cyst Branch Duct Intraductal Papillary Mucinous Neoplasms Predict Malignancy. *Dig Dis Sci*. 2015 Apr 30. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 25924899.

Pearlman M, Kwong WT. A long and distant journey: a case of rectal cancer with metastasis to the orbit. *Ann Gastroenterol*. 2015 Jan-Mar;28(1):151-152. PMID: 25608827.



(Continued on page 4)

Welcome New Faculty Member: Dr. Wilson T. Kwong, continued

Publications, continued

Kwong WT, Fehmi SM, Lowy AM, Savides TJ. Enteral stenting for gastric outlet obstruction and afferent limb syndrome following pancreaticoduodenectomy. *Ann Gastroenterol*. 2014;27(4):413-417. PMID: 25332208.

Kwong WT, Coyle WJ, Hasteh F, et al. Malignant cell contamination may lead to false-positive findings at endosonographic fine needle aspiration for tumor staging. *FNA Cytology During EUS Guided Luminal Tumor Staging*. *Endoscopy*. 2014 Feb;46(2):149-52. doi: 10.1055/s-0033-1358922. Epub 2014 Jan 10. PMID: 24415526.

Kwong WT, Chang JT. Endoscopic Retrieval of Ingested Nails using a Refrigerator Magnet. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2013 Sep;11(9):A24.

Kwong, WT, Kalmaz D. A Modern Form of Rapunzel Syndrome: Trichobezoar Composed of Synthetic Hair Extensions. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2014 May;12(5):A33-4. doi: 10.1016/j.cgh.2014.01.036. Epub 2014 Jan 30. PMID 24486736.

Kwong WT, Kalmaz D. Jejunal Hemosiderosis Detected with Small Bowel Capsule Endoscopy. *Visible Human Journal of Endoscopy*. Vol 12, No 1 (2013).

Kwong WT, Friello P, Semba RD. Interactions between iron deficiency and lead poisoning: epidemiology and pathogenesis. *Sci Total Environ*. 2004 Sep 1;330(1-3):21-37.

Kwong WT, Hsu S. Pseudoporphyria associated with voriconazole. *J Drugs Dermatol*. 2007 Oct;6(10):1042-4.

Digestive Disease Week Abstracts and Presentations

2015

Kwong WT, Savides TJ. Rapid Growth Rates of Suspected Pancreatic Cyst Branch Duct Intraductal Papillary Mucinous Neoplasms Predict Malignancy. **Oral Presentation**.

2014

Kwong WT, Lawson RD, Savides TJ. Pancreatic Cyst Growth Rate Greater than 1mm/month Predicts the Presence of Adenocarcinoma.

Dubin S, Kwong WT, Kalmaz D, Savides TJ. Low Yield of Routine Duodenal Biopsies in the Evaluation of Abdominal Pain. **Oral Presentation**.

2013

Kwong WT, Fehmi SM, Savides TJ. Enteral Stent Treatment of Gastric Outlet Obstruction and Afferent Limb Syndrome due to Gastrojejunal Anastomotic Obstruction after Pancreatic Cancer Surgery.

Profiles in Gastroenterological Research: From Bench to Clinic

Physician-Scientist

Rohit Loomba, MD, MHsc
Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
Associate Director of Clinical Research
Co-Director, Translational Core
Director, Liver Epidemiology Training Program
Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Medicine
Associate Adjunct Professor, Division of Epidemiology
Department of Family and Preventive Medicine



Dr. Rohit Loomba is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology and Associate Adjunct Professor in the Division of Epidemiology at University of California, San Diego. He is a clinical and translational physician-scientist who focuses his work on chronic liver diseases with particular attention to nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). He is an internationally recognized expert in translational research and innovative clinical trial design in NAFLD and nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) and hepatic fibrosis.

Dr. Loomba is the founding director of the UC San Diego NAFLD Research Center, where his team is conducting cutting-edge research in all aspects of NAFLD. He follows one of the largest cohorts of well-characterized patients with NAFLD and applies evidence-based medicine to answer clinically relevant questions to improve management of patients with chronic liver disease. His research is funded by the National Institutes of Health, American Gastroenterology Association and National Science Foundation as well as several investigator-initiated research projects funded by industry. He is the principal investigator for adult hepatology for the NIDDK-sponsored NASH Clinical Research Network (2009-2019) and is a member of its steering committee. He serves as an advisor to drug development as well as biomarker development programs of regulatory agencies and pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry.

He leads a multidisciplinary team of trainees, nurses, clinicians and scientists in conducting cutting-edge translational research in liver disease in the true spirit of team science. Their group has been responsible for leading MRI- and MRE-based endpoint assessment in NASH and fibrosis trials. Dr. Loomba and his collaborators are leading a major effort into non-invasive biomarkers, especially imaging modalities, for assessment of fat, inflammation, cell injury and fibrosis in patients with chronic liver diseases, and developing therapies for the treatment of NASH and NASH-related fibrosis.

The central goal of his research program is to reverse NASH and fibrosis and stop progression of liver disease in patients who have NAFLD. Dr. Loomba's work addresses many facets of NAFLD, including NAFLD in geriatric patients, the epidemiology and natural history of NAFLD, genetic and environmental predisposition to NAFLD and the treatment of NASH. (For further details, please visit his laboratory website, <http://fattyLiver.ucsd.edu>.)

Dr. Loomba is an expert in clinical management of chronic liver diseases and directs the NAFLD Clinic at UC San Diego Medical Center. He has been voted as a Castle Connolly Top Doctor each year for the last 5 years.

Dr. Rohit Loomba, continued

Dr. Loomba holds joint appointments in the Division of Gastroenterology in the Department of Medicine and the Division of Epidemiology in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

Dr. Loomba received his MBBS (MD) degree from the Armed Forces Medical College in India and completed his internship and residency at St. Luke's Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. He received advanced fellowship training in clinical and research hepatology at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at the National Institutes of Health along with a Master of Health Sciences in Clinical Research from the School of Medicine at Duke University.

He became a member of the Division of Gastroenterology faculty in 2009, when he graduated from the UC San Diego Gastroenterology Fellowship Program.

Dr. Loomba is a researcher with a wide array of collaborators at UC San Diego, in the greater San Diego medical community, at the National Institutes of Health and at many institutions across the United States. He conducts genetic studies, imaging studies, epidemiology studies and evidence-based medicine research.

One of the most exciting recent developments in his research is the receipt of a new five-year R01 research grant from the National Institute of Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). The newly-funded project is a clinical radiological study of which Dr. Loomba is co-principal investigator with his longtime friend and collaborator Dr. Claude B. Sirlin, Professor of Radiology at UC San Diego: Quantitative Ultrasound (QUS) Technology for Diagnosis and Grading of Hepatic Steatosis in NAFLD.

Dr. Loomba has a number of active clinical trials of potentially therapeutic agents in NASH and NAFLD as well as tests of biomarkers for NAFLD and fibrosis. He has two active patent applications for novel biomarkers for the diagnosis of liver disease.

He continues to work in close collaboration with his colleagues at the National Institutes of Health, where he received his clinical and research training in advanced hepatology. He is chair of the Standard of Care Committee and a member of the network's Steering Committee and Genetics Committee for the NIH/NIDDK Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis Clinical Research Network.

As founding director and principal investigator of the San Diego Integrated NAFLD Research Consortium (SINC), he established the consortium in 2011 to enhance collaboration between doctors and working groups in NAFLD research and the care of patients with NAFLD. The consortium includes experts from UC San Diego Health, Sharp Health Care, Kaiser Permanente and the Balboa Naval Medical Center.

He also collaborates with the Southwestern Oncology Group (SWOG), a National Cancer Institute-sponsored consortium, to better define the epidemiology of viral hepatitis and the risk of recurrence of hepatitis B and C in cancer patients across the SWOG sites in the United States. Through this work, the SWOG hopes to reduce liver-related morbidity and mortality in these patients.

Dr. Loomba is a member of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) Steatosis and Steatohepatitis special interest group and an elected member of its Steering Committee. He also serves on the AASLD's Research Awards Committee and Program Evaluation Committee. He is the elected chair of the American Liver Foundation (ALF) Research Awards Committee and an elected

Dr. Rohit Loomba, continued

member of the ALF National Board of Directors. He is currently on the American Gastroenterological Association Research Award Panel.

Dr. Loomba's vision is to establish a comprehensive center of excellence in clinical research and epidemiology of liver disease at UC San Diego.

Twenty-Five Most Significant Publications

Yang L, Roh YS, Song J, Zhang B, Liu C, Loomba R, Seki E. Transforming growth factor beta signaling in hepatocytes participates in steatohepatitis through regulation of cell death and lipid metabolism in mice. *Hepatology*. 2014 Feb;59(2):483-95.

Stinton L* and Loomba R. Recommendations for liver biopsy evaluation in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. *Minerva Gastroenterol Dietol*. 2014 Mar;60(1):5-13.

Boland BS*, Dong MH*, Bettencourt R, Barrett-Connor E, and Loomba R. Association of serum bilirubin with aging and mortality. *J Clin Exp Hepatol* 2014;4:1-7.

Pearlman M* and Loomba R. State of the art: Treatment of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis. *Curr Opin Gastroenterol*. 2014 May;30(3):223-37.

Loomba R, Wolfson T, Ang B, Booker J, Behling C, Peterson M, Valasek M, Lin G, Brenner D, Gamst A, Ehman R, Sirlin C. Magnetic resonance elastography predicts advanced fibrosis in patients with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: A prospective study. *Hepatology* 2014 Dec;60(6):1920-8.

Singh S*, Allen AM*, Wang Z, Prokop LJ, Murad MH, and Loomba R. Fibrosis Progression in Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver versus Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis: A Systematic Review and Metaanalysis of Paired-Biopsy Studies. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2015 Apr;13(4):643-654.

Patel NS, Doycheva I, Peterson MR, Hooker J, Kisselva T, Schnabl B, Seki E, Sirlin CB, and Loomba R. Effect of Weight Loss on MRI Estimation of Liver Fat and Volume in Patients With Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis. In press *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* 2014.

Chen P, Torralba M, Tan J, Embree M, Zengler K, Stärkel P, Pijkeren JP, DePew J, Loomba R, Ho SB, Bajaj JS, Mutlu EA, Keshavarzian A, Tsukamoto H, Nelson KE, Fouts DE, Schnabl B. Supplementation of Saturated Long-chain Fatty Acids Maintains Intestinal Eubiosis and Reduces Ethanol-induced Liver Injury in Mice. *Gastroenterology*. 2015 Jan;148(1):203-214.

Tang A, Desai A, Hamilton G, Wolfson T, Gamst A, Lam J, Clark L, Hooker J, Chavez T, Ang BD, Middleton MS, Peterson M, Loomba R, Sirlin CB. Accuracy of MR Imaging-estimated Proton Density Fat Fraction for Classification of Dichotomized Histologic Steatosis Grades in Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease. *Radiology*. 2015 Feb;274(2):416-25. Loomba R, Quehenberger O, Amado A, Dennis EA. Polyunsaturated fatty acid metabolites as novel lipidomic biomarkers for noninvasive diagnosis of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis. *Journal of Lipid Research* 2015 Jan;56(1):185-92.

Vodkin I*, Bettencourt R, Valasek MV, Cachay E, Loomba R. Clinical, biochemical and histologic differences between HIV-associated NAFLD and primary NAFLD: a case-control study. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther*. 2015 Feb;41(4):368-78.

Dr. Rohit Loomba — 25 Most Significant Publications, continued

Lin SC*, Heba E, Wolfson T, Ang B, Gamst A, Han A, Erdman Jr. JW, O'Brien Jr. WD, Andre MP, Sirlin CB, and Loomba R. Noninvasive diagnosis of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease and quantification of liver fat by new quantitative ultrasound. In press, *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* 2014.

Neuschwander-Tetri BA, Loomba R, Sanyal AJ, Lavine JE, Van Natta ML, Abdelmalek MF, Chalasani N, Dasarathy S, Diehl AM, Hameed B, Kowdley KV, McCullough A, Terrault N, Clark JM, Tonascia J, Brunt EM, Kleiner DE, Doo E. Farnesoid X nuclear receptor ligand obeticholic acid for non-cirrhotic, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (FLINT): a multicentre, randomised, placebo-controlled trial. *Lancet*. 2015 Mar 14;385(9972):956-65.

Loomba R, Sirlin C, Ang B, Bettencourt R, Jain R*, Salotti J, Soaft L, Hooker J, Kono Y, Bhatt A, Hernandez L, Nguyen P, Nouredin M*, Haufe W, Hooker C, Yin M, Ehman R, Lin G, Valasek M, Brenner D, Richards L. Ezetimibe for the treatment of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis: Assessment by novel MRI and MRE in a randomized trial (MOZART Trial). *Hepatology*. 2015 Apr;61(4):1239-50. Arulanandan A*, Ang B, Bettencourt R, Hooker J, Behling C, Lin GY, Valasek MA, Ix JH, Schnabl B, Sirlin CB, Loomba R. Association Between Quantity of Liver Fat and Cardiovascular Risk in Patients with Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease Independent of Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis. In press, *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* 2015.

Cui J*, Ang B, Haufe W, Hernandez C, Verna EC, Sirlin CB, Loomba R. Comparative diagnostic accuracy of magnetic resonance elastography vs. eight clinical prediction rules for non-invasive diagnosis of advanced fibrosis in biopsy-proven non-alcoholic fatty liver disease: a prospective study. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther*. 2015 Jun;41(12):1271-80.

Arulanandan A, Loomba R. Noninvasive Testing for NASH and NASH with Advanced Fibrosis: Are We There Yet? *Current Hepatology Reports*. 2015(14); 109-18.

Bazick J*, Donithan M, Neuschwander-Tetri BA, Kleiner D, Brunt EM, Wilson L, Doo E, Lavine J, Tonascia J, Loomba R. Clinical Model for NASH and Advanced Fibrosis in Adult Patients With Diabetes and NAFLD: Guidelines for Referral in NAFLD. *Diabetes Care*. 2015 Jul;38(7):1347-55.

Roh YS, Zhang B, Loomba R, Seki E. TLR2 and TLR9 contribute to alcohol-mediated liver injury through induction of CXCL1 and neutrophil infiltration. *Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol*. 2015 Jul 1;309(1):G30-41. Verna EC, Patel J, Bettencourt R, Nguyen P, Hernandez C, Valasek MA, Kisselva T, Brenner DA, Loomba R. Novel association between serum pentraxin-2 levels and advanced fibrosis in well-characterised patients with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther*. 2015 Sep;42(5):582-90.

Spengler E*, Loomba R. Recommendations for Diagnosis, Referral for Liver Biopsy and Treatment of NAFLD and NASH. In press *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* 2015.

Singh S*, Murad MH, Chandar AK, Bongiorno CM, Singal AK, Atkinson SR, Thursz MR, Loomba R, Shah VH. Comparative Effectiveness of Pharmacological Interventions for Severe Alcoholic Hepatitis: A Systematic Review and Network Meta-analysis. In press *Gastroenterology* 2015.

Kim WR, Loomba R, Berg T, Aguilar Schall RE, Yee LJ, Dinh P, Flaherty JF, Martins EB, Therneau TM, Jacobson I, Fung S, Gurel S, Buti M, Marcellin P. Impact of long-term tenofovir disoproxil fumarate on incidence of hepatocellular carcinoma in patients with chronic hepatitis B. *Cancer* 2015 [Epub ahead of print].

Singh S*, Khera R, Wang Z, Prokop LJ, Murad MH, and Loomba R. Comparative Effectiveness of Pharmacological Interventions for Non-alcoholic Steatohepatitis: A Systematic Review and Network Meta-analysis. *Hepatology* 2015 [Epub ahead of print]. Loomba R, Schork N, Chen CH, Bettencourt R, Bhatt A, Ang B, Nguyen P, Hernandez C, Richards L, Salotti J, Lin S, Seki E, Nelson KE, Sirlin CB, Brenner D; Genetics of NAFLD in Twins Consortium. *Gastroenterology* 2015 [Epub ahead of print].

Program Highlight

Endoscopy Procedures at the UC San Diego Ambulatory Surgery Center

At UC San Diego Health's University Center Lane location in La Jolla, the Division of Gastroenterology offers endoscopy procedures in a fully equipped and patient-friendly outpatient setting within University Ambulatory Surgery Center (UASC).



There, Drs. Nedret Copur-Dahi and Michael Docherty perform esophagogastroduodenoscopies (EGDs) and colonoscopies.

"The outpatient setting is usually easier for the patient," Dr. Docherty says. "You don't run the risk of delays from inpatient procedures."

UASC is a partnership that was established in 2007 between UC San Diego Health and Surgical Care Affiliates (SCA), one of the nation's largest providers of specialty surgical services. SCA's Kristi Waite, RN, CASC, the interim administrator at UASC, is responsible for its day-to-day operations.

Ambulatory service centers like the UASC offer streamlined services for patients in a setting that is smaller and more personal than a hospital, she says. The overall experience is easier for patients. For medical staff, there is a maximum of efficiency and a minimum of downtime.

Kathy Bordeaux, RN, BSN, CGRN, is the Nurse Manager for UC San Diego's Gastroenterology Clinic. She serves as a liaison between Gastroenterology's providers/schedulers and the UASC to ensure that patients are scheduled appropriately and to facilitate any process changes that need to occur.

UASC is located at 8929 University Center Lane, San Diego, CA, 92122. There is free parking. UASC phone number: (858) 554-0220.

Dr. Rohit Loomba — Twenty-Five Most Significant Publications, continued

Loomba R, Schork N, Chen CH, Bettencourt R, Bhatt A, Ang B, Nguyen P, Hernandez C, Richards L, Salotti J, Lin S, Seki E, Nelson KE, Sirlin CB, Brenner D; Genetics of NAFLD in Twins Consortium. *Gastroenterology* 2015 [Epub ahead of print].

Research Program Highlight

Opportunities for Trainee Research in Digestive Diseases at UC San Diego



Section 1. Update on T32 NIH-Supported Trainee Research

From Dr. Sheila Crowe, Director of Research and T32 Director

UC San Diego has a longstanding NIH-sponsored T32 training grant in its 41st year of funding. Each year, the grant supports four postdoctoral fellows, each for two years; one pediatric GI fellow and three adult GI fellows, but occasionally funds a PhD postdoctoral fellow. In addition to the postdoctoral slots, the grant supports two predoctoral trainees for up to three years annually.

Update on Recent, Current, and Past UCSD GI T32 Trainees

Recently Graduated Predoctoral Trainee:

Christella Widjaja completed her last year as predoctoral trainee on the T32 grant working in the laboratory of John Chang, MD, studying the role of proteasomal degradation in T lymphocyte-mediated intestinal inflammation. Christella is continuing her research with Dr. Chang as a Biomedical Sciences PhD graduate student.

Current Predoctoral Fellows:

Jane Klann is a predoctoral trainee supported by the T32 grant. Jane is in her third year of T32-supported research in the laboratory of John Chang, MD, studying the pure metabolism in the control of intestinal inflammation.

Lee Swanson is an incoming predoctoral trainee in her first year of T32-supported research in the laboratory of Pradipta Ghosh, MBBS, studying the role of G proteins in inflammation, injury and repair.

Recently Graduated Postdoctoral Trainees:

Adnan Sohail, MBBS, completed his GI fellowship training at UC San Diego. Two of those years were T32-supported research in the laboratory of Aleem Siddiqui, PhD, studying mitochondrial dynamics in NASH as well as studies of HCV and HBV in the liver. Adnan joined the faculty at the University of Massachusetts Division of Gastroenterology.

Soo Ngoi, PhD, completed two years of T32-supported research in the laboratory of John Chang, MD. Soo is continuing her studies as a postdoctoral research fellow in Dr. Chang's laboratory studying the role of the dynein-binding protein, Lis1, in regulating T lymphocyte fate in the context of intestinal inflammation.

Daphne Say, MD, completed her pediatric gastroenterology fellowship training at UC San Diego. Two of those years were T32-supported research in the laboratory of Ariel Feldstein, MD, studying the role of hepatocyte versus myeloid-derived endothelial growth factor in liver angiogenesis and fibrosis. Daphne joined the faculty at UC Davis Division of Pediatrics.

Dana Patton-Ku, MD, completed her pediatric GI fellowship training at UC San Diego and was awarded a three-year minority supplement to our parent T32 grant studying childhood obesity in the laboratory of Kerry Boutelle, PhD. Dana is continuing her research at UC San Diego as a postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Boutelle.

Current Postdoctoral Fellows:

Laura Pace, MD, PhD, completed her GI fellowship training at UC San Diego. Laura is a GI research fellow in her second year of T32-supported research examining host-microbial interactions in GI health and disease in the laboratory of Pieter Dorrestein, PhD, an expert in metabolomics and with Sheila Crowe, MD, in obtaining patient GI mucosal biopsy samples for studies of the metabolome.

Parambir Dulai, MBBS, is a GI fellow in his second year of T32 grant support research working with William Sandborn, MD, studying fecal immunochemical test as a clinical endpoint in studies of IBD. Parambir received a 2015 American College of Gastroenterology Clinical Research Award for this project.

Maheen Hassan, MD, is the incoming pediatric GI fellow in her first year of T32-supported research in the laboratory of Hayat Mousa, MD, examining esophageal distensibility as a predictor of fibrotic remodeling and clinical phenotype in patients with eosinophilic esophagitis.

Lindsay Butcher, PhD, is a postdoctoral fellow who worked previously with Richard Boland, MD, PhD, at Baylor University, Dallas, Texas. Lindsay joined the laboratory of Sheila Crowe, MD, in 2014 and is in her first year of T32-supported research studying gastric inflammation and the role of oxidative stress in gastric carcinogenesis.

Evelyn Mello-Marquez, MD, is a graduate of a three-year GI fellowship from Washington University Saint Louis (WUSL) who was awarded a minority supplement to our parent T32 in order to continue her studies in colorectal cancer disparities working with Samir Gupta, MD.

Updates on Past T32 Postdoctoral GI Fellow Graduates

Julio Gutierrez, MD, completed his GI fellowship training at UC San Diego. Julio received two years of the T32-supported research training and then subsequently completed a transplant hepatology fellowship at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Julio is an Assistant Professor and Director of Hepatobiliary Malignancy at the University of Texas, San Antonio.

Fred Park, MD, PhD, completed his GI fellowship training at UC San Diego. Fred received one year of T32 research support on our T32 and subsequently received a two-year CIRM grant fellowship. Fred is an Assistant Professor at UC San Diego Division of Gastroenterology pursuing research on the molecular mechanism of cell polarity. Fred has received a KL2 grant through the UC San Diego Clinical Trials Research Institute.

Amir Zarrinpar, MD, PhD, completed his GI fellowship training at UC San Diego. Two of those years were T32-supported research examining time-restricted feeding and its effects on obesity, metabolism and inflammation in the laboratory of Satchidananda Panda at the Salk Institute. Amir is an Assistant Professor at UC San Diego studying time-restricted feeding and effects on obesity, metabolism and inflammation. He has received many new investigator awards as outlined in another section of the Newsletter and has just been awarded an NIH K08 award.

Opportunities for Trainee Research in Digestive Diseases, continued

Brigid Boland, MD, completed her GI fellowship training at UC San Diego. Two of those years were T32-supported research studying translational IBD research in the laboratory of John Chang, MD, and William Sandborn, MD. Brigid was the 2014 Advanced IBD Fellow and subsequently joined the faculty of the UC San Diego Division of Gastroenterology as an Assistant Professor. Brigid recently received a Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America Career Development Award as described in this issue.

Mazen Nouredin, MD, did a three-year hepatology fellowship at NIH prior to his GI fellowship at UC San Diego. Mazen graduated after two years of GI fellowship with one year of T32-supported research studying epidemiology of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease in the elderly and heritability of hepatic steatosis in the laboratory of Rohit Loomba, MD. Mazen is the Director of the Fatty Liver Program and an Assistant Professor at UCLA.

Section 2. Update on Engaging Internal Medicine Residents in Digestive Disease Research and Other GI Fellow Research

From Dr. Rohit Loomba, Associate Director of Clinical Research

With Drs. Samir Gupta, Barrett Levesque, Syed Fehmi and Parambir Dulai

In today's evolving and rapidly changing medical environment, gastroenterology has become one of the most competitive medicine subspecialties to match into. Several factors contribute to an applicant's success. Residents must demonstrate excellence both clinically, through letters of recommendation from key faculty and opinion leaders in the field, and academically, by pursuing scholarly activities and demonstrating research productivity. This process requires a great deal of effort and can be a rather daunting and overwhelming task for many young resident physicians.

Gastroenterology Research Mentors



Samir Gupta, MD



Rohit Loomba, MD, MHSc



William Sandborn, MD

Recognizing that the keys to success lie in the alignment of academic resources and educational opportunities, the UC San Diego Internal Medicine Residency Program and Gastroenterology Division and Fellowship Program have teamed up to develop an interest group specifically aimed at creating a mentoring environment for residents who are interested in pursuing a career in academic gastroenterology and hepatology.

Most prominently involved in the creation of the mentoring environment for residents are Parambir Dulai, MD, who is a gastroenterology fellow (on the T32 gastroenterology research training grant), and the chief

medical residents in the Internal Medicine Residency Program. The chief residents have exerted substantial effort to ensure that the residents are supported.

Dr. Dulai and the chief residents built upon the mentoring environment that is already in place for GI research fellows who are not supported by a T32 training grant. Each non-T32 fellow is paired with a research mentor at the beginning of fellowship, meets with that mentor on a quarterly basis and gives regular presentations at Grand Rounds with updates on the progress of his or her research. In this way, these fellows are provided with a structured flow for their research efforts. They are therefore more likely to be productive in their research endeavors.

With the research structure already created for the non-T32 fellows, Dr. Dulai and the chief residents leveraged those mentors (Dr. Samir Gupta, Dr. Rohit Loomba and Dr. William Sandborn) to build research teams for the residents. They paired interns with residents and put them under the umbrella of a research mentor. Thus the interns would learn from the residents, the residents would learn from the fellows and the entire team would learn from the research mentor.



Parambir Dulai, MD

These teams would allow for both vertical learning (interns, residents, fellows could learn from each other and help guide each other) and horizontal learning (the quarterly meetings for the residents allowed interns/residents from different teams to discuss issues they were facing, the ways they overcame them, the projects they were working on and other facets of their research experience). With this, the hope is to create an engaging and productive environment in which residents can pursue research in gastroenterology.

Over the past year, the resident interest group has met each quarter with the topics of discussion ranging from identifying a research mentor and project to writing a manuscript and navigating the fellowship application process. By creating research teams composed of a faculty mentor and several resident trainees per group, residents have identified research projects and successfully translated these projects into presentations at national meetings and manuscripts for publication.

The success of the interest group has led to the creation of several other interest groups across other medicine subspecialties within the Internal Medicine Residency Program and the creation of a new resident GI elective at Thornton Hospital.

Given the overwhelming success of the program, the interest group will look to expand over the next year with new research and mentoring teams within the Division of Gastroenterology, with the hope of better preparing our young trainees for a successful and fulfilling career in academic gastroenterology and hepatology.



Simerjot Jassal, MD

Director, UC San Diego
Internal Medicine Residency
Program



Denise Kalmaz, MD

Director, UC San Diego
Gastroenterology Fellowship
Program

Fellows

Graduating Fellows 2015



It was very nice having graduation back at the home of Tom and Wendy Savides. What has become a tradition at graduation is the guessing of the disease on the graduation cake. Heather Patton was the first to correctly identify the seven related diseases illustrated on the cake by Wendy.

Everyone had a wonderful time celebrating with our graduates on successfully completing their gastroenterology training.

Graduating this year are Shireena Desai, Laura Pace, Adnan Sohail and Irine Vodkin. Everyone is very proud of this graduating class and wishes them well for the future.



Shireena will be joining Kaiser Orange County, Laura is a research track fellow and will be completing her training doing a research year in the laboratory of Pieter Dorrestein, Adnan Sohail is a Clinical Instructor at University of Massachusetts and Irine Vodkin is joining our Hepatology faculty. Congratulations to all our graduates!

Fellows, continued

Incoming Fellows 2015



Katherine Shaffer
Emory University



Albert Ding
Washington University



Athanasios Desalermos
Boston University



Nanae Takatori
Stanford University

Advanced IBD Fellow

Daniel Cohen-Lyons, MD
University of Toronto

Advanced Endoscopy Fellow

Michael Mello, MD
Washington University

Events

2015 Endowed Jon I. Isenberg Lecture

On March 25, 2015, we held our 2015 Jon I. Isenberg Lecture. Our keynote speaker was Thaddeus Stappenbeck, MD, PhD, Professor of Pathology and Immunology and Professor of Development Biology at the Washington University School of Medicine.

He spoke on the topic, “Host-Microbial Intestinal Interactions that Modulate Inflammatory Phenotypes.”

His bio from the announcement: Dr. Stappenbeck’s research program has focused on the response of intestinal epithelial cells to injury using several mouse models including chemical and physical damage as well as genetic modulation of the immune system and epithelial function. His lab found that epithelial repair is directed by intestinal microbes, specific cells of the immune system, and stromal cells that support the epithelium. Within the intestinal epithelium, the process of autophagy is required within specific secretory cells to support intestinal homeostasis. Dr. Stappenbeck’s lab has been supported by the National Institute of Health, the Crohn’s Colitis Foundation of America, The Broad Medical Research Program and the Pew Foundation.

Biomedical Research Facility Open House

On April 9, 2015, the Division of Gastroenterology celebrated its move to the Biomedical Research Facility II with an Open House.

GI faculty members located at the BRF-II facility include Dr. David Brenner, Dr. Kim Barrett, Dr. Sheila Crowe, Dr. Peter Ernst, Dr. Lars Eckmann, Dr. Jesus Rivera-Nieves, Dr. Bernd Schnabl, Dr. John Chang, Dr. Rohit Loomba and Dr. Amir Zarrinpar.



Scientific Achievements

Awards and Honors

Individual Honors

Alan Hofmann, MD, Professor Emeritus, celebrated being named a "Jubel Doktor" at the University of Lund, Sweden. This recognition is given to graduates of the University 50 years after their being awarded an MD degree. Dr. Hofmann received his MD degree (equivalent to a PhD) in 1965 for his work on the role of bile acids in lipid absorption.

Division Honors



In the 2015-2016 "Best Hospitals" rankings from U.S. News & World Report, UC San Diego Health and its hospitals ranked #24 in Gastroenterology & GI Surgery (out of more than 1,500 gastroenterology programs), up from #38 last year.

Keep in Touch

Faculty, Fellows and Alumni:

Join us on Facebook by logging into your Facebook account and typing in the search menu "UCSD Gastroenterology Fellows and Alumni" and click "ask to join."

You can also go to <http://www.facebook.com/groups/11427778649025>

A great way for alumni to keep in touch with the GI fellows and a way for fellows to contact alumni. Includes interesting links, photos of the fellows, faculty and alumni, and division and fellowship events.

Division Publications

Sheila Crowe

Lebwohl B, Murray JA, Verdú EF, **Crowe SE**, Dennis M, Fasano A, Green PH, Guandalini S, Khosla C. Gluten introduction, breast feeding, and celiac disease: Back to the drawing board. *Am J Gastroenterol*. 2015 Aug 11. doi: 10.1038/ajg.2015.219. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26259710

Hunt RH, Camillieri M, **Crowe SE**, El Omar EM, Fox JG, Kuipers EJ, Malfertheiner P, McColl, KEL, Pritchard DM, Ruge M, Sonnenberg A, Tack J. The stomach in health and disease. *Gut* (in press)

Parambir Dulai

Dulai PS, Mosli M, Khanna R, **Levesque BG**, **Sandborn WJ**, Feagan BG. Vedolizumab for the Treatment of moderate to severely active ulcerative colitis pharmacotherapy 2015. 2015 Apr;35(4):412-23. doi: 10.1002/phar.1561. (This is an updated citation; reported as Accepted in Q1)

Shatzel J, Dulai PS, Harbin D, Cheung H, Reid TN, Kim J, James SL, Khine H, Batman S, Whyman J, Dickson RC, Ornstein DL. Safety and efficacy of pharmacological thromboprophylaxis for hospitalized patients with cirrhosis: a single-center retrospective cohort study. *J Thromb Haemost*. 2015 Jul;13(7):1245-53.

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Singh S, Ding NS, Mathis KL, Dulai PS, Farrell AM, Pemberton JH, Hart AL, Sandborn WJ, Loftus EV Jr. Systematic review with meta-analysis: faecal diversion for management of perianal Crohn's disease. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther*. 2015 Aug 11

Pradipta Ghosh

Garcia-Marcos M, **Ghosh P**, and Farquhar MG. GIV/ Girdin transmits signals from multiple receptors by triggering trimeric G protein activation.

Invited Minireview. *J Biol Chem*. 2015. Mar 13;290(11):6697-6704.

Aznar N, Midde K, Dunkel Y, Lopez-Sanchez I, Pavlova Y, Marvin A, Barbazán J, Murray F, Nitsche U, Janssen KP, Willert K, Goel A, Abal M, Garcia-Marcos M, and **Ghosh P**. Daple is a novel non-receptor GEF required for trimeric G protein activation in Wnt signaling. *Elife*. 2015 Jun 30;4. doi: 10.7554/eLife.07091. PMID: 26126266.

Ghosh P. G protein-coupled growth factor receptor tyrosine kinases: no longer an oxymoron. Invited, Peer reviewed review, *Cell Cycle*. 2015 Jun 30;0. [Epub ahead of print]. PMID: 26126131.

Ma G, Aznar N, Kangrioloulos, Lopez-Sanchez I, Midde K, Dunkel Y, Muto J, Gallo R and **Ghosh P**. Therapeutic effects of cell-permeant GIV peptides that Activate G proteins downstream of growth factors. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*. (Direct communication) 2015 May 19;112(20):E2602-10. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1505543112. PMID: 25926659.

Lo I, Gupta V, Midde K, Taupin V, Lopez-Sanchez I, Randazzo PA, Farquhar MG and **Ghosh P**. Activation of G α i at the Golgi by GIV/Girdin imposes finiteness in Arf1sSignaling. *Dev Cell*. 2015 Apr 20;33(2):189-203. doi: 10.1016/j.devcel.2015.02.009. PMID: 25865347.

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Bhandari D, Lopez-Sanchez I, To A, Niesman I, Gupta V, Leyme AC, Lo I, Aznar N, Garcia-Marcos M, Farquhar MG and **Ghosh P**. CDK5 activates guanine nucleotide exchange factor GIV/Girdin to orchestrate migration-proliferation dichotomy. Accepted, in Press, *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*, 2015.

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Alan Hofmann

Spriggs M, Thompson KA, Barton D, Talley J, Volle K, Staslak I, Beyea L, Guthrie A, Roda A, Camborata C, **Hofmann AF**, and Hagey LR. Gastrolithiasis in prehensile-tailed porcupines (*Coendou Prehensilis*): 9 cases and pathogenesis of stone formation. *J. Zoo Wildlife Medicine* 2014; 45: 786-94.

Ikegawa S, **Hofmann AF**, and Hagey LR. N-methyltaurine N-acyl amidated bile acids and deoxycholic acid in the bile of angelfish (*Pomacanthidae*): a novel bile acid profile in Perciform fish. *Steroids* 2014; 80:15-23.

Denise Kalmaz

Egnatios J, Kaushal K, **Kalmaz D**, and **Zarrinpar A**. Video capsule endoscopy in patients with chronic abdominal pain with or without associated symptoms: A retrospective study. *PLoS One*. 2015; 10(4): e0126509. Published online 2015 Apr 20. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0126509 PMID: PMC4404061.

Mary Lee Krinsky

Lawson, RD, Hunt GC, Giap AQ, **Krinsky ML**, et al. Pancreatic cysts suspected to be branch duct intraductal papillarymucinous neoplasm without concerning features have low risk for development of pancreatic cancer. *Annals of Gastro* (28) 1-8, 2015.

Vipin Kumar

Maricic, I, Sheng, H., Seki, E., Kisseleva, T, Mathews KS., Gao, Bin, Chaturvedi, S., Molle, N. and **Kumar, V.** (2015) Inhibition of type I NKT cells following retinoids or sulfatide-mediated activation of type II NKT cells attenuates alcoholic liver disease. *Hepatology*, 61(4): 1357-69. doi: 10.1002/hep.27632.

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Wilson Kwong

Dubin SM, **Kwong WT**, **Kalmaz D**, **Savides TJ**. Low yield of routine duodenal biopsies for evaluation of abdominal pain. *World J Gastroenterol*. 2015 Jun 28;21(24):7495-9.

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William Sandborn

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Bernd Schnabl

Mazagova M, Wang L, Anfora AT, Wissmueller M, Lesley SA, **Miyamoto Y**, **Eckmann L**, Dhungana S, Pathmasiri W, Sumner S, Westwater C, **Brenner DA**, **Schnabl B**. Commensal microbiota is hepatoprotective and prevents liver fibrosis in mice. *FASEB J*. 2015; 29(3):1043-55.

Wang L, Llorente C, Hartmann P, Yang A, Chen P, **Schnabl B**. Methods to determine intestinal permeability and bacterial translocation during liver disease. *J Immunol Methods*. 2015; 421:44-53.

Hartmann P, Seebauer CT, **Schnabl B**. Alcoholic liver disease: The gut microbiome and liver crosstalk. *Alcohol Clin Exp Res*. 2015; 39(5):763-75.

Llorente C, **Schnabl B**. The gut microbiota and liver disease. *Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology*. 2015; 1(3):275-284.

Brandl K, **Schnabl B**. Is intestinal inflammation linking dysbiosis to gut barrier dysfunction during liver disease? *Expert Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2015; 9(8):1069-76.

Bernardi M, Moreau R, Angeli P, **Schnabl B**, Arroyo V. Mechanisms of decompensation and organ failure in cirrhosis: from peripheral arterial vasodilation to systemic inflammation hypothesis. *J Hepatol*. 2015; accepted.

Amir Zarrinpar

Zarrinpar A*, Gupta S*, Maurya MR, Subramaniam S, **Loomba R**, (In Press). Heritable microRNAs explain discordance of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease in monozygotic and dizygotic twins: A prospective human twin study. *Gut* (*authors have contributed equally to this work).

Frankwich KA, Egnatios J, Kenyon ML, Rutledge TR, Liao PS, Gupta S, Herbst KL, **Zarrinpar A†** (In Press). Nutrigenetic-guided dietary intervention and weight

Division Presentations: Invited Speaker; Abstracts

loss: a feasibility randomized controlled trial. Clin. Gastroenterol. Hepatol. (†corresponding author).

Chaix A*, **Zarrinpar A***†, (In Press). The Effects of Time-Restricted Feeding on Lipid Metabolism and Adiposity. Adipocyte. (*authors have contributed equally to this work; †corresponding author).

Egnatios J, Kaushal K, **Kalmaz D, Zarrinpar A**† (2015). Retrospective analysis of video capsule endoscopy use in the general population for chronic abdominal pain. PLoS One 10:e0126509 (†corresponding author).

Honors: Invited Speaker at Academic Institutions

Kim Barrett

Dr. Barrett delivered a "GI Physiology Refresher Course" to faculty and was a judge at the 13th Intermedical School Physiology Quiz for students from around 90 medical schools in Asia and beyond in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in August, 2015.

Sheila Crowe

Visiting Professor, GI Grand Rounds, "GI Food Allergies and Food Sensitivities" and Internal Medicine Grand Rounds, "New developments in celiac disease and other forms of intolerance to wheat or gluten" March 2015 – Emory University, Atlanta, GA.

Visiting Professor, GI Fellow Gastroenterology Grand Rounds, "Food Allergies and Food Intolerances: How to Tell the Difference and How to Treat" April 2015 - University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

Dr. Crowe spoke in the UC Irvine 7th Annual Gastroenterology & Hepatology Symposium, Anaheim, CA. "Expert updates in celiac disease and gluten intolerance" in March 2015 and in the Annual Lahey Clinic Gastroenterology Conference, Brewster, MA. "Food Allergies and the GI Tract: Fact or Fiction" in July 2015.

Sheila Crowe was the AGA representative and North American Society for the Science of Celiac Disease (NASSCD) Executive council member to the FDA "Gastroenterology Regulatory Endpoints and the Advancement of Therapeutics (GREAT) III- Workshop on Celiac Disease" on March 31, 2015, discussing "Clinician's perspective on a clinically meaningful benefit in adult patients."

Invited speaker Digestive Diseases Week 2015, Washington, DC. AGA Clinical Symposium "Autoimmunity and the upper GI tract" Presented "Duodenum: Celiac disease and autoimmune enteropathy."

Dr. Crowe represented the AGA during the "Best of DDW 2015 in China" held in Guangzhou and in Beijing in June 2015, presenting the "Best of AGA at DDW."

Amir Zarrinpar

Sharp HealthCare's 2015 Obesity Crisis Conference, San Diego, CA. Invited Speaker, "Timing is Everything: Time Restricted Feeding and the Prevention and Treatment of Obesity." 05/29/15

University of California, San Francisco, Cardiovascular Research Institute, San Francisco, CA, Invited Speaker, "Perfect Timing: Time Restricted Feeding and Cyclical Dynamics of Metabolism." 04/14/15

Abstracts and Presentations

DDW 2015 Presentations

Boland BS, Rivera-Nieves J, Jain A, Kirkland R, Liu X, Kondragunta V, Evans E, Levesque BG, Ernst PB, Chang JT, Singh S, Sandborn WJ (2015). "Soluble MAdCAM-1: A Potential Biomarker for Response to Vedolizumab." Oral Presentation 535.

Kung R, Ma A, Dever J, Vadivelu J, Cherk E, Koola JD, Groessl EJ, Matheny M, Ho SB. A natural language processing algorithm for identification of patients with cirrhosis from electronic medical records (EMR). Gastroenterology

2015;148:S1071-S1072.

Kwong WT, Savides TJ. Rapid Growth Rates of Suspected Pancreatic Cyst Branch Duct Intraductal Papillary Mucinous Neoplasms Predict Malignancy. Oral presentation.

Savides T: Sp171: State of the Art - Update on Management of IPMN.

Savides T: Sp854: Acute Perforations: NOW What Do I Do?!

Zarrinpar A, Gupta S, Maurya M, Subramaniam S, Loomba R. MicroRNAs explain the discordance of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease in monozygotic and dizygotic twins: A prospective human twin study. Research Forum Talk.

Egnatios J, Frankwich KA, Kenyon ML, Rutledge TR, Liao PS, Gupta S, Herbst KL, Zarrinpar A. Nutrigenetic-guided dietary intervention and weight loss: a randomized controlled feasibility trial. Research Forum Talk.

Abstracts Accepted for Presentation at AASLD 2015

Samuel Ho

Ho SB, Monto A, Peyton A, Kaplan D, Byrne S, Moon S, Zhu Y, Seyedkazemi S, Rossaro L, Brainard DM, Guyer W, Shaikh O, Fuchs M, Morgan T. Twelve Weeks of Sofosbuvir plus Ribavirin is Effective for Treatment of Genotype 2 HCV in U.S. Veterans with Cirrhosis – Results of the VALOR-HCV Study.

Miller A, Koola JD, Matheny ME, Ducom J, Slagle JM, Groessl E, Dubin S, Minter FF, Garvin JH, Weinger MB, **Ho SB**. Communication, sequence and system modeling of GI/Hepatology outpatient and inpatient work flows for targeting clinical decision support tools.

Dever J, Ducom J, Ma A, Yang M, Herrin A, Nguyen J, Groessl E, **Ho SB**. Engagement in care of high risk

Division Abstracts, In the Media, Grants Awarded

hepatitis C patients with interferon-free therapies.

Vipin Kumar

Igor Maricic, Ekihiro Seki, Idania Marrero, **Vipin Kumar**: An alarmin cytokine IL-33 inhibits type I NKT cells and neutrophil accumulation into liver and mediates attenuation of alcoholic liver disease.

Idania Marrero, Igor Maricic, **Vipin Kumar**: Retinoid-induced inhibition of human type I NKT cells and its implications in liver disease.

Bernd Schnabl

Wang L, Chen P, Hooper LV, **Schnabl B**. Antimicrobial proteins Reg3b and Reg3g protect mice from alcoholic liver disease by preventing bacterial translocation. *Hepatology*, 2015 – oral presentation.

Hartmann P, Seebauer CT, Mazagova M, Horvath A, Wang L, Llorente-Izquierdo C, Brandl K, Ho SB, Brenner DA, **Schnabl B**. Deficiency of intestinal mucin-2 protects mice from diet-induced fatty liver disease and obesity. *Hepatology*, 2015 – oral presentation.

Chen P, Miyamoto Y, Mazagova M, **Eckmann L, Schnabl B**. Microbiota protects mice against acute alcohol-induced liver injury. *Hepatology*, 2015 - poster.

In the Media

Pradipta Ghosh

The Ghosh Lab was in the news surrounding the release of the publication by Gary S. Ma, Dr. Nicolas Aznar and coworkers in *PNAS*. The coverage included the following.

International Business Times:
<http://au.ibtimes.com/scientists-demonstrate-how-reset-diseased-cell-1445386>

Tuning Cells in the Key of G Proteins (Genetic Engineering and Blotechnology):[http://](http://www.genengnews.com/gen-news-highlights/tuning-cells-in-the-key-of-g-proteins/81251224/)

www.genengnews.com/gen-news-highlights/tuning-cells-in-the-key-of-g-proteins/81251224/

Eureka Alert and AAAS: [http://](http://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2015-05/uoc-htr050115.php)

www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2015-05/uoc-htr050115.php

Science Codex: [http://](http://www.sciencecodex.com/how_to_reset_a_diseased_cell-156324)
www.sciencecodex.com/how_to_reset_a_diseased_cell-156324

Science Daily: [http://](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/05/150501125445.htm)
www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/05/150501125445.htm

NewsFee: <http://newsfee.com/news/list/view/1681807/how-to-reset-a-diseased-cell>

Beyond the dish: [https://](https://beyondthedish.wordpress.com/2015/05/11/using-peptides-to-reset-a-diseased-cell/)
beyondthedish.wordpress.com/2015/05/11/using-peptides-to-reset-a-diseased-cell/

Health Innovations: <http://health-innovations.org/2015/05/04/how-to-reset-a-diseased-cell/>

Bioengineering : [http://](http://bioengineer.org/how-to-reset-a-diseased-cell/)
bioengineer.org/how-to-reset-a-diseased-cell/

All Web News: [http://](http://www.allwebsolutions.net/health/how-to-reset-a-diseased-cell/)
www.allwebsolutions.net/health/how-to-reset-a-diseased-cell/

Physics.org: <http://phys.org/news/2015-05-reset-diseased-cell.html>

Science Newsline: [http://](http://m.sciencenewsline.com/news/2015050120370012)
m.sciencenewsline.com/news/2015050120370012

Science 2.0: [http://](http://www.science20.com/news_articles/how_to_reset_a_diseased_cell-155275)
www.science20.com/news_articles/how_to_reset_a_diseased_cell-155275

Ghosh Lab news coverage surrounding the release of I-Chung's paper in *Dev Cell* included the following.

UC San Diego News: [https://](https://health.ucsd.edu/news/releases/Pages/2015-04-09-g-proteins-and-golgi-body.aspx)
health.ucsd.edu/news/releases/Pages/2015-04-09-g-proteins-and-golgi-body.aspx

Science Daily: [http://](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/04/150409150810.htm)
www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/04/150409150810.htm

Bioquick News: [http://](http://www.bioquicknews.com/node/2547)
www.bioquicknews.com/node/2547

Medical Express: [http://](http://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-04-golgi-trafficking-proteins.html)
medicalxpress.com/news/2015-04-golgi-trafficking-proteins.html

Alexander Kuo

Dr. Kuo was interviewed for an article on Dr. Sanjay Gupta's website, www.everydayhealth.com: Gupta S. "Hepatitis C and Making Wise Lifestyle Choices." *Everyday Health*. 13 Apr 2015. Website: [http://](http://www.everydayhealth.com/hs/hepatitis-c-living-well/sanjay-gupta-hepatitis-c-lifestyle-choices/)
www.everydayhealth.com/hs/hepatitis-c-living-well/sanjay-gupta-hepatitis-c-lifestyle-choices/

Grants Awarded

Brigid Boland

Dr. Boland received a Career Development Award from the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. Dr. Boland's project is, "Identifying Biomarkers Predictive of Clinical and Endoscopic Response to Vedolizumab in Inflammatory Bowel Disease." The program is funded for three years beginning 10/1/2015.

Sheila Crowe

U54 SDSU-UCSD NCI Cancer Disparities Grant: **Dr. Sheila Crowe** is UC San Diego overall co-principal investigator and co-director of the Research-Education Core, and **Dr. Samir Gupta** is co-principal investigator of a four-arm randomized controlled trial to increase colorectal screening participation and co-principal investigator of the Outreach Core.

Grants Awarded, continued

Pradipta Ghosh

Translational and Clinical Cancer Research Award
03/01/2015 - 02/29/2016
Moores Cancer Center
Fund Name: CCT53GH
Fund #: 212GDA
Title: Imaging the Metastatic Potential of Single Tumor Cells in Lung Adenocarcinoma
Major Goals: Development of molecular imaging technology to measure metastatic potential of single living tumor cells.
Role: Principal Investigator

Rohit Loomba

NIDDK/NIH R01 Research Award
07/01/2015 - 06/30/2020
Title: Quantitative Ultrasound (QUS) Technology for Diagnosis and Grading of Hepatic Steatosis in NAFLD
Major Goals: To refine and prospectively validate QUS technology to diagnose and grade hepatic steatosis in NAFLD.
Role: Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Claude B. Sirlin, Professor of Radiology at UC San Diego

Planning Ahead

Making the Most of Your Charitable Gifts

Here are just a few options on how you can support UC San Diego Division of Gastroenterology:

Option 1

The simplest way to donate is a **gift of cash** (including checks and credit cards). Remember: if you itemize, you may be able to receive a charitable deduction for 2015 for your gifts received on or before December 31.

You may contribute directly to UC San Diego GI by visiting our website at <http://www.gastro.ucsd.edu> and clicking on the ABOUT tab and choosing "Support Our Work" on the left-hand column.

Option 2

A gift of **appreciated securities** also offers an attractive opportunity to support the Division of Gastroenterology. By contributing appreciated securities that you have held longer than 12 months, you will receive a charitable income tax deduction, in most cases for their full fair market value, and avoid any capital gains tax liability.

It is important to remember that your securities must be transferred to the UC San Diego Foundation by December 31 for the 2015 tax year.

Division of Gastroenterology Mission Statement



Organization Statement

The UC San Diego 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 UC San Diego 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 UC San Diego GI Division was founded in 1970 by Henry Wheeler, MD, who served as its first division chief. Later, Jon I. Isenberg, MD, led the division from 1979 to 1993, followed by C. Richard Boland, MD, from 1995 to 2003, John M. Carethers, MD, 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.

GI Division Office

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La Jolla, CA 92093
East Campus Office Building
V: 858-657-5284 | F: 858-657-5022

GI Division at VA Medical Center

Gastroenterology Section (111D)
3350 La Jolla Village Drive
San Diego, CA 92161
Tel: (858) 552-8585 x2631
Fax: (858) 552-4327

UC San Diego GI Clinical Referral

General GI	619-543-2347
Hepatology	619-543-6303
Interventional	
Endoscopy	858-657-6882
Motility	619-543-6834
IBD	858-657-8787
Celiac	619-543-2347