



# UCSD

## Division of Gastroenterology Newsletter



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## Letter from the Chief

As we enter December 2006, I want to wish everyone Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year from the UCSD GI Division. The Division has had a very productive year, with a number of changes and improvements that affect our core missions of clinical care, education, and research. The Division has added two new administrative assistants, Olivia Hernandez and Karen Kasser to help support these missions, and modified the role of a third, Rosalyn Lara, as the new Fellowship Coordinator. Regarding the fellowship, in addition to our new coordinator, we will continue to participate in the Medicine Subspecialties Match for the second consecutive year for fellow recruitment, and for the first time, rely on the Electronic Residency Application Service to receive applicant materials electronically, instead of paper. The UCSD fellows continue to receive training in broad areas of gastroenterology and its practice, with rotations that encompass the VA, UCSD Hillcrest and Thornton, Kaiser, Rady Children's and intermittently Navy Balboa hospitals. All fellows are performing basic and clinical research projects, with several submissions to the ACG, AASLD, and DDW meetings. Our fellowship is probably the most competitive and comprehensive training program on the West Coast. Clinically, the Division has begun new initiatives in inflammatory bowel disease, advanced endoscopic procedures, and colorectal cancer that will grow during 2007. Tom Savides, M.D., the new Clinical Services Chief for the GI Division, has also commenced several forays into continuing improving access and care delivery at our clinical sites. The Division has recruited Mike Docherty, M.D. for GI and Khaled Selim, M.D. for hepatology transplant, and additional GI and liver recruitments will be added during 2007, some of which are near fruition. Research-wise, Divisional members remain productive in their basic or clinical research, in publishing manuscripts (some of which are listed in this and each newsletter), and in obtaining grants to support their research. Scott Naugler, M.D., and Heather Patton, M.D. joined as faculty members this past year, both with productive research agendas in liver investigation. The Division intends to compete for an NIH-funded



Digestive Diseases Center for 2007, supported by the talented academicians within our GI Division. Many of these new initiatives you will read about in future newsletters as they mature in their scope.

It is an exciting time for our GI Division. The vetted changes that we will adopt in 2007 will continuously improve each aspect of our core missions. Our faculty are dynamic and resourceful in achieving our missions, particularly as we improve and grow each of them. The New Year, I expect, will be busy but fruitful, and will prove to be stimulating for the growth of the Division with faculty recruitments, research enhancements, new educational initiatives, fellowship appointments, and clinical care delivery. Happy New Year!

## Faculty Highlights.....

### Hui Dong, MD, PhD, Assistant Adjunct Professor of Medicine

Dr. Dong received his M.D. degree from Medical School at Yunan University in Kunming, China and his Ph.D. degree from Fundan University in Shanghai, China. He completed his postdoctoral training at University of Calgary in Canada. His areas of academic focus are: 1) cellular and molecular mechanisms of duodenal mucosal bicarbonate secretion, and its impairment in duodenal ulcers and cystic fibrosis; 2) expression and function of membrane ion channels and receptors on epithelium and smooth muscle.



### Scott Naugler, M.D., Clinical Instructor in Medicine

Dr. Naugler graduated with honors from the University of Arkansas School of Medicine. He did his internship in Internal Medicine at Barnes Hospital at Washington University, St. Louis and completed his residency at Oregon Health Sciences University, including a Chief Residency year. He finished his GI fellowship at UC San Diego in June of 2006 and has been working as a clinical instructor for the GI division. Dr. Naugler's interests lie in liver regeneration, liver carcinogenesis, and hepatic transplant support.



### Yuko Kono, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine

Dr. Kono graduated from Kyoto University, School of Medicine, Japan. She completed a residency at Kyoto University and Kyoto Katsura Hospital, and GI fellowship at Kyoto University. Her areas of academic focus are contrast-enhanced ultrasound imaging on liver disease and tumor angiogenesis. She is an expert of ultrasound imaging. Her clinical interest is in the management of cancer patients, especially hepatocellular carcinomas.



## Division Highlights....

- Tom Savides, M.D., has been appointed the overall Clinical Service Chief for the UCSD Gastroenterology Division.
- Karen Kasser has transferred from UCSD Extension and joined the Division as an AAIL-Division Assistant, effective November 2006.
- Roslyn Lara who is currently working in the Division with Dr. Marty Kagnoff has accepted a new position as Fellowship Coordinator, replacing Christianne DeMarco, effective late November 2006.
- The GI Fellowship has expanded rotations in 2006-2007 that include rotations at Thorton Hospital, and play an expanded role in pediatric GI at the Rady Childrens Hospital.
- Khaled Salim, M.D. has been recruited to the GI Division to support hepatology and live transplant. He will commence his new position on February 1, 2007
- The GI Fellowship recruitment is underway, and is for the first time utilizing the Electronic Residency Application Services (ERAS) for the year beginning July 2008. the GI Division expects over 700 applicants for its highly competitive 4 positions.
- The annual GI Divisional Retreat in October 2006 which focused on Hepatitis C Research at UCSD and in the local community was a high success, and will hopefully lead to additional collaborations in the field.

## Awards & Honors....

- Tom Savides, M.D., has been voted as a "Top Doctor" by SAN DIEGO magazine for Gastroenterologists.
- Alan F. Hofmann, M.D., Ph.D. will deliver the OMGE lecture at the Pan American Congress of Gastroenterology on November 14th, 2006 in Cancun, Mexico. The lecture is entitled "Solving the Mysteries of Bile with the Hope of Improving Patient Care".
- Declan McCole, Ph.D. has been awarded a 1 year extension on his Crohn's and Colitis Foundation Award, supporting him from 2007-2008.
- Kim Barrett, Ph.D. and Michael Docherty, M.D. will be honored by the San Diego and Imperial County Chapter of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America at their annual gala in February 2007.
- Scott Naugler, M.D. has been named a finalist for a Research Scholar Award from the Foundation for Digestive Health and Nutrition. Scott will formally interview in January 2007 to see if he is a recipient of the award. Good luck, Scott!
- Barbara Jung, M.D. has been awarded an Academic Senate Grant for 2007.
- John Carethers, M.D., was elected to the Western Association of Physicians.

## Recent Division Publications....

- Ghosh, P, Miyai, K and Chojkier, M. Gastric denocarcinoma Inducing Portal Hypertension: A Rare Presentation. *World J. Gastroenterology*, (in press).
- Dunn W, Angulo P, Sanderson S, Jamil LH, Stadheim L, Rosen C, Malinchoc M, Kamath PS, Shah VH. Utility of a new model to diagnose an alcohol basis for steatohepatitis. *Gastroenterology*. 131 (4):1057-63, Oct. 2006 (Epub). PMID: 17030176, Aug. 10, 2006 [PubMed - in process]
- Patton, HM., Sirlin, C, Behling, C, Middleton, M, Schwimmer, JB., and Lavine,JE. Pediatric Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease: A Critical Appraisal of Current Data and Implications for Future Research. *Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology & Nutrition*. 43 (4):413-427, October 2006.
- Ghosh, P and Kum, J. Mesenteric Panniculitis and Sclerosing Mesenteritis: A Continuum of Inflammation and Fibrosis. *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, (in press).
- Swaminath A, Hunt G. Chronic Intestinal Pseudo-Obstruction Due to Scleroderma. *The American Journal of Gastroenterology*. Vol. 101, 9: S362, Sept. 2006.

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**MORE PUBLICATIONS.....**

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• Solinas G, Naugler W, Galimi F, Lee MS, Karin M. Saturated fatty acids inhibit induction of insulin gene transcription by JNK-mediated phosphorylation of insulin-receptor substrates. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U S A.* 103(44):16454-9, Oct 31, 2006.

• Dong H, Smith, A.J., Hovaida M. and Chow JY: Role of Ca<sup>2+</sup>-activated K<sup>+</sup> channels in duodenal mucosal ion transport and bicarbonate secretion. *Am. J. Physiol.: GI and Liver Physiol.* 291:G1120-28, 2006.

• Dong H, Jiang, Y, Triggle, CR, Li, XF, and Lytton, J: Novel role for K<sup>+</sup>-dependent Na<sup>+</sup>/Ca<sup>2+</sup> exchangers (NCKX) in the regulation of cytoplasmic free Ca<sup>2+</sup> and contractility in arterial smooth muscle. *Am. J. Physiol.: Heart and Circ Physiol.* 291:H1226-35, 2006.

• Jung BH, Beck SE, Cabral J, Chau E, Cabrera BL, Fiorino A, Smith EJ, Bocanegra M, Carethers JM. Activin type 2 receptor restoration in MSI-H colon cancer suppresses growth and enhances migration with activin. *Gastroenterology*, 2007. (accepted).

• Kurland J, Beck SE, Solomon C, Doctolero RT, Brann O, Carethers JM, Huang SC. Cyclooxygenase 2 expression in polyps from a juvenile polyposis syndrome patient with mutant BMPR1A. *J Ped Gastroenterol Nutrition*, 2007. (accepted)

• M. R. Hoda, S.J. Keely, L.S. Bertelsen, W.G. Junger, D. Dharmasena and K. E. Barrett. Leptin acts as a mitogenic and antiapoptotic factor for colonic cancer cells. *British Journal of Surgery* 2006;93:00.00



The Division of Gastroenterology  
Would Like to Wish You  
A Wonderful Holiday Season  
And  
A Very Happy New Year!

### 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 the mid 1970's 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, and currently by John M. Carethers, M.D., since 2004. 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.

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