

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Message from the Chief
- Division Events
- Senate Distinguished Research Award
- GI & Hep Holiday Potluck
- Fellows Corner
- Welcoming New Faculty
- Faculty Spotlights
- Farewell to Dr. Mary Lee Krinsky
- SDDRC Updates
- MASLD Updates
- First EoE/EGID Specialty Clinic
- GLOGE Holiday Party
- V.A. Fall Gathering
- John C. Martin Endowed Chair
- Clarivate Highly Cited Researchers
- Dr. Ghosh Colon Cancer Therapy
- 2025 Top Doctors



Dear GI Team,

As we come to the close of another remarkable year and enter the holiday season, I want to pause and express my deepest gratitude to each of you—our extraordinary faculty, fellows, advanced practice providers, nurses, staff, administrators, and trainees who make the UC San Diego Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology truly exceptional.

This year has been defined by impact and momentum. Together, we launched novel clinical programs that meaningfully improved access for our patients, expanded our clinical footprint, and delivered care with excellence and compassion. Our research enterprise continues to set the global standard—innovative, collaborative, and influential—while our fellows remain on an

exceptional trajectory, emerging as the next generation of leaders in gastroenterology and hepatology. I am immensely proud of what we have built together.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support and partnership of our Department of Medicine, our Dean, Vice Chancellor, Chancellor and the UC San Diego Health System leadership. We are deeply grateful for their confidence in our mission and their continued investment in our people and programs.

This year also marked an especially meaningful milestone in our philanthropic journey with the establishment of the **John C. Martin Endowed Chair in Liver Disease**. I extend heartfelt thanks to the John C. Martin Foundation and to all of our donors whose generosity fuels discovery, innovation, and hope for patients around the world. Your belief in our vision strengthens everything we do.

As we celebrate the holidays, I encourage each of you to take time to be with your families and loved ones, to rest, and to reflect on your own professional journey. Please know how deeply I value each one of you—not only for your excellence and dedication, but for the collegiality, and shared purpose you bring to our division every day.

We are a remarkable team. Together, our team has a growth mindset—and that is exactly what makes us number one in research and education in the world. Thank you for all that you do, and for all that we will continue to achieve together across our tripartite mission.

Wishing you and your families a joyful holiday season and a healthy, inspiring New Year. Here's to a brilliant future for GI at UC San Diego.

Best wishes,

**Rohit Loomba, MD, MHS**

Professor of Medicine  
Chief, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology  
John C. Martin Endowed Chair  
UC San Diego Health



UC San Diego #1 for  
Gastroenterology &  
Hepatology Research



#28  
Gastroenterology  
& GI Surgery



**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Isenberg Lectureship  
Honoring Dr. Hashem B. El-Serag, M.D.**

# DIVISION EVENTS





## Thanksgiving Team Lunch



**Distinguished Scientist  
Director's Seminar Series**



**Folasade (Fola) May, MD, PhD**  
Associate Director, Kaiser Permanente  
Center for Health Equity  
UCLA Health Jonsson  
Comprehensive Cancer Center



# UCSD IBD City-Wide Conference



The IBD City Wide event held on Monday, December 1st marked the first in-person conference since COVID, making it an especially energizing and long-awaited gathering for the community. Hosted by **Dr. Brigid Boland**, Director of the IBD Center, the evening brought experts and attendees together for thoughtful discussion and collaboration. **Angelina Collins** presented on the medical management of perianal disease in IBD, offering key clinical insights. **Dr. Samuel Eisenstein, MD** followed with an engaging talk on the surgical management of perianal disease in IBD, rounding out a well-balanced program. It was also a wonderful opportunity for colleagues across the city to reconnect and network face-to-face.



## 2025 UCSD Senate Distinguished Research Award

Established in the 1983-84, the Distinguished Research Award is one of the UC San Diego Academic Senate's highest honors, recognize faculty whose scholarly contributions have made a lasting impact within their field and advances the university's research mission.

We are proud to share that Dr. Rohit Loomba has been selected as this year's recipient, honoring his work that has transformed the understanding and management of liver diseases. Through his groundbreaking collaborations at UCSD and globally, Dr. Loomba has led major advances in non-invasive assessment of liver fat and fibrosis, laying scientific foundation for today's therapeutics like Resmetirom, a thyroid Beta receptor agonists and FGF-21 analogues.

During his lecture, Dr. Loomba reflected on how far field has come "“When I was in medical school, cirrhosis was considered an irreversible condition, but now it's no; longer irreversible. In some patients we are able to reverse it. Our studies have shown that individuals with family history of MASH cirrhosis have up to 15% higher risk of developing the disease. These findings helped to inform changes in clinical practice, prompting physicians to begin screening patients with a family history of cirrhosis, an important step towards earlier diagnosis and treatment”.

Dr. Loomba's work continues to shape the future of MASLD/MASH care and strengthen UC San Diego's leadership in hepatology research.



Congratulations to Dr. Rohit Loomba on the prestigious award!





# GI & Hep Holiday Potluck



Happy  
holidays



## FELLOWS CORNER

### Fellows Isenberg Luncheon



Fellows gathered at the Endowed Isenberg Luncheon for an engaging discussion with Dr. Hashem El-Serag. The luncheon provided an opportunity to share career and research goals while exploring future collaborations and opportunities. The conversation fostered meaningful connections and insight into academic and research pathways.

## DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY

### *Incoming Fellows* 2026



CHRISTIAN BONILLA  
MASS GENERAL  
CLINICAL



MATTHEW KUBINA  
UNIV OF MICHIGAN  
CLINICAL



POOJA PANDITA  
UCSD  
CLINICAL



LORENZO OLIVE  
UT SOUTHWESTERN  
CLINICAL



MICHAEL NASH  
UCLA  
RESEARCH



# WELCOMING NEW FACULTY

UC San Diego  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology

## NEW RESEARCH FACULTY

### LUIS ANTONIO DÍAZ PIGA, MD

Dr. Díaz is a specialist in Gastroenterology and Internal Medicine who trained at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. As a clinical researcher, he focuses on translational and clinical studies in steatotic liver disease. He has authored more than 160 peer-reviewed publications on gastrointestinal and liver diseases in high-impact journals and co-authored 11 book chapters. He co-leads multinational studies on alcohol-associated liver disease (ALD) and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), including the Global AlcHep Network and STELLA. He serves on the Steering Committee of the ALD Special Interest Group (SIG) of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) and chairs the ALD and Public Health SIGs of the Latin American Association for the Study of the Liver (ALEH).

Outside of work, Dr. Díaz is committed to reducing health disparities and has worked closely with the World Health Organization and ministries of health across Latin America to establish and implement public-health initiatives addressing alcohol use and steatotic liver disease. In his free time, he is an enthusiastic astrophotographer.



Assistant Adjunct Professor  
[ldiazpiga@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:ldiazpiga@health.ucsd.edu)



# WELCOMING NEW FACULTY

UC San Diego Health

Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology

## NEW PHYSICIAN

### SATHISH

### SUBRAMANIAN, MD, PHD



Sathish Subramanian is a physician scientist trained out of Washington University in St. Louis under the mentorship of Dr. Jeffrey Gordon in the area of the gut microbiome and nutrition. He completed internal medicine and gastroenterology training at MGH combined with post-doctoral work at the Broad Institute under the mentorship of Dr. Ramnik Xavier, with recent work on spatial transcriptomics of Crohn's fibrosis published in *Nature Genetics*.

Most recently Sathish gained experience in industry as a physician-investigator at Vertex Pharmaceuticals focused on cystic fibrosis and alpha-1 antitrypsin disease. In his spare time, he enjoys exploring San Diego with his wife, 4.5 year old staunchly Bostonian son and exuberant 7-month-old San Diegan daughter. Sathish is passionate about global health, science and innovation. He is excited to contribute to the mission of the UCSD GI division and its distinguished role in advancing and delivering state-of-the-art GI/Hepatology care.



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS



John Carethers, MD, MACP, FAACR

## Recent Publications:

- Tseng-Rogenski SS, Koi M, Carethers JM. Double strand breaks induce nuclear-cytosolic shuttling of polymorphic DNA mismatch repair protein MutS homolog 3 and binding to NEMO/IKK $\gamma$  in colon cancer cells. *Gastro Hep Advances* 4:100756, 2025. (*Figure on Journal Cover*)
- Chirumamilla LG, Brim H, Challa SR, Oskrochi G, Deverapalli M, Rashid R, Rashid M, Aduli F, Kibreab A, Laiyemo AO, Sherif ZA, Shayegh N, Shokrani B, Zafar R, Carethers JM, Ashktorab H. Early and late-onset colorectal cancer in African Americans during COVID-19. *World J Gastrointest Oncol* 17:105800, 2025. (*in press*)
- Carethers JM, May FP. Next-generation noninvasive colorectal cancer screening. *Annual Rev Med* 2026. (*in press*)
- Fritz C, George M, Carethers JM\*, Cao Y\*. Approach towards early detection and prevention of early-onset colorectal cancer. *Annual Rev Med* 2026. \*co-senior authors (*in press*)
- Tseng-Rogenski SS, Venugopal A, Koi M, Carethers JM. Prevalence of germline MSH3 polymorphisms in Ulcerative Colitis and early-onset colorectal cancer patients that potentiates inflammation-to-cancer transformation. *Hum Mol Genet* 2026. (*in press*)

## Awards/Recognitions:

- AACR Distinguished Lectureship on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities
- American College of Physicians Southern California Region III Beacon Award



Lars Eckmann, MD

## Awards/Recognitions:

We are pleased to announce Dr. Lars Eckmann as the new Chair of the UC San Diego Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). The IACUC oversees the university's animal care and use program, including protocol review, facility inspections, and training initiatives. This committee plays a critical role in ensuring the responsible conduct of animal research and maintaining compliance with university, state, and federal regulation and is vital to the successful conduct of research at UCSD.



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS



Syed M. Abbas Fehmi, MD

## Recent Publications:

- Mark Kowalczyk, Robert Bechara, Fady Youssef, Rena Yadlapati, Syed Abbas Fehmi, Guide to Endoscope Selection for Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy Procedures, VideoGIE, 2025, ISSN 2468-4481, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vgie.2025.10.006>. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2468448125002528>)

## Awards/Recognitions:

- Dr. Syed M. Abbas Fehmi, named one of the “Top Docs” in Gastroenterology in the annual San Diego Magazine “Physicians of Exceptional Excellence” survey for the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year (October 2025).
- 5 years of the POEM (Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy) program, initiated on June 12, 2020. Under the leadership of Dr. Yadlapati and with the dedication of the entire POEM team, the program has achieved a 100% success rate with 0% recurrence to date—an exceptional milestone in patient outcomes and procedural excellence.



Kyle Geary, MD

## Awards/Recognitions:

Dr. Kyle Geary was recently selected as a committee member for the National Field Advisory Board for IBD at the VA. This select committee of around 10 GI clinicians from across the VA system are responsible for developing and implementing major VA system wide initiatives pertaining to IBD care for our veterans, including formulary changes to therapy, quality improvement initiatives, and best practices guidelines/education development pertaining to IBD management within the VA system. The committee is comprised of academic IBD leaders throughout the VA system. It is the first time the San Diego VA/UCSD has been represented on this national VA committee.




Heather Patton, MD

## Awards/Recognitions:

Dr. Patton was selected as the Treasurer (2026-2028) for the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD)! As a recognized leader in hepatology, she will be a valuable asset to their mission of advancing liver health through innovation, research, and education. To read more about this accomplishment, please [click on this link](#).





# FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS



Bernd Schnabl, MD

## Recent Publications:

- Harberts A, Schnabl B. Microbiota in Alcohol-Associated Organ Damage. *Am J Pathol.* 2025; S0002-9440(25)00194-4. PMID: 40513820.
- Wei W, Schnabl B. Unlocking the potential of the gut microbiome in liver regeneration: Benefits and mechanistic insights. *Acta Pharm Sin B.* 2025; 15(3):1715-1716. PMCID: PMC12069235
- Harberts A, Schnabl B. When the gut guards the liver: Microbial metabolites limit collateral damage after TACE. *J Hepatol.* 2025, accepted
- Yamazaki T, Yang Y, Schöler D, Yukawa-Muto Y, Kouno T, Harberts A, Sakane S, Freund L, Hsu CL, Whisenant TC, Rosenthal SB, Kisseleva T, Cable EE, Schnabl B. Single-Nuclei RNA Sequencing Shows the Engagement of PPAR-Delta Target Genes Primarily in Hepatocytes and Cholangiocytes by the Selective PPAR-Delta Agonist Seladelpar. *PPAR Res.* 2025; 2025:2935230. PMCID: PMC12575037
- McMahan RH, Najarro KM, Giesy LE, Evans M, Schnabl B, Orlicky DJ, Frank DN, Kovacs EJ. Intestinal Reg3g Protects Against Gastrointestinal Dysfunction in a Murine Model of Ethanol Intoxication and Burn Injury. *Shock.* 2025, accepted
- Viebahn G, Khurana A, Freund L, Chilin-Fuentes D, Jepsen K, Rosenthal S, Chatterjee S, Ellenrieder V, Hsu C, Schnabl B, Hartmann P. Retatrutide Improves Steatohepatitis in an Accelerated Mouse Model of Diet-Induced Steatohepatitis with a Fructose Binge. *Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol.* 2025, accepted
- Van Espen L\*, Brol MJ\*, Close L, Schierwagen R, Gu W, Keller MI, Balogh B, Fullam A, de Coninck L, Nakamura T, Kuhn M, Bork P, Laleman W, Bajaj JS, Papp M, Schnabl B, Trebicka J, Matthijnssens J on behalf of MICROB-PREDICT. Lactococcus A phages predict ACLF while Enterococcus B phages predict bacterial infection in decompensated cirrhosis. *JHEP Rep.* 2025, accepted
- Henin G, Goffaux A, Declerck S, André-Dumont S, Pendeville E, Valet M, Lejeune T, Dahlqvist G, Loumaye A, Schnabl B, Stärkel P, Lanthier N. Non-Cirrhotic Steatotic Liver Disease is Associated With Impaired Muscle Function: A Cross-Sectional Study. *JCSM Commun.* 2025; 8(2):e70012. PMCID: PMC12538381.
- Hsu CL, Shukla S, Freund L, Chou AC, Yang Y, Bruellman R, Tonetti FR, Cabré N, Mayo S, Lim HG, Magallan V, Cordell BJ, Lang S, Demir M, Stärkel P, Llorente C, Palsson BO, Mandyam C, Boland BS, Hohmann E, Schnabl B. Gut microbial ethanol metabolism contributes to Auto-brewery Syndrome in an observational cohort. *Nature Microbiology.* 2025, accepted


## Awards/Recognitions:

Dr. Schnabl was named to Clarivate's 2025 Highly Cited Researchers list for the fourth consecutive year. The distinction recognizes the top 1% of scientists in their fields based on citation impact over the past decade. UC San Diego had 50 researchers receive this honor in 2025.

## Grants:

- Dr. Schnabl received a new R01AA031710 entitled "Intestinal proteases in alcohol-associated liver disease" from 09/20/2025 – 08/31/2030.
- Dr. Schnabl also received an extension of his Senior Clinician Scientist Investigator (SCSI) Award. This extension will continue supporting his current VA Merit 01BX004594, titled "The role of pathobionts in alcoholic liver disease" from 01/10/2026 – 09/30/2030.
- Dr. Schnabl is the academic PI on a new Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Grant R41AI191973 entitled "Investigation of Novel IgY Technology for Fungal Targets in Alcohol-associated Hepatitis" from 09/23/2025 – 08/31/2026.





# FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS



Amir Zarrinpar, MD, PhD

## Awards/Recognitions:

We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Zarrinpar has been appointed the **Stuart and Barbara L. Brody Endowed Chair in Circadian Biology and Medicine**. This prestigious recognition honors Dr. Zarrinpar's exceptional contributions and pioneering work in circadian biology and its applications in medicine.

The endowed chair is designed to address a critical gap at the intersection of research, circadian biology, and patient care, further advancing innovation in the field.

We celebrate this outstanding achievement and the impact it will have on both science and medicine!



Eric Low, MD

## Awards/Recognitions:

### **Dr. Low Recognized as One of UCSD's Top-Rated Physicians!**

Dr. Low has earned a distinguished place among UC San Diego Health's highest-rated physicians, standing out as one of just nine doctors to receive a perfect 5-star rating from patients, in a rolling 12 month period. This honor is based on responses to a key question in UCSD's experience surveys: "How likely would you be to recommend this provider to your family and friends?"

Achieving a 5-star score on this measure reflects not only exceptional clinical expertise but also a deep commitment to compassionate, patient-centered care. According to UCSD, physicians who reach this level of patient endorsement rank in the top 10% of providers nationwide, underscoring the extraordinary trust and satisfaction Dr. Low has earned from those he serves.

Dr. Low's recognition highlights his dedication to ensuring every patient feels heard, respected, and confident in their care—an achievement that sets a high standard for excellence in healthcare.





## *Farewell to Dr. Mary Lee Krinsky*

After more than 26 years of dedicated service at UC San Diego, Dr. Mary Lee Krinsky will retire in February 2026.

Mary Lee's journey began as an undergraduate at UC San Diego, followed by medical school at Western University of Health Sciences. After completing her GI fellowship at Yale and advanced EUS training with Dr. Charlie Lightdale at Columbia, she joined the West Roxbury VA as Director of Endoscopy and served on the faculty at Brigham and Women's Hospital. In 1999, she returned home to San Diego to establish the first interventional endoscopy and EUS program at the VA, where she served as Director of Endoscopy until 2022.

As a member of UCSD's advanced endoscopy group, Mary Lee was an early adopter of transluminal EUS-guided interventions and was the first to perform EUS-guided biliary drainage and EUS-directed transgastric ERCP at both the VA and UCSD. She holds two provisional patents—including an ergonomic gripper developed in collaboration with UCSD Engineering and Surgery—and her prospective research and commentary on diminutive polypectomy helped shape modern thinking on polypectomy quality.

A champion of mentorship and inclusion, she co-founded the Association of Women Endoscopists (AWE) in 2017, fostering a growing pipeline for women in interventional GI. In 2023, AWE hosted the first all-women faculty interventional course at UCSD. Internationally, she led AWE's first medical outreach trip to Vietnam and performed the country's first AXIOS stent placement.

Locally, she served as President of the San Diego GI Society in 2005 and brought joy and mentorship to our fellows through GI Jeopardy and her introduction of pickleball to the division.

We are deeply grateful for the innovation, mentorship, and heart Mary Lee has brought to our division.

Please join me in celebrating her extraordinary legacy and wishing her well as she explores new opportunities to advance patient care, and as she joins Nate and their son Zach in supporting their daughter Kate's Paralympic journey in 2026. We look forward to welcoming her back in new and meaningful ways.





## Updates from the San Diego Digestive Diseases Research Center (SDDRC)

The overall mission of the SDDRC is to support basic, translational, and clinical research aimed at improving the treatment and prevention of major inflammatory diseases of the gastrointestinal tract and liver. The Center continues to thrive in its seventh year of operation. Drs. Schnabl and Eckmann have led the Center since its establishment in 2019. The SDDRC currently provides the following services:

### Core Services and Updates

#### Human Translational Core provides:

- Access to well-characterized human biospecimens for patients with Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) and Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD).
- Access to archival clinical (GI/liver) tissue samples (stained or unstained slides) from the Pathology Department.
- Consultation in pathology, biostatistics, and protocol design.
- Weekly virtual office hour for biostatistics consultation with Xinlian Zhang, PhD, via Zoom, every Monday from 09:00 am - 10:00 am.

#### Preclinical Models Core provides:

- Services in histology and microscopy including tissue preparation, help in establishing proper fixation, routine and specialized staining, slide scanning, multiplex immunofluorescence, state-of-the-art microscopy, second harmonic generation collagen imaging, intravital imaging, and image analysis.
- Access to germ-free and gnotobiotic mice, and murine models of liver and gastrointestinal disease.
- Access to Human Liver Resource services, which include primary liver cells and liver tissue.
- Monthly virtual histopathology office hours with Kenneth Kim, DACVP, 3rd Thursday of the month from 12:00-1:00 pm.
- Monthly virtual histology office hours with Zbigniew Mikulski, PhD, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 1:00-2:00 pm.
- **New service:** Proteomics services through the Collaborative Center for Proteomics led by Dr. David Gonzalez.

#### Microbiomics & Functional Genomics Core provides:

- Sample processing for microbiomics studies.
- Sequencing-based assays: Microbiome sequencing, RNA-seq, Single-cell sequencing (RNA, ATAC, Multiome), other sequencing-based assays (e.g. miRNA-Seq, ChIP-Seq).
- Spatial transcriptomics.
- Bioinformatics support:
  - ▶ Microbiomics (e.g. OTU,  $\alpha/\beta$  diversity, shotgun metagenomics, archiving)
  - ▶ Functional genomics (e.g. transcript quantitation, systems biology interpretation)
  - ▶ Consultation and training in specific experimental and analytical techniques related to microbiomics and functional genomics.



**SDDRC  
Seminar**

Date/Time:

Monday 1/26/25, 12:00 – 1:00 pm, Pacific Time,  
Leichtag-107 (Lecture Room)

Speaker:

Carolina Tropini, Ph.D., P.L. Eng.

*Environmental perturbations in the gut:  
from pathogen susceptibility to engineered  
biosensors*



If you have used the Center services,  
please remember to cite the SDDRC in your  
publications, “This work was supported by  
the San Diego Digestive Diseases Research  
Center (P30 DK120515).”

Please visit our website <http://sddrc.ucsd.edu> for up-to-date  
information about the Center and its upcoming events.

Follow us on X (Formerly known as Twitter):

<https://twitter.com/SDDRC>

Direct all questions to [sddrc@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:sddrc@health.ucsd.edu), or the SDDRC  
Coordinator, Victoria Shokrollah [vshokrollah@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:vshokrollah@health.ucsd.edu)

**Science at Lunchtime**

Date/Time:

Monday 1/12/26, 12:15 – 1:15 pm, Pacific Time,  
BRF2- 5A03 (Conference Room)

Presenter:

**Cristina Llorente, Ph.D.,**

Assistant Adjunct Professor, Department of Medicine,  
Division of Gastroenterology, UC San Diego

**SDDRC WORKSHOP**

***R Support (intermediate level)***



Date/Time: Spring 2026

**SDDRC  
Symposium**

Date/Time:

Friday 2/6/26, 1:30 - 5:15pm, Pacific Time

Location:

Pharmaceutical Sciences Building (PSB, Skaggs),  
Health Sciences Education Center Auditorium  
(Lower Level)

The symposium will feature prominent keynote  
speakers, Drs. Helen Hobbs and June Round;  
presentations by the 2024–2025 SDDRC Pilot &  
Feasibility awardees; and updates from representatives  
of the SDDRC cores. A reception with food and  
beverages will be held during the break.





# MASLD Research Center

January 1<sup>st</sup> – December 10<sup>th</sup> 2025

80 

Peer-reviewed research publications from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 10<sup>th</sup>

24,000+

Citations in scientific journals from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 10<sup>th</sup>



We are incredibly grateful for our team members and global collaborators whose backgrounds, insights, and expertise have propelled our research forward to date, as of December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Their contributions have made this past year especially impactful, with meaningful progress in the field. We are excited to carry this momentum forward!

30 

Active clinical trials

4 

Active NIH grants

1300+ 

Research visits conducted from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 10<sup>th</sup>



## UC San Diego EoE/EGID Multi-Disciplinary Clinic launched November 2025!

The multi-D clinic staffed by Dr. Eric Low (GI), Dr. Jenny Huang (A&I), and Jessica Steinbach RD (GI Nutrition) provides a comprehensive care experience in eosinophilic esophagitis and eosinophilic GI disorders.

The clinic is held monthly on the first Tuesday of the month out of MOP and is focused on caring for EoE/EGID in the setting of concomitant allergic/immunologic processes.

(Patients with general EoE will continue to be seen in Esophageal clinic)

Please contact Eric Low with any questions.

We are thrilled to embark on this new & unique clinic which fills an important gap for our patients!



# GLOGE HOLIDAY PARTY

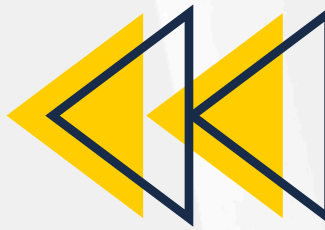


## VA FALL GATHERING





The University of California San Diego appoints Dr. Rohit Loomba, M.D., as the inaugural holder of the John C. Martin Endowed Chair in Liver Disease



Dr. David Brenner, Dr. William J. Sandborn & Dr. Bernd Schnabl named as one of the Highly Cited Researchers in their area of distinction by Clarivate



David Brenner  
Recall Faculty  
Division of GI & Hepatology  
Department of Medicine



William J. Sandborn  
Professor Emeritus  
Division of GI & Hepatology  
Department of Medicine



Bernd Schnabl  
Professor of Medicine  
Division of GI & Hepatology  
Department of Medicine

A new UC San Diego study led by Dr. Pradipta Ghosh reports a promising colon cancer therapy that uses artificial intelligence to target and reprogram elusive cancer stem cells, which often cause relapse and treatment resistance.

Access full article from The San Diego Union Tribune [HERE](#).



## 2025 TOP DOCTORS!

**Drs. Syed Abbas Fehmi, Thomas Savides, & Irine Vodkin were recognized among San Diego County's best doctors by their peers!**



Dr. Syed Abbas Fehmi  
Gastroenterology



Dr. Thomas Savides  
Gastroenterology



Dr. Irine Vodkin  
Transplant Hepatology



## International Clinical Training in Hepatology: Kyoto University Students at UCSD



As part of the annual clinical rotation program at the Kyoto University School of Medicine, the UCSD Hepatology Division hosted two senior medical students, Haru Senoo and Shu Hashimoto, from August 25 to September 19, 2025.

During their rotation, the students participated in the Hillcrest inpatient service, the Jacobs Medical Center (JMC) hepatology inpatient service, and one week of outpatient hepatology clinic. In addition, Haru Senoo, who has a particular interest in liver transplant surgery, completed a one-week rotation with the transplant surgery service.

This rotation has been highly popular among Kyoto University students and has been hosted by UCSD since 2015. In recent years, we have consistently hosted two students per year and have received overwhelmingly positive feedback. Students particularly value the quality of teaching and the opportunity to gain clinical experience in the United States.

## Upcoming Events

**14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**  
**ADVANCES IN**  
**GASTROENTEROLOGY &**  
**HEPATOLOGY CONFERENCE**

**JANUARY 31, 2026**  
San Diego Marriott La Jolla  
4240 La Jolla Village Dr, La Jolla, CA 92037

Earn AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ and/or MOC points!

**COURSE DIRECTORS**

**Pranab M. Barman, MD**  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
UC San Diego School of Medicine

**Brigid Boland, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
UC San Diego School of Medicine

**Rohit Loomba, MD, MHSc**  
Chief, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology  
UC San Diego School of Medicine

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**

- Keynote presentations from internationally recognized experts
- Concise, evidence-based updates from faculty at both UC San Diego and other institutions
- Interactive case discussions and panels addressing real-world clinical challenges

**REGISTER NOW**  
With Complimentary Code:  
**ADVGI2026**  
[www.ucsdadvancesgihep.org](http://www.ucsdadvancesgihep.org)



\*Code valid for UCSD APPs, Students, Faculty, and VA Faculty

## Other Events

- IBD City-Wide  
2026: Mar, May, Oct, Dec
- Research Symposium
- DDW  
May 2-5, 2026
- Isenberg Lecture

Gastroenterology & Hepatology News is distributed by the  
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology.  
If you have any questions/comments or wish to be  
removed from this list, please contact  
[gadmin@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:gadmin@health.ucsd.edu)





# Division of GI & Hepatology Holiday Party