

Thank You Dr. William Sandborn

The Division is grateful to Dr. Bill Sandborn for his leadership as Chief of Gastroenterology and Hepatology since 2011. His 10 years of leadership has been consequential in many ways, including massive faculty recruitment, development and expansion of specialized subspecialty clinical service lines, markedly increasing the clinical footprint of the Division, creation of the nationally recognized UCSD Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center, creation of advanced training fellowships in inflammatory bowel disease and hepatology, the transformation the GI Fellowship into one of the most highly rated programs in the US, two renewals of the NIH T32 research fellowship training grant, the creation of the San Diego Digestive Disease Research Center funded by a P30 GI center grant, and significant expansion of both NIH and VA funded research as well as industry sponsored clinical trials.

Under Dr Sandborn’s leaders, US News and World Report ranked UCSD as the #1 Global University for Gastroenterology and Hepatology in the world for research achievements in 2020. US News and World Report in 2020 also ranked UCSD Gastroenterology and GI #32 in the United States for clinical care.

During his time as UCSD GI Chief, Dr Sandborn maintained his amazing IBD research productivity. During his decade at UCSD, he published 497 peer reviewed publications, bringing his career total to 849 peer reviewed publications. This includes 14 original articles in the New England Journal of Medicine (11 as 1st, co-1st, or senior author), of which 8 were published during his time at UCSD. In 2019 he was awarded the Sherman Prize for his contributions to inflammatory bowel disease.

In the summer of 2020, Dr. Sandborn co-founded a San Diego based biotechnology company called Shoreline Biosciences, focused on cell therapy for various oncology indications, using engineered NK cells and macrophages derived from induced pluripotent stem cells, with chimeric antigen receptors (CARs) based on discoveries from the UCSD laboratory of Dan Kaufman. In May 2021, Dr. Sandborn left UCSD to become the Chief Medical Officer for Shoreline Biosciences. He will maintain an academic appointment at UCSD, and a small clinical IBD practice training the next generation of IBD leaders. We wish him the best in his new pursuits we are delighted that he will continue to maintain an academic appointment and a clinical presence here at UCSD.



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THOMAS SAVIDES, INTERIM CHIEF OF DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Thomas Savides as Interim Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology effective April 12, 2021. Dr. Savides will work closely with the Chair of Medicine and the CEO of the Health System to ensure the continued growth of the Division in all of its missions.

Dr. Savides received his medical degree from UCSD in 1987. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in GI at UCLA in 1993 and a fellowship in Endoscopic Ultrasound at Indiana University Medical Center in 1994. Dr. Savides joined the UCSD School of Medicine faculty in 1993 and is currently Professor of Clinical Medicine.



Dr. Savides is a nationally recognized expert and leader in advanced endoscopic GI procedures and complex diseases. He has made significant contributions in clinical care and received several accolades, including “Top Doctor” in San Diego for 15 consecutive years and the 2019 Master Endoscopist award from the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. He serves as Chief Experience Officer for the Health System and was recognized for his efforts by Becker’s Hospital Review as “30 Hospital and Health System Chief Experience Officers to Know in 2018” and “25 Hospital and Health System Chief Experience Officers to Know in 2020”.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Savides on his new position!

WELCOME ZIA BOROK, CHAIR OF DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE



Dr. Borok was previously the Ralph Edgington Chair in Medicine, Division Chief of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and Hastings Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles.

Her work has been of tremendous import since she joined USC in November 1990 as an Instructor of Medicine. As Chief of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine since 2008, Dr. Borok led the expansion of research and creation of clinical programs of excellence, such as the Center for Advanced Lung Disease, Pulmonary Hypertension Program, Sleep Center, and Interventional Pulmonary Program.

In her role as chair of the Department of Medicine, Dr. Borok plans to continue her work in the laboratory with an emphasis on pulmonary research, collaborative opportunities and shared resources within the scientific community at UC San Diego. [Click Here for Full Press Release.](#)



UC San Diego
HEALTH SCIENCES

*On behalf of Drs. Rena Yadlapati & Ravinder Mittal,
You are cordially invited to attend the*

**UC San Diego Division of Gastroenterology
14th Annual Research Symposium**

“The Frontier of Esophageal Diseases & Motility”

**Friday, June 4, 2021
12:30pm – 5:30pm (PT)**

**UC San Diego School of Medicine
Zoom Online Conference**

Registration Link:

https://uhealth.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KxFGHLWiQXe1P8SieGRF6Q

Contact legea@health.ucsd.edu if you have questions or need assistance

Faculty Spotlight: Josh Rubin, MD.



Josh is a gastroenterologist whose clinical focus is Celiac Disease and *Helicobacter pylori*. Josh received his medical degree from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, graduating with AOA honors. He subsequently completed training in Internal Medicine at UCLA and Gastroenterology at UCSD. He joined the Division of Gastroenterology at UCSD after his fellowship. He currently serves as the Gastroenterology Division representative for the Medicine Patient Care Peer Review Committee. Additionally, he is the quality improvement representative for the GI division. He is currently a co-investigator on an R21 funded project seeking to identify potential biomarkers and therapeutic targets for refractory Celiac Disease. In his spare time, he enjoys spending as much time with his family as he can. He loves basketball, hiking, and trying to refine his BBQ skills.

STAFF Spotlight: Amy Shultz

Amy Schultz is our new GI & Hepatology Clinical Triage Manager. She spent 13 years at Sharp as an RN in PCU then the ED. She held progressive leadership roles from Ambulatory Specialties to PCU. She came to UCSD in 2016 and served as the Director of Patient and Guest Services for most of that time. She has her Master's in Nursing Education and her thesis was *The Correlation between Staff Engagement and Patient Satisfaction*. She earned my Lean Six Sigma Black Belt last year. She's been married for 30 years (this December), has 3 adult children (2 boys and a baby girl) and 1 granddaughter with another due in October. Said daughter has had severe UC since her teens and has never been in remission, so GI is important to her both professionally and personally. As the Hep/GI Triage Manager she oversees the Triage RNs, the Care Nav Hub MAs and the Care Nav Hub inbound and outbound scheduling agents which Chenoa Wilson directly manages. Last, but not least, she is proud to be a member of the team and glad to be here!

Amy has been serving as the interim manager while also serving in her Director of Patient and Guest Services role and it has been an absolute pleasure partner with her. Now that she has accepted the position and fully transitioned to GI/Hepatology, we are excited to see the continue positive impact she has on her team and our clinical operations program. She is and will continue to be a great asset to our team.



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

Our SDDRC family has grown bigger, adding two new members for a current total of 56 members. The Center would like to welcome the following new members:

- Dannielle Engle, Ph.D.
- Suzanne Sharpton, MD

Congratulations to the 2020-21 Pilot & Feasibility awardees

The Pilot & Feasibility program has awarded a total of \$200,000 to the following investigators with promising research projects in digestive diseases:

Innovative Awards:

- **Parambir Dulai, MD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine UC San Diego
Project Title: "Effects of hyperbaric oxygen on the microbiome"
- **Dannielle Engle, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies
Project Title: "Interception of CA19-9 in Pancreatic Disease"
- **Jesus Rivera-Nieves, MD**, Professor, Department of Medicine UC San Diego
Project Title: "A novel role for integrin $\alpha E\beta 7$ for the optimal transcytosis of secretory IgA"
- **Suzanne Sharpton, MD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine UC San Diego
Project Title: "Novel metagenomic and metabolomic signature of PNPLA3-associated nonalcoholic steatohepatitis"

Jon I. Isenberg Fellowship Award

- **Cristina Llorente, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine UC San Diego
Project Title: "*Goblet cells and intestinal immune response in alcohol-associated liver disease*"

The next round of Pilot & Feasibility grants for the academic year 2021-22 will be announced in the fall of 2021.

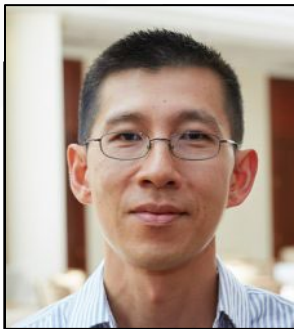
SDDRC Seminars

The next SDDRC seminar on "Translating immunology into new therapies for inflammatory bowel disease" is scheduled for 5/12/21, presented by Professor Fiona Powrie, FRS, FMedSci, Director of Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology University of Oxford, England.

The SDDRC website contains detailed information regarding upcoming monthly seminars.

Please visit our website <http://sddrc.ucsd.edu> for up-to-date information about the Center and its upcoming events. Direct all questions to sddrc@health.ucsd.edu. Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SDDRC>.

Awards & Recognitions



Dr. John Chang, Published:
Chang JT. Pathophysiology of
Inflammatory Bowel
Diseases. NEJM 2020 Dec 31.

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMra2002697>



Dr. Denise Kalmaz, was
elected Vice President of
the SDGI Society.

Dr. Parambir Dulai is
secretary/treasurer of SDGI this
year



Ana Carolina Dantas
Machado received a R01
Diversity Supplement off
of Amir Zarrinpar's
NHLBI R01



LIVER TRANSPLANT RANKED #7

Congratulation to the Hepatology Team for all their hard work! **Our Liver Transplant Program is ranked #7 in the United States** for one-year patient survival among similarly sized programs (30-100 transplants per year). This has been a tremendous team effort to grow the program in volume and quality. The institution released a press-report touting the accomplishments across all solid organ transplantation.

[Click Here for Full Press Release](#)



Dr. Sheila Crow, has been
nominated and invited to
join the Board of Scientific
Counselors (BSC) at the
National Institute of Diabetes
and Digestive and Kidney
Diseases (NIDDK) at the NIH.

- Invited to co-author upcoming American College of Gastroenterology evidence-based guidelines on management of gastric precancerous lesions
- Supervisor and lead author of two American Gastroenterological Association Clinical Practice Updates – 1) Management of Refractory H. pylori Infection (published in *Gastroenterology* March 2021) and 2) Diagnosis and Management of Atrophic Gastritis (anticipated publication *Gastroenterology* Fall 2021)
- Published Editorial article in *Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology* "Gastric cancer: a neglected threat to racial and ethnic minorities in the US"



Shailja C. Shah, MD, MPH

T32 SPOTLIGHT

The T32 GI training program is proud to highlight two of its trainees, Joseph Meserve, MD a current, and Parambir Dulai, MD, one of our exemplary past trainee.



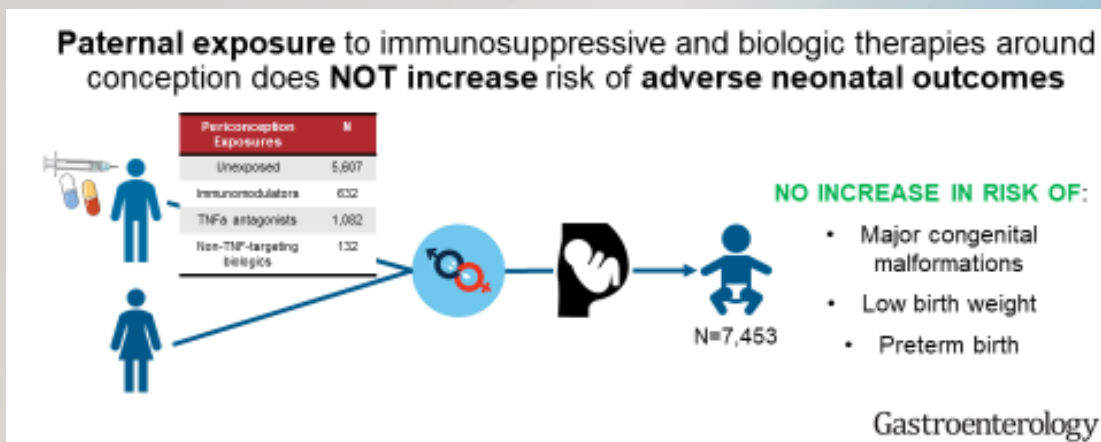
Joseph Meserve, MD

Mentors: Primary Mentor: Siddharth Singh, MD
 Secondary Mentor: William Sandborn, MD
 Training Period: July 2020-present

Joe enjoyed his experience with clinical research as a resident at UCSD. In 2019, and after residency was recruited and joined the Gastroenterology fellowship program as a research fellow. His first year was clinical training in developing clinical skills and knowledge in gastrointestinal diseases, and July 2020, appointed to the Training Grant of Gastroenterology. His plans after completing his gastroenterology fellowship and T32 research training is to continue working on clinical research in an advanced fellowship in IBD.

Dr. Joseph Meserve is currently a second-year gastroenterology fellow and a postdoctoral research trainee on the GI Division T32 Training Grant. Dr. Meserve’s research concentrates on the safety and clinical outcomes of biologic therapy in inflammatory bowel disease. The initial focus of his research was to inform on real-world outcomes and safety of vedolizumab, an anti-integrin biologic for the treatment of Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis.

He recently completed a large retrospective analysis of neonatal outcomes in fathers with immune-mediated diseases both exposed and unexposed to immunosuppressive medications and biologics utilizing a national claims database (see Graphic Abstract). Currently, he is building a new database to inform on longitudinal changes in outcomes and safety with changes in treatment which will provide a scaffold to answer other unique questions in the realm of IBD.



T32 SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

Publications:

1. **Meserve J**, Dulai P. Predicting response to Vedolizumab in inflammatory bowel disease. *Front Med (Lausanne)*. 2020 Apr 2; 7:76. doi: 10.3389/fmed.2020.00076. eCollection 2020. [PMCID: PMC145386]
2. Lukin D, Faleck D, Xu R, Zhang Y, Weiss A, Aniwan S, Kadire S, Tran G, Rahal M, Winters A, Chablaney S, Koliani-Pace JL, **Meserve J**, Campbell JP, Kochhar G, Bohm M, Varma S, Fischer M, Boland B, Singh S, Hirten R, Ungaro R, Lasch K, Schmidt E, Jairath V, Hudesman D, Chang S, Swaminath A, Shen B, Kane S, Loftus EV Jr, Sands BE, Colombel JF, Siegel CA, Sandborn WJ, Dulai PS. Comparative safety and effectiveness of Vedolizumab to tumor necrosis factor antagonist therapy for ulcerative colitis. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2020 Oct 8:S1542-3565(20)31388-4. doi: 10.1016/j.cgh.2020.10.003. Online ahead of print. [PMCID: PMC7145386]
3. Dulai PS, Singh S, Castele NV, **Meserve J**, Winters A, Chablaney S, Aniwan S, Shashi P, Kochhar G, Weiss A, Koliani-Pace JL, Gao Y, Boland BS, Chang JT, Faleck D, Hirten R, Ungaro R, Lukin D, Sultan K, Hudesman D, Chang S, Bohm M, Varma S, Fischer M, Schmidt E, Swaminath A, Gupta N, Rosario M, Jairath V, Guizzetti L, Feagan BG, Siegel CA, Shen B, Kane S, Loftus EV Jr, Sandborn WJ, Sands BE, Colombel JF, Lasch K, Cao C. Development and validation of clinical scoring tool to predict outcomes of treatment with Vedolizumab in patients with ulcerative colitis. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2020 Dec; 18(13):2952-2961.e8. doi: 10.1016/j.cgh.2020.02.010. [PMCID: PMC7899124]
4. Barsky M, **Meserve J**, Le H, Collins A, Singh S, Boland B, Sandborn WJ, Dulai PS. Understanding determinants of patient preferences between stool tests and colonoscopy for the assessment of disease activity in inflammatory bowel disease. *Dig Dis Sci*. 2020 Sep 1. doi: 10.1007/s10620-020-06568-w. [PMCID: PMC7899124]
5. **Meserve J**, Singh S. Pathologist meet Picasso! Virtual chromoendoscopy for detecting histologic remission in ulcerative colitis. *Gastroenterology*. 2021 Jan 25:S0016-5085(21)00318-8. doi: 10.1053/j.gastro.2021.01.213. Online ahead of print. [PMCID: pending]
6. **Meserve J**, Facciorusso A, Holmer AK, Annese V, Sandborn WJ, Singh S. Systematic review with meta-analysis: safety and tolerability of immune checkpoint inhibitors in patients with pre-existing inflammatory bowel diseases. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2021 Feb; 53(3):374-382. doi: 10.1111/apt.16217. [PMCID: pending]
7. **Meserve J**, Luo J, Zhu W, Bandoli G, Chambers CD, Singh AG, Boland BS, Sandborn WJ, Mahadevan U, Singh S. Paternal exposure to immunosuppressive and/or biologic agents and birth outcomes in patients with immune-mediated inflammatory diseases. *Gastroenterology*, Mar 2021, accepted.

***Congratulations to our 2020
GI graduates in passing their ABIM boards.***

**FELLOWSHIP
HIGHLIGHTS**

***Good Job, Shravan Dave, Ariela Holmer,
Ali Akram, and Ngozi Enwerem.***

***Due to COVID, Lien Le's Division Chief would not allow her to travel to take her boards so hopefully with
improving conditions she will be able to take them this November.***

DDW Activity Spotlight

Kim Barrett, PhD

- **Clinical Symposium**

- Session Title: The Paths to Partnership, Academic Promotion and Research Productivity: How to Advance as an Early Career Gastroenterologist

Session Date & Time: **May 21, 2021 1:00 -2:30 PM Eastern**

Presentation Title: PATH TO ADVANCEMENT IN RESEARCH

- **Poster**

- Session Title: Epithelial Function and Ion, Water and Nutrient Absorption

Session Date: **May 21, 2021 12:15 – 1:00 PM Eastern**

Presentation Title: SALMONELLA BIASES INTESTINAL EPITHELIAL DIFFERENTIATION THROUGH WNT AND NOTCH SIGNALING, THUS POSSIBLY CONTRIBUTING TO ITS DIARRHEAL PATHOGENESIS

David Kunkel, MD

- **Research Podium Presentations**

- Session title: Advances in the Pathogenesis, Diagnosis & Treatment of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease

Session Date & Time: **May 23, 2021 3:30 – 5:00 PM Eastern**

Presentation Title: TOLERABILITY AND EFFICACY OF THE UPPER ESOPHAGEAL SPHINCTER ASSIST DEVICE IN PREVENTING ACUTE AND CHRONIC ALLOGRAFT REJECTION AMONG LUNG TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS

- Session Title: SSAT Quick Shot Session: Esophagus, Gastric, Bariatric, & Metabolic

Session Date & Time: **May 23, 2021 5:30 – 7:00 PM Eastern**

Presentation Title: REDUCED WRAP DISTENSIBILITY PREDICTS DYSPHAGIA AMONG PATIENTS WITH PARTIAL, BUT NOT COMPLETE, FUNDOPLICATION

- **Posters**

- Session Title: SSAT Esophageal Diseases I

Session Date & Time: **May 21, 2021 12:15 – 1:00 PM Eastern**

Presentation Title: TRTREATMENT RESPONSE TO ESOFILIP DILATION IS GREATER IN PARTIAL FUNDOPLICATION THAN IN COMPLETE FUNDOPLICATION

- Session title: Gastroparesis & Small Intestinal Dysmotility

Session Date & Time: **May 22, 2021 12:15 – 1:00 PM Eastern**

Presentation Title: PYLORIC DISTENSIBILITY ON FLIP TESTING PREDICTS CLINICAL RESPONSE TO BOTULINUM TOXIN INJECTION AMONG PATIENTS WITH IDIOPATHIC GASTROPARESIS

- Session title: Oropharyngeal and Esophageal Motility Disorders

Session Date & Time: **May 23, 2021 12:15 – 1:00 PM Eastern**

Presentation Title: TREATMENT OUTCOMES FROM ESOFILIP DILATION IN PATIENTS WITH ACHALASIA VARY BY SUBTYPE

William Sandborn, MD

- **Clinical Symposium:**

- Session Title: Farron and Martin Brotman, MD, Lecture: Choosing and Positioning Therapies for Ulcerative Colitis

Session Streaming Date & Time: **May 21, 2021 from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM Eastern**

Session Format: Live Q&A (DDW Virtual)

Presentation Title: POSITIONING THERAPIES FOR UC

Presentation Duration: 15 minutes

DDW Activity Spotlight

William Sandborn, MD (Cont'd)

- **Posters**
 - Session Title: IBD: Quality of Life and Psychosocial Care
Session Date & Time: **May 22, 2021 from 12:15 PM to 1:00 PM Eastern**
Presentation Title: LONG-TERM (5-YEAR) MAINTENANCE OF CLINICALLY MEANINGFUL IMPROVEMENT IN HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE CROHN'S DISEASE TREATED WITH USTEKINUMAB IN THE IM-UNITI LONG-TERM EXTENSION STUDY
 - Session Title: IBD: Quality of Life and Psychosocial Care
Session Date & Time: **May 22, 2021 12:15 – 1 PM Eastern**
Presentation title: FILGOTINIB PROVIDES IMPROVEMENTS IN HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH ULCERATIVE COLITIS: SF-36 RESULTS FROM THE PHASE 2B/3 SELECTION STUDY

Thomas Savides, MD

- **Moderator**
 - Session Title: Endoscopic Training Advances
Session Date and Time: **May 23, 2021 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM Eastern**

Bernd Schnabl, MD

- **Invited Talk**
 - Session Title: Dark Matter: Nonbacterial Kingdoms of the Gut Microbiome
Session Date & Time: **May 21, 2021 5:30 – 7:00 PM Eastern**
Presentation Title: BACTERIOPHAGE AND FUNGI IN LIVER DISEASE

Rena Yadlapati, MD

- **Moderator**
 - Session Title: Advancing Clinical Practice: GI Fellow-Directed Quality Improvement Projects
Session Date & Time: **May 22, 2021 1:00-2:00 PM Eastern**
 - Session Title: Advances in Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy: From A to Z
Session Date & Time: **May 23, 2021 5:30 - 7:00 PM Eastern**
- **Lecture**
 - Session Title: Advancements in GERD and Esophageal Dysmotility: An Endoscopic Update (ASGE Special Interest Group-Sponsored Session) SIG: Endoluminal Therapy for Esophageal Disease and Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (ETED/GERD)
Session Date & Time: **May 21, 2021 3:30 - 5:00 PM Eastern**
Presentation Title: TO POEM OR NOT TO POEM: A MOTILITY PERSPECTIVE
- **Research Podium Presentations**
 - Session Title: Advances in the Pathogenesis, Diagnosis and Treatment of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease
Session Date & Time: **May 23, 2021 3:30 – 5:00 PM Eastern**
Presentation Title: EFFICACY OF REFLUX BAND (UPPER ESOPHAGEAL SPHINCTER ASSIST DEVICE) FOR LARYNGOPHARYNGEAL REFLUX: A PROSPECTIVE TWO PHASE TRIAL
- **Poster**
 - Session Title: GERD: Clinical presentations including Extra-Esophageal Manifestations and Disease Complications
Session Date & Time: **May 22, 2021 12:15 – 1:00 PM Eastern**
Presentation Title: DISTINCT CLINICAL PHYSIOLOGIC PHENOTYPES OF PATIENTS WITH LARYNGOPHARYNGEAL REFLUX SYMPTOMS: A PROSPECTIVE MULTI-CENTER STUDY (Poster of Distinction)

DDW Activity Spotlight (Fellows/ Residents)

Aws Hasan, MD

- **Poster**
 - Session Title: Pathogenetic Mechanisms/Biology of GERD and GERD Therapies
Session Date & Time: **May 23, 2021 12:15 – 1:00 PM Eastern**
Presentation Title: ORAL MICROBIOME CHARACTERISTICS IN GASTROESOPHAGEAL REFLUX DISEASE AND FUNCTIONAL HEARTBURN (Poster of Distinction)

Priya Sharma, MD

- **Poster**
 - Session Title: Oropharyngeal and Esophageal Motility Disorders
Session Date & Time: **May 22, 2021 12:15 - 1:00 PM Eastern**
Presentation Title: NORMATIVE VALUES FOR ESOPHAGEAL HIGH-RESOLUTION MANOMETRY IN PATIENTS WITH OBESITY
 - Session Title: Oropharyngeal and Esophageal Motility Disorders
Session Date & Time: **May 22, 2021 12:15 - 1:00 PM Eastern**
Presentation Title: ROLE OF ESOPHAGEAL PHYSIOLOGIC TESTING IN BARIATRIC SURGERY EVALUATION

Fady Youssef, MD

- **Research Podium Presentation**
 - Session Title: Novel Approaches to Studying Physiology of the Esophagus
Session Date & Time: **May 23, 2021 10 – 11:30 AM Eastern**
Presentation Title: COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE OF HIGH RESOLUTION MANOMETRY, BARIUM ESOPHAGRAM, AND AMBULATORY PH MONITORING IN OBESE INDIVIDUALS UNDERGOING PRE-OPERATIVE EVALUATION FOR BARIATRIC SURGERY
- **Poster**
 - Session Title: Obesity
Session Date & Time: **May 22, 2021 12:15 – 1:00 PM Eastern**
Presentation Title: PREVALENCE AND ETIOLOGY OF ESOPHAGOGASTRIC JUNCTION OUTFLOW OBSTRUCTION IN OBESE INDIVIDUALS UNDERGOING PRE-OPERATIVE HIGH RESOLUTION ESOPHAGEAL MANOMETRY

Grateful Patients

Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology



“In all my years I’ve met a few doctors that go above and beyond, and Dr. Sandborn is one of those people. I was an avid fundraiser, but I realized I could do even more by supporting him and UC San Diego. ... It’s a family illness when somebody gets sick like this. Having a support system is key to getting well.” – Joan Levis, mother of Crohn’s patient Chloe.

[Read the full story](#)



“Other places just did some blood tests, but Dr. Sandborn’s team did a full comprehensive review. That made me so much more confident in their assessment that my very low-grade prostate cancer is not expected to progress. But if it does, I know where I’ll go.” – Bill McGowan, cancer patient

[Read the full story](#)

Stories Published & Features By The Campaign For UC San Diego

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12
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Milan, Italy

Marcia Canto, MD, MHS
Baltimore, MD, USA

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Lectures, panels, & exciting hands-on demos on novel endoscopic advances



UC San Diego School of Medicine

Established in 1968, University of California San Diego School of Medicine is consistently ranked among the top medical school programs in the country for primary care and research by *U.S. News & World Report* and among the top 10 medical schools for National Institutes of Health total funding. The school is internationally recognized as a place where discoveries are delivered — bringing breakthroughs from the research lab to patients' bedsides. Faculty members care for patients at UC San Diego Health, where primary care is available at several convenient locations throughout San Diego County and our advanced specialty care consistently ranks among the nation's best. For more information, visit medschool.ucsd.edu.

Our Mission

The UC San Diego Gastroenterology & Hepatology 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.

Charitable Donations

You may contribute and support our GI Fellowship Program and allow our fellows to attend training-related activities by clicking and donating on this [GIVE LINK](#). Remember: if you itemize, you may be able to receive a charitable deduction for 2020 for your gifts received on or before December 31.