



UCSD Gastroenterology Laboratories

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# UCSD Division of Gastroenterology Newsletter

**Spring 2009  
Volume 4, Issue 3**

Dear Friends:

First, let me invite all of you, whether you are coming from the San Diego area or abroad, are former or current fellows or faculty, or friends of our GI Division, to our UCSD Alumni Reception to be held Sunday, May 31, 2009 from 6-8PM at the Chicago Hilton (Private Dining Room #3). It is a great chance to see colleagues that you have not seen in a while, and catch up on the amazing growth and changes that has propelled our GI Division to new heights.

The economy has been on most people's minds, and it certainly has affected some GI Divisions and GI practices throughout the United States. UCSD has weathered the economic storm wonderfully. The Division's clinical activity continues to expand, with the 2008-2009 academic year on track to be our best in productivity. The Division continues to recruit faculty at both the clinical and research levels, with 3 recruitments already completed for July 2009 start dates. The Division continues to expand its NIH and grant portfolio, and is 2-3 fold higher in its annual dollar awards than just 5 years ago. This has been despite the declining NIH budget in the past years.



Our clinical services continue to rack up additional accolades. Our endoscopy units at Hillcrest and Thornton were recently recognized as top endoscopy units in the United States by the ASGE for its quality, procedures, and care.

Our junior faculty and fellows make the Division extremely proud. A focus of NIH-funded Digestive Diseases Center and its new Pilot grants, our Isenberg Pilot Grants, and the time I and our faculty personally put in to developing young faculty are paying off. As you see in this newsletter, many of our junior faculty and senior fellows have produced outstanding publications and received competitive grants. It is these people who will become the leaders of tomorrow!

## Division of Gastroenterology

### Program Highlights - Transplant Hepatology

#### UCSD LIVER TRANSPLANT PROGRAM - 16 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS QUALITY SERVICE

The UCSD Liver Transplant Program started in 1993 to service the needs for liver failure patients in San Diego. The program has grown significantly, providing livers to over 40 patients annually.

The UCSD Liver Transplant Program is the longest running liver transplant program in Southern California south of Los Angeles. It services San Diego, Imperial, Orange, and Riverside Counties, and beyond. Patients who have utilized the UCSD Liver Transplant Program praise the dedication and service of the physicians and staff who continuously care for these extremely sick patients with liver disease.

#### PROGRAM

The UCSD Transplant Program specializes in care of patients with decompensated liver disease and liver cancer. The program is specialized in the care of patients with acute liver failure, acute-on-chronic liver failure presenting with hepatorenal syndrome, hepatic coma, intractable ascites, intractable GI bleeding, and patients with HIV with liver cirrhosis and all forms of liver cancer.

The program offers clinical protocols for patients with alcoholic hepatitis, hepatorenal syndrome, acute liver failure, post-transplant Hepatitis management, and pharmacokinetics of immune suppression. In addition, the program is specialized in hepatic neurocognitive disorders. The program has dedicated team for clinical research.

The Transplant Team consists of a multidisciplinary group of professionals that evaluate, and care for, transplant patients a means to survive from liver failure.



Tarek Hassanein, M.D.  
Director of Medical Transplant

The following are members of the transplant team who service the San Diego community and its population:

#### **Transplant Hepatologist**

Tarek Hassanein, MD, FACP, FACG, AGAF  
Medical Director (came to UCSD in 1997)  
(619)543-6895  
Elliot Alpert, MD (2004)  
Alex Kuo, MD (2007)  
Rohit Loomba, MD (2009)  
Heather Patton, MD (2009)

#### **Transplant Surgeons**

Ajai Khanna, MD, PhD (2003) Director, Abdominal Transplant  
(619)543-3493  
Marquis Hart, MD (1995)  
Chris Barry, MD, PhD (2005)

#### **Transplant Administration**

Alexander Aussi, BSN, RN, MBA Transplant Administrator

#### **Transplant Pharmacist**

Michael Misel, PharmD Transplant Pharmacist

## Division of Gastroenterology

### Program Highlights - Transplant Hepatology Cont'd

The program is supported by a large team including pharmacists, nurse practitioners, social workers, financial coordinators, and nutrition services.

#### **Transplant Coordinators**

Joanie Salotti, RN, MSN, ANP	(619)543-5515
Linda Soaft, MSN, ANP, CCTC	(619)471-9491
Eileen Chatfield, RN, BSN, MA, CCTC	(619)543-2081

#### **Inpatient Transplant Team**

Cyndy Collins, NP	(619)543-3905
Katie Anderson, PA-C	
Doug Elmore, NP	

#### **Transplant Administrative Assistants**

Terry Laforce, Admin Assistant	(619)471-9536
Sara Valle-Mundo, Admin Assist	(619)543-2599
Carol King, Admin Assist	(619)471-0373

#### **Transplant Social Worker**

Michelle Morrison, Social Worker	(619)543-8242
Kelly Swan-Vranish, Social Worker	(619)471-0735

#### **Financial Coordinator**

Cindy Cruz, Financial Coordinator	(619)543-3530
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#### **Nutrition Services**

Linda Raynes, Nutrition Services	(619)574-8620
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Our mission is to offer our patients with the best specialized and personal liver care.

Our Multidisciplinary team is proud of our comprehensive service to offer transplant as an option to those who qualify with end-stage liver disease. The UCSD Liver Transplant Program is at or better than the national average for on-year survival post transplant, which approaches 90% survival rates.

For your referrals, you can reach any of our team of physicians or coordinators at phone numbers listed.

## Recent Division Publications

- Stein LL, Loomba R.** Drug targets in hepatitis B virus infection. *Infect Disord Drug Targets*. 2009 Mar; 9(2):105-16.
- Loomba R, Wesley R, Bain A, Csako G, Pucino F.** Role of Fluoroquinolones in the Primary Prophylaxis of Spontaneous Bacterial Peritonitis: Meta-analysis. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2008 Dec 27.
- Brandl K, Rutschmann S, Li X, Du X, Xiao N, **Schnabl B, Brenner DA**, Beutler B. Enhanced sensitivity to DSS colitis caused by a hypomorphic Mbtps1 mutation disrupting the ATF6-driven unfolded protein response. *PNAS* 2009, 2009;106(9):3300-5.
- Dong X, Smoll EJ, Ko KH, Lee J, **Chow JY**, Insel PA and **Dong H.** P2Y purinoceptor mediates Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling in duodenocytes and contribute to duodenal mucosal bicarbonate secretion. *Am. J. Physiol.: GI and Liver Physiol.*, 296: G424, 2009.
- Tran Cao HS, Cosman BC, Devaraj B, Ramamoorthy S, **Savides T, Krinsky ML**, Horgan S, Talamini MA, Savu MK. Performance measures of surgeon-performed colonoscopy in a Veterans Affairs medical center. *Surg Endosc*. 2009 Mar 6.
- Kodama Y, **Brenner DA.** c-Jun N-terminal kinase signaling in the pathogenesis of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease: Multiple roles in multiple steps. *Hepatology*. 2009 Jan;49(1):6-8.
- Monte MJ, Rosales R, Macias R.I.R., Iannota V, Martinez-Fernandez A, Romero MR, **Hofmann AF**, Marin JJG. Cytosol-nucleus traffic and colocalization with FXR of conjugated bile acids in rat hepatocytes. *Am J Physiol* 2008;295:G54-62.
- Ogawa S, Kakiyama G, Mutoh A, Hosoda A, Mitamura K, Ikegawa S, **Hofmann AF**, Iida T. A facile synthesis of C-24 and C-25 Oxysterols by in situ generated ethyl (trifluoromethyl)dioxirane. *Steroids* 2009;74:81-7.
- Hofmann AF.** The Enterohepatic Circulation of Bile Acids in Mammals: Form and Functions. *Frontiers in Bioscience* 2009;14:2584-98.
- Hofmann AF and Hagey LR.** Bile Acids: Chemistry, Pathochemistry, Biology, Pathobiology, and Therapeutics. *Cell Mol Life Sci* 2008;65:2461-83.
- Savides TJ.** EUS for mediastinal disease. *Gastrointest Endosc*. 2009 Feb;69(2 Suppl):S97-9.
- Savides TJ, Varadarajulu S, Palazzo L.** EUS 2008 Working Group document: evaluation of EUS-guided hepaticogastrostomy. *Gastrointest Endosc*. 2009 Feb;69(2 Suppl):S3-7.
- Savides TJ.** Tricks for improving EUS-FNA accuracy and maximizing cellular yield. *Gastrointest Endosc*. 2009 Feb;69(2 Suppl):S130-3.
- Grivennikov S, Karin E, Terzic J, Mucida D, Yu GY, Vallabhapurapu S, Scheller J, Rose-John S, Cheroutre H, **Eckmann L**, Karin M. IL-6 and Stat3 are required for survival of intestinal epithelial cells and development of colitis-associated cancer. *Cancer Cell*. 2009 Feb 3;15(2):103-13.
- Vaishnav S, Behrendt CL, Ismail AS, **Eckmann L**, Hooper LV. Paneth cells directly sense gut commensals and maintain homeostasis at the intestinal host-microbial interface. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2008 Dec 30;105(52):20858-63.
- Kodama Y, Taura K, Miura K, **Schnabl B**, Osawa Y, **Brenner DA.** Antiapoptotic Effect of c-Jun N-terminal Kinase-1 through Mcl-1 Stabilization in TNF-induced Hepatocyte Apoptosis. *Gastroenterology*. 2009 Jan 6.
- Brandl K, Rutschmann S, Li X, Du X, Xiao N, **Schnabl B, Brenner DA**, Beutler B. Enhanced sensitivity to DSS colitis caused by a hypomorphic Mbtps1 mutation disrupting the ATF6-driven unfolded protein response. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2009 Mar 3;106(9):3300-5.
- Korsapati HR, Babaei A, Bhargava V, Dohil R, Quin AM, **Mittal RK.** Dysfunction of the Longitudinal Muscles of the Esophagus in Eosinophilic Esophagitis. *Gut*. 2009 Jan 9.

## Awards and Honors

**Rohit Loomba, M.D., GI Fellow** Received the American Gastroenterological Association Designated Research Scholar Award in Geriatric Gastroenterology for the proposal entitled, *Sex-specific effect of alcohol and obesity and adipocytokines in geriatric fatty liver disease in a prospective population-based cohort: Rancho Bernardo Study*. This is a 3 year \$225,000 award that begins July 2009.

**Bernd Schnabl, M.D., Assistant Adjunct Professor**, was awarded a Pilot Project, entitled, *Early bacterial translocation as mechanism for alcohol-induced liver fibrosis progression*, Southern California Research Center for Alcoholic Liver & Pancreatic Diseases and Cirrhosis that is funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

**Pradipta Ghosh, M.D., Assistant Professor**, is a finalist for (a) American Cancer Society grant, and (b) Burroughs Wellcome Career Awards for Medical Scientists. Dr. Ghosh will know the final outcome of these grants by May 2009.

**Winston Dunn, M.D., GI Fellow**, was awarded a 2009 AASLD Advanced Transplant Hepatology Fellowship for his upcoming 4th year training at the Mayo Clinic beginning July 2009.

The **UCSD GI Endoscopy Unit** was recognized as a top endoscopy unit by the ASGE. UCSD was only one of 56 endoscopy units in the U.S. to be recognized for its operation and quality at the initial evaluation by the ASGE.

**Rohit Loomba, M.D., GI Fellow**, Won first prize in the San Diego GI Society's Annual Fellows Abstract Competition with his abstract entitled, *Serum  $\gamma$ -glutamyl transferase levels are associated with mortality through interleukin-6 dependent pathway in older community-dwelling adults: The Rancho Bernardo Study*, in March 2009.

**Ekihiro Seki, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Project Scientist**, was awarded the American Liver Foundation (ALF) 2009 American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Liver Scholar Award for his research entitled, *Innate Immunity Regulates Hepatic Fibrosis*. This is a 3 year \$225,000 award that begins July 2009.

## Division Highlights

The **GI Division** held its **3rd annual Research Retreat** on January 24, 2009 at the Moores Cancer Center. The theme of this year's retreat focused on Colorectal Cancer, and was organized by **John Carethers, M.D. Chief, Division of Gastroenterology**. The keynote speaker was C. Richard Boland, M.D. former UCSD GI Division Chief and current GI Division head at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, TX.

The **UCSD GI Fellowship Training Program** received continued approval and renewed its accreditation by the ACGME in 2008.

**Derek Patel, M.D. Asst. Professor of Medicine**, and **Michael Docherty, M.D., Asst. Professor of Medicine**, presented talks on the diagnosis and treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Disease at a UCSD Ambassador event at the Liechtag building in March 2009.

The **Digestive Disease Research Development Center** will commence pilot grant awards of \$15,000 each to junior faculty performing research in the area of the Center's theme of inflammation, repair and transformation. For more details, email Karen Kasser at: [kkasser@ucsd.edu](mailto:kkasser@ucsd.edu).

The UCSD GI Division has already completed three faculty recruitments to the Division. **S. Abbas Fehmi, M.D.** is proposed for Asst. Clinical Professor and will join the Division in July 2009 focused in Advanced Endoscopy. **Rohit Loomba, M.D.**, currently GI Fellow, is proposed for Asst. Professor of Clinical Medicine and will join hepatology in July 2009. **Denise Kalmaz, M.D.**, currently a Clinical Instructor, is proposed as Asst. Clinical Professor commencing July 2009. Dr. Kalmaz focuses on small intestine imaging studies such as capsule endoscopy and general gastroenterology.

The **UCSD GI Division** thanks the generosity of the following donors to the Division to support its mission (2007-2009):

**Dr. Timothy Simmons, Dr. Ravi Mittal, Dr. George Longstreth, Dr. Kip Lyche, Dr. David Roseman, Dr. Tom Savides, Dr. Sam Ho, Dr. Barbara Jung, Dr. Spencer Fung, Dr. Jaime Chen, Dr. David Brenner, Dr. Yuko Kono, Dr. Susan Cummings, Dr. Mark Kadden, Dr. George Thomas, Dr. Norman Goldberg, Dr. Horacio Jinich, Dr. Michael Ahn, Dr. John Carethers, Dr. Alan Hofmann, Dr. John Person, Dr. David Kravetz, Dr. David Wolfsohn.**

*The 2009 UCSD DDW Alumni Reception will be held on Sunday, May 31, 2009 from 6:00-8:00pm at the Chicago Hilton Private Dining Room #3 on the 3rd floor. All are welcome. PLEASE RSVP to Karen Kasser at: [kkasser@ucsd.edu](mailto:kkasser@ucsd.edu).*

## DDW 2009 Oral Presentations from the GI Division - Chicago, Illinois

### Oral Presentation Authors/Title

Dong H, Kim HD, Lin V, Wong C, Estreme C and Dong X. **Dual actions of estrogen receptor subtypes on murine intestinal epithelial bicarbonate secretion.**

Kim HD, Lin V, Wong C, and Dong H. **Novel roles of membrane K<sup>+</sup> channels in mediating duodenal epithelial ion transport and bicarbonate secretion.**

Ho SB, Dieperink E, Aqel B, Liu S, Tetrack L, Falck-Ytter Y, DeComarmond C, Smith C, McKee DP, Mihas AA, Boyd W, Kulig CC, Bini EJ, Pedrosa MC. **U.S. multicenter pilot study of daily consensus interferon (infergen) plus ribavirin for "difficult-to-treat" HCV genotype 1 patients: Final results.**

Chow JYC, Ban M, Wu HL, Chung H, Dong H, Carethers JM. **NFκB mediates TGFβ-induced PTEN suppression in human pancreatic cancer cells via SMAD-independent signaling.**

Chung H, Carethers JM. **Cyclin E and histone H3 levels are regulated by 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) in a DNA mismatch repair (MMR)-dependent manner**

Chung H, Lopez CG, Young DJ, Cabrera BL, Ream-Robinson D, Carethers JM. **Mechanism for selectivity of specific exonic *activin receptor 2 (ACVR2)* frameshift mutation in colorectal cancer cells with defective DNA mismatch repair (MMR).**

Miura K, Seki E, Kodama Y, Inokuchi S, Brenner DA. **Toll-like Receptor (TLR) 9 mediates steatosis and fibrosis through IL1β in diet-induced steatohepatitis in mice**

### Date, Time and Location of Presentation

Sunday, May 31 at 8:30am  
South Hall, McCormick Place

Sunday, May 31 at 9:30am  
S401, McCormick Place

Tuesday, June 2 at 5pm  
S105, McCormick Place

Sunday, May 31 at 11:15am  
S401D, McCormick Place

Monday, June 1 at 3pm  
S401A, McCormick Place

Tuesday, June 2 at 4:45pm  
S502, McCormick Place

Tuesday, June 2 at 10:30am  
S105, McCormick Place

## Jon I. Isenberg Memorial Lecture - 2009



John Carethers and Anna Mae Diehl



Starting from Back Row L to R: **Alexander Kuo, Elliot Alpert, Alan Hofmann, Tarek Hassanein, John Carethers, Rohit Loomba, Sam Ho, Yuko Kono, Heather Patton, Anna Mae Diehl, Tatiana Kisseleva**

*2009 Endowed Isenberg Lecture*

*March 24, 2009*

*Lecturer: Anna Mae Diehl, M.D.*

*Chief, Division of Gastroenterology/Director, Duke Liver Center*

*Duke University*

*Title: "Role of Fetal Morphogens in Adult Liver Repair*

*Novel Concepts for Cirrhosis Pathogenesis"*

#### Organization Statement

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

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

#### Main Campus - GI Academic Offices

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9500 Gilman Drive - 0063  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0063

UC303  
Tel:(858)534-2757

#### Medical Center-Hillcrest

Division of Gastroenterology  
200 W. Arbor Drive-8413  
San Diego, CA 92103

350 Dickinson Street, Suite 342  
Tel: (619) 543-3622  
Fax: (619) 543-2766

#### Thornton Hospital

9300 Campus Point  
La Jolla, CA 92037  
Tel: (858) 657-7000

#### VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER

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

**Donation Button** is now available on the GI Website

please go to:

<http://gastro.ucsd.edu> and click on the

**“Give Now”** button to donate.

Information concerning this newsletter or requests for additional copies can be directed to Karen Kasser at

[kkasser@ucsd.edu](mailto:kkasser@ucsd.edu) or (858) 534-3320