



Letter from the Chief

There is lots of exciting news from the Division. In this issue of the newsletter, Dr. Samuel Ho, Section Chief of GI at the VA San Diego Healthcare System provides an update on our Divisional activities at the VA. There is good news regarding new NIH R01 grant funding for Drs. Pradipta Ghosh and Declan McCole.

We have included an update on the 2012 Isenberg Lecture given by Dr. Bishr Omary this past January. Enclosed are details regarding a pre-DDW meeting on esophageal motility hosted by Dr. Ravinder Mittal and a UCSD DDW Satellite CME Course to be held on Saturday evening during DDW. In addition to the many awards and recognitions garnered by our division members, there are also many new publications covering a wide range of basic and clinical science.

Finally, there is an announcement regarding the opening of the UC San Diego Liver Cancer Clinic that is staffed by UCSD hepatologists Drs. Yuko Kono, Robert Gish, and Michel Mendler, in conjunction with physicians from the Moores Cancer Center. Other news items of interest include a new practice manager for the Division, Kathy Parker, who started earlier this year, and an upcoming move into larger clinic space in the Perlman Clinic in the coming months. Overall, the Division is thriving, and off to a good start in 2012. Stay tuned for a report on our activities during DDW in the next newsletter.

Sincerely,

William J. Sandborn, M.D.
Professor of Clinical Medicine
Chief, Division of Gastroenterology



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VA SAN DIEGO HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

The VA San Diego Healthcare System (VASDHS) is one of the largest tertiary care hospitals for the Veterans Health Administration in southern California, and in FY2011 provided care for 72,419 unique patients (up from 57,383 in FY 2007). Currently 14 members of the UCSD Gastroenterology Division have staff appointments at VASDHS. Dr. Samuel B. Ho has been the GI Section Chief since 2006. Other VA Staff members include: Drs. Mario Chojkier, Mary Lee Krinsky, David Kravetz, Ravinder Mittal, Jesus Rivera-Nieves, Norman Goldberg, Joseph Glaser, Bernd Schnabl, John Chang, Nedret Copur-Dahi, Denise Kalmaz, and Pradipta Ghosh. In addition, Dr. Martina Buck is a research scientist affiliated with the VA and the Veterans Medical Research Foundation.

Most of the members of the UCSD Gastroenterology Division have WOC appointments at VASDHS and make important contributions to GI fellow education and emergency call. VASDHS GI staff members have wide-ranging basic and clinical research interests, and in addition to NIH funding, they have been successful in obtaining VA Merit Review, Health Services Research and Development, and Industry-related clinical study funding. Importantly, the Veterans Health Administration recently funded a nationwide DNA “Million Veteran Program” databank, and GI staff is currently recruiting patients from all GI and Liver clinics for participation in this important resource for VA investigators.

VASDHS has a state-of-the-art endoscopy unit, equipped with the latest equipment related to Olympus High-Definition videoendoscopy, ERCP, EUS, capsule endoscopy, small bowel enteroscopy, Barrett’s ablation equipment, ManoScan three dimensional esophageal motility, and BRAVO capsule 24 hour pH testing. Currently VASDHS serves as the primary endoscopy training site for UCSD Gastroenterology trainees.



JON I. ISENBERG ENDOWED LECTURE



The Jon I. Isenberg Endowed Lecture was held on January 26, 2012, with guest lecturer, M. Bishr Omary, MD, PhD. Dr. Omary presented a lecture entitled, "Keratins: Genetic Modifiers of Liver Disease & Requires Components of Mallory-Denk Bodies." The endowed lecture honors Dr. Jon I. Isenberg, who served as GI Chief for many years. A special thank you goes out to all of the San Diego physicians who attended this lecture.



ADVANCES IN CLINICAL INVESTIGATION OF ESOPHAGEAL MOTILITY

Recent years have seen dramatic developments in the investigation of esophageal motility and function. At a one day meeting prior to DDW in San Diego, world class faculty will review the advances in understanding and clinical practice that follow from the introduction of High Resolution Manometry and the application of the recently presented Chicago Classification of Criteria of Esophageal Motility Disorders. The focus throughout this meeting will be on clinical practice, highlighting how the information provided by High Resolution Manometry can provide an explanation for patient symptoms, establish definitive diagnosis, and guide effective management.

The meeting is being hosted by Dr. Ravinder Mittal of University of California, San Diego and Dr. Mark Fox of the University of Nottingham of the United Kingdom.

Date: May 18, 2012

Location: Telemedicine Building, University of California, San Diego

For More Information Contact:

Melissa Ledgerwood
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UCSD PRE-DDW SATELLITE CME COURSE

We invite to you to attend the Year in Review: GI and Liver Disease symposium, presented by the Division of Gastroenterology, University of California, San Diego, on May 19, 2012, in San Diego, California.

This interactive two-hour program, held during the Digestive Diseases Week®, will provide an update about recent and evolving treatment advances on key topic areas in GI and liver diseases, presented by leading experts in the field of gastroenterology, followed by panel discussions of case-based scenarios. Attendees will be privy to the latest information surrounding treatment advances, clinical trials data, evidence-based medicine, and evolving therapeutic regimens for several of the most common GI ailments.

Registration is complimentary, but you must register in advance and prior to May 14, 2012, so that we can plan accordingly for food and handout materials.

Contact: UCSD Continuing Medical Education Office
(619) 543-7602 or (888) 229-6263
ocme@ucsd.edu

<http://cme-dev.ucsd.edu/gastro/index.html>

**This program is not affiliated with Digestive Disease Week®*

UCSD GASTROENTEROLOGY DDW RECEPTION

On behalf of Dr. William J. Sandborn, you are cordially invited to attend the annual UCSD Gastroenterology DDW Reception which is taking place on May 20, 2012. This event is geared toward bringing together current and past members of UCSD GI as well as other members of the GI community. As this year's hosting city, we look forward to a memorable DDW experience.

Date: May 20, 2012
Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm
Location: San Diego Marriott Marquis and Marina , Torrey Pines Room 1&2
333 W Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101

For More Information Contact:
Maureen Wade
mywade@ucsd.edu

DIVISION NEWS



Congratulations to Dr. Bernd Schnabl and his wife on the birth of their baby boy,

Paul Georg Schnabl.

Baby Schnabl was born on January 20, 2012 weighing 6 lbs 13 oz.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- Congratulations to **Dr. Rohit Loomba**, he has received the 2012 Health Hero Award by Combined Health Agencies of San Diego. Dr. Loomba will be honored at the annual reception hosted by the Combined Health Agencies and United Way Foundation, recipients are awarded for giving freely of their time, talent and resources to improve the health and well-being of the people of San Diego County
- **Drs. Thuy Anh Le** and **Mazen Nouredin** have been selected as two of the three finalists in the SDGI Fellows Abstract Competition. Dr. Mazen Nouredin will present an abstract entitled "Clinical and Histological Determinants of Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis and Advanced Fibrosis in the Elderly," Mazen Nouredin, MD & Rohit Loomba, MD MHSs for the NASH CRN. Dr. Le will present "Effect of colesevelam on magnetic resonance imaging derived fat maps in nonalcoholic steatohepatitis: A randomized controlled trial." Authors: Thuy-Anh Le, M.D.¹, Joshua Chen, B.S.², Christopher Changchien, B.S.², Michael R. Peterson M.D., Ph.D.³, Yuko Kono, M.D., Ph.D.¹, Heather Patton, M.D.¹, Benjamin L. Cohen, M.D.¹, David Brenner, MD¹, Claude Sirlin, M.D.,² and Rohit Loomba, M.D., M.H.Sc^{1,4} for the San Diego NAFLD Research Consortium (SINC)
¹Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Medicine, ² Department of Radiology, ³Department of Pathology, ⁴Division of Epidemiology, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093
- The video, "Rectal Cancer Developing in the Setting of a Cavernous Hemangioma in the Rectosigmoid Colon" has been selected for presentation during the ASGE 16th Annual Video Forum Tuesday May 22 8am-12pm. Authors: **Suresh Pola, Syed Abbas Fehmi, Elisabeth McLemore, Grace Lin, Cynthia Santillan, Thomas Savides**. This video has also been selected to receive one of three Pentax Advanced Fellows Awards, to be acknowledged at the ASGE Crystal Awards at Petco Park as part of DDW 2012
- The Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) Educational Products Committee and CME Programs Committee are presenting **Dr. Ingrid Gonzalez** one of the three Pentax Advanced Fellows Awards. Dr. Gonzalez will be acknowledged during the ASGE Crystal Awards, being held on Sunday, May 20, 2012, at Petco Park as part of Digestive Disease Week (DDW) 2012
- Congratulations to **Dr. Samuel B. Ho**, who recently received two funding awards, one from Veterans Affairs HIV, Hepatitis, and Public Health Pathogens Programs (HHPHP), Office of Public Health (OPH) and a second from VA Cooperative Studies. Dr. Ho will serve as Principal Investigator on both grants.
- **Dr. Declan McCole** has been awarded a RO1 Grant from NIDDK and was approved for funding by the NIH Council on February 15, 2012. The title is: A novel role for PTPN2 in intestinal epithelial barrier regulation.
- Congratulations to **Dr. Pradipta Ghosh** on the two awards she received recently. Dr. Ghosh received a NIH RO1 grant entitled "Modulation of G protein Signaling by Growth Factors". This grant received a 1.0 percentile score in the Molecular and Integrative Signal Transduction (MIST) study section which focuses on basic molecular mechanisms of cellular signaling. Given that the score is within the pay line, it is expected to be funded by NCI beginning starting July of 2012. Her second award from the American Cancer Society (ACS)-IRG is entitled "Taming Aberrant G protein Signals during Oncogenic Progression." This is a seed grant to investigate transcriptional and posttranslational regulation of a novel non-receptor GEF in tumor cells and discover small molecules to inhibit signaling via that GEF.
- **Kim E. Barrett, PhD**, Professor of Medicine and Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of California, San Diego, will become president-elect of the American Physiological Society (APS). APS is the nation's premier nonprofit organization devoted to fostering education, scientific research, and dissemination of information in the physiological science – the study of how molecules, cells, tissues and organs function to create health or disease.
- The American Liver Foundation has elected **Dr. Rohit Loomba** to the 2012 Board of Directors. Please help us congratulate Dr. Loomba.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Garcia-Marcos M, Kietrsunthorn PS, Pavlova Y, Adia MA, **Ghosh P**, Farquhar MG. Functional characterization of the guanine nucleotide exchange factor (GEF) motif of GIV protein reveals a threshold effect in signaling. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2012; 109:1961-6. Epub 2012 Jan 25.

Fukasawa H, Obayashi H, Schmieder S, Lee J, **Ghosh P**, Farquhar MG. Phosphorylation of podocalyxin (Ser415) prevents RhoA and ezrin activation and disrupts its interaction with the actin cytoskeleton. *Am J Pathol* 2011; 179(5):2254-65. Epub 2011 Sep 25.

Iwaisako K, **Brenner DA**, **Kisseleva T**. What's new in liver fibrosis? The origin of myofibroblasts in liver fibrosis. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2012;27 Suppl 2:65-8. doi: 10.1111/j.1440-1746.2011.07002.x.

Book chapter. Contribution of fibrocytes to liver fibrosis: current concept and future perspectives, **Kisseleva T. & Brenner D.A.** (World Scientific Press, bl228 "Fibrocytes in Health and Disease" by Richard Bucala, 2011).

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Masterson JC, McNamee EN, Jedlicka P, Fillon S, Ruybal J, Hosford L, **Rivera-Nieves J**, Lee JJ, Furuta GT. CCR3 Blockade Attenuates Eosinophilic Ileitis and Associated Remodeling. *Am J Pathol*. 2011; 179:2302-14.

Collins CB, Aherne CM, Kominski D, McNamee EN, Lebsack MD, Eltzchig H, Jedlicka P, **Rivera-Nieves J.** Retinoic Acid attenuates ileitis by restoring the balance between T-helper 17 and T regulatory cells. *Gastroenterology* 2011; 141:1821-31.

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Colombel JF, Feagan BG, **Sandborn WJ**, van Assche G, Robinson AM. Therapeutic drug monitoring of biologics in inflammatory bowel disease. *Inflammatory Bowel Diseases* 2012;18:349-358.

Pinton de Chambrun GP, **Sandborn WJ.** Advances in IBD management - towards a tailored approach. *Nature Reviews in Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2012;9:70-72.

UC San Diego Liver Cancer Clinic at Moores Cancer Center



UC San Diego Health System's Liver Center provides comprehensive care to over 5,000 patients with acute and chronic liver disease.

As part of the Liver Center, patients with liver cancer are seen at **Moores Cancer Center** in a multidisciplinary setting.

Patients can receive **all of their liver cancer care in one place** from specialists in hepatology, surgical oncology, medical oncology, interventional radiology and liver transplantation.

Hepatology Specialists

- Dr. Yuko Kono – ykono@ucsd.edu
- Dr. Robert Gish – rgish@ucsd.edu
- Dr. Michel Mendler – mmendler@ucsd.edu

Medical Oncology Specialists

- Dr. Kelly Shimabukuro – kshimabukuro@ucsd.edu
- Dr. Tony Reid – tonyreid@ucsd.edu
- Dr. Paul Fanta – pfanta@ucsd.edu
- Dr. Gregory Heestand – gheestand@ucsd.edu

Interventional Radiology Specialists

- Dr. Steven Rose – scrose@ucsd.edu

Surgery Specialists

- Dr. Alan Hemming – ahemming@ucsd.edu
- Dr. Kristin Mekeel – kmekeel@ucsd.edu
- Dr. Jason Sicklick – jsicklick@ucsd.edu

Call for an appointment or more information: 619-543-5415

health.ucsd.edu/specialties/liver-center

UC San Diego
HEALTH SYSTEM





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, John M. Carethers, M.D., 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.

Main Campus - GI Academic Offices

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Interventional Endoscopy: (858) 657-6882

Motility: (619) 543-6834

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VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER

Gastroenterology Section (111D)

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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>

Making the most of your charitable gifts

Here are just a few options to support the 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 2012 for your gifts received on or before December 31st. You may contribute directly to UCSD GI by visiting our page at <http://www.gastro.ucsd.edu>

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 U.C. San Diego Foundation by December 31st for the 2012 tax year.