



Letter from the Chief



Dear Friends and Colleagues

Welcome to the summer update on the UCSD Gastroenterology Division. In this issue, you will learn about our vibrant NIH T32 training grant in gastroenterology, which is the longest running GI training grant in the country. I am grateful to Dr. Sheila Crowe for ably serving as the Director for the

training grant.

You will also meet our large and growing group of women faculty and trainees who meet periodically as Women in Gastroenterology. This group is distinguished by their excellence as clinicians and researchers, and they bring welcome diversity, both within our Division, to our patients, and to the students we teach. Additionally, you will also see that the research activities of our Division are strong and growing as evidenced by an extensive list of publications from the last quarter.

Finally, I am delighted to welcome Dr. Barrett Levesque who joined our Division in July. Dr. Levesque will join the UCSD IBD Center and do Health Sciences Research related to IBD.

William J. Sandborn, MD
Chief, Division of Gastroenterology
UC San Diego

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Barrett Levesque, MD, MS
- T32 Training Grant Program
- Fellowship Program Update
- Women of UCSD GI
- Take Steps Be Heard for Crohn's & Colitis
- Annual UCSD GI Research Symposium
- Awards & Recognitions
- Publications



BARETT LEVESQUE, MD, MS

We are delighted to announce the recruitment of Dr. Barrett Levesque, MD, MS to the UCSD GI Division.

Dr. Levesque is originally from Connecticut, yet spent most of his childhood in St. Louis, Missouri. He returned to the East Coast for college where he obtained a BS in neuroscience from Brown University, and an MD from New York Medical College. His wife, Dr. Marlene Pountney-Levesque, is an OB-GYN and a native of San Diego. They returned to the West Coast for his internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Stanford. He continued his training at Stanford with fellowships in Gastroenterology, an MS in Health Services Research, and a Research Fellowship in Healthcare Research and Health Policy at the Center for Health Policy/Primary Care and Outcomes Research mentored by Dr Alan Garber and Dr. Douglas Owens. He and his family returned to the Midwest for an Advanced Fellowship in Inflammatory Bowel Disease at the Mayo Clinic. The family returned to Marlene's hometown in July 2011 when he joined Scripps Clinic where he was Director of the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center, and Co-Director of Education and Assistant Professor at the Scripps Translational Science Institute.

Dr. Levesque will split his time between clinical care in the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center and outcomes research in inflammatory bowel disease.



UPDATE ON THE TRAINING IN GASTROENTEROLOGY T32 FELLOWSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

Dr. Sheila Crowe, Director of Research, assumed leadership of one of the longest-standing T32 GI research training programs in the country prior to arriving at UCSD. With the help of Drs. Lars Eckmann, Kim Barrett and Samuel Ho, she was successful in renewing the NIH T32 grant for 5 years (July 2012-June 2017). This grant funds research positions for three GI fellows, one pediatric GI fellow and 2 pre-doctoral fellows each year. We were able to support two additional positions in year 37 with left-over funding from the prior cycle (noted by *in Table). Trainees supported by this grant in year 36 and 37 are listed below.

We are proud of Amir Zarrinpar, MD, PhD, who received the top prize for his recent presentations at the 2012 National Annual Conference for Gastroenterology Fellows (see photograph below) and at DDW 2012 in a Distinguished Abstract Plenary for the Nutrition & Obesity section of the AGA. Two recently graduated fellows who completed three years of GI training are continuing their research training: Frederick Park, MD, PhD who is supported by a 3 year California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) award investigating stem cells under the supervision of Tannishtha Reya, PhD, and Julio Gutierrez, MD, MS, studying viral hepatitis under the mentorship of Chip Schooley, MD and Bob Gish, MD.

	Year 36 (2011-2012)	Year 37 (2012-2013)
Post-doc	Julio Gutierrez, MS, MD	Amir Zarrinpar, MD, PhD
	Thuy-Anh Le, MD	Brigid Boland, MD
	Fred Park, MD, PhD (supported by CIRM)	Mazen Nourredin, MD
		Victoria Derr-Castillo, DVM*
Pedi GI	Emily Contreras, MD	TBD
Pre-doc	Patrick Metz	Patrick Metz
	Peishon Lee	Peishon Lee
		Christella Widjaja*



First (Amir Zarrinpar, 3rd from right) and second prize winners at the 2012 NACGF with 6 faculty including Larry Schiller, ACG president (far left), Phil Katz, ACG Past-president (far right), and Sheila Crowe (2nd from right).

Our Fellowship Program had a very productive year. Dr. Suresh Pola was our very first Chief Fellow and did an outstanding job. His leadership and hard work was greatly appreciated by the Program Administration.

Our fellowship team, composed of Drs. Suresh Pola, Thuy Anh Le, Imad Elkhatib, and Amir Zarrinpar beat out 104 teams to make it through to the semi-finals of the ACG GI Jeopardy competition. In October, Drs. Pola and Le represented UCSD and beat out Cleveland Clinic and UCSF to make it through to the finals. In the end, the team from Walter Reed eeked out a win.

Additionally, we are happy to welcome the 2012 incoming fellows: Drs. Gobind Anand from Johns Hopkins, Shireena Desai from UCLA, Muhammad Adnan Sohail from St. Mary's Hospital, and Irine Vodkin from Stanford.

Women GIs and the Gastroenterology Division at UCSD

Female gastroenterologists and hepatologists make up a substantial portion of the faculty and fellows in the Division of Gastroenterology at UCSD. This group has begun quarterly gatherings outside of work (see photograph below). The group comprises specialists in hepatology (Drs. Heather Patton, Yuko Kono), interventional endoscopy (Drs. Denise Kalmaz, Mary Lee Krinsky), general GI (Dr. Nedret Copur-Dahi) and celiac disease (Dr. Sheila Crowe). Of the 12 fellows this past academic year, three were women including Drs. Erica Boettcher and Brigid Boland who are just starting their 3rd year of fellowship and will serve as co-Chief GI fellows. Dr. Thuy Anh Le recently graduated from the 3-year fellowship and will start practice in Phoenix later this summer after the birth of her baby. Two UCSD fellows who recently finished special 4th year fellowships in IBD (Dr. Marianne Fahmy) and interventional endoscopy (Dr. Ingrid Gonzalez) are entering practice careers in Los Angeles and North Carolina respectively. We wish Drs. Le, Fahmy and Gonzalez all the best! We also welcome two more women in to our fellowship training program, Drs. Irine Vodkin and Shireena Desai.



Getting together at the Crowe-Ernst home May 2012. Back row from left to right: Yuko Kono, Nedret Copur-Dahi, Erica Boettcher, Brigid Boland. Front row: Thuy-Anh Le, Sheila Crowe, Heather Patton. Unable to attend: Denise Kalmaz, Marianne Fahmy, Ingrid Gonzalez.

Take Steps Be Heard for Crohn's & Colitis

This year's **Take Steps Walk** in support of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation was held in San Diego on June 2 with many UCSD staff and faculty participating and helping to raise money for IBD. In spite of an unusually cool day all those who participated enjoyed the day and supporting the community. Dr. Sandborn was the Corporate Chair for the event and part of the podium presentation honoring Dr. David Roseman for his long-term service to the local CCFA chapter and patients with IBD. Dr. Michael Docherty is the Chapter Medical Advisory Committee (CMAC) Chair and was instrumental in organizing the event.



UCSD GI RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The annual GI Research Symposium is being organized by Drs. Sheila Crowe and Lars Eckmann. This event will focus in showcasing the latest research being conducted by UCSD GI faculty and other members of the GI Community. Our program has been successful in hosting a wide group of attendees from various branches of the medical community.

“Translational Research Approaches and Biobanking in Viral Hepatitis, NASH, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, and Other Digestive Diseases”

Date: Saturday October 13, 2012

Time: 8:00am-2:30pm

Location: UCSD Moores Cancer Center, Goldberg Auditorium

Contact: Leslie Foley (lfoley@ucsd.edu)

****There is no cost to attend this event****

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- *Dr. Sheila Crowe* has joined Drs. Elena Martinez and Elizabeth Santillan as part of the U54 Research Grant, a joint effort between UCSD, SDSU and the Moores Cancer Center.
- *Dr. Ekihiro Seki* is participating as Project 5 Leader in a new NIH/NIEHS grant, "Detection and Models of Toxicant Exposure." Dr. Seki's research will focus on the effects of underlying liver diseases on fibrosis induced by superfund toxicants .
- *Dr. Thomas Savides* directed the 7th Annual NOSCARG Conference (Natural Orifice Surgery Consortium for Assessment and Research) in Chicago which highlighted NOTES and POEM surgeries.
- Congratulations to *Drs. Thomas Savides* and *William Sandborn* on being elected to serve on the 2012 UC San Diego Medical Group Board of Governors.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Liu S, Ho SB, **Krinsky ML**. Quality of Polyp Resection During Colonoscopy: Are We Achieving Polyp Clearance? *Digestive Dis Sci*, 2012 July 57(7):1786-1791.

Anderson MA, Fisher L, Jain R, Evans JA, Appalaneni V, Ben-Menachem T, Cash BD, Decker GA, Early DS, Fanelli RD, Fisher DA, Fukami N, Hwang JH, Ikenberry SO, Jue TL, Khan KM, **Krinsky ML**, Malpas PM, Maple JT, Sharaf RN, Shergill AK, Dominitz JA. Complications of ERCP. *Gastrointest Endosc*. 2012 Mar;75(3):467-73

Dong M, Bettencourt R, Brenner DA, Barrett-Connor EB, and **Loomba R**. Serum Levels of Alanine Aminotransferase Decrease with Age in Longitudinal Analysis. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2012; 10(3):285-290.

Boettcher E, Csako G, Pucino F, Wesley R, and **Loomba R**. Meta-analysis: pioglitazone improves liver histology and fibrosis in patients with nonalcoholic steatohepatitis. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther*. 2012; 35(1):66-75.

Lee JK, Bettencourt R, Brenner DA, Le TA, Barrett-Connor E, and **Loomba R**. Association between serum interleukin-6 concentrations and mortality in older adults: The Rancho Bernardo Study. *PLoS One*. 2012;7(4):e34218.

Loomba R, Yang YI, Illoeje U, Jun Su, Brenner DA, Barrett-Connor E and Chen CJ. Synergism between obesity and alcohol in increasing the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma: a prospective cohort study. *ACCEPTED in American Journal of Epidemiology*

Loomba R, Abraham MB, Unalp A, Wilson L, Lavine JE, Doo E, Bass M, and the NASH Clinical Research Network. Association between diabetes, family history of diabetes and risk of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis and fibrosis. *ACCEPTED in Hepatology*.

Loomba R. Who should undergo a liver biopsy in NAFLD? *AGA Perspectives* 2012. Vol 8. No.3: 20-21

Bambha K, Belt P, Abraham M, Wilson LA, Pabst M, Ferrell L, Unalp-Arida A, Bass N; Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis Clinical Research Network Research Group. Ethnicity and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. *Hepatology* 2012; 55(3):769-80. doi: 10.1002/hep.24726.

Le TA, **Loomba R**. Management of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease and steatohepatitis. *Journal of Clin. Exp. Hepatol*. 2012;2:1-18

Noureddin M, and **Loomba R**. Indications for liver biopsy & Non-invasive biomarkers in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. Accepted for publication in *Clinical Liver Disease*.

Permutt Z, Le TA, Peterson MR, Seki E, Brenner DA, Sirlin C, Loomba R. Correlation between liver histology and novel magnetic resonance imaging in adult patients with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease - MRI accurately quantifies hepatic steatosis in NAFLD. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther*. 2012 Jul;36(1):22-9

Le TA, Chen J, Changchien C, Peterson M, Kono Y, Patton H, Cohen BL, Brenner DA, Sirlin C and **Loomba R** for the San Diego NAFLD Research Consortium (SINC). Effect of colesvelam on liver fat quantified by magnetic resonance in nonalcoholic steatohepatitis: A randomized controlled trial. *ACCEPTED in Hepatology*

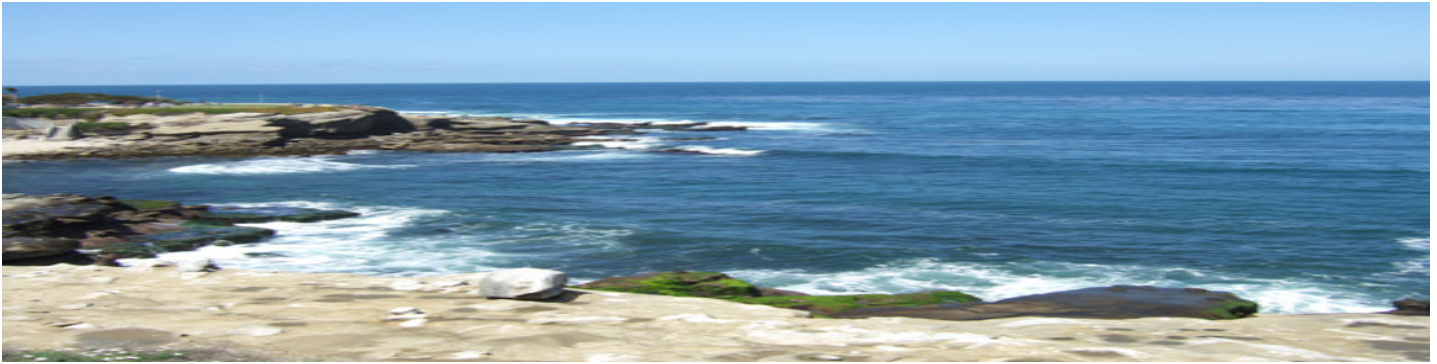
Tang A, Tan J, Sun M, Hamilton G, Bydder M, Wolfson T, Gamst AC, Brunt EM, **Loomba R**, Lavine JE, Schwimmer JB and Sirlin CB. Magnetic Resonance Imaging for Assessment of Hepatic Steatosis in Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease. Accepted for publication in *Radiology*.

Le TA, Chen J, Changchien C, Peterson M, Kono Y, Patton H, Cohen BL, Brenner DA, Sirlin C and **Loomba R** for the San Diego NAFLD Research Consortium (SINC). Effect of colesvelam on liver fat quantified by magnetic resonance in nonalcoholic steatohepatitis: A randomized controlled trial". Poster presentation at DDW 2012.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Permutt Z, **Le TA**, Peterson M, Seki E, Brenner DA, Sirlin C and **Loomba R**. Correlation between liver histology and novel magnetic resonance imaging in adult patients with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. Poster presentation at DDW 2012.
- Anderson MA, Fisher L, Jain R, Evans JA, Appalaneni V, Ben-Menachem T, Cash BD, Decker GA, Early DS, Fanelli RD, Fisher DA, Fukami N, Hwang JH, Ikenberry SO, Jue TL, Khan KM, **Krinsky ML**, Malpas PM, Maple JT, Sharaf RN, Shergill AK, Dominitz JA. Complications of ERCP. *Gastrointest Endosc*. 2012 Mar;75(3):467-73.
- Travis SPL, Schnell D, Krzeski P, Abreu MT, Altman DG, Colombel JF, Feagan BG, Hanauer SB, Lemann M, Lichtenstein GR, Marteau PR, Reinisch W, Sands BE, Yacyshyn BR, Bernhardt CA, Mary JM, **Sandborn WJ**. Developing an instrument to assess the endoscopic severity of ulcerative colitis: the Ulcerative Colitis Endoscopic Index of Severity (UCEIS). *Gut* 2012;61:535-542.
- Nguyen DL, **Sandborn WJ**, Loftus EV, Fletcher JG, Mandrekar J, Harmsen WS, Bruining DH. Similar outcomes of surgical and medical treatment of intra-abdominal abscesses in patients with Crohn's disease. *Clin Gastroenterol and Hepatol* 2012;10:400-404.
- Rutgeerts P, Van Assche G, **Sandborn WJ**, Wolf DC, Geboes K, Colombel JF, Reinisch W, Kumar A, Lazar A, Camez A, Lomax KG, Pollack PF, D'Haens G. Adalimumab induces and maintains mucosal healing in patients with Crohn's disease: data from the EXTEND trial. *Gastroenterology* 2012;142:1102-1111.
- Ford AC, Khan KJ, **Sandborn WJ**, Hanauer SB, Moayyedi PM. Efficacy of topical 5-aminosalicylates in preventing relapse of quiescent ulcerative colitis: a meta-analysis. *Clin Gastroenterol and Hepatol* 2012;10:513-519.
- Cipriano LE, Levesque BG, Zaric GS, Loftus EV, **Sandborn WJ**. Cost-effectiveness of imaging strategies to reduce radiation-induced cancer risk in Crohn's disease. *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 2012;18:1240-1248.
- Lichtenstein GR, Rutgeerts P, **Sandborn WJ**, Sands BE, Diamond RH, Blank M, Montello J, Tang L, Cornille F, Colombel JF. A pooled analysis of infections, malignancy and mortality in infliximab- and immunomodulator-treated patients with inflammatory bowel disease. *Am Gastroenterol* 2012;107:1051-1063.
- D'Haens G, **Sandborn WJ**, Barrett K, Hodgson I, Streck P. Once-daily MMX mesalazine for endoscopic maintenance of remission of ulcerative colitis. *Am Gastroenterol* 2012;107:1064-1077.
- Ordas I, Mould DR, Feagan BG, **Sandborn WJ**. Anti-TNF monoclonal antibodies in inflammatory bowel disease: pharmacokinetics-based dosing paradigms. *Clin Pharmacol Ther* 2012;91:635-646.
- Hommes D, Colombel JF, Emery P, Greco M, **Sandborn WJ**. Changing Crohn's disease management: need for new goals and indices to prevent disability and improve quality of life. *Crohn's Colitis* 2012;6(Suppl 1):S224-234.
- Sandborn WJ**. Mucosal healing with infliximab: results from the active ulcerative colitis trials. *Gastroenterol Hep* 2012;8:117-119.
- Long-Term Risk of Cholangitis in Patients with Metal Stents for Malignant Biliary Obstruction. **Pola S**, Muralimohan R, Cohen B, **Fehmi SM**, **Savides TJ**. *Dig Dis Sci*. 2012 Apr 28. [Epub ahead of print]
- Duodenal metastasis of cervical adenocarcinoma. **Elkhatib I**, **Savides T**, **Fehmi A**. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2012 Jul;10(7):A34. Epub 2012 Mar 2.
- Fouts DE, Torralba M, Nelson KE, **Brenner DA**, **Schnabl B**. Bacterial translocation and changes in the intestinal microbiome in mouse models of liver disease. *J Hepatol*. 2012; 56:1283-92. PMID:22326468
- Iwaisako K, Haimerl M, Yong-Han P, Taura K, Kodama Y, Sirlin C, Yu E, Yu RT, Downes M, Evans RM, **Brenner DA**, **Schnabl B**. Protection from liver fibrosis by a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor δ agonist. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2012; 109(21):E1369-76. PMID:22538808
- Yan AW, **Schnabl B**. Bacterial translocation and changes in the intestinal microbiome associated with alcoholic liver disease. *World J Hepatol*. 2012;4(4):110-8. PMID:22567183
- Schnabl B**, **Brenner DA**. Fibroblast growth factor inducible 14 as potential target in patients with alcoholic hepatitis. *Gut*. 2012, in press. PMID:22717452
- Brandl K, Tomisato W, Li X, Nepl C, Pirie E, Falk W, Xia Y, Moresco EY, Baccala R, Theofilopoulos AN, **Schnabl B**, Beutler B. Yip1 domain family, member 6 (Yipf6) mutation induces spontaneous intestinal inflammation in mice. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2012, in press.
- Hartmann P, Haimerl M, Mazagova M, **Brenner DA**, **Schnabl B**. TLR2-mediated intestinal injury and enteric Tumor Necrosis Factor Receptor I contribute to liver fibrosis in mice. *Gastroenterology*. 2012, accepted.
- Seki E**, **Schnabl B**. Role of innate immunity and the microbiota in liver fibrosis – Crosstalk between the liver and gut. *J Physiol*. 2012; 590(Pt 3): 447-58. Review.
- Ling Y, **Seki E**. Toll-Like Receptors in Liver Fibrosis: cellular crosstalk and mechanisms. *Front Physiol*. 2012; 3: 138. Epub 2012 May 22. Review.
- Seki E**, **Brenner DA**, Karin M. A Liver Full of JNK: Signaling in Regulation of Cell Function and Disease Pathogenesis, and Clinical Approaches. *Gastroenterology* 2012 Jun 13. [Epub ahead of print] Review.
- Font-Burgada J, **Seki E**, Karin M. CYLD and HCC: When Being Too Sensitive to Your Dirty Neighbors Results in Self-Destruction. *Cancer Cell* 2012; 21: 711-2. Editorial.
- Abe Y, Uchinami H, Kudoh K, Nakagawa Y, Ise N, Watanabe G, Sato T, **Seki E**, Yamamoto Y. Liver epithelial cells proliferate under hypoxia and protect the liver from ischemic injury via expression of HIF-1 alpha target genes. *Surgery*. 2012 May 8 [Epub ahead of print]
- Miura K, Ohnishi H, van Rooijen N, **Seki E**. Hepatic recruitment of macrophages promotes non-alcoholic steatohepatitis through CCR2. *Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol*. 2012; 302(11): G1310-21.
- Permutt Z, Le TA, Peterson MR, **Seki E**, **Brenner DA**, Sirlin C, **Loomba R**. Correlation between liver histology and novel magnetic resonance imaging in adult patients with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease – MRI accurately quantifies hepatic steatosis in NAFLD. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther*. 2012 May 3. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2036.2012.05121.x. [Epub ahead of print]



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

Division of Gastroenterology
9500 Gilman Drive - 0956
La Jolla, CA 92093-0956
East Campus Office Building
Tel: (858) 657-5284
Fax: (858) 657-5022

UCSD GI Clinical Referral

General GI: (619) 543-2347
Hepatology: (619) 543-6303
Interventional Endoscopy: (858) 657-6882
Motility: (619) 543-6834
IBD: (858) 657-8787

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER

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

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.

UCSD Division of Gastroenterology