

UCSD Division of Gastroenterology Newsletter



Summer/Fall 2009

Volume 4, Issue 4

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Letter from the Chief

Dear Friends:

The UCSD Division of Gastroenterology continues to prosper, with the just completed 2008-2009 academic year our best year ever in terms of productivity. I am very proud of the achievements of our clinical faculty who continue to prove their expertise and drive in pursuing excellence in patient care.

The Division continues to recruit the best faculty to enhance our programs and our mission. In the current newsletter, we highlight Dr. Abbas Fehmi and Dr. Rohit Loomba, who commenced their positions at UCSD on July 1, 2009. As you will see in later pages, these two outstanding physicians exemplify clinical and academic medicine at its best. Additionally and to be highlighted in a later newsletter, the Division recruited another outstanding individual, John T. Chang, M.D., a physician-scientist focused on T-cell development who had a recent first-authored paper published in the journal *Science*. Dr. Chang will complement the mucosal immunology research area in the Division.



The Division's Digestive Disease Research Development Center (DDRDC) was awarded a supplement from the federal government stimulus funds to purchase new research equipment that will further enhance junior faculty capabilities for conducting research. A new website for the Center is now launched (gicenter.ucsd.edu). Two inaugural pilot awards from the DDRDC were awarded in June 2009, demonstrating the growth and importance of the DDRDC to augment research at UCSD.

This will be my last newsletter as GI Division Chief. Many of you know that I have accepted becoming the Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan as of November 1, 2009. I am excited about my new challenge, and leave a strong GI Division at UCSD, one that I will always be proud of for its people. I anticipate that the Division will continue to grow, be innovative, and serve out its academic mission in extraordinary style. I am pleased that Dr. Tom Savides will be my successor in the interim, and will be observing the Division's triumphs from afar. I hope to keep in contact with most of you on my new journey at Michigan.

Division of Gastroenterology New Faculty Highlights -

Syed Abbas Fehmi, M.D., M.H.Sc.

Assistant Clinical Professor

Education:



- ◆ Therapeutic Endoscopy Fellowship,
Department of Medicine,
Division of Gastroenterology
University of Pennsylvania
School of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- ◆ Gastroenterology Fellowship,
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- ◆ Robert Wood Johnson, Master's Degree
Health and Health Care Research (HHCR),
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
- ◆ Internal Medicine Internship/Residency,
University of Texas, Galveston Texas
- ◆ Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery
The Aga Khan University, Medical College,
Karachi, Pakistan

Dr. Fehmi will support and help grow the advanced endoscopy services at Thornton and Hillcrest, and participate in the clinical, teaching, and research missions of the Division. He began his appointment in July 2009.

Dr. Fehmi has participated in several research projects at the University of Michigan during his fellowship, as well as projects during his 4th year advanced endoscopy fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. Most projects have focused on endoscopic issues, including colonoscopy, pancreatic stent usage, and sphincterotomy. He recently co-authored a paper regarding meta-analysis of rectal NSAIDs in the prevention of post-ERCP pancreatitis in the journal *Gut* (57:1262-1267, 2008). He previously received a Cook Endoscopy Scholarship as well as a Cook Endoscopy Travel award, a scholarship to attend the ASGE Academic Success Workshop, and an ACG Senior Fellow Award for best abstract at the annual ACG meeting.

Division of Gastroenterology New Faculty Highlights -

Rohit Loomba, M.D., M.H.Sc.

Assistant Professor

Education:



- ◆ University of California at San Diego
Gastroenterology Fellowship
- ◆ National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and
Kidney Diseases Hepatology Fellowship
- ◆ Masters of Health Sciences in Clinical Research
Duke University School of Medicine
- ◆ St. Luke's Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri
Resident, Internal Medicine.
- ◆ All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
Junior Resident
- ◆ Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery
The Armed Forces Medical College, India

Dr Loomba will support and grow the transplant hepatology program, as well as further advance his research prowess in health services research in the area of fatty liver disease. He began his appointment in July 2009.

Dr. Loomba's scholarly and clinical interests lie in the area of fatty liver disease. He has published 10 peer-reviewed articles and 5 reviews all written in the past 2-3 years in high impact journals, such as the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Hepatology*, *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, *Alimentary Pharmacology and Therapy*, and *Gastroenterology*. His current work focuses on fatty liver in the elderly utilizing the resources of Rancho Bernardo Study. Dr. Loomba was awarded the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) Foundation Designated Research Scholar Award in Geriatric Gastroenterology in July 2009. He has previously won a Salix Fellows Travel Award, the Mayo Clinic Fellows Travel Award for Outstanding Abstract, and won the San Diego GI Society's Fellows Abstract Competition in 2008 and 2009.

Recent Division Publications

- Seki E, De Minicis S, Gwak GY, Kluwe J, Inokuchi S, Bursill CA, Llovet JM, Brenner DA, Schwabe RF. CCR1 and CCR5 promote hepatic fibrosis in mice. *J Clin Invest*. 2009 Jul;119(7):1858-70
- Kodama Y, Kisseleva T, Iwaisako K, Miura K, Taura K, De Minicis S, Osterreicher CH, Schnabl B, Seki E, Brenner DA. JNK1 from Hematopoietic Cells Mediates Progression from Hepatic Steatosis to Steatohepatitis and Fibrosis in Mice. *Gastroenterology*. 2009 Jun 20
- Seki E, de Minicis S, Inokuchi S, Taura K, Miyai K, van Rooijen N, Schwabe RF, Brenner DA. CCR2 promotes hepatic fibrosis in mice. *Hepatology*. 2009 Jul;50(1):185-97
- Machida K, Tsukamoto H, Mkrtychyan H, Duan L, Dynnyk A, Liu HM, Asahina K, Govindarajan S, Ray R, Ou JH, Seki E, Deshaies R, Miyake K, Lai MM. Toll-like receptor 4 mediates synergism between alcohol and HCV in hepatic oncogenesis involving stem cell marker Nanog. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2009 Feb 3;106(5):1548-53
- Jinich, H. SINTOMAS Y SIGNOS CARDINALES DE LAS ENFERMEDADES (Symptoms and Signs of Diseases), 5th Edition, Los Libros Del Homero. *(This is the required textbook for most Medical Schools in Mexico)
- Fehmi ASM, Kochman ML. Natural orifice transluminal endoscopic surgery 2009: what is the future for the gastroenterologist? *Curr Opin Gastroenterol*. 2009 Sep;25(5):399-404
- Ramamoorthy SL, Lee JK, Luo L, Mintz Y, Cullen J, Easter DW, Savu MK, Chock A, Carethers J, Horgan S, Talamini MA. The inflammatory response in transgastric surgery: gastric content leak leads to localized inflammatory response and higher adhesive disease. *Surg Endosc*. 2009 Aug 18
- Dong MH, Saab S. Prospective Management of Cirrhosis. *Gastroenterology and Hepatology*. 2009;5(3):191-197.(6):577-84
- Hytioglou P, Gutierrez JA, Freni M, Odin JA, Stanca CM, Merati S, Schiano TD, Branch AD, Thung SN. Recurrence of primary biliary cirrhosis and development of autoimmune hepatitis after liver transplant: A blind histologic study. *Hepatology Res*. 2009 Jun; 39
- Gress, F, Savides T. Endoscopic Ultrasonography. Wiley-Blackwell; 2nd edition, 2009
- Savides TJ. Endosonography: new developments. *Curr Opin Gastroenterol*. 2009 May 21
- Bain AJ, Owens DJ, Savides TJ. Upper Gastrointestinal Bleeding Caused by Metastatic Testicular Choriocarcinoma. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2009 May 15
- Horgan S, Mintz Y, Jacobsen GR, Sandler BJ, Cullen JP, Spivack A, Easter DW, Chock A, Savu MK, Ramamoorthy S, Bosia J, Agarwal S, Lukacz E, Whitcomb E, Savides T, Talamini MA. Video. NOTES: transvaginal cholecystectomy with assisting articulating instruments. *Surg Endosc*. 2009 Aug; 23(8):1900.
- Horgan S, Cullen JP, Talamini MA, Mintz Y, Ferreres A, Jacobsen GR, Sandler B, Bosia J, Savides T, Easter DW, Savu MK, Ramamoorthy SL, Whitcomb E, Agarwal S, Lukacz E, Dominguez G, Ferraina P. Natural orifice surgery: initial clinical experience. *Surg Endosc*. 2009 Jul; 23(7):1512-8. Epub 2009 Apr 3
- Hruz P, Zinkernagel AS, Jenikova G, Botwin GJ, Hugot JP, Karin M, Nizet V, Eckmann L. NOD2 contributes to cutaneous defense against *Staphylococcus aureus* through α -toxin-dependent innate immune activation. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2009 Jun 16
- Zhang YQ, Resta S, Jung B, Barrett KE., Sarvetnick N. Up-regulation of Activin Signaling in experimental Colitis. *Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol*, 2009 (in Press)
- Spehlmann ME, Eckmann L. Nuclear factor-kappa B in intestinal protection and destruction. *Curr Opin Gastroenterol*. 2009 Mar;25(2):92-9
- Colmenero J, Bataller R, Sancho-Bru P, Dominguez M, Moreno M, Forns X, Bruguera M, Arroyo V, Brenner DA, Ginès P. Effects of Losartan on Hepatic Expression of Non-phagocytic NADPH Oxidase and Fibrogenic Genes in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C. *Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol*. 2009 Jul 23
- Carethers JM. Intersection of transforming growth factor-beta and Wnt signaling pathways in colorectal cancer and metastasis. *Gastroenterology*. 2009 Jul;137(1):33-6
- Loomba R, Sirlin CB, Schwimmer JB, Lavine JE. Advances in pediatric nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. *Hepatology*. 2009 Jun 15
- Palmore TN, Shah NL, Loomba R, Borg BB, Lopatin U, Feld JJ, Khokhar F, Lutchman G, Kleiner DE, Young NS, Childs R, Barrett AJ, Liang TJ, Hoofnagle JH, Heller T. Reactivation of Hepatitis B with Reappearance of Hepatitis B Surface Antigen After Chemotherapy and Immune Suppression. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2009 Jul
- Ramamoorthy S, Donohue M, Buck M. Decreased Jun-D and myogenin expression in muscle wasting of human cachexia. *Am J Physiol Endocrinol Metab*. 2009 Aug; 297(2):E392-401
- Park FD, Lee JK, Madduri GD, Ghosh P. Generalized megaviscerata of lupus: refractory intestinal pseudo-obstruction, ureterohydronephrosis and megacholedochus. *World J Gastroenterol*. 2009 Jul 28;15(28):3555-9
- Scharl M, Paul G, Barrett KE, McCole DF. Adenosine monophosphate activated protein kinase mediates the interferon gamma-induced decrease in intestinal epithelial barrier function. *J Biol Chem*. 2009 Aug 4

Awards and Honors

Derek Patel, M.D., Associate Professor, was awarded the 23rd Annual UCSD Chief Residents Teaching Award.

Declan McCole, Ph.D., Assistant Adjunct Professor, was awarded a 3 year Senior Research Award from the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America.

Pradipta Ghosh, M.D., Assistant Professor, was awarded the Burroughs Wellcome Career Award for her research entitled, *Modulation of G-protein activity during oncogenic and metastatic progression*. The Career Award is a five-year, \$700,000 award.

Ben Cohen, GI Fellow, was awarded with a travel award to the "IBD Mentoring Program for GI Fellows," held November 6-8, 2009 in Chandler, AZ.

Kim Barrett, Ph.D., Professor of Medicine and Dean of Graduate Studies, on June 12, 2009 was honored with the 2009 YWCA TWIN Award. The TWIN Award recognizes outstanding female managers, executives or professionals within the San Diego community. She was nominated by the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women (CSW).

Katsumi Miyai, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Pathology, received the 2008-2009 Teaching Excellence Award from the UCSD GI Fellows.

Pradipta Ghosh, M.D., Assistant Professor, will give the 2009 Gurtner lecture at Washington University in December 2009.

The Digestive Disease Research Development Center (DDRDC) awarded two inaugural DDRDC Pilot Awards in June 2009 to Lars Bode, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Pediatrics for his research entitled; *Human Milk Oligosaccharides reduce intestinal permeability, preventing Necrotizing Enterocolitis in neonatal rats* and Bernd Schnabl, M.D., Assistant Adjunct Professor, Gastroenterology, for his research entitled; *A PPAR δ agonist ameliorates liver fibrosis through suppression of hepatic inflammation Background and Clinical Significance*. Each DDRDC Pilot Award is a 1 year \$15,000 award.

Division Highlights

The GI Division welcomes the following new Fellows for 2009 - 2012: Thuy Ahn Le (UCSD), Julio Gutierrez (UCSD), Frederick Park (UCSD), Suresh Pola (UCSF).

The GI Division honored its 4 graduating fellows on June 19, 2009: Winston Dunn, M.D., Rohit Loomba, M.D., M.H.Sc., Sameer Mazhar, M.D., Lance Stein, M.D. Dr. Dunn will be doing a 4th year focused on Transplant Hepatology at the Mayo Clinic, Dr. Loomba has joined UCSD GI faculty, Dr. Mazhar will be doing a 4th year focused on Transplant Hepatology at Mass General and Dr. Stein will be doing a 4th year also focused on Transplant Hepatology at Columbia University.

Elliot Alpert, M.D., has left the UCSD GI faculty for private practice in the Los Angeles area.

Tarek Hassanein, M.D. has left active clinical practice at UCSD for private practice in San Diego.

The UCSD Digestive Disease Research Development Center, C-TREAT - Center for Tissue Repair, Epithelial Biology and Inflammation, And Transformation website is up and running and can be accessed at: gicenter.ucsd.edu. Please take a look at the GI Center's features and accomplishments.

John Carethers, M.D., Chief of the GI Division, will leave UCSD to become the Chairman of Medicine at the University of Michigan on November 1, 2009. A Reception to honor his 14 years as faculty and 5 1/2 years as Division Chief will be held on September 30, 2009 from 4:30 - 7:00pm at UC303 on the UCSD Campus. Please contact kkasser@ucsd.edu for RSVP by September 23, 2009.

Tom Savides, M.D. Professor of Medicine, will be the interim Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology as of November 1, 2009.

The UCSD Digestive Disease Research Development Center was awarded a Supplement from the NIH (funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) to purchase equipment to enhance the research capabilities of the Center.

The GI Division has recruited Rohit Loomba, M.D., S. Abbas Fehmi, M.D., and John T. Chang, M.D. to UCSD. Drs. Loomba and Fehmi are highlighted in this newsletter and began July 1, 2009. Dr. Chang will begin his faculty position in October 2009. Dr. Chang is a physician scientist focused on T-cell development, and heralds from the University of Pennsylvania.

GI Fellows Graduation

June 13, 2009 - John and Denise Carethers' House



Back Row (L to R): **Tom Savides, John Carethers**
Front Row (l to R): **Winston Dunn, Lance Stein, Sameer Mazhar, Rohit Loomba**



Kim Barrett provides insight to the 4 Graduating Fellows.



GI Fellows, along with John Carethers and Tom Savides present the 2008 -2009 Teaching Excellence Award to Dr. Katsumi Miyai

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.

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please go to:

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

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