



Letter from the Chief

It's December 7th, 2011 and I am sitting in an airplane heading home to San Diego and reflecting on this year and what we have accomplished together in the Division of Gastroenterology at UCSD. What a year it has been! We added six new faculty to the Division including myself (Dr.'s Robert Gish, Jesus Rivera-Nieves, Sheila Crowe, Michel Mendler, and Peter Ernst), all at the associate or full professor level. We founded the UCSD Center for Hepatobiliary Disease and Abdominal Transplantation (CHAT) to better serve our patients with liver diseases. We dramatically increased the size and scope of the UCSD Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center. We added a new member to the UCSD Warren Celiac Disease Center (Dr. Sheila Crowe). We filled the 3 clinical fellowship slots for the GI fellowship class of 2012 at number 7 on the rank list (previously the record was number 20). We established new advanced fellowships in Inflammatory Bowel Disease (began in 2011) and Hepatology (will begin in 2012). Our faculty was unbelievable successful this year in competing for NIH grants and other sources of Federal funding.

Our liver transplant volume has markedly increased and is still increasing. We opened hepatology outreach clinics in Las Vegas and in Rancho Mirage, and we plan to open additional sites in 2012. We have also markedly increased the number of GI outpatient visits and GI endoscopic procedures. Our faculty received recognition as San Diego Top Docs (Dr.'s Thomas Savides, Robert Gish, and William Sandborn) and America's Best Doctors (Dr.'s Thomas Savides, Robert Gish, Ravinder Mittal, Sheila Crowe, and William Sandborn). Our Division is now nationally recognized for the expertise that we can provide to patients with a variety of gastrointestinal diseases, including patients who need advanced endoscopy procedures, and patients with liver diseases, esophageal and motility disorders, celiac disease, and inflammatory bowel disease. We have added nurse practitioners, nurses, and schedulers to the practice, and we anticipate more additions in 2012 to help keep up with our growing clinical volumes. We have moved the Division administrative headquarters to the new East Campus Office Building, and we are conducting clinical research and clinical trials in the new state-of-the-art Clinical and Translational Research Institute (CTRI) space on the first floor of that building. We have a fantastic Division, and I am grateful for the contributions of every member this year. In particular I would like to thank the GI Executive Committee, Dr.'s Thomas Savides, Robert Gish, Sheila Crowe, Lars Eckmann, and Samuel Ho, as well as June Boyer and Jill Deetz for their unflinching support. We can and should be extraordinarily proud of what we have done together. The new year will surely bring forth new challenges to face and more mountains climb. But for now, let us spend time with our families and loved ones during the holidays, recharge our batteries, and have the great satisfaction of a job well done! Happy Holidays and best wishes for both your individual and our collective success in 2012.



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Divisional Research Update

Sheila Crowe MD, Director of Research, Division of Gastroenterology

The basic research group that focuses on “Inflammation and Repair of the Digestive Tract and Liver” in the UCSD Division of Gastroenterology continues to grow in numbers and in research funding from NIH and other sources. As was highlighted in the last issue of our newsletter, there is a growing clinical interest and expertise in IBD and other inflammatory GI diseases. To increase interactions between basic scientists and clinicians we have developed a regular seminar series focusing on basic and translational research of luminal gut inflammation. Similar research activities have been organized by Drs. Robert Gish and Rohit Loomba for clinical and basic science investigators interested in liver diseases at UCSD (see page 3).

The members of “Inflammation and Repair of the Digestive Tract and Liver” within the GI Division are developing strong ties with faculty in other departments including faculty in the Department of Pediatrics and investigators in the Department of Pathology. Currently the Division of Gastroenterology is spread out over several locations, with the majority of the faculty and research personnel located at the University Center 303 building and the remainder located in a variety of other buildings including Leichtag, Medical Teaching Facility, Cellular and Molecular Medicine building on campus. Additional members of the Division are located at the VA Medical Center, San Diego.

Since July 2011 we have added three new faculty with federal funding, Drs. Sheila Crowe and Jesus Rivera-Nieves whose primary appointments are in the GI Division, and Dr. Peter Ernst whose primary appointment is in the Department of Pathology but also has a joint appointment in the Division of Gastroenterology. Dr. Peter Ernst is serving as the new Director of Comparative Pathology as part of his primary appointment with the Department of Pathology. We are especially proud of the young investigators in the GI Division who have been very successful in acquiring new research funding. Dr. John Chang, already funded by a NIDDK K08 and a HHMI Physician-Scientist Early Career Award, has recently been awarded a NIH Director's New Innovator Award, a V Foundation V Scholar Award, a R01 from NIAID, and another R01 is expected. In addition to a NIDDK K08, Dr. Bernd Schnabl has recently obtained a R01 from NIAAA. Dr. Ekihiro Seki received two R01s last year and a first NIDDK R01 is anticipated for Dr. Declan McCole.

As our Division researchers continue to grow in number and in funding, we hope to have the future opportunity to relocate members of the “Inflammation and Repair of the Digestive Tract and Liver” group into centralized research space. This will help facilitate interdisciplinary and interdepartmental research that can enhance our chances to successfully compete for programmatic and center funds. The Division currently has a Digestive Diseases Research Development Center (DDRDC) directed by Dr. Lars Eckmann and funded by an NIH Mini-Center grant, with a central theme of gastrointestinal and liver inflammation and inflammation-related neoplasia. We believe that with this and other grant support the GI Division is well positioned for future success.



UC San Diego Viral Hepatitis & Hepatocellular Carcinoma Symposium

Drs. Robert Gish and Yuko Kono presented the first annual Viral Hepatitis & Hepatocellular Carcinoma Symposium on October 1, 2011. Focusing on the latest available treatments for hepatocellular carcinoma and viral hepatitis, the meeting included internationally renowned speakers as well as UCSD faculty from hepatology, surgery, radiology, pathology, and medical oncology.

Participants learned about recent developments and future therapies for HCV and HBV, who is at risk of developing HCC, how to apply HCC surveillance, and analyze various treatment options from surgery to new targeted therapy to improve patients' outcome.

The program had 4 main objectives:

1. Recognize the significance of HCC and importance of early detection
2. Implement routine HCC surveillance for those at high risk to diagnose HCC at an early stage in order to improve patients' survival and outcome
3. Explore the link between viral hepatitis and HCC, how we can impact the incidence of HCC by applying new treatment for HBV and HCV
4. Examine current treatment options for HCC including surgical resection, liver transplantation, local ablation, chemoembolization, radioembolization, stereotactic radiation and new agents in clinical trials

The event attracted over 80 participants including 9 exhibitors. We would like to congratulate Drs. Yuko Kono & Robert Gish as well as the rest of the UCSD hepatology team for such a successful program.

"Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the third most common cause of global cancer-related deaths. HCC occurs in the setting of underlying liver disease, including hepatitis B (HBV) and C (HCV), nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NASH), and alcoholic cirrhosis. The incidence of HCC in the United States has almost doubled in recent decades due to the increased prevalence of HCV, migration from endemic areas, and increasingly, NASH."



First Quarterly San Diego City-Wide IBD Conference

On November 28, 2011 the inaugural quarterly San Diego City-Wide IBD Conference was held. Over 40 participants attended. The program included a lecture by Dr. Derek Patel entitled "Medical therapy to prevent post-operative recurrence of Crohn's disease" as well as case presentations from various physicians from practices throughout San Diego.

This was the first conference in a new quarterly series, the schedule will resume next February. Please see below for future conference dates.

- February 27, 2012—Time: 6-7pm
Location: East Campus Office Building, Conference Room 1-001
- June 4, 2012—Time: 6-7pm
Location: East Campus Office Building, Conference Room 1-001
- August 27, 2012—Time: 6-7pm, Location: TBA
- November 26, 2012—Time: 6-7pm, Location: TBA

For more information please contact Maureen Wade (mywade@ucsd.edu).

San Diego Gluten-Free Food Expo Hosted by the UCSD Warren Celiac Center



On Saturday, November 12, 2011, the first San Diego Gluten-Free Food Expo was held at the Scottish Rite Event Center. Despite the rainy weather, over 1500 people from San Diego, Riverside, Orange and Los Angeles counties attended the event. Guests had the opportunity to taste delicious gluten-free food samples from 68 different food manufacturers and producers. Local gluten-free bakeries and restaurants introduced some of their offerings to the samplers. Support groups were represented as well as research organizations to round out the gluten-free experience of the day. Attendees received an information resource, the Gluten-Free Guidebook. Along with diet information and educational and support group information, the guidebook offers a list of restaurants in

the San Diego area that addresses gluten-free menus.

The San Diego Gluten-Free Food Expo is a joint effort of the UCSD W. K. Warren Medical Research Center for Celiac Disease Community Advisory Board and the Celiac Sprue Association. A year of planning and over 100 volunteers joined in to coordinate activities for the event. The goals of the event were to raise awareness of celiac disease and gluten intolerance, to introduce gluten-free products directly to the gluten-free consumers and to raise funds for the Wm K. Warren Medical Research Center for Celiac Disease under the direction of Dr. Martin Kagnoff, and with new member Dr. Sheila Crowe. By all measures, this was a successful event. The feedback from those who attended can be summed up in one comment: "when is the next gluten-free expo planned"?

AASLD 2011

This year's AASLD was hosted in the wonderful San Francisco, California, its vast program included presentations by some of our faculty and fellows.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

"How to publish your data" - David Brenner, MD

HEPATOLOGY ASSOCIATES COURSE

"Point Counterpoint: Complex Patient Case Management Issues" - Robert G. Gish, MD

Abstracts (by faculty/fellow name)

Bacterial translocation and changes in the intestinal microbiome in mouse models of liver disease . *D. E. Fouts; M. Torralba; K. E. Nelson; D. Brenner ; B. Schnabl*

A critical role for NADPH oxidase (NOX) in experimental liver fibrosis. *T. Aoyama; Y. Paik; S. Watanabe; D. Brenner*

Serum amyloid P attenuates hepatic fibrosis in mice by inhibiting the activation of fibrocytes and hepatic stellate cells. *M. Cong; C. Jiang; K. Taura; Y. Kodama; S. De Minicis; M. S. Kramer; M. L. Lupper; D. Brenner ; T. Kisseleva*

IL-6/STAT3-induced mTOR and autophagy signaling in obesity-promoted liver cancer . *E. Park; D. Dhar; J. Lee; H. Kim; N. Li; S. Ali; A. V. Budanov; Y. Paik; K. Iwaisako; M. Karin; D. Brenner ; E. Seki*

Microbiome in NAFLD and ALD . *G. Szabo; D. Brenner*

Pioglitazone Decreases Hepatitis C Viral Load in Overweight Patients with Genotype 4 Infection in Egypt : A Randomized Pilot Study. *M. Chojkier; H. R. ElKhayat; D. Sabry; M. C. Donohue; M. Buck*

Long term Clinical Impact of Direct Antiviral Agent (DAA) therapy for untreated Chronic Hepatitis C genotype 1 infection in the Veterans Health Administration. *K. Chan; M. Lai; E. J. Groessl; A. D. Hanchate; L. Hernandez; J. B. Wong; J. Clark; S. Asch; A. L. Gifford; S. B. Ho*

Prospective multicenter evaluation of hepatitis C patients for psychiatric/substance use risk factors that reduce likelihood of antiviral treatment. *S. B. Ho; E. J. Groessl; K. R. Weingart; M. Ward; M. Sklar; S. Robinson; N. Johnson; T. E. Phelps; S. Marcus; R. Cheung; N. Brau*

...AASLD CONT'D

55 year-old female with compensated cirrhosis secondary to autoimmune hepatitis. BMI 54. Management strategies for obesity in the setting of cirrhosis.. K. D. Watt; **R. Loomba**

Clinical and Histological Determinants of Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH) and Advanced Fibrosis in the Elderly . **M. Nouredin**; I. A. Vaughn; B. A. Neuschwander-Tetri; A. J. Sanyal; A. J. McCullough ; R. B. Merriman; K. P. Yates; J. Tonascia; A. Unalp-Arida; E. Doo; D. E. Kleiner; C. A. Behling; **R. Loomba**

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- Congratulations to Dr. Kim Barrett on being awarded the Bodil M. Schmidt-Nielsen Distinguished Mentor and Scientist Award on behalf of the American Physiology Society Women in Physiology Committee . The award celebrates the mentoring excellence as well as contributions to physiological research.
- Dr. Peter Ernst, a Professor with the Department of Pathology has joined UCSD GI as an Adjunct Professor. We happily welcome Dr. Ernst and look forward to seeing his contributions to GI research.
- Dr. Ravinder Mittal has received a 2nd percentile score for the renewal of his RO1 grant dealing with esophageal research. Congratulations to Dr. Mittal and his group on this accomplishment.
- We are happy to announce that Dr. Ron Marcheletta, a post-doctoral member of Dr. Kim Barrett's laboratory, has received a 3-year CCFA Career Development Award. Drs. Kim Barrett and Declan McCole serve as co-mentors on this award.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Identification of S-acyl glutathione conjugates of bile acids in human bile by means of LC/ESI-MS. Mitamura K, Hori N, Iida T, Suzuki M, Shimizu T, Nittono H, Takaori K, Takikawa H, **Hofmann AF**, Ikegawa S. *Steroids*. 2011 Dec 20;76(14):1609-14. Epub 2011 Oct 10.

Scharl M, Wojtal KA, Becker HM, Fischbeck A, Frei P, Arikkat J, Pesch T, Kellermeier S, Boone DL, Weber A, Loessner MJ, Vavricka SR, Fried M, **McCole DF**, Rogler G. 2011. Protein tyrosine phosphatase nonreceptor type 2 regulates autophagosome formation in human intestinal cells. *Inflamm Bowel Dis*. Oct 10. doi: 10.1002/ibd.21891. [Epub ahead of print].

Scharl M, Mwinyi J, Fischbeck A, Leucht K, Eloranta JJ, Arikkat J, Pesch T, Kellermeier S, Mair A, Kullak-Ublick GA, Truninger K, Noreen F, Regula J, Gaj P, Pittet V, Mueller C, Hofmann C, Fried M, **McCole DF**, Rogler G. 2011. Crohn's disease-associated polymorphism within the PTPN2 gene affects muramyl-dipeptide-induced cytokine secretion and autophagy. *Inflamm Bowel Dis*. Oct 21. doi: 10.1002/ibd.21913. [Epub ahead of print].

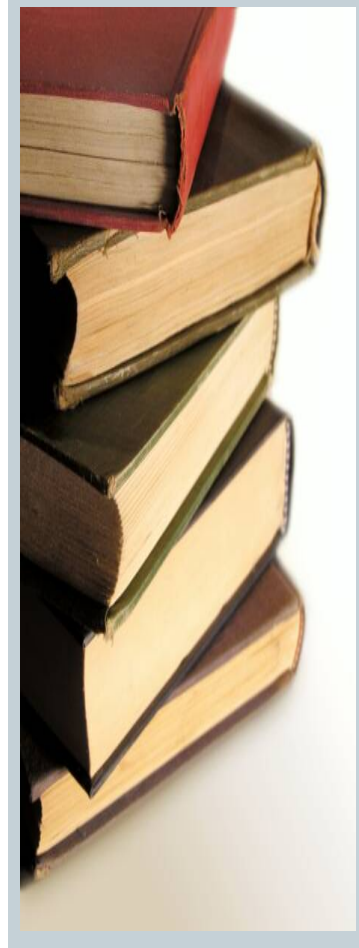
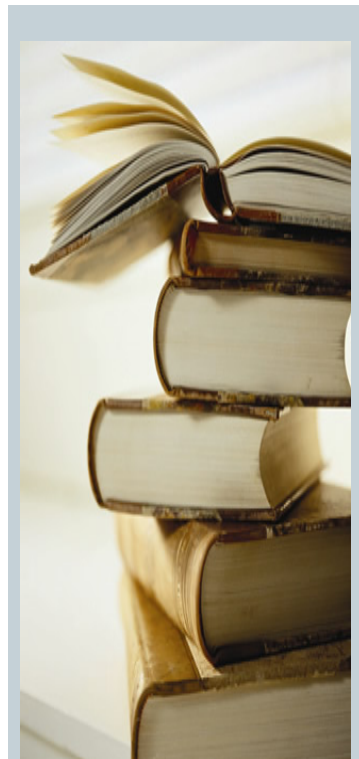
Paul G, **Marchelletta RR**, **McCole DF**, **Barrett KE**. 2011. Interferon- γ alters downstream signaling originating from the epidermal growth factor receptor in intestinal epithelial cells: functional consequences for ion transport. *J Biol Chem*. Nov 8. [Epub ahead of print].

Mittal RK, Karstens A, Leslie E, Babaei A, Bhargava V. Ambulatory high-resolution manometry, lower esophageal sphincter lift and transient lower esophageal sphincter relaxation. *Neurogastroenterol Motil*. 2011 Nov 10. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2982.2011.01816.x. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 22074595.

Rajasekaran MR, Jiang Y, Bhargava V, Ramamoorthy S, Lieber RL, **Mittal RK**. Sustained improvement in the anal sphincter function following surgical placcation of rabbit external anal sphincter muscle. *Dis Colon Rectum*. 2011 Nov;54(11):1373-80. PubMed PMID: 21979181.

Colombel JF, Rutgeerts P, Reinisch W, Esser D, Wang Y, Lang Y, Marano CW, Strauss R, Oddens BJ, Feagan BG, Hanauer SB, Lichtenstein GR, Present D, Sands BE, **Sandborn WJ**. Early mucosal healing with infliximab is associated with improved long-term clinical outcomes in ulcerative colitis. *Gastroenterology* 2011;141:1194-2101.

Ordas I, Feagan BG, **Sandborn WJ**. Early use of immunosuppressives or TNF antagonists for the treatment of Crohn's disease: time for a change. *Gut* 2011;60:1754-1763.





Making the most of your charitable gifts before December 31st

It's that time of year again. As you think about special holiday gifts for family and friends, remember that making year-end charitable gifts can be a rewarding experience. 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 2011 for your gifts received on or before December 31st.

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 2011 tax year.

Option 3 – IRA Rollover – If you are 70 ½ years or older and the owner of an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) you might consider a rollover gift of up to \$100,000 to the UC San Diego Foundation in support of Division of Gastroenterology. While no charitable deduction accompanies the transfer, the distribution directly to the charity is not included as part of your taxable income. Gifts must be completed by December 31, 2011.

Option 4 – Name the Division of Gastroenterology at the UC San Diego Foundation in your **will or trust**. While you may not receive an immediate charitable deduction, you will have the satisfaction of sustaining and enhancing the future of the division.

We're here to help you make the most of your year-end gifts. For more information about any of the options listed please contact Harvey Green, Director of Development, at (619) 543-3121 or hagreen@ucsd.edu. Also, for information about planned gifts or bequests visit www.giftplanning.ucsd.edu.

Please note that this information is educational purposes only. The UCSD office of development and gift planning is not engaged in rendering tax or legal advice. As you consider charitable gifts, we strongly encourage you to consult with your own attorney, CPA and/or other financial advisors as needed. UC San Diego Foundation Tax ID # 95-2872494 in compliance with 501(c)3 status.



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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Hepatology: (619) 543-6303

Interventional Endoscopy: (858) 657-6882

Motility: (619) 543-6834

IBD: (858) 657-8787

Celiac: (619) 543-2347

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