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Letter from the Chief

Dear Friends and Colleagues

As 2012 draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to review some of our collective Divisional accomplishments during the year. In September, we moved in to new and larger clinic space in the Perlman Clinic in La Jolla. This new space better fits our expanding clinical practice and allows for additional future growth. Dr. Barrett Levesque joined our gastroenterology faculty in July, focusing both his clinical practice and his research efforts on inflammatory

bowel disease. Dr. Samir Gupta will join our faculty in January with a joint appointment at the Moores Cancer Center, moving here from University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas. He will practice at both the San Diego Veterans Administration Medical Center and at UCSD. His research interests are in the area of colorectal cancer screening. A number of our faculty received recognition for their clinical expertise. Robert Gish, Ravinder Mittal, William Sandborn, and Thomas Savides were named to the 2012 America's Top

Doctors list. Robert Gish, Alexander Kuo, Rohit Loomba, Ravinder Mittal, William Sandborn and Thomas Savides were named to the 2012 US News Top Doctors list. Robert Gish, William Sandborn, and Thomas Savides were named to the San Diego County Medical Society's Top Doctors list. Our NIH T32 Gastroenterology Training Grant was successfully renewed by Sheila Crowe. Our GI fellowship was successfully reaccredited by Tom Savides and Denise Kalmaz. We now have 3 advanced fellowships: advanced endoscopy, inflammatory bowel disease, and Hepatology. We successfully matched 2013 GI fellows coming from Cedars Sinai Medical Center, UCLA, Emory University, and Vanderbilt University. Our Division members continue to be successful in obtaining research grants and contracts, and are very active in publishing in the medical literature (see details elsewhere in this newsletter). Next year will bring its own set of opportunities and opportunities and challenges. The majority of the laboratory scientists in our Division will move into new space in the BRF building when construction is completed next year, which will bring increased opportunities for collaboration. We also plan submission of a GI Center Grant application to the NIH. In 2012 we began a big push on improving the function and efficiency of our clinic and endoscopy practice. We have made some early gains, but I anticipate additional changes and additional gains next year. All in all it has been a very productive year. This would not have been possible without the efforts of each and every one of our Divisional family including the faculty, fellows, nurse practitioners, nurses, medical assistants, schedulers, administrative assistants, and research personnel. A big thank you to everyone. In particular, I would like to thank the members of the GI Divisional Executive Committee, Tom Savides, Sheila Crowe, Lars Eckmann, Sam Ho, Bob Gish, and Alex Kuo, and the Administrators who support our Division including June Boyer, as well as Jill Deetz, Kathy Parker, Stephanie Dremel, and Donna Macmillan. Happy holidays to you and your family.

Best regards

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



GI Holiday Party 2012

The GI and VA Holiday Party was held at the Sheraton Hotel Bay Tower on December 8, 2012. Christy Blackard did a wonderful job in organizing the event with the help of Jennifer Sweetser and Lisa Skaggs. Everyone sang the Twelve Days of Christmas led by Suri Pola accompanied by Declan McCole, Brigid Boland and Erica Boettcher. A grand time was had by all as guests dined and danced the night away.



INCOMING 2013 GI FELLOWS

In the past our recruitment period had always started in December with the match happening in June. This year is the first time in the new recruitment cycle where applicants apply in July and match in December.

We had 297 applicants applying for 4 slots (3 clinical, 1 research) for our program starting July 2013. We interviewed 39 people and matched the following people:



**Kara Bradford
Cedars-Sinai
Clinical Fellow**



**Robert Kung
Emory
Clinical Fellow**



**Michael Chang
UCLA
Clinical Fellow**



**Melanie Green
Vanderbilt
Research Fellow**

MICHAEL DOCHERTY, M.D.

Dr. Michael Docherty has agreed to assume responsibility for overseeing the quality metrics on the UCSD side of our clinical practice. He will also begin to work on issues related to EPIC and information technology and practice flow and efficiency as it relates to both our outpatient clinic and endoscopy practices. Working closely with Thomas Savides, MD, our Clinical Service Chief, myself, along with the endoscopy unit nurse managers and the practice manager on these issues. He will also work closely with Dr. Dan Bouldland, Chief of Clinical Operations for the Department of Medicine, who will help to mentor him in this role. Finally he will work closely with Dr. Samir Gupta, who will join our faculty in January 2013, to implement the latest state of the art approaches to optimizing and documenting quality related to colorectal cancer screening in our practice.

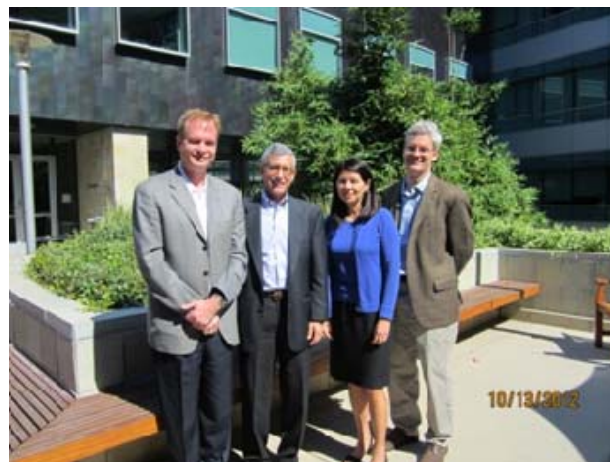
I would also like to thank Dr. Mary Lee Krinsky for her contributions to our practice in recent years related to overseeing quality metrics.

William Sandborn, MD



UCSD GI RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The Division's Annual GI Research Symposium organized by Drs. Sheila Crowe and Lars Eckmann was held on October 13, 2012 at the Moores Cancer Center on our UCSD campus. The topic was "Translational Research Approaches and Biobanking in Viral Hepatitis, NASH, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, and Other Digestive Diseases."



Pictured above from left to right William Sandborn, MD, Robert Sandler, MD (guest speaker from UNC), Sheila Crowe, MD and Lars Eckmann, MD.

BABIES BORN IN 2012



Alexander Long-Anh Tran
Born: August 31, 2012
8 lbs, 1 oz

Thuy Anh Le & Larry



Kajal Shah
Born: April 12, 2012
7 lbs, 2 oz

Ashish & Neha



Josephine Alia Zarrinpar
Born: November 3, 2012
7 lbs, 15 oz

Amir & Elizabeth



Saniya Fehmi
Born: Sept 3, 2012
5 lbs, 9 oz

Abbas & Nadia



UCSD COMPLICATIONS OF CIRRHOSIS CONFERENCE/ GRANTS

The videos of the faculty presentations during our UCSD Complications of Cirrhosis conference on Oct 18, 2012 at the TeleMET building have been posted to YouTube. Heather Patton organized this conference.

<http://cme.ucsd.edu/hcc/program.html>

All the YouTube video links can be found by searching for UCSD complications of cirrhosis conference.

Congratulations to Dr. Alexander Kuo as the primary investigator on a new CDC grant. "Hepatitis C Care and Community Health Center Connection (Hep-Care Connect)" as well as a sub-investigator on an NIH grant with Gerry Boss, MD, "Blood Donor Drives & High School Students to Educate People About Organ Donation." Also to Dr. Ravinder Mittal as his VA merit was up for competitive renewal and received a high score and has been funded.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Robert Gish, Ravinder Mittal, William Sandborn, and Thomas Savides were named to the 2012 America's Top Doctors list. Robert Gish, Alexander Kuo, Rohit Loomba, Ravinder Mittal, William Sandborn, and Thomas Savides were named to the 2012 US News Top Doctors list. Robert Gish, William Sandborn, and Thomas Savides were named to the San Diego County Medical Society's Top Doctors list.

On September 10, 2012 the General Consulate of Mexico in San Diego honored Dr. Horacio Jinich together with another small group of individuals of Mexican origin with "our behavior in San Diego, which extols the image of the Mexicans abroad".

Ekihiro Seki, The Hiromasa Ishii Memorial Young Investigator Award from the 16th Congress of International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism 2012 ISBRA WORLD CONGRESS in Sapporo, Japan Sept 9-11, 2012

Yoon Seok Roh D.V.M. Ph.D. (a postdoc in Seki lab) Best Abstract Award from The Southern California Research Center for ALPD and Cirrhosis in 2012 October



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Miura K, Ling Yang, van Rooijen N, **Brenner DA**, Ohnishi H, **Seki E**. TLR2 and palmitic acid cooperatively contribute to the development of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis through inflammasome activation. *Hepatology* 2012 Sep 17. doi: 10.1002/hep.26081. [Epub ahead of print]

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- Colombel JF, Feagan BG, **Sandborn WJ**, van Assche G, Robinson AM. Therapeutic drug monitoring of biologics in inflammatory bowel disease. *Inflamm Bowel Dis* 2012;18:349-358.
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Seok Roh S, Cho A, Park S, Lim CW, **Seki E** and Kim B. Toll-Like Receptor 7-mediated production of Type I IFN Prevents Cholestasis- and Hepatotoxin-induced Liver Fibrosis (Poster AASLD 2012)

Yang L, Inokuchi S, Park EJ, Song J, **Brenner DA**, **Seki E**. TGF β signaling promotes hepatocarcinogenesis by inducing hepatocyte apoptosis, proliferation and angiogenesis in hepatocyte specific TAK1 deleted mice. (Oral presentation AASLD 2012)

Dhar D, Jiang Y, He G, Ogata H, Font-Burgada J, Nakagawa H, **Seki E** and Karin M. Elucidating the functional role of CD44 in hepatocellular carcinoma (Poster AASLD 2012)

Hartmann P, Haimerl M, **Brenner DA**, and **Schnabl B**. TLR2-mediated intestinal injury and enteric TNFR-1 contribute to cholestasis-induced liver fibrosis in mice (oral presentation Presidential Plenary Session at AASLD 2012)

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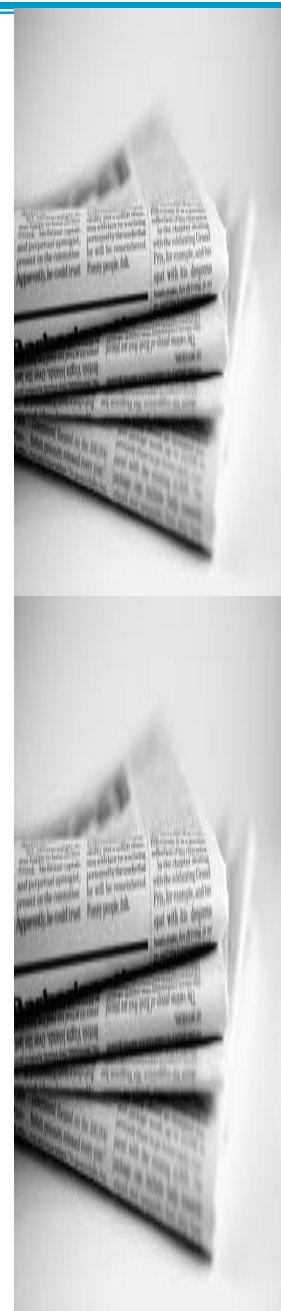
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Boettcher E, Pekin N, Mooney N, Gutierrez JA, **Gish RG**, **Patton HM**. Cardiac Cardiomyopathy is Associated with Skeletal Muscle Wasting and Weakness in a Prospective Cohort of Cirrhotic Patients Awaiting Liver Transplantation. (AASLD 2012)

Elkhatib I, **Savides T**, **Fehmi A**. Rescue Hemostasis of Refractory Bleeding Duodenal Ulcer Using Over The Scope Clip (ACG Poster Presentation 2012)

Pola S, Fahmy M, Evans E, **Sandborn WJ** Successful use of infliximab in the treatment of corticosteroid dependent collagenous colitis (poster IBD CCFA Meeting Dec 2012)





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.

GI Division Office

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9500 Gilman Drive (MC 0956)
La Jolla, CA 92093
East Campus Office Building
☎ (858) 657-5284/ 📠 : (858) 657-5022

UCSD GI Clinical Referral

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

VA Medical Center

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

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/114277778649025>

Making the Most of Your Charitable Gifts

Here are just a few options on how you can 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> and clicking the "Make Your Donation Now" button.

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.