UCSD

Division of Gastroenterology Newsletter



UC San Diego



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LETTER FROM THE INTERIM-CHIEF

New Beginnings

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I am very pleased to announce that Dr. William Sandborn from Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota will become Chief of UCSD Gastroenterology starting January 2011. I am also excited to announce that Dr. Robert Gish from California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco started in December 2010 as the Director of UCSD Hepatology. Many thanks go to Dr. David Brenner, Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences and Dean of the UCSD School of Medicine for his support in recruiting these internationally acclaimed clinician researchers to UCSD. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as Interim Chief of the UCSD Division of Gastroenterology since John Carethers left to become Chairman of Medicine University of Michigan in November 2009, and I look forward to working with Dr. Sandborn, Dr. Gish, and the rest of the GI Division as we embark on an exciting new era.

The other big news for UCSD Health Sciences is the construction of many new buildings for UCSD Medical Center in La Jolla. The UCSD Sulpizio Family Cardiovascular Center is nearly complete and will open in April 2011. The UCSD School of Medicine will open the new Medical Education Building in Summer 2011, which will greatly enhance teaching of not only medical students but also provide space for regional/national GI Conferences which will include hands-on endoscopic training. Construction has started on building a four story faculty office building overlooking the 5 Freeway, which will become home to the GI Division administrative offices in the Summer of 2011. A large multi-tiered parking structure is being completed between Thornton and the UCSD baseball stadium, which will provide much needed parking space, and will also have new soccer fields for UCSD



students built on top of the structure. The UCSD Jacobs Medical Center which will be at 10 story addition to Thornton scheduled for completion in 2016. Attached to the Jacobs Medical Center will be the new UCSD Clinical and Translational Institute (CTRI) building which will likely be home to many GI Division translational investigators in the future. Finally, there are plans for a new outpatient endoscopy center/clinic near Thornton, as well as expansion of the Hillcrest Medical Center facility.

At this time of year, I would like to again thank all of our wonderful staff in the UCSD GI Division Administrative offices, especially Karen, Roslyn, June, Olivia, Rodney, and Maureen, for all their hard work and efforts which enable this division to run effectively. I would also like to thank all the alumni who have donated money to help the divisional fellowship educational funds (which have become significantly reduced with changes in industry relations). If you have not already done so, please consider a tax deductible donation to the UCSD GI Fellowship fund to help train the next generation of UCSD GI fellows.



William Sandborn, M.D., has accepted the position of Division Chief of Gastroenterology in the Department of Medicine,. Currently the Vice Chair of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, Dr. Sandborn has had an illustrious career in gastroenterology and strong

administrative background, with more than 20 years at the Mayo clinic. His Research interests are clinical trials and clinical pharmacology related to inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and is a key leader in the treatment of IBD. More information to follow as Dr. Sandborn begins his work at UCSD in January 2011.



Robert G. Gish, M.D., has accepted the position of Chief of Clinical Hepatology and Co-Director Center of Hepatobiliary Disease and Abdominal Transplantation. Prior to UCSD, Dr. Gish was Medical Director of the liver Disease management and Transplant Program at the California Pacific Medical Center in

San Francisco, California Dr. Gish's research focuses on the epidemiology of liver disease, biomarkers for liver disease, multi-targeted therapies for liver cancer and bio-artificial liver devices (BAL) as a bridge to transplant for patients suffering from acute liver failure. Dr. Gish begins his work at UCSD in December 2010.

Faculty Spotlight

Horacio Jinich, M.D.



After an illustrious career spanning more than 60 years, Dr. Horacio Jinich will retire from practicing clinical medicine at UCSD at the end of 2010. Dr. Jinich has always practiced and taught that the art of medicine requires understanding the human condition as well as science of medicine. His loyal patients come from great distances for his compassionate care and astute clinical wisdom, and will greatly miss seeing him. Fortunately he will continue being involved at UCSD as a voluntary clinical educator making weekly teaching rounds with medical students on the Internal Medicine service. We look forward to continued wisdom from Dr. Jinich in his new teaching role in the division and department.

Dr. Jinich was once described by Dr. Arthur Schwabe of UCLA as the "William Osler of Mexican Medicine". He was born in Mexico City, graduated with a Doctorate in Medicine from National Autonomous University with highest marks (premio silanes), was an Intern and Resident in Internal Medicine at the Institute Nacional de la Nutricion, and received Fellowship training in Gastroenterology at Cornell University. He has held numerous academic medical positions, including Head of the Department of Gastroenterology at the Institute Nacional de la Nutricion in Mexico City, and faculty appointments at Baylor College of Medicine, Emory University, Anahuac University, and since 1986 at the University of California, San Diego as Clinical Professor of Medicine.

Dr. Jinich has been recognized and honored by numerous professional organizations with their highest awards, including Fellow of the American College of Physicians, Fellow of the American Gastroenterological Association, Fellow and former Governor of the American College of Gastroenterology, President and Honorary Member of the Sociedad Mexicana de Historia y Filosofia de la Medicine, and Honorary Member of the Sociedad Centroamericana de Gastroenterologia, the Colegio de Medicos de Costa Rica, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Dr. Jinich is most noted as a master educator. He authors the premier textbook of medicine in Mexico, "Cardinal symptoms and signs of disease", which was originally published in 1986 and now is in the 5th edition as of 2009. He has authored more than 123 manuscripts, as well as 100 book chapters and 17 books of medicine. In recognition to his devotion and skill in teaching, he was awarded the Cedars-Sinai Distinguished Teaching Award.

His clinical acumen and compassion is legendary, and is not only reflected by his loyal patients who travel great distances to see him, but also by his receipt of the 1998 AGA Distinguished Clinician Award, and the 2006 Arnold P. Gold Foundation Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award given by the UCSD School of Medicine

San Diego DDW Reception - May 4, 2010 Hermann-Grima Historical House, New Orleans



Groundbreaking Grant Awarded to Dr. Declan McCole from National Institute of Health (NIH) Biomedical Research on the International Space Station (BioMed-ISS)



Declan McCole, Ph.D., Assistant Adjunct Professor, has been awarded a collaborative grant from the NIH and NASA on the International Space Station (BioMed-ISS). This award encourages investigators to pursue biomedical research in the unique environment of space, using the resources of the international space station to test health-related hypotheses. The unified goal of NASA and the NIH through this grant is to benefit both space- and Earth-related human health interests.

Dr. McCole's research entitled *Novel Effects of Microgravity on Intestinal Epithelial Barrier Responses to Alcohol-Induced Permeability,* will focus on excessive alcohol use, which is a leading lifestyle-related cause of death in the US. A major factor in alcohol-related disease stems from the ability of alcohol to compromise the natural barrier function of cells in the GI tract, increasing the movement of toxins from the intestine to other organs of the body. In ground-based studies, he plans to use 3-D cell culture models to study the barrier properties of the intestines under conditions of simulated microgravity, and to explore how the absence of gravity affects alcohol's ability to diminish the barrier. After completing the ground-based phase, these studies will then be recapitulated on board the International Space Station. Dr. McCole explains, "The International Space Station offers a completely unique environment in which to test fundamental basic biology. It allows us to test under controlled conditions what happens to the cell function, and the behavior of specific molecules when we remove one of the fundamental physical forces that governs everyday human activity, gravity." Dr. McCole further describes, "These studies will likely identify new molecular targets that could be exploited on Earth to better enhance the barrier function of the intestinal epithelium against the effects of alcohol." *Congratulations Dr. McCole!*

Awards and Honors

Alan Hofmann, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Medicine was elected to Who's Who in America and the World of Gastroenterology.

With the departure of Dr. Kenneth Kaushansky, Chair of Medicine, **Thomas Savides, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine,** has been named Executive Vice Chair of Medicine.

Pradipta Ghosh, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine, was awarded a Clinical Scientist Development Award from the *Doris Duke Charitable Foundation* for her research entitled; "A Novel Marker and Therapeutic Target in Liver Fibrosis"

Ekihiro Seki, M.D., Assistant Research Scientist, was awarded the *UCSD Digestive Diseases Research Development Center (DDRDC) Pilot Award* for his research entitled; TAK1-mediated autophagy prevents hepatic carcinogenesis.

Mamata Sivagnanam, M.D., Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition was awarded the 2010 Jon Isenberg Fellowship Award for her research entitled; "A Novel Mouse Model for the Study of Intestinal Epithelial Biology."

Ekihiro Seki, M.D., Assistant Research Scientist, was awarded *NIH/NIAAA R01* Grant for his research entitled "Synergistic actions by multiple Toll-like receptors in alcoholic liver disease."

Alan Hofmann, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Medicine received the Herbert Falk medal from the Falk Foundation in Germany. The Falk Foundation has supported educational efforts in digestive and liver disease throughout the world.



Jeffrey Lee, M.D., (UCSD 3rd Year Medical Resident), received the inaugural Kenneth Kaushansky Resident Research Award. This is

award is given the resident who best exemplifies the characteristics fostered by the former chairman of medicine, Kenneth Kaushansky, M.D.: UCSD: pursuit of scholarly activities and passion for understanding of basic biomedical principles. Jeff is doing research with several members of the UCSD GI Division, and will start his GI Fellowship at UCSF in July 2011.

Thomas Savides, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine, was named one of San Diego Magazines Top Doctors in Gastroenterology for 2010.

Recent Division Publications

Hagey LR, Vidal N, **Hofmann AF**, Krasowski MD. Evolutionary diversity of bile salts in reptiles and mammals including analysis of ancient human and extinct giant ground sloth coprolites. *BMC Evol Biol* 2010:10:133.

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De Minicis S, **Seki E**, Österreicher CH, Kodama Y, Kluwe J, Schwabe RF, **Brenner DA**. Role and Cellular Source of Nicotinamide Adenine Dinucleotide Phosphate Oxidase in Hepatic Fibrosis. *Hepatology* 2010,

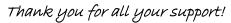
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The Division of Gastroenterology would like to wish you a Very Happy Holiday and a Wonderful New Year!





Recent Division Publications Cont'd

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GI Fellows Graduation - June 26, 2010



Current GI Fellows with the Graduating Fellows

Tom Savides with the 2009 -2010 Graduating GI Fellows Andrew Bain, Crisitina Wiese, and Raymond Tang



Andrew Bain, Cristina Wiese, and Raymond Tang with 2009 -2010 Clinical Teaching Award Recipient Dr. Alexander Kuo (left)

Recent Division Publications Cont'd

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Chalasani N, Guo X, **Loomba R**, Goodarzi MO, Haritunians T, Kwon S, Cui J, Taylor KD, Wilson L, Cummings OW, Chen YD, Rotter JI; Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis Clinical Research Network. Genome-wide association study identifies variants associated with histologic features of nonalcoholic Fatty liver disease. *Gastroenterology*. 2010 Nov;139(5):1567-76, 1576.e1-6.

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UCSD Division of Gastroenterology
UCSD GI Endoscopy & Special
Procedures Units
VA GI Endoscopy Unit
Holiday Party
December 10, 2010
San Diego Woman's Club









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 John M. Carethers, M.D., From 2004 - 2009. 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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Announcements



Bernd Schnabl, **Assistant Adjunct Professor,** and his wife Katharina Brandl welcomed baby girl Julia Theresa Schnabl on February 15, 2010.

Congratulations!

