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Dear UCSD Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Team,

As the year draws to a close, I want to extend my heartfelt holiday greetings and express my deep gratitude for your dedicated service and the significant milestones we have achieved together. This year, we have strengthened our culture of kindness, mutual respect, growth, innovation,

and creativity, vital to our tripartite mission. During this holiday season, I encourage each of you to take some well-deserved time to relax and reconnect with family and friends. Let us also reflect on and be thankful for our exceptional colleagues, whose inspiration drives us to continuously strive towards becoming better versions of ourselves.

May this season bring you all hope, love, inspiration, and tranquility.

Warm regards,

Rohit Loomba, MD, MHSc

Professor of Medicine
Director, MASLD Research Center
Chief, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
UC San Diego Health



#18
GASTROENTEROLOGY
& GI SURGERY



UC San Diego #1 for
Gastroenterology &
Hepatology Research

UC San Diego Health

DIVISION EVENTS

RESEARCH
RETREAT
ESTANCIA
HOTEL



Digestive Diseases Week 2024



Celebrating our GI Fellowship Graduates



Congratulations to
Nabil, Laurel,
Selena & Amanda!





2024 Isenberg
Endowed Lectureship
Dr. Vijay Shah, MD







UC San Diego

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

Holiday Party





FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Siddharth Singh, M.D., M.S.

Associate Professor of Medicine

Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, with adjunct appointment in the Division of Biomedical Informatics & Division of Geriatrics, Gerontology and Palliative Care
Director, UCSD IBD Center

Dr. Singh has a broad background in health outcomes research, with specific training and experience in patient-centered comparative effectiveness research, population health management and value-based care in inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD). The theme of his research program is improving clinical care and informing clinical practice, answering questions that arise during daily patient interactions. In order to answer these questions, he conducts large pragmatic trials funded through PCORI and CDC and secondary data analysis of a variety of data sources including administrative claims databases, national registries, multi-site electronic health record-based registries, secondary analysis of clinical trials, and uses sophisticated statistical methods such as network meta-analysis, propensity score methods, marginal structural models, etc. He has been funded by the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation to build COMPARE-IBD, to establish a Clinical Research Center of Excellence focusing on comparative effectiveness research in IBD. He also has extensive experience in knowledge synthesis and evidence-based medicine and has led numerous clinical guidelines for the American Gastroenterological Association as a GRADE methodologist. In his capacity as the Chair of the AGA Clinical Guidelines Committee, he has innovated in the field of guideline development, completing the first ever living guidelines in the field of gastroenterology and leveraged generative AI for conducting systematic reviews. Dr. Singh serves as the Senior Associate Editor for Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology, AGA's leading clinical practice journal. Nationally, he serves as Deputy Director for Research for IBD Qorus, a national quality of care initiative launched by the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, and at UCSD, he serves as a mentor for the newly formed Center for Learning Health Systems Science. To date, he has published >325 original research and review articles that have been cited >34,000 times with an h-index of 95, with high impact publications in JAMA, the BMJ, Gastroenterology, Lancet Gastroenterology and Hepatology, etc.

Top 3 Publications:

Singh S, Loftus EV Jr, Limketkai BN, Haydek JP, Agrawal M, Scott FI, Ananthakrishnan AN; AGA Clinical Guidelines Committee. AGA Living Clinical Practice Guideline on Pharmacological Management of Moderate-to-Severe Ulcerative Colitis. *Gastroenterology*. 2024 Dec;167(7):1307-1343

Singh S, Murad MH, Fumery M, Sedano R, Jairath V, Panaccione R, Sandborn WJ, Ma C. Comparative efficacy and safety of biologic therapies for moderate-to-severe Crohn's disease: a systematic review and network meta-analysis. *Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2021 Dec;6(12):1002-1014

Meserve J, Luo J, Zhu W, Veeravalli N, Bandoli G, Chambers CD, Singh AG, Boland BS, Sandborn WJ, Mahadevan U, Singh S. Paternal Exposure to Immunosuppressive and/or Biologic Agents and Birth Outcomes in Patients With Immune-Mediated Inflammatory Diseases. *Gastroenterology*. 2021 Jul;161(1):107-115

WELCOMING NEW FACULTY

NEW FIRST PROGRAM FACULTY – GUILLAUME URTECHO, PHD

UC San Diego
School of Medicine



Guillaume Urtecho, PhD

The UCSD Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology welcomes Dr. Guillaume Urtecho, who joins as an Assistant Professor through the UCSD FIRST program. Dr. Urtecho's research leverages high-throughput functional genomics and spatial metagenomics to develop precision bacterial therapies for gastrointestinal disorders, particularly IBS. Originally from California's Central Valley, he earned his B.S. in Genetics from UC Davis and his PhD in Molecular Biology from UCLA. He completed his postdoctoral training at Columbia University Irving Medical Center under Dr. Harris Wang, where he studied microbiome spatiotemporal dynamics following Fecal Microbiota Transplantation. Dr. Urtecho is supported by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Hanna H. Gray Program.

Outside of work, Dr. Urtecho is passionate about science education, mentorship, and promoting diversity and inclusion in STEM. He looks forward to advancing his research program and contributing to the UCSD community.

UC San Diego
School of Medicine

NEW HEPATOLOGY FACULTY – SELENA KUO, MD



Selena Kuo, MD

Selena Kuo is a transplant hepatologist with an interest in alcohol related liver disease and hepatocellular carcinoma. Selena was born and raised in the Bay Area and received her medical degree from the UC San Francisco. She went on to complete her internal medicine residency at Columbia University. She returned to California to complete her gastroenterology and transplant hepatology fellowships at UC San Diego.

Outside of work, Selena enjoys spending time with family and friends, snorkeling, hiking, and traveling. She is excited to join the hepatology group at UCSD!

UC San Diego
School of Medicine

NEW GEN GI PROVIDER – NABIL NOUREDDIN, MD



Nabil Noureddin, MD

Dr. Nabil Noureddin is a general gastroenterologist dedicated to providing comprehensive care for a wide range of gastrointestinal conditions. He earned his medical degree from the University of Aleppo Faculty of Medicine in Syria and completed his internal medicine training at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), where he also served as Chief Resident. He then completed a gastroenterology and hepatology fellowship at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD).

In addition to his clinical work, Dr. Noureddin is a clinical researcher. His research has been published in high-impact journals and has been recognized with awards for presentations at both national and international conferences. His earlier research focused on liver diseases, including metabolic-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD). More recently, his research has expanded to advanced endoscopy interventions for obesity, MASLD, and other endoscopy-related projects.

In July 2025, he will pursue further advanced endoscopy training at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Noureddin is also committed to education, mentoring medical students, residents, and fellows. He has been recognized with teaching awards, including the Top Fellow Award from UCSD's Internal Medicine program. He has an interest in community outreach, particularly in raising awareness about GI and liver cancers. He is a member of several professional organizations, including the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG), the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), and the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD).

Outside of work, Nabil enjoys playing basketball and volleyball, as well as spending time on San Diego's beaches.

WELCOMING NEW FACULTY

NEW ADVANCED ENDOSCOPY PRECEPTOR – LAUREL BRANCH, MD

UC San Diego
School of Medicine



Laurel Branch, MD

Laurel Branch, MD is the new advanced endoscopy preceptor with an interest in pancreaticobiliary diseases and interventional endoscopic ultrasound. Laurel received her undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin and medical degree from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She completed internal medicine residency and an internal medicine chief year at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. She has recently completed gastroenterology fellowship and served as chief fellow at the University of California San Diego. During fellowship, she has worked with the Association of Women Endoscopists (AWE) for their annual AWE Week Conference as well as medical outreach and endoscopy observerships in Southeast Asia. She was awarded fellow of the year by AWE in 2023. She has an interest in clinical education and has completed clinician educator certificates in residency and fellowship. She is pursuing a career as a clinician educator with an emphasis on teaching in endoscopy.

Outside of work, Laurel enjoys visiting the beaches in San Diego with her husband, daughter, and longhaired dachshund. Her other interests include traveling, live music, and dressing her baby in bonnets.

NEW ADVANCED IBD PRECEPTOR – CLAUDIA DZIEGIELEWSKI, MD

UC San Diego
School of Medicine



Claudia Dziegielewski, MD

Claudia Dziegielewski, MD, is an incoming Advanced Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) preceptor with a special interest in Interventional IBD. She is originally from Toronto, Canada, where she completed medical training at the University of Toronto. She completed Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology residency training in Ottawa, Canada at the University of Ottawa, and served as one of the Chief Medical Residents. She completed multiple first-author research projects in IBD during her time there, including projects on predictors of re-hospitalization and IBD dysplasia. She is an aspiring clinician-investigator and is hoping to explore research in the areas of IBD dysplasia, interventional IBD, and outcomes-based research while at UCSD and beyond.

Outside of work, she enjoys going to the gym, travelling, and exploring new cuisines. She is particularly excited to try all of the tacos in San Diego and to try to learn how to surf. She is excited to join the UCSD team for fellowship and get to work with all of the fantastic physicians and allied healthcare professionals here!

NEW ADVANCED ESOPHAGEAL PRECEPTOR – AMANDA KRAUSE, MD

UC San Diego
School of Medicine



Amanda Krause, MD

Amanda Krause, MD is the new advanced esophageal preceptor with an interest in clinical medicine, research, education, and esophageal motility disorders. She is also interested in developing integrative, lifestyle, and dietary therapeutics for patients with GI disorders and disorders of gut-brain interaction. Amanda received her medical degree from Rush University Medical Center and completed her Internal Medicine residency at McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University. She completed GI Fellowship and her NIH T32 research fellowship at the University of California San Diego, where she was also selected as one of the Chief GI fellows. Amanda's research has resulted in several first author publications, presentations at national meetings, and awards for her work. Notably, Amanda received a travel award to ANMS 2024, an outstanding research award in the esophagus category from ACG 2023, the North American Conference for GI Fellows travel award and was selected to be on the AGA Trainee and Early Career Committee and the AGA Education and Training Committee, as well as the Junior Course Director for the AGA Western Women in GI Regional Workshop. During her esophageal fellowship Amanda will gain critical knowledge in managing complex esophageal patients and continue to conduct research under the mentorship of Dr. Rena Yadiapati. In addition, she will learn to interpret Anorectal Manometry Studies and Hydrogen Breath Test under the mentorship of Dr. David Kunkel. Amanda is thrilled to have this opportunity.

WELCOMING NEW CLINICAL STAFF

NEW PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT – ABHA BOSWORTH, PA

UC San Diego
School of Medicine



Abha Bosworth, PA

We are pleased to welcome Physician Assistant Abha Bosworth to UCSD. Abha joins us with over 20 years of General GI experience, with a special interest in Inflammatory Bowel Disease. She previously worked in GI medical groups affiliated with Sharp Grossmont and Scripps Mercy Hospitals. Abha obtained her Master of Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies from Western University of Health Sciences. Prior to this, she received her Bachelor of Science degree from UCSD and her Master of Public Health degree in Epidemiology from San Diego State University.

Outside of work, Abha enjoys spending time with her husband and two children, traveling, and coaching a world-winning high school FIRST robotics team.

Healthcare Provider of the Year

CROHN'S & COLITIS FOUNDATION

Brigid Boland was honored as the Healthcare Provider of the Year at the 10th annual Champions of Hope for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of the greater San Diego area.

The Foundation's annual gala brings together IBD supporters, local business leaders, and prominent area providers, caregivers, and patients to thank and honor their contributions to the IBD community. The gala honors distinguished community members who have made an impact in the field of IBD and honored Brigid Boland this year for her contributions to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation Community as a member of the board and a beloved provider specializing in the care of IBD patients. Angelina Collins, NP and William Sandborn, MD introduced Brigid Boland as the honoree this year.

CHAIR OF FACULTY MENTORING COMMITTEE

Dr. Samir Gupta, Professor of Medicine, has been appointed as the Chair of the Mentoring Committee for faculty career development as well as fellowship to faculty transition at UCSD's Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

In his new role, Dr. Gupta will play a key role in fostering a supportive and collaborative environment for our GI faculty, ensuring a smooth transition from graduating fellows to faculty positions, and provide guidance to those on the faculty on their promotion files. Dr. Gupta and the mentoring committee will develop initiatives to foster faculty development and recognition. These initiatives may include: 1) Ensuring early career clinical and research faculty have at least one experienced mentor; 2) Identifying local and national clinical and research award recognition opportunities for faculty and promoting nominations; 3) Periodic leadership development opportunities, such as a quarterly leadership article journal club open to all. Suggestions for areas of focus for the mentorship committee are welcome.

His wealth of experience and dedication to mentorship make him well-suited for this important responsibility. He has kindly agreed to serve in this role for a period of 2 years. Our vision is to help each and every faculty excel in their respective domains, find fulfillment in our service, seek opportunities to grow together and rise as a team.

We look forward to his valuable contributions in enhancing mentorship within our division.



SAMIR GUPTA, MD

FELLOWS CORNER

A Remarkable GI Fellowship Match: One of Our Most Successful Yet!

We are thrilled to announce that this year's GI fellowship match was one of the most successful we've ever had! The caliber of applicants was exceptional, and we are proud of the talented fellows we will be welcoming to our program.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the faculty members who dedicated their time and expertise to the interview process. Your involvement played a crucial role in identifying the future leaders in Gastroenterology/Hepatology. We would also like to extend special thanks to our Chief Fellows, Erin Song and Mark Kowalczyk, for their outstanding coordination of the interview days via Zoom. Their efforts ensured everything ran smoothly despite the virtual format.

Additionally, we cannot overlook the incredible support provided by our administrative team, particularly Alyssa Lorenzo, whose leadership in managing the logistical and administrative efforts during this match was invaluable. Alyssa's commitment to ensuring a seamless process truly made all the difference.

We are excited to introduce this year's fellows, who are featured below, and look forward to watching them thrive in their training:

2025

INCOMING FELLOWS DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY



Gloria Lin
UT
SOUTHWESTERN



Kelli Liu
UCSD



Danielle Mirda
UPENN



Nivita Sharma
DUKE



Maria Mironova
Capital Health Regional
Medical Center



Updates from the San Diego Digestive Diseases Research Center (SDDRC)

The overall mission of the SDDRC is to support basic, translational and clinical research that will lead to improved treatment and prevention of important inflammatory diseases of the gastrointestinal tract and liver. Drs. Schnabl and Eckmann have been directing the Center since its inception in 2019. The SDDRC is providing the following services:

Core Services and Updates

Human Translational Core provides:

- Access to well-characterized human biospecimens for patients with Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) and Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD).
- Access to archival clinical (GI/liver) tissue samples (stained or unstained slides) from the Pathology Department.
- Consultation in pathology, biostatistics, and protocol design.
- **Now offering** Biostatistical weekly office hour with Xinlian Zhang, PhD, via Zoom, every Tuesday from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Preclinical Models Core provides:

- Services in histology and microscopy including tissue preparation, help in establishing proper fixation, routine and specialized staining, slide scanning, multiplex immunofluorescence, state-of-the-art microscopy, second harmonic generation collagen imaging, intravital imaging, and image analysis.
- Access to germ-free and gnotobiotic mice, and various murine models of liver and gastrointestinal disease.
- Access to Human Liver Resource services, which include primary liver cells and liver tissue
- **Now offering** virtual monthly histopathology office hours with Kenneth Kim, DACVP, 3rd Thursday of the month from 12:00-1:00 pm.
- **Now offering** virtual monthly histology office hours with Zbigniew Mikulski, PhD, 2nd Tuesday of the month from 1:00-2:00 pm.

Microbiomics & Functional Genomics Core provides:

- Sample processing
- Sequencing-based assays: Microbiome sequencing (16S, ITS, shotgun), RNA-seq, Single-cell sequencing (RNA, ATAC, Multiome), Spatial transcriptomics, Other sequencing-based assays (e.g. miRNA-Seq, ChIP-Seq)
- **Now offering** Spatial transcriptomics
- Bioinformatics support:
 - ▶ Microbiomics (e.g. OTU, α/β diversity, shotgun metagenomics, archiving)
 - ▶ Functional genomics (e.g. transcript quantitation, systems biology interpretation)
 - ▶ Consultation and training in specific experimental and analytical techniques related to microbiomics and functional genomics.

SDDRC Seminar

Date/Time:

Monday 1/27/25, 12:00 – 1:00 pm, Pacific Time,
Leichtag-107 (Lecture Room)- Hybrid meeting

Presenter:

Gregory J. Gores, MD,

Reuben R. Eisenberg Professor of Medicine and
Physiology Gastroenterology and Hepatology,
College of Medicine and Science, Mayo Clinic,
Rochester, MN



If you have used the Center services,
please remember to cite the SDDRC in your
publications, "This work was supported by
the San Diego Digestive Diseases Research
Center (P30 DK120515)."

Please visit our website <http://sddrc.ucsd.edu> for up-to-date
information about the Center and its upcoming events.

Follow us on X (Formerly known as Twitter):

<https://twitter.com/SDDRC>

Direct all questions to sddrc@health.ucsd.edu

Science at Lunchtime

Date/Time:

Monday 3/10/25, 12:15 – 1:15 pm, Pacific Time,
BRF2- 5A03 (Conference Room) - Hybrid Meeting

Presenter:

Ravinder Mittal, MD,

Professor, Department of Medicine,
Division of Gastroenterology, UC San Diego

SDDRC Symposium

Date/Time:

Friday 2/21/25, 1:30 - 5:15pm, Pacific Time

Location:
MET - MedEd - Lower Auditorium

Hybrid Meeting

In addition to keynote speakers, there will be
presentations by the SDDRC 2023-24 Pilot &
Feasibility awardees, a member of the patient
community advisory board, and representatives from
SDDRC cores. There will be a reception with food and
beverages.

Upcoming Events

UC San Diego
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

ADVANCES IN GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY CME 2025

INVITED SPEAKERS

Hiro Aihara, MD, PhD
Director, Endoscopic Tissue
Imaging
Brigham & Women's Hospital
Associate Professor of
Medicine
Harvard Medical School

Amitabh Chak, MD
Professor, Dept. of
Medicine
School of Medicine
University of California, San Diego
& Esophageal Disease
& Esophageal Program
Case Comprehensive
Cancer Center
Case Western Reserve
University

Nancy S. Reau, MD
Section Chief, Hepatology
Associate Professor
Liver Transplantation
Transplantation
Section of Internal
Medicine Division of
Digestive Diseases & Nutrition
Rush University

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025
7:00 AM - 4:30 PM

**ALTMAN CLINICAL
TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTE (ACTRI)
1W-210 AUDITORIUM**

COURSE DIRECTORS

PRANAB BARMAN, MD
Professor of Medicine
Vice Chair of Education
(VCD) Division of G & H
UCSD Department of Internal Medicine

BROD BOLAND, MD
Associate Professor of
Medicine
Vice Chair of Education
(VCD) Division of G & H
UCSD Department of Internal Medicine

SAMIR GUPTA, MD
Professor of Medicine
Vice Chair of Education
(VCD) Division of G & H
UCSD Department of Internal Medicine

ROHIT LOOMBA, MD
Division Chief
UCSD Division of G & H
UCSD Department of Internal Medicine

Course Objectives

- Understand the novel approaches to the diagnosis and management of Barrett's esophagus
- Identify current treatment approaches for GERD
- Discuss the management techniques for celiac disease
- Develop an understanding of the role artificial intelligence technologies in colon cancer screening, management of inflammatory bowel disease and chronic liver disease
- Recall the updated landscape for novel therapeutics in inflammatory bowel disease
- Understand the role of new pharmaceutical agents in the management of metabolic associated steatohepatitis
- Understand the management considerations for alcoholic liver disease, including early liver transplantation
- Identify the role and utility of endoscopic submucosal dissection
- Discuss the techniques for diagnosing and managing pancreatic cysts

Questions regarding the event, please e-mail: GIAdmin@health.ucsd.edu

UC San Diego
DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

SAVE-THE-DATE

16th Annual Research Symposium
Novel Insights in Mucosal Immunology & Advances in IBD

Friday, May 2, 2025
MET
Lower Auditorium
10:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Hosted By
IBD Course Directors
Siddarth Singh, MD
Brigid Boland, MD
John Chang, MD



Other Events

- ▶ SDDRC Symposium
February 21, 2025
- ▶ DDW Reception
May 2025

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If you have any questions/comments or wish to be
removed from this list, please contact
giadmin@health.ucsd.edu**