Dear Friends:

First, let me invite all of you, whether you are coming from the San Diego area or abroad, are former or current fellows or faculty, or friends of our GI Division, to our UCSD Alumni Reception to be held Sunday, May 31, 2009 from 6-8PM at the Chicago Hilton (Private Dining Room #3). It is a great chance to see colleagues that you have not seen in a while, and catch up on the amazing growth and changes that has propelled our GI Division to new heights.

The economy has been on most people’s minds, and it certainly has affected some GI Divisions and GI practices throughout the United States. UCSD has weathered the economic storm wonderfully. The Division’s clinical activity continues to expand, with the 2008-2009 academic year on track to be our best in productivity. The Division continues to recruit faculty at both the clinical and research levels, with 3 recruitments already completed for July 2009 start dates. The Division continues to expand its NIH and grant portfolio, and is 2-3 fold higher in its annual dollar awards than just 5 years ago. This has been despite the declining NIH budget in the past years.

Our clinical services continue to rack up additional accolades. Our endoscopy units at Hillcrest and Thornton were recently recognized as top endoscopy units in the United States by the ASGE for its quality, procedures, and care.

Our junior faculty and fellows make the Division extremely proud. A focus of NIH-funded Digestive Diseases Center and its new Pilot grants, our Isenberg Pilot Grants, and the time I and our faculty personally put in to developing young faculty are paying off. As you see in this newsletter, many of our junior faculty and senior fellows have produced outstanding publications and received competitive grants. It is these people who will become the leaders of tomorrow!
Division of Gastroenterology
Program Highlights - Transplant Hepatology

UCSD LIVER TRANSPLANT PROGRAM - 16 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS QUALITY SERVICE

The UCSD Liver Transplant Program started in 1993 to service the needs for liver failure patients in San Diego. The program has grown significantly, providing livers to over 40 patients annually.

The UCSD Liver Transplant Program is the longest running liver transplant program in Southern California south of Los Angeles. It services San Diego, Imperial, Orange, and Riverside Counties, and beyond. Patients who have utilized the UCSD Liver Transplant Program praise the dedication and service of the physicians and staff who continuously care for these extremely sick patients with liver disease.

PROGRAM

The UCSD Transplant Program specializes in care of patients with decompensated liver disease and liver cancer. The program is specialized in the care of patients with acute liver failure, acute-on-chronic liver failure presenting with hepatorenal syndrome, hepatic coma, intractable ascites, intractable GI bleeding, and patients with HIV with liver cirrhosis and all forms of liver cancer.

The program offers clinical protocols for patients with alcoholic hepatitis, hepatorenal syndrome, acute liver failure, post-transplant Hepatitis management, and pharmacokinetics of immune suppression. In addition, the program is specialized in hepatic neurocognitive disorders. The program has dedicated team for clinical research.

The Transplant Team consists of a multidisciplinary group of professionals that evaluate, and care for, transplant patients a means to survive from liver failure.

The following are members of the transplant team who service the San Diego community and its population:

Transplant Hepatologist
Tarek Hassanein, MD, FACP, FACG, AGAF
Medical Director (came to UCSD in 1997)
(619)543-6895
Elliot Alpert, MD (2004)
Alex Kuo, MD (2007)
Rohit Loomba, MD (2009)
Heather Patton, MD (2009)

Transplant Surgeons
Ajai Khanna, MD, PhD (2003) Director, Abdominal Transplant
(619)543-3493
Marquis Hart, MD (1995)
Chris Barry, MD, PhD (2005)

Transplant Administration
Alexander Aussi, BSN, RN, MBA Transplant Administrator

Transplant Pharmacist
Michael Misel, PharmD Transplant Pharmacist
Division of Gastroenterology
Program Highlights - Transplant Hepatology Cont’d

The program is supported by a large team including pharmacists, nurse practitioners, social workers, financial coordinators, and nutrition services.

Transplant Coordinators
- Joanie Salotti, RN, MSN, ANP   (619)543-5515
- Linda Soaf, MSN, ANP, CCTC   (619)471-9491
- Eileen Chatfield, RN, BSN, MA, CCTC   (619)543-2081

Inpatient Transplant Team
- Cyndy Collins, NP   (619)543-3905
- Katie Anderson, PA-C
- Doug Elmore, NP

Transplant Administrative Assistants
- Terry Laforce, Admin Assistant   (619)471-9536
- Sara Valle-Mundo, Admin Assist   (619)543-2599
- Carol King, Admin Assist   (619)471-0373

Transplant Social Worker
- Michelle Morrison, Social Worker   (619)543-8242
- Kelly Swan-Vranish, Social Worker   (619)471-0735

Financial Coordinator
- Cindy Cruz, Financial Coordinator   (619)543-3530

Nutrition Services
- Linda Raynes, Nutrition Services   (619)574-8620

Our mission is to offer our patients with the best specialized and personal liver care.

Our Multidisciplinary team is proud of our comprehensive service to offer transplant as an option to those who qualify with end-stage liver disease. The UCSD Liver Transplant Program is at or better that the national average for on-year survival post transplant, which approaches 90% survival rates.

For your referrals, you can reach any of our team of physicians or coordinators at phone numbers listed.
Recent Division Publications


Awards and Honors

Rohit Loomba, M.D., GI Fellow Received the American Gastroenterological Association Designated Research Scholar Award in Geriatric Gastroenterology for the proposal entitled, Sex-specific effect of alcohol and obesity and adipokines in geriatric fatty liver disease in a prospective population-based cohort: Rancho Bernardo Study. This is a 3 year $225,000 award that begins July 2009.

Bernd Schnabl, M.D., Assistant Adjunct Professor, was awarded a Pilot Project, entitled, Early bacterial translocation as mechanism for alcohol-induced liver fibrosis progression, Southern California Research Center for Alcoholic Liver & Pancreatic Diseases and Cirrhosis that is funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Pradipta Ghosh, M.D., Assistant Professor, is a finalist for (a) American Cancer Society grant, and (b) Burroughs Wellcome Career Awards for Medical Scientists. Dr. Ghosh will know the final outcome of these grants by May 2009.

Winston Dunn, M.D., GI Fellow, was awarded a 2009 AASLD Advanced Transplant Hepatology Fellowship for his upcoming 4th year training at the Mayo Clinic beginning July 2009.

The UCSD GI Endoscopy Unit was recognized as a top endoscopy unit by the ASGE. UCSD was only one of 56 endoscopy units in the U.S. to be recognized for its operation and quality at the initial evaluation by the ASGE.

Rohit Loomba, M.D., GI Fellow, was awarded a 2009 AASLD Advanced Transplant Hepatology Fellowship for his upcoming 4th year training at the Mayo Clinic beginning July 2009.

Division Highlights

The GI Division held its 3rd annual Research Retreat on January 24, 2009 at the Moores Cancer Center. The theme of this year’s retreat focused on Colorectal Cancer, and was organized by John Carethers, M.D. Chief, Division of Gastroenterology. The keynote speaker was C. Richard Boland, M.D. former UCSD GI Division Chief and current GI Division head at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, TX.

The UCSD GI Fellowship Training Program received continued approval and renewed its accreditation by the ACGME in 2008.

Derek Patel, M.D. Asst. Professor of Medicine, and Michael Docherty, M.D., Asst. Professor of Medicine, presented talks on the diagnosis and treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Disease at a UCSD Ambassador event at the Liechtag building in March 2009.

The Digestive Disease Research Development Center will commence pilot grant awards of $15,000 each to junior faculty performing research in the area of the Center’s theme of inflammation, repair and transformation. For more details, email Karen Kasser at: kkasser@ucsd.edu.

The UCSD GI Division has already completed three faculty recruitments to the Division. S. Abbas Fehmi, M.D. is proposed for Asst. Clinical Professor and will join the Division in July 2009 focused in Advanced Endoscopy. Rohit Loomba, M.D., currently GI Fellow, is proposed for Asst. Professor of Clinical Medicine and will join hepatology in July 2009. Denise Kalmaz, M.D., currently a Clinical Instructor, is proposed as Asst. Clinical Professor commencing July 2009. Dr. Kalmaz focuses on small intestine imaging studies such as capsule endoscopy and general gastroenterology.

The UCSD GI Division thanks the generosity of the following donors to the Division to support its mission (2007-2009):

Dr. Timothy Simmons, Dr. Ravi Mittal Dr. George Longstreth, Dr. Kip Lyche, Dr. David Roseman, Dr. Tom Savides, Dr. Sam Ho, Dr. Barbara Jung, Dr. Spencer Fung, Dr. Jaime Chen, Dr. David Brenner, Dr. Yuko Kono Dr. Susan Cummings, Dr. Mark Kadden Dr. George Thomas, Dr. Norman Goldberg, Dr. Horacio Jinich, Dr. Michael Ahn, Dr. John Carethers, Dr. Alan Hofmann, Dr. John Person, Dr. David Kravetz, Dr. David Wolfsohn.

The 2009 UCSD DDW Alumni Reception will be held on Sunday, May 31, 2009 from 6:00-8:00pm at the Chicago Hilton Private Dining Room #3 on the 3rd floor. All are welcome. PLEASE RSVP to Karen Kasser at: kkasser@ucsd.edu.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oral Presentation Authors/Title</th>
<th>Date, Time and Location of Presentation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dong H, Kim HD, Lin V, Wong C, Estreme C and Dong X. Dual actions of estrogen receptor subtypes on murine intestinal epithelial bicarbonate secretion.</td>
<td>Sunday, May 31 at 8:30am</td>
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<td>South Hall, McCormick Place</td>
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<td>S401, McCormick Place</td>
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<td>S105, McCormick Place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chow JYC, Ban M, Wu HL, Chung H, Dong H, Carethers JM. NFkB mediates TGFb-induced PTEN suppression in human pancreatic cancer cells via SMAD-independent signaling.</td>
<td>Sunday, May 31 at 11:15am</td>
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<td>S401D, McCormick Place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chung H, Carethers JM. Cyclin E and histone H3 levels are regulated by 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) in a DNA mismatch repair (MMR)-dependent manner</td>
<td>Monday, June 1 at 3pm</td>
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<td>S401A, McCormick Place</td>
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<td>Chung H, Lopez CG, Young DJ, Cabrera BL, Ream-Robinson D, Carethers JM. Mechanism for selectivity of specific exonic activin receptor 2 (ACVR2) frameshift mutation in colorectal cancer cells with defective DNA mismatch repair (MMR).</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 2 at 4:45pm</td>
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<td>S502, McCormick Place</td>
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<td>Miura K, Seki E, Kodama Y, Inokuchi S, Brenner DA. Toll-like Receptor (TLR) 9 mediates steatosis and fibrosis through IL1B in diet-induced steatohepatitis in mice</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 2 at 10:30am</td>
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<td>S105, McCormick Place</td>
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2009 Endowed Isenberg Lecture

March 24, 2009

Lecturer: Anna Mae Diehl, M.D.

Chief, Division of Gastroenterology/Director, Duke Liver Center
Duke University

Title: “Role of Fetal Morphogens in Adult Liver Repair
Novel Concepts for Cirrhosis Pathogenesis”
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.

Donation Button is now available on the GI Website please go to:
http://gastro.ucsd.edu and click on the “Give Now” button to donate.

Information concerning this newsletter or requests for additional copies can be directed to Karen Kasser at kkasser@ucsd.edu or (858) 534-3320