The first few months of 2010 have been quite exciting for the UCSD GI Division. We held the 4th Annual Research Retreat focusing on Advanced Endoscopy and Clinical Research and were honored to have Dr. Ian Taylor of SUNY Downstate Brooklyn give the 6th Annual Isenberg lectureship. We also participated with Dr. Santiago Horgan, Professor of Surgery, in keeping UCSD as the leader in the field of NOTES research as we performed the first human completely endoscopic lower esophageal sphincter myotomy for achalasia in the United States. Now we are busy getting ready for our 12 oral presentations and numerous poster presentations at DDW in New Orleans.

We’re looking forward to the development of the UCSD Inflammatory Bowel Disease center with the Department of Surgery (Drs. Mark Talamini, Sonia Ramamoorthy, and Lisa Mclemore) and the GI Division (Drs. Mike Docherty and Derek Patel). We hope to eventually combine the talents of our clinical faculty with the strengths of our research faculty, to provide the medical and surgical IBD treatment of the future. Please follow the progress of the center on our website at http://health.ucsd.edu/specialties/gastro/inflammatory-bowel-disease/.

June is always a proud month for us as our fellows graduate and enter the next stages of their careers. We are fortunate that two of our fellows, Dr. Andrew Bain and Dr. Raymond Tang, will stay on as Clinical Instructors and pursue advanced training in interventional endoscopy. Dr. Cristina Wiese will open up her solo practice in her home town of Thousand Oaks, California, where we know our loss is their community’s gain. Best wishes to all of them.

Finally, on April 1, 2010 the UC San Diego Health System announced a $75 million dollar gift from Joan and Irwin Jacobs to build a new 10 story hospital expansion of Thornton Hospital in La Jolla which will be completed in 2016. This hospital will include a new 5 room endoscopy unit, as well as more operating rooms, additional medical/surgery and ICU beds, and two floors dedicated to obstetrical services. This is in addition to the UCSD Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center which will open in mid 2011. Other buildings planned include a translational research building, faculty office space, parking structure, and additional outpatient facilities. The next decade will be very exciting at UCSD!
# Division of Gastroenterology

## 2010 Graduating Fellows

### Andrew Bain, M.D.

- Internship and Residency in Internal Medicine, Emory University
- M.D., Georgetown University School of Medicine (Cum Laude)
- Bachelor of Arts, Chemistry, Colgate University (Magna Cum Laude)

As a UCSD GI fellow, I have valued the opportunity to experience many different hospital systems (UCSD Hillcrest, UCSD Thornton, VA, and Kaiser) with their own diverse patient populations and unique pathology. I discovered an interest in advanced endoscopic procedures and will be staying at UCSD next year for an advanced endoscopy 4th year fellowship.

**Publications:**


### Raymond Tang, M.D.

- Internship and Residency in Internal Medicine, UC Los Angeles, David Geffen School of Medicine
- M.D., University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine
- Bachelor of Science, Biochemistry, UC Los Angeles (Summa Cum Laude)

I have definitely enjoyed my time at UCSD. I think the GI Fellowship Training I have received at UCSD has provided me with balanced exposure to a wide variety of GI and Liver diseases. In addition, living in San Diego allows me to explore the beautiful city and take advantage of the great weather for outdoor activities. Regarding my career interest, I have always interested in learning more about pancreatobiliary diseases. I am excited about staying at UCSD to pursue my 4th year Advanced Endoscopy Training for July 2010 - June 2011.

During October 2009, I was offered the opportunity to do a 1-month overseas rotation at the Prince of Wales Hospital at the Chinese University of Hong Kong; where some of the landmark clinical trials on the use of IV PPI in peptic ulcer bleeding management were conducted. This rotation broadened my clinical experience as it allowed me to observe some GI/liver pathology more unique to Hong Kong and Southeast Asia, but otherwise less commonly encountered in the US. It was also educational to observe endoscopic procedures that are less routinely performed in the US (e.g., Endoscopic Mucosal Dissection) during my rotation in Hong Kong.

### Cristina Wiese, M.D.

- Bachelor of Science, Biology, UC Los Angeles
- M.D., New York Medical College
- Internship and Residency in Internal Medicine, UC Los Angeles, David Geffen School of Medicine

I have enjoyed my fellowship at UC San Diego immensely, and graduation is bringing mixed feelings. On the one hand, I am extremely sad to be leaving all my friends and mentors who have supported and taught me the last three years. However, it is the solid training I obtained here at UCSD that allows me to be excited about graduating and opening my own GI office. I will be practicing in Thousand Oaks California, with ties to Los Robles Medical Center.
Arthur W. Yan, Johannes Brandl, Manolito Torralba, Derrick Fouts, Eckart Schott, Hide Tsukamoto, Karen E. Nelson, David A. Brenner, Bernd Schnabl. **Downregulation of anti-microbial proteins regenerating islet-derived 3 beta (Reg3b) and gamma (Reg3g) contributes to enteric dysbiosis in alcoholic liver disease.**

Jimmy Y. Chow, Flang Nguyen, Mei Huang, John M. Carethers. **TGFβ Destabilizes PTEN Via Dephosphorylation to Promote Pancreatic Cancer Cell Motility.**

Jennifer Cabral, Sharon Tracy, Judith Sporn, Jessica Gomez, Barbara Jung. **Preferential downstream signaling effects of activin and TGFβ in colon cancer cells.**

Heekyung Chung, Jenny F. Lai, Joy Holmstrom, Dennis J. Young, and John M. Carethers. **Specific nucleotides that flank coding microsatellites of Activin Receptor 2 (ACVR2) determine exonic selectivity and control frameshift mutation rates in defective DNA mismatch repair (MMR).**

Xiao Dong, Chase Wong, Christine Estrema, Biguang Tuo and Hui Dong. **Ca-Sensing receptor regulates Ca2+-mediated duodenal bicarbonate secretion via SOC and IKCa channels.**


*Underlined Name will be the Presenter*
Division of Gastroenterology - DDW 2010 Oral Presentations*
Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans

Erik J. Groessl, Samuel B. Ho, Lin Liu, Dana Riley, Fasiha Kanwal, Allen L.Gifford, Steven M. Asch. National Patterns and Predictors of Liver Biopsy Use in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Tuesday May 4, 2010
2:15 PM - 3:45 PM
Room 352


Wednesday May 5, 2010
9:45 AM-10:00 AM
Room 243

Mamie Dong, Ricki Bettencourt, Elizabeth Barrett-Connor, Rohit Loomba. Alanine aminotransferase decreases with age.

Wednesday May 5, 2010
9:45 AM-10:00 AM
Room 386/387

Su Jin Hong, Valmik Bhargava, Ravinder K Mittal. Ultrasound Imaging Shows Distinct Differences in 3 Subtypes of Achalasia Esophagus Detected by High Resolution Manometry.

Wednesday May 5, 2010
10:30 AM-10:45 AM
Room 298/299


Wednesday May 5, 2010
10:45 AM-11:00 AM
Room 280-282

Michael Scharl, Michael Fried, Declan F. McCole, Gerhard Rogler. Protein tyrosine phosphatase N2 regulates TNF-induced signalling and cytokine secretion in T64 intestinal epithelial cells.

Wednesday May 5, 2010
11:00 AM-11:15 AM
Room 297

*Underlined Name will be the Presenter


Harmon GS, Dong MH. Colitis manifesting as diffuse polyposis. *J Gastroen Hepatol*, 2010 [in press]


Awards and Honors

Alan Hofmann, M.D. Professor Emeritus of Medicine, has been elected to honorary membership in the German Society of Internal Medicine. The society is 120 years old. Previous honorary members include Robert Koch, Paul Ehrlich, and Wilhelm Roentgen.

Thomas Savides, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine was awarded by the UC San Diego Medical Center as their Attending Physician of the year for 2009-2010.

Julio Gutierrez, GI Fellow, was awarded, as a Co-Investigator with Yuko Kono, M.D., Co-Investigator and PI David Wyles, M.D. the HIV-Associated Malignancy Pilot Grant for the project, 'Detecting Hepatocellular Carcinoma Related HCV Mutants by Ultra-deep Sequencing.'

Bernd Schnabl, M.D., Assistant Adjunct Professor, Received a $20,000 subaward from NIH/NIAAA/Southern California Research Center for Alcoholic Liver and Pancreatic Diseases and Cirrhosis for his research entitled, Early bacterial translocation as mechanism for alcohol-induced liver fibrosis progression. The project will run from January 2010 to December 2010.

Raymond Tang, M.D., GI Fellow, was awarded to the ASGE Video Editing Scholarship Program for Advanced Fellows for 2010-2011.

Research Funding Opportunity: The UCSD Division of Gastroenterology is pleased to announce two new research funding opportunities from the Jon Isenberg Foundation and The Digestive Disease Research Development Center (DDRC). Both awards are available to junior faculty, advanced post-docs and fellows. Please visit our website at http://gastro.ucsd.edu for further information or contact Karen Kasser at kkasser@ucsd.edu

Applications are due June 1, 2010.

2010 - 2013 Incoming GI Fellows

Erica Boettcher, M.D.
- Will Join UCSD GI Fellowship Program- Clinical Track on July 1, 2010.
- Residency in Internal Medicine, UC San Diego
- M.D. Oregon Health Sciences University, School of Medicine
- Bachelor of Science, Biology (Minors in French & Chemistry), University of Oregon

Brigid Boland, M.D
- Will Join UCSD GI Fellowship Program- Research Track on July 1, 2010.
- Residency in Internal Medicine, UC San Diego
- M.D., UC San Francisco, School of Medicine
- Bachelor of Science, Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology, Yale University

Imad Elkhattib, M.D.
- Will Join UCSD GI Fellowship Program- Clinical Track on July 1, 2010.
- Residency in Internal Medicine, Northwestern University, McGaw Memorial Hospital
- M.D., University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine
- Bachelor of Science, Biology, Ohio State University

Amir Zarrinpar, M.D., Ph.D.
- Will Join UCSD GI Fellowship Program- Research Track on July 1, 2010.
- Residency in Internal Medicine, UC San Diego
- M.D., Ph.D., Neurosciences, UC San Diego
- Bachelor of Arts, Psychology & Biology, Harvard College
Research Retreat - Endoscopic Research - January 16, 2010

Undy 5000 - Raising Awareness of Colon Cancer - March 6, 2010

Jon I. Isenberg Memorial Lecture - Dr. Ian Taylor - March 31, 2010
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.

Donation Button

is now available on the GI Website
please go to:
http://gastro.ucsd.edu and click on the
“Donate 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

Announcements

Denise Kalmaz, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor, and her husband Roland Achtel welcomed daughter, Alaina Grace, born March 15, 2010, 6lbs, 11 oz and 20 inches long. Congratulations!

Samuel Ho, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Julie Cobalt, Welcomed daughter, Eloisa, born April 17, 2010, 7.58lbs, 20 inches long, Congratulations!