Dear Friends,

It has been a busy and exciting second quarter for the GI Division at UCSD. In April, we enjoyed having Dr. John Inadomi, Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology at the University of Washington, as the Jon I. Isenberg Memorial Lecturer. In May, the Division had a major presence at the 2011 Digestive Disease Week in Chicago (see insert for more details). We also submitted a competing renewal for the National Institutes of Health T32 research training grant. New faculty member Dr. Sheila Crowe was the submitting principal investigator, with help from Dr. Samuel Ho who had served as the interim director for the grant after the departure of Dr. John Carethers in 2009. In June we received news on the results of the GI fellowship match for the 2012 class of fellows and we were delighted to fill our 4 fellowship slots from the top 7 ranked candidates on our list. Many thanks go to Dr. Thomas Savides (fellowship director), Dr. Denise Kalmaz (associate fellowship director), and Roslyn Lara (fellowship coordinator) for their hard work in guiding the Division through the match process. We also welcomed new faculty members Dr. Sheila Crowe from the University of Virginia and Dr. Jesus Rivera-Nieves from the University of Colorado, (see details elsewhere in the newsletter). We will have more good news on additional recruitments in next quarter’s newsletter. We also said goodbye to the graduating fellows and welcomed the new 2011 class of fellows. Later in the newsletter I will describe the recent growth of the UCSD Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center. All in all, we continue in a period of stimulating growth and change for the Division.
Dr. Sheila Crowe received her medical degree from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, completing her postgraduate training in internal medicine and gastroenterology there. After additional research training in the Intestinal Diseases Research Unit at McMaster University and the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, she joined the faculty at McMaster University before moving to the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston in 1992 where she was the GI Fellowship Training Director. She moved to the University of Virginia in 2001 where she served as the Director of the Celiac Disease Center, Director of Endoscopy at the Outpatient Surgical Center, and Director of Faculty Development for the Division.

As a clinician-scientist, Dr. Crowe has been active in bench research, clinical care, teaching, and mentoring. She is named in Best Doctors of America with clinical interests that span from acid–peptic diseases, infectious GI diseases, celiac disease and GI food allergies to colorectal cancer screening. Dr. Crowe is very active in the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) currently serving as Councilor–at–Large on the AGA Governing Board and Chair of the AGA Publication Committee. She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada, the American College of Physicians, the American College of Gastroenterology, and the AGA.

Dr. Crowe’s national service includes NIH study sections and review panels, the ABIM Gastroenterology Board, and editorial boards. Her bench research centers on understanding immune–epithelial interactions involved in inflammatory, infectious, and allergic gastrointestinal diseases. She received the AGA 2008 Funderberg Award and was named as an Outstanding AGA Woman in Science. Dr. Crowe is the author of various articles and book chapters, and lectures frequently nationally and internationally in the areas of her expertise including celiac disease, GI food allergies and intolerances, and *H. pylori* infection, and she served as the Director of the AGA 2010 Spring Postgraduate Course. Dr. Crowe is an author of “Celiac Disease for Dummies” published in 2010 and Consultant for the New York Times Health online section on the topic of celiac disease.
Dr. Rivera-Nieves began his medical training in his native San Juan at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus. As a third year medical student, he joined the Howard Hughes-NIH research scholars program, which exposed him to the superb scientific environment of the intramural National Institutes of Health. After completing his MD degree, Dr. Rivera-Nieves went on to complete a 3 year Internal Medicine residency at the University of Maryland, returning to the NIH 3 years later to continue his research training. Afterwards he proceeded to train for 4 years as the first Gastroenterology and Hepatology research fellow at the University of Virginia, during that time, he was awarded a Robert Wood Johnson Medical Faculty award, a Glaxo Institute for Digestive Health research award, and while completing his training, a KO8 award from NIH/NIDDK. He was then recruited by Dr. Sean Colgan to join the recently established Mucosal Inflammation Program at the University of Colorado Denver. During his 4 year tenure in Denver, Dr. Rivera-Nieves received his first RO1, a senior research award from the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation, and most recently a VA Merit Research award. Dr. Rivera-Nieves is also actively involved in numerous professional societies, being a member of the Research Policy and underrepresented minorities Committee of the American Gastroenterology Association. This January he was recruited jointly by Drs. Sandborn and Ho to join the GI program with a joint VA-UCSD appointment. Dr. Rivera-Nieves’ vision for the future is to be directly involved with Dr. Sandborn in the recruitment of veterans into clinical trials testing novel treatment strategies for IBD, the development of a well characterized biorepository for IBD, and the continuation of his basic studies aimed at understanding the pathogenesis of IBD, using unique mouse models that develop Crohn’s-like ileitis.
The UCSD Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Center has undergone rapid growth over the past 6 months. The change began in January 2011, with Dr. William Sandborn joining the IBD Center as its new Director. Prior to arriving at UCSD, Dr. Sandborn had previously built the largest IBD center in the United States at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. The UCSD IBD center has multiple components including clinical care, education, clinical research, and basic research. The clinical team is comprised of Drs. William Sandborn and Michael Docherty (GI—Perlman Clinic and Thornton Hospital), Derek Patel (GI—UCSD Medical Center in Hillcrest), Jesus Rivera-Nieves (GI—La Jolla VA Hospital), Mark Talamini (Surgery), Sonia Ramamoorthy (Colorectal Surgery), Lisa McLemore (Colorectal Surgery), and Cynthia Santillan (Radiology). In addition, Elisabeth Evans, NP, Lori Eelpers RN, and Aisha Bush scheduler play important roles.

The IBD center serves both patients from San Diego County and from around the United States and from countries around the world. Between February and July 2011, the IBD center has seen patients from Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Montana, New Jersey, Texas, Washington state, Washington DC, and West Virginia. The IBD Center now offers a one year advanced fellowship in IBD. In July 2011, Marianne Fahmy, MD one of our 2011 graduate fellows, became our first 4th year Advanced IBD Fellow.

From a clinical research perspective we hired two research nurses Ara Miralles and Julie Bosia, and a regulatory specialist Christina Chickering. We have activated 9 clinical trials with infliximab, chemokine receptor 9 antagonist, anti-interferon gamma inducible protein (IP) 10 antibody, and anti-MAdCAM-1 antibody. More studies are still to be activated with additional agents including anti-interleukin 12/23 antibody (ustekinumab). The non-profit CRO Robart’s Clinical Trials, which has internationally recognized expertise in IBD clinical trials, opened a facility in La Jolla in April called Robart’s West. Robart’s West will be closely associated with the UCSD IBD Center.

From the basic research perspective, we have multiple well funded investigators including Drs. Lars Eckmann, Kim Barrett, Declan McCole, Jesus Rivera-Nieves, and John Chang who are working together in an NIH funded Digestive Disease Research Center that has an inflammation focus. We are launching a biobanking initiative this summer, which will facilitate translational research. Our goals for the UCSD IBD Center are to identify fundamental mechanisms underlying IBD, to evaluate novel therapies, and to improve the care of patients with IBD in
The Hyatt Regency Hotel served as the setting for our annual DDW reception. It is always a great pleasure to see our past-Fellows and former faculty in attendance along with current members of our division. Our reception was a great success thanks to all of you who were in attendance.

The Division of Gastroenterology’s presence at DDW has been in a constant incline, this year we had a total of 40 presentations at DDW including: 7 symposium presentations, 1 meet the professor presentation, 16 oral and 16 poster presentations. We are quite proud of the work being done by our researchers, who are consistently paving new methods to treating GI diseases. Our work as a division will continue, we look forward to expanding our areas of research and making our work known throughout the world.

Special thank you to all those faculty members, fellows, and scholars who took part in the presentations.

*Please see our supplemental pages for detailed information on UCSD GI at DDW.*

**Recent Division Publications**

**Gish, R., Satishchandran, C., Young, M., Pachuk, C.** RNA Interference and its potential applications to chronic HBV treatment: Results of Phase 1 safety and tolerability study, In Press, Antiviral Therapy, 2011.


Recent Division Publications Cont’d...


Division Awards & Recognitions

- Dr. Rohit Loomba was recently awarded a K23 NIH grant for his study on environmental and genetic susceptibility towards nonalcoholic fatty liver disease utilizing a twin-study design. Little is known about the shared genetic and environmental co-determination between NAFLD & metabolic traits. The proposed twin study will fill this void and improve our understanding of disease progression in NAFLD. This study would lead to discovery of specific adrenergic genotypes that are associated with NAFLD, which may be exploited to develop new prognostic models for predicting disease progression and develop newer targets of therapy.

- Congratulations to Dr. Thomas Savides on being elected Vice Chair/Chair Elect of the UCSD Health Sciences Faculty Committee.

- Dr. Kim Barrett is celebrating her recent appointment as Deputy Editor in Chief of The Journal of Physiology, her appointment spans all journal editions in the Americas. The Journal of Physiology is one of the oldest journals in the discipline and was recently ranked as the top journal publishing original research in physiology based on 2010 impact factors.
**Congratulations to Dr. Bernd Schnabl** on being awarded a research grant from the American Beverage Medical Foundation/The Foundation for Alcohol Research for his study titled “Analysis of the enteric microbiome associated with alcoholic liver disease.”

**Dr. Declan McCole** was recently interviewed by National Public Radio (NPR) on a research project he is currently conducting on the International Space Station in conjunction with a series NPR have been running about the last Shuttle mission. The interview aired on July 18th and offered insight on Dr. McCole’s work with cells and their behavior in weightlessness. To listen to the full interview go to: http://www.npr.org/2011/07/18/138478225/nasa-space-station-s-best-days-are-still-ahead

**Dr. Suresh Pola** is the 2011–2012 GI Chief Fellow. If you need to organize an event or meeting that involves our fellows please contact Dr. Pola.

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**Faculty Update —Drs. Andrew Bain & Raymond Tang**

**Congratulations to Dr. Andrew Bain**, a 2010 graduate of our GI Fellowship Program who remained with us for an additional year as a clinician and is now an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgical Oncology/Department of Medicine at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in upstate New York. Dr. Bain has taken on the task of starting up an Advanced Endoscopy Program at his new institution.

**Dr. Raymong Tang**, who also graduated from our Fellowship Program in 2010 accepted a new faculty position. Where he will join the medical faculty at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Institute of Digestive Disease, Chinese University of Hong Kong.

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**Baby News**

We are pleased to announce the addition of two babies to our GI family. Dr. Pradipta Ghosh gave birth to a baby boy, Rishav Bhattacharjee, on June 12, 2011, the baby weighed in at 7lbs and was 19 inches long. This is Dr. Ghosh’s first baby and we are happy to say that both mother & son are doing well.

Dr. Laura Yun, a 2008 graduate of our GI Fellowship Program also gave birth to a baby boy, Andrew Mao, who was born on March 24, 2011 and weighed in 6lbs and was 19 inches in length.

**Congratulations to both families!!**

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**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.

**Health Sciences Development**

Today we stand on the brink of a new era in medicine. Where will these advances be achieved first? In an environment where discovery, innovation, and collaboration flourish. Where the best minds gather to push the boundaries of medicine. Where people understand that science can lead to great healthcare. UC San Diego is the environment.

With your gifts you have the power to ignite the innovation and imagination that have made UC San Diego Health Sciences a magnet for renowned scientists and groundbreaking research. Specifically, your gift to the Division of Gastroenterology will help us continue our programs of research and education, to improve the care of patients with gastrointestinal and liver diseases, and to train future gastroenterologists.

*To donate to the Division of Gastroenterology, please go to: http://gastro.ucsd.edu and click on the “Donate Now” button*

Or contact Harvey Green
Director of Development
Health Sciences Development
Tel: (619) 543-3121
hagreen@ucsd.edu
Our presence at this year’s DDW was extraordinarily successful. Many of our PIs and Clinicians gave presentations placing our work at UCSD in the forefront of GI disease research.

The Patient with Hematochezia—Thomas J. Savides
- Sunday, 8:30AM - 10:00AM
- Session: 8-2235 Location: MCP - S101
- My Weekend On-Call Clinical Symposium

Panel Discussion of Pivi Results by Pivi Chairs—Gregory G. Ginsberg, Douglas K. Rex, Thomas J. Savides
- Sunday, 10:30AM - 12:00PM
- Session: 8-2360 Location: MCP - S102
- Doing Good: Crossing the Threshold of Endoscopic Effectiveness (ASGE PIVI Results) Clinical Symposium

- Sunday, 2:15PM - 3:45PM
- Session: 8-2590 Location: MCP - S100AB
- Controversies in IBD Clinical Symposium

Malignancy in Inflammatory Bowel Diseases—William J. Sandborn
- Monday, 8:30AM - 10:00AM
- Session: 9-3140 Location: MCP - S101
- Defining Special Populations for Special Screening Special Session

Once-Daily Dosing of Delayed-Release Oral Mesalamine (400-Mg Tablet) Is As Effective As Twice-Daily Dosing For Maintenance of Remission of Ulcerative Colitis—William J. Sandborn
- Monday, 4:00PM - 5:30PM
- Session: 9-3620 Location: MCP - E350
- Game-changing Research from the AGA Journals— Transforming the Practice of GI Committee Sponsored Symposium

Novel Therapies for IBD—William J. Sandborn
- Tuesday, 12:30PM - 1:45PM
- Session: M60 Location: MCP - N133
- Novel Therapies for IBD (M60) Meet-the-Professor Luncheons

Modulating the Immune Response to Gluten as Future Treatment for Celiac Disease—Martin F. Kagnoff
- Monday, 2:15PM - 3:45PM
- Session: 9-3480 Location: MCP - S402
- Why does Celiac Disease Occur? Implications for how to Prevent and Treat the Disease Translational Symposium

How to be a Good Mentee and the Importance of Mentoring for Junior Investigators (Clinical Perspective) - Rohit Loomba
- Sunday, 4:00PM - 5:30PM
- Session: 8-2745 Location: MCP - S401A
DDW Presentations Cont’d…

Mentoring: Who, When and Why Committee Sponsored Symposium—Moderators: Ram Chuttani & Ravinder K. Mittal
- Tuesday, 4:00PM - 5:30PM
- Session: 10-4585 Location: MCP - S103
- GERD: Non-pharmacological Therapies Research Forum

Cholangitis Is Common in Cancer Survivors with Metastatic Stents
Suresh Pola, Ramya Muralimohan, Benjamin L. Cohen, Syed M Abbas Fehmi, Thomas J. Savides
- Monday, 8:00AM - 5:00PM
- Session: P-ERCP2-2 Location: MCP - Hall A
- ERCP: Biliary Poster Session 2 Poster Session

Proficiency of GI Trainees in Independently Attaining Quality Benchmarks in Colonoscopy
- Tuesday, 8:00AM - 5:00PM
- Session: P-CP-2 Location: MCP - Hall A
- Clinical Practice Poster Session 2 Poster Session

Inpatient Status Is Associated with Decreased Rates of Capsule Endoscopies Reaching the Cecum
James Lin, Benjamin L. Cohen, Thomas J. Savides, Denise Kalmaz
- Tuesday, 8:00AM - 5:00PM
- Session: IAT-PS1 Location: MCP - Hall A
- Imaging & Advanced Technology Poster Session

Association of Steroid-Free Clinical Remission and Complete Mucosal Healing at 6 Months with Clinical Outcome At 1 Year: A Post-Hoc Analysis of Sonic Trial Data

Long-Term Remission with Certolizumab Pegol in Crohn’s Disease: Efficacy Over 5 Years in Patients with No Prior Anti-TNF Agent Exposure (Precise 3 Study)

Maintenance Therapy with Certolizumab Pegol After Induction Therapy for Active Crohn’s Disease: 6-Month Results

Early Symptomatic Response and Mucosal Healing with Mesalamine Rectal Suspension Therapy in the Treatment of Active Distal Ulcerative Colitis (UC): Additional Results from Two Controlled, Randomized Trials

Adalimumab Improves Health-Related Quality of Life for 52 Weeks in Patients with Ulcerative Colitis
William J. Sandborn, Paul J. Rutgeerts, Jean-Frederic Colombel, Walter Reinisch, Edward V. Loftus, Jackson Tang, Paul F. Pollack, Mei Yang, Bidan Huang, Jingdong Chao, Parvez Mulani

Crohn’s Disease Patients with Persistently Elevated CRP Plasma Concentration Have Higher Rates of Remission with Certolizumab Pegol 400 Mg Every 2 Weeks vs. Every 4 Weeks
William J. Sandborn, Severine Vermeire, Etienne Ernault, Gary R. Lichtenstein

Stretch -Induced Force Regulation in External Anal Sphincter Muscle: Implications for the Anal Canal Function
Mahadevan R. Rajasekaran, Yanfen Jiang, Mitra Salehi, Valmik Bharagava, Ravinder K. Mittal

Alterations of CD8+, Not CD4+ T Cells Occur Within Microsatellite Unstable and Emast Colorectal Tumors, and with Histological Advancement
Sun-Young Lee, Katsumi N. Miyai, Hye Seung Han, Dae-Yong Hwang, Moo-Kyung Seong, Heekyung Chung, Barbara H. Jung, Bikash Devaraj, Kathie McGuire, John M. Carethers

Plasma Citrulline Concentration As a Marker of Crohn’s Disease Activity
Imad Elkhatib, Alan L. Buchman

Limited Clinical Utility of a Self-Administered Tool for Predicting Medication Adherence Behavior in IBD

Transesophageal Endoscopic Myotomy (Teem) for the Treatment of Achalasia - the United States Human Experience
Ozan R. Meireles, Garth R. Jacobsen, Toshiro Katagiri, Kari Thompson, Abraham Mathew, Noam Belkind, Michael Sedrak, Bryan J. Sandler, Takayuki Dota, Thomas J. Savides, Saniea F. Majid, Sheetal Nijhawan, Mark A. Talaman, Santiago Horgan

Skipping of Distal Terminal Ileum in Crohn’s Disease
DDW Presentations Cont’d...

**Budesonide-MMx® 9 Mg for Induction of Remission of Mild-to-Moderate Ulcerative Colitis (UC): Data from a Multicenter, Randomized, Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Study in the Europe, Russia, Israel and Australia**


A Multicenter, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Phase2b Study of Ustekinumab, a Human Monoclonal Antibody to IL-12/23p40, in Patients with Moderately to Severely Active Crohn’s Disease: Results Through Week 22 from the Certifi Trial


**Risk Factors for Lymphoma in Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease: A Case-Control Study**


**Sustained Remission with No Dose Escalation After Re-Induction with Certolizumab Pegol in Patients with Crohn’s Disease Exacerbation Who Were naïve to Anti-TNF Treatment: 5-Year Results from Precise 4**

William J. Sandborn, Stefan Schreiber, Jean-Frederic Colombel, David L. Sen, Gary R. Lichtenstein

**Phase 2 Study of CP-690,550, An Oral Janus Kinase Inhibitor, in Active Ulcerative Colitis**


**Budesonide MUX® 9 Mg for the Induction of Remission of Mild-to-Moderate Ulcerative Colitis (UC): Data from a Multicenter, Randomized, Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Study in North America and India**

William J. Sandborn, Simon Travis, Luigi Moro, E. David Ballard, Philip Yeung, William F. Bleker, David Kriesel

**Phase 2 Randomized Study of CP-690,550, An Oral Janus Kinase Inhibitor, in Active Crohn’s Disease**


**Induction and Maintenance of Clinical Remission By Adalimumab in Patients with Moderate-to-Severe Ulcerative Colitis**


**Validation of the Ulcerative Colitis Endoscopic Index of Severity (UCEIS) and Its Correlation with Clinical Indices and Laboratory Measures of Disease Activity**


**Role of Estrogen Receptor in the Regulation of Intestinal Epithelial Restitution After Mucosal Injury**

Chang-Whan Kim, Tiffany A. Ornelas, Jimmy Y. Chow, Biguang Tuo, Hui Dong

**Hepatic Stellate Cells Revert to An Inactive Phenotype During Regression of Fibrosis**

Tatiana Kisseleva, Yonghan Paik, David Scholten1, Fanli Meng1, Keiko Iwaisako, Chunyan Jiang, David A. Brenner

**The Origin of Myofibroblasts Contributing to Liver Fibrosis in Mice**

Keiko Iwaisoko, Chunyan Jiang1, David Scholten, Yonghan Paik, Fanli Meng, David A. Brenner, Tatiana Kisseleva

**Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase Non-Receptor Type 2 Is a Regulator of Authophagosome Function**


**CCR2 Promotes the Progression of NASH in Mice**

Kouichi Miura, Hirohide Ohnishi, David A. Brenner, Ekihiro Seki