

# ACG Grant Recipient Travels to Germany for Intensive Training in Confocal Endomicroscopy for the Colon

In this issue of the *ACG Update*, we are highlighting the 2010 ACG North American International GI Training Grant recipient, Jenny Sauk, MD, of Mount Sinai Medical Center, Henry D. Janowitz Division of Gastroenterology in New York, New York. This grant provides partial financial support to U.S. and Canadian GI fellows-in-training or GI physicians who have completed their

training within the last five years, to receive clinical or clinical research training in Gastroenterology and Hepatology outside of North America. As the winner of the 2010 grant, Dr. Sauk traveled to Mainz, Germany to train in confocal endomicroscopy for the colon. ACG is proud to have been able to play a positive role in her career development.

by Jenny Sauk, MD

As there were no other places in the United States for me to receive more training in confocal endomicroscopy for the colon, this experience at Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz was exactly what I needed to feel more confident with this endoscopic imaging modality. Now, I not only feel more confident about obtaining better images, but I also feel more comfortable with the Pentax software.



potential future research ideas and to show them the images that I had already obtained to see what was necessary to improve their quality. Every morning, I observed confocal cases or was able to participate hands-on in confocal imaging with both Dr. Kiesslich and Dr. Goetz to improve my targeted imaging.

As my interests with confocal lie with its use in inflammatory bowel disease, it was interesting for me to see the different ongoing study protocols pertaining to inflammatory bowel disease for which they were using the confocal endomicroscope. Seeing several of these studies in Mainz expanded my own ideas on other potential research questions that could be explored with this technology. Also, I watched and performed some chromoendoscopy in the colon while there, which is proving to be more important with not only dysplasia surveillance in longstanding IBD but also for the general detection and characterization of adenomas.

As I am now starting to recruit patients for my protocol to validate a confocal endomicroscope-based classification for inflammation in ulcerative colitis, this experience proved to be invaluable for me to feel confident with the confocal endomicroscope technology. ACG

## Next Round of ACG Training Grants

ACG will begin accepting applications for the next round of the North American International GI Training Grant and International GI Training Grant in February 2011. Visit [www.acg.gi.org/physicians/research.asp#tragrants](http://www.acg.gi.org/physicians/research.asp#tragrants) for additional information.

My stay in Mainz coincided with a three-day intensive endomicroscopy course sponsored by Pentax. During these first three days, we learned about the imaging platform and the capabilities of the imaging device. We watched several cases in various parts of the GI tract to better understand how to obtain the best images in each region. We also met with a pathologist to see how confocal imaging correlated with the histopathologic findings. Lastly, we discussed potential research ideas and met with an information technology specialist to learn how to best manage the large imaging files and how to analyze images after acquisition. These practical considerations were important for me to hear as I had not fully understood the capabilities of the software and the imaging platform prior to coming to Mainz.

During the remainder of the three weeks, I was able to meet with Dr. Ralf Kiesslich and Dr. Martin Goetz to discuss

## President's Message

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Also for ACG 2010 is the optional breakfast session, Clinical Case Challenges in IBD: Stump the Experts. This is an opportunity for attendees to share their challenging IBD cases with leading experts and interact with fellow colleagues and the experts on how to manage the difficult IBD cases. A nominal fee for the breakfast sessions is charged and covers the meal along with some administrative fees. Learn more about who the IBD experts are and

how you can submit a case on page 1.

The late-breaking abstract submission process is now open. If you have current research to share with colleagues and did not submit your research through the ACG 2010 Call for Abstracts submission process, you have until Monday, August 23rd, 11:59 pm EST to submit. All late-breaking abstracts accepted for presentation will be oral presentations. Learn more about late-breaking abstracts as well as results from the Call for Abstracts process on page 6. ACG