ANNUAL REPORT
of Programs and Activities
2017-2018
ACG Institute Mission Statement

The mission of the American College of Gastroenterology Institute for Clinical Research and Education is to promote digestive health through education of the clinician, the patient and the public, to support clinical research and innovation in gastroenterology and hepatology, and to raise public awareness about prevention of digestive disease.
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DEAR COLLEAGUES,

It has been another wonderful year for the ACG Institute for Clinical Research and Education. Since our last annual report, we have built on our successes. Program growth continues, innovative activities have expanded, and we remain focused on securing the future for clinical gastroenterology. We last met for our Annual Meeting in Philadelphia four years ago, and as we convene again in the City of Brotherly Love, we not only celebrate our successes over the last year but also renew our commitment to increasing the scope, the relevance and the impact of the work of the Institute.

The ACG Institute 2017-2018 Report of Programs and Activities contains exciting updates on our Clinical Research Awards, Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorships, peer reviewed publications, as well as new initiatives such as the Young Physician Leadership Scholars Program, the Acute Pancreatitis Task Force on Quality, and the American College of Gastroenterology Monograph on Management of Irritable Bowel Syndrome.

This year, the Institute supported four Junior Faculty Development Awards. We are thrilled to support these outstanding future leaders with the total support of $1,200,000. As you will see when you read about them, these recipients are truly “the best of the best.” This investment in career development is an embodiment of the Institute's commitment to growing young talent in our profession. Additionally, Clinical Research Awards in the various categories have been awarded to ten investigators for a total $312,145. If the past is any indication of the quality of these projects, most or all will result in peer-reviewed publications, and some may change the way we practice medicine.

The ACG Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship Program continues to grow and expand its reach. For this cycle, a record 14 visits have been scheduled, adding Connecticut, Tennessee, Nebraska, and the Canadian province of Alberta to the places where visits have taken place. The geographic reach of the program is coast to coast and most places in between. Each year, we receive more requests for visiting professors, a testament to the otherwise unmet need for this type of education, as well as the caliber of the faculty who participate.

Our G.U.T. Campaign to Grow, Uplift, and Transform clinical gastroenterology continues in earnest. A record number of ACG members elected to make a charitable donation in support of the Institute either through an additional contribution as part of their membership or through an annual gift during the year. Stay tuned for more information about ways to make a major gift in support of clinical gastroenterology and to leave a lasting legacy for our profession.

As you read this year’s annual report, take the time to learn about this year’s Clinical Research Award and Junior Faculty Development Award recipients. Learn how the Institute is addressing education in specific disease states through Hepatology School, IBD School, and the Pancreatitis Task Force on Quality. Take special note about the new Young Physician Leadership Scholars program, which is being initiated this year under the guidance of the Institute. This program will teach a variety of leadership and professional advocacy skills to gastroenterologists who are early in their career, again demonstrating the Institute's commitment to the professional training of young clinicians.

All of the work in this report would be impossible without the dedication of our wonderful ACG staff, and the tireless work of the Institute Board of Directors. After reviewing this work, I hope you will agree with me that the Institute is a source of pride for the College. We will continue to build on the successes of the past and seek even greater opportunities to augment clinical research and professional education in the future. Gastroenterology is constantly changing, and the Institute will continue to evolve to meet our membership’s needs.

Warmest Regards,

Nicholas J. Shaheen, MD, MPH, FACG
Director, ACG Institute

2018 ACG Institute GRANTS AND AWARDS

Junior Faculty Development Awards

$1,200,000

Clinical Research Awards

$258,936

Clinical Research Pilot Awards

$53,209

Totaling more than $1.5 MILLION
REPORT: ACG Clinical Research Grants
Supporting Clinical Research: Fulfilling the Core Mission of the ACG Institute

**FOUNDED IN 1994**, the ACG Institute has provided funding totaling more than $19.9 million to 626 investigators, for research relating to the clinical gastrointestinal practice. The College is proud of the achievements of its funded investigators and plans to invest more fully in their leadership and success.

The ACG Institute’s continued investment in career development awards and funding for GI fellows-in-training will foster clinical innovations in gastroenterology and hepatology that will improve patient care and strengthen the capabilities of practitioners.

**Funding for 2018 Clinical Research**
For 2018, the ACG Institute for Clinical Research and Education will award $1,512,145 in support of outstanding clinical research in gastroenterology. The ACG Institute will support four Junior Faculty Development Grants at an overall level of $1,200,000, the largest investment for this category to date, in the career development of these promising clinical researchers, signaling the excellent scientific research planned by the Junior Faculty Development Awardees. From among numerous submissions for the 2018 Clinical Research Award, the Research Committee recommended funding for 10 investigators for a total of $312,145, of which 4 are pilot awards at the $15,000 level.

**ACG Institute Invests in GI Career Development**
The ACG Institute considers the Junior Faculty Development grant the “jewel in the crown” of the College’s research initiatives. This grant provides three years of support at a level of $100,000 annually for a $300,000 total investment in GI clinical investigation. At this level of funding, the Institute is able to attract the best-qualified candidates and provide them with the protected research time when funding is increasingly scarce.

**Smaller Programs Clinical Research Award**
For the purposes of this award, “smaller” GI programs are defined as programs with 15 or fewer full-time faculty across the program’s sites. The Smaller Programs Clinical Research Award includes a requirement for a clearly defined mentoring plan, including e-mentoring, if necessary. The Institute finds it worthwhile to continue investing in excellent clinical research from a more varied group of institutions and to make this support meaningful and productive by specifically investing in mentoring.

**2018 Clinical Research Awards**
10 Investigators Funded

TOTALING $312,145

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<th>Clinical Research Award</th>
<th>Smaller Programs Award</th>
<th>Pilot Award</th>
<th>ACG Institute will award</th>
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To support outstanding clinical research in gastroenterology.
Rigorous Review of Clinical Research Applicants by ACG Research Committee

In January 2018, The ACG Research Committee, under the leadership of Jean-Paul Achkar, MD, FACG, Chair, convened in Las Vegas, NV to review the submissions for the ACG 2018 Research Awards. The hard-working committee members encompass a wide range of research expertise in gastroenterology and hepatology. Each year, over 100 grant applications for grant funding are reviewed, spread among the categories of Junior Faculty Development Awards, Clinical Research Awards, Pilot Programs, and Smaller Programs.

The Research Committee members thoroughly review each grant application, with three reviewers assigned to score each grant, utilizing a scoring scale modeled on the NIH scoring system. At the committee’s in-person review in January, applications are discussed in detail with a presentation by each of the three assigned reviewers, followed by an open discussion by the Research Committee and final scoring by all committee members. Once the review process is completed, a recommendation regarding which grants should be funded is made to the ACG Institute’s Director, Nicholas J. Shaheen, MD, MPH, FACG who then presents those funding decisions to the ACG Board of Trustees for final approval.

The dedicated members of the Research Committee, take part in the labor-intensive review process, to ensure that the process is fair and the best science is selected for funding. In order to assist applicants in their grantsmanship and future applications, all grant applicants also receive written critiques from the grant reviewers.

Four Junior Faculty Development Grants

$300,000 Per Recipient  
$100,000 Annually  
$1,200,000 Total Funding

1994–2018 ACG Institute Funded
626 INVESTIGATORS  
totaling more than $19 MILLION
SUPPORTING INVESTIGATIVE SCIENCE: ACG Clinical Research Awards

In 2018, the College offers Clinical Research Awards of up to $50,000 for original clinical research. The mission of this awards program is to fund innovative research that is patient-care oriented. The Committee also considers proposals for pilot awards of up to $15,000 within this category.

2018 ACG Clinical Research Awards

- **Ajay Bansal, MD**
  University of Kansas Medical Center
  Molecular Signatures of Esophageal Adenocarcinoma in Circulating Esophageal-Specific Exosomes

- **Mohammad Nasser Kabbany, MD**
  Cleveland Clinic
  The Effects of Gut Microbiota and FMO3 on Choline Bioavailability in Children with Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease

- **Suraj Patel, MD, PhD**
  Massachusetts General Hospital
  Identifying the Genetic Drivers of Lean Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease

- **James Buxbaum, MD**
  University of Southern California
  Quantitative Parameters of Pancreatic Contrast EUS Pancreas

- **Stacy Menees, MD, MS**
  University of Michigan
  Low FODMAP Plus PEG 3350 for the Treatment of Patients with Irritable Bowel Syndrome-Constipation

- **Puneeta Tandon, MD, MSc(Epi)**
  University of Alberta
  Assessing the Effectiveness of a Stress Reduction Intervention in Crohn’s Disease (CD): A Randomized Controlled Trial

2018 ACG Clinical Research Awards Pilot Projects

- **Jana Al Hashash, MD, MSc**
  University of Pittsburgh
  Patterns of MUC1 Expression in Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC), PSC-Related Cholangiocarcinoma, and Sporadic Cholangiocarcinoma

- **Patricia Pringle, MD**
  Massachusetts General Hospital
  Fecal Microbiota Transplant as a Treatment for Hepatic Encephalopathy

- **Jennifer Horsley-Silva, MD**
  Mayo Clinic Scottsdale
  Use of Mucosal Impedance in Evaluation of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease after Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy

- **Priya Vijayvargiya, MD**
  Mayo Clinic Rochester
  Simplifying the Diagnostic Testing for Bile Acid Malabsorption

★ ACG / Takeda 2018 Clinical Research Awards

Takeda has provided unrestricted support to the ACG Institute for Clinical Research and Education. In recognition, the ACG/Takeda Clinical Research Awards are provided to qualifying investigators. The ACG/Takeda Clinical Research Award is designated after the ACG Research Committee has made its grant decisions and the awardees have accepted.

★ ACG / Takeda 2018 Clinical Research Awards

Takeda has provided unrestricted support to the ACG Institute for Clinical Research and Education. In recognition, the ACG/Takeda Clinical Research Awards are provided to qualifying investigators. The ACG/Takeda Clinical Research Award is designated after the ACG Research Committee has made its grant decisions and the awardees have accepted.
SPOTLIGHT: ACG Clinical Research Awardees

ACG-Funded Grantees Yield Insight and Publications

Recipients of the ACG Clinical Research Award make significant contributions to the field of clinical gastroenterology and are a source of tremendous pride for the ACG Institute. For ACG 2018, three ACG Clinical Research Awardees were selected to present on their research on the topics of pancreatitis, pancreatic cystic lesions, and fecal incontinence.

DR. EVAN L. FOGEL, PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, is a 2001 recipient of the ACG Clinical Research Award for Rectal Indomethacin in the Prevention of Post-ERCP Pancreatitis in High-Risk Patients: Searching for the Optimal Dose. A Prospective, Randomized Trial. He will be presenting his research, entitled Rectal Indomethacin Dose Escalation for Prevention of Post-ERCP Pancreatitis in High-Risk Patients: Preliminary Report of a Multicenter Randomized Trial (RIDE Trial) for this project during the ACG 2018 Presidential Plenary session.

DR. SOMASHEKAR G. KRISHNA, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, is a 2017 recipient of the ACG Clinical Research Award for Confocal Laser Endomicroscopy as an Imaging Biomarker (Climb Study) for the Diagnosis of Pancreatic Cystic Lesions. He will be presenting an abstract entitled, An International External Interobserver and Derivation Study for the Detection of Advanced Neoplasia in IPMNs Using Confocal Laser Endomicroscopy at a Plenary session on this work at ACG 2018.

DR. AMOL SHARMA, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY is a 2017 recipient of the ACG Smaller Programs Clinical Research Award for his project Home Versus Office Biofeedback Therapy For Fecal Incontinence. He will be presenting Home Biofeedback Therapy Improves Fecal Incontinence Severity and Quality of Life in a Non-Inferiority Randomized Controlled Study at a plenary session at ACG 2018.
Megan Adams, MD, JD, MSc
University of Michigan
Promoting High-Value Use of Endoscopic Sedation

I am a general gastroenterologist, attorney, and health services/policy researcher as well as an investigator with the VA Ann Arbor Center for Clinical Management Research (CCMR). Additionally, I am a Clinical Lecturer at the University of Michigan Division of Gastroenterology. My long-term goal is to build a successful career focused on improving the quality and delivery of health care for patients with gastrointestinal conditions, by helping to define, measure, and implement high-value care. I am grateful for the support provided through the 2018 ACG Junior Faculty Development Award, which will help me to pursue meaningful, policy-relevant research that directly impacts front-line care delivery.

My project examines use of procedural sedation for routine gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopy as a case study in defining, measuring, and promoting the high-value use of healthcare resources that incorporates and balances these important factors. As the US medical system shifts to value-based healthcare delivery, we must learn to reconcile complex and sometimes competing factors, including medical appropriateness, patient preferences, cost, and access in a meaningful and equitable manner.

The use of monitored anesthesia care (MAC) for GI endoscopic sedation has grown to the point that in many places, it has become the community standard. While MAC is more frequently needed for patients with severe cardiopulmonary comorbidities or potential for airway compromise, the majority of MAC is used in healthy, low-risk patients, who likely do not require MAC for medical reasons. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) unbundled and revalued endoscopic sedation codes in order to address economic drivers of MAC use, reflecting increased scrutiny by insurers more globally. But, changing financial incentives in this manner may not ensure that patients who need MAC are more likely to receive it, and may not substantially dissuade MAC use among low-risk patients. To accomplish this, particularly in the face of a growing epidemic of obesity and chronic opioid use, we need more precise criteria to aid providers (and policymakers) in identifying patients who require MAC for safe and effective sedation. My proposed projects will employ both quantitative and qualitative methods to address important knowledge gaps and generate foundational knowledge necessary to help gastroenterologists demonstrate the high-value use of GI endoscopic sedation.

Parakkal Deepak, MBBS, MS
Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine
Triangular Phenotyping and Response Assessment in Small Bowel Crohn’s Disease using MRE and Novel Proteomic Biomarkers

I am an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Center in the Division of Gastroenterology, John T. Milliken Department of Internal Medicine at the Washington University School of Medicine. My clinical expertise is in the diagnosis and management of complex IBD with the overarching focus on improving the precision of medical therapy in IBD, focusing on the right patient, the right drug, and the right dose, to maximize efficacy and limit side-effects. My interest in gastroenterology started in medical school where the digestive system appeared to offer the ideal interface of biochemistry, human physiology, and anatomy. This interest solidified as I realized that a career in gastroenterology offered the rare combination of cognitive and procedural aspects of medicine.

The long-term objective of my project is to establish that radiologic transmural response and a novel proteomic biomarker are accurate and clinically meaningful predictors of small bowel Crohn’s disease (SBCD) inflammatory activity and response to biologic therapy. To address this objective, our short-term goal is to establish a prospectively followed cohort of SBCD patients starting a new biologic therapy, who will be comprehensively phenotyped using an innovative approach of triangular phenotyping with state of the art magnetic resonance enterography (MRE) imaging, proteomic profiling, and clinical disease activity indices. The development of an early assessment method (radiologic or serologic) that predicts SBCD clinical outcomes has the potential to make a rapid and profound impact on clinical practice. This cohort of SBCD with rigorous “triangular phenotyping” will serve as a career-transforming resource by facilitating future investigations towards other novel biomarkers from the blood and the stool specifically in SBCD as well as allowing the application of advanced image analysis techniques to MRE images obtained during this award.

Inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) are a group of diseases where there is a potential to have meaningful impact from both a scientific and a patient care viewpoint in the next few decades. I am specifically focused in evaluating new tools and improving the precision of assessment of disease activity and response to therapy in SBCD activity. Current serum biomarkers are inadequate for SBCD and mucosal healing (MH) visualized during repeated ileocolonoscopies as a “treat-to-target” strategy is burdensome for the patient and carries inherent risks. Thus, there is an unmet need for accurate and clinically meaningful methods to measure SBCD activity. This is particularly relevant as the field moves towards “treat-to-target” management strategies.
Girish Hiremath, MD, MPH
Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, Vanderbilt University
Label-Free Determination of Biomolecular and Biochemical Signatures in Eosinophilic Esophagitis: Bench to Bedside Application of Raman Spectroscopy

I am a board-certified pediatric gastroenterologist and an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics (Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition) at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt as well as an Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the Vanderbilt School of Engineering with a broad background in epidemiology, biostatistics, research methods, and biomedical engineering. I care for a full spectrum of pediatric EGID patients and aspire to become a leader in clinical translational research in the field of eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorders, specifically Eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE).

My research project seeks to apply Raman spectroscopy to objectively and accurately identify EoE in a clinical setting with the central hypothesis that identification of EoE specific biochemical and molecular signatures in the affected esophagus will facilitate the development of clinically applicable diagnostic strategies. The long-term goal of this research is to discover an innovative, clinically applicable, minimally invasive approach proficient at real-time identification of EoE and other overlapping esophageal disorders with molecular specificity in adults and children.

Under the auspices of the ACG Junior Faculty Development Award, I seek to gain formal training in Raman spectroscopy, translational research techniques, and enhance my understanding about EoE and Eosinophilic Gastrointestinal Disorders (EGIDs). It is my hope that my research will advance the way we currently diagnose and monitor EoE, positively impact patient care and improve the clinical outcomes, and allow me to grow as an astute clinician and advance my career as a clinical-translational researcher.

Eosinophilic esophagitis is an increasingly prevalent, allergen mediated, chronic inflammatory condition affecting the esophagus. The current approaches to diagnose and monitor EoE require repeated upper endoscopy (EGD) and multiple random esophageal biopsies to confirm characteristic histologic changes in the esophagus and to distinguish it from common overlapping conditions such as reflux esophagitis. This approach is invasive, expensive, time-consuming and impractical. Furthermore, it can be emotionally distressing particularly for children with this onerous condition.

Rena Yadlapati, MD, MSHS
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Determining Best Practices for Reflux Associated Laryngeal Symptoms

I am a physician-scientist and Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. My Gastroenterology and Hepatology fellowship, T32 training fellowship in esophageal physiology, and Masters in Health Services and Outcomes Research were obtained at Northwestern University. My career objectives are to be an independently funded investigator and international leader in the field of esophageal reflux and motility disorders, to direct a multi-disciplinary esophageal aero-digestive clinical research program, and to mentor trainees and early career investigators.

The focus of my research project is to bridge the gap between advances in esophageal physiologic testing and deficiencies in clinical practice related to gastroesophageal reflux disease, particularly laryngeal complaints such as voice changes and sore throat. My research seeks to develop a novel clinical approach to suspected reflux associated laryngeal symptoms by examining sophisticated diagnostic tests and therapeutic options in a well-designed clinical trial alongside a cost-effectiveness analysis. Despite conflicting evidence and lack of diagnostic criteria, patients are increasingly, and often incorrectly, diagnosed with reflux associated laryngeal symptoms, and managed as such. The current paradigm for reflux associated laryngeal symptoms is fraught with unnecessary use of resources and ineffective patient care, including inappropriate proton pump inhibitor therapy.

Fortunately, novel and sophisticated diagnostic options have emerged in the field of esophageal function testing. The immediate anticipated impact of this research is to lay the framework for a large multi-center randomized clinical trial and clarify the diagnostic criteria for reflux associated laryngeal symptoms.

My long-term goals are to impact the clinical approach to suspected reflux associated laryngeal symptoms through clinical practice guidelines and implementation research. I was first drawn to GI given the diagnostic and procedural technological advances, and the degree to which patients were afflicted by GI symptoms, particularly those relating to motility disorders. Now, it is an honor to be able to synthesize my background in esophageal physiology and health services research to work towards improving the care of patients with esophageal motility disorders.
2016 ACG Junior Faculty Development Awardees present their Research in Orlando:

JESSICA R. ALLEGRETTI, MD, MPH, presented on her project “Altered Bile Salt Composition Secondary to Intestinal Dysbiosis Mechanisms Underlying Recurrent *Clostridium difficile* Infections.” Dr. Allegretti has developed a study to identify specific predictors of recurrent CDI and to identify a novel biomarker of recurrence. In Orlando, Dr. Allegretti presented to the assembled group of ACG Scholars that 63 patients had enrolled with 18 patients having experienced a CDI recurrence. Preliminary data indicates that of the 63 enrolled patients, 29 subjects showed a recurrence of CDI through the first six weeks of collection and testing. Next steps in the research include achieving complete enrollment of the test group followed by analysis. Looking further ahead, future objectives are to identify the best predictor (microbial/metabolomic) of CDI recurrence and to test the biomarker in a validation cohort.

SIDDHARTH SINGH, MD, MS, presented on his project, “Impact of Obesity on Disease Course and Treatment Response in Inflammatory Bowel Diseases.” The objective of Dr. Singh’s project is to determine the impact that obesity has on the outcomes of IBD treatment. Specific aims of the research are to compare the overall disease course in obese vs. non-obese patient in randomized trials as well as in the real world, to compare treatment response to anti-TNF agents, and to compare risk and outcomes of serious infections in obese and non-obese IBD patients. Dr. Singh reported in Orlando that he had created a longitudinal cohort of IBD patients with hospitalization and created a propensity score-matched cohort comparing obese vs. non-obese patients. Next steps in the project are to analyze the impact of obesity in patients with fixed-dose regimens of RCTs and to review the impact of obesity on the natural history of IBD.
ACG SCHOLARS: Contributions to the 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting

A MAINSTAY OF THE ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING is the stimulating research submitted by Junior Faculty Development Grantees, which dominates the oral plenary sessions. This year, at ACG 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting, the Junior Faculty Development Grantees have once again submitted high-quality research. As part of their award requirements, grantees are encouraged to submit an abstract to the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting. Submissions are rigorously reviewed and evaluated by the ACG Educational Affairs Committee, which selects fewer than 70 papers for oral presentation from the more than 3,000 abstracts submitted.

The consistently high percentage of oral papers presented by the ACG Scholars at the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting is a testament to the talents of this dynamic group of clinical researchers. Their work is frequently featured as part of the distinguished President’s Plenary Session, a forum to showcase the best abstract in each organ system category.

PLENARY SESSIONS: 2018 ACG ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

NICHOLAS J. SHAHEEN, MD, MPH, FACG
University of North Carolina School of Medicine
Progression of Barrett’s Esophagus (BE) and Dysplasia Detected by Wide Area Transepithelial Sampling With Computer-Assisted 3D Analysis (WATS3D) Confirms the Clinical Significance of Crypt Dysplasia (President’s Plenary Session-Governors Physician Award)

ZOBAIR M. YOUNOSSI, MD, MPH, FACG
Inova Fairfax Hospital
Extensive Validation of a Disease-Specific Health Related Quality of Life Instrument in Patients With Biopsy-Proven Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH): Chronic Liver Disease Questionnaire-NASH (CLDQ-NASH) (Governors Physician Award)
Evan S. Dellon, MD, MPH, FACP
Associate Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Bechien U. Wu, MD, MPH
Director, Pancreatic Disorders; GI Fellowship Program Director, Kaiser Permanente, Los Angeles Medical Center

Harminder Singh, MD, MPH, FACP
Associate Professor, University of Manitoba Rady Faculty of Health Sciences

Curtis K. Argo, MD, MS
Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Virginia Health System

Katherine S. Garman, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Duke University School of Medicine

Eric I. Benchimol, MD, PhD
Director and Senior Scientist, Health Information Technology Program, Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario; Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Ottawa

Ajay Bansal, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Kansas Medical Center

David G. Koch, MD, MSCR
Associate Professor, Medical University of South Carolina

Jason K. Hou, MD, MS, FACP
Assistant Professor of Medicine-Gastroenterology, Baylor College of Medicine Director, GI & Hepatology Fellowship Program Director of Research, IBD

Prasad G. Iyer, MD, MS, FACP
Professor of Medicine; Consultant, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology; Co-Director, Advanced Esophageal Fellowship; Director, Post-Doctoral Programs, Mayo Clinic Center for Clinical and Translational Science, Mayo Clinic Rochester

Alberto Rubio-Tapia, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic Rochester

Ponni V. Perumalswami, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine, Mount Sinai School of Medicine
The Acute Pancreatitis Task Force on Quality

THE ACG INSTITUTE, IN MEETING ITS CORE MISSION to support patient-care oriented clinical research, provided funding for the Acute Pancreatitis Task Force on Quality (APTFQ). The task force undertook the development of quality indicators for acute pancreatitis. This rigorous process included multiple rounds of ranking the proposed quality indicators. The work was overseen by a task force of national experts and included an in-person meeting in Dallas, Texas on March 8-9, 2018 to conduct the second round of ranking of the quality indicators.

The aim of the APTFQ is to formally develop quality indicators for the management of acute pancreatitis patients utilizing a modified version of the RAND/UCLA Appropriateness Methodology (RAM). This included six main objectives:

1) Develop an Acute Pancreatitis Quality Indicator Research Framework
2) Complete a comprehensive literature review
3) Develop a proposed quality indicator matrix
4) Select and engage a multidisciplinary expert panel
5) Validate proposed quality indicators by the expert panel
6) Disseminate final quality indicators

The authors are currently working on manuscripts, and an abstract was accepted for an oral presentation at ACG 2018: Rathan Reddy, MD, et al. “Acute Pancreatitis Task Force on Quality (APTFQ): Formal Development of Quality Indicators.”

L-R: First row: Georgios Papachristou, MD, PhD, FACG, Martin Freeman, MD, FACG, Shyam Varadarajulu, MD, Charles ‘Mel’ Wilcox, MD, FACG, Paul Tarnasky, MD, FACG. Second Row: Amrita Sethi, MD, Stephen Pandol, MD, Robert Hawes, MD, FACG, Gregory Cote, MD, MS, Rajesh Krishnamoorthi, MD, Leslie Cler, MD, David Whitcomb, MD, PhD, FACG, Prashant Kedia, MD

The authors are currently working on manuscripts, and an abstract was accepted for an oral presentation at ACG 2018: Rathan Reddy, MD, et al. “Acute Pancreatitis Task Force on Quality (APTFQ): Formal Development of Quality Indicators.”

L-R: First row: Georgios Papachristou, MD, PhD, FACG, Martin Freeman, MD, FACG, Shyam Varadarajulu, MD, Charles ‘Mel’ Wilcox, MD, FACG, Paul Tarnasky, MD, FACG. Second Row: Amrita Sethi, MD, Stephen Pandol, MD, Robert Hawes, MD, FACG, Gregory Cote, MD, MS, Rajesh Krishnamoorthi, MD, Leslie Cler, MD, David Whitcomb, MD, PhD, FACG, Prashant Kedia, MD
ACG Institute’s Education Mission

The ACG Institute works to develop comprehensive education for GI clinicians based on the best science, as well as to serve as a resource for patient education and raise public awareness of various GI disorders.
Systematic Review on the Management of IBS (AJG July 2018)

"...[T]reating IBS patients can be difficult as no validated treatment algorithm exists, not all patients respond to treatment, and patients with similar symptoms frequently respond to the same treatment differently. Fortunately, a variety of novel therapeutic strategies are being explored and new compounds have appeared since the last iteration of the ACG monograph on IBS [in 2014]. The goal of this document, therefore, is to provide an updated, evidence-based document on the therapy of this common and, at times, debilitating disorder."

The American College of Gastroenterology and the ACG Institute convened an expert physician panel as the ACG Task Force on the Management of Irritable Bowel Syndrome undertook a systematic review of trials evaluating medical therapies for IBS. The broad range of therapies included in this meta-analysis runs the gamut from prebiotics, probiotics and antibiotics to pro-secretory agents, as well as fiber and laxatives. Therapeutic approaches including dietary manipulation and biofeedback are included in the review.

The ACG Young Physician Leader Scholars Program (YPLSP) is a new ACG Institute-supported program that offers leadership and policy training to third-year and fourth-year fellows and junior faculty/private practice physicians who are less than five years out of training.

The objective of the program is to provide young physicians with a comprehensive set of skills that serves as a foundation for their growth as leaders and physician advocates. The focus is also on building aptitude in executive decision-making, critical thinking, and in the understanding of organizational behavior. The ACG Institute is fostering the next generation of leaders in gastroenterology by bringing motivated young physicians together for interactive discussions and a day of advocacy meetings on Capitol Hill in the YPLSP cohort. This program has garnered significant interest with 30 fellows and junior faculty set to begin the inaugural class.

COURSE DIRECTORS:

David J. Hass, MD, FACG
Mark B. Pochapin, MD, FACG

At ACG 2018, the YPLSP course will include:

- Effective Leadership and Impactful Networking
  David Hass, MD, FACG
- Emotional Intelligence and The Art of Persuasion
  Costas H. Kefalas, MD, MMM, FACG
- Physician Resilience and Preventing Provider Burnout
  Christina M. Surawicz, MD, MACG
- Developing Your Own Leadership Model
  Mark B. Pochapin, MD, FACG
- Understanding Organizational Behavior
  David N. Berg, PhD

The ACG Governors’ Fly-in will take place in April 2019.

Online educational resources are available on the ACG Education Universe.

ACG Young Physician Leadership Scholars Program
Elevating Great Doctors into Great Leaders

ACG Task Force on the Management of Irritable Bowel Syndrome:

Eamonn M.M. Quigley, MD, MACG, Chair
Houston Methodist Hospital and Weill Cornell Medical College,
Houston, Texas

Lucinda A. Harris, MD, FACG
Mayo Clinic,
Scottsdale, Arizona

Alexander C. Ford, MB ChB, MD, FRCP
University of Leeds and Leeds Gastroenterology Institute
Leeds, United Kingdom

Brian E. Lacy, MD, PhD, FACG
Mayo Clinic,
Jacksonville, Florida

Paul Moayyedi, Bsc, MB ChB, PhD,
MPH, FACG, FRCP, FRCP, AGAF
McMaster University,
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Yuri A. Saito, MD, MPH, FACG
Mayo Clinic,
Rochester, Minnesota

William D. Chey, MD, FACG
University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Highlights of new recommendations on IBS therapies

1. Much more data on diets and on the low FODMAP diet, in particular
2. More studies on probiotics
3. New pro-secretory agent, plecanatide, and more data on an existing one, linaclotide
4. New studies on the antibiotic rifaximin
5. New studies on psychological therapies
6. New medication for IBS-D, eluxadoline
7. Studies on 5-ASA
ACG’s IBD School

NOW IN ITS SECOND YEAR, ACG’s IBD School was created after the success of ACG’s Hepatitis School. The concept of a specialized course for inflammatory bowel disease gained importance for ACG Institute leaders with the rise of recent changes related to IBD. These changes include new FDA-approved agents, new diagnostic tests, and serum drug levels. The IBD School Course Directors, with the help of IBD experts from around the country, felt the need to make ACG members aware of these developments so that they could be better prepared to provide the most up-to-date, evidence-based care to their IBD patients.

The inaugural IBD School was held on April 7, 2017, in Washington, DC, in conjunction with the Eastern Regional Postgraduate Course. The program was highly successful with record attendance. Three additional IBD Schools occurred in 2018 and for 2019, the program schedule calls for three.

The faculty is comprised of experts in the field who are not only well-respected researchers but also busy clinicians. They discuss real-life issues, drawing on matters that are affecting their patients as part of the panel discussions and question and answer sessions.

2017–2018 IBD School Courses:
- April 7, 2017, in Washington, DC
- August 25, 2017, in St. Louis, MO
- December 1, 2017, in Nashville, TN
- January 26, 2018, in Las Vegas, NV**
- April 13, 2018, in Boston, MA**
- September 7, 2018, in Williamsburg, VA**

**The Institute recognizes with thanks the promotional support of AbbVie, Inc., and Amgen, Inc. for the IBD School program in 2018.
Vaccination and IBD Request for Proposals Collaborative Project

The ACG Institute is partnering with the American Gastroenterological Association and the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation to manage and produce a request for proposals for interventions that promise to improve vaccine utilization, promote health maintenance, and increase preventive care services in patients with inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD). The collaboration is facilitated and funded by Pfizer Independent Grants for Learning & Change.

The RFP, Improving Vaccine Utilization and Preventive Health Maintenance in IBD, seeks evidence-based projects that focus on the development and implementation of educational and/or systems-based interventions to improve vaccination utilization and/or preventive health maintenance among patients with IBD. In addition to ensuring delivery of appropriate vaccines, preventive health maintenance strategies for IBD patients aim to maximize communication between gastroenterology providers and primary care providers which can include interventions such as screening for cervical and skin cancer and osteoporosis; identification of depression and anxiety; and smoking cessation programs.

“While there are an increasing number of effective medical treatment options for patients with IBD, they can lead to immune suppression and may have side effects that impact overall health,” noted Francis A. Farraye, MD, MSc, FACG, Director of the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center at Boston Medical Center and Professor of Medicine at the Boston University School of Medicine, who chairs the steering committee for the partnership.

The RFP was issued on July 23, 2018, and submissions were due on September 7, 2018. The steering committee will meet to determine awardees during ACG 2018 in Philadelphia and notifications to awardees will be issued shortly thereafter.

Steering Committee Members:
Francis A. Farraye, MD, MSc, FACG (Chair)
Jean-Paul Achkar, MD, FACG
Kalee Eichelberger (Patient Representative)
Joseph D. Feuerstein, MD
Sunanda V. Kane, MD, MSPH, FACG
Geoffrey C. Nguyen, MD, PhD
Ashley Perkovitz, APN, FNP

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ACG Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship Program

THE ACG INSTITUTE’S EDGAR ACHKAR VISITING PROFESSORSHIP PROGRAM represents the exemplary educational offerings of the ACG Institute and the ongoing mission to provide quality educational opportunities for members. As fewer resources are available for visiting speakers, the ACG Institute continues to create opportunities for speakers to serve as faculty for medical grand rounds presentations and to enhance the educational experience for GI fellows-in-training while providing objective, timely and clinically relevant presentations to ACG member physicians in the community.

The purpose of these visits is to reach a diverse number of programs while aiming to maximize the impact of each visit by targeting GI training programs, which could also leverage an additional community event with local ACG member physicians, sometimes in conjunction with a local gut club. The programs offer expertise for a specific area of need at each institution.

2018 marks the fifth year of the ACG Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship program’s offerings, with 14 visits for GI fellows-in-training and faculty.
The ACG Edgar Achkar Vising Professorship Program has conducted more than 49 visits since the program’s inception in 2014. These visits have occurred in 25 U.S. states, Washington DC, and two Canadian provinces.
AASMA SHAUKAT, MD, MPH, FACG
was invited for her expertise in colon cancer by Ikuo Hirano, MD, FACG to Northwestern University in Chicago, IL, on August 30-31, 2017. Dr. Shaukat met with over 20 physicians for a practical case-based talk on colon cancer screening and surveillance. This talk initiated a stimulating discussion, and Dr. Shaukat addressed questions encountered in everyday practice. Fellows appreciated her evidence-based and pragmatic approach to colon cancer screening.

In addition to meeting with faculty and fellows, Dr. Shaukat's talk on "Quality Indicators for Colonoscopy" generated an excellent discussion on what these indicators mean and how to measure them. For Dr. Shaukat, the visit was the “highlight of my year, and the ability to see a small connected audience thinking critically and asking great questions was very gratifying.” Dr. Hirano remarked on the high degree of audience participation, and the fantastic visit from a leader in the field of colon cancer.

STEPHEN B. HANAUER, MD, FACG
visited the University of Virginia Health System in Charlottesville, VA, on August 15-16, 2017 and was invited by Neeral Shah, MD, FACG to share his expertise in IBD. Upon arriving, Dr. Hanauer presented an evening talk on biologics and biosimilars to community GI physicians (including Daniel Pambianco, MD, FACG, ACG Trustee), GI fellows, faculty, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants.

The following morning, Dr. Hanauer met with fellows for a roundtable discussion of challenging IBD cases. The trainees felt that they received practical and evidence-based answers to their questions and gained insight into the next generation of IBD therapies. Dr. Hanauer appreciated interacting with the fellows and the opportunity to engage with the trainees. He applauded the program for bringing speakers to address areas of need. The visit concluded with Dr. Hanauer’s grand rounds presentation on “Current Understanding of IBD Pathogenesis as a Model of Immune-mediated Inflammatory Disorders.”

“The fellows appreciated having access to an expert who was there mainly for them to visit with. In that way this program seems unique, as the speaker is identified, and events are set that are centered on the fellows, not on attendings or the department, but rather all centered around the fellows.” —Dr. Shah

Photograph courtesy of Coe Sweet
ANDREW Y. WANG, MD, FACG
visited the University of Michigan, on September 11–13, 2017. He was invited for his expertise on endoscopic submucosal dissection by Hari Conjeevaram, MD, FACG and James Scheiman, MD, FACG. Dr. Wang presented at a well-attended GI grand rounds, which was webcast internationally. His talk focused on how to improve gastric endoscopy and high-quality gastric examination, how to approach gastric intestinal metaplasia and premalignant GI lesions, and how to select or refer patients for endoscopic resection and endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD).

There were many opportunities for the GI fellows to interact with Dr. Wang, including one-on-one meetings for those interested in advanced endoscopy. At lunch and dinner, discussions included career planning, clinical practice, and advice on advanced endoscopy. As an advanced endoscopy fellowship director, Dr. Wang was able to observe several significant aspects of the Michigan fellowship programs, which he plans to bring back to his home institution.

“The opportunity to visit another institution as an ACG Edgar Achkar Visiting Professor is an honor, which I would recommend to all clinicians and educators, particularly those involved in fellowship training. The [visit] has been one of the highlights of my academic career. I applaud the ACG Institute for providing grants so that training institutions can bring in nationally-recognized speakers at little to no cost.”—Dr. Wang

“The biggest impact was that I could see participants applying the information to their everyday practice and asking questions in the context of their specific practice ‘What does this mean to me?’”—Dr. Shaukat
NICHOLAS J. SHAHEEN, MD, MPH, FACG
visited California Pacific Medical Center on September 13–14, 2017 at the invitation of Jesse Liu, MD and presented on refractory GERD and complicated GERD patients (ablation). Dr. Shaheen had ample time to meet with the fellows for lunch and discussions, finding them to be “enthusiastic, inquisitive, bright, energetic, and fun to be around.” He met with the teaching faculty for a faculty development session, followed by an evening lecture entitled, “Misplaced Priorities and Barrett’s Esophagus?” The following day, Dr. Shaheen presented for GI grand rounds “Endoscopic Therapy of Esophageal Neoplasia.”

“The fellows were full of great questions, and we spoke about [topics] that are less well-covered in most GI curricula – what to look for in a first job, how to package yourself for the job hunt, what kinds of skills you might want to acquire during fellowship to make you more marketable in both academics and private practice.” —Dr. Shaheen

MIGUEL D. REGUEIRO, MD, FACG
visited UT Southwestern Medical Center, in Dallas, TX, on December 6-7, 2017 through the invitation of Anh Nguyen, MD and Marilyn Mayo, MD, FACG on the topic of IBD. Dr. Regueiro enjoyed visiting with the excellent staff and fellows and touring historic Parkland Hospital. He noted that, “It was refreshing to see the patient-centered plans.” The highlight of the visit was Dr. Regueiro’s presentation on “The IBD Specialty Medical Home-Are We Ready for This New Model of Care?” which was attended by members of UT Southwestern’s administration as well as fellows and faculty. UT Southwestern hopes to develop a similar model for their institution, and according to Dr. Nguyen, “It was encouraging to see the intricacies of a multidisciplinary approach be streamlined so effectively to address each patient’s unique needs.”

The fellows had an opportunity to interact directly with Dr. Regueiro during lunch, and to discuss their career paths and interests. This was followed by one-on-one meetings with faculty to discuss research. The GI fellows appreciated hearing about the structure of the IBD Specialty Home as they had not encountered this unique approach to patient care, and it is not a topic that fellows are formally taught.
NICHOLAS J. SHAHEEN, MD, MPH, FACG

was at the University of Minnesota on February 1-2, 2018 as the invitee of Shahnaz Sultan, MD, MHSc, FACG and Aasma Shaukat, MD, MPH, FACG. Dr. Shaheen presented on GERD and manometry. The visit included GI citywide grand rounds with faculty from five different hospitals including the VA, and the largest private practice in the community. As part of the visit, the fellows met with Dr. Shaheen informally, discussing tough clinical cases and career advice.

“Your [Dr. Shaheen’s] visit was the best visiting faculty experience for us and particularly for the GI fellows that I have witnessed. Feedback from fellows was simply the best possible.” —Dr. Freeman
PETER D.R. HIGGINS, MD, PHD, MSC
visited the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, on February 21-23, 2018, at the request of Lin Chang, MD, FACG, Program Director, GI Fellowship Program. The visit included one-on-one meetings with faculty and fellows, as well as the journal club. Lunch with the fellows included a discussion of Dr. Higgins’ career successes and failures and the nuts and bolts of pursuing a career in academics.

Dr. Higgins presented “Optimizing IBD Medications” at GI Grand Rounds and lectured on “Social Media in Your GI Career.” The audience was engaged and included local GI physicians. The fellows reported that Dr. Higgins explained complex ideas in a way that was easily understood and found his presentations both informative and relatable.

“Fellows appreciated Dr. Higgins’ earnest opinions/advice to young GI trainees on finding mentors, identifying a career path, and developing future career plans... His participation at journal club was also phenomenal. He brought a lot to the discussion.”

—UCLA fellows
“Inspiring and gratifying personally for me to help problem solve, inculcate a sense of compassion and discovery in peers and fellows, and expose them to the latest advances in diagnosis and treatment of anorectal motility disorders.” —Dr. Rao

SATISH S.C. RAO, MD, PHD, FACG visited Virginia Commonwealth University on February 22-23, 2018, presenting on motility at the invitation of Ravi Vachhani, MD, John Kuemmerle, Jr., MD, FACG, Mitchell Schubert, MD, FACG and Jill Gaidos, MD, FACG. The visit included case discussion with fellows for two and a half hours on various motility topics, cases of constipation, fecal incontinence, and dysphagia. GI fellows asked pertinent questions about how to set up a motility lab and service in an academic center and private practice.

In addition, training opportunities for fellows, for shadowing experts, and course opportunities were also discussed.

Gastroenterology grand rounds on “Fecal Incontinence and Dyssynergic Defecation: What’s New When Going Gets Tough” was held in a large, packed modern auditorium and the talk was telecast to the VA where another 15-20 clinicians listened and participated. Over 120 physicians, surgeons, therapists, residents and faculty attended.
KRIS V. KOWDLEY, MD, FACG
visited the University of Arizona College of Medicine–Phoenix, on March 2, 2018, presenting on liver disease, through an invitation from Yasmin Alishahi, MD, FACG and Michele Young, MD. Dr. Kowdley gave a dinner lecture to the Phoenix Society of Gastroenterology on “Inherited Liver Diseases” attended by GI fellows and community physicians. The fellows met with Dr. Kowdley at the Phoenix VA for case presentations.

STEPHEN B. HANAUER, MD, FACG
visited Cleveland Clinic Florida, on March 5–6, 2018, presenting on IBD, at the invitation of Fernando Castro, MD, FACG. The visit began with the GUT Club of Digestive Care evening presentation to local physicians on different IBD cases. Dr. Hanauer gave a morning talk, followed by fellows’ case presentations, individual meetings with faculty, and the lecture entitled “Biologics, Immune Modulators and Steroids in the Perioperative Period.” According to Dr. Castro, “Everyone here was thrilled with [Dr. Hanauer’s] visit. Even though he is an outstanding speaker and I have heard him speak multiple times, the interaction in a smaller audience exceeded my expectations as we were able to learn more about his approach to patients and thought process behind it.”

“[I]t is experiences like this that enrich gastroenterology training programs.” —Dr. Castro
SAPNA SYNGAL, MD, MPH, FACG
visited Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 26-27, 2018, presenting on hereditary colon cancers. She was invited by Saurabh Chawla, MD, FACG and Julia Massaad, MD. The fellows met informally with Dr. Syngal to discuss career development, mentorship, the field of oncologic gastroenterology and GI cancer genetics, and juggling work life balance. In addition, she met individually with several junior and mid-career faculty offering advice and insights. Dr. Syngal’s exceptionally well-received presentations included GI Grand Rounds attended by the GI faculty, fellows, rotating residents, students, mid-levels and some basic scientists. Dr. Syngal presented at the departmental Grand Rounds attended by Emory internal medicine residents, students, internal medicine and hospitalist faculty, and other subspecialists, and webcast to all Emory sites, including the VA hospital, Emory Midtown, and Grady Memorial Hospital. The Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship had a particularly special meaning for Dr. Syngal as “the ACG was instrumental in providing support early in my career through a Junior Faculty Career Development Award. Members of the Institute should know that their support is transformative for the people who receive it!”

“She [Dr. Syngal] epitomized the vision of the ACG Edgar Achkar Fellowship by providing both individual mentoring advice and also excellent group teaching across different forums.” —Dr. Chawla
SACHIN B. WANI, MD
visited the University of Nebraska Medical Center, on April 12-13, 2018, invited by Alexander Hewlett, DO, MS and Shailender Singh, MD, for his expertise on esophageal disease. Dr. Wani gave an engaging evening presentation at a meeting of the Nebraska GUT Club, attended by academic and private practice physicians, nurses and physician assistants. His grand rounds presentation was attended by about 150 faculty, fellows, and residents from the ten divisions. During the visit, discussions focused on the importance of quality metrics in the evaluation and management of Barrett’s esophagus, as well as highlighting the role of multidisciplinary care in the management of GI cancers with a focus on esophageal cancer. Dr. Wani provided insight on how GI faculty can establish multidisciplinary clinics at their respective sites.

In addition to case discussions, the fellows and Dr. Wani touched on research, setting up quality improvement programs, and career planning. According to Dr. Wani, the fellows were “very engaging and their enthusiasm to learn was palpable” and “[t]he visit provides a unique opportunity for future collaborations.”
DAVID T. RUBIN, MD, FACG
presented at UCONN Health, on May 2, 2018, invited by Brian Moy, MD, John Birk, MD, FACG, and Haleh Vaziri, MD for his expertise on IBD. Dr. Rubin presented on “Advances in the Management of IBD and the Optimization of the Use of Biologics,” which framed cutting-edge IBD research in such a way where it can directly apply to the next patient in clinic. According to UConn, Dr. Rubin was especially adept at addressing a wide variety of topics that interested all groups who attended including UCONN faculty, fellows, nurses, and community gastroenterologists from surrounding hospitals including St. Francis Hospital and Hartford Hospital.

Dr. Rubin took the fellows out for dinner for one of his Cornerstones Health non-profit organization activities. For three hours during dinner, the fellows were engaged in lively discussions regarding difficult IBD cases fellows have encountered and struggled with during fellowship.

“It was refreshing to hear his practical perspective on managing complex IBD topics without the potential for industry bias or conflicts of interest.” —UCONN Health
CHRISTOPHER C. THOMPSON, MD, MSC, FACG
visited the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, Canada, on June 12, 2018. He was invited by Karen Krok, MD to present on obesity and bariatric GI. Dr. Thompson presented “Bariatric Endoscopy,” to a diverse audience of endoscopy support personnel, residents, fellows, and academic and community gastroenterologists. His approach to developing a clinical solution for a medical challenge is unique in how he analyzes the pathophysiology of any given disease and meticulously studies the impact endoscopy can have on the outcome. The University of Alberta plans for future collaboration with Dr. Thompson.

The fellows appreciated learning how Dr. Thompson's techniques were refined by fellow input, and his approach to education, where he believes learning is a two-way road in academia. Dr. Thompson enjoyed “interacting with physicians doing similar procedures in an academic environment that is in many ways very different from my own.”
JOHN J. VARGO, II, MD, MPH, FACG
visited Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN on June 21, 2018, invited by Keith Obstein, MD, MPH and Richard Peek, Jr., MD, Division Director. Dr. Vargo’s presentation on artificial intelligence and gastrointestinal endoscopy, and how it will play a major role in the future of research and patient care was attended by faculty, fellows, and house staff.

The highlight of the visit was the time spent with fellows, which allowed for mentoring and discussions on developing a meaningful practice, whether academic or clinical. Dr. Vargo touched on work-life balance, the importance of periodically reviewing professional and personal goals, as well as developing a network of mentors. The fellows described Dr. Vargo as “approachable and [he] took a vested interest in getting to know each of the fellows. He provided excellent ideas on how we can improve clinically and academically.” Furthermore, they appreciated the discussion of artificial intelligence in GI to increase diagnostic yield and reduce cost, and the applicability to research for fellows.
MARTIN L. FREEMAN, MD, FACG*,
at MetroHealth Medical Center in
Cleveland, Ohio, January 18–19, 2017,
presented on pancreatobiliary and
interventional endoscopy

CHRISTINA M. SURAWICZ, MD, MACG,
at Saint Louis University in Missouri,
February 2–3, 2017, presented on C. difficile

CAROL A. BURKE, MD, FACG,
at Houston Methodist Hospital, April 20–21,
2017, presented on colon cancer screening,
genetics of colon cancer, and hereditary
polymp syndromes

BRIAN E. LACY, MD, PhD, FACG,
at University of Oklahoma, April 25–26,
2017 presented on IBS and motility

LAUREN B. GERSON, MD, Msc, FACG,
at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital,
in Park Ridge, Illinois, April 26, 2017,
presented on diverticular disease,
colonoscopy quality, GI bleeding, and
refractory GERD

PRATEEK SHARMA, MD, FACG*,
at North Shore University Health System,
in Evanston, Illinois, May 18–19, 2017,
presented on esophageal disease

MARTA A. ABREU, MD,
at Augusta University Medical College of
Georgia, May 22–23, 2017, presented on IBD

DAVID T. RUBIN, MD, FACG,
at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical
Center, July 18, 2017, presented on IBD

STEPHEN B. HANAUER, MD, FACG,
at University of Virginia, in Charlottesville,
Virginia, August 15–16, 2017, presented
on IBD

AASMA SHAUKAT, MD, MPH, FACG,
at Northwestern University, in Chicago,
Illinois, August 30–31, 2017, presented on
colon cancer

ANDREW Y. WANG, MD, FACG,
at University of Michigan, September
11–13, 2017, presented on endoscopic
submucosal dissection

NICHOLAS J. SHAHEEN, MD, MPH, FACG,
at California Pacific Medical Center,
September 13–14, 2017, presented on
refractory GERD and complicated GERD
patients (ablation)

MIGUEL D. REGUEIRO, MD, FACG,
at UT Southwestern Medical Center,
in Dallas, Texas, December 5–6, 2017,
presented on IBD

NICHOLAS J. SHAHEEN, MD, MPH, FACG,
at University of Minnesota, February 1–2,
2018, presented on GERD and menometry

PETER D.R. HIGGINS, MD, PhD, MSC,
at UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine,
February 21–23, 2018, presented on IBD

SATISH S.C. RAO, MD, PhD, FACG,
at Virginia Commonwealth University,
February 22–23, 2018, presented on
motility

KRIS V. KOWDLEY, MD, FACG,
at University of Arizona College of
Medicine -Phoenix, March 1–2, 2018,
presented on liver disease

STEPHEN B. HANAUER, MD, FACG,
at Cleveland Clinic Florida, March 5–6,
2018, presented on IBD

SAPNA SYNGAL, MD, MPH, FACG,
at Emory University School of Medicine,
in Atlanta, Georgia, March 26–27, 2018,
presented on hereditary colon cancers

SACHIN B. WANI, MD,
at University of Nebraska Medical
Center, April 12–13, 2018, presented
on Barrett’s esophagus

DANIEL A. MUKHERJEE, MD, FACC,
at Ohio State University Medical Center,
May 22, 2018, presented on IBD

*Received funding in 2016, visit scheduled in 2017

NICHOLAS J. SHAHEEN, MD, MPH, FACG,
at University of Alberta, in Canada, June
12, 2018, presented on obesity
and bariatric GI

JOHN J. VARGO, II, MD, MPH, FACG,
at Vanderbilt Medical Center, in
Nashville, Tennessee, June 21, 2018,
artificial intelligence and gastrointestinal
endoscopy

SUNANDA V. KANE, MD, MSPH, FACG,
at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, in New
York, September 13, 2018, presenting on IBD

MILLIE D. LONG, MD, MPH, FACG,
at Beaumont-Botsford Campus, in Detroit,
Michigan, September 26, 2018, presenting
on IBD

JOHN E. PANDOLFINO, MD, MSCI, FACG,
at Genesys Regional Medical Center, in Flint
Michigan, November 6–7, 2018, presenting
on esophageal pH studies/GERD

COREY A. SIEGEL, MD, MS,
at The National Institutes of Health, in
Bethesda, Maryland, November 16, 2018,
presenting on IBD
THE G.U.T. FUND for Clinical Research and Education: Donor Recognition

The ACG Institute gratefully acknowledges contributions from ACG Members and the community, who have chosen to support the work of the ACG Institute through charitable gifts over the last year (2017). Charitable gifts from ACG members and the community to support clinical GI research and education are made to the G.U.T. Fund, the sustaining campaign of the ACG Institute.

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