



Division's Structure

GI EXECUTIVE

DIVISION DIRECTOR: Johane Allard

Committee members

Division Heads:

UHN/MSH: Hillary Steinhart

SMH: Gary May

SBHSC: Johane Allard

WC: Susan Stafford

Research: Jill Tinmouth

IT: Peter Rossos

Education: Cino Maria

Hepatology/Transplant: Les Lilly

EDUCATION

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Maria Cino

Director of Fellowship: Paul Kortan

Committee Members

Education Site Directors:

MSH: Geoff Nguyen

SMH: Cliff Ottaway

SBHSC: Fred Saibil

MaryAnne Cooper

WCH: Jeff Stal, **Director Undergraduate GI**

Education

TGH: Flavio Habal

TWH: Maria Cino

Hepatology education & GIM education

coordinator: David Wong

GI In-training Exam Coordinator

And CE + KTE *: Louis Liu

Research Representative: Herbert Gaisano

*CE + KTE Task force: Continuing
Education and Knowledge Translation
Education Task Force

Sub committee

Endoscopy - Education

CHAIR: Mary Anne Cooper

Committee Members:

Heather Carnahan (Wilson Centre)

Samir Grover

Gabe Kandel

Simon Ling (SCH)

Louis Liu

Gary May

Allan Okrainec (Surgery)

Catharine Walsh (Wilson Centre Fellow,

SCH)

Elaine Yong

DDD's Column

We just completed a very successful academic year! Thank you to all the GI Faculty, trainees, fellows, members of GI Committees, sponsors, and especially to Dr. Maria Cino, Program Director, and Dr. Jill Tinmouth, Research Director, for their significant contribution. Without all of you, this success would not be possible! I also want to take this opportunity to thank again our sponsors. Our program would not achieve such a degree of success without their support! This Newsletter highlights some of our achievements. Please take a few minutes to read it. You will realize how productive we are in Research and Education! If we forgot you or you have important news, please let us know. It will be in the next Newsletter. Have a great summer!

Education Column

An extended welcome to the new GI trainees: PGY-4: Dr. Andrea Correia, Dr. Harshna Patel, Dr. Shane Hadlock, Dr. Wesley Leung, Dr. Adam Weizman, Dr. Kumar Yogeswaran ; PGY-5: Dr. Alallam Alallam; Dr. Nitasha Anand; Dr. Dan Kottachichi; Dr. Nikila Ravindran; Dr. Harry Wu



A warm farewell to our 2008-2009 PGY5:

From left to right:

Drs. Sean Pritchett, Issa Al Qarshoubi,
Maria Cino (Education Program
Director), Marilyn Li, and Sanjay
Murthy

Research Column

THE GI RESEARCH DAY JUNE 24 WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!!

This was the combined GI Adult-Pediatric Research Day with 38 abstracts. The attendance was 98.



Guest Speaker: Dr. Arthur McCullough, Jr
Chairman, Department of
Gastroenterology/Hepatology Cleveland Clinic
Foundation
Professor, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine
Past President, American Association for the Study of
Liver Diseases

Congratulations to the *Recipients of the Research Presentation Awards*: **Dr. Marilyn Li** (Best Clinical Poster); **Dr. Karen Sie** (Best Basic Science Poster); **Dr. Boyko Kabakchiev** (Best Basic Science Oral); **Dr. Aviva Leber** (Best Clinical Oral by a resident); **Dr. Eric Benchimol** (Best Clinical Oral by a fellow); **Dr. Heather Boudreau** (Best Clinical Oral by a resident)

RESEARCH

CHAIR (Clinical) Jill Timmouth
CO-CHAIR (Basic) Herbert Gaisano
Committee Members:
TWH: Jenny Heathcote
SMH: Young-In Kim
TGH: Les Lilly
SMH: Mark Silverberg
TGH: Florence Wong
TGH: Morris Sherman
SMH: Geoffrey Nguyen
SBHSC: Dr Elaine Young

Sub Committee:

GI Basic/Experimental Research Group

CHAIR: Herbert Gaisano
Committee Members:
Ken Croitoru
Young-In Kim
Mark Silverberg
Johane Allard
Jill Timmouth
Jan Irvine
Geoffrey Nguyen
Hillary Steinhart

Sub Committee:

GI Awards and Grants

CHAIR: Cliff Ottaway
Committee Members:
Jenny Heathcote
Hillary Steinhart
MaryAnne Cooper
Ken Croitoru
Jan Irvine

COMMUNICATION/NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: Johane Allard
Assistant: Monique Le
GI Executive Committee

GUT CLUB September – December (check website for further details)

September 23, 2009 (Schering)

Speaker: **Dr. Regueiro**
Location: Faculty Club

October 28, 2009 (Astra Zeneca)

Speaker: **Dr. Michael Camilleri**
Location: Vaughan Estates

November 18, 2009 (Abbott)

Speaker: **Dr. Isabella Tai**
Location: Faculty Club

December 16, 2009 (Roche)

Speakers: **Drs. D. Wong, J. Feld**
Moderator: **Dr. J. Heathcote**
Location: Vaughan Estates

Congratulation to Dr. Sean Pritchett (PGY 5), who received the *Dr. K. N. Jeejeebhoy Award for Excellence in Gastroenterology* for demonstrating excellence in clinical medicine, research and teaching in Gastroenterology in the Department of Medicine



From left to right:

Dr. Sean Pritchett and Dr. K. Jeejeebhoy

Congratulation to Dr. Sanjay Murthy (PGY 5), the recipient of the *Procter & Gamble Post Residency Fellowship* award. Dr. Murthy is enrolled in the Clinician-Scientist Program pursuing Master's in Science in Clinical Epidemiology



From left to right:

Dr. Sanjay Murthy and Dr. Ken Croitoru

Congratulation to recipients of GI Intramural Educational Development Award **Dr. Mary Anne Cooper et al.** with project: Qualitative Assessment of the UofT simulator-based endoscopy curriculum; **Drs. S. Grover and H. Shah** with project: Creation and evaluation of a Web 2.0 video curriculum in therapeutic endoscopy

Congratulation to Dr. Geoffrey Nguyen, the winner of the *Louis J. Cole University of Toronto Gastroenterology Faculty Teaching Award 2008-2009*; **Dr. Issa Al Qarshoubi (PGY4)**, the winner of *Louis J. Cole University of Toronto Gastroenterology Trainee Teaching Award 2008-2009*



Dr. Issa Al Qarshoubi, winner of *Louis J. Cole University of Toronto Gastroenterology Trainee Teaching Award 2008-2009* and Dr. Hillary Steinhart, Division Head, UHN-MSH



Dr. Geoffrey Nguyen, winner of *Louis J. Cole University of Toronto Gastroenterology Faculty Teaching Award 2008-2009* and Dr. Hillary Steinhart, Division Head, UHN-MSH

GI FACULTY CORNER

FAREWELL TO DR. DIAMANT, DR. JEEJEBHOY AND DR. CONNON

This year, we have Dr. N. Diamant, Dr. K.N. Jeejeebhoy and Dr. J Connon retiring!

All three played significant roles in our Division as well as on the National and International scene! Their productive careers were celebrated at the GI Research Day and we will certainly miss them! The entire U of T Division thanks them for their world class contributions in teaching and research and wishes them all the best for their new endeavors!



Dr. Nick Diamant



Dr. Joe Connon



Dr. Khursheed Jeejeebhoy

Dr. EDWARD JAMES PROKIPCHUK Passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 28, 2009, at St. Michael's Hospital, in his 80th year. Born on August 31st, 1929 in Toronto, Ed was the only child of Ukrainian immigrants, Alexander and Mary. After graduating from Humber College he entered the University of Western Ontario, Faculty of Medicine, and graduated in 1954. Ed undertook graduate studies in Montreal, London Ontario, and Toronto and in 1960 obtained his Fellowship in Internal Medicine. In 1961 he was a Fellow in Gastroenterology at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland. Upon his return to Canada in 1963, Ed began a long and fulfilling clinical and teaching career in Gastroenterology at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, where he was Chief of Gastroenterology for many years. He became an Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine, at the University of Toronto in 1973 and in 1995 he received a Distinguished Service Award from the University of Toronto for his contribution to the development of Gastroenterology in Toronto. He also received a Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology.

PROMOTION and RECRUITMENT

Effective July 01, 2009 **Dr. Johane Allard** is the new Head of Gastroenterology Department at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. Her office is located at the Bayview Avenue campus, H wing, Ground floor, room #01.

Dr. Young-In Kim was promoted to full professor. Dr. Kim is a clinician-scientist at St-Michael Hospital with his lab located at the Medical Sciences Building. His research interest is in the area of nutrition and cancer at the molecular, cellular and translational levels, including prevention, early detection, screening, development and validation of surrogate endpoint markers, molecular genetics and epigenetics, pharmacogenetics and nutrigenomics using animal models, cell culture systems and human subjects. Congratulations!

Dr. Nazia Selner-Malekkiani is recruited by UHN-MSH as assistant-professor and Clinician-Scientist in the Multi Organ Transplantation Program. Dr. Selner-Malekkiani completed her MD at the Medical School Bichat, Paris, France in 1992 and her Board in Gastroenterology and Hepatology in 1998. In parallel she completed a Master in Medical and Biological Sciences and then a PhD in cellular and molecular biology of digestive epithelia at University of Paris VII. She did post-doctoral research and clinical fellowships in liver cell biology, hepatology and transplantation in Bichat then Duke University Medical Center, University Hospital Zurich and, since 2005, at the UHN Multiorgan Transplant Program under the supervision of Dr. Eberhard Renner and Dr. Gary Levy.

UPCOMING EVENTS....

September 30-October 03, 2009: 22nd International Course on Therapeutic Endoscopy

Location: Toronto Four Season Hotel

Goal is to demonstrate and teach endoscopic techniques to practicing physicians and to build on the success of the preceding twenty-one courses. CME credits available. Free registration to the U of T faculty. For further details and registration, please visit

<http://www.utorontogi.ca/6-1.asp>

NOVEMBER 6, 2009: UPDATE IN IBD ADVANCES AND CHALLENGES IN INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE 2009

The one-day course for physicians and surgeons will focus on new management and approaches to Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Location: Marriot Eaton Centre, 525 Bay Street, Toronto

Course Director: Dr. H. Steinhart

Registration: www.cme.utoronto.ca

NOVEMBER 6-8, 2009: 1ST GI RESEARCH RETREAT 2009

Topic: Advances and Challenges in Inflammatory Bowel Disease -Lessons Shared between Clinical and Basic Research

Location: Red Leaves Resort, Port Carling Ontario www.redleavesmuskoka.com

Attendance will be sponsored. Meeting will start Friday night and go to Sunday Lunch. The program will include a mix of State of the

Art presentations on clinical and basic topics; University of Toronto GI Faculty -Adult and Pediatric GI; Visiting Speakers and Small Group Workshops. For further details, please contact Dr. Kenneth Croitoru (kcroitoru@mtsina.on.ca) or Dr. Mark Silverberg (msilverberg@mtsina.on.ca) or Dr. Jill Tinmouth (jill.tinmouth@sunnybrook.ca) or Dr. Nicola Jones (nicola.jones@sickkids.ca)

MARCH 26, 2010: HEPATOLOGY UPDATE 2010

Location: Marriot Eaton Centre, 525 Bay Street

Course Director: Dr. D. Wong

JUNE 23, 2010: GI RESEARCH DAY

Location: TBA

GRANTS/AWARDS received by the faculty

AWARDS/HONORS

Dr. Samir Grover received the *Postgraduate teaching award* from St. Michael's hospital

Dr. Sanjay Murthy received the *Department of Medicine Clinician Scientist Training Award* to pursue a Master in Clinical Epidemiology. He is also the recipient of the *Distinguished Achievement Award* at the 2009 18th North American Conference of Gastroenterology Fellows for his oral presentation: "The Impact of Cirrhosis or Prior Liver Transplant on Obstetrical Outcomes: A National Study."

Dr. Linda Rabeneck presented the invited lecture at the Clinical Science Plenary Session at Digestive Disease Week in Chicago, IL, on June 1, 2009. The title of her lecture was "Quality and Effectiveness of Endoscopic Colorectal Screening"

Dr. Morris Sherman received the *Distinguished Service Award of the Canadian Association for Study of the Liver*

PUBLICATION (of importance or in influential medical journal)

Dr. Herbert Gaisano

1. Gaisano HY, Gorelick F. New Insights into Mechanisms of Acute Pancreatitis. *Gastroenterology* 136(7):2040-4, 2009
2. Binker L, Binker MG, Wang CC, Hong W, Gaisano HY. VAMP8 is the v-SNARE mediating basolateral exocytosis in alcoholic pancreatitis. *J. Clin. Invest.* 118(7):2535-51, 2008

Dr. Gideon Hirschfield

1. Hirschfield GM et al. *N Primary biliary cirrhosis associated with HLA, IL12A, and IL12RB2 variants.* *Engl J Med.* 2009 Jun 11;360(24):2544-55.

NEW GRANT

Dr. Kenneth Croitoru

1. **Co-PI** - Canadian Institutes of Health Research Catalyst Group Grant. Establishing a complete taxonomic baseline for the human Microbiome. PI. Dr. J. Neufeld, \$100,000 for 1 year.
2. **PI** - Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada. Studies on the induction and regulation of colitis in a mouse model, \$149,791 for 3 years.

Dr. Herbert Gaisano

1. **PI** - Canadian Institutes of Health Research. NARE regulation of potassium channels in neuroendocrine cells. \$157,000/year x 5 years
2. **Co-director** - Center for Diet, Digestive Tract and Disease (3D). Canadian Foundation for Innovation - team infrastructure grant. \$13.6M Total Ask. CFI component awarded, awaiting Ontario component. Co-directors: David Jenkins and Herbert Gaisano
3. **Co-applicant** - Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario. SNARE Protein Regulation of Cardiac Ion Channels and ANF Secretion. PI: Robert Tsushima. \$100,000/yr x 4 years

Dr. Jenny Heathcote

1. Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Impact of a combined program of diet, exercise and behaviour modification on the insulin resistance and adipokine profile in obese patients with current and cured chronic hepatitis C – is there a difference in response? \$74,786 for 1 year. **Co applicant: Dr. Johane Allard**

Dr. Peter Rossos

1. **PI** – Ontario Ministry of Health AHSC AFP Innovation Fund 2008-2009. University of Toronto Advanced Clinical Documentation Project: U of T eNotes, \$92,772/ year for 2 years

Dr. Jill Tinmouth

1. **PI** - National Cancer Institute of Canada (NCIC). Assessing quality of colonoscopy: Validation of quality indicators. \$165,862 for 2 years
2. **PI** - Connaught Foundation (Ontario). Esophageal adenocarcinoma in persons with gastroesophageal reflux disease: incidence and prevention. \$23,700 for 1 year

ETHIOPIA PROJECT – University of Addis Ababa

GI RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ETHIOPIA - The GI division has teamed up with the University of Addis Ababa to develop a GI residency training program for Ethiopia.

Team formation: 2 staff and 1 GI trainee
Timeline: 1 month duration 3 times a year for the next 3 years
Main objective: development of clinical skills and expertise required for GI practice
Secondary objective: development of research program for trainees which is a fantastic opportunity to do some very innovative and useful research in any number of areas in GI

One of the advantages of the 3 year commitment is that we will be able to have ongoing follow-up. Although it will be difficult to get much if any research completed in the 1-month blocks, we should be able to design and implement research projects that can then be followed up by subsequent teams. This means that even those of you who are unable to go to Ethiopia can help design research projects that those who go can oversee. **Anyone that might be interested in helping out with research (whether you can go to Ethiopia or not), please contact Jordan Feld at jordan.feld@uhn.on.ca**

DR. LOUIS LIU'S JOURNEY TO ETHIOPIA



Lunch at a local restaurant near the Black Lion Hospital that serves the Ethiopian national food. From right to left – Dr. Julia Lowe, Dr. Louis Liu, Dr. Abate Bane.

In April 2009, Dr. Louis Liu visited the Black Lion Hospital in the capital city of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa with Dr. Eugenia Pilotis (Hematologist from SBK) and Dr. Julia Lowe (Endocrinologist from Sunnybrook Hospital). The purpose of my visit was to explore the needs in helping Addis Ababa University (AAU) to set up the Gastroenterology Subspecialty Residency Training Program in the Department of Medicine.

Black Lion Hospital is the only teaching hospital of AAU. It consists of approximately 800 in-patient beds and has a well-established General Internal Medicine (GIM) Residency Training Program, founded in early 1980s, with the help of McGill University medical faculty. The GIM program accepts 25-30 residents per year. Currently, there are 2 established Subspecialty Residency Training Programs – Neurology and Infectious Disease. In January 2010, AAU is hoping to expand its subspecialty training into Endocrinology, Hematology and Gastroenterology.

For further details on Dr. Liu's journey as well as the project itself, please visit the GI website at www.utorontogi.ca, section "Ethiopia Teaching Project".