

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR!

Message from the Director: Dr. Johane Allard

On behalf of the GI Executive, I wish you and your family peace, joy and happiness for the holiday season and for the coming year. I also want to thank you again for your important contribution to the education and research programs in 2008. I am sure that everyone is now looking forward to well deserved holidays and then, to another very productive year! In the New Year, the strategic plan will be distributed. I invite you to read it and provide feedback because your input is extremely important in order to pave the way to the future.

We need to support our team at the **RISE Fundraising Event!**

Dr. Marilyn Li and Dr. Sanjay Murthy will represent the University of Toronto at the Fundraising event "RISE", organized by the Canadian Digestive Health Foundation (CDHF) to support gastroenterology research in Canada. It is very important to support our residents and our Foundation in this event, to promote research in gastroenterology. Drs. Li and Murthy each need to raise at least \$3500! Please join me and provide a pledge to their team. Any amount would be greatly appreciated by Marilyn and Sanjay.

You can visit their website for further detail and make a donation online at <http://www.gifttool.com/athon/OurTeamPage?ID=1286&AID=402&TID=2628>

Announcements

GI Strategic Plan 2009 and beyond: A print copy will be mailed to you in late January. The final copy is now available online at www.utorontogi.ca/boardroom.asp

December 17, 2008: Please join your colleagues at the *last Gut Club* of 2008 at the Vaughan Estates at 6:30 PM to celebrate the Holiday Season and learn the latest about hepatitis B and C from our distinguished speakers Drs. Jordan Feld and David Wong, moderator Dr. Jenny Heathcote.

December 17, 2008: Ethiopia Teaching Project. Information meeting just before the Gut Club from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm...Dr. E. Piliotis will provide details about the program. Location: Vaughan Estates, The Donningvale (a floor above Academy of Medicine Room).

June 24, 2009: **GI Research Day – Adult and Paediatric Gastroenterology.** Please save the date on your calendar. This is the most important event of the academic year. Residents and fellows will present their research project. Research and teaching awards will be distributed during dinner. Venue: University of Toronto Faculty Club, 41 Willcocks Avenue.

Grants/Awards received by the GI faculty since July 2008

Dr. Johane Allard:

1. **PI:** CIHR: Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease vs. Healthy Controls: Differences in Fatty Acid Composition and Gene Expression, \$118,261/yr, 3 yrs, Grant #89705 (**co-PI Dr. G. Therapondos et al.**)
2. **PI:** CANFAR. Oxidative Stress, Omega-3 fatty Acids & Cardiovascular Disease Risk in HIV-Positive Subjects, \$159,380, 2 yrs

Dr. Kenneth Croitoru

1. **PI:** Canada Foundation for Innovation - Leaders Opportunity Fund. Studies on the Role of T Cells in the Inflammatory Bowel Diseases. \$43,815

Dr. Herbert Gaisano

1. **PI:** CIHR. Distinct insulin exocytotic actions of Syntaxins-1 and -2. MOP 89889, \$120,271 x 5 years 2008-2013

Dr. Jenny Heathcote

1. **PI:** NIH grant as the only Canadian site in the Clinical Research Network for hepatitis B
2. **PI:** CIHR. Molecular Dissection of Primary Biliary Cirrhosis. \$735,000 2008 – 2011



GUT CLUB

The Gut Club will be at the
Vaughan Estates – Academy of
Medicine room – 2075 Bayview
Avenue

December 17, 2008

Drs. J. Feld and D. Wong
Moderator: Dr. J. Heathcote

January 21, 2009

March 25, 2009

April 15, 2009

May 27, 2008



Should you have news to
announce on the newsletter,
please contact Monique at
monique.le@uhn.on.ca

3. **Co-I:** CFI. Building the UHN Advanced Therapeutics Research Platform. \$92,255,967 2008-2012
4. **Co-I:** PSI Foundation. FGL2/Fibrobleukin and Hepatitis C Virus Infection: A Predictor of Response to Antiviral Therapy. \$113,000 2008-2010
5. Bristol Myers Squibb. A Comparative Study of Chronic Hepatitis B Subjects Treated with Entecavir Plus Tenofovir Combination Therapy vs. Entecavir Monotherapy in Adults who are Treatment-Naïve to Nucleosides and Nucleotides: The BE-LOW Study \$11,955/patient, 2008-2010
6. Hoffman-La Roche. A randomized, open-label, multicenter study evaluating the efficacy and safety of 48 or 72 weeks of treatment with Pegasys (peginterferon alfa-2a) plus Copegus (Ribavirin) combination therapy in non-genotype 2/3 patients with chronic hepatitis C virus infection who have undetectable HCV-RNA or a >2 log 10 drop at week 12 (IMPROVE) \$3,900/patient, 2008-2010
7. Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc. A phase 2 rollover protocol of telaprevir (VX-950) in combination with peginterferon alfa-2a (PEGASYS) and Ribavirin (COPEGUS) in subjects enrolled in the control group (Group A) of Study VX06-950-106, VX05-950-104 and VX05-950-104EU who did not achieve or maintain an undetectable HCV RNA level through sustained viral response \$11,441/patient 2008-2009
8. Intercept Pharmaceuticals Inc. A Study of INT-747 (6-ECDC) in Combination with Ursodeoxycholic Acid (URSO, UDCA) in Patients with Primary Biliary Cirrhosis \$5,010/patient, 2008-2010
9. Vertex Pharmaceuticals. A Phase 3 Study of 2 Dose Regimens of Telaprevir in Combination with Peginterferon Alfa-2a (Pegasys) and Ribavirin (Copegus) in Treatment-Naïve Subjects with Genotype 1 Chronic Hepatitis C \$157,027, 2008-2010
10. Schering Plough. Long-Term Follow-Up of Subjects in a Phase 2 or 3 Clinical Trial in which SCH 503034 was Administered for the Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis C, \$59,160

Dr. Jan Irvine

1. Supervisor / CAG summer studentship, Ada Hung (CC3, UWO)

Dr. Linda Rabeneck: Recipient of the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre Department of Medicine 2008 Senior Investigator Award

Dr. Eve Roberts: Recipient of the CASL/CLF Gold Medal

Dr. David Wong

1. **Co-I** with Dr. Jenny Heathcote, NIH grant for hepatitis B as the only Canadian site in the Clinical Research Network

Dr. Florence Wong

1. Supervisor: AASLD and the American Liver Foundation (ALF) Resident Scholar Award for resident Dr. James, Liver Meeting, San Francisco 2008
2. Supervisor: CAG CAG Scholar's Program for resident Dr. James, CAG/CASL 2009
3. Supervisor: CASL/Hoffman-La Roche Research Fellowship 2008 for Dr. Rania Rabie
4. AASLD Trainee Travel Award (\$500 US) for Dr. Rania Rabie. For the abstract entitled "The Cardiopulmonary Effects of TIPS in Cirrhotic Patients with Refractory Ascites" for AASLD Single Topic Symposium on Circulatory and Renal Failure in Cirrhosis (Atlanta, GA, September 2008)