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**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 2012. I also want to thank you again for your important contribution to the Education and Research Programs in 2011. I am sure that everyone is now looking forward to a good rest during the Holiday Season!

### University of Toronto Proposed Guidelines for Relationship with Industry

For this Newsletter, I thought that I would say a few words regarding the Educational Partnership and our relationship with Industry Sponsors, in regard to the in-coming University Guidelines. This is important because there has been some confusion about the interpretation of these guidelines, particularly from the sponsors. In addition, there are rumors that Industry sponsors feel that they do not get good returns on their donations to our Educational Partnership compare to other projects, particularly since they were not allowed anymore to personally provide lunch to the trainees during their half-days. That decision from the GI Executive Committee was based on a directive from the University Program Directors Committee.

The University of Toronto Guidelines for Relationships with Industry is not completely finalized yet but it is important to say that our Educational Partnership is in line with these Guidelines. The following are some of the suggested guidelines that will likely be implemented for educational events:

Industry may contribute to educational funding of postgraduate residency programs, provided that: 1) support is received as an unrestricted grant. Ideally there will be multiple donors; 2) it is publicly acknowledged; 3) the funds are managed centrally by the program or division director; 4) Financial statement should be prepared and available for audit; 5) the industrial donor plays no role in selecting recipients of any scholarships or travelling funds; 6) Content, organization and financial arrangements must all be controlled by faculty organizers without influence from the sponsors; 7) the donor has no influence over program content or choice of speakers; 8) donors must be acknowledged each time the funds are used; 9) events should be sponsored by multiple sources; 10) funds should be held centrally at the level of an institutional (hospital) or university department or division; 11) responsible use of sponsorship funding must include only legitimate expenses according to a prepared itemized budget; 12) Financial statements for sponsored events must be available for audit, including the sponsors; 13) choice of speakers, subjects of presentations, travel arrangements, expenses and honoraria must all be arranged by the faculty organizers. Therefore, all these guidelines are actually in line with our current Educational Partnership.

However, certain practices by sponsors are not anymore acceptable according to the University Guidelines. For example, there is a long tradition of offering hospitality and sharing food at educational events. According to the document, arrangements for commercial entities to provide and pay for food for a specific event may engender potential for conflict of interest and foster an inappropriate sense of entitlement. Therefore, based on these Guidelines, the practice of having industry representatives provide food directly for rounds and teaching must not occur. This is the reason why we do not allow this anymore for the half-day. Also, student or trainee contact information must not be provided to industry representatives. This means that industry representatives should not contact our residents directly for their educational events. On the other hand, the Guidelines allow meetings between sales representatives and students or trainees if it is for the purpose of education and if a faculty member, who will act as a mentor, is present, for example, when discussing products. I think it is also acceptable to continue to have our sponsors present at certain educational events such as the journal club, the Research Day or, at times, the Gut Club, if this is going to improve their medical education. I did not see in the Guidelines anything specific to prevent that, as long as these events are organized by the Partnership and the sponsor is not the organizer of the event or the direct provider of food. However, keep in mind that according to these Guidelines, industry-sponsored dinners, which are organized outside the Educational Partnership, even those labeled as educational events, fall into the category of gifts. They are not consistent with the Guidelines and faculty members may attend only at their own expenses.

As soon as the document is official, I will distribute it to all.

### GUT CLUB

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Speaker: Dr. Balfour Sartor  
UNC Division of Gastroenterology  
& Hepatology, Chapel Hill, NC,  
USA

Sponsor: Abbott, co-sponsor  
Ferring  
Location: Faculty Club

March 28, 2012

Speaker: TBA  
Sponsor: TBA  
Location: Faculty Club

April 18, 2012

Speaker: Dr. Derek M. McKay  
CAG Visiting Professor, Dept.  
Physiology & Biophysics; CRC  
(Tier 1) AHFMR Scientist  
Sponsor: Abbott  
Location: University Club

May 30, 2012

Speaker: TBA  
Sponsor: Abbott  
Location: Vaughan Estates

### GI Research Day 2012

Wednesday June 20

From Noon to 9:00PM !

University Club (not Faculty)

University Avenue

Keynote speaker:  
Dr Jenny Heathcote



## Announcements

- **University of Toronto GI Research Day 2012.** We are looking forward to the 2012 GI Research Day which will be held Wednesday, June 20 2012 from noon until 9pm at the University Club. We look forward to hearing about the exciting research being done in GI at U of T! Look for emails about abstract submission and registration early in the New Year. The deadline for abstract to be submitted is April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
  - **Dr Anne Griffith** was named the inaugural chairholder Northbridge Financial Corporation Chair in Inflammatory Bowel Disease.
  - **Dr Nicola Jones** was selected to be the recipient of the 2012 Canadian Association of Gastroenterology Visiting Research Professor Award
  - **Dr Yaron Avitzur** who was recruited in July 2009 at Sickkids because of his clinical expertise in pediatric small bowel and liver transplantation, has been cross-appointed (effective January 2012) to the Department of Medicine to provide medical leadership to the University of Toronto adult small bowel transplant program.
  - **Dr Alvin Newman** just published: "The Essential IBS Book" for patients with functional disease. It is available at Chapters?Indigo and from Amazon.
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## Awards

Dr Fred Saibil was the recipient of the 2011 Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada Finkelstein Award, given annually to a Canadian who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of inflammatory bowel disease "for demonstrating outstanding dedication and care for those affected by IBD". Congratulations Fred!

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## Recruitment

Dr Marilyn Li is a clinical associate at the Toronto Western Hospital. Her interest is intestinal motility. She is currently doing a Master in Public Health at Harvard University.

Dr Piero Tartaro has been recruited as clinical associate at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center. His interest is Medical Education and he completed a Master in Education at University of Toronto this summer.

Dr Sanjay Murthy is currently a clinical associate at Mt-Sinai Hospital. His interest is inflammatory bowel disease. He is completing a Master in Epidemiology and will do a 6 month fellowship in Germany where he will learn new surveillance techniques for colon cancer, with a particular interest in IBD.

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