



## Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Happenings



Happy New Year Colleagues,

As your new Division Director, I am excited to kick off the year with renewed energy as we dive into the missions of the GI division. As an introduction, I earned my BS in biology at the University of Michigan and my MD degree at the Howard University College of Medicine. I completed my internal medicine and fellowship training at Beth Israel in New York and The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, respectively. Prior to joining the University of Colorado, I served as the Executive Associate Division Director in the Division of Digestive Diseases at Emory University School of Medicine. Indeed, I am honored to be on this new journey with you. Additionally, I am proud to serve as the President of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE).

In this inaugural issue of "GI Happenings", you will find important announcements, honors, and recognition for all the amazing work we do across our sites. Here's to a productive and successful year filled with opportunities to optimize patient outcomes, broaden our discovery, and foster education.

Thank you for your collaboration and commitment to excellence!  
Best,  
Jennifer

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- Important Dates
- Honors and Awards
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### IMPORTANT DATES

- January 24th, OAP Conference
- February 6th, Save the date Honor Dr. Colgan
- February 25th  
RMIE Course Registration
- March 1st, PRiSMs due
- March 15-17, Rocky Mountain IBD Course
- ASGE Advanced Practice Provider Course March 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>
- April 27<sup>th</sup> Paul O'Hara Symposium on Esophageal Cancer



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
IBD COURSE**

MARCH 15-17, 2024



### Sean Colgan, PhD Achieves Distinguished Professor Honor

Join us on **February 6th** to celebrate Dr. Sean Colgan for receiving the Honor of Distinguished Professor for his remarkable research career, the impact he has made on scientific discovery, as well as his service to the University of Colorado community.

Invitations were sent out. Please check your emails and RSVP by January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## HONORS, AWARDS, AND APPLAUSE



Shout out to Dr. Gregory Austin, who was re-elected to a 2nd term on the Board of Directors for CU Medicine.



Congratulations to Dr. Lisa Forman for her induction into The DOM Clinical Excellence Society.



Congratulations to Dr. Steven Edmundowicz for receiving an Anschutz Acceleration Initiative grant to fund his innovation “Transforming Gastrointestinal Cancer Care from Inpatient Surgery to Outpatient. Endoscopy by Enabling Third Space Endoscopy.”



Kudos to Dr. Prashanth Francis for being accepted into the 2024 AGA-AASLD Academic Skills Workshop cohort.

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Nominations for the President's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) awards are now open with a February 2, 2024 deadline. This award honors three individuals and one unit that have demonstrated outstanding commitment and made significant contributions to advancing DEI within the University of Colorado community.

#### Increasing Access to Colonoscopies for Underserved Patients in Aurora

One of the major drivers of disparities in colorectal cancer screening has been access to colonoscopies. In 2023, leaders within UCHealth and members of the GI Division met to address the needs of the uninsured and underinsured patients in Aurora and implemented a new pathway for these patients to access discounted colonoscopies via the Hospital Discounted Care Program. Since inception, this program has provided over 100 patients access to potentially life-saving colonoscopies.



*Celebrating Women and Diversity in Medicine*



## Lectureships and Visiting Professorships

In partnership with the Denver Research Institute and the Rocky Mountain Regional VA, the GI division hosted the 5th Annual Dennis J. Ahnen Lectureship September 28-30th, 2023. This event is dedicated to honoring Dr. Ahnen's innumerable contributions to the field. This year, Dr. Patrick Lynch gave keynote presentations on Hereditary GI Cancer topics at the VA Research Day, University of Colorado Gastroenterology Grand Rounds, and the [Inaugural Lynch Syndrome Patient Symposium](#). The event was a resounding success, and we look forward to hosting another great lectureship in 2024!



Dr. Swati Patel and the GI Division host the Fifth Annual Dr. Dennis J. Ahnen Lectureship with Dr. Patrick Lynch in September 2023

## RESEARCH NEWS

### The GI Outcomes Research Group is Thriving!

The **GI Outcomes Research Group (GORG)**, which was founded in 2020 by Drs. Patel, Scott, and Wani, with support from the Department of Medicine, is an open forum for both faculty and trainees to obtain feedback on their current clinical research. Key to the group is Camille Hochheimer, PhD, who provides biostatistical support. Biweekly meetings are open to all faculty and fellows with ongoing research at any stage who may be interested in receiving study design or feedback. Proudly, this group has facilitated numerous successful grant applications, publications, and international meeting presentations.

The **Office of Clinical Research Operations and Services** has expanded its support by launching two campus-wide programs: the Clinical Research Recruitment Program and the [Clinical Research Workforce Development Program](#). Click the link to learn more.

Drs. Edmundowicz, Shah and Wani are co-authors on a study that was accepted for publication in The Lancet titled – **“Indomethacin with or without prophylactic pancreatic stent placement to prevent pancreatitis after ERCP: a randomized non-inferiority trial.”** The study was led by Joe Elmunzer and funded by the NIDDK. This center enrolled the second highest number of participants in this trial. This trial is an important contribution to the field of post-ERCP pancreatitis prevention. Our center is leading subsequent secondary analyses using the SVI dataset. [Click here to learn more](#)

## GI FELLOW NEWS

Dr. Taylor Karl has published a case report in Gastroenterology as a Gastro Curbside Consult. Karl TA, Knight M, Mun E, A Case of Mistaken Identity, Gastroenterology (2024), doi: [Click here to access report](#).

Dr. Tom Enke has accepted a position as the University of Colorado Therapeutics Fellow for 2025 - 2026.



All 15 of our luminal GI fellows showed up and showed out at the annual holiday party!

### Welcome To Our Matched GI Fellows

Corinne Camp, MD- University of Colorado

Chidiebele Enunwa, MD- Emory University

Rachel Hoffman, MD- Northwestern University

Sarah Talamantes, MD- Stanford University

Bejan Saeedi, MD- University of Colorado

## ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER NEWS

Applications are now open for the **2024 APP Fellowship** on the GI website. If you are aware of potential candidates who would be an excellent fit, kindly email [Cate Brady](#) and encourage candidates to submit their applications before March 15th, 2024. Applications can be found [here](#)!

**American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) Advanced Provider Course** is March 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. This hybrid course includes practice management topics, basic and advanced endoscopy and topics important to APPs. [Click here](#)!

## UPCOMING COURSES

The **Annual Office of Advanced Practice (OAP) Conference** returns on January 24. Our lead APP, Katie Dickerman is co-directing this conference. Please reach out to [Katie Dickerman](#) for information on how to attend and how you can help support or sponsor.

The **Rocky Mountain IBD course** will be in Sun Valley, ID on March 15-17. The course focuses on common clinical dilemmas that arise in the care and treatment of patients with IBD. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact [Matthew McLean](#).

**Rocky Mountain Interventional Endoscopy course (RMIE)** April 11-13. Registration is currently open for the Rocky Mountain Interventional Endoscopy course! The course will be held at the beautiful new Anschutz Health Sciences Building on the Anschutz Campus.

Our course directors:

-Raj J. Shah, MD, MASGE, AGAF, FACG

-Sachin Wani, MD, FASGE, AGAF

-Anna Duloy, MD

\*Thanks to our GI admin staff who have been working very hard to bring you this course featuring many world-class faculty over a three-day period.

Don't forget to register! Please go to the website at [rmiecourse.com](http://rmiecourse.com) for itinerary, list of speakers, topics, and answers to your questions.

**Paul O'Hara Symposium on Esophageal Cancer April 27th.** This patient-centered symposium will educate patients and caregivers on the treatment and surveillance for esophageal cancer and other esophageal disorders.

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