



Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

GI Happenings Newsletter

Prepared by Essence Pedrosa



Dear Colleagues,

We are thrilled to present the second edition of the **GI Happenings** newsletter. This issue is brimming with exciting news of divisional courses, recognition, and awards! Your remarkable dedication and outstanding contributions continue to shine brightly within our division and in the community we serve.

We look forward to an exciting Digestive Disease Week 2024 (DDW) coming up in Washington, D.C., May 17-22 in which we will showcase our programs, research, and leadership talents. Moreover, I am excited to celebrate the completion of my year as ASGE President during the conference. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to excellence.

Enjoy,
Jennifer

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IMPORTANT DATES

- April 27th, 5th Annual Paul R. O'Hara II Esophagogastric Center Symposium
- May 8th, DOM Faculty and Staff Award Ceremony at 5:30 pm Krugman Hall Research Bldg. 2
- May 15-22 DDW, Digestive Disease Week
- June 1st Crohn's & Colitis Foundation Take Steps Walk (Donations Requested)

ANNOUNCEMENT

- Please Follow the New Gastro X account at @CUGastroHep (Link will be at the bottom of every newsletter going forward.)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Foundations in Equity Certificate Program will begin this month. You may take all four Modules in any order at any time to earn the certificate. Modules are 90-minute in person and virtually where applicable.

Mon, April 15, 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m., Education 2 North, Room 2301
Tues, May 21, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Education 2 North, Room 2302
Thurs, May 23, 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m. Education 2 North, Room 1308
Wed, July 10, 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., Education 2 North, Room 1308

Let us not forget to celebrate the upcoming heritage months!



HONORS AND AWARDS



Congratulations to Dr. Cartwright – **Department of Medicine's Rising Star for 2024**. This award is an acknowledgment of achievements in research and/or clinical activities, teaching, and service in the DOM, as well as national achievements and recognitions.

Ian Cartwright is also the recipient of a 5-year CU Translational Research Scholar Program Award.



Dr. Steven Edmundowicz received funding from the Anschutz Acceleration Initiative
Project: Transforming Gastrointestinal Cancer Care from Inpatient Surgery to Outpatient Endoscopy by Enabling Third Space Endoscopy.



Michelle Gruver received the Department of Medicine's Monthly Staff Elevation Award for the month of February.



Dr. Arianne Theiss was selected as the recipient of the 2024 Raj and Prem Goyal Lectureship in Pathophysiology of Gastrointestinal and Liver Disease of Gastrointestinal & Liver Physiology.



Dr. Forman received her DOM Distinguished Clinician Award in January.



Katherine Dickerman received this year's Medical Staff Leadership Award at the Medical Staff Awards Dinner. Katie is among only 25 award recipients across the entire Medical Staff at the University of Colorado Hospital.



Dr. Sean Colgan, has been selected to receive the prestigious CU Anschutz Research Mentor Award.



Dr. Prashanth Francis received a research grant under the Colorado Diabetes Research Center (DRC) Pilot and Feasibility (P&F) program. Prashanth's proposal was among the top scored grants as determined by external reviewers.



Alexis Oonk received this year's Award for Clinical Excellence from the Office of Advanced Practice. Alexis is one of 6 award recipients from a pool of over 200 advanced practice providers.

RECENT GRANTS, SUBMISSIONS, AND PUBLICATIONS

Beth Tamburini: NIH Program Project (P01) submission: “Mechanisms of immune protection and pathology by lymph node stromal cells”

Arianne Theiss: NIH R01 – “Obese adipose tissue extracellular vesicles in intestinal epithelial cell dysfunctions” (Submitted)

Matt Burchill: NIH R01 – “Defining the antigenic causes of T cell activation and reactivation of autoimmune hepatitis” (Submitted)
 NIH R01 – “Defining the Role of antigen Specific T cells responses in NASH” (Submitted)

Swati Patel: American Cancer Society (ACS) Clinician Scientist Development Grant - “Improving Identification & Management of Patients with Hereditary Cancer Syndromes: Clicks Can Prevent Cancer”

Kusuma Pokala: American Journal of gastroenterology. “Significant Reduction in the Diagnosis of Barrett’s Esophagus and Related Dysplasia During the COVID-19 Pandemic”. Selected as lead article for February issue and addressed the impact of COVID-19 on diagnosis of Barrett’s esophagus and related neoplasia.

Eric Montminy: Jama Network Open – “Stage-Stratified Incidence Rates of Colorectal Adenocarcinoma Among Patients Aged 46 to 49 in the United States”.

RESEARCH FUNDING NEWS

The funding awarded information is below:

Research Funding Awarded				
FY23				
	Grants	CT's	Total Research Funding	
NEW	\$ 1,164,713	\$ 4,863,814	\$ 6,028,527	
Modifications/Amendments	\$ 3,552,976	\$ 507,086	\$ 4,060,062	
Total Funding Awarded	\$ 4,717,689	\$ 5,370,900	\$ 10,088,589	

Grant applications submitted vs awarded.

Grant Applications Submitted vs. Awarded			
FY23			
	Submitted	Awarded	Success Rate
NEW	29	13	45%
Modifications/Amendments	Not Applicable	17	Not applicable
Total Applications	29	30	

VISITING PROFESSOR

We are happy to announce that the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) has awarded our division the AGA Visiting Professor in DEI Award. We are very excited to welcome Dr. Pascale White from the Mount Sinai School Medicine to share her expertise in reducing disparities for patients from minoritized backgrounds in GI and increasing diversity in the GI healthcare workforce.

SAVE THE DATE!

Dr. White will be our featured speaker at a special GI Grand rounds on Monday, April 22nd, 7:00-8:30 AM. A reception will take place on Monday evening. More to come!

 Gastroenterology & Hepatology
 SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
 UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

AGA Visiting Professor in Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
 at
 The University of Colorado Division of GI & Hepatology

DEI Grand Rounds



Pascale White,
MD, MBA, MS, FACG
 Associate Professor of Medicine
 Director of GI Clinics
 Icahn School of Medicine at
 Mount Sinai

**"Incidence and Impact of IBS in
 Minority Populations"**

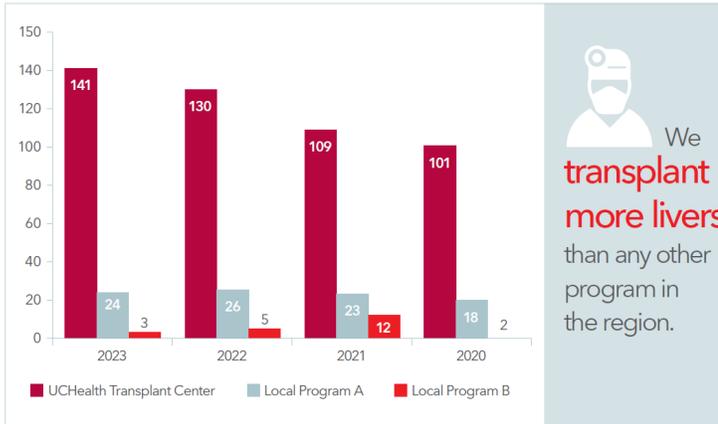
Monday, April 22, 2024
7:00-8:30am

In-Person:
 CU Anschutz, Academic Office 1, Room 7000

HEPATOLOGY NEWS

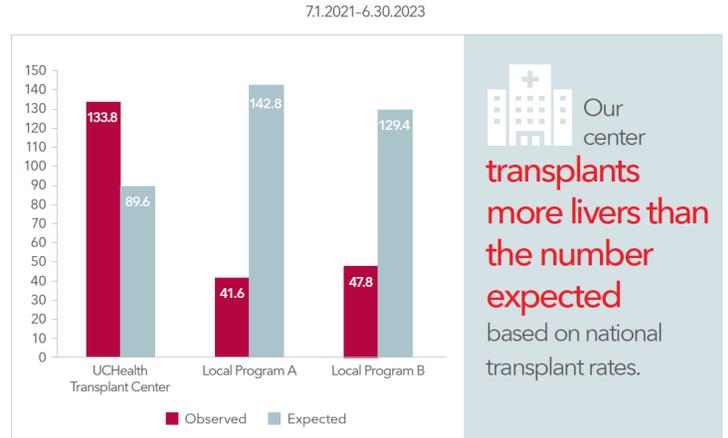
Our transplant hepatology section is exceeding volume expectations!

* Four-year liver transplant volumes.



Graph compiled from optn.transplant.hrsa.gov 1.9.2024

* Observed and expected liver transplant rates.



Graph compiled from SRTR.org reports released January 2024

*SRTR and OPTN data comparing our transplant program to the two local programs.

FELLOW'S CORNER



Fellows wear blue to raise awareness for Colon Cancer on Monday March 11, 2024



Not to be outdone, faculty wear blue for Colon Cancer Awareness on Monday March 11, 2024

Dr. Vosoughi has accepted our offer to join our Inflammatory Bowel Disease Fellowship at the University of Colorado Crohn's and Colitis Center. Please welcome him and congratulate Dr. Ahmed on this successful recruitment.

Congratulations to our fellows who had their research accepted for presentations and poster at DDW: Drs. Irene Perez, Taylor Karl, Tom Enke, Minh Do, Jack Scolaro, and Kusuma Pokala.

Congratulations to Dr. Bradie Cambell for receiving the Mehta-Makhijani Fellow Award on April 1st, 2024.

Taylor Karl, M.D. has accepted a position as the advanced inflammatory bowel disease fellow at University of North Carolina for 2025-2026. Braidie Campbell, M.D. has accepted a position at UCH as the transplant hepatology fellow during her third year of training. Drs. Taylor Karl and Tom Enke will be serving as chief fellows for the 2024-2025 academic year.



Congratulations to our graduating fellows and much success in your next endeavors!

Nicole Doria, M.D. – University of Colorado/Denver Health (Faculty)

Nancy Li, M.D. - University of Colorado (Faculty)

Matt Meyers, M.D. - Asheville Gastroenterology Associates (Practice Associate)

S. Kusuma Pokala, M.D. - University of Colorado (Faculty)

Trey Simril, M.D. – University of Colorado/Denver Health (Faculty)

Dennis Wang, M.D. - Loma Linda University (Faculty)

Kathleen Yan, M.D.- National Jewish Health (Faculty)

UPCOMING COURSES AND EVENTS

RMIE Course 4/11-4/13, 2024

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 for itinerary, list of speakers, topics, and an answer to all your questions.

The Hepatology and Liver Transplantation webinar series is back for the 3rd year! In March, Dr. Avash Kalra spoke on "Updates in Management of Decompensated Cirrhosis" for the first talk of the series which received overwhelmingly positive feedback. We had 64 attendees for this session, which is great! Attendance has continued to grow each year.

If you missed the first talk of the series, there are still four more sessions scheduled throughout the year. The next talk in the series will be on May 15th where Dr. Yanik Bababekov will speak on "Updates in Liver Donation and Liver Transplant Surgery." For more information or to register for the next session please check out our website [here](#).

The 2024 Crohn's & Colitis Foundation Take Steps Walk

The 2024 Crohn's & Colitis Walk is rapidly approaching! For those that have not walked with us in years past, this is a fundraising event put on by the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation (CCF) to raise money and awareness about IBD. Our team is registered as the University of Colorado Crohn's and Colitis Center. The walk is taking place on June 1, 2024 @ Great Lawn Park in Denver. We would love for you all to come and participate. If you cannot participate, the Research division is accepting donations. Please reach out to [Nichole Welch](#) to contribute or for more details.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

The Rocky Mountain Inflammatory Bowel Disease Conference was a huge success!

On March 15-17, we had our Rocky Mountain IBD Conference in Sun Valley, Idaho. The conference organizers were Drs. Mark Gerich (University of Colorado) and John Valentine (University of Utah) and our very own Matthew McLean was the conference manager. Our two special guest faculty were Dr. Millie Long University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and Dr. Michael Chiorean Swedish - Seattle Washington along with our esteemed faculty from the University of Colorado and the University of Utah. It was a phenomenal conference with cutting-edge IBD talks, robust discussion and yes, skiing!

Congratulations and thank you to Dr. Gerich and Matthew McLean for delivering an outstanding conference in the beautiful backdrop of Sun Valley, Idaho.



Sean Colgan, PhD Distinguished Professor Reception



On February 6, 2024, we celebrated Dr. Sean Colgan for his Distinguished Professor Award. So many people showed up to recognize such a monumental accomplishment. On behalf of Dr. Jennifer Christie and Dr. Sean Colgan, we'd like to thank everyone who came to show support.



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