



# Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

## GI Happenings Newsletter

Prepared by Essence Pedrosa



Dear Colleagues,

We are thrilled to welcome you to the Summer 2025 edition of our newsletter! This is an exciting time for us as we warmly welcome our new fellows who have joined our vibrant community.

As we look ahead to the upcoming academic year, we recognize some of the challenges and are committed to uncovering solutions. Indeed, we have an array of engaging events and opportunities planned that will foster growth, collaboration, and exploration within our field.

Thank you for being an integral part of our community, and we look forward to a year filled with inspiration and achievement.

Best,  
Jennifer

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Hepatology
- Awards and Nominations
- Publications
- In case you missed it...
- Welcome Fellows
- Upcoming Events

### IMPORTANT DATES

- **July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025** - Hepatology and Liver Transplantation Webinar
- **August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025** - The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Dennis J. Ahnen Lectureship, Elena M. Stoffel, MD, MPH
- **August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025** - Best Practices Symposium – Lynch Syndrome

### SAVE THE DATE

- **August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
12th Annual Rocky Mountain Highlights in Gastroenterology and Hepatology Conference
- **September 11-13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
The 19<sup>th</sup> Rocky Mountain Interventional Endoscopy Conference

### HEPATOLOGY!



#### Hepatology and Liver Transplantation Webinar Series

The 2025 Hepatology and Liver Transplantation webinar series is ongoing with exciting topics that will be covered by members of our Transplant faculty! The next hosted webinar will be Wednesday, July, 16<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm MST with Lindsay Pratt, PA and Amy Brumenschenkel, NP as they present, "Management of Cirrhosis in the Clinic: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions."

For more information or to stay up to date on hepatology, check out our website [here](#).

Presenting – Lindsay Pratt, PA-C



Presenting – Amy Brumenschenkel, NP

## AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

### 2025 Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Fellow Award

- Our rising transplant hepatology fellow, Dr. Braidie Campbell, was awarded a competitive Fellow award from the AASLD for this coming academic year.



### Fellow of the Month Award

- Dr. Bejan Saeedi received Department of Medicine fellow of the month award from the CU IM Residents.



### Brian Brauer Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award

- Dr. Elijah Mun was awarded the Brian Brauer Faculty Excellence Award. This award was established by the fellows in memory of Dr. Brian Brauer. To honor his legacy, the fellows created this annual award to recognize one faculty member who embodies Dr. Brauer's spirit, passion for teaching, and commitment to trainee development.



### CU Teachers Scholar Program

- Dr. Nanxing Li was accepted to the CU School of Medicine Teachers Scholar Program.



### University of Colorado School of Medicine Distinguished Clinician

- Congratulations to Katie Dickerman, our lead GI APP! She is the recipient of the 3rd Annual University of Colorado School of Medicine Distinguished Clinician Award.



### 5-year Mentored Research Scientist Career Development Award

- Dr. Alfredo Ornelas, Assistant Professor - Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology 5-year Mentored Research Scientist Career Development Award (NIDDK K01) from the NIH.



### CU Medicine Academy of Educators

- Larissa Muething, M.D., Ben Cassell, M.D., and Cate Brady, MPAS have been selected to be inducted into the CU Medicine Academy of Educators.

## 2025 Divisional Faculty Awards

### Outstanding Clinicians

Jennifer Czornog, MD & Alexis Oonk, FNP-C



### Rising Leader

Larissa Muething, MD



### Faculty Mentor

James Burton, MD



### Innovation

Whitney Jackson, MD



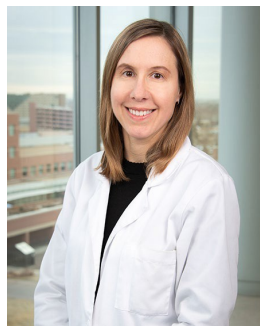
### Faculty Advocate

Benjamin Click, MD



### Dedication to Service

Lyssa Chacko, MD



### Community Impact

Avash Kalra, MD



### Achievement in Research

Joseph Scott Lee, PhD



## HIGHLIGHTED PUBLICATIONS

- **Lee JS, Kao DJ, Worledge CS, Wang RX, Welch NM, Kostecky RE, Colgan SP.** E. coli genetically modified for purine nucleobase release promotes butyrate generation and colonic wound healing during experimental colitis. Gut Microbes 17: 2490211, 2025. PMID: 40247632.
- **Ornelas A, Countess JA, Kim JY, Colgan SP:** Modifying microbial-derived short chain fatty acids to promote health. J Physiol, 2025. doi: 10.1113/JP287585. PMID: 40460326
- Loon E, Wilson N, **Bilal M.** Closure of esophageal perforation after stricture dilation with novel through-the-scope clip. VideoGIE, Volume 10, Issue 7, 337 – 339
- Karna R, **Bilal M.** Hybrid endoscopic submucosal dissection and endoscopic full-thickness resection for R0 resection of T1 colonic adenocarcinoma. VideoGIE, Volume 10, Issue 7, 376 – 379
- Bowler, T., Loon, E., **Bilal M.** An Audit of Indications for Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection for Colorectal Lesions in North America: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. Dig Dis Sci (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10620-025-09070-3>

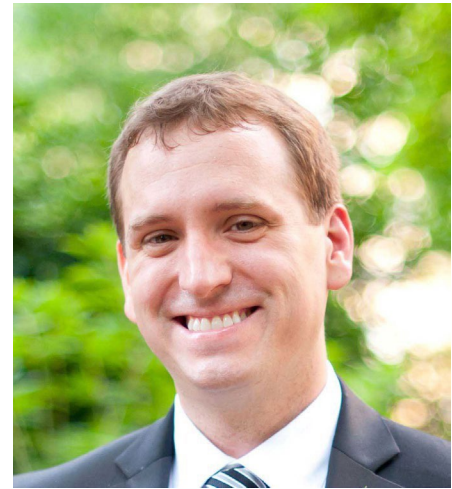
## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

**Nancy Li, MD and Kusuma Pokala, MD**, were both selected to participate in the ASGE Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) program this year. This is quite an honor for the University of Colorado and two exceptional LEAD participants.



## Department of Medicine Highlight

**Frank I. Scott, MD MSCE** has been selected as co-director of IBD Qorus, the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation's flagship quality improvement network. This network, which was started in 2010, is now comprised of over 50 academic and community IBD centers nationwide. The Crohn's and Colitis Center at CU has been an IBD Qorus member site since 2017. IBD Qorus' prior work has been demonstrated to improve urgent care access, reduce hospitalizations, and decrease costs of care for patients with IBD. Their current focus, which Dr. Scott will help lead, is optimizing the use of treat-to-target care in IBD using both qualitative and structured pragmatic study designs, while also continuing to expand their community of sites. Dr. Scott will share this role with Gil Y. Melmed, MD, MS at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in California. This is supported by the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation,



## Communications Feature

### Ashwagandha is Popular for Boosting Health — But Could it Hurt Your Liver?

- The Department of Medicine's communications team recently published a story featuring **Dr. Lisa Forman**, here is the link for review. <https://news.cuanschutz.edu/departments-of-medicine/ashwagandha-liver-health>

## Faculty Development Corner

### Announcing 2025 faculty promotions to Associate Professor:

- Benjamin Cassell, MD** Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
- Benjamin Click, MD** Associate Professor of Medicine
- Anna Duloy, MD** Associate Professor of Medicine
- Ashley Lane, MD** Associate Professor of Medicine



### Promotions to Assistant Professor

- **Katherine Dickerman, ANP** Assistant Professor of Medicine
- **Cate Brady, MPAS, PA-C** Assistant Professor of Medicine



### Congratulations on your honors and achievements!

#### Staff Promotions

**Lynzie Carter** has been promoted from Business Services Entry Professional to Business Services Intermediate Professional.

**Michelle Gruver** has been promoted from Business Services Intermediate Professional to Business Services Senior Professional.

**Matthew McLean** has been promoted from Business Services Entry Professional to Business Services Intermediate Professional.

This administrative team always goes above and beyond expectations to ensure our division runs smoothly. They are always ready and willing to lend a hand. These promotions are well deserved. Congratulations team!

### Welcome New Gastroenterology and Hepatology Fellows

#### Welcome to our incoming GI and Advanced Endoscopy Fellows

- Thomas Enke, MD – Advanced Therapeutic Endoscopy –University of Colorado Gastroenterology
- Michael Joseph, MD – Advanced Therapeutic Endoscopy –University of Colorado, Pediatric Gastroenterology
- Khalid Alourn, MBBS – Gastroenterology –St. Barnabas Hospital
- Mohanad Salah Awadalla, MD – Gastroenterology – University of Khartoum – Faculty of Medicine Luke's Hospital
- Julie Giannini, MD – Gastroenterology – Vanderbilt School of Medicine
- Rachna Talluri, MD – Gastroenterology –Residency –Program – University of Colorado
- Alejandra Vargas, MD – Gastroenterology –Eastern Virginia Medical School
- Kia Vosoughi, MD, MPH – Gastroenterology –University of Colorado, IBD Fellowship
- Hayder Alamily, MB, ChB – Inflammatory Bowel Disease Fellow– Baptist Health
- Bradie Campbell, MD –Transplant Hepatology- University of Colorado, GI Fellowship
- Katie Pokrandt, - APP Gastroenterology Fellow – University of Michigan Nursing – St. Ambrose University

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Rocky Mountain Highlights

Connect with our world class, multi-disciplinary faculty for didactic presentations and panel discussions offered in-person! Registration and continuing education credits are **FREE** for this conference. We will be offering all attendees a chance to earn CME, ABIM MOC and NCPD Nursing Contact hours.

Please visit the course website for more conference information and updates

**Save the date, spread the word, and REGISTER NOW!**




**REGISTER NOW**

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGHLIGHTS IN GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY 2025

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025**  
**ANSCHUTZ HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING, DONALD M. ELLIMAN CONFERENCE CENTER**

**FREE REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!**  
 Visit the QR code to check out our website and for more information!





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

Join the Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology for the

## The Seventh Annual Dennis J. Ahnen Lectureship

To honor the numerous contributions and accomplishments of  
**Dr. Dennis J. Ahnen** to the Division and the field of Gastroenterology



Featuring Guest Lecturer  
**Elena M. Stoffel, MD, MPH**  
 Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine  
 Service Chief  
 Director of Cancer Genetics  
 University of Michigan

### Preventing Cancer in Lynch Syndrome: The Road Ahead

Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology Grand Rounds  
 Thursday, August 21, 2025  
 5:30-7:30 PM MT (lecture to begin at 6:30 PM)

**In-Person: CU Anschutz, Krugman Auditorium, RC2 Building**  
 Please join us for appetizers/cocktails at 5:30-6:30PM

**Virtual:** <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/394220745?pwd=OUV1MC9UenRUenFPbmJUT2pteVA1QT09>

**Meeting ID:** 394 220 745 **Passcode:** Gastro

# LYNCH SYNDROME BEST PRACTICES 2025 Patient Symposium

**Saturday, August 23, 2025**  
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus



**Featured Speaker**

Danielle Ripley-Burgess  
Vice President of Disease Awareness  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Patient Advocate & Survivor



**Keynote Speaker**

Elena M. Stoffel, MD MPH  
Director of Cancer Genetics  
University of Michigan



**Featured Speaker**

Don Helgeson  
Director of Chapters and Meetups  
Man Up To Cancer  
Patient Advocate & Survivor

All family, friends and clinicians welcome  
Registration is free  
Get more information and register here  
Must register to attend



**8:30 AM - 10:10 AM | Current Landscape and Future Directions**

Genetics and Lynch Syndrome 101 Sarah Hunt, MS, CGC

Keynote Address: Preventing Cancer in Lynch Syndrome: The Road Ahead Elena Stoffel, MPH, MD

Transforming Burden to Balance: The Power of Patient-Centered Research in Lynch Syndrome Swati Patel, MD, MS

**10:30 AM - 12:10 PM | Approach to Cancer Risk Reduction**

Urinary Tract Cancer Risks & Men's Health Laura Graham, MD

Gynecologic Cancer Risk-Reduction in Lynch Syndrome Marisa Moroney, MD

Beyond the Colon: Understanding Digestive Cancer Risks Sarah Safadi, MD

Diet and Supplements: Myths vs. Facts Patty Chlopik, MS, RD

**12:10 PM - 1:10 PM | Lunch**

**1:10 PM - 3:00 PM | What Lynch Syndrome Means to Me & My Family**

What about the Children? Part II Kami Schneider, MS, CGC

Insurance Coverage and Policy related to Lynch Syndrome Andi Dwyer, BS

From Shy to Strong Danielle Ripley-Burgess, Cancer Survivor

A Life With Lynch - A Young Man's Journey Don Helgeson, Cancer Survivor

Closing Remarks Swati Patel, MD, MS

**3:00 PM - 4:00 PM | Happy Hour and Refreshments**

## Join us for the 19<sup>th</sup> Rocky Mountain Interventional Endoscopy Course



SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2025  
THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS  
AURORA, COLORADO



Gastroenterology & Hepatology

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

## Save the Date!

Please join us for the **19th Rocky Mountain Interventional Endoscopy Course (RMIE2025)** at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus! This premier event brings together leading healthcare professionals, including world-class faculty, for three transformative days of **discussion, hands-on training, live cases, and course credit.**

Advance Your Practice at [#RMIE2025](https://www.rmie2025.com)

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