



# Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

## GI Happenings Newsletter

Prepared by Essence Pedrosa



Dear Colleagues,

Happy summer and welcome to our third edition of the GI Happenings newsletter. Wow, what an exciting spring it has been! Many of us attended Digestive Disease Week 2024 and highlighted the innovative work we do as well as networked with colleagues from across the world. Our talents were on full display, and we had a lot of fun together at my ASGE President's reception.

It is with tremendous pride and congratulations that we highlight our exceptional faculty and trainees in this issue. We hope you enjoy our updates and have a magnificent summer.

Cheers,  
Jennifer

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Honors and Awards
- Digestive Disease Week
- Hepatology
- Research News
- Fellow's Corner
- In case you missed it...
- Upcoming Courses/Events

### IMPORTANT DATES

- July 15 - GI and Hep Division Holistic Review and Bias Reduction Training
- July 24 next Hepatology and Liver Transplantation Webinar Series
- August 3 – Aurora Pride
- August 10-Rocky Mountain Highlights Course in Gastroenterology and Hepatology
- September 18 –Hepatology and Liver Transplantation Series

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Registration is open for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Rocky Mountain Highlights Course [here](#).

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

**GI and Hep Division Holistic Review and Bias Reduction Training-  
July 15 7:30 a.m.**

**Available trainings to expand DEI knowledge, topics include:**

- LGBTQ+ History
- Pronouns & Inclusive Language
- Allyship as a Verb, not a Noun
- LGBTQ+ Health Disparities and Adult Care
- You can reach out to the LGBTQ+ Hub year-round for additional resources, trainings and questions at:  
[lgbtqhub@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:lgbtqhub@cuanschutz.edu).

**Aurora Pride – Saturday, Aug. 3**

- Held at Aurora Reservoir from noon to 7 p.m.; volunteer opportunities to participate in Aurora's Pride are [available here](#).



## LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Swati Patel** will serve as the Associate Division Director of Faculty Development and Advancement, and **Dr. Ben Click** will serve as the GI and Hepatology Divisional Wellness Officer. Congratulations to you both, and we are excited for the impactful initiatives ahead!

## HONORS AND AWARDS

### CU Department of Medicine Presents Faculty & Staff Awards: GI and Hepatology Awardees

#### Rising Star Award

CU Department of Medicine honored **Dr. Ian Cartwright** (right center) as a Rising Star. This award "recognizes outstanding early career faculty members who exemplify the department's core values of excellence in patient care, research, education and community outreach, and dedication to service and citizenship."

#### Advanced Practice Provider Award for Excellence

CU Department of Medicine honored **Meghan O'Meara** (left center) with an Advanced Practice Provider Award for Excellence. Honorees were chosen from more than 170 faculty and staff nominations within the department.



#### Meghan O'Meara, DNP, FNP-C

Prior to nursing, Meghan O'Meara worked as a fetal development research assistant but knew she wanted to have more direct patient care in her career. After school, she worked as a nurse in transplant surgery before transitioning to outpatient transplant hepatology.



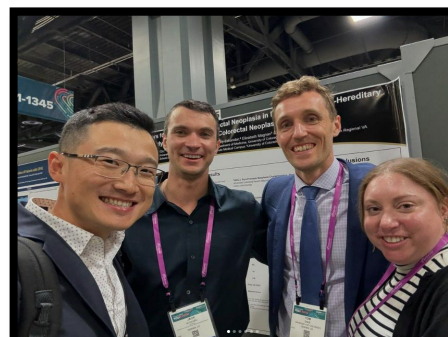
#### Ian Cartwright, PhD

Dr. Ian Cartwright is an assistant professor with interests in understanding how neutrophil-derived mediators influence the inflammatory microenvironment and drive the development and resolution of inflammation.

## Digestive Disease Week Highlights

Digestive Disease Week was jam packed with networking opportunities, awards and recognitions to keep our faculty and fellows busy. Notably, Dr. Christie was recognized during the Presidential Plenary for her term as ASGE President. DDW also highlighted the Crystal awards where many of our faculty and fellows came together to witness the many accomplishments across the field. The Division's faculty and fellows had a strong presence in offering DDW content, and Drs. Jennifer Christie, Swati Patel, Sachin Wani, Tom Enke, Taylor Karl, Minh Do, Kusuma Pokala, Jack Scolaro, Iren Perez, Nicole Rueb and Katelyn Cookson, NP lectured and offered outstanding research poster presentations.

- **Katelyn Cookson**, NP lecturing at the ASGE APP course. (left)
- **Dr. Christie** speaking at the President's Plenary for ASGE President 2023-2024 (middle)
- Fellows **Dennis Wang, Jack Scolaro, Tom Enke and Dr. Larissa Muething** with posters at DDW (right)



## HEPATOLOGY NEWS

### Hepatology and Liver Transplantation Webinar Series Continues with free course credit

The Hepatology and Liver Transplantation webinar series is back for the third year! Dr. Yanik Bababekov spoke on “Updates in Liver Donation and Liver Transplant Surgery” during the May presentation, and recordings of the previous talks are [available here](#).

There are three remaining sessions this year, and Dr. Lisa Forman will speak on “Updates in Management of Cholestatic Liver Diseases” On July 24. Dr. John Paul Norvell will be sharing his expertise on “Updates in Management of Alcohol Associated Liver Diseases” on September 18. This FREE webinar opportunity will give attendees a chance to earn CME, ABIM MOC, and NCPD nursing credit! For more information or to register for the next session please check out our website [here](#).



Course Director:  
Avash Kalra, MD  
Assistant Professor  
Director of Liver  
Transplant Outreach  
and Strategic  
Development

## RESEARCH NEWS

Congratulations to our researchers on receiving two highly competitive grants:

Dr. Sean Colgan received a four-year \$2.25M NIH grant entitled “Metabolic Regulation of Inflammation by Microbial-Derived SCFA” to study how shifts in the intestinal microbiota impact intestinal inflammation.

Dr. Beth Tamburini received a five-year \$2.86M NIH grant entitled “PD-L1 reverse signaling in liver homeostasis and disease”

## GI FELLOWS CORNER

General GI and Advanced Endoscopy Fellows participated in Digestive Disease Week, many with posters and presentations of their own. Congratulations to our fellows who had their research accepted for presentations at DDW: Drs. Dennis Wang, Irene Perez, Taylor Karl, Tom Enke, Kusuma Pokala, Nicole Rueb, and Jack Scolaro



**We celebrated our graduating fellows on June 6. Congratulations and we wish you success in your endeavors!**



- Nicole Doria – University of Colorado Denver Health
- Nancy Li – University of Colorado
- S. Kusuma Pokala - University of Colorado
- Diana Lerner-Medical College of Wisconsin
- Matt Meyers - Asheville Gastroenterology Associates
- Dennis Wang - Loma Linda University
- Kathleen Yan - National Jewish Health
- Trey Simril -University of Colorado Denver Health



Congratulations are in order for Dr. Waseem Ahmed, the 23-24 Brian Brauer Excellence in Teaching Award recipient awarded by our fellows. This award recognizes an outstanding GI-Hep faculty member who has demonstrated superior passion and dedication in fellows' education. This award was created to honor Dr. Brian Brauer, former Therapeutic Endoscopy faculty, tremendous teacher, colleague and friend who passed away in 2019. Each year the fellows vote on one faculty member to receive the award. Congrats again, **Dr. Waseem Ahmed!**



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

Corinne Camp, MD- University of Colorado  
 Chidiebele Enunwa, MD- Emory University  
 Rachel Hoffman, MD- Northwestern University  
 Bejan Saeedi, MD- University of Colorado  
 Sarah Talamantes, MD- Stanford University  
 Blake Niccum, MD (Advanced Endoscopy Fellow Class of 2025)-University of Pennsylvania  
 Kia Vosoughi, MD (IBD Fellow Class of 2025) - Eisenhower Health

### In case you missed it...

The Division hosted a highly successful 18th Rocky Mountain Interventional Endoscopy Course on April 11-13, 2024. Course Directors Anna Duloy, Sachin Wani and Raj Shah were excited to welcome nearly 300 in-person and virtual registrants to the course from 30 states and 12 different countries. RMIE saw 16 exhibitors, a lively fellows' hands-on course, an awesome line-up of live cases and informative didactics with panel discussions.

Our internationally renowned faculty course included Drs. Jennifer Christie, Tyler Berzin, Josh Obuch, Sigh Pichamol Jirapinyo, Uzma Siddiqui, Roos Pouw, Sundeeep Lakhtakia, Amitabh Chak, Vinay Chandrasekhara, Carlos Robles-Medranda, and Jason Samarasena. Thank you to all the members of the Division who attended and supported the course. A special thank you to Kristie Click, the administrative, and nursing teams for all your hard work bringing this together.



## **The 2024 Crohn's & Colitis Foundation Take Steps Walk**

The Division is excited to recognize the 2024 Crohn's & Colitis Walk as a huge success! For those who were not able to attend this year, the Crohn's & Colitis Walk is a fundraising event hosted by the CCF to raise money and awareness about Inflammatory Bowel Disease. This year the team raised \$83,039, saw an increase in participants from last year, and Dr. Carrie Hall was a caretaker honoree this year. Thank you to all who participated this year. We hope to see you next year for the 2025 walk!

## **UPCOMING COURSES AND EVENTS**

### **Rocky Mountain Highlights**

The Division is excited to host the 11th Annual Rocky Mountain Highlights in Gastroenterology and Hepatology Course on Saturday, August 10. All Division faculty, fellows, and colleagues are encouraged to attend this awesome educational offering! Join us for free registration, CME/MOC, NCPD Nursing Contact hours, informative didactics, approachable panel discussions, and a focus on a multi-disciplinary approach to the treatment and management of conditions such as alcohol-associated liver disease, post-operative Crohn's disease, and eosinophilic esophagitis. The course is slated to have more than 20 industry exhibits and a special networking opportunity on the gorgeous rooftop of the Anschutz Health Sciences Building.

Connect with our world-class, multi-disciplinary faculty for didactic presentations and panel discussions offered in-person! Registration is free for this conference. Relevant topics will include Updates in Gastroparesis, Management of Pancreatic Cysts, Multidisciplinary Approach to Alcohol Associate Liver Disease, AI Technology During Colonoscopy, and more!

[Please visit the course website for more conference information and updates.](#)

[Register now](#) for the **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Rocky Mountain Highlights in Gastroenterology and Hepatology Conference** on **Saturday, August 10, 2024** at the University of Colorado Anschutz Health Sciences Building, Donald M. Elliman Conference Center.

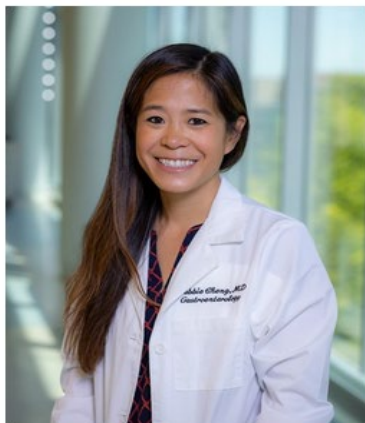
#### **Course Directors:**

**Debbie Cheng, MD**

**Kelli DeLay, MD**

**Avash Kalra, MD**

Save the date,  
spread the word,  
and [register now!](#)



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