



Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

GI Happenings Newsletter

Prepared by Essence Pedrosa

GI/Hep Division Wellness Team



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Dear Colleagues,

The Fall season is here, and we would like to promote ongoing gratitude and recognition of our colleagues for acts that embody professionalism and service. **The CU Celebrates!** Employee Recognition program is a fantastic mechanism in which to recognize excellence. The recognitions can include covering a call shift, reviewing a paper/grant, organizing a conference, or providing administrative assistance. Our goal is to elevate this process and increase utilization to ensure a culture of recognition, inclusion, and collaboration. Thank you to our GI and Hepatology Wellness team for promoting this program.

The CU Celebrates website can be accessed [here](#).

Best,
Jennifer

IN THIS ISSUE

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

IMPORTANT DATES

- October 21-27 Wellness Center Open House
- November 4th Faculty Development Lecture Series
- November 4th Mentorship Academy
- November 6th, Final Webinar Series Talk
- November 11th Flu Shots Due

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Check out the Rocky Mountain Highlights Course recap in this quarterly issue
- Registration is open for the 4th Webinar Series
- Be sure to visit the WellDOM recognition site to show your appreciation to your colleagues.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Community Engagement has made an effort to host a signature event for the following observance:

- Disability Employment Awareness Month (October)
- Check out recordings of the virtual portions of their past events at [this link](#).
- Please visit The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at their [website here](#), for details on the October awareness month signature event.

The Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Community Engagement has many ongoing community improvement projects. You can access information about what they are doing [here](#).



HONORS AND AWARDS

Denver's Best: CU Medicine Physicians Named Top Doctors in 5280 Magazine's 2024 List

The University of Colorado School of Medicine and CU Medicine continue to lead Denver's medical landscape, with 295 providers recognized in 5280 Magazine's prestigious Top Doctors list for 2024.

We are proud to highlight two of our faculty that were selected. Congratulations to **Steven Edmundowicz, MD** and **Raj Shah, MD**.

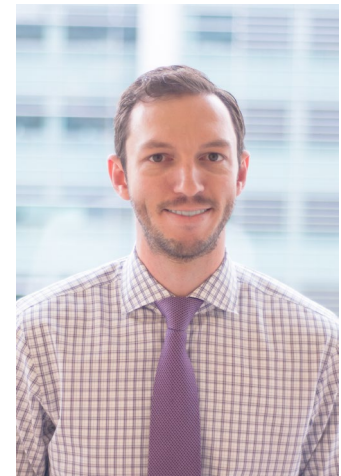
This recognition underscores Drs. Edmundowicz and Shah's commitment to excellence in healthcare.



HEPATOLOGY!

New Transplant Oncology Program

The Transplant Hepatology program recently launched a multidisciplinary Transplant Oncology Program led by our division's own Dr. Michael Kriss and in collaboration with Drs. Philippe Abreu (transplant surgery), Ana Gleisner (surgical oncology), Lindsay Davis and Wells Messersmith (medical oncology). The Transplant Oncology Program is designed to continue to provide exceptional care for our patients undergoing liver transplantation (LT) for hepatocellular carcinoma, cholangiocarcinoma, and metastatic neuroendocrine tumors, but to now also expand LT to select patients with colorectal cancer with unresectable liver metastases (CRLM). The Transplant Oncology Program is already actively evaluating patients with CRLM for LT and is poised to be leaders in this growing area.



Hepatology and Liver Transplantation Webinar Series

The Hepatology and Liver Transplantation webinar series is back for the 3rd year! During a recent presentation on July 24th, Dr. Lisa Forman gave insights on "Updates in Management of Cholestatic Liver Diseases." And Dr. John Paul Norvell shared his expertise on "Updates in Management of Alcohol Associated Liver Diseases" on September 18th.

The final talk in the series will be held November 6th,

This FREE webinar opportunity will give those interested a chance to earn CME and ABIM MOC 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

New Research Faculty

We are so excited that **Daysha Ferrer-Torres, PhD** has joined the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology as well as the Rady Center of Excellence to continue her ground-breaking research on patient-derived organoids to study esophageal development and transitions to cancer in diverse populations.



Grants

Congratulations to our new grant awardees:

Dr. Sean Colgan Lab Grants:

The Colgan Lab received a four-year \$2.1M grant from the NIH to study the impact of microbial short-chain fatty acids on intestinal inflammation.

Dr. Arianne Theiss Grants:

Helmley Charitable Trust

Epithelial mitochondrial dysfunction and extracellular vesicles in Crohn's disease fibrostenosis

Annual Direct Costs: \$444,660

Duration = 2 years

co-PIs: Arianne Theiss and Cale Steiner

F99/K00 fellowship from NCI:

NIH NCI F99/K00

The alterations caused by obese extracellular vesicles on colorectal cancer tumor microenvironment

Graduate student, Parsa Haque

Dr. Matthew Burchill Grants:

NIH

R56 titled "Defining the role of antigen-specific T cell responses in NASH

Annual Direct Cost: \$400,000

co-PIs: Beth Tamburini and Prashanth Francis

Drs. Beth Tamburini and Matthew Burchill received an additional \$250K philanthropic gift to study mechanisms of liver disease from Peter and Sandy Keller.

Highlighted Publications

1. Cartwright IM, Zhou L, Koch SD, Welch N, Zakharov D, Callahan R, Steiner CA, Gerich ME, Onyiah JC, Colgan SP. Chlorination of epithelial tight junction proteins by neutrophil myeloperoxidase promotes barrier dysfunction and mucosal inflammation. *J Clin Invest Insight*, 2024, 9: e178525. PMID: 39133648.
2. Wang, T, Wang RX, Colgan SP: Physiologic hypoxia in the intestinal mucosa: A central role for short-chain fatty acids. *Am J Physiol (Cell)* 2024: doi: 10.1152/ajpcell.00472.2024 PMID: 39159391.
3. Dr. Matthew Burchill's graduate research student Abbie Burtis as first author will also have a publication in the October issue of *Hepatology* titled: "Ag-driven CD8+ T cell clonal expansion is a prominent feature of MASH in humans and mice" You can visit the article here: https://journals.lww.com/hep/fulltext/9900/ag_driven_cd8_t_cell_clonal_expansion_is_a.978.aspx

GI FELLOWS CORNER

Recent fellowship graduate, **Dr. Nicole Doria**, was elected to attend the ASGE Elevate Leadership retreat this past August 2024. This retreat targets early-career URiM physicians (1-3 years post-fellowship) to participate in a focused weekend program encompassing learning, coaching, and networking.

Thank you, Dr. Doria for representing the University of Colorado and the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology!



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Rocky Mountain Highlights

The 11th Rocky Mountain Highlights in Gastroenterology and Hepatology course on Saturday, August 10, 2024 was outstanding.

Highlights:

Record in-person attendance

Exhibitors: 26! (a new record)

Live Tweets: We made 9 conference promo posts on social media!



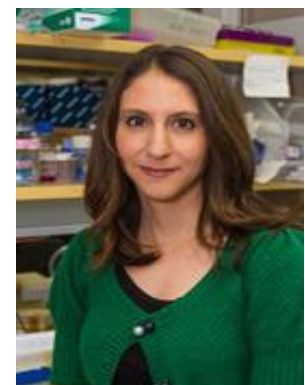
The DOM Highlights Dr. Beth Tamburini

“Why Team Science is Vital to Research Success”

The Department of Medicine highlighted the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology's faculty member Dr. Beth Tamburini for her collaboration efforts to better health outcomes within the University of Colorado, CU, and UHealth.

[Here is the link to the story](#) published over the summer by the Department of Medicine's communications team. In the story **Dr. Tamburini** discusses her work with Dr. Craig Jordan, head of the Division of Hematology, driving collaboration across the department and spotlighting the value of team science.

“There are many different types of immune cells within the lymph node and within the body, and many of these are well studied. But the structural cells with which immune cells interact were not very well studied,” said Tamburini, an associate professor in the CU Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology.



Drs. Jordan and Tamburini's research groups have each received a CU Anschutz School of Medicine Programmatic Incubator for Research (CU ASPIRE) Program Team Award.

Staff Highlights

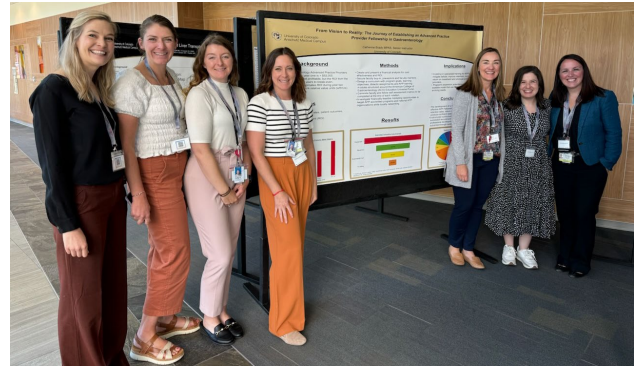


On September 12th, the GI staff gathered together for a staff development opportunity. **Kay Denler**, the Division Administrator for GI, led a Myers Briggs training activity designed to provide information regarding one's own strengths and blind spots while emphasizing the value that various people bring to a team. Several exercises separated individuals into groups that highlighted the unique perspective that different people offer. Staff were encouraged to seek out others whose personalities are contrasting to them in order to garner new insights and approaches.

National APP Week

Cate Brady presented a poster at the Office of Advanced Practice Providers Annual meeting in Denver titled: "From Vision to Reality: Establishing an APP Fellowship in Gastroenterology and Hepatology"

She will also present a poster during the American College of Gastroenterology Annual Scientific Meeting in October in Philadelphia on strategic recruitment strategies for APP fellowships.



Cate Brady pictured here presenting her poster at our APP conference on campus along with the rest of our APP team.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wellness Announcement

The Anschutz Health and Wellness Center is hosting an open house for the Department of Medicine October 21-27, 2024. The offerings will include complimentary full-access membership from 10/21 from 5am - 10pm M-Th and 5am – 9pm Fri-Sun. Enjoy full access including group exercise classes (registration is required). The first 50 DOM employees to visit will receive a AHWC welcome bag.

Faculty Development Lecture Series

Juggling Hats: The different roles we play in academic medicine



Featuring Guest Lecturers:
Adrienne Mann, MD

Associate Professor, Division of Hospital Medicine
Core Faculty for Coaching
Master Certified Coach
Co-Director of [Better Together Physician Coaching](#)



Tyra Fainstad, MD

Associate Professor, Medicine
Resident Clinic Director, Lowry Internal Medicine
Co-Director of [Better Together Physician Coaching](#)

Faculty Development Corner

Be sure to mark your calendar on November 4th to attend GI Grand Rounds in-person where Drs. Adrienne Mann and Tyra Fainstad, Co-Directors of the **Better Together Physician Coaching Program**, will lead a discussion about the different roles we play in academic medicine as colleagues, mentors, coaches, sponsors, and friends. We look forward to a lively discussion about how to develop these roles in a way that can fuel meaningful interactions and professional satisfaction. Don't miss it!

Faculty Development Corner

SAVE THE DATE



An all day event that includes Ted Talk-style sessions, a keynote speaker, and breakout rooms to facilitate discussion and provide actionable advice and guidance for faculty and staff interested in developing their mentorship skills. Open to all CU Anschutz Medical Campus schools and departments.

MONDAY | NOVEMBER 4 | 8 AM-6 PM

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