

TRAINING COMMITTEE

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Mohammad Bilal, MD, FACC

RESPONSIBILITIES AS STATED IN THE ACG BYLAWS

This Committee shall be responsible for coordinating activities, programs and outreach relating to training programs and trainee members of the College.

OBJECTIVES

1. To explore opportunities to encourage more participation by fellows-in-training in ACG.
2. To develop meetings and educational events for trainees.
3. To continue to update and expand the Trainees Section of the ACG website.
4. To promote mentoring of trainees by the College's members.
5. To encourage the networking of trainees amongst each other and faculty at ACG meetings.
6. To encourage more interest and guidance among Internal Medicine residents in a future career in Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Trainee Courses

Chief Fellows Course

The 2025 Chief Fellows Course was held in the Washington, DC, area on May 30 – 31 and co-directed by Adam Ehrlich, MD, MPH, FACC, Ariel Aday, MD,

and Rebecca Matro, MD. Over 130 rising Chief Fellows from across the country were nominated by their program directors and 60 were selected at random to attend the course, which was designed to prepare them for this complicated role. In addition to dedicated networking sessions, attendees learned best practices in working with leadership to effect change, identifying their own leadership styles and conflict resolution. Program directors will be invited in early 2026 to nominate their rising Chief Fellow to attend the June 2026 course, where 120 fellows will be invited to participate.



2nd Year Fellows Course

The 20th annual ACG 2nd Year Fellows Course was held on January 17 – 19, 2025 in the Washington, DC, area. It was co-chaired by Saurabh Chawla, MD, FACC, Bradford Chong, MD, and Xiao Jing (Iris) Wang, MD. The course featured general sessions and small group breakouts

tailored to the learning needs of 2nd year fellows, in addition to Hands-on sessions led by experts in endoscopy, capsule endoscopy, and esophageal manometry. The attendees had the opportunity to interact one-on-one with the experts for a unique mentoring opportunity. Program directors are invited each July to nominate a 2nd year fellow from their program to attend the course. After the nomination period closes, the College randomly selects 125 fellows and fully funds their travel for the course. Based on the continuous success and excellent feedback from training programs, ACG will offer two 2nd Year Fellows Courses beginning in December 2026, allowing up to 250 fellows to participate in the conference.

Annual Meeting and Postgraduate Course Trainee and Resident Events

Trainee Lounge at ACG 2025

The Trainee Lounge will return to ACG 2025, allowing residents and GI fellows to network, grab a snack, challenge their co-fellows to a match of foosball or Pacman, and learn how to become engaged in the College. This space will also be used for several formal and informal sessions for trainees throughout the Annual Meeting. The lounge will be open from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm from Saturday, October 25th – Tuesday, October 28th.

GI Jeopardy

This year will mark the 22nd year of the GI Jeopardy competition, which remains very successful and increasingly popular among trainees. The online preliminary (pre-test) round of GI Jeopardy ran from early-July through early-August. This preliminary competition resulted in five teams being invited to the live competition, based on the number of questions correctly answered and the amount of time spent taking the test. The finalists this year are Cleveland Clinic Foundation, National Capital Consortium, Naval Medical Center (San Diego), UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine/UCLA Medical Center and University of Missouri – Columbia.

Each of these programs was invited to designate two competitors for the final round on Saturday, October 25th, and qualifying teams received airfare and housing for the Philadelphia meeting. The winning team members from the live Jeopardy competition will each receive a \$1,000 travel grant toward the 2026 Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. We expect another spirited competition this year, with Dr. Nabil Fayad returning as emcee, so come prepared to cheer on the participants!



Postgraduate Course Trainees Luncheon

The popular Trainees' Luncheon at the Annual Meeting will resume this year on Sunday, October 27th. The luncheon will feature a faculty panel to discuss “From Fellow to Flourishing: Embracing the Next Step”, discussing early career experiences and important considerations for choosing a career path post Fellowship.

The panel will feature Justine Hum, MD, Folasade May, MD, PhD, MPhil, and Andy Tau, MD. Aaron Goldberg, MD, FACP, Brian Kim, MD, and Sunhee (Sandra) Park, MD, FACP, are the Co-Chairs for this event.

Fireside Chat with ACG Leadership

The Committee will once again hold a “Fireside Chat with ACG Leadership” in the Trainee Lounge on Monday, October 27th, from 10:30 am – 11:30 am. Panelists include past presidents and board members. Fellows will engage with panelists in an informal Q&A, moderated by Dr. Mohammad Bilal, on different leadership trajectories and how involvement in the ACG and national organizations can bring fulfillment throughout their careers.

The star-studded panel this year includes Dayna Early, MD, FACP, Lawrence Schiller, MD, MACG, Samir Shah, MD, MACG, and Patrick Young, MD, FACP.

Deciphering Your First Employment Contract

The Committee will host a session geared towards senior GI fellows, addressing the nuances of contract negotiations on Monday, October 27 from 3:45 pm – 4:45 pm. The Healthcare Attorney, Ann M. Bittering, JD will share tips and tricks for fellows navigating their first contract after fellowship. This session is free and open to all trainees.

Residents' Event: Navigating the GI Match – Tips and Tricks for Applicants

The Committee will host its fourth annual session at the Annual Meeting specifically designed for residents. Dr. Brijesh Patel will moderate “Navigating the GI Match – Tips and Tricks for Applicants” on Monday, October 27th, from 10:30 am – 11:30 am. Invited panelists include Program Directors Saurabh Chawla, MD, FACP, Yesenia Greeff, MD, FACP, Kathryn Hutchins, MD, FACP and Douglas Simonetto, MD.

Residents' Event: Ask the Fellows

The Committee will host “Ask the Fellows” on Tuesday, October 29th, from 10:35 am – 11:30 am in the Trainee Lounge. This exciting opportunity for Residents hoping to match into GI Fellowship will be led by Dr. Joseph Sleiman. Residents will network and ask questions in an informal gathering with GI Fellows.

Other Activities and Programs

Online Resources for Residents

Drs. Rebecca Matro and Yesenia Greeff are leading the Committee's efforts to update the online resource center for current GI Fellows and recent graduates. Updated resources on topics such as the initial job search, international medical graduate considerations and navigating different career paths.

ACG's Committees (cont.)

Training Committee (cont.)

Dr. Ariel Aday is leading the Committee's efforts to develop a comprehensive guide to support residents that have recently matched into gastroenterology fellowship. The ACG Resident Resources Subcommittee aims to foster a smoother, more supported transition into GI fellowship. The curated resources are not meant to be prescriptive but rather to serve as a flexible guide that trainees can use at their own pace based on their interests, needs, and schedules.

The Resident Resources' subcommittee held its annual Special Virtual Grand Rounds on April 16, 2025, with a record attendance of over 500 attendees, to provide guidance to prospective applicants preparing to apply for Gastroenterology & Hepatology Fellowship. If you missed the live webinar, you can watch a recording in the ACG Education Universe here: education.gi.org/presentations/universe_17839.

Board Review Question of the Week

The 2024-2025 Grand Prize Winner of the online Board Review Question of the Week competition was Dr. Umer Farooq, MD, from SSM Health/Saint Louis University School of Medicine. He received a \$1,000 travel grant toward the 2025 Annual Meeting in Phoenix.

The current round of questions can be found in the Trainees section of the ACG website. The Grand Prize Winner is determined by weekly participation and the highest number of correct answers to the questions and will receive a \$1,000 travel grant for the 2026 Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.

We also offer a quarterly prize of online access to one of ACG's Self-Assessment Tests for the participant who answers the most questions correctly each quarter. To be eligible, participants must answer at least 75% of the questions each quarter.

Trainee Mentoring Program

This past August, the Mentoring subcommittee, led by Dr. Nikki Duong, presented a webinar focused on Leveraging the Mentor-Mentee Relationship. The webinar featured brief talks from leading experts on topics such as family planning during fellowship and tips for optimizing the mentor-mentee relationship. ACG's mentoring program offers fellows in training access to faculty and GI leaders from across the country. The program fosters casual dialogue between mentors and mentees in areas ranging from clinical careers to work-life balance. Trainee participants build relationships and gain valuable career guidance from faculty not accessible to them in their training programs. During the 2024-2025 program cycle, over 40 current fellows were mentored by GI leaders and over 70 Internal Medicine residents were mentored by recent graduates and current GI Fellows.