TRAINING COMMITTEE

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Meghana Vellanki, MD
Himesh B. Zaver, MD
Matthew Zhao, MD

Mohammad Bilal, MD, FACG

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 2026 Chief Fellows Course was held in the Washington, D.C. area on May 29-30 and co-directed by Adam Ehrlich, MD, MPH, FACG and Yesenia Greeff, MD, FACG. Over 150 rising Chief Fellows from across the country were nominated by their program directors and 120 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, professional identity formation, and conflict resolution. Program directors will be invited in early 2027 to nominate their rising Chief Fellow to attend the 2027 course in late Spring, where 120 fellows will be invited to participate.

2nd Year Fellows Course Expansion

The ACG Second Year Fellows Course was held on January 16 – 18, 2026 in the Washington, DC, area. It was co-chaired by Murali Dharan, MD, FACG, Brian Ginnebaugh, MD, FACG, and Mariam Naveed, MD, FACG. The course is tailored to the learning needs of second year fellows, and continues to receive excellent feedback from training programs across North America. The course features hands-on sessions led by experts in endoscopy, capsule endoscopy, and esophageal manometry in addition to breakouts on topics including defecatory disorders, hereditary GI cancers, and hepato-biliary and pancreatic imaging. Attendees had the opportunity to interact one-on-one with the experts for a unique mentoring opportunity. Beginning this Winter, ACG will host two Second Year Fellows Courses, allowing up to 250 fellows to participate in the conference. Program directors were invited in July to nominate two 2nd year fellows from their program to attend the expanded course. After the nomination period closes, the College will randomly select up to 125 fellows for each cohort and fully fund their travel and lodging for the course.

***Training Committee** (cont.)*

Annual Meeting and Postgraduate Course Trainee and Resident Events

Trainee Lounge at ACG 2026

The Trainee Lounge will return to ACG 2026! The Committee invites all residents and GI fellows to visit the lounge to network, grab a snack, check out the live job board, 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 10th – Tuesday, October 13th.

GI Jeopardy

This year will mark the 23rd year of GI Jeopardy, 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.

2025 GI Jeopardy champions, Mahmoud Mansour, MD, and Islam Mohamed, MD, from University of Missouri – Columbia

Each of these programs was invited to designate two competitors for the final round on Saturday, October 10th, and qualifying teams received airfare and housing for the meeting. The winning team members from the live Jeopardy competition will each receive a $1,000 travel grant toward the 2027 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Who will take home the coveted GI Jeopardy trophy? 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 11th. The lunch will feature an expert panel to discuss "Beyond the Scope: Non-Traditional Paths in GI", including topics such as careers in industry, entrepreneurship, GI hospitalist roles and GI locum tenens.

The panel will feature Aja McCutchen, MD, Melissa LaTorre Debordeaux, MD, FACG, and Kimberly Zibert, DO. Brock Miller, MD, FACG, Brett Sadowski, MD, FACG, and Meghana Vellanki, MD 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 12, 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 Sita Chokhavatia, MD, MACG, Jonathan Leighton, MD, MACG, John Popp Jr., MD, MACG, and Vonda Reeves, MD, MBA, FACP, FACG.

Deciphering Your First Employment Contract

Back by popular demand, the Committee will again host a session geared towards senior GI fellows, addressing the nuances of contract negotiations on Monday, October 12 from 3:45 pm – 4:45 pm. The Healthcare Attorney, Ann M. Bittinger, 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 fifth 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 12th, from 10:30 am – 11:30 am. Invited panelists include Program Directors Edward Barnes, MD, MPH, FACG, Kathryn Byrne, MD, Charles Brock Miller, MD, FACG and Shreya Narayanan, MD. Fellow Panelists include Sanya Goswami, MD, Tessa Herman, MD, Clive Miranda, DO, MSc, and Hyder Said, MD.

Residents' Event: Ask the Fellows

The Committee will host "Ask the Fellows" on Tuesday, October 13th, 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 Drs. Kevin Houston, Maria Lisa Itzoe, and Vinay Jahagirdar. Residents will network and ask questions in an informal gathering with GI Fellows.

Other Activities and Programs

Fellowship Program Director Community

Drs. Mariam Naveed and David Dulaney are leading a newly launched subcommittee focused on supporting educators involved in GI fellowship programs across the U.S. The subcommittee aims to develop practical tools, share evidence-based educational strategies, and build a national network where GI educators can grow alongside their trainees.

Online Resources for Trainees

Drs. Aaron Goldberg and Yesenia Greeff led the Committee's efforts to update the online resource center for senior GI Fellows and recent graduates. Updated resources on topics such as the initial job search,

international medical graduate considerations and navigating different career paths will be posted on the Trainee webpage.

The ACG Resident Resources Subcommittee aims to foster a smoother, more supported transition into GI fellowship. Dr. Ariel Aday led the Committee's efforts to develop a comprehensive guide to support residents that have recently matched into gastroenterology fellowship.

The Resident Resources' subcommittee held its annual Special Virtual Grand Rounds on April 22, 2026, with over 750 registrants and nearly 500 live attendees, to provide guidance to prospective applicants preparing to apply for Gastroenterology and Hepatology Fellowship. If you missed the live webinar, you can watch a recording in the ACG Education Universe here: **education.gi.org/presentations/universe_18173**

Board Review Question of the Week

The 2025-2026 Grand Prize Winner of the online Board Review Question of the Week competition was Dr. Hisham Wehbe, MD, from The Cleveland Clinic Foundation. He received a $1,000 travel grant toward the 2026 Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN.

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 2027 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

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

ACG's long-standing 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 and research careers to work-life balance and special gastrointestinal interests. Trainee participants build relationships and gain valuable career guidance from faculty not accessible to them in their training programs. During the 2025-2026 program cycle, over 40 current fellows were mentored by GI leaders and over 100 Internal Medicine residents were mentored by recent graduates and current GI Fellows.