2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT of Programs and Activities
ACG Institute Mission Statement

The mission of the American College of Gastroenterology Institute for Clinical Research and Education is to promote digestive health through education of the clinician, the patient and the public, to support clinical research and innovation in gastroenterology and hepatology, and to raise public awareness about prevention of digestive disease.
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LETTER from the ACG Institute Director

Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to present to you the 2018–2019 Report of the ACG Institute for Clinical Research & Education. In the pages that follow, we highlight for you the activities, achievements, and goals of the Institute. I think you will find it interesting and informative.

As the Institute celebrates its 25th anniversary, we have a lot to be proud of and I am pleased to report that the ACG Institute’s programs over the last year have expanded educational and research opportunities for our members and the field. The Institute is successfully meeting its mission to promote clinician, patient, and public education, raise awareness, and support clinical research in gastroenterology and hepatology. I want to thank my colleagues who join me on the Institute Board as well as the ACG staff, without whom our work would not be possible.

The ACG Institute 2018–2019 Report of Programs and Activities highlights our core work including the Junior Faculty Development Awards, Clinical Research Awards, and the ACG Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorships. Our Hepatology School and IBD School programs have seen continued growth with high attendance and excellent feedback from attendees, and our new Functional GI Disorders School made its debut this fall. Also, the new ACG Young Physician Leadership Scholars Program inaugurated its first class of future ACG leaders, who visited Washington, DC as part of the ACG Board of Governors annual legislative advocacy day. Working on your behalf, issues discussed included the removal of barriers to colorectal cancer screening.

New initiatives include the creation of online self-assessment and patient education tools. To continue its support of clinical research and to develop young faculty, the Institute provided approximately $1.1 million through the Junior Faculty Development Awards and Clinical Research Awards. In a first for the Institute, research awards will be available in the coming year for medical students and residents. It is our hope that engaging the best prospects early in their training will strengthen the pipeline of our profession.

Our G.U.T. Fund to Grow, Uplift, and Transform GI through the work of the ACG Institute continues. A record number of ACG members elected to make a charitable gift in support of the Institute either through an additional gift as part of their membership dues or through an annual gift during the year. We wish to express our appreciation for your generosity, and we pledge to you to make your investment in our profession continue to pay dividends.

The Institute is a source of pride for the College. We will continue to build upon our 25 years of success, and endeavor to serve as a hub of innovation in research and education in our profession. Thanks for your ongoing support of our mission and our profession.

Warmest Regards,

Nicholas J. Shaheen, MD, MPH, FACG
Director, ACG Institute
Supporting Clinical Research: Fulfilling the Core Mission of the ACG Institute

**FOUNDED IN 1994, THE ACG INSTITUTE HAS PROVIDED FUNDING TOTALING MORE THAN $20.9 MILLION to 640 investigators, for research relating to the clinical gastrointestinal practice.** The College is proud of the achievements of its funded investigators and plans to invest more fully in their leadership and success.

The ACG Institute’s continued investment in career development awards and funding for GI fellows-in-training will foster clinical innovations in gastroenterology and hepatology that will improve patient care and strengthen the capabilities of practitioners.

**Funding for 2019 Clinical Research**

For 2019, the ACG Institute for Clinical Research and Education will award $1,007,420 in support of outstanding clinical research in gastroenterology. The ACG Institute will support one Junior Faculty Development Grant at an overall level of $300,000. The ACG Institute is proud of the investment in the career development of promising clinical researchers, and the excellent scientific research planned by the Junior Faculty Development Awardees. From among numerous submissions for the 2019 Clinical Research Award, the Research Committee recommended funding for 12 investigators for a total of $407,420, of which four are pilot awards at the $15,000 level, and one is a Smaller Programs Clinical Research Award.

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**2019 Clinical Research Awards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Research Award</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smaller Programs Award</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pilot Award</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**12 Investigators Funded**

TOTALING $406,420

**ACG Institute will award**

$1,007,420 to support outstanding clinical research in gastroenterology.

**Junior Faculty Development Grants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Per Recipient</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Funding</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1994–2019 ACG Institute Funded

640 INVESTIGATORS totaling more than

$20.9 MILLION
ACG Institute Invests in GI Career Development
The ACG Institute considers the Junior Faculty Development Grant the “jewel in the crown” of the College’s research initiatives. This grant provides three years of support at a level of $100,000 annually for a $300,000 total investment in GI clinical investigation. At this level of funding, the Institute is able to attract the best-qualified candidates and provide them with the protected research time when funding is increasingly scarce.

Smaller Programs Clinical Research Award
For the purposes of this award, “smaller” GI programs are defined as programs with 15 or fewer full-time faculty across the program’s sites (pediatric programs with seven or fewer full-time faculty within the pediatric department may also apply). The Smaller Programs Clinical Research Award includes a requirement for a clearly defined mentoring plan, including e-mentoring, if necessary. The Institute finds it worthwhile to continue investing in excellent clinical research from a more varied group of institutions and to make this support meaningful and productive by specifically investing in mentoring.

Rigorous Review of Clinical Research Applicants by ACG Research Committee
In January 2019, the ACG Research Committee, under the leadership of Millie D. Long, MD, MPH, FACP, convened in Arlington, VA to review the submissions for the ACG 2019 Research Awards. The hard-working committee members encompass a wide range of research expertise in gastroenterology and hepatology. Each year, over 100 grant applications for grant funding are reviewed, spread among the categories of Junior Faculty Development Awards, Clinical Research Awards, Pilot Programs, and Smaller Programs. The Research Committee members thoroughly review each grant application, with three reviewers assigned to score each grant, utilizing a scoring scale modeled on the NIH scoring system. At the committee’s in-person review in January, applications are discussed in detail with a presentation by each of the three assigned reviewers, followed by an open discussion by the Research Committee and final scoring by all committee members. Once the review process is completed, a recommendation regarding which grants should be funded is made to the ACG Institute’s Director, Nicholas J. Shaheen, MD, MPH, FACP, who then presents those funding decisions to the ACG Board of Trustees for final approval.

The dedicated members of the Research Committee take part in the labor-intensive review process to ensure that the process is fair and the best science is selected for funding. In order to assist applicants in their grantsmanship and future applications, all grant applicants also receive written critiques from the reviewers.

The ACG Institute is expanding clinical research to our junior colleagues—medical residents and students. In 2020, two new grant types are available:

Resident Clinical Research Award
Up to $10,000 for first or second year internal medicine or pediatric residents in the US or Canada

Medical Student Research Award
Up to $5,000 for 6-10 week summer research projects, for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year medical students in the US or Canada
SUPPORTING INVESTIGATIVE SCIENCE: ACG Clinical Research Awards

In 2019, the College offers Clinical Research Awards of up to $50,000 for original clinical research. The mission of this awards program is to fund innovative research that is patient-care oriented. The Committee also considers proposals for pilot awards of up to $15,000 within this category.

### 2019 ACG Clinical Research Awards

- **Eileen Carpenter, MD, PhD**
  University of Michigan
  Using Endoscopic Fine Needle Biopsies of Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma for Precision Medicine

- **Sonia Friedman, MD, FACG**
  Brigham and Women’s Hospital
  Long-Term Motor and Cognitive Function in the Children of Women with Inflammatory Bowel Disease

- **Aasma Shaukat, MD, MPH, FACP**
  University of Minnesota & Minneapolis VAHCS
  Maximizing Detection of Right Sided Adenomas and Sessile Serrated Adenomas Through a Polyp Detection Poster: A Prospective Controlled Study in a Large GI Community Practice

- **Elena Stoffel, MD, MPH**
  University of Michigan
  Dysregulation of Notch Signaling Pathway in Young Onset Colorectal Cancer

- **Hamed Khalili, MD, MPH**
  Massachusetts General Hospital
  A Single-Cell Survey of Large Intestine in Microscopic Colitis

- **Nicole Welch, MD**
  Cleveland Clinic
  Protein Supplementation Targeting Window of Anabolic Opportunity to Prevent Hepatic Encephalopathy

- **Elena Stoffel, MD, MPH**
  University of Michigan
  Dysregulation of Notch Signaling Pathway in Young Onset Colorectal Cancer

### 2019 ACG Clinical Research Awards Pilot Projects

- **Rana Abraham, MD, MS**
  Rush University Medical Center
  Defining the Mechanisms of Constipation In Parkinson’s Disease

- **Xiao Jing (Iris) Wang, MD**
  Mayo Clinic Rochester
  Establishment and Validation of a New Protocol and Normative Values for the Evaluation of Gastric Emptying and Gastric Accommodation in Bariatric Surgery Patients

- **Nneka Ufere, MD**
  Massachusetts General Hospital
  Advance Care Planning Video Decision Support Tool for Patients with End-Stage Liver Disease

- **Jonathan Xia, MD, PhD**
  Northwestern University
  Metabolic Biomarkers as Predictors of NASH Recurrence After Liver Transplant

### 2019 ACG “Smaller Programs” Clinical Research Awards

- **Vu Nguyen, MD, MS**
  Carilion Medical Center – Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine
  Endoscopic Ultrasound Helps Differentiate and Monitor Disease Activity in Crohn’s Disease and Ulcerative Colitis

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Takeda has provided unrestricted support to the ACG Institute for Clinical Research and Education. In recognition, the ACG/Takeda Clinical Research Awards are provided to qualifying investigators. The ACG/Takeda Clinical Research Award is designated after the ACG Research Committee has made its grant decisions and the awardees have accepted.
SPOTLIGHT: ACG Clinical Research Awardees

Recipients of the ACG Clinical Research Award continue to make significant contributions to the field of clinical gastroenterology and are a source of tremendous pride for the ACG Institute. For ACG 2019, three ACG Clinical Research Awardees were selected to present their research on the topics of pouchitis and hepatocellular carcinoma.

DR. BO SHEN, PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE AT LERNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AT THE CLEVELAND CLINIC, is a 2000 AND 2005 recipient of the ACG Clinical Research Award; 2000 for Enteric Defensin in the Pathophysiology of Acute Pouchitis; 2005 for A Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial of Rifaximin as a Maintenance Therapy for Patients with Antibiotic-Dependent Pouchitis. He will be presenting his continuing research related to pouchitis at ACG 2019 entitled Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Is Effective in the Treatment of Inflammatory Disorders of the Ileal Pouch.

DR. AMOL SHARMA, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY, is a 2017 recipient of the ACG Clinical Research Award for Home Versus Office Biofeedback Therapy for Fecal Incontinence.

DR. SUBBARAMIAH SRIDHAR, PROFESSOR AT MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY, is a 2005 recipient of the ACG Pilot Projects Clinical Research Award for his project entitled Evaluation of Patients with Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia with Wireless Capsule Endoscopy—A Pilot Study.

**Dr. Sharma and Dr. Sridhar are co-authors of research to be presented at the plenary session at ACG 2019; Hepatocellular Carcinoma and Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma in the U.S.: Exploring Trends Since 2001.**
PERSPECTIVE: Incoming Class of Junior Faculty Awardees

ACG’s 2019 Junior Faculty Development Awardee Shares Thoughts on His Research and Career Focus

Megan Adams, MD, JD, MsC
University of Michigan
Promoting High-Value Use of Endoscopic Sedation

Parakkal Deepak, MBBS, MS
University of Michigan
Triangular Phenotyping and Response Assessment in Small Bowel Crohn’s Disease using MRe and Novel Proteomic Biomarkers

Girish Hiremath, MD, MPH
Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt
Label Free Determination of Biomolecular and Biochemical Signatures in Eosinophilic Esophagitis: Bench to Bedside Application of Raman Spectroscopy

Rena Yadlapati, MD, MSHS
University of California San Diego (formerly at University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus)
Determining Best Practices for Reflux Associated Laryngeal Symptoms

Dustin A. Carlson, MD, MSCI
Northwestern University
Biomechanical Assessment of the Esophagogastric Junction and Application of Predictive Analytics to Enhance Evaluation of Functional Dysphagia

I am an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. My Gastroenterology and Hepatology fellowship, which included a T32 research-training fellowship in esophageal physiology, and Master of Science in Clinical investigation, were completed at Northwestern University. My career objectives are to be an independently funded investigator and a leader in the field of esophageal physiology and esophageal disorders, particularly with regard to esophageal motility disorders.

By applying a multifaceted evaluation of esophageal function in a clinically challenging cohort of esophageal motility patients (functional dysphagia), this research project aims to improve our understanding of esophageal disease, aid validation of esophageal distensibility testing, and facilitate development of improved management strategies that will be applicable to other esophageal disease states. In the present state of functional dysphagia, an etiology for patients’ symptoms generally remains unknown and management strategies are variably applied with inconsistent effectiveness. However, novel tools for evaluation of esophageal function, in particular esophageal distensibility testing with the functional luminal imaging probe (FLIP), and high-resolution impedance manometry may help better define functional abnormalities with targetable interventions. Thus, Aim 1 will assess the consequences of impaired esophagogastric junction (EGJ) distensibility on esophageal emptying and esophageal bolus clearance among patients with functional dysphagia through comprehensive evaluation with FLIP, barium esophagram, and high-resolution impedance manometry. Aim 2 will evaluate esophageal distensibility, among other clinical and physiologic factors, as potential predictors of clinical outcomes of standardized, targeted interventions in patients with functional dysphagia.

The proposed mentored career development plan will allow me to refine an interdisciplinary skill set that includes esophageal biomechanics, database management, and predictive analytics. It is an honor to utilize the ACG Junior Faculty Development Award to help me build upon a foundation of training and practice in esophageal physiology with the goal to transition to a successful independent investigator and work towards improving the care of patients with esophageal motility disorders.
ACG SCHOLARS: Contributions to the 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting

A MAINSTAY OF THE ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING is the stimulating research submitted by Junior Faculty Development Grantees, which dominates the oral plenary sessions. This year, at the ACG 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting, the Junior Faculty Development Grantees will once again be presenting high-quality research. As part of their award requirements, grantees are encouraged to submit an abstract to the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting. Submissions are rigorously reviewed and evaluated by the ACG Educational Affairs Committee, which this year selected fewer than 70 papers for oral presentation from the more than 3,250 abstracts submitted.

The consistently high percentage of oral papers presented by the ACG Scholars at the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting is a testament to the talents of this dynamic group of clinical researchers. Their work is frequently featured as part of the distinguished President’s Plenary Session, a forum to showcase the best abstract in each organ system category.

PLENARY SESSIONS: 2019 ACG ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

ZOBAIR YOUNOSSI, MD, MPH, FACG
Inova Health Systems
Positive Results From REGENERATE: A Phase 3 International, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Study Evaluating Obeticholic Acid Treatment for NASH

2017 ACG Junior Faculty Development Awardees present their Research in Philly:

Dr. Allen’s project explores noninvasive methods for detecting NASH at early stages, before fibrosis. One promising technology is multifrequency 3D MR elastography. She has studied 2 MRI-based imaging parameters (damping ratio, shear stiffness, and fat fraction) and combined these into a logistic regression model. Her aims are: 1) to estimate the diagnostic performance of hepatogram for NASH in bariatric patients; 2) validate the accuracy of hepatogram for NASH diagnosis in an independent NAFLD cohort; and 3) determine the diagnostic performance of hepatogram in the detection of longitudinal changes in NASH after weight-loss interventions. In Philadelphia she presented to the assembled group of ACG Scholars, her exploration of the optimal mf3D-MRE frequency for NASH detection, with the ultimate goal of developing a model output for clinical practice.

The aim of Dr. Dhanasekaran’s research is to identify prognostic plasma biomarkers which can detect invasive hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Dr. Dhanasekaran has identified a panel of biomarkers utilizing mouse glycoproteomics. They are identifying biomarkers for invasiveness in the plasma of patients with HCC to compare the expression levels between tumors with and without vascular invasion. Dr. Dhanasekaran’s team has identified a promising biomarker, and are increasing sample accrual for validation.

Dr. Khanna’s project focuses on improving the efficiency of drug development in both ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease either through enhancing the operating outcomes, or endoscopic, histologic, and MRE indices that are currently used as endpoints in clinical trials. She has developed a knowledge base in outcome measure validation, with the aim of defining an optimal approach to the process of early drug development which will, in turn, increase therapeutic options for patients and clinicians. Dr. Khanna is utilizing the Kirshner-Guyatt model of evaluative instrument development and working to create validated indices. Her projects include UC and CD endoscopy, UC and CD histology, CD, MR enterography, and she is also working on CD MR enterography, CD post-operative, CD fistula, pouchitis, PRO CD, PRO UC, and celiac histology.
THE ACG SCHOLARS IS A COHORT OF 60 CURRENT AND FORMER RECIPIENTS OF THE ACG JUNIOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AWARD. As recipients of this prestigious award, they move forward as leaders in the field of clinical gastroenterology. They represent the highest level of achievement and develop relationships with their peers that further new research to benefit the delivery of care.

Established in 1997, the ACG Scholars Cohort meets each year at the ACG Annual Meeting to network and to attend a research progress presentation from the previous year’s Development Award recipients.

ACG 2018 SCHOLARS EVENT IN PHILADELPHIA
On October 8, 2018, at the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, the ACG Scholars met for the annual luncheon and networking meeting. This event has become an annual tradition, bringing together past Junior Faculty Development Award recipients with the previous year’s awardees.

ACG Institute Director, Dr. Nicholas Shaheen, welcomed everyone, including current and former members of the ACG Institute Board of Directors to the luncheon. Dr. Shaheen encouraged everyone to remain engaged in the work of the Institute and provided a summary of the Institute’s current projects.

The Junior Faculty Award Recipients from 2017 made impressive presentations on the progress of their research. Alina Allen, MD of Mayo Clinic Rochester provided an update on her project Noninvasive Diagnosis of NASH by Magnetic Resonance Elastogram (MRE). Renumathy Dhanasekaran, MD of Stanford University presented on Plasma Glycoproteomic Biomarkers for Invasive Human Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC). Reena Khanna, MD of University of Western Ontario offered an update on her project Efficient Early Drug Development in Inflammatory Bowel Disease.
Carlo Di Lorenzo, MD  
Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, The Ohio State University College of Medicine; Robert F. and Edgar T. Wolfe Foundation, Endowed Chair in Pediatric Gastroenterology; Chief, Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition, Nationwide Children’s Hospital

G. Richard Locke, III, MD, FACP  
In Memoriam (1961–2019)  
Former Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic Rochester

Naga P. Chalasani, MD, FACP
David W. Crabb Professor of Gastroenterology and Hepatology; Professor of Medicine; Chief, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology; Associate Dean for Clinical Research; Adjunct Professor of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, Indiana University School of Medicine

Chinyu Su, MD
Senior Director, Global Medicines Development, Pfizer Inc.

G. Richard Locke, III, MD, FACP  
In Memoriam (1961–2019)  
Former Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic Rochester

Nicholas J. Shaheen, MD, MPH, FACP
Bozymski-Heizer Distinguished Professor of Medicine; Chief, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, University of North Carolina School of Medicine at Chapel Hill

Deborah A. Fisher, MD, MHS
Associate Professor of Medicine, Duke University; Associate Director of GI Research, Duke Clinical Research Institute

Sapna Syngal, MD, MPH, FACP  
Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Senior Physician, Brigham and Women’s Hospital; Director of Research, Center for Cancer Genetics and Prevention; Director, Gastrointestinal Cancer Genetics and Prevention Clinics; Director, Gastroenterology, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Kirti Shetty, MD
Professor of Medicine, Director of Hepatology and Medical Director of Liver Transplantation, University of Maryland Medical Center

Zobair M. Younossi, MD, MPH, FACP
Executive Vice President for Research, Inova Health System; Chairman, Department of Medicine, Inova Fairfax Hospital; Professor of Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University; Professor of Biomedical Sciences, George Mason University; Co-Director, Center for the Study of Genomics in Liver Disease

John M. Inadomi, MD, FACP
Cyrus E. Rubin Professor of Medicine; Head, Division of Gastroenterology, University of Washington

Bo Shen, MD, FACP
The Ed and Joey Story Endowed Chair, Professor of Medicine, Cleveland Clinic
Tamas A. Gonda, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine,
New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center

Jennifer C. Lai, MD, MBA
Associate Professor of Medicine,
University of California San Francisco School of Medicine

Naim Alkhouri, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine,
Director, Metabolic Center, Texas Liver Institute

Linda C. Cummings, MD, MS
Assistant Professor of Medicine,
Case Western Reserve University

Manish K. Gaia, MD
Instructor in Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Assistant in Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital

Jessica R. Allegretti, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor
Harvard Medical School

Walter G. Park, MD, MS
Assistant Professor of Medicine; Medical Director, Pancreas Clinic, Stanford Hospital & Clinics, The Stanford University Medical Center

Ashwani K. Singal, MD, MS, FACP
Associate Professor, University of South Dakota, Sanford School of Medicine

Siddharth Singh, MD, MS
Assistant Professor
University of California San Diego

N. Jewel Samadder, MD, MSc
Senior Associate Consultant; Medical Lead- High Risk Cancer Clinics; Associate Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic Scottsdale

Christopher V. Almaro, MD, MSHPM
Assistant Professor
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

Cynthia A. Moylan, MD, MHS
Associate Professor, Duke University School of Medicine, Duke University Medical Center

Jennifer C. Price, MD, PhD
Associate Professor
University of California San Francisco
THE ACG INSTITUTE-SUPPORTED ACUTE PANCREATITIS TASK FORCE ON QUALITY has published its findings in the August issue of *The American Journal of Gastroenterology*. “Acute Pancreatitis Task Force on Quality: Development of Quality Indicators for Acute Pancreatitis Management” and its quality indicators are endorsed by the College. The work of the task force was funded by a grant from the ACG Institute.

To address the urgent need to provide improved patient care, the Acute Pancreatitis Task Force on Quality developed validated pancreatitis care management quality indicators which hospitals and clinicians may use to assess their performance and develop initiatives that improve patient care and outcomes.

This rigorous process included multiple rounds of ranking the proposed quality indicators. The work was overseen by a task force of national experts and included an in-person meeting in Dallas, Texas on March 8-9, 2018 to conduct the second round of ranking of the quality indicators. The specific aim of the APTFQ was to formally develop quality indicators for the management of acute pancreatitis patients utilizing a modified version of the RAND/UCLA Appropriateness Methodology (RAM).
ACG Institute’s Education Mission

The ACG Institute works to develop comprehensive education for GI clinicians based on the best science, as well as to serve as a resource for patient education and raise public awareness of various GI disorders.
ACG’s Hepatology School

ACG’s Hepatology School returned for a third successful year. Building on the success of ACG’s Hepatitis School (2013–2016), and recognizing the need for a more comprehensive course, the ACG Institute implemented a broader curriculum in 2017. The curriculum was further enhanced for 2018, providing the most comprehensive agenda to this point for attendees.

The content is tailored to meet the needs of clinical practitioners and advanced practice providers, with a deep dive into the material and in a smaller, more intimate educational experience that brings the quality clinical education of ACG’s Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course closer to where ACG member physicians live and practice.

Topics will continue to evolve, encompassing management, treatment and screening for hepatitis B and hepatitis C, treatment post-cure of HCV, evaluation and treatment of NAFLD and NASH, evaluation and treatment of primary biliary cholangitis, hepatic encephalopathy, other complications of cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma.

ACG’s Hepatology School is designed to better enable clinical gastroenterologists and primary care physicians to triage, treat, and refer patients more efficiently. With a flexible curriculum designed to meet current trends, Two Hepatology School programs will be offered this year: June 7, 2019 in Washington, DC and December 6, 2019 in Louisville, KY.

2019 Hepatology School Courses:
• June 7, 2019 - Washington, DC**
• December 6, 2019 - Louisville, KY

** The Institute recognizes with thanks the promotional support provided in-part by Shionogi, Inc.
ACG’s IBD School

NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR, ACG’s IBD School was modeled after the success of ACG’s Hepatitis School. The concept of a specialized course for inflammatory bowel disease gained importance for ACG Institute leaders with the rise of recent changes related to IBD. These changes include new FDA-approved agents, new diagnostic tests, and serum drug levels. The IBD School Course Directors, with the help of IBD experts from around the country, felt the need to make ACG members aware of these developments so that they could be better prepared to provide the most up-to-date, evidence-based care to their IBD patients.

The inaugural IBD School was held on April 7, 2017, in Washington, DC with record attendance. Three additional IBD Schools occurred in 2018, two in 2019, and more are planned for 2020.

The faculty is comprised of experts in the field who are not only well-respected researchers but also busy clinicians. They discuss real-life issues, drawing on matters that are affecting their patients as part of the panel discussions and question and answer sessions.

2018-2019 IBD School Courses:
- January 26, 2018 - Las Vegas, NV**
- April 13, 2018 - Boston, MA**
- September 7, 2018 - Williamsburg, VA**
- January 18, 2019 - Las Vegas, NV**
- August 16, 2019 - Minneapolis, MN**

**The Institute recognizes with thanks the promotional support of AbbVie, Inc., and Amgen, Inc. for the IBD School program in 2018 and 2019.
The ACG Institute’s IBS Patient Education Tools Task Force, led by Drs. Chey and Quigley, created two new IBS Patient tools—the IBS Screener and the IBS Treatment Checklist. These tools are intended to help patients and physicians have more meaningful discussions around IBS.

The ACG Institute’s Functional Task Force has developed two new interactive online patient tools: 1) the IBS Screener and 2) the IBS Treatment Checklist. The goals are to increase patient awareness of IBS, improve patient engagement with their physicians and enhance the quality of interactions, while providing clear, accessible and easy to understand information on IBS treatment options.

The IBS Screener helps patients self-identify with IBS symptoms, an important step in setting the stage for a productive conversation with a physician about functional GI problems. The IBS Treatment Checklist helps patients learn more about IBS treatments and create a personalized checklist of treatments they are currently using, have tried in the past, or wish to discuss with their physician.

Functional GI disorders are among the most common GI disorders in the general population. Understanding the latest science regarding these disorders and newer treatment modalities is critical to improving clinical outcomes and quality of life for a large group of patients who can be among the most difficult to treat. Drawing upon the findings of the recently published “ACG Monograph on the Management of Irritable Bowel Syndrome” and building upon the success of ACG’s Hepatology School and IBD School, Functional GI Disorders School’s inaugural session was on September 6, 2019 in Williamsburg, VA. Two more Functional GI Disorders Schools are planned for 2020.

Topic areas covered include a broad range of FGIDs with an emphasis on a holistic, integrative management strategy incorporating diet, behavior and evidence-based medical treatments. Practical management tips will be provided that will prove immediately actionable for attendees and their patients. Additionally, improving communication and patient understanding about functional GI disorders is approached through a role-playing format.

**2019-2020 Functional GI Disorders School Courses:**
- September 6, 2019 - Williamsburg, VA
- January 10, 2020 – San Diego, CA
- December 4, 2020 – Louisville, KY
Developing future leaders in clinical gastroenterology is a primary goal of the Young Physician Leadership Scholars Program. The first cohort of 30 promising young leaders were selected from a highly competitive applicant pool and they represent the best in the field. The program provides a vital resource for early-career gastroenterologists to learn and practice leadership strategies, complex communication, and professional advocacy. These skills are not typically taught in any organized fashion in medical school or during fellowship. The YPLSP seeks to imbue these skills into a new group of participants each year.

The program began in the fall of 2018 through online modules that guide each participant through various facets of leadership, public policy legislative advocacy, financial management, and emotional intelligence. Each module is designed to expand a participant’s knowledge base while simultaneously challenging preconceptions.

The inaugural YPLSP class gathered face-to-face for the first time at the 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting in Philadelphia. The full-day session included topics on how to develop an individual leadership model, strategies to avoid burnout, and understanding organizational behavior. The participants gathered again in April 2019 as part of the ACG Board of Governors Legislative Fly-In in Washington, DC. This exciting opportunity included visits with Members of Congress and their staffs to discuss issues including the removal of barriers to CRC screening and Medicare reimbursement for GI procedures. As part of the Washington, DC visit, the ACG Young Leadership Scholars participated in sessions on topics including how to handle difficult conversations, discussion of various leadership challenges, and problem-solving exercises.

The second class of Young Leadership Scholars was selected in the summer of 2019 and will meet one another for the first time at the 2019 ACG Annual Scientific Meeting in San Antonio, TX.
ACG Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship Program

THE ACG INSTITUTE’S EDGAR ACHKAR VISITING PROFESSORSHIP PROGRAM represents the exemplary educational offerings of the ACG Institute and the ongoing mission to provide quality educational opportunities for members. As fewer resources are available for visiting speakers, the ACG Institute continues to create opportunities for speakers to serve as faculty for medical grand rounds presentations and to enhance the educational experience for GI fellows-in-training while providing objective, timely, and clinically relevant presentations to ACG member physicians in the community.

The purpose of these visits is to reach a diverse number of programs while aiming to maximize the impact of each visit by targeting GI training programs, which could also leverage an additional community event with local ACG member physicians, sometimes in conjunction with a local gut club. The programs offer expertise for a specific area of need at each institution.

2019 marks the sixth year of the ACG Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship program’s offerings, with 14 visits for GI fellows-in-training and faculty.
The ACG Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship Program has conducted more than 63 visits since the program’s inception in 2014. These visits have taken place in 28 U.S. states, Washington, DC, and two Canadian provinces.
SUNANDA V. KANE, MD, MSPH, FACG was invited to SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY, on September 13, 2018, for her expertise on IBD by Savanna Thor, DO, MPH and Shivakumar Vignesh, MD, FACP. Dr. Kane presented “IBD for the Internist” at medical grand rounds, which was attended by physicians, fellows, residents, and students from all specialties of medicine from SUNY Downstate Medical Center as well as local Brooklyn medical providers. Dr. Kane met with fellows to discuss difficult IBD cases, career advice, and mentoring. She presented “IBD and Pregnancy” for GI grand rounds to nurses, students, residents, fellows, and attendings from gastroenterology, pediatric gastroenterology, and obstetrics-gynecology, as well as physicians from SUNY Downstate, medical providers from community affiliate sites, as well as other local Brooklyn hospitals.

SUNY Downstate was impressed by how approachable, and engaging Dr. Kane was, as well as her passion for patient care and invaluable expertise. Dr. Kane cited the “importance of having the opportunity to meet face to face with an expert, and have their undivided, dedicated attention is priceless. Having this type of interaction with both faculty and fellows makes it impactful for the entire division as well as interesting and fulfilling for me.”

“To me the best part of the visit was learning how an expert in IBD would approach a complicated patient and what sort of information they gather to aid in decision making. The thoroughness in her approach was impressive and that’s something I hope to apply to our IBD patients. In addition, she was very approachable and patiently answered our questions during various sessions.”

—SUNY Downstate Medical Center GI Fellow

“The ability to ask questions [of] an IBD expert throughout the day…the chance to speak with Dr. Long on a more intimate scale and discuss putting new therapies into clinical practice.”

—Beaumont Hospital, Farmington Hills Fellows
MILLIE D. LONG, MD, MPH, FACG
visited Beaumont-Botsford Campus in Detroit, MI, on September 26, 2018. Marquit Sendelbach, DO invited Dr. Long for her IBD expertise. Grand rounds focused on IBD and pregnancy, with a broader discussion of women’s health issues in IBD. Attendees included local fellows, GI faculty, medical students, and nursing students. This talk was particularly meaningful for two of the nursing students, who happen to have Crohn’s disease, in terms of information they learned for themselves as well as their patients.

The fellows found the small breakout session with Dr. Long particularly impactful, as they had the chance to discuss difficult cases and ask questions one-on-one. They discussed new therapies for Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis, as well as IBD and IBS, and how to manage sensitivity as compared to inflammation. The breakout session also offered an opportunity to learn about ways to become involved in ACG and opportunities in the broader GI community, such as visiting rotations and specific fellows conferences.

The visit also included a dinner, where the fellows discussed articles from *The American Journal of Gastroenterology*. The fellows did an excellent job of presenting, and they had a robust discussion on how the articles may change practice. Dr. Long was honored to have the opportunity to learn about their program, especially as a fellowship program director herself and it was a great opportunity to discuss shared best practices, and learn from each other. Dr. Long has a great deal of respect for her colleagues in the community who do it all—from IBD to hepatology to advanced procedures and beyond.

JOHN E. PANDOLFINO, MD, MSCI, FACG
visited Ascension Genesys Regional Medical Center, in Flint, MI, on November 6-7, 2018. He was invited by Ramy Mansour, DO and Justin R. Miller, DO, for his expertise on esophageal pH studies and GERD. The visit began with an evening presentation on Endoflip® and other technologies in esophagology, which included local physicians, fellows, and attending physicians. The presentation covered the future of diagnostics in the esophagus, and Dr. Pandolfino’s approach with patients followed by over an hour of questions and answers.

Ascension Genesys reported that Dr. Pandolfino was funny, engaging, and enlightening throughout the morning session. He gave a presentation on reflux, and the fellows presented difficult cases with high resolution manometry and pH studies. Dr. Pandolfino went through his approach when reading these studies and was gracious enough to answer every question in detail using evidence-based medicine and drawing from his own experiences. The audience included fellows, the core faculty, a nurse practitioner, and three endoscopy technicians who perform esophageal studies. The technicians were invited to visit Dr. Pandofino’s institution to learn more. The visit wrapped up with advice on reducing errors, maintaining efficiency, reducing variability, and increasing patient satisfaction.

“Not only did we gain a wealth of knowledge, but Dr. Pandolfino reassured us with his practicality when treating his patients. He steered us away from algorithms and absolutes and strongly advised us to be clinicians and treat each patient individually. He proved to us that we can be heavily involved in research and clinical practice simultaneously...This will be an experience we will never forget.” —Ramy Mansour DO, GI Fellow, Ascension Genesys
COREY SIEGEL, MD, MS
visited the National Institutes of Health, in Bethesda, MD, on November 16, 2018. He was invited for his IBD expertise by Natasha Kamal, MD and Christopher Koh, MD. While NIH offers an incredible learning experience, they do not receive as many IBD cases as other trainees, and they appreciated the ability to learn from an expert for this under-represented area. Dr. Siegel commended the fellows interest, great cases presented, and engagement in learning. The fellows appreciated the time Dr. Siegel spent going over patient cases, and discussing his approach and answering questions. For them it was inspiring to hear about personalized, patient-centered care.

The visit included a grand rounds presentation with a mix of GI attendings, GI fellows, nurse practitioners in GI and immunology, researchers, and other support staff participating.

“We especially liked being able to discuss our cases with Dr. Siegel in a small forum setting and appreciate how much thought he put into them! IBD is a very nuanced field, and Dr. Siegel really helped break it down for us with pearls one can only learn from an expert.”
—NIH Fellows

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

EAMONN M.M. QUIGLEY, MD, MACG
visited Mount Sinai Beth Israel, St. Luke’s and West in New York on February 26-27, 2019. For grand rounds, Dr. Quigley presented “The Gut Microbiome 2019 - What are the Takeaways for the Clinician?” to an audience of medical students, internal medicine residents, GI fellows, and private and academic faculty affiliated with the Mount Sinai Beth Israel, St. Luke’s and West Hospitals. In addition, other members of the medical support team including social workers, nurses, and research coordinators participated. The lecture was also attended by other gastroenterologists from the NYC area, with over 50 individuals participating in-person or remotely via broadcasting across the three campuses.

The lecture was followed by a case-based conference with the 12 fellows and the program director, Ilan Weisberg, MD entitled “Complex Cases of Functional Bowel Disease.” Dr. Quigley appreciated the interaction with the fellows who were “very engaged and had prepared excellent cases.” Mount Sinai appreciated the ability to have a small group, case-based session with a prominent leader in the field and the way that Dr. Quigley was able to dissect the scenarios and present, his clinical reasoning with clarity. The visit will shape the way fellows critically assess evidence-based approaches to diagnosis and management of patients with functional bowel diseases.
Dr. Eamonn Quigley’s lecture was a fascinating navigation through the history of the gut biome. He provided us with enthusiasm and insight into clinical applications today, and eager anticipation of future practice implications. His talk opened our eyes to impacts of the microbiome beyond gastrointestinal illnesses.” — Dr. Hershman of Mount Sinai

AMY S. OXENTENKO, MD, FACG
visited NYU School of Medicine Langone Medical Center on April 2, 2019, at the invitation of Renee Williams, MD, FACG. The visit started with a Women in GI reception in honor of Dr. Oxentenko. The NYU GI faculty, fellows, and staff were incredibly welcoming, and the spirit of camaraderie in the division was evident. Dr. Oxentenko stated it is quite clear that the efforts on recruiting a diverse workforce are incredibly effective, and it was really a testament to their leadership.

Dr. Oxentenko presented GI grand rounds “Celiac Mimickers: A Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing, or a Sheep in Wolf’s Clothing.” There was a large turnout, with an audience of fellows, faculty, advance practice providers, and emeritus staff. After the grand rounds presentation, Dr. Oxentenko met with the group of fellows (as well as a medical student interested in GI) to share career advice and answer some GI questions related to her talk and practice. This was followed by one-on-one meetings, many with colleagues Dr. Oxentenko has worked with on ACG committees and projects including Drs. Balzora, Bosworth, Gross, Pochapin, and Williams. In addition, Dr. Oxentenko met with a general internist from NYU whom she had gotten to know through social media and has mentored, who has also worked to promote issues regarding women in medicine.

“This initiative is such a wonderful opportunity to allow faculty to go to such highly regarded institutions and interact with trainees and faculty on a personal level. It was fantastic that the visit was customized to things that were so valuable to me (women in GI reception, the one on one meetings, the fellow get-together), that it really was fantastic... NYU is a magical place. They truly have the recipe for success.” —Dr. Oxentenko

“Dr. Eamonn Quigley’s lecture was a fascinating navigation through the history of the gut biome. He provided us with enthusiasm and insight into clinical applications today, and eager anticipation of future practice implications. His talk opened our eyes to impacts of the microbiome beyond gastrointestinal illnesses.” — Dr. Hershman of Mount Sinai
Invited by Anastasia Shnitser, MD, FACP and Hiral Shah, MD, FACP, Dr. Hanauer visited Lehigh Valley Health Network, in Allentown, PA on April 3-4, 2019. Dr. Hanauer was great at engaging the audience in the most up-to-date discussion on inflammatory bowel disease, and had a full itinerary for his visit. Dr. Hanauer presented an update on IBD; 2019 for GI grand rounds to about 60 participants, a combination of internal medicine, primary care, and subspecialty attendees. Afterwards, he went to dinner with many from the Lehigh Valley group, where they had wonderful discussions regarding practices, life management, and what drew the very diverse practice members to the Lehigh Valley area.

Dr. Hanauer met with the IBD attendings and all three years of fellows for a lengthy journal club session that included case questions and interval didactics on subjects such as therapeutic drug monitoring, pharmacology of thiopurines, IBD and pregnancy, monitoring for adverse events, discussions regarding steroids, and newer agents such as tofacitinib. The fellows enjoyed presenting cases for discussion and learning new information about management of inflammatory bowel disease. For the medical grand rounds presentation on “Fake News Regarding Personalized Medicine in IBD,” the audience included attendings, fellows from all three years, GI physicians from the St. Lukes group, the department of medicine faculty, and trainees.

“It is a wonderful experience for the presenters who are truly embraced by the host program. Unlike many other visiting professorships, the ACG imprimatur greatly enhanced the participation, credibility and perceived value.”

—Dr. Hanauer
DAVID T. RUBIN, MD, FACG visited Brown University on May 8-9, 2019 in Providence, RI. He was invited by Steven Moss, MD and Samir Shah, MD, FACG for his expertise in IBD. The visit began with an interactive round-table discussion with community gastroenterologists, faculty, and gastroenterology fellows. This setting provided the opportunity to ask Dr. Rubin “burning clinical practice questions” including whether to use biologics as first-line therapy in pediatric patients newly diagnosed with IBD, the role of therapeutic drug monitoring in adult patients losing response to anti-TNF therapy, and the role of postoperative antibiotics after ileocecectomy. The participants also loved the updated take-away books provided.

Dr. Rubin presented a captivating one-hour lecture for GI grand rounds, on the treat-to-target paradigm shift in IBD and practical ways to achieve this by optimizing IBD therapy. The GI fellows (including pediatric) presented for an hour on several clinically challenging inpatient/clinic cases for Dr. Rubin’s expert opinion, including Crohn’s patients with concomitant MS, diagnostic methods to distinguish between pouchitis, diversion colitis, and Crohn’s disease of the pouch (such as pouchoscopy and water-contrasted pouchogram), and extraintestinal and systemic manifestations of IBD in the pediatric population. The time with fellows also included career advice.

Several highlights of the visit included updating all levels of providers with state of the art IBD management, using recent important studies which helped to make the material understandable for all levels of learners. Attendees were also impressed by the amount of material Dr. Rubin was able to cover without rushing during his visit.

“...this was an incredible opportunity to learn from a world-renowned expert on IBD in an intimate and friendly setting in our own backyard... All in all, the ACG Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship is an innovative and effective way to foster the exchange of knowledge at the forefront of GI and furthers the education of gastroenterology trainees directly from highly regarded subspecialty experts.”

—Chung Sang Tse, MD, GI Fellow
BRIAN E. LACY, MD, PHD, FACG

visited New York Presbyterian/ Weill Cornell on May 9, 2019, and was invited by Shawn Shah, MD and Carl Crawford, MD, for his expertise in functional bowel disorders. He presented GI and Hepatology grand rounds to an audience comprised of rotating medical students, residents, GI fellows, and GI nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and attendings (both basic science and clinical).

Dr. Lacy’s talk on functional bowel disorders (in particular, irritable bowel syndrome) was incredibly thought-provoking and insightful. Perhaps what was most impressive and distinct, was the way he presented a cogent argument for better understanding the underlying pathobiology of irritable bowel syndrome in helping to guide treatment options. It was a transformative talk in making a condition that is often a great source of frustration for both patients and providers alike into a disease process akin to inflammatory bowel disease or gastroesophageal reflux disease. During the clinical case conference, fellows presented incredibly challenging functional bowel disorder cases to Dr. Lacy. It was captivating to watch how Dr. Lacy intellectually broke down cases and identified further diagnostic testing or suggested a number of potential treatment options. It was like taking a master class in functional bowel disorders. And lastly, during the fellows lunch, he provided great perspective on what to look for from their first jobs as well as the importance of becoming involved in national societies and committees.

Functional bowel disorders are highly prevalent in their clinic population so it was incredible to be able to hear from one of the world’s foremost experts on how he thinks about his patients. In addition, Dr. Lacy met one on one with some of the fellows, offering everything from career advice to pushing them to strike a work-life balance irrespective of their career paths...the fellows left feeling energized and challenged with working towards becoming better clinicians and scientists.
NICHOLAS J. SHAHEEN, MD, MPH, FACG
visited Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center in Michigan on May 9-10, 2019, invited by Stephanie Judd, MD and Philip Schoenfeld, MD, MSEd, MScEpi, FACG, for his expertise in esophageal disorders. The visit began with an evening lecture in coordination with the Michigan GI Society on “Endoscopic Therapy of Esophageal Neoplasia.” Dr. Shaheen addressed GI faculty and fellows from multiple fellowship programs in metropolitan Detroit including Wayne State University, Detroit Medical Center, Providence Hospital, and Beaumont Hospital, along with Internal Medicine residents from WSU/DMC. Dr. Shaheen also participated in an evening GI society meeting and had an opportunity to connect with colleagues.

The next morning Dr. Shaheen gave the David Bull Memorial Lecture at internal medicine grand rounds at Wayne State on “GERD 2019: Pills, Surgery and Newer Therapies.” He reviewed basic concepts in diagnosing and managing reflux disease to an engaged and enthusiastic audience of 50 attendees, including internal medicine residents, GI fellows and faculty, GI nurse practitioners, and the Dean of the Wayne State School of Medicine. Dr. Shaheen also gave a GI grand rounds lecture to GI fellows and faculty, GI nurse practitioners, and internal medicine residents.

For Wayne State, the biggest impact of the visit was their improved knowledge of Barrett’s esophagus and esophageal adenocarcinoma as well as endoscopic management of early stage disease (mucosa and small disease). Dr. Shaheen also discussed new endoscopic therapies on the horizon and some of the newer diagnostic modalities. The fellows appreciated the interactive nature of Dr. Shaheen’s lectures and they found the videos on radiofrequency ablation, endoscopic mucosal resection, as well as new therapies on the horizon particularly interesting. Most of all, they appreciated having the opportunity to interact with and ask an internationally renowned expert in the field their clinical questions.

“I highly recommend the program to both the teaching institutions and to the visiting speakers. It is a great opportunity to share knowledge and to help cultivate the next generation of gastroenterologists.”

—Nicholas J. Shaheen, MD, MPH, FACG
WILLIAM D. CHEY, MD, FACG
visited University of Colorado, in Aurora, CO, on June 6-7, 2019 and was invited by Paul Menard-Katcher, MD for his expertise on irritable bowel syndrome. Dr. Chey gave a lecture to fellows and local gastroenterologists on Thursday evening discussing his approach to establishing a constructive patient provider relationship. It proved to be a robust discussion which continued for almost an hour after the initial lecture. The more intimate talk/happy hour on Thursday evening was especially engaging and provided opportunities for local gastroenterologists and fellows to discuss cases and challenges of practice. There was a diverse audience dominated by junior providers and fellows (for whom the talk was tailored).

The Friday grand rounds was extremely well attended with faculty from multiple specialties (GI, pediatric GI, allergy and immunology, internal medicine) as well as dieticians, Advanced Practice Providers, nurses, fellows, residents, and medical students. The visit continued with grand rounds to a packed house and then more than an hour with the fellows. During the fellows-only session with Dr. Chey, the fellows were able to go through diagnostic and treatment algorithms that Dr. Chey uses and they truly benefited from being able to receive practical advice on how to best manage complex patients they see in their own clinics. Dr. Chey found this session particularly gratifying as it was a great opportunity for the fellows to get a fresh take on career and personal development as a gastroenterologists. The fellows greatly appreciated the lectures as well as the career development advice provided by Dr. Chey. Specifically, the fellows enjoyed the practical evening session held by Dr. Chey where they received guidance on not only how to manage patients with IBS, but also how to communicate with them...the fellows truly benefited from being able to receive practical advice on how to best manage complex patients they see in their own clinics. Lastly, Dr. Chey offered honest and thought-provoking advice on how to pursue their own careers in academics and community practice.” —Dr. Menard-Katcher

“The fellows enjoyed the practical evening session held by Dr. Chey where they received guidance on not only how to manage patients with IBS, but also how to communicate with them...the fellows truly benefited from being able to receive practical advice on how to best manage complex patients they see in their own clinics. Lastly, Dr. Chey offered honest and thought-provoking advice on how to pursue their own careers in academics and community practice.” —Dr. Menard-Katcher
DAVID J. HASS, MD, FACG visited Cooper University Hospital in Mount Laurel, NJ on June 13, 2019. He was invited by Tara Lautenslager, MD for his expertise in small bowel disorders and video capsule endoscopy. Dr. Hass found the visit truly enjoyable, and both the fellows and faculty were incredibly engaged and appreciative of the ACG Institute and the opportunity provided for the department at Cooper to learn in an interactive, informative way. Cooper University Hospital found Dr. Hass to be personable and engaging, and his session on diagnosing small bowel disorders with the use of video capsule endoscopy was very educational.

Rounds included a two hour session with the fellows who were given protected time to attend. The evening lecture was geared toward a wider audience, and very well attended by both community and academic faculty and fellows (invited through coordination with the South Jersey Gut Society). Audience members included fellows and attendings from Cooper University Hospital, as well as private practice gastroenterologists and advanced practitioners working in GI. Dr. Hass discussed various alternative and complementary medicine strategies including the use of medical marijuana in GI disease. As these treatment strategies are gaining in use and popularity, learning more about the background, physiology and scientific data was relevant and interesting.

“Our fellows enjoyed learning from an expert in the field as well as the interactive nature of the ACG Visiting Professorship. Dr. Hass graciously offered to serve as a resource for future challenging cases in small bowel disorders, a gesture that I know the fellows truly appreciate.”

—Tara Lautenslager, MD
DOUGLAS K. REX, MD, MACG was invited by Marc Zuckerman, MD, FACG to visit Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso on June 14, 2019 for his expertise in endoscopy and colon cancer. The visit began at the Advanced Endoscopy Center at University Medical Center El Paso, with Dr. Rex discussing colonoscopy, including dealing with complications that arise. The visit included a lunch with fellows, GI faculty and endoscopy staff, followed by an interactive talk with the GI fellows, nurse practitioners, faculty, in addition to several IM residents and medical students.

As the final didactic session for the academic year, this visit was considered to be a seminal moment, and a great way for TTUHSC El Paso’s graduates to end their training. Dr. Rex appreciated learning more about medicine in one of our most important border towns, and seeing former ACG Trustee Richard McCallum, MD, FACG in action.

“...Dr. Rex’s visit opened up my mind to one of the most valuable aspects of academia: unlimited teaching opportunities. Dr. Rex, with the help of the ACG, is able to make time to share his experience with young fellows nationwide. This is amazing.”

“Dr. Rex’s visit broadened my view on colonoscopy. Although this is a procedure that we perform every day, and I consider ‘bread and butter’, he made us aware of the small important details that should not be overlooked in everyday practice.” —GI fellow at TTUHSC El Paso
ASHWANI K. SINGAL, MD, MS, FACG
visited University of Iowa, in Iowa City, on July 25, 2019 at the invitation of William Silverman, MD, FACG and Arvind Murali, MD. The medical grand rounds was attended by approximately 125 people including students, residents, fellows, and faculty from the Department of Medicine. This group included the GI Division Director Dr. Elliott, Dr. Silverman, Endoscopy Unit Director, and Dr. Suneja, Medicine Program Director and Professor of Nephrology. The grand rounds was very well organized with over a dozen of interesting questions from the audience.

The GI division grand rounds was attended by about 25 people including the Division Director, Endoscopy Unit Director, hepatologists including Transplant Director Dr. Alan Gunderson, basic scientists, and GI fellows. The session was interactive, with new thoughts and discussion of heme synthesis and metabolism. The visit also provided an opportunity to network with the division and school as a basis for inviting referrals for this rare disease.

“...found interaction with the division faculty and fellows during the division grand rounds on “Management of Porphyria” and...during the medical grand rounds on “Management of Acute Kidney Injury and Hepatorenal Syndrome,” to be very encouraging and fruitful.” —Dr. Singal
NICHOLAS J. SHAHEEN, MD, MPH, FACG, at University of Minnesota, February 1-2, 2018, presented on GERD and manometry

PETER D.R. HIGGINS, MD, PhD, MSC, at UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, February 21-23, 2018, presented on IBD

SATISH S.C. RAO, MD, PhD, FACG, at Virginia Commonwealth University, February 22-23, 2018, presented on motility

KRIS V. KOWDLEY, MD, FACG, at University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix, March 1-2, 2018, presented on liver disease

STEPHEN B. HANAUER, MD, FACG, at Cleveland Clinic Florida, March 5-6, 2018, presented on IBD

SAPNA SYNGAL, MD, MPH, FACG, at Emory University School of Medicine, in Georgia, March 26-27, 2018, presented on hereditary colon cancers

SACHIN B. WANI, MD, at University of Nebraska Medical Center, April 12-13, 2018, presented on Barrett’s esophagus

DAVID T. RUBIN, MD, FACG, at UCONN Health, May 2, 2018, presented on IBD

EAMONN M.M. QUIGLEY, MD, MACG, at Mount Sinai Beth Israel, St. Luke’s, and West in New York, February 26-27, 2019, presented on IBS

AMY S. OXENTENKO, MD, FACG, at NYU School of Medicine in New York, April 2, 2019, presented on IBD

STEPHEN B. HANAUER, MD, FACG, at Lehigh Valley Health Network in Allentown, Pennsylvania, April 3-4, 2019, presented on IBD

DAVID T. RUBIN, MD, FACG, at Brown University, May 8-9, 2019, presented on IBD

BRIAN E. LACY, MD, PhD, FACG, at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, in New York, April 26, 2019, presented on motility and anorectal disorders

NICHOLAS J. SHAHEEN, MD, MPH, FACG, at Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center, in Michigan, May 9-10, 2019, presented on esophageal motility, dyspepsia, and GERD

WILLIAM D. CHEY, MD, FACG, at University of Colorado, in Aurora, Colorado, June 6-7, 2019, presented on IBS

DAVID J. HASS, MD, FACG, at Cooper University Hospital in Mount Laurel, New Jersey, June 13, 2019, presented on video capsule

DOUGLAS K. REX, MD, MACG, at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, June 14, 2019, presented on removal of difficult polyps

ASHWANI K. SINGAL, MD, MS, FACG, at University of California Davis, September 19, 2019, presenting on IBD

MARIA T. ABREU, MD, at Mountain Vista Medical Center/Midwestern University, in Mesa, Arizona, November 12-13, 2019, presenting on IBD

LAURA E. RAFFALS, MD, MS, FACG, at Creighton University, in Omaha, Nebraska, February 12, 2020, presenting on IBD

SUNANDA V. KANE, MD, MSPH, FACG, at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, presenting on IBD and management of pregnancy and high quality care
THE G.U.T. Fund to Grow, Uplift, and Transform GI through the work of the ACG Institute

The ACG Institute gratefully acknowledges contributions from ACG Members and the community who have chosen to support the work of the ACG Institute through charitable gifts in 2018.

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