INSTITUTE IN FOCUS
An Impact Report for Members
2024-2025
Welcome to the Institute in Focus, where you will find the details of the Institute’s continued support of Clinical Research, Educational Resources, and Leadership Training opportunities through the robust competitive clinical research programs, provider monographs, disease-state specific schools, the Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorships, and the Institute’s Leadership, Ethics & Equity Center. Learn more about the ACG Institute for Clinical Research and Education in this booklet or online: gi.org/acg-institute/about

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.

ACG Institute Vision Statement
Promoting education, supporting clinical science, and raising public awareness for the prevention and treatment of digestive disease.

ACG Institute Board of Directors

Neena S. Abraham, MD, MS (Epid), MACG
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Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship
*Includes Visiting Scholar in Equity, Diversity, and Ethical Care*

- 2025 Applications: July 22 - August 21, 2024
- Visits start: January 1, 2025

ACG INSTITUTE LE&E LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS
*Apply for the program that matches your experience!*

2025 Applications: September 16 - November 15, 2024
Course: June 6-8, 2025

- **Emerging Leadership Program**
  U.S.-based ACG trainee members in their 3rd & 4th year of GI fellowship training

- **Early Career Leadership Program**
  U.S.-based ACG member physicians 1-5 years post-fellowship completion. Must have completed one full year of practice after terminal GI or hepatology fellowship.

- **Advanced Leadership Program**
  U.S.-based ACG member physicians 10-20 years post-fellowship completion.

- **Clinical Research Leadership Program**
  U.S.-based ACG member physicians between 2-15 years post-fellowship completion, with active or recent funding as a Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator.

Clinical Research Awards

- 2025 Applications: September 3 - December 2, 2024
- Awards start: July 1, 2025

- 2026 Applications: September 2 - December 1, 2025
- Awards start: July 1, 2026

NOTE: Most programs include ACG membership requirements

[gi.org/join-acg](http://gi.org/join-acg)
ACG CLINICAL RESEARCH AWARDS
A Focus on Clinical Research and Innovation

2025 Clinical Research Awards Deadline: **December 2, 2024**

$2.7 MILLION IN RESEARCH AWARDS FOR 2024

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Established Investigator Bridge Award</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonidas Berry Health Equity Research Award</td>
<td>$75,000 ($50k Year-One, $25k Year-Two Based on Progress)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACG/ASGE Epidemiologic Research Award in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Research Award</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pilot Award</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Resident Clinical Research Award</td>
<td>$10,000 (Plus Travel to Annual Meeting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Student Research Award</td>
<td>$5,000 (Plus Travel to Annual Meeting)</td>
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**ACG Institute Awarded**

$2,710,801 to Support Outstanding Clinical Research in Gastroenterology

**Junior Faculty Development Awards**

- **$450,000 (Per Participant)**
- **$150,000 (Annually)**

**1994-2024 ACG Institute**

- **Funded 745 Investigators**
- **Totaling More Than $31.9 Million to Investigators**
- **Expanded from 1 to 8 Research Awards**
The ACG Institute is proud of its investment since 1997 of more than $18.3 million in career development which recognizes and supports promising clinical researchers.

**Adjoa Anyane-Yeboa, MD, MPH**  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
*Initiating Colorectal Cancer Screening in Unscreened Individuals 45 to 54*

**Jennifer M. Kolb, MD, MS**  
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System  
*Preventing Post-Endoscopy Esophageal Adenocarcinoma in Barrett’s Esophagus*

**Jorge D. Machicado, MD, MPH**  
University of Michigan  
*Towards a Precision Medicine Approach to Treat Pain in Chronic Pancreatitis*

**Kara Wegermann, MD**  
Duke University  
*Lipid Metabolite Profiles and Cardiovascular Events in Persons with HIV (PWH) who have Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD)*

The ACG Institute is proud to announce that the Health Equity Research Award is now re-named in honor of the life and legacy of Leonidas H. Berry, MD, MACG. The College and the ACG Institute recognize his contributions to gastroenterology, and tireless efforts to end discrimination in medicine and medical schools.
THE ACG INSTITUTE CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP, ETHICS & EQUITY (THE LE&E CENTER)

Meeting the Moment and Transforming the Future

The LE&E Center addresses the contemporary need for leadership training, equitable delivery of care, and ethically-based decision-making with a suite of training programs and activities to provide transformational tools and experiences for GI clinicians. The programs under the LE&E Center include:

- The Emerging Leadership Program
- The Early Career Leadership Program
- The Advanced Leadership Program
- The Clinical Research Leadership Program
- The ACG Leonidas Berry Health Equity Research Award
- The ACG Visiting Scholar in Equity, Diversity, and Ethical Care
- Scholarships for High School Students Through the Prescriptions for Success: Careers in Medicine High School Visit

The LE&E Center Advisory Board

Neena S. Abraham, MD, MS (Epid), FACG, Director, ACG Institute
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Bradley C. Stillman, Esq. ACG Executive Director (ex-officio)
The LE&E Center Vision Council
The Vision Council serves to involve and seek insight from industry partners who support the core values and mission of the LE&E Center. Council members provide input and serve as a resource in identifying areas of urgent need and in developing collaborative opportunities to improve health equity, diversity, and inclusion. The Institute recognizes with gratitude the following Vision Council members:
EMERGING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Leadership Skills for the Future of GI

Deadline for 2025 Applications: November 25, 2024

The LE&E Emerging Leadership Program provide leadership training for fellows-in-training who are U.S.-based ACG member physicians (in their 3rd or 4th year of GI fellowship training) to develop, build, and maintain success as future leaders.

Participants will learn about communication, negotiation, change and time management, and promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion. Participants are immersed in course work covering the skills needed as they look ahead to their career post-fellowship and begin taking on more leadership roles. The program includes a mix of lectures, Q&A, breakout and role-playing exercises, and networking.

2025 Course Directors: Divya Bhatt, MD, Olufemi Kassim, MD, Andrew Moon, MD, MPH, and Josh Steinberg, MD
I plan to bring elements of ELP back to my home program, really taking to heart that “the best leaders create more leaders.” I think many of my co-fellows can certainly benefit from an introduction to the leadership topics and time management strategies we discussed in ELP. I will also be making a more concerted effort to examine how diversity is considered in the match process.

Averill Guo, MD (ELP ’23)

The program has encouraged me to be more thoughtful in how I spend my time and how I show my professionalism. It gave me some terrific tools for saying “no” in a way that is both respectful and, I believe, likely to lead to better opportunities down the road. Additionally, I would be interested in starting a leadership curriculum when I join the faculty since I think the information that we learned here would benefit all GI fellows.

Christina Kratschmer, MD (ELP ‘23)

I thought all the talks from the program were pertinent from a leadership perspective. Even in areas where I thought I was doing well (for example, planning and making the most out of my day), I learned so many new ideas and perspectives from the talks, faculty, and members of the cohort. I enjoyed the opportunity to speak with other fellows in different programs - we truly are going through the same trials and experiences, and it’s nice to know you are not the only one. I appreciated the candidness and vulnerability the faculty displayed - everyone’s journey is different, and the various perspectives bring richness and diversity to personal and professional work.

Siri Urquhart, MD
The LE&E Early Career Leadership Program (ECLP) develops future leaders in clinical gastroenterology by providing leadership and policy training to early career physicians. These physicians have completed one full year of practice after their terminal GI or hepatology fellowship and are in their first five years of clinical practice.

Early Career physicians should participate in ECLP because these topics and strategies come up daily in our interactions and are not something we learn in traditional medical teaching. Leadership is an art. Thus it is helpful to learn from seasoned GI leaders to avoid common pitfalls that can take over a decade to learn from trial and error alone.

Justin Brandler, MD (ECLP ’23)

2025 Course Directors: Andy Tau, MD and Judy A. Trieu, MD, MPH
The Early Career Leadership Program features:

- Participation in ACG Governor’s Washington, DC Fly-in April 2025
- In-person course in June, 2025

Participants will be immersed in coursework covering effective leadership, impactful networking, emotional intelligence, group dynamics, and team building. The ACG Institute is excited to welcome the seventh cohort of Early Career Leaders in 2025.

“

It was incredibly impactful hearing from senior leadership during the ECLP, as well as the approaches that helped them, and listening to the unique perspectives of various participants who are navigating leadership roles in their early careers.

Hassan Siddiki, MD, MS, M. Ed. (ECLP ‘23)

I really enjoyed the ACG fly in event! It felt great to know that we could help change health care policy. I especially enjoyed my interactions with the ACG governors and learnt a lot from them. I hope to become a future ACG governor.

Ngozi Enwerem, MD, MPH (ECLP ‘23)
ADVANCED LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Elevated Leadership Tools for Advanced Leaders

Deadline for 2025 Applications: **November 15, 2024**

The LE&E Advanced Leadership Program (ALP) aims to develop a cohesive group of peer leaders who will serve as problem-solving consultants for each other and the College. This program offers mid-career physicians (10-20 years post-fellowship completion) the opportunity to develop comprehensive leadership skills.

2025 Course Directors:
Neena S. Abraham, MD, MSc (Epid), MACG
and Patrick E. Young, MD, FACG
The Advanced Leadership Program encourages a growth mindset like no other leadership program. The opportunities to network, develop leadership skills, and grow as a physician and person are tremendous when you have a fierce team of faculty rooting for you.

Swati Pawa, MD, FACG (ALP ‘23)

The program will enhance the ability of these individuals to:
• Become effective and impactful leaders
• Learn how to embrace and become agents of change
• Elevate colleagues and trainees through mentorship and sponsorship
• Enhance their flexibility and adaptability as leaders
• Understand how to influence others
• Develop strategic thinking skills and intentionality when leading
• Recognize the importance of work-life integration and the power of gratitude
• Become comfortable with vulnerability

Our GI societies offer lots of phenomenal educational opportunities for GI conditions, but very few on leadership. The Advanced Leadership Program is a game-changer – it offers insight into leadership skills and emotional intelligence that will be a useful asset at work and in life.

Bryan Sauer, MD, MSc, FACG (ALP ‘23)
The LE&E Clinical Research Leadership Program is a signature program of the ACG Institute’s Center for Leadership, Ethics & Equity. Receiving a grant award is a celebratory milestone, inherent with several new responsibilities for the awardee - as a scientific leader, financial administrator, manager, and mentor. This unique interactive program will provide funded clinician investigators with the skill set to start, grow and maintain success as research leaders. Participants will learn research leadership skills to maintain a successful independent research program.

The goal of the program is to provide leadership training for early to mid-career clinical investigators who are ACG member physicians (between 2-15 years out of fellowship training), are working in the U.S., and have active or recent funding as a Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator.

2025 Course Directors: Timothy B. Gardner, MD, MS, FACG and Millie D. Long, MD, MPH, FACG
The candid advice and guidance given at the CRLP will undoubtedly shape my career in GI and clinical research. The program demonstrates the ACG’s commitment to fostering excellence within our research community, opening opportunities for young investigators, and providing mentoring circles with faculty who lift us up in this wild ride.

Joy Chang, MD, MS (CRLP ’24)

The Clinical Research Leadership Program features:

- Pre-course assignments
- In-person course (lectures, interactive 1:1, small-group sessions, individual assignments)
- Virtual sessions

The program will cover:

- Grant Finance & Administration
- Research Operations & Strategy
- Determining Your Leadership Style
- Successfully Managing a Research Team
- Managing Your Research Career Trajectory & Mentorship 360
- Mentoring the Next Generation of Clinical Investigators
- Tips on Ensuring Financial Success as an Investigator
- Working with Your Program Officer
- Leading a Diverse Team

The ACG CRLP is an incredibly high yield program for junior investigators. It focuses on core items to grow a research enterprise, highlights how to navigate future funding [including how to avoid gaps], and gives individual-specific tactics to approach potential obstacles. The course is incredibly well run, allows you to learn from world-renowned faculty in a small group setting, and helps build a peer support system that will aid future collaboration and ensure the group’s future success.

Adam Faye, MD, MS (CRLP ‘24)
THE ACG EDGAR ACHKAR VISITING PROFESSORSHIP
Providing Noteworthy Speakers for Training in Your Community

Deadline for 2025 Applications: August 21, 2024

NUMBER OF VISITS 106
NUMBER OF STATES 91
NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS 83
YEARS RUNNING 11
APPROVED APPLICATIONS 88%

TOPIES COVERED

- Anorectal Problems
- Artificial Intelligence in Endoscopy
- Barrett’s Esophagus
- Bile Duct Disorders
- C. difficile
- CardioGastroenterology
- Chronic Liver Disease
- Colon Cancer
- Colonoscopies
- Colorectal Cancer Screening
- Diet and Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- Dietary Myths and Diverticular Disease
- Digital Health
- Dyspepsia
- Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection
- Eosinophilic Esophagitis
- Esophageal Disorders and Motility
- Functional Bowel Disorders
- GERD
- GI Motility Disorders
- Health Information Outcomes Technology and Utilization
- Health IT in Improving Healthcare Delivery
- Hepatic Porphyria
- Hepatitis Treatment Update
- Hepatology & Liver Transplantation
- IBD & Management of Pregnancy
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Lower GI Bleeding
- NAFLD
- Nutrition, Microbiome, Immunology
- Obesity
- Pancreatic Disease
- Pancreatobiliary and Interventional Endoscopy
- Per-oral Endoscopic Myotomy (POEM)
- GI Programs
- Robotic Endoscopy
- Small Bowel Bleeding
- The Effects of Sleep on GI Health
- Ulcerative Colitis Management
- Upper GI Motility and Endoscopic Ultrasound
- Video Capsule Training

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND ETHICAL CARE TOPICS COVERED

- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- DEI & Colorectal Cancer Screening
- Disparities in Care
- Ethical Issues in the Care of Patients with Liver Diseases
- Health Disparities in GI, and Diversity in GI
- How Implicit Bias Affects Healthcare Outcomes
- Applying Neurogastroenterology/Motility Principles to Historically Marginalized Communities
- Colorectal Cancer Screening: Meeting Patients Where They Are LGBTQ+ Inclusive Care for Individuals with IBD

MOST REQUESTED TOPICS

- Diet and Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- Endoscopy
- Esophageal Disorders and Motility
- Hepatology
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
The Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship Program, which honors former ACG Institute Director, Edgar Achkar, MD, MACG, enables GI fellowship programs to host high quality visiting professors to enhance the training program with lectures, small group discussions, and one-on-one visits with trainees and faculty. Additionally, this program allows community gastroenterologists to learn from an expert through an evening event or medical grand rounds.

"The ACG Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship is an outstanding and a noble service gift from ACG to both the institution that have significant gaps and unmet needs in education and training and a most rewarding and personally inspiring experience for the professor.

Satish S.C Rao, MD, PhD, FACG, Creighton University"

Dr. Long’s visit has greatly enhanced our understanding of advanced therapies and holistic treatment objectives for IBD. Through a series of four meticulously crafted talks and ample opportunity for inquiry, it felt akin to a comprehensive postgraduate course on the subject. Her presentations were highly relevant to our daily clinical practice. Particularly impressive was her ability to address each query with precise data, including trial references, and provide insights into her approach to managing complex cases. Despite our experience as practicing gastroenterologists, Dr. Long’s expertise challenged several of our preconceptions regarding the safety of IBD medications. One notable takeaway is her assertion that “the safest drug in Crohn’s disease is the most effective drug.”

Yesenia Greeff, MD, FACG, GI Fellowship Program Director, UMass Chan - Baystate Health
THE VISITING SCHOLAR IN EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND ETHICAL CARE

Providing Noteworthy Speakers for Equity and Diversity Training in Your Communities

Deadline for 2025 Applications: **August 21, 2024**

As a cornerstone of the offerings of the LE&E Center, the Visiting Scholar in Equity, Diversity, and Ethical Care is part of the well-regarded Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship program. In its third year, the LE&E Center will be supporting five visits for this program that aims to create awareness around issues and challenges of delivering equitable care, respecting diversity, and instilling ethical decision-making.

Dr. Issaka has a wealth of knowledge and was an inspiration to junior and early career faculty. I truly enjoyed her journey and her passion and eagerness to make a change in the underserved community. I can attest to the health care disparity as I grew up in a rural underserved community and seeing her drive to make a difference in these communities was a rewarding experience. Listening to her talk and meeting her in person made me and my colleagues realize how to better circumnavigate and balance patient care, research and administrative roles that one is passionate about.

**Dr. Brijesh Patel, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of South Florida**
This program will provide onsite lectures and grand rounds as an added component to the currently existing ACG Edgar Achkar Visiting Professorship Program. Visits will be provided to requesting institutions and can be done in conjunction with a disease state topic-driven visit (i.e., IBD / Equity, Diversity, Ethical Care).

The Visiting Scholar in Equity, Diversity, & Ethical Care Program provides:

- Lectures
- Small Group Discussions
- Panel Discussions
- One-on-one visits with trainees and faculty
- Diversity, equity, & ethical care centered topics

Programs such as this not only help the speaker gain perspective but also provide the forum for bringing a variety of speakers to programs and teach them on topics which would not have been perhaps on their radar.

Baharak Moshiree, MD, MSc, FACG, University of Miami
The ACG Institute serves as a resource for comprehensive education for GI clinicians, patients, and raising public awareness of GI disorders. The Schools developed by the ACG Institute are single-day, regionally-focused, disease state-specific clinical education programs that provide the most up-to-date and relevant information on treatment and clinical care. These programs are held in conjunction with select ACG Regional Postgraduate Courses and are offered on a rotating schedule.

Find the next course:
bit.ly/Educational-Resources
The ACG Institute and LE&E Center are proud to share the Monograph on Microbiome Therapeutics, published as a supplement to the January 2024 issue of The American Journal of Gastroenterology. This comprehensive update on the new developments and innovations related to the Microbiome in GI covers the current state of biome science, non-prescription and prescription therapeutics, future biome therapeutics, and the biome in liver disease. The monograph features seven chapters of concise, clinically relevant summaries on the latest scientific insights into the microbiome with emphasis on the rapidly evolving therapeutic armamentarium.

Editors: Neil H. Stollman, MD, FACG, Colleen R. Kelly, MD, FACG

Endoscopy School

ACG’s Endoscopy School is a day-long educational program that highlights best practices and provides updates on new devices and endoscopic techniques. The goal of the program is to both educate attendees on the best endoscopic approaches and offer the opportunity to learn techniques in the form of hands-on workshops. This program will also allow those in practice an opportunity to upskill to the latest technology and techniques no matter how long they have been out of formal training.

Course Date:
Washington, DC, June, 2025

ACG Monograph on Microbiome Therapeutics

The ACG Institute and LE&E Center are proud to share the Monograph on Microbiome Therapeutics, published as a supplement to the January 2024 issue of The American Journal of Gastroenterology. This comprehensive update on the new developments and innovations related to the Microbiome in GI covers the current state of biome science, non-prescription and prescription therapeutics, future biome therapeutics, and the biome in liver disease. The monograph features seven chapters of concise, clinically relevant summaries on the latest scientific insights into the microbiome with emphasis on the rapidly evolving therapeutic armamentarium.

Editors: Neil H. Stollman, MD, FACG, Colleen R. Kelly, MD, FACG

Read the ACG Microbiome Monograph: amjgastro.com
The G.U.T. Fund is ACG’s ongoing fundraising campaign that provides the necessary funds to support important programs sponsored by the ACG Institute. Charitable gifts to the G.U.T. Fund take GI forward, blazing new paths for science, clinical practice, and education for physicians, advance practice providers, and patients. Donors to the G.U.T. Fund have a meaningful impact on the direction of transformative ACG programs and in the process leave a lasting legacy.

The ACG Institute gratefully acknowledges the following industry partners who have made leadership commitments to support the G.U.T. Fund.

**Director’s Circle**

**Pillar**

**Leader**

**Benefactor**

**Benefactor**