

# ACG PERSPECTIVES



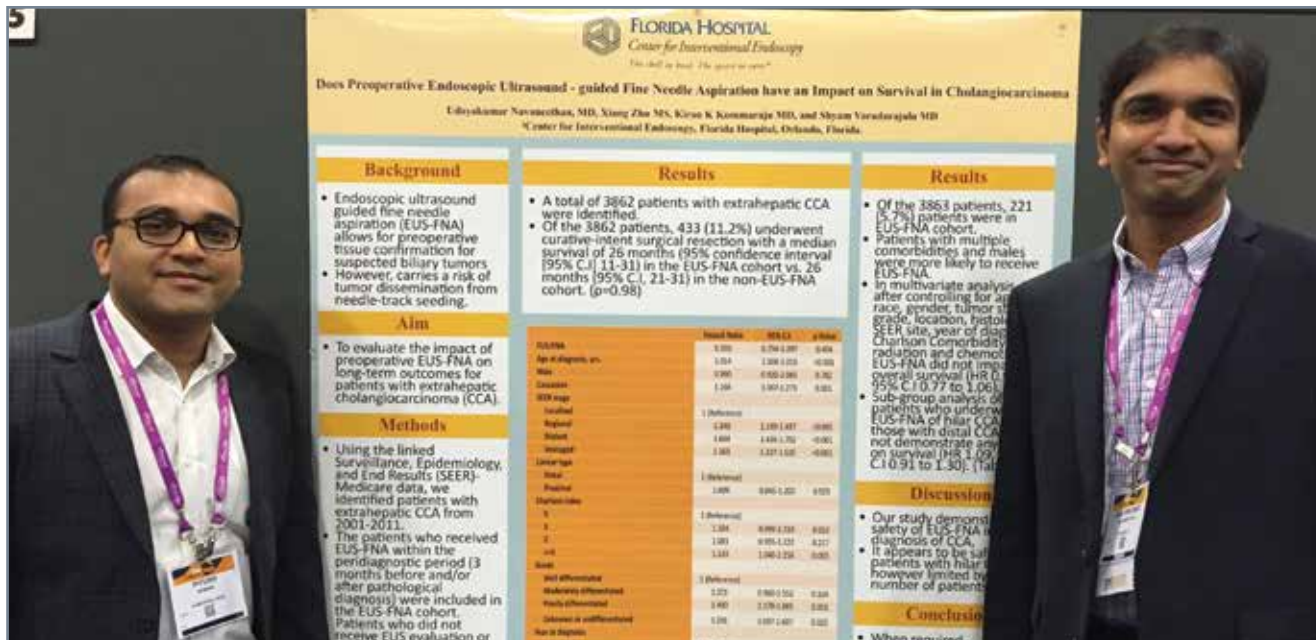
## LEARNING from “ENDOSCOPIC MASTERS”



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WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE 2015 ACG INTERNATIONAL GI TRAINING GRANT, I had the honor of learning interventional endoscopy procedures from the endoscopic masters at the Center for Interventional Endoscopy (CIE), Florida Hospital, Orlando, FL. After my general gastroenterology fellowship, I developed a keen interest in advanced endoscopic procedures, particularly endoscopic ultrasound (EUS) and endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP). My clinical supervisor and guide in Mumbai, India, Professor Dr. Pravin Rathi, taught me ERCP. It was a privilege to learn EUS from two world leaders—Professor Sun Siyu of Shenjing Hospital, China, and Malay Sharma, MD, of Jaswant Rai Speciality Hospital, India.

To obtain a Western perspective and learn more about interventional EUS, endoscopic mucosal resection and cholangioscopy, I applied for the ACG International GI Training Grant backed by the immense support of Shyam S. Varadarajulu, MD, and Udayakumar Navaneethan, MD, FACC. »



Dr. Somani and Dr. Navaneethan posing in front of Dr. Navaneethan's poster abstract, titled "Does Preoperative Endoscopic Ultrasound - guided Fine Needle Aspiration have an Impact on Survival in Cholangiocarcinoma" at Digestive Disease Week 2016 in San Diego.

I arrived at the CIE at Florida Hospital in January 2016. The purpose of my stay was to learn the necessary skills to perform EUS-guided pancreatic fluid collections drainage and interventional procedures, and then develop this particular area in India.

There are four interventional endoscopists at CIE, including Professor Robert H. Hawes, MD, FACG, Professor Varadarajulu, Muhammad K. Hasan, MD, FACG, and Dr. Navaneethan. All are stalwarts in their respective fields of interest. The training program included a broad spectrum of interventional endoscopic procedures including EUS-FNA, advanced ERCP, ERCP with sphincter of oddi manometry, EUS-guided interventional procedures, digital cholangioscopy, and a significant number of other techniques, such as endoscopic closure of gastrointestinal defects, resection of large colonic polyps, and endoscopic therapy of subepithelial lesions.

With his years of experience, Professor Hawes gave insights on how to become a successful advanced endoscopist. He gave me many tips on how to avoid complications. Dr. Varadarajulu, being one of the world leaders in EUS, gave insight on how to do research in EUS. Many EUS-guided pancreatic fluid collections drainage were performed in the center with relative ease. Dr. Hasan, who was trained by Professor Peter Cotton and Professor Hawes, performed and taught

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me most advanced ERCPs, like minor papillotomy, ERCP in altered GI anatomy, double balloon enteroscopy-guided ERCP, and more. He offered practical tips for large, laterally spreading polyp resection. Dr. Navaneethan, with special interest in inflammatory bowel disease research, gave me an opportunity to write a review paper on the "Role of ERCP in Patients with Idiopathic Recurrent Acute Pancreatitis," which was published in *Current Treatment Options in Gastroenterology*.

Special thanks to Jason, Jose, Craig, Brittany, Renay, Sameer, Wesam and the technicians and nurses at CIE for making me comfortable in a new country.

I cannot adequately express my gratitude to the American College of Gastroenterology for providing me the support for this opportunity, to the doctors and staff at CIE for making me feel like a part of the CIE family, and to Dr. Sharma for encouraging me to pursue this unique opportunity. I hope to come again to learn new skills and make new friends at CIE.

Namaste!