






Resident Clinical Research Award

-  \$10k/1 year award
-  Research to support innovative patient-oriented research with direct applicability to clinical care
-  Additional funds to attend the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting

- **Grant Writing Resources** - gi.org/grant-writing-resources
 - for grant tips, videos, and written resources

Apply by Monday, December 7 @ gi.org/research-awards

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Medical Student Clinical Research Award

-  \$5k/6-10 week award
-  Funding to support short-term summer research experiences in gastroenterology and hepatology
-  Additional funds to attend the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting

Apply by Monday, December 7 @ gi.org/research-awards





Learn more about ACG's Grant Writing Resources

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2026 **ACG SUMMER SCHOOL SERIES:**
 WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COURSE,
 IBD SCHOOL AND
 ESOPHAGUS SCHOOL

JUNE 5-7, 2026 | WASHINGTON MARRIOTT AT METRO CENTER
 WASHINGTON, DC

  Register online: meetings.gi.org

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2026
 ACG'S FUNCTIONAL GI &
 MOTILITY DISORDERS SCHOOL &
**ACG/MIGI MIDWEST REGIONAL
 POSTGRADUATE COURSE**

   click for course information

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2026 ACG'S OBESITY AND METABOLIC DISORDERS SCHOOL & **ACG/VGS/MASGNA REGIONAL POSTGRADUATE COURSE**

AUGUST 28-30, 2026 | WILLIAMSBURG LODGE, WILLIAMSBURG, VA

Register online: meetings.gi.org

ACG VGS MASGNA

The poster features a large teal '2026' on the left, a circular inset image of Williamsburg Lodge on the right, and a teal banner at the bottom with the registration link. Logos for ACG, VGS, and MASGNA are also present.

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Virtual Grand Rounds universe.gi.org

Participating in the Webinar

All attendees will be muted and will remain in "Listen Only Mode"

Type your questions here so that the moderator can see them. Not all questions will be answered but we will get to as many as possible.

A handout with the slides and room to take notes can be downloaded from your control panel.

Moderator: Mohammad Bilal, MD, FACG

Control panel icons: Mute, Hand, Chat, Download, Info, Exit

The interface is a blue-themed virtual meeting room. It includes a moderator's video feed, a title bar with 'Virtual Grand Rounds' and 'universe.gi.org', and a control panel on the right with icons for muting, hand-raising, chat, and downloading. Three callout boxes provide instructions on muting, asking questions, and downloading handouts.

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ACG Virtual Grand Rounds universe.gi.org

ACG Virtual Grand Rounds

Join us for upcoming Virtual Grand Rounds!





Week 17 – Thursday, April 23, 2026
 The Microbiome in Functional Bowel Disease: How to Answer Patients' Questions About SIBO and Leaky Gut
 Faculty: Eamonn M. M. Quigley, MD, MACG
 Moderator: Neil H. Stollman, MD, FACG
 At Noon and 8pm Eastern

Week 18 – Thursday, April 30, 2026
 There will be no ACG Virtual Grand Rounds presentation on Thursday, April 30, 2026.

Week 19 – Thursday, May 7, 2026
 There will be no ACG Virtual Grand Rounds presentation on Thursday, May 7, 2026.





Week 20 – Thursday, May 14, 2026
 Bowel Urgency in IBD: Understanding and Applying Patient-Reported Outcome Measures
 Faculty: Jana G. Al Hashash, MD, MSc, FACG
 Moderator: Tauseef Ali, MD, FACG
 At Noon and 8pm Eastern

Visit gi.org/ACGVGR to Register

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Not an ACG Member? Join Today for Only \$25

Resident and Trainee Members receive:

- FREE registration to the Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course
- FREE access to *The American Journal of Gastroenterology*
- And much more!

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gi.org/membership/join-acg




 AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

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ACG 2026
OCTOBER 9-14, 2026 | NASHVILLE, TN

CALL FOR Abstracts

SUBMISSION SITE OPENS MARCH 2, 2026

SUBMISSION DATES: MARCH 2 - JUNE 1, 2026

The American College of Gastroenterology invites you to submit abstracts for presentation at the 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course. Abstracts must be clinical or research-oriented, with a focus on gastroenterology or hepatology.

IMPORTANT DATES

- > **MARCH 2**
Submission Site OPENS
- > **JUNE 1 | 11:59 PM ET**
Submission Site CLOSES (No Exceptions!)
- > **BY JULY 17**
Notification of abstract ACCEPTANCE
- > **SEPTEMBER 16**
Presenting Authors MUST REGISTER as an attendee

ABSTRACT CATEGORIES

- Biliary/Pancreas
- Colon
- Colorectal Cancer Prevention
- Diet, Nutrition, and Obesity
- Endoscopy Video
- Esophagus
- Functional Bowel Disease
- General Endoscopy
- GI Bleeding
- IBD
- Infections and Microbiome
- Interventional Endoscopy
- Liver
- Pediatrics
- Practice Management
- Small Intestine
- Stomach and Spleen
- Clinical Vignettes/Case Reports

SCAN FOR THE SUBMISSION SITE
➡ bit.ly/ACG2026_Abstracts

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**ACG Training Committee 6th Annual Webinar:
Gastroenterology & Hepatology Fellowship Match
Application – Tips & Tricks for Prospective Fellowship
Applicants**


 Kathryn R. Byrne, MD	 Ian Grimes, MD	 Pegah Hosseini-Carroll, MD, FACC	 Tinsay Woreta, MD, MPH
 Rahul Karna, MD	 Anna K. Archbold, MD	 Sarah Talamantes, MD	 Clive Miranda, DO, MSc

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Building Your ERAS CV: What to Include in your CV How to Present Your Accomplishments

Kathryn R. Byrne, MD
Professor of Medicine
GI Fellowship Program Director
University of Utah School of Medicine



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Personal Curriculum Vitae (CV)

- Start this early and update frequently!
- Stand alone document
- Give your CV to faculty who are writing your letters of recommendation
- Don't forget!
 - Use same formatting throughout
 - Proofread for spelling/grammatical errors

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Personal Curriculum Vitae (CV)

- Items to include
 - Contact information
 - Education/training
 - Work experience
 - Research experience
 - Publications
 - Volunteer experience
 - Honors/awards
 - Leadership roles
 - Society membership and involvement (committees)

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ERAS CV: Impactful Experience

- Optional
- Intended for applicants who have overcome major challenges or obstacles
- Examples:
 - **Family background** (e.g., first generation to graduate college).
 - **Financial background** (e.g., low-income family, worked to support family growing up, work-study to pay for college or medical school).
 - **Community setting** (e.g., food scarcity, poverty or crime rate, lack of access to medical care).
 - **Educational experiences** (e.g., limited educational opportunities, limited access to advisors or mentors).
 - **Other general life circumstances** (e.g., loss of a family member, serving as a caregiver while working or in school).
- Do not feel that you have to fill this out this section if you do not have an impactful experience!
- Programs do NOT expect all applicants to fill this section out.

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ERAS CV: Experiences

- **Identify up to 10 total experiences**
- Experience Types (drop-down menu):
 - **Education/training** (includes clinical training such as clerkships, away rotations, sub-internships, structured observerships).
 - **Military service**
 - **Professional organization** (includes societies, associations, etc., at the local, regional, national, or international levels).
 - **Other extracurricular activity, club, hobby** (includes sports, music, theater, student government, etc.)
 - **Research**
 - **Teaching/mentoring** (includes paid teaching positions such as high school teacher as well as teaching assistant, tutor)
 - **Volunteer/service/advocacy** (includes unpaid experiences)
 - **Work** (includes paid clinical, nonclinical, business, or entrepreneurial experiences)

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ERAS CV: Experiences

- Experiences- information you will be asked to provide
 - Primary focus area
 - Numerous types including clinical/translational science, medical education, quality improvement, medical education, music/athletics/art, improving access to health care, promoting wellness, social justice/advocacy, etc.
 - Frequency type
 - How often you are involved in this activity
 - Key characteristics
 - **Most important** characteristic that best reflects what you learned from this experience (you will choose from options such as communication, teamwork and leadership, critical thinking, reliability and adaptability, etc.)
 - Context, roles, & responsibilities
 - Your opportunity to describe your role/experiences with this activity

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ERAS CV: Experiences

- Most meaningful experiences
 - You will be able to identify up to **3 experiences** as your most meaningful experiences
 - When reviewers are looking at your experiences section in the application, this is what they will see at the top
 - In addition to basic information (title of activity, primary focus, dates), you will also have a chance to answer the question
 - What made this experience most meaningful?
 - These experiences can help the program leadership get an overall picture of who you are as an applicant

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ERAS CV: Experiences

- Tips on your experiences
 - If you have worked on research projects that have not yet been published (will not be in your publication section), this is a great place to highlight the work that you have done.
 - Have variety in your experiences!
 - Write in a way that is easy on the reader.
 - Give enough detail so the reader understands the project, but not so verbose that it is overly time consuming to read.
 - Be authentic.
 - Highlight the experiences that you are most passionate about. This is a chance for the program leadership to get to know who you are.

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Publications

- ERAS will have you enter each publication under specific categories. Examples are:
 - Peer-reviewed journal articles/abstracts
 - Peer-reviewed journal articles/abstracts (other than published: submitted, provisionally accepted, in press)
 - Peer-reviewed book chapter
 - Poster presentation
 - Oral presentation
 - Peer-reviewed online publication
 - Non-peer-reviewed online publication

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Hobbies & Interests

- These can be topics that your interviewers may use as points of conversation/ice breakers during the interview
- Don't put anything here that is not a genuine interest
- Avoid anything inappropriate for a professional application
- Expect that anything on your application could be asked about during an interview

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CV/ERAS Application General Tips

- Be descriptive, but also concise and make the application easy on the reader
- Check for spelling and grammatical errors!
- Have others proofread your application
 - Clinical/research mentors
 - Someone outside of medicine
- Be authentic!
 - Give the program an idea of who you are as a person and what your genuine interests are.

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Personal Statement Tips and Tricks

Ian Grimes, MD
Program Director
University of Wisconsin



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Outline

- Purpose of A Personal Statement
- Tips
- Structure
- Take Home Points

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Purpose of the Personal Statement

- Show who you are beyond your training, research and scores
- Highlight what makes you distinct
 - Unique experiences
 - Research interests
 - Personal qualities
 - Resilience, curiosity, leadership

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Why Most Personal Statements are Bland

- **Common Pitfalls**
- Overly safe writing driven by “don’t stand out in a bad way” advice
- Generic narratives: “I became interested in GI when I saw a cirrhotic patient with a severe GI bleed...”
- Listing accomplishments instead of telling a story
- Trying to sound impressive rather than authentic
- Result: Everyone sounds the same

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What makes a Memorable Personal Statement

- Not your CV repeated in paragraph form
- Not why you like GI (we already know it’s a great field)
- Not a generic “case that inspired me”

Instead:

- What makes *you* different from someone with the same school, grades, scores, and research
- What shaped you, motivates you, and defines your “distance traveled”

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What makes a Statement Memorable

- **Programs Remember:**
 - A unique, personal, *non-medical* story
 - A moment of vulnerability, failure, or challenge
 - A life experience that shaped your values or resilience
 - A narrative that reveals who you are as a person and what you learned from this experience
 - A sense of what you want from your career (not just why you like GI)

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Highlight What Makes You Unique

- **Tell a Story Only You Can Tell**
 - Start with a personal anecdote (not a patient case)
 - Show growth: a mistake, setback, or challenge you overcame
 - Highlight “distance traveled”:
 - Family background
 - Cultural identity
 - Nontraditional path
 - Personal adversity
 - Connect the story to your professional identity and future goals
 - **Tip:** If someone else from your program could write the same statement, it’s not unique enough.

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Weave in Strengths

- **Showcase Accomplishments Naturally**
- Use stories to *demonstrate* your unique qualities (curiosity, resilience, leadership)
- Let actions reveal strengths rather than listing adjectives
- Tie achievements to personal growth or future goals
- Show reflection: “Here’s what I learned,” not “Here’s what I did”

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Structuring a Personal Statement

- **A Simple, Effective Framework**
- **Hook:** A personal, memorable anecdote
- **Insight:** What it taught you about yourself
- **Connection:** How it shaped your career path
- **Professional Identity:** Who you are as a physician
- **Future Direction:** What you hope to build in your GI career
- **Closing:** A return to the opening theme for cohesion
- **Avoid:**
 - Long patient cases
 - Overly dramatic language
 - Trying to cover everything in your CV

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Final Tips and Tricks

- **Do:**
 - Be honest, reflective, and specific
 - Show personality
 - Let your voice come through
 - Have mentors read it for tone and clarity
- **Don't:**
 - Try to impress with jargon
 - Rehash your CV
 - Write a “why GI” essay
 - Play it so safe that nothing personal remains

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How to Choose Your Letter Writers

Pegah Hosseini-Carroll, MD
 Associate Professor
 GI Fellowship Program Director
 University of Mississippi Medical Center



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Letters of Recommendation (LoR)

- Minimum of 3 letters; maximum 4 letters
 - Recommend submitting 4 letters
 - Back up letter in case of emergency
 - Letters can be assigned to different programs*
- Letter Writers:
 - Program Director: 360° view
 - GI Faculty
 - Internal Medicine Faculty
 - Research Mentor
- One of the most important aspects of the application

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Will you be a successful GI fellow?

- Attestations to your personal attributes and skill sets
 - Collegiality
 - Team player
 - Work ethic
 - Professionalism
 - Clinical skills/knowledge
 - Bedside manner
- Opportunity to highlight
 - Citizenship at work and in the community
 - Scientific contributions
 - Honors/Awards
- **Can provide comparative statements**

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Critical Evaluation of LoRs

- How long and in what capacity does the writer know the applicant?
- Is there **specific** insight into collegiality, professionalism, work ethic, intellectual curiosity, and clinical judgement?
- Is the letter impactful?
 - Positive comparison
 - Red flags are often subtle
 - Neutrality/indifference signals in a negative direction for a competitive specialty

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How to Choose Letter Writers

- Physicians with longitudinal, in-depth experience
 - Avoid brief exposures
- Gave you excellent feedback/evaluations
- Offered to write you a letter
- Well-known, respected in the field
 - *Don't count on an academic star that only knows you superficially!*
 - Higher quality letter from a faculty member that knows you well and advocates for your success >>> BIG NAME ★

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How to Ask for a Letter

- Prior to choosing your letter writers, do research
 - Talk to program director, trusted faculty, prior applicants
 - Does this person have a reputation for writing strong letters and advocating for residents applying to competitive fellowships?
- Allow plenty of time: super important
- Set the table: ask for a meeting
 - A meeting gives dedicated time without potential interruptions
 - Career goals
 - Know your “ask”
 - Send supporting documents ahead of time

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Read the Room

- Ask the letter writer if they can provide a strong letter of support
 - *This the most important question*
- Ask if they would mind reaching out to colleagues/connections by phone or e-mail on your behalf
- Don't be shy to share how important this is to your application!
- Allow and encourage a comfortable “out”
- *Pay attention to non-verbal cues and microexpressions*

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How to Ask for a Letter

- Provide the deadline
 - Ask that the letter be submitted earlier than the deadline
 - Send a gentle reminder if the letter is not submitted on time
- Provide supporting documents in paper format, too
- Consider including an easy-to-read page of bullet points
 - Memorable experiences or accomplishments with the writer
 - Frame it as being helpful
 - Tell them they are free use it or not

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DO	AVOID
Ask far in advance	Last minute ask
Be prepared	Not having all documents ready
Know and give deadlines	Mixing up deadlines or not knowing the answer
Know your ask – strong letter!	Superficial relationships or short term exposures
Check in gently	Lack of follow up
Waive your right to read the letter	Not giving an “out” (asking before a rotation)
Send thank you note after letter submitted	Not following up after letter submitted

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Parting Pearls

- Maintain positive self-talk; your mindset is crucial
- Concentrate on elements of the application process within your control
- Begin early, stay organized, and approach each step thoughtfully
- Ensure all parts of your application are aligned
- Typically, once granted an interview, the playing field is even
- Cultivate relationships throughout the interview process and stay connected
- GI is a unique specialty where fellows and attendings work closely, often side by side in endoscopy
- Be genuine and authentic
- “Do I want to work with this person for long days and on call?” **YES!!!**

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Good Luck in the Match!

Feel free to reach out with any
questions

phcarroll@umc.edu

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How to Determine Where to Apply / Lessons Learned from Virtual Interviews

Tinsay A. Woreta, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Medicine
Program Director, Gastroenterology Fellowship
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine



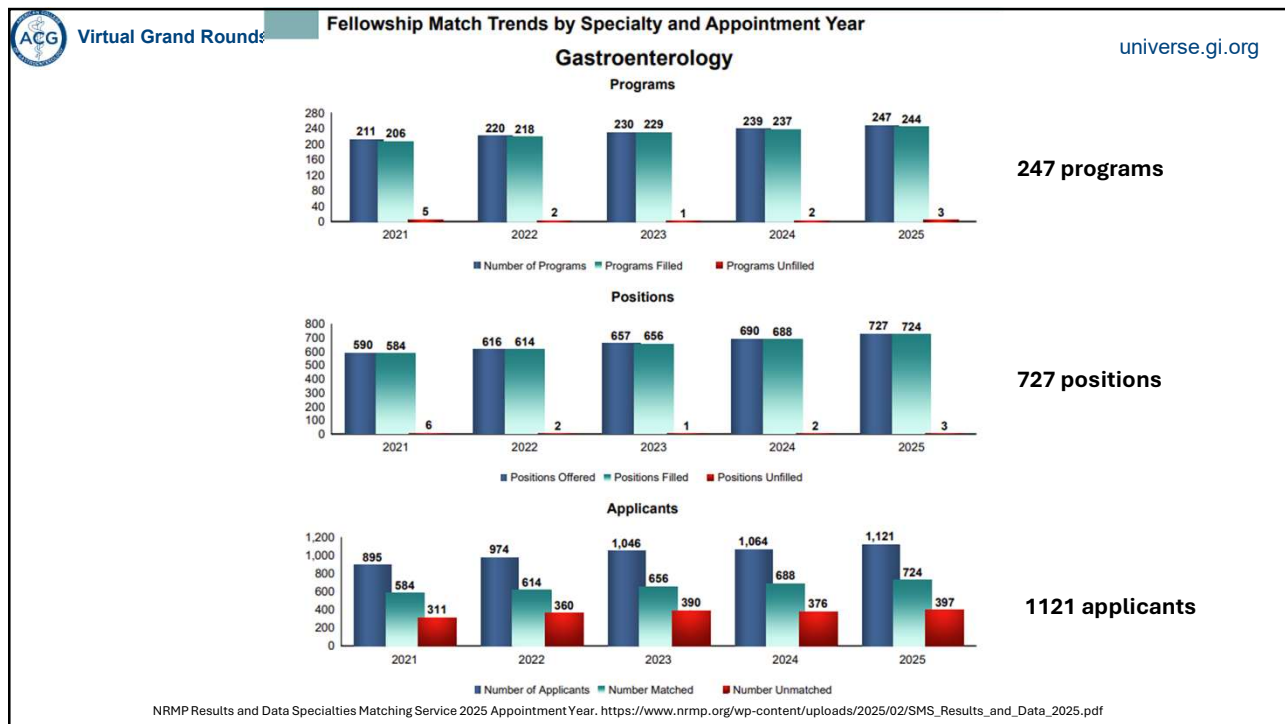
43

Background

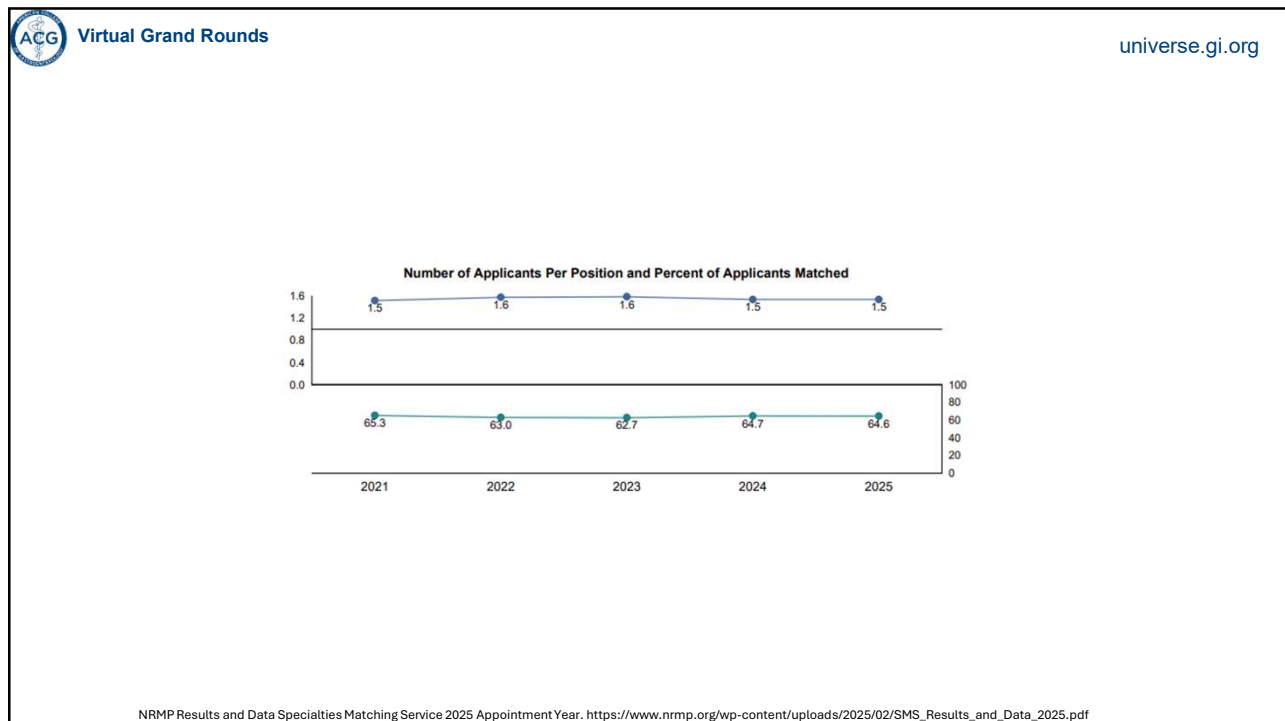
- Gastroenterology (GI) is the most competitive subspecialty within Internal Medicine (IM) in the fellowship match
- There has been a steady increase in applicants compared to available positions over the past decade
- Match rate is about 65%

Alsakarneh S et al. Gastroenterology fellowship application and match trends in the United States over a 12-year period, 2010 to 2022. Proc (Bayl Univ Med Cent). 2023 Dec 20;37(1):90-93

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How to Determine How Many Programs and Where to Apply

- Deciding on how many and where to apply for GI fellowship requires a strategic approach based on
 - 1.) your competitiveness
 - 2.) career goals
 - 3.) geographical preferences

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How to Determine How Many Programs and Where to Apply: *Your Competitiveness*

- **Top tier**
 - Robust scholarly activity
 - Strong letters of recommendations (LORs) from GI faculty who can attest to your clinical skills, character, leadership qualities, and scholarly work
 - Superior clinical performance during residency and being from a competitive residency program
 - Clearly articulating your career goals in GI in your personal statement
 - High scores on USMLE exams
 - Strong interview performance showing enthusiasm, strong interpersonal skills, clear articulation of career goals, good program fit
- **Mid tier:** Solid clinical performance, average LORs, some research or QI work
- **Low tier:** Low USMLE scores or failing USMLE exam, minimal scholarly output, generic LORs, unclear career goals, requiring visa sponsorship

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How to Determine How Many Programs and Where to Apply

- Your competitiveness

Meet with your program director and GI mentors for an honest assessment of your competitiveness

If you are a less competitive candidate, **the more programs you apply to, the better**

Apply to a wide range of programs including community-based and smaller programs

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How to Determine How Many Programs and Where to Apply

- Aim to get 8-10 interviews which significantly increases your chance of successfully matching

- Top-tier candidates: 25-30
- Mid-tier: 30-45
- Low-tier: 40-60+

- Apply to a wide mix of programs to ensure a balanced list:

1/3: Top tier

1/3: Mid tier

1/3: Low tier

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How to Determine How Many Programs and Where to Apply: *Career goals*

- Think carefully about your career goals and choose a program that best aligns with them
 - Academic vs. private practice
 - Clinician in clinical practice
 - Clinical educator
 - Independent investigator in basic science or clinical research
 - Area of focus – IBD, Advanced Endoscopy, Medical Pancreatology, Motility, Transplant Hepatology
- Study the program's mission and goals to make sure they align with your career goals
 - Are there different tracks available?
- Talk to your mentors about programs
- Ask former residency colleagues who are current GI fellows to get more information about programs and their experiences there
- Look at where graduates of fellowship programs have gone to see if this aligns with your career goals

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How to Determine How Many Programs and Where to Apply: *Career goals*

Examples:

- If interested in career as independent researcher, target academic programs with research tracks available
- If interested in Transplant Hepatology, target programs with a 3-year combined GI and Transplant Hepatology pathway

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How to Determine How Many Programs and Where to Apply: *Geographic Preferences*

- Programs value geographic preferences due to personal ties (e.g., family) or prior training at an institution
- Be strategic in selecting geographic preferences and using program signaling
 - GI fellowship applicants are provided with 15 total program signals:
 - **5 Gold** (highest interest) and **10 Silver** (high interest) signals
 - The Geographic Preferences section gives you the opportunity to communicate your preference or lack of preference for geographic divisions (New England, Mid Atlantic, South Atlantic, Pacific, etc.) and settings (urban, suburban, or rural)
 - You can select up to 3 U.S. census divisions or select “no preference”
 - Geographic preferences should align with your program signals
- If you have a significant geographic restriction, apply to all programs in the target region

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Lessons Learned from Virtual Interviews

- The number of applications for GI fellowship has increased with the adoption of virtual interviews, so some programs are receiving 400-600 applications
- Zoom fatigue is real, for both applicants and interviewers
 - Do your best to showcase your enthusiasm and interpersonal skills while being genuine
- Engage in genuine conversation with your faculty interviewer and avoid reading from a script
- Try to distinguish yourself from the masses by conveying your genuine interests and career goals
- Use the interview to highlight your career goals and make sure it is consistent with your application/personal statement
- Communicate your geographic preferences if that is a major deciding factor for you
- Signaling is very important and use signals strategically
- Post interview communication with your top programs is very important
- Having GI faculty reach out on your behalf prior to rank submission deadline can also be helpful

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Summary

- GI is the most competitive IM subspecialty for the fellowship match
- You should decide on how many and where to apply for GI fellowship strategically based on your competitiveness, career goals, and geographical preferences
- Apply to a wide range of programs and prioritize ones whose mission aligns with your career goals
- Try to distinguish yourself from the masses by conveying your genuine interests and career goals
- Use the interview as your chance to showcase your enthusiasm, career interests, and program fit
- Use geographic preferences and signals strategically
- Post interview communication with your top programs is very important

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Questions & Discussion



Kathryn Byrne, MD



Tinsay Woreta, MD, MPH



Pegah Hosseini-Carroll, MD, FACP



Ian Grimes, MD



Mohammad Bilal, MD, FACP



Rahul Karna, MD



Anna Archbold, MD



Sarah Talamantes, MD



Clive Miranda, DO, MSc

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