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The University of Pittsburgh Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition enjoyed continued success in Fiscal Year 2019. Strategic goals were defined and implemented to provide for the continued growth and success of the Division. The Division continues to be ranked among the top ten “Best Hospitals for Gastroenterology & GI Surgery” (U.S. News and World Report, July 2018).

The full, average faculty complement in FY19 was 65, which includes twelve research faculty (seven full division faculty, and five adjunct faculty). We are honored to have welcomed six new faculty members in FY19: Michael Pezzone, MD, PhD (UPMC Mercy); Siobhan Proksell, MD (Inflammatory Bowel Disease [IBD] Center); Elyse Johnston, MD (IBD Center & VAPHS); Andres Duarte-Rojo, MD, DSc (Center for Liver Diseases); Alex Myint, MD (UPMC McKeosport & Center for Liver Diseases); and Anna Evans Phillips, MD, MSc (Pancreas Center). Six faculty members left the Division: Jana Al Hashash, MD, MSc (left the U.S.); George Arnold, MD (retired); Christine Lee Gulati, MD (separated); Georgios I. Papachristou, MD, PhD (to lead pancreas programs at the Ohio State University); Fadi Francis, MD (left the U.S.); and Helen B. Sysko, PhD (retired).

FY19 was a year of successful research grants, clinical advancements, and faculty recognitions. The Division raised significant new research income, including a $6.3 million PCORI grant awarded to Eva Szigethy, MD,
PhD, and continued implementation of two large Department of Defense grants that explore big data implications for IBD (David Binion, MD) and for pancreas disease care (David Whitcomb, MD, PhD). Dr. Binion also received the Sherman Prize, a top annual IBD research honor. The Division is proud to welcome the Sherman Award back to the University of Pittsburgh after only two years; Dr. Szigethy won this award in 2016, its inaugural year. The Division is also honored by the promotions of Naudia Jonaissant, MD, MHS, to the position of Vice Chair for Diversity and Inclusion with the Department of Medicine and Dr. Szigethy to her new role as the director of Behavioral Health with the Chief Medical and Scientific Office at UPMC.
FACULTY

Robert E. Schoen, MD, MPH
Chief, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology

Steven R. Abo, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Director, Center for Women’s GI Health

Kathryn M. Albers, PhD
Professor of Neurobiology and Medicine (Adjunct)

Jana G. Al Hashash, MD, MSc*
Assistant Professor of Medicine

George L. Arnold, MD*
Clinical Professor of Medicine

Gavin E. Arteel, PhD
Professor of Medicine
Associate Chief for Basic Science
Pilot and Feasibility Core Director, Pittsburgh Liver Research Center

Arthur M. Barrie III, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Ramon Bataller Alberola, MD, PhD
Professor of Medicine
Chief of Hepatology

Jaideep Behari, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Medicine

Juliane I. Beier, PhD
Assistant Professor of Medicine

David G. Binion, MD
Professor of Medicine
Co-Director, IBD Center - Translational Research
Director, Nutrition Support Service

Randall E. Brand, MD
Professor of Medicine
Academic Director, GI-Division, UPMC Shadyside
Director, GI Malignancy Early Detection, Diagnosis & Prevention Program

Rhonda M. Brand, PhD
Visiting Associate Professor of Medicine

Jennifer S. Chennat, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine
Director of Therapeutic Endoscopy
Director of Interventional Endoscopy Fellowship
Co-Director of Endoscopic Ultrasound Program, Liver-Pancreas Institute

Kapil B. Chopra, MD
Professor of Medicine and Clinical & Translational Science
Vice Chair of Medicine, UPMC Mercy
Medical Director, Comprehensive Liver Program, UPMC Liver Pancreas Institute
Primary Physician, UPMC Liver Transplant Program, UNOS

Rohit Das, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
## FACULTY

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Vice Chair of Medicine, UPMC Mercy  
Medical Director, Comprehensive Liver Program, UPMC Liver Pancreas Institute  
Primary Physician, UPMC Liver Transplant Program, UNOS

**Rohit Das, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Brian M. Davis, PhD**  
Professor of Neurobiology and Medicine (Adjunct)

**Andres Duarte-Rojo, MD, MS, DSc**  
Associate Professor of Medicine

**Howard Dubner, MD**  
Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine

**Mohannad Dugum, MD**  
Instructor of Medicine

**Richard H. Duerr, MD**  
Professor of Medicine, Human Genetics, and Clinical & Translational Science  
Inflammatory Bowel Disease Genetic Research Chair  
Co-Director and Scientific Director, UPMC Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center

**Michael A. Dunn, MD**  
Professor of Medicine and Biomedical Informatics  
Associate Chief for Translational Research

**Kenneth E. Fasanella, MD**  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Program Director, Gastroenterology Fellowship

**Alison J. Faust, MD, MHS**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Fadi F. Francis, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Swaytha R. Ganesh, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Medical Director of Living Donor Program- UPMC Thomas E Starzl Transplant Institute

**Michael S. Gold, PhD**  
Professor of Anesthesiology and Medicine (Adjunct)

**Julia B. Greer, MD, MPH**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Christine L. Gulati, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Janet R. Harrison, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Elyse R. Johnston, MD**  
Clinical Instructor of Medicine

**Naudia L. Jonassaint, MD, MHS**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Vice Chair for Diversity and Inclusion, Department of Medicine

**Asif Khalid, MD**  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Chief, GI Services, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

**Michael J. Kingsley, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

**David J. Levinthal, MD, PhD**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Director, Neurogastroenterology & Motility Center
Yang Liu, PhD  
Associate Professor of Medicine and Bioengineering  
Director, Biomedical Optical Imaging Laboratory  
Member, University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute  
Core faculty member, Department of Biomedical Informatics

Hongqiang Ma, PhD  
Research Assistant Professor of Medicine

Shahid M. Malik, MD  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Associate Program Director, Transplant Hepatology Fellowship  
Co-Director, Liver Outreach Program

James B. McGee, MD  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Assistant Dean for Medical Education Technology  
Director, Laboratory for Educational Technology

Kevin McGrath, MD  
Professor of Medicine  
Director, Endoscopic Ultrasound  
Director, GI Endoscopy Lab

Satdarshan (Paul) Singh Monga, MD  
Professor of Pathology and Medicine (Adjunct)  
Endowed Chair for Experimental Pathology  
Vice Chair and Chief, Division of Experimental Pathology  
Assistant Dean & Co-Director, Medical Scientist Training Program  
Director, Pittsburgh Liver Research Center  
Director, Cellular Approaches to Tissue Engineering & Regeneration (CATER) Program

David Mulock, MD  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Alex H. Myint, MD  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Sudhir K. Narla, MD  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Chief, Division of Gastroenterology, UPMC  
McKeesport Hospital  
Director, Center for Digestive Disorders, UPMC  
McKeesport Hospital

Stephen J.D. O'Keefe, MBBS, MD, MSc  
Professor of Medicine

Georgios I. Papachristou, MD, PhD*  
Professor of Medicine

Michael A. Pezzone, MD, PhD  
Visiting Associate Professor of Medicine

Anna Evans Phillips, MD, MSc  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Siobhan Proksell, MD  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Joseph Pusateri, MD  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Mordechai Rabinovitz, MD  
Professor of Medicine

* Faculty who left the division over the course of FY 2019.
Vikrant P. Rachakonda, MD  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Shari S. Rogal, MD, MPH  
John J. Fung Assistant Professor of Transplant Surgery  
Assistant Professor of Medicine (Adjunct)  
Core Faculty, Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion  
Staff Physician, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

Savreet Sarkaria, MD  
Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine

Marc B. Schwartz, MD  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Obaid S. Shaikh, MD  
Professor of Medicine  
Director, Transplantation Medicine, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

Harkirat Singh, MD  
Instructor of Medicine

Adam Slivka, MD, PhD  
Professor of Medicine  
Associate Chief of Clinical Affairs, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition  
Associate Director, Liver Pancreas Institute

Helen B. Sysko, PhD*  
Psychologist, Visceral Inflammation & Pain (VIP) Center

Eva M. Szigethy, MD, PhD  
Professor of Medicine, Psychiatry, and Pediatrics  
Director, Behavioral Health with the Chief Medical and Scientific Office  
Founder, Visceral Inflammation & Pain (VIP) Center  
Director, Total Care-IBD

Dan Trellis, MD  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Lee Weinberg, MD  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

David C. Whitcomb, MD, PhD  
Professor of Medicine, Cell Biology & Physiology, and Human Genetics  
Giant Eagle Foundation Professor of Cancer Genetics  
Director, UPMC Precision Medicine Service

John Wood, MD  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Kirk L. Works, MD  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Jianquan Xu, PhD  
Research Assistant Professor of Medicine

Dhiraj Yadav, MD, MPH  
Professor of Medicine

* Faculty who left the division over the course of FY 2019.
CLINICAL ACTIVITIES

The Digestive Disorders Center (DDC), located in UPMC Presbyterian, is the hub of outpatient gastroenterology care, while the Center for Liver Disease (CLD) in the Starzl Transplantation Center is the outpatient clinic for liver disease care. The division also sees patients at other satellite facilities including UPMC Shadyside, Magee Womens Hospital of UPMC, UPMC St. Margaret’s, UPMC Mercy, UPMC McKeesport, UPMC Passavant, UPMC Horizon, and UPMC South Hills. Three of these locations moved to enhanced office space in FY19: St. Margaret’s, Mercy, and Alison Faust, MD, MHS’s office near UPMC Horizon. Patient volume for the Division’s GI Lab, outpatient clinics, and inpatient service in FY19 are reflected in Figures 1, 2, and 3, respectively.

The Division excels in clinical care among all aspects of gastrointestinal and hepatology patient care. Its Pancreas & Biliary Center and Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center are among the largest GI clinical subspecialty care teams operating in the nation. The research and clinical productivity from these two GI subspecialty areas provide outstanding support and notoriety for the division and department. Additionally, Center for Liver Diseases collaborations with the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute, Pittsburgh Liver Research Center, and Liver Pancreas Institute have continued to expand and stabilize during the past fiscal year. The Women’s Center for Digestive Health at Magee Womens Hospital of UPMC includes full outpatient evaluations, inpatient consultations, and clinical research protocols and is a Division hub for biomedical infusions. The Division’s presence in the VA Pittsburgh Health System remains well staffed and progressive with active research and clinical support.

Over the past year, the Division established a clinical office at UPMC Mercy. Kapil Chopra, MD, left Oakland to treat hepatology patients at UPMC Mercy, where he also serves as the hospital’s vice chair of Medicine. Michael Pezzone, MD, PhD, was recruited back to Pittsburgh and to UPMC to care for general gastroenterology patients and to serve as the chief of GI for UPMC Mercy.

IN FY19, UPMC led the nation with

68 living-donor liver transplants & was the ONLY center to perform more living-donor transplants than deceased-donor
Clinical productivity was augmented by the following major clinical advancements in FY19:

- In FY19, the UPMC GI Lab at UPMC Presbyterian became the first location to experience the first human use of a disposable duodenoscope through the EXACT study.

- In 2015, the UPMC Division of Gastroenterology and UPMC Health Plan partnered to establish the UPMC Total Care-IBD specialty medical home to address the needs of patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). In FY19, the Total Care-IBD pilot contract was extended. Total Care-IBD represents a new model of integrated care delivery designed to address the medical, behavioral, and socioeconomic determinants of health. Also in FY19, patients who participated in Total Care-IBD had a decrease in opioid use and an improvement in quality of life and depression. 69.2% of patients who were taking opioids at their initial medical home visit discontinued opioid use within twelve months of enrolling the program. With the advent of Dr. Eva Szigethy's $6.3 million PCORI grant, Total Care-IBD continues to provide unique and effective patient care, complemented by new telemedicine-types of counseling applications.

- In FY19, the Division’s Visceral Inflammation & Pain (VIP) Center was closed and a new medical home model for Functional GI Disorders (FGIDs) at UPMC was established in collaboration with David Levinthal, MD, PhD. Patients from the VIP center will be incorporated into the new unit.

- Dr. Levinthal is continuing to build a national reputation for Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome (CVS) care at UPMC, having published clinical guidelines for CVS care in Neurogastroenterology and Motility in FY19.

- Swaytha Ganesh, MD, leads Living Donor Liver Transplant (LDLT) referral efforts and manages this high-profile UPMC initiative in collaboration with surgical partners. In FY19, UPMC led the nation with 68 (adult and pediatric) living-donor liver transplants and was the only center to perform more living-donor liver transplants than deceased-donor liver transplants for the past two years. In collaboration with the UPMC Center for Liver Diseases, the UPMC Liver Transplant Program remains committed to ending waiting list deaths by increasing access to living donation through a national educational initiative targeted to patients, caregivers, and health providers.

- Led by Jaideep Behari, MD, PhD, the UPMC Fatty Liver, Obesity, and Wellness (FLOW) Clinic provides multidisciplinary, comprehensive, state-of-the-art care using a combination of dietary and medical approaches to treat patients with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, obesity and the metabolic syndrome. In FY19, the FLOW clinic offered patients free, noninvasive assessment of liver...
fibrosis as well as access to five active clinical trials and a weight loss study.

- **Dr. Behari, Dr. Levinthal**, and other Division faculty members moved their academic offices and some clinical service to the Division’s new Translational Research Center (TRC), located in UPMC Montefiore hospital. The TRC was designed to encourage collaborative translational research with the Endocrine and Geriatrics Divisions, who also share this space. **Lynda Dzubinski, RN**, is the TRC manager. Patient visits in the TRC are rapidly increasing, and a major renovation is in the planning stages. The TRC should evolve to becoming a major locus of translational research in the coming years.

### CLINICAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

The safety and quality of patient care is a high priority for the division. **Elyse R. Johnston, MD**, leads quality improvement projects for the Division in collaboration with **Naudia L. Jonassaint, MD, MHS**, and Belinda Marino (administrator).

The Division’s value metrics were analyzed in FY19 for both outpatients and inpatients:

**Outpatients**
- The Division seeks to increase Advanced Practice Provide (APP) utilization per cFTE by 25% with a cap of 80% capacity. This review seeks to secure APP engagement and retention. Structured activities that focus on education, knowledge sharing, mentorship, and engagement will be implemented.
- Standardized clinical follow-up intervals were analyzed for the top 20 diagnoses in the Division (including cirrhosis, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, GERD, irritable bowel syndrome, hepatitis, liver cysts and tumors, abnormal LFTs, portal hypertension, vascular abnormality of the liver, iron overload, and liver transplantation). Faculty reached agreement within the Division, and the use of this data is being explored.

**Inpatients**
- Patient prescriptions are being reviewed to ensure that at least one prescription will be sent to a hospital-based pharmacy.
- MEDUMO patient-based digital health tools are being implemented as a value metric project to
improve colonoscopy quality. Trackable data points include bowel preparation quality and reduction in cancellations and no-show rates. An additional objective is to improve patient satisfaction and the overall patient experience by streamlining endoscopy and colonoscopy orders to deliver real-time, automated patient instructions. This value metric project is designed to improve outpatient colonoscopy bowel preparation through the overhaul and streamlining of patient instructions and bowel preparation options. From an internal perspective, this project also involves the creation of new EPIC order sets and a partnership with MEDUMO to deliver automated digital instructions to patients.
CLINICAL LOCATIONS—Central
CLINICAL LOCATIONS—Central

1. **Digestive Disorders Center (DDC), Primary Patient Center—UPMC Presbyterian**
   200 Lothrop Street, Third Floor
   Pittsburgh (Oakland), PA 15213

2. **Center for Liver Diseases (CLD), Primary Hepatology Patient Center—UPMC Montefiore**
   3459 Fifth Avenue, Seventh Floor
   Pittsburgh (Oakland), PA 15213

3. **Visceral Inflammation and Pain Center**
   Medical Arts Building
   3708 Fifth Avenue, Suite 401
   Pittsburgh (Oakland), PA 15213

4. **Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition—UPMC Shadyside**
   Shadyside Medical Building
   5200 Centre Avenue, Suite 409
   Pittsburgh (Shadyside), PA 15232

5. **Center for Women’s Digestive Health—Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC**
   300 Halket Street, Suite 820, Basement Level
   Pittsburgh (Oakland), PA 15213
CLINICAL LOCATIONS—Peripheral

1. UPMC Gastroenterology—UPMC Horizon
   110 North Main Street, 2nd Floor, and 125 North Main Street, Suite 102 (Kirk Works, MD)
   Greenville, PA 16125

2. Center for Liver Diseases—UPMC Passavant
   9100 Babcock Boulevard, Basement Level
   Pittsburgh, PA 15237

3. UPMC Gastroenterology—UPMC St. Margaret’s
   Medical Arts Building
   100 Delafield Road, Suite 307
   Pittsburgh (Aspinwall), PA 15215

4. UPMC South Hills
   1300 Oxford Drive
   Bethel Park, PA 15102

5. St. Clair Outpatient Hospital Building
   2000 Oxford Drive, Suite 680
   Bethel Park, PA 15102

6. Gastroenterology and Center for Liver Diseases—UPMC McKeesport
   Painter Building
   500 Hospital Way, Suite 401
   McKeesport, PA 15132

7. Gastroenterology and Center for Liver Diseases—UPMC Monroeville
   125 Daugherty Drive, Suite 200
   Monroeville, PA 15146
1. **UPMC Gastroenterology—UPMC Horizon**
   110 North Main Street, 2nd Floor, and 125 North Main Street, Suite 102 (Kirk Works, MD)
   Greenville, PA 16125

2. **Center for Liver Diseases—UPMC Passavant**
   9100 Babcock Boulevard, Basement Level
   Pittsburgh, PA 15237

3. **UPMC Gastroenterology—UPMC St. Margaret’s**
   Medical Arts Building
   100 Delafield Road, Suite 307
   Pittsburgh (Aspinwall), PA 15215

4. **UPMC South Hills**
   1300 Oxford Drive
   Bethel Park, PA 15102

5. **St. Clair Outpatient Hospital Building**
   2000 Oxford Drive, Suite 680
   Bethel Park, PA 15102

6. **Gastroenterology (Dr. Sudhir Narla) and Center for Liver Diseases—UPMC McKeesport**
   Painter Building
   500 Hospital Way, Suite 401
   McKeesport, PA 15132

7. **Gastroenterology and Center for Liver Diseases—UPMC Monroeville**
   125 Daugherty Drive, Suite 200
   Monroeville, PA 15146
RESEARCH AND OTHER SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

The Division is a unique blend of clinical excellence, complemented by superb translational research capacity and capability. Thematic areas include inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), pancreatic diseases, hepatitis and liver diseases, functional and pain disorders, nutrition deficits, digestive system cancer risk, endoscopic management of GI cancers, and women’s digestive health. Core scientific disciplines include epidemiology, cell biology and physiology, genetics, immunology, neurosciences, tissue regeneration, transplantation, and oncogenesis. Applied sciences include biomarker development and clinical trial outcome studies.

In FY2019, our faculty engaged in cutting-edge research. The lab of Yang Liu, PhD, has developed a highly innovative approach to visualize molecular scale structures in real time. Her team was the first to discover the dual-layered scaffolding of cell nuclei as a previously unrecognized structural support for nuclear function. Her group recently uncovered the fragmentation of chromatin folding occurring early in neoplasia, even prior to tumor formation, which has the potential to improve early detection of aggressive cancers. She is the recent recipient of a new R01 grant, titled “Three-Dimensional Nanoscale Nuclear Architecture Mapping Based Taxonomy of Precursor Lesions for Predicting Colorectal Cancer Risk.”

Ramon Bataller, MD, PhD, demonstrated to the world for the first time that cold weather climate has a link to alcoholism. This study garnered worldwide interest and was publicized in virtually every major country and by major international media including the BBC, main Canadian TV, and Fox News. Dr. Bataller’s lab also uncovered a new mechanism of alcoholic hepatitis that has the potential to lead to new therapy. He demonstrated that epigenetic mechanisms lead to fetal reprogramming and defective production of HNF4alpha, contributing to liver failure. He has a patent on this discovery and is seeking industry collaboration to further expand on its potential promise in mitigating alcoholic hepatitis. Additionally, Dr. Bataller and fellow faculty member Gavin Arteel, PhD, further explored alcoholic liver disease advancements as co-guest editors for the Journal of Hepatology’s special issue on Alcoholic Hepatitis (Feb 2019;70(2)).

A hepatologist at the VAPHS and adjunct Division research faculty in FY19,
Shari Rogal, MD, MPH, developed and used novel implementation strategy assessments to evaluate how sites across the VA approach uptake of evidence-based practices. With novel analytics that include traditional and configurational comparative methods to show how to improve VA care, her research reaches a number of relevant domains such as HCV care, cirrhosis care, HIV, addiction care, opioid safety, and intimate partner violence initiatives. Her work has been accepted at leading implementation science meetings and journals. Dr. Rogal is also launching a University of Pittsburgh implementation science group (DISC), an interdisciplinary collaboration that crosses University schools and departments. Dr. Rogal will become a full-Division faculty in FY20.

Another faculty member, Dhiraj Yadav, MD, MPH, is co-leading three multi-institutional projects:

- The PROCEED study is the first longitudinal, observational cohort study of chronic pancreatitis in the U.S., and PROCEED is one of four cohorts that have been established by the ten-center U01 Consortium for the Study of Chronic Pancreatitis, Diabetes, and Pancreatic Cancer (CPDPC). Primary objectives include the establishment of a longitudinal research cohort of adult subjects to study chronic pancreatitis (CP) and complications, to estimate the risk of disease progression, to test the predictive capability of candidate biomarkers for the diagnosis and prognosis of CP, and to develop a platform for conducting biomarker, genetic, and mechanistic studies using clinical information and longitudinal biospecimens. Dr. Yadav is also the site PI for two other CPDPC projects: the DETECT study, which will enroll subjects with either Type 2DM or DM related to CP or pancreatic cancer to undergo a mixed meal tolerance test with a goal to develop a clinical test to differentiate between these conditions; and MINIMAP, which will evaluate novel MRI features to predict early CP changes.
- The SpHincterotomy for Acute Recurrent Pancreatitis (SHARP) study is also funded through a U01 consortium. The 17 academic medical centers in this study will work to determine whether an ERCP with minor papilla sphincterotomy reduces the risk for pancreatitis in patients with pancreas divisum, an issue that has been debated for more than 30 years. Study results will directly impact clinical practice.
- ACCESS-AP is a case crossover study that will examine the role of short-term increases in alcohol consumption related to the risk of pancreatitis in patients who report regular drinking. Results of this five-site study will inform tailored interventions to prevent recurrence of pancreatitis and disease progression in regular drinkers. A biorepository will be established to uncover mechanisms of pancreatitis related to alcohol and smoking.

Eva Szigethy, MD, PhD, reports that chronic GI conditions have high rates of behavioral comorbidities, but cost-effective, integrated, medical-behavioral care remains challenging. She is the lead investigator on two clinical research initiatives:

- Dr. Szigethy’s $6.3 million PCORI study will be conducted within the Division’s specialty medical home, Total Care-IBD. This study will seek to identify how health technology can provide for accessible, scalable, high-quality, and integrated care for patients with chronic medical conditions like IBD. Two strategies for the delivery of integrated medical and behavioral care will be compared: 1) in-person care in the GI Clinic (TEAM); and 2) a technology-supported approach, in which care will be provided by telemedicine and digital apps primarily (TECH). She believes that outcomes may be scalable to other common chronic conditions.
- Dr. Szigethy is also investigating how patients with functional GI disorders (FGIDs) can receive more efficient screening for common psychiatric disorders such as mood and anxiety disorders, PTSD, and substance abuse disorders. She and her colleagues will use adaptive computerized testing and vocal
Robert E. Schoen, MD, MPH's efforts in early detection and prevention of CRC continue to pioneer new fronts in expanding and improving screening, implementation, and quality. He is a lead investigator on multiple clinical research initiatives:

- As a principal investigator and member of the executive committee for the National Cancer Institute’s Early Detection Research Network, Dr. Schoen is collaborating with Drs. Kenneth Kinzler and Bert Vogelstein at Johns Hopkins University to evaluate a blood test for cancer that uses circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA). Initial results were published in Science in 2018 and have generated considerable interest.
- Dr. Schoen and colleagues published multiple papers using a natural language processing tool to analyze colonoscopy and pathology reports to measure physician quality. UPMC Enterprise has now developed such a tool, and plans to implement it for use in the UPMC system are underway.
- Dr. Schoen and colleagues published a landmark study in JAMA in 2018 on the outcome of surveillance colonoscopy after adenomatous polyps are discovered. The National Cancer Institute has decided to fund a 15,000 patient randomized trial in conjunction with the NRG oncology group and the National Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP), which will be directed by Dr. Schoen.

Facility Research Interests and Activities

Robert E. Schoen, MD, MPH  Division Chief
Dr. Schoen is a Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology and his research interests center on the early detection and prevention of colorectal cancer (CRC). He is a Principal Investigator in the PLCO cancer screening trial, a randomized trial of over 154,000 individuals that evaluated flexible sigmoidoscopy. He has used PLCO data to study surveillance colonoscopy utilization and yield, interval cancers, or cancers detected shortly after endoscopic procedures, as well as the risk of colorectal cancer among subjects with a family history of cancer. In collaboration with the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, Dr Schoen is the Principal Investigator of a multicenter randomized immunotherapy trial, evaluating a vaccine for prevention of recurrent adenomatous polyps. He is also a Principal Investigator for the Early Detection Research Network and collaborates with scientists nationally and internationally to identify biomarkers, including circulating tumor DNA and tissue-based markers, to detect and monitor cancer. As an investigator in the Genetics and Epidemiology of Colorectal Cancer Consortium (GECCO), Dr. Schoen is part of a consortium studying genetic and environmental risk factors for CRC, including genome-wide association studies and molecular pathologic epidemiology research and modeling of CRC risk using genetic and environmental risk factors. Lastly, he is a co-investigator in a study evaluating colonoscopy quality and is helping to develop a natural language processing tool to evaluate and report on colonoscopy quality in a more efficient manner. In conjunction with that project, Dr. Schoen is developing a database of colonoscopy reports from the last 20 years at UPMC hospital for research studies on colonoscopy.

Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions
- Chair, Colon Organ Site Committee, Prostate, Lung, Colorectal & Ovarian Cancer Screening Trial, 2002-present
Robert E. Schoen, MD, MPH

Faculty Research Interests and Activities

- 20 years at UPMC hospital for research studies on colonoscopy.
- Lastly, he is a co-investigator in a study evaluating colonoscopy quality and is helping to develop a natural pathologic epidemiology research and modeling of CRC risk using genetic and environmental risk factors.
- Collaborates with scientists nationally and internationally to identify biomarkers, including circulating tumor DNA and tissue-based markers, to detect and monitor cancer.
- As an investigator in the Genetics and Cancer Outpatient Clinic, Dr. Schoen is the Principal Investigator used PLCO data to study surveillance colonoscopy utilization and yield, interval cancers, or cancers detected at Johns Hopkins University.
- Chair, Colon Organ Site Committee, Prostate, Lung, Colorectal & Ovarian Cancer Screening Trial, a randomized trial of over 154,000 individuals that evaluated flexible sigmoidoscopy. He has been a lead investigator and member of the executive committee for the National Cancer Institute’s National Community Oncology Research Program (NCORP), which has over 130 sites and is discovering new biomarkers, including for early detection and prevention of CRC.
- Dr. Schoen and colleagues published a landmark study in the journal *Science* in 2018.
- Dr. Schoen and colleagues published multiple papers using a natural language processing tool to analyze colonoscopy and pathology reports for early detection of CRC.
- As a principal investigator and member of the executive committee for the Early Detection Research Network, Dr. Schoen is collaborating with Drs. Kenneth Kinzler and Bert Vogelstein at Johns Hopkins University to evaluate a blood test for cancer that uses circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA). Initial results were published in 2017.
- Studied the genetic and environmental risk factors for CRC, including genome-wide association studies and molecular DNA and tissue-based markers, to detect and monitor cancer.
- In collaboration with the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, Dr. Schoen is the Principal Investigator of a multicenter randomized immunotherapy trial, evaluating a vaccine for prevention of recurrent CRC.
- Dr. Schoen is a Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology and his research interests center on the early detection and prevention of CRC. Efforts in early detection and prevention of CRC continue to pioneer new technologies to improve the screening and treatment of CRC.
- Honors and Awards
  - Honoree, Best Doctors, Pittsburgh Magazine, 2012-present

Steven R. Abo, MD

Dr. Abo is an Assistant Professor whose research interests include clinical research studies pertaining to the pathogenesis and treatment of irritable bowel syndrome. He also serves as the Director for the Center for Women’s GI Health.

Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions

- Director, Center for Women’s Digestive Health, Magee-Women’s Hospital of UPMC, 2000-present

Jana G. Al Hashash, MD, MSc*

Dr. Al Hashash investigates aberrant MUC1 expression in Crohn’s disease patients. She works in conjunction with Olivera Finn, PhD, from the Department of Immunology. Together, they plan to conduct a vaccine trial by giving MUC1 vaccine to Crohn’s disease patients in the postoperative setting to prevent the recurrence of their Crohn’s disease. In addition, Dr. Al Hashash is collaborating with Yang Liu, PhD, on research to detect early colonic dysplasia and colon cancer in high-risk IBD patients via noninvasive biomarkers.

Professional Affiliations and Society Memberships

- Member, American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, 2010-present
- Member, American Gastroenterological Association, 2011-present
- Member, American College of Gastroenterology, 2010-present
- Physician Member, Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA), 2012-present

Editorships

- Peer Reviewer, *Inflammatory Bowel Disease Journal*, 2012-present
- Peer Reviewer, *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, 2012-present
- Peer Reviewer, *Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine*, 2012-present
- Peer Reviewer, *Alimentary Pharmacology and Therapeutics*, 2012-present
- Peer Reviewer, *ACG Case Report Journal*, 2013-present

Kathryn M. Albers, PhD

Dr. Albers is a Professor of Neurobiology and Medicine whose research interests are focused on tissue-derived neurotrophic growth factors that regulate sensory neuron development, their functional properties, and changes in excitability that occur following nerve injury and disease. Dr. Albers has an additional project...
examining the function of the transcription factor Sox11. Sox11 plays a critical role in embryonic neuron specification, growth and survival, and adult peripheral nerve regeneration.

**George Arnold, MD**
Dr. Arnold is a Clinical Professor of Medicine who has previously been involved in clinical research in inflammatory bowel disease and irritable bowel syndrome, has supervised studies in these areas, presented at national meetings, and published clinical studies.

**Gavin E. Arteel, PhD**
Dr. Arteel’s research focuses on the interaction between hepatotoxicants (e.g., arsenic) and lifestyle choices (e.g., obesity and alcohol) in the initiation and progression of chronic liver diseases. His current research foci are based on the understanding that transitional changes to the ECM proteome (i.e., “matrisome”) play an underappreciated role in the initiation and progression of liver disease. He is developing computational tools to attempt to predict mechanism(s) and to develop biomarkers (or surrogate biomarkers) for use in the clinics.

**Study Sections**
- Member, XNDA study section, 2010-2014
- Chair, Hepatobiliary and Pathophysiology (HBPP) study section, 2018-present

**Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions**
- Member and Chair, Basic Research Committee, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, 2015-2017

**Professional Affiliations and Society Memberships**
- Member, Research Society on Alcoholism, 2002-present
- Member, Society of Toxicology, 2002-present
- Member, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, 2003-present
- Member, American Gastroenterological Society, 2010-present

**Editorships**
- Editorial Board, *Hepatology*, 2006-present

**Honors and Awards**
- Fellow of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (FAASLD), 2015
- Alumnus of the Year, Pharmacology-Toxicology Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2019

**Arthur M. Barrie III, MD, PhD**
Dr. Barrie focuses on IBD patient outcomes and optimizing IBD treatment.

**Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions**
- Medical Director, Magee Infusion Center, 2017-present

**Ramon Bataller Alberola, MD, PhD**
As the Chief of Hepatology, Dr. Bataller’s research interests include liver fibrosis and the mechanisms and determinants of mortality of alcoholic liver disease. He has performed translational studies primarily including human samples and experimental models of liver disease. A more recent research interest of Dr. Battaler...
involves his exploration of the global public health aspects of alcoholic liver disease and is the PI for an NIH-funded consortium (InTeam) for translational research of alcoholic hepatitis that seeks to identify molecular subtypes and novel targets for therapy.

**Study Sections**
- Permanent Member, Hepatobiliary Pathophysiology Study Section, NIH, 2018-present

**Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions**
- Associate Member, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Group, 2014-present
- Member, AASLD Education Committee, 2016-present
- Chief of Hepatology, UPMC, 2018-present

**Professional Affiliations and Society Memberships**
- Member, European Association for the Study of the Liver, 2009-present
- Member, American Association for the Study of Liver Disease, 2013-present
- Member, Research Society of Alcoholism, 2013-present
- Member, International Society in Biomedical Research in Alcoholism, 2013-present
- Member, American College of Gastroenterology, 2016-present
- Member, Latin American Association for the Study of the Liver, 2016-present

**Editorships**
- Editorial Board, *Gastroenterology Research and Practice*, 2009-present
- Editorial Board, *Nature Reviews in Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, 2012-present
- Co-editor, *Journal of Hepatology*, 2014-present

**Major Lectureships and Seminars**
- Invited Speaker, "Survival After Liver Transplant in Alcoholic Patients," Medical, Surgical & Ethical Management of Alcohol-mediated Liver Disease: International Expert Opinion and Clinical Challenges, Houston, TX, 2018

**Honors and Awards**
- Honoree, Best Doctors, *Pittsburgh Magazine*, 2019-present

**Jaideep Behari, MD, PhD**
Dr. Behari’s research investigates the role of intracellular signaling pathways in the pathogenesis of liver diseases. He is also interested in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, alcoholic fatty liver disease and hepatocellular carcinoma.

**Juliane I. Beier, PhD**
Dr. Beier focuses on environmental vinyl chloride exposure in the context of existing underlying liver disease. Clearly high occupational exposure to vinyl chloride is directly hepatotoxic; what is less well clear is the impact of lower environmental exposure on exacerbating existing liver disease. Given the fact that a significant portion of the population has risk factors for liver disease (most commonly, obesity), and that 30% of the US population has elevated indices of liver damage, any potential impact of low environmental exposure could be dramatic. Her findings indicate that vinyl chloride will exacerbate liver damage caused by another factor. This work shifts the paradigm of current risk assessment for not only this compound, but any other environmental agent that may potentially damage the liver.
Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions

- Abstract Review Board, member, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD), 2015-present
- Abstract Review Board, member, Digestive Disease Week (DDW), 2015-present

Professional Affiliations and Society Memberships

- Member, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD), 2007-present
- Member, International Society for Hepatic Sinusoidal Research (ISHSR), 2010-present
- Member, Society of Toxicology (SOT), 2013-present

Editorships

- Ad Hoc Reviewer, Multiple journals (American Journal of Physiology: Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology; Annals of Hepatology; Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics; Hepatology; Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics; Journal of Hepatology; Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology; Toxicological Sciences), 2008-present

David G. Binion, MD

Dr. Binion is an inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) investigator whose career has focused on defining the cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying human chronic gut inflammation and translating that knowledge into improved care for patients suffering from Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. His current work centers on Big Data analytics and the development and transformation of the UPMC IBD Registry, a prospective, multi-year, longitudinal natural history registry database of >3,000 consented IBD patients, into a metadata platform for scientific discovery. Through a collaboration with computer scientists from the University of Pittsburgh School of Information Science, this relational database continuously curates and transforms observational clinical information from the electronic medical record (EMR) and maintains >10,000 person-years of associated metadata in a secure data warehouse. Areas of active investigation include: Developing prognostic biomarkers of IBD severity, characterizing the impact of diet and nutrition on IBD natural history, identifying biomarker patterns to predict development of dysplasia/cancer in IBD, identifying predictive biomarkers to guide therapeutic selection in IBD, comparative effectiveness studies in IBD maintenance therapy, defining the impact of surgical anastomotic technique on longterm clinical outcomes in Crohn's disease, use of healthcare charge data as a comprehensive phenotype, defining the impact of Clostridium difficile infection on IBD natural history, characterizing extra-intestinal manifestations--including anemia and autonomic dysfunction--on the natural history of IBD, developing clinical decision support tools to optimize IBD care, and implementing precision medicine.

Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions

- Member, Executive Board, Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, 1999-present
• Director, Translational Inflammatory Bowel Disease Research, University of Pittsburgh, 2008-present
• Co-Director, Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center, University of Pittsburgh, 2008-present
• Member, Steering Committee, (SECURE) FDA Mandated Safety Registry UCB Pharma, Inc., 2009-2019
• Medical Director, GI and Nutrition Therapy (GIANT), 2013-present
• Director, Nutrition Support Service, 2013-present
• Member, Nutrition Subcommittee, UPMC Presbyterian-Shadyside Hospitals, 2013-present
• Co-Director, Gastroenterology T32 Training Program, 2018-present

Editorships
• Editorial Advisory Board, The American Journal of Gastroenterology, 2007-present
• Editorial Advisory Board, World Journal of Gastroenterology, 2007-present
• Editorial Advisory Board, Clinical and Translational Science, 2008-present
• Editorial Advisory Board, Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology, 2014-present

Honors and Awards
• Honoree, Best Doctors in America, 2002-present
• Honoree, Pittsburgh’s Best Doctors, Pittsburgh Magazine, 2014-present
• Awardee, Sherman Prize, Sherman Foundation, Advances in IBD Conference, Orlando, FL, December 2018

Randall E. Brand, MD
Dr. Brand is a physician-scientist with an extensive background in pancreatic diseases, and his research focuses primarily on the early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer and cystic lesions of the pancreas. He also studies familial pancreatic cancer and other hereditary GI disorders. He is leader of the University of Pittsburgh’s Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma Gene-Environment Registry (PAGER). The biospecimen repository, developed as part of the PAGER study, is nationally recognized and serves as an excellent resource for multiple NIH/NC-funded projects as well as for national and international collaborations with outside researchers. Dr. Brand is a key contributor to the Early Detection Research Network, especially in research related to pancreatic cancer and cystic neoplasms. He is currently funded in the network as a principal investigator to lead both a multi-center Pancreatic Cancer Clinical Validation Center and a Biomarker Developmental Laboratory.

Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions
• Director, GI Section and Academic Director, Shadyside Hospital, 2007-present
• Director, GI Malignancy Early Detection, Diagnosis and Prevention Program, UPMC, 2007-present
• Member, GI Fellowship Committee, University of Pittsburgh, 2007-present
• Member, Pancreatic Cancer Clinical Pathways Committee, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, 2008-present
• Member, Collaborative Alliance for Pancreatic Education and Research, 2009-present
• Member, Health Sciences Bridge Funding Committee, 2010-present
• Chief, Therapeutic Endoscopy, Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, 2011-present
• Member, Advisory Board, Collaborative Alliance for Pancreatic Education and Research, 2012-present
• Member, Advisory Committee, Pancreas Section Councilor, American Gastroenterology
Kapil B. Chopra, MD
Dr. Chopra's research interests center on the cholestatic liver diseases primary sclerosing cholangitis and primary biliary cirrhosis. He has participated in collaborative research projects with the Starzl Transplant Institute and the Liver Cancer Center, and has served as co-investigator on several multicenter trials investigating novel therapies and approaches to the management of viral hepatitis. His research has culminated in 50 scientific presentations at national and international conferences. Dr. Chopra was a co-investigator on numerous NIH-funded research studies including PSC Resource of Genetic Risk, Environment and Synergy Studies (PROGRESS) (Principal Investigator: Dr. K Lazaridis, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine); A Preliminary Study of the Efficacy and Safety of Carbamazepine in Severe Liver Disease Due to Alpha-1-Antitrypsin Deficiency (Principal Investigator: Dr. David Perlmutter, Children's Hospital, Pittsburgh); and a prospective study comparing surgical therapies versus interventional radiologic interventions for management of gastrointestinal bleeding in patients with chronic liver disease. In recognition of his role as a
mentor and his contributions to the Clinical Research Scholars Program (CRSP) of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), he was offered a secondary appointment in Clinical and Translational Science at the University of Pittsburgh in September 2012.

**Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions**

- Board Member, Allegheny Division, American Liver Foundation, 2006-present
- Member, Medical Advisory Committee, Allegheny Division, American Liver Foundation, 2006-present
- Chairman, Medical Advisory Committee, Allegheny Division, American Liver Foundation, 2007-present
- Member, Graduate Medical Education Committee, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, 2007-present
- Member, Advisory Board, PSC Partners Seeking a Cure Medical, 2008-present
- Member, UPMC Presbyterian/ Shadyside Hospitals Transplant Patient Safety Council, 2010-present
- Member, Appointment and Promotion Committee, Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, 2012-present
- Board Member, Community Liver Alliance, 2014-present
- Medical Director, Comprehensive Liver Program, UPMC Liver and Pancreas Institute, 2014-present
- Member, Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, UPMC Health Plan, 2016-present

**Editorships**

- Ad hoc Reviewer, *Digestive Diseases and Sciences*, 2007-present
- Ad hoc Reviewer, *Liver Transplantation*, 2007-present

**Rohit Das, MD**

Dr. Das's research interests related to pancreaticobiliary endoscopy. He is particularly interested in endoscopic treatment modalities for recurrent and chronic pancreatitis.

**Brian M. Davis, PhD**

Dr. Davis is a Professor of Neurobiology and Medicine whose research focuses on the role of growth factor interaction with sensory fibers that may be responsible for regulating neurogenic inflammation in pancreatic disease. He also investigates the role of the peripheral nervous system in pancreatic cancer pain and metastasis.

**Professional Affiliations and Society Memberships**

- Member, Society for Neurosciences, 1979 - Present
- Member, American Gastroenterology Association, 2001 - Present
- Member, International Association for the Study of Pain, 2005 - Present

**Andres Duarte-Rojo, MD, MS, DSc**

Dr. Duarte-Rojo conducts clinical and translational research in disorders of physical function and exercise in advanced liver disease. He is also interested in clinimetrics, with an emphasis on the use of noninvasive assessment of liver disease, and the development of methods to predict clinical outcomes.
Richard H. Duerr, MD
A Professor of Medicine, Human Genetics, and Clinical and Translational Science at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Duerr holds the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Genetic Research Chair and is Co-Director and Scientific Director of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center—and has been involved in research related to inflammatory bowel disease throughout his career. He leads one of six genetic research centers that comprise the NIH/NIDDK Inflammatory Bowel Disease Genetics Consortium. His research program has had uninterrupted funding from the NIH, CCFA, and other foundations since 1995. He was recently appointed Associate Chief Scientist, Translational Research on the Leadership Team of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA) IBD Plexus research and information exchange platform. Dr. Duerr is a member of the American Gastroenterological Association, the American Society of Human Genetics, and CCFA. He has been an invited lecturer in local, national, and international venues, and he has published original inflammatory bowel disease genetics research articles in journals such as Nature, Science, Nature Genetics, American Journal of Human Genetics, and Human Molecular Genetics. He has served on grants review committees for the NIH and CCFA.

Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions
- Chairman, NIDDK IBD Genetics Consortium Genotyping Committee, 2003-present
- Chairman, Institutional Data and Safety Monitoring Board Subcommittee, 2006-present
- Clinical Research Scholar, Institute for Clinical Research Education, 2009-present
- Member, IBD Plexus Integration and Transition Team, Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, 2014-present
- Member, Standing Committee for Tenured Faculty Promotions and Appointments, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, 2016-present

Professional Affiliations and Society Memberships
- Physician Member, Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, 2007-present

Editorships
- Editor, Genetics Section, Inflammatory Bowel Diseases, 2008-present

Mohannad Dugum, MD
Dr. Dugum's research focuses on acute pancreatitis and associated organ failure.

Michael A. Dunn, MD
In a collaboration with colleagues from the Thomas E Starzl Transplantation Institute and the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Dr. Dunn leads a UPMC hospital-funded initiative to improve the fitness and activity of liver transplant candidates with the objective of producing a 20% decrease in waitlist hospital days and waitlist mortality. Wearable personal-activity monitoring and quantitation of muscle mass with imaging segmentation analysis are being explored as enabling technologies. Dr. Dunn formed and now leads the FLEXIT (Fitness, Life Enhancement and Exercise in Transplantation) Consortium of investigators at the University of California San Francisco, Mayo Clinic Arizona, Cleveland Clinic, Duke University, University of Alberta, and University of Pittsburgh. The consortium is engaged in multi-center collaborations to define, prevent, and reverse physical decline in cirrhosis. Dr. Dunn helped Dr. Binion design and continues to assist in operating a Department of Defense-supported searchable prospective electronic clinical registry for our inflammatory bowel disease team. It has enabled significant advances in disease modeling with over 20 major publications in the last three years. He also serves as the site Principal Investigator of an industry-sponsored
FDA registration trial of obeticholic acid therapy for primary sclerosing cholangitis.

**Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership**

**Positions**

- Board of Directors, Central Pennsylvania Veterans Community Initiatives, 2005-present
- Policy Co-Chair, Pennsylvania Diabetes Action Plan, 2006-present
- Associate Chief for Translational Research, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, 2008-present
- Board of Directors, Easter Seals of Western Pennsylvania, 2008-present
- Member, Advisory Panel, U.S. Army Surgeon General on Military Medicine and Prevention, 2008-present
- Board of Directors, National Flag Foundation, 2012-present
- Board of Directors, Pittsburgh Community Liver Alliance, 2014-present
- National Medical Society Service Officer, AASLD Federal Agencies Liaison Committee, 2016-present

**Honors and Awards**

- Fellow, American Association for the Study of Liver Disease, 2017-present

**Kenneth E. Fasanella, MD**

Dr. Fasanella is an Assistant Professor of Medicine whose research includes studying surveillance and risk stratification of pancreatic cystic lesions; biomarkers of risk in Barrett’s esophagus; outcomes of endoscopic treatment of high-risk Barrett’s esophagus and Barrett’s-related neoplasia; appropriate surveillance intervals of gastric stromal tumors; and educational research in endoscopic feedback tools.

**Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions**

- Member, Education Review Committee, National Pancreas Foundation, 2003-present
- Member, Residency Selection Committee, Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, 2007-present
- Member, Common Fellowship Curriculum Committee, 2007-present
- Program Director, Gastroenterology Fellowship, 2007-present
- Member, Selection Committee, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, 2009-present
- Course Director, UPMC Gastroenterology Grand Rounds, 2012-present

**Professional Affiliations and Society Memberships**

- Member, North American Pancreas Study Group, 2005-present

**Alison J. Faust, MD, MHS**

Dr. Faust conducts research related to viral hepatitis, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, and alcoholic liver
disease.

Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions
- Member, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, Technology & Social Media Committee, November 2016-present

Fadi F. Francis, MD
Dr. Francis examines Hepatitis C treatment and pre- and post-liver transplantation.

Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions
- Medical Director, Liver Transplantation, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare Systems, 2005-present

Swaytha R. Ganesh, MD
Dr. Ganesh is an Assistant Professor of Medicine investigating issues related to living donor liver transplants and drug metabolism in patients post-living donor transplant. Dr. Ganesh also researches the safety and preliminary efficacy of donor-derived regulatory dendritic cell infusion and immunosuppression withdrawal in living donor transplant recipients, as well as Remodulin and ischemic reperfusion injury in patients post-liver transplant.

Michael S. Gold, PhD
Dr. Gold is a Professor of Anesthesiology whose research is focused around the clinical features of a number of pain syndromes. These observations include the following: 1) many pain syndromes are unique to a particular part of the body such as the head in migraine, the temporomandibular joint in temporomandibular disorder (TMD), or the colon in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD); 2) many pain syndromes such as migraine, TMD, and IBD occur with a greater prevalence, severity, and/or duration in women than in men; 3) many pain syndromes are associated with changes in the excitability of primary afferent neurons; 4) there are time dependent changes in the mechanisms underlying pain syndromes; and 5) different types of injuries (i.e., inflammation or nerve injury) are differentially sensitive to therapeutic interventions. These observations led to specific hypotheses that are tested in ongoing studies in the Gold laboratory. These include 1) characterizing the mechanisms underlying inflammation-induced changes in the evoked Ca2+ transients in sensory neurons, 2) characterizing the mechanisms underlying the inflammatory mediator-induced sensitization of dural afferents, 3) characterizing the influence of estrogen on the excitability of spinal and trigeminal ganglion neurons, 4) characterizing the mechanisms underlying the link between stress and migraine, 5) characterizing the role of changes in inhibitory receptors, in particular GABA, in injury-induced increases in sensitivity, and 6) identification of ways to maximize the therapeutic utility of local anesthetics. The ultimate goal of these studies is to identify novel targets for the development of therapeutic interventions for the treatment of pain.

Julia B. Greer, MD, MPH
Dr. Greer investigates cancer epidemiology as it relates to colon and pancreatic cancer, acute and chronic pancreatitis, nutrition, inflammatory bowel disease risk factors and case management, bioinformatics, and medical education in digestion and nutrition.

Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions
- Member, Wayne Fusaro Pancreatic Cancer Research Foundation, 2005-present
- Member, Minority Affairs Consortium, 2006-present
• Member, Complementary Medicine Interest Group, Integrative Medicine Center Pittsburgh, 2007-present
• Member, Interviewing Committee, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, 2009-present
• Member, Guaranteed Admit Interviewing Program Committee, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, 2011-present
• Admissions Committee, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, 2012-present
• Member, NBME Article Reviewer for USMLE, 2012-present

Editorships
• Editorial Board, World Journal of Gastroenterology, 2006-present
• Editor, Pitt Digest, 2012-present
• Associate Editor, Inflammatory Bowel Diseases, 2014-present
• Section Editor, IBD Case Series, Inflammatory Bowel Diseases, 2014-present

Janet R. Harrison, MD
Dr. Harrison’s research interests include Inflammatory bowel disease and women’s health.

Elyse R. Johnston, MD
Dr. Johnston’s research investigates enhanced methodology for quality healthcare performance and patient safety.

Naudia L. Jonassaint, MD, MHS
Dr. Jonassaint researches specific biologic markers involved in the development and progression of liver disease in both the pre- and post- transplant populations, with a focus on disparities in liver transplant outcomes. This research program also explores why some patients experience rapid fibrosis progression or accelerated graft loss post-transplant.

Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions
• Advisory Member, Johns Hopkins Second Decade Society, 2009-present
• Clinical Preceptor, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, McKeesport Hospital, 2014-present
• Member, Diversity Committee, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, 2016-present
• Vice Chair for Diversity and Inclusion, Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, 2018-present

Major Lectureships and Seminars
• Invited Lecture, "End Stage Liver Disease and End of Life Care," Palliative Medicine Grand Rounds, UPMC, 2018

Asif Khalid, MD
An Associate Professor of Medicine, Dr. Khalid’s research involves pancreatic tumors and cysts, EUS, ERCP, pancreatitis, molecular diagnoses, and early cancer detection.

Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions
• GI Section Chief, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, 2004-present
• Member, Adverse Events & Procedures Committee, VA Pittsburgh Health System, 2004-present

Professional Affiliations and Society Memberships
• Member, American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, 2008-present
Honors and Awards

- Fellow, American College of Gastroenterology, 2008-present

Michael J. Kingsley, MD

As a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, Dr. Kingsley is interested in GI motility clinical trials and translational functional bowel studies.

Professional Affiliations and Society Memberships

- Member, American College of Gastroenterology, 2013-present
- Member, American Gastroenterological Association, 2013-present
- Member, American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, 2013-present
- Member, American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society, 2016-present

David J. Levinthal, MD, PhD

Dr. Levinthal’s lab uses both neuroanatomical tracing and neurophysiological techniques to explore the neural basis for central nervous system influences over autonomic regulation in both health and disease. Dr. Levinthal centers his research on the neural mechanisms by which the cerebral cortex influences GI tract function. Initial studies have uncovered the surprising finding that a visceromotor map of sympathetic function is embedded within the classic cortical somatotopic map of motor function. Further work is aimed at understanding the cortical regions that influence vagal function. The goal of this effort is to use the visceral maps to guide brain stimulation as a means to influence GI tract function. This line of work will lead to the development of brain-based therapies for those with forms of severe GI dysfunction refractory to standard treatments.

Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions

- Member, Quality Initiative Steering Committee, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition, Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, 2014-present
- Member, GI Research (non-T32) Steering Committee, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition, Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, 2015-present
- Invited Member, Adult Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome Clinical Guidelines Development Committee, co-sponsored by Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome Association and American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society, 2015-present
- Invited Member, American Gastroenterological Association Institute Research Awards Panel, 2015-present
- Director, Neurogastroenterology & Motility Center, Division of GI, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, 2016-present
- Vice-Chair, Functional GI and Motility Disorders Pilot Research Award Review Committee, AGA–Rome Foundation, 2016-present

Editorships

- Associate Editor, Clinical and Translational Gastroenterology, 2017-present
- Editorial Board, Frontier in Neuroscience: Autonomic Neuroscience, 2018-present
- Editorial Board, Physiological Reports, 2018-present

Honors and Awards
- National Research Award, International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders (IFFGD), Digestive Disease Week (DDW), San Diego, CA, May 2019

Yang Liu, PhD
The laboratory of Dr. Yang Liu works to develop personalized approaches to improve early cancer detection. Current clinical practice relies on a one-size-fits-all-approach, which screens the entire at-risk population to identify a small percentage of truly high-risk patients, as with colonoscopy and mammography. Frequent, invasive surveillance of patients at risk for developing cancer carries financial, physical, and emotional burdens and can do more harm than good to the patients. Given that nuclear architecture is one of the hallmarks in cancer diagnostics, the lab’s premise is based on nanoscale nuclear architecture mapping to identify earlier and more accurate markers and to understand the characteristic alteration of nanoscale (i.e., less than 100 nm) nuclear architecture in cancer initiation and progression. Current tools to visualize nuclear architecture are mostly limited to microscale. The lab’s multi-disciplinary team integrates optics, physics, engineering, bioinformatics, chemistry, biology, and clinical medicine, and develops imaging technologies to address this highly unmet clinical need. Current projects include: (1) Development of clinically applicable imaging technology for the high-throughput nanoscale nuclear architecture mapping (nanoNAM) of clinical samples to predict early-cancer progression in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), Barrett’s esophagus and breast pre-cancerous lesions prior to the detection of clinically significant lesions; (2) Development of high-throughput super-resolution fluorescence nanoscopy (STORM, PALM) for nanoscale imaging of chromatin organization and epigenetics in cancer initiation and progression; and, (3) Development of 3D super-resolution fluorescence nanoscopy for imaging thick tissue.

Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions
- Consultant, NanoVision Diagnostics, 2014-present
- Course Director, GI Research Rounds, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition, Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, 2015-present

Professional Affiliations and Society Memberships
- Member, Optical Society of America, 2003-present
- Member, International Society for Optical Engineering, 2003-present

Editorships
- Editorial Board, Scientific Reports, 2016-present

Hongqiang Ma, PhD
Dr. Ma’s research focuses on the development of personalized approaches to improve early cancer detection. Dr. Ma and the lab of Dr. Yang Liu use nanoscale nuclear architecture mapping to identify earlier and more accurate markers to understand the characteristic alteration of cancer initiation and progression. The lab’s technical expertise studies high-throughput, low-cost super-resolution fluorescence microscopy, and high-speed image reconstruction algorithm development.

Dr. Malik’s research focuses on outcomes in patients with end stage liver disease/cirrhosis and post-liver transplant.

Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions
- Course Director, Hepatology Case Conference Series, 2011-present
- Co-Director, Portal Hypertension Case Conference, 2012-present
- Lecturer, GI State of the Art (SOTA) Lecture Series, UPMC, 2012-present
- Member, GI Fellowship Education Committee, 2012-present
- Associate Program Director, Transplant Hepatology Fellowship Program, 2012-present
- Co-Director, Liver Outreach Program, 2012-present

Professional Affiliations and Society Memberships
- Member, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, 2010-present
- Member, PA Society of Gastroenterology, 2014-present

Editorships
- Ad hoc Reviewer, *British Medical Journal*, 2012-present
- Ad hoc Reviewer, *Liver Transplantation*, 2013-present

James B. McGee, MD
An Associate Professor of Medicine, Dr. McGee’s research efforts center on the effectiveness of technology-based education, with a focus on simulation and web-based learning. This research applies virtual patient simulation, technical standards, and education analytics (big data) to improve clinical decision-making and educational outcomes.

Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions
- Director, Laboratory for Educational Technology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, 2001-present
- Member, Council on Academic Computing (University-level Committee), 2003-present
- Member, Curriculum Development and New Initiatives Committee, 2004-present
- Member, Computer Technology Subcommittee, American Gastroenterological Association, 2004-present
- Assistant Dean, Medical Education Technology, 2004-present
- Chairman, Consortium on Medical Education Technology, American Association of Medical Colleges, 2005-present
- Reviewer, Association of American Medical Colleges, 2005-present
- Reviewer, American Medical Informatics Association, 2005-present
- Advisory Board, Health Sciences Online, 2005-present
- Executive Committee, MedBiquitous, 2007-present
- Member, LCME Task Force, American Association of Medical Colleges, 2007-present
• Chairman, Working Group on Virtual Patients, MedBiquitous, 2007-present
• Member, Emerging Technologies Task Force, American Gastroenterological Association, 2015-present

**Professional Affiliations and Society Memberships**

• Member, Academy of Master Educators, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, 2007-present

**Editorships**

• Reviewer, *Medical Teacher (journal)*, 2006-present
• Editorial Board, American Association of Medical Colleges, MedEdPortal, 2006-present
• Reviewer, *International Journal of Medical Informatics*, 2007-present
• Editor for Online Education, American Gastroenterological Association, 2007-present

**Kevin M. McGrath, MD**

Dr. McGrath investigates endotherapy for the management of Barrett’s esophagus and superficial esophageal cancer, evaluation of pancreatic cystic lesions and cyst aspirate analysis, and EUS-guided tissue acquisition.

**Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions**

• Director, Endoscopic Ultrasound, 2001-present
• Director, GI Endoscopy Lab, 2003-present
• Course Director, EUS Conference, 2004-present
• Co-Director, Barrett’s Esophagus Specialty Treatment Clinic, UPMC, 2008-present
• Leader, Gastroenterology Fellows/Peer Faculty, 2008-present

**Editorships**

• Ad hoc Reviewer, *Digestive Diseases and Science*, 2002-present
• Ad hoc Reviewer, *Endoscopy*, 2005-present
• Ad hoc Reviewer, *Diseases of the Esophagus*, 2006-present
• Ad hoc Reviewer, *Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology*, 2006-present
• Ad hoc Reviewer, *Journal of Clinical Oncology, Pancreatology, and Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, 2006-present
• Ad hoc Reviewer, *Pancreatology*, 2006-present
• Ad hoc Reviewer, *Digestive and Liver Disease*, 2007-present
• Ad hoc Reviewer, *Scandinavian Journal of Gastroenterology*, 2008-present
• Ad hoc Reviewer, *Annals of Thoracic Surgery*, 2009-present
• Editorial Review Board, *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, 2012-present
• Ad hoc Reviewer, *Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, 2013-present

**Honors and Awards**

• Honoree, Best Doctors, *Pittsburgh Magazine*, 2012-present

**Satdarshan (Paul) Singh Monga, MD**

The Monga lab is focused on understanding the molecular and cellular basis of normal liver characteristics such as development, regeneration, metabolism and growth as well as liver pathologies such as neoplasms (HCC and hepatoblastoma), fibrosis, cirrhosis, alcoholic liver disease, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, and
others. This research focus incorporates studies on cell proliferation, adhesion, differentiation, invasion, apoptosis, metabolism, and on stem cells in adult, fetal, and embryonic livers.

**Stephen J.D. O’Keefe, MBBS, MD, MSc**

Dr. O’Keefe performs translational research into the physiological and pathophysiological responses to feeding and nutritional deprivation. He has received NIH R01 grant support for his studies on the physiological effects of feeding in pancreatic enzyme synthesis in humans with and without disease, the optimal feeding in patients with severe acute pancreatitis, and, most recently, the role of diet, the microbiome, and its metabolites in determining colon cancer risk in extreme-risk Alaska Natives, high-risk African Americans (AA), and minimal risk rural South Africans (NA). His pivotal 2015 study in Nature Communications showed that switching the diets of AA and NA (i.e., Americans were given a traditional African diet high in fiber, low in meat and fat, while Africans were given a westernized diet high in meant and fat and low in fiber) led to profound changes in the colonic microbiome and its metabolome and reciprocal changes in colonic mucosal biomarkers of cancer risk within two weeks. This supports the hypothesis that diet drives colon cancer risk and that it is largely preventable by a high fiber diet. Studies are underway in Alaska to determine whether fiber supplementation will annul the health disparity and extreme rates of colon cancer risk and mortality in Alaska Natives. Finally, Dr. O’Keefe is partnering with the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa to direct the African Microbiome Institute to study the ecology of the microbiome through the Faculties of Medicine, Agrisciences, and Plant Biology, with the overarching aim of improving the health of all Africans.

**Study Sections**

- NCI-NIH Study Sections (special interest groups and programs), 2003-present

**Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions**

- External Advisory Committee, Division of Nutritional Sciences, UIUC, 2015-present

**Editorships**

- Associate Editor, *Frontiers in Gastroenterology Physiology and Science*, 2010-present
- Editorial Board, *Gastroenterology Research and Practice*, 2013-present

**Georgios I. Papachristou, MD***

Dr. Papachristou oversees a number of institutional studies and multi-center collaborations. He directs a translational research laboratory focusing on the genetic basis, immunoology, and immune therapy of acute pancreatitis. He currently receives research funding from the National Institute of Health, Veterans Affairs Health System, and American College of Gastroenterology. Dr. Papachristou has authored over 100 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters.

**Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions**

- Director of Endoscopy, Veterans Affairs Health Systems, 2006-present
- Colorectal Cancer Prevention Consultant, Pittsburgh Veteran Affairs Health System, 2009-present
- Co-Director in Pancreas Research, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, 2010-present
- Treasurer, Collaborative Alliance for Pancreas Research and Education, 2014-present
- Member, American College of Gastroenterology Research Committee, 2015-present
- President, Collaborative Alliance for Pancreas Education & Research, 2016-present
- Named member, NIH SHARP Committee (SpHincterotomy for the Treatment of Acute Recurrent Pancreatitis), 2017-present
- Member, American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, 2010-present
- Member, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, 2010-present
- Fellow, American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, 2012-present
- Reviewer, *Gastroenterology*, 2010-present
- Reviewer, *Annals of Gastroenterology*, 2010-present
- Reviewer, *Dutch Digestive Foundation*, 2010-present
- Reviewer, *Pancreas*, 2010-present
- Reviewer, *Digestive Diseases and Sciences*, 1987-present
- Reviewer, *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, 2010-present
- Reviewer, *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, 2007-present
- Reviewer, *Pancreas*, 2010-present
- Reviewer, *Annals of Gastroenterology*, 2010-present
Pancreatitis, 2017-present

**Professional Affiliations and Society Memberships**

- Member, Dutch Digestive Foundation, 2009-present

**Editorships**

- Reviewer, *Pancreas*, 2005-present
- Reviewer, *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, 2007-present
- Reviewer, *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, 2010-present
- Reviewer, *Dutch Digestive Foundation*, 2010-present
- Reviewer, *Gastroenterology*, 2010-present

**Honors and Awards**

- Fellow, American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, 2012-present

**Anna Evans Phillips, MD**

Dr. Phillips is interested in mechanisms of fatty acid toxicity in Severe Acute Pancreatitis; perception of pain in Chronic Pancreatitis; and mechanisms of pain processing in Chronic Pancreatitis.

**Siobhan Proksell, MD**

Dr. Proksell’s research interests include inflammatory bowel disease and patient safety research.

**Mordechai Rabinovitz, MD**

Dr. Rabinovitz’s research involves the assessment and treatment of chronic viral hepatitis, focusing on combination therapy for chronic hepatitis C patients. Additional research efforts focus on developing new therapies for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NALFD), biological agents for patients with low platelet count undergoing invasive procedures, and new therapies for patients with hepatic encephalopathy.

**Editorships**

- Reviewer, *Digestive Diseases and Sciences*, 1987-present
- Reviewer, *Gastroenterology*, 1993-present

**Vikrant P. Rachakonda, MD**

Dr. Rachakonda researches malnutrition and dysregulation of lipid metabolism in chronic liver disease and the role of muscarinic receptors in the regulation of acute and chronic liver injury.

**Professional Affiliations and Society Memberships**

- Member, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, 2010-present
- Member, American Gastroenterology Association, 2010-present
- Member, American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, 2010-present

**Shari S. Rogal, MD, MPH**

As an adjunct assistant professor of medicine, Dr. Rogal brings her extensive, collaborative experience with Transplant Surgery and the VA Healthcare System to the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and
Nutrition. Dr. Rogal studies liver transplant outcomes with particular interests in addiction and pain with chronic liver disease patients. She is also interested in the implementation of science to combat health disparities.

**Savreet Sarkaria, MD**
A Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine, Dr. Sarkaria’s research focuses on screening, early detection, and endoscopic therapies for gastrointestinal cancers, including pancreas, bile ducts, gallbladder, esophagus, stomach, and colon, as well as benign pancreaticobiliary diseases and pancreatic cysts.

**Marc B. Schwartz, MD**
An Assistant Professor of Medicine, Dr. Schwartz’s research interests include cost and utilization of IBD care as well as colon cancer in IBD patients.

**Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions**
- Clinical Director, IBD Center, 2018-present

**Professional Affiliations and Society Memberships**
- Physician Member, Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, 2009-present

**Obaid S. Shaikh, MD**
Dr. Shaikh researches the progression of end-stage liver disease, treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma, hepatocarcinogenesis and genomic profiling of liver tumors, and allocation models for liver transplantation.

**Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions**
- Director, Center for Liver Diseases, 2001-present
- Member, Clinical Research Committee, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, 2007-present
- Member, Liver Transplantation and Surgery Committee, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, 2008-present

**Editorships**
- Editorial Board, Liver Transplantation, 2005-present
- Reviewer, American Journal of Gastroenterology, 2007-present
- Reviewer, Archives of Internal Medicine, 2007-present
- Reviewer, Hepatology, 2007-present
- Reviewer, Liver Transplantation, 2007-present
- Reviewer, Digestive Diseases & Sciences, 2007-present
- Reviewer, Gastroenterology, 2007-present

**Honors and Awards**
- Member, Royal College of Physicians, London (UK)–Fellow (FRCP), 2003-present

**Harkirat Singh, MBBS**
Dr. Singh’s research interests concentrate on pancreatic and biliary diseases and related advanced procedures to treat these diseases. He is interested in the natural history of acute pancreatitis as well as outcomes in acute pancreatitis. He also conducts research on the management of subepithelial upper GI tract lesions.
Adam Slivka, MD, PhD
A Professor of Medicine, Dr. Slivka researches the non-invasive diagnosis of pancreaticobiliary cancer, development and testing of new drugs and devices used during ERCP, and the development of new strategies to treat pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer.

Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions
• Member, Clinical Operations Committee, University of Pittsburgh Physicians (UPP), 1999-present
• Advisory Committee Member, Medicine Program Line, 1999-present
• Member, Budget and Financial Planning Committee, American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, 1999-present
• Member, Compliance Advisory Committee, University of Pittsburgh Physicians (UPP), 1999-present
• Member, Surgical/Interventional/Trauma/Transplant Subcommittee, UPMC Technology Assessment Committee, 2002-present
• Associate Chief, Clinical Affairs, 2003-present

Editorships
• Reviewer, *Endoscopy*, 1994-present
• Reviewer, *Gastroenterology*, 1994-present
• Editorial Review Board, *Gastroenterology*, 1996-present
• Reviewer, *American Journal of Gastroenterology*, 1996-present
• Reviewer, *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, 1999-present
• Section Editor, *Up to Date*, 2006-present
• Editorial Review Board, *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, 2007-present

Honors and Awards
• Honoree, Best Doctors, *Pittsburgh Magazine*, 2009-present

Eva M Szigethy, MD, PhD
Dr. Szigethy's research involves cognitive behavioral therapy to improve health care delivery for adult and pediatric GI patients, using psychotherapy, hypnosis, digital behavioral tools, and pharmacotherapy. Dr. Szigethy's additional research interests include advanced programming for IBD patients and patients experiencing chronic pain, an interest in narcotic bowel syndrome and the mechanisms underlying this type of central hyperalgesia, as well as treatments to manage pain and opioid detoxification. Dr. Szigethy is the principal investigator of a recently awarded PCORI contract which explores advanced technology systems designed to manage chronic disease and will compare a technology-centric approach with a team-based, high-touch intervention. This study takes place within three IBD specialty medical homes at renowned hospitals, with UPMC as the lead site.

David C. Whitcomb, MD, PhD
Dr. Whitcomb’s research program involves a pancreatic disease focus for modeling complex, multistep gene-environment interactive disorders requiring a precision medicine approach. Dr. Whitcomb’s multicenter comprises research on genotype-phenotyping hereditary pancreatitis as well as North American Pancreatitis Study II (NAPS2) programs. It also includes studies on acute pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer, using reverse engineering and predictive modeling approaches. Dr. Whitcomb leads the Genomic Resource to Enhance
Available Therapy (GREAT) study, which seeks to initiate the delivery of precision medicine for complex chronic disorders and their complications. He also studies the pathophysiology of severe acute pancreatitis and pain genetics.

**Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions**

- Committee Member, National Pancreas Foundation, 2007-present

**Professional Affiliations and Society Memberships**

- Member, American Gastroenterological Association, 1992-present
- Member, American College of Gastroenterology, 1996-present
- Member, International Association of Pancreatology, 2000-present
- Member, American Pancreatic Association, 2000-present
- Member, European Pancreas Club, 2002-present
- Director, Gastroenterology T32 Training Program, 2003-present
- Founder/Member, Collaborative Alliance for Pancreatic Education and Research, 2012-present
- Director, PancreasFest, Pittsburgh, 2016-present

**Editorships**

- Section Editor, *Current Treatment Options in Gastroenterology*, 2007-present
- Editorial Board, *Pancreatology*, 2007-present
- Editorial Board, *Pancreas*, 2007-present
- Associate Editor, *Pancreas, Pancreatolog"y and Digestive Disease and Science*, 2007-present
- Peer Reviewer, Multiple journals, (*Alimentary Pharmacology and Therapeutics, American Journal of Gastroenterology, American Journal of Pathology, American Journal of Physiology-Gastroenterology, American Journal of Physiology-Regulatory Integrative and Comparative Physiology*), 2007-present
- Editor-in-Chief, *Clinical and Translational Gastroenterology*, 2016-present

**Honors and Awards**

- Fellow, American Gastroenterological Association, 2014-present
- Member, American Society for Clinical Investigators, 2000-present
- Endowed Chair, Giant Eagle Foundation Professor of Cancer Genetics, 2006-present

**Dhiraj Yadav, MD, MPH**

Dr. Yadav studies the epidemiology of pancreatic diseases, using local, state, and national level data as well as collaborative studies to define its various aspects. His major contributions to the scientific literature include the role of alcohol and tobacco; incidence, prevalence, and hospitalizations; risk and burden of readmissions; and the natural history of pancreatitis. Data generated from his studies are often used by national agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health, to set research priorities. Dr. Yadav is a member of the NIDDK-funded NAPS consortium, which has prospectively ascertained the nation’s largest prospective cohort of patients with recurrent acute and chronic pancreatitis. He is the Co-PI for the NIDDK/NCI-funded Pittsburgh Clinical Center, which is part of the Consortium to study of Chronic Pancreatitis, Diabetes and Pancreatic Cancer (CPDPC). He co-chairs the adult chronic pancreatitis working group for the consortium and is Co-PI of the longitudinal cohort study of chronic pancreatitis (The PROCEED Study). Dr. Yadav is also the Co-PI of an NIDDK planning grant to develop a multicenter randomized clinical trial of minor papilla sphincterotomy in patients with acute recurrent pancreatitis with pancreas divisum (The SHARP Trial). He is frequently invited to national and international conferences and seminars to discuss his research. He has also
participated in American Pancreatic Association’s and Pancreas Fest’s development of consensus and practice guidelines for different aspects of pancreatitis.

Study Sections
- Research Review Panel, American Gastroenterological Association, 2014-present

Advisory Committee Memberships and Leadership Positions
- Member, Scientific Advisory Committee, Montefiore University Hospital, Clinical and Translational Research Center, UPMC, 2007-present
- Member, Collaborative Alliance for Pancreatic Education and Research, 2010-present
- Member, Steering Committee for the NPF Registry, National Pancreas Foundation, 2015-present
- Member, NIH SHARP Committee, 2017-present

Professional Affiliations and Society Memberships
- Member, American College of Gastroenterology, 1998-present
- Member, Mayo Clinic Alumni Association, 2002-present
- Member, American Pancreatic Association, 2003-present
- Member, American Gastroenterological Association, 2005-present

Editorships
- Reviewer, Multiple journals (Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Pancreatology, Nutrition and Cancer, Pancreas), 2007-present
- Editorial Board, Pancreas, 2013-present
- Editorial Board, Pancreatology, 2014-present

Honors and Awards
- Fellow, American Gastroenterological Association, 2014-present

* Faculty who left the division over the course of FY 2019.
TEACHING ACTIVITIES

In FY19, the Division’s Gastroenterology Fellowship Program enjoyed a full complement of 17 gastroenterology fellows. More than 400 candidates applied for admission in FY19, with approximately 40 interviewed and five selected. The Division’s accredited FY19 Gastroenterology Fellowship Program was led by Kenneth Fasanella, MD, program director, and Rohit Das, MD, associate program director while its accredited FY19 Transplant Hepatology Advanced Fellowship Program was led by Shahid Malik, MD.

For the past ten years, the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition has also managed a successful T32 training grant with research trainees. Based on the translational research strengths of the Division and its commitment to complex disease interactions and treatments, the focus of the Division’s T32 program centers on big data and precision medicine in gastroenterology and hepatology. Under the leadership of David Whitcomb, MD, PhD, and David Binion, MD, this T32 leverages the Division’s successful U01 programs to allow T32 trainees the ability to integrate the tools of big data and personalized medicine into clinical and translational research and team teaching.

Divisional leadership also facilitated with medical student teaching, with Siobhan Proksell, MD, serving as co-course director of the School of Medicine’s Second Year Medical School GI Course, with the help of Gavin Arteel, PhD, Michael Laundau, MD (Pathology), and Kenneth Lee, MD (Surgery). FY19 is Dr. Proksell’s first directorship year, and she is working diligently to revamp, revise, and update the course. Additionally, through his Laboratory of Educational Technology, James B. McGee, MD, continues to explore and address the changing educational expectations of students and the utilization of innovative, technological teaching approaches in the School of Medicine.

This past year, the Division hosted several education conferences. The accredited and international PancreasFest 2018 conference was held at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel in Pittsburgh in July 2018. This annual pancreas research and clinical conference features lectures and discussion groups mixed with investigative research meetings to further the multidisciplinary understanding and treatment of pancreatic diseases. This year’s course directors included Nathan Bahary, MD, PhD; Randall E. Brand, MD; Sohail Husain, MD; Georgios I. Papachristou, MD, PhD; David C. Whitcomb, MD, PhD; and Herbert J. Zeh, MD. Attendance was excellent at 240 domestic and international pancreatologists and related medical professionals. The Division also manages the accredited, semi-annual IBD Collaborative program in collaboration with the Allegheny Health Network. Designed to discuss advanced Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) treatments and procedures, welcomes attendance from all academic and community gastroenterologists within the Greater Pittsburgh region and includes didactic lectures and case presentations. This fiscal year’s programs occurred at the Rivers Club in September 2018 and February 2019, co-directed by Marc Schwartz, MD (UPMC), and Sandra El-
Hachem, MD (AHN). The Pittsburgh Gut Club, directed by Robert Schoen, MD, MPH, in 2018-2019, is an accredited lecture series for regional gastroenterologists. Two guest speakers presented in FY19, and attendance numbered approximately 75 physicians per session, many of whom were physicians in practice in the surrounding community. FY19 Pittsburgh Gut Club Speakers included: Reem Sharaiha, MD, MSc, from Weill Cornell Medicine and Fasiha Kanwal, MD, MSHS, from Baylor. Maria Abreu, MD will speak as part of this year’s series in September 2019. All Gut Club speakers also serve as visiting professors within the Division. Additionally, preliminary planning for an inaugural, annual, accredited hepatology conference began in FY19, which will be directed by Ramon Bataller, MD, PhD.

The Division also holds several weekly conferences throughout the year, providing trainees and faculty alike with numerous opportunities to expand their clinical and research knowledge. Clinical conferences included: GI Grand Rounds (course director: Kenneth Fasanella, MD), which featured lectures by external and internal faculty, as well as case presentations from clinical fellows; Hepatology Rounds (course director: Shahid Malik, MD), with lectures focused on hepatology medicine; Advanced Endoscopy/Pancreaticobiliary Conference (course director: Dhiraj Yadav, MD, MPH), which provides a weekly discussion of ERCP, EUS, and related GI procedure cases; IBD LIVE (Course director: Miguel Regueiro, MD (Cleveland Clinic); Site director: David Binion, MD), a weekly online interactive conference with IBD case discussions among more than 15 East Cost academic IBD programs; and the State of the Art (SOTA) Lecture Series (Course director: Randall Brand, MD), a didactic lecture series where faculty experts discuss key areas of gastroenterology and hepatology medicine. Research conferences, focused more on basic and translational research and fellow training, included GI Research Rounds (Course director: Yang Liu, PhD); the Tuesday Educational Series for GI Fellows (Course coordinator: Dhiraj Yadav, MD, MPH); and the Endoscopy Conference (Course coordinator: Robert E. Schoen, MD, MPH). In April 2019, as the recipient of a generous donation from the Gerson family for the annual Sadie Gerson Distinguished Scholar Award, Robert E. Schoen, MD, MPH, invited Chyke Doubeni, MD, MPH, from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania to discuss “Eliminating Preventable Death from Colorectal Cancer by Addressing Modifiable Failures of Screening” at Medical Grand Rounds. Dr. Doubeni met with the Department of Family Medicine, various division attendings, and GI Fellows. The Division also welcomed the following visiting professors in FY19: Suresh T. Chari, MD, Professor of Medicine in the Department of Gastroenterology at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN (February 5-7, 2019); and Aida Habtezion, MD, MSc, an Associate Professor of Medicine and Ballinger-Swindells Endowed Scholar in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Stanford University, Stanford, CA (March 20-21, 2019).

Moreover, the Division frequently engages with the broader Pittsburgh community, and as part of its outreach, the Division also hosts IBD UNITE (Unify, Network, Inspire, Treat, & Educate), an annual IBD patient program. This year’s event was attended by over 230 patients and loved ones and led by Helen Sysko, PhD.

With the majority of Division faculty serving as keynote course faculty for accredited physician educational
and research meetings throughout the world, the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition continues to emphasize education and training.

**Teaching Awards and Honors**
Several faculty were recognized this year for their commitment to education:
- James B. McGee, MD, received the Carnegie Teaching Award from the Carnegie Science Center in July 2018.
- Howard Dubner, MD, received the UPMC Gastroenterology and Hepatology Teaching Award at this year’s Fellows’ Graduation in June.

**Clinical Fellows, FY2019**

**Current Fellows**

**Catherine Bartnik, MD**  
*Medical School:* University of Michigan  
*Residency:* Emory Healthcare

**Weston Bettner, MD**  
*Medical School:* Temple University  
*Residency:* Johns Hopkins Hospital

**Hui-Wei (Doris) Chen, MD**  
*Medical School:* University of Pittsburgh  
*Residency:* University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

**Debbie Cheng, MD**  
*Medical School:* University of Michigan  
*Residency:* University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

**Adam Gluskin, MD**  
*Medical School:* University of Illinois at Chicago  
*Residency:* Northwestern Memorial Hospital

**Rory Grace, MD**  
*Medical School:* George Washington University  
*Residency:* University of Pennsylvania Health System

**Ru Min Lee, MD**  
*Medical School:* University of Melbourne, Australia  
*Residency:* University of Pennsylvania Health System

**Akshata Moghe, MD, PhD**  
*Medical School:* Seth G.S. Medical College, Mumbai, India  
*Residency:* University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Kohtaro (Cody) Ooka, MD  
*Medical School:* Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai  
*Residency:* Yale New Haven Medical Center

Stephanie Romutis, MD  
*Medical School:* Wake Forest University  
*Residency:* Boston Medical Center

Ajay Singhvi, MD  
*Medical School:* Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University  
*Residency:* Northwestern Memorial Hospital

Kishore Vipperla, MD  
*Medical School:* Osmania Medical College  
*Residency:* St. Luke’s University Hospital

**Departing Fellows**

Jeffrey Dueker, MD *Chief Gastroenterology Fellow*  
*Medical School:* Saint Louis University  
*Residency:* Oregon Health and Sciences University  
*Current Position:* Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, University of Pittsburgh

Mohannad Dugum, MD *Advanced Endoscopy Fellow*  
*Medical School:* Jordan University of Science & Technology  
*Residency:* Cleveland Clinic  
*Current Position:* Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, University of Pittsburgh

Hakirat Singh, MD *Advanced Endoscopy Fellow*  
*Medical School:* All India Institute of Medical Sciences  
*Residency:* Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals  
*Current Position:* Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, University of Pittsburgh

Diana Jaiyeola, MD  
*Medical School:* University of Pennsylvania  
*Residency:* Northwestern Memorial Hospital  
*Current Position:* Gastroenterologist, St. Luke’s University Health Network, Bethlehem, PA

Matthew Klinge, MD *Hepatology Fellow*  
*Medical School:* Jefferson Medical College  
*Residency:* University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
*Current Position:* Gastroenterologist, UPMC Erie - Gastroenterology (Bayfront)

Bassem Matta, MD  
*Medical School:* American University of Beirut
Residency: Duke University Hospital
Current Position: Advanced Endoscopy Fellow, NYU Langone Health

R. Warren Sands, MD, PhD
Medical School: Northwestern University
Residency: University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Current Position: Hepatology Fellow, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, University of Pittsburgh

Fellow Activities
Catherine Bartnik, MD

Publications

Weston Bettner, MD

Presentations and Abstracts
- Can We Develop Precision Medicine for Biologic Selection in IBD Based on Routinely Available Clinical Information? Using Big Data Analytics to Identify Predictors of Anti-TNF Response, ACG 2018 Annual Scientific Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, 10/1/2018
- Peripheral blood eosinophilia functions as a candidate biomarker of decreased response to anti-TNF therapy in Crohn’s disease, DDW 2019, San Diego, CA, 5/1/2019

Hui-Wei (Doris) Chen, MD

Publications

Presentations and Abstracts
- “A Randomized Pilot Trial of Home-Based Physical Activity Plus Dietary Intervention to Improve Physical Function in Patients with Advanced Liver Disease,” American Transplant Congress, Boston, MA, June 2019
- “A Randomized Pilot Trial of Home-Based Physical Activity Plus Dietary Intervention to Improve Physical Function in Patients with Advanced Liver Disease,” Department of Medicine Research Day, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, April 2019

Jeffrey Dueker, MD

Publications

Presentations and Abstracts
• “Reduction of Opiate Use ad Depression with an IBD Medical Home Care Model,” Department of Medicine Research Day, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, April 2019
• “Performance of the Veteran’s Choice Program in Veterans Referred for Colonoscopy,” DDW 2019, San Diego, CA, May 2019
• “Colonoscopy Volume of Colonic Irrigation (VOCI) and Rate of Adequate Bowel Prep and Adenomas per Colonoscopy,” DDW 2019, San Diego, CA, May 2019
• “Rate of Inappropriate FIT Testing at a VA Healthcare System,” DDW 2019, San Diego, CA, May 2019

Awards
• First Place Research Award, Performance of the Veterans Choice Program for Colonoscopy Referrals at a Tertiary VA Center, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System’s 2019 Research Week, Pittsburgh, PA, May 2019
• Named Team Member, Selected to name the best IBD research abstracts at DDW 2019, DDW 2019, San Diego, CA, May 2019

Mohannad Dugum, MD
Publications

Adam Gluskin, MD
Publications

Presentations and Abstracts
• “Rate of inappropriate FIT testing at a VA health care system,” DDW 2019, San Diego, CA, May 2019
• “The quality of early acute pancreatitis management has improved minimally over time,” DDW 2019, San Diego, CA, May 2019
• “Admitting acute pancreatitis patients who require intensive care to the floor is common and
associated with poor outcomes,” DDW 2019, San Diego, CA, May 2019

Diana Jaiyeola, MD
Presentations and Abstracts
- “Performance of noninvasive laboratory-based liver fibrosis scoring tests in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease patients with extreme obesity,” DDW 2019, San Diego, CA, May 2019
- “Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus is Associated with Significantly Higher Risk of Mortality and Extra-hepatic Cancers in Biopsy-proven Non-advanced Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease,” DDW 2019, San Diego, CA, May 2019

Matthew Klinge, MD
Presentations and Abstracts
- Academic Debate, AASLD - The Liver Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 2018
- Academic Debates, American Liver Foundation, Cleveland, OH, December 2018

Bassem Matta, MD
Publications

Presentations and Abstracts
- “Safety and efficacy of colonic band ligation and autoamputation for large and laterally spreading lesions and polyps in difficult locations, DDW 2019, San Diego, CA, 5/1/2019
- Regional Variations of Clinical Characteristics in Acute Pancreatitis from a Large, International, Multi-center Prospective Study (APPRENTICE Study Group),” PancreasFest 2018, Pittsburgh, PA, July 2018
- “Coexistence of alcoholic liver disease (ald) and alcoholic pancreatitis (alp),” DDW 2019, San Diego, CA, May 2019

Akshata Moghe, MD, PhD
Publications

Presentations and Abstracts
- “Biopsy vs. Noninvasive Assessment of NASH PRO: This Patient Should Have a Liver Biopsy,”
AASLD Academic Debates, AASLD The Liver Meeting 2018, San Francisco, CA, November 2018

• “Sarcopenia as a Tool to Predict Post-Liver Transplant (LT) Mortality in the Acutely Ill LT Candidate,” AASLD The Liver Meeting, San Francisco, November 2018

• “CON: No, we would not transplant a hepatitis C positive liver into this hepatitis C negative recipient,” American Liver Foundation Academic Debates, Cleveland, OH, December 2018

• “The Poop Scoop: Stool-Based Diagnoses Made Ridiculously Simple,” 4th Annual Fellows’ Teaching Competition, Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, April 2019

• “Provider Perceptions of HCV Treatment Adherence,” DDW 2019, San Diego, CA, May 2019

• “Harderoporphyria: clinical, biochemical and molecular features in an adult male,” Annual Alpha-1 National Conference, Orlando, FL, June 2019

Awards

• Travel Grant, Fellows' Symposium in Transplantation 2018, American Society of Transplantation, September 2018

• Sub Investigator, INSIGHT-AHP: A Study to Characterize the Prevalence of Acute Hepatic Porphyria (AHP) in Patients With Clinical Presentation and History Consistent With AHP, ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03547297, September 2018

• Winner, No, we would not transplant a hepatitis C positive liver into this hepatitis C negative recipient, AASLD Academic Debates, AASLD The Liver Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 2018

• Selected Team, AASLD Academic Debates, AASLD The Liver Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 2018

• Resident/Fellow Ambassador Award & Travel Grant, AASLD The Liver Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 2018

• 2nd Runner-up, 4th Annual Fellows’ Teaching Competition, The Poop Scoop: Stool-Based Diagnosis Made Ridiculously Simple, 4th Annual Fellows’ Teaching Competition, Department of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA, April 2019

Kohtaro (Cody) Ooka, MD

Publications


Presentations and Abstracts

• “The clinical spectrum of groove pancreatitis is much wider than it is believed,” DDW 2019, San Diego, CA, May 2019

Ajay Singhvi, MD

Publications

**Presentations and Abstracts**


• “Coexistence of Alcoholic Liver Disease (ALD) and Alcoholic Pancreatitis (ALP),” Department of Medicine Research Day, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, April 2019

• “Coexistence of Alcoholic Liver Disease (ALD) and Alcoholic Pancreatitis (ALP),” DDW 2019, San Diego, CA, May 2019

**Awards**

• Pancreas Scholar Award (one of 6 fellows selected in the U.S.), CAPER, Collaborative Alliance for Pancreatic Education & Research (CAPER) Pancreas Scholars Program, December 2018

• Attendee, National Pancreas Fondation Fellows’ Symposium, Chicago, IL, May 2019

**Kishore Vipperla, MD**

**Presentations and Abstracts**

• “Pain ‘Burn-out’ during the Natural Disease Course is Independent of the Duration of Chronic Pancreatitis,” Department of Medicine Research Day, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, April 2019

• “Pain ‘Burn-out’ during the Natural Disease Course is Independent of the Duration of Chronic Pancreatitis,” DDW 2019 Research Forum, San Diego, CA, May 2019

**Awards**

• Early Stage Investigator Award (in recognition of scientific accomplishment for DDW 2019 oral presentation), “Pain ‘Burn-out’ during the Natural Disease Course is Independent of the Duration of Chronic Pancreatitis,” DDW 2019 Research Forum, San Diego, CA, May 2019

**Postdoctoral Fellows, FY2019**

**Brandon Blobner, PhD**

*Mentor: David C. Whitcomb, MD, PhD*

Dr. Blobner researches pancreas genetics, particularly NAPS2.

**Vikram K. Raghu, PhD**

*Mentor: Jeffrey A. Rudolph, MD*

Dr. Raghu is conducting a clinical decision analysis to improve care for intestinal failure patients.

**R. Warren Sands, MD, PhD**

*Mentor: David G. Binion, MD*

Dr. Sands is working to identify aberrant signaling pathways in IBD.
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Ramon Bataller Alberola, MD, PhD


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Randall E. Brand, MD


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Rhonda M. Brand, PhD


Jennifer S. Chennat, MD


Kapil B. Chopra, MD


Rohit Das, MD


Brian M. Davis, PhD


Andres Duarte-Rojo, MD, MS, DSc


Richard H. Duerr, MD


Mohannad Dugum, MD


Michael A. Dunn, MD


Kenneth E. Fasanella, MD


Alison J. Faust, MD, MHS


Fadi F. Francis, MD*


Swaytha R. Ganesh, MD


**Michael S. Gold, PhD**


**Julia B. Greer, MD, MPH**

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Georgios I. Papachristou, MD, PhD*


**Anna Evans Phillips, MD, MSc**


**Siobhan Proksell, MD**


**Mordechai Rabinovitz, MD**


Vikrant P. Rachakonda, MD


Shari S. Rogal, MD, MPH


Savreet Sarkaria, MD

Marc B. Schwartz, MD


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*Faculty who left the division over the course of FY 2019.*
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EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Nichole Radulovich, MEd, CRA
Executive Administrator

SENIOR EDITOR, FACT-CHECKER, AND GRAPHIC DESIGN
Katie Nauman
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Director, Digestive Health Programs

DATABASE DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT
Nemanja Tomic
Database Developer

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