MESSAGE FROM THE DIVISION HEAD

Along with the rest of the nation, the Gastroenterology Division has been challenged by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. In late March, our patient care operations were significantly impacted by the suspension of elective endoscopic procedures and the need to support our internal medicine colleagues as they cared for hospitalized patients with COVID-19. At the University of Washington Medical Center, the Gastroenterology and Hepatology teams formed a primary inpatient service while continuing to provide consultations for other in-hospital services. The Division as a whole pivoted a significant proportion of our outpatient consultation services to telemedicine. Several of our fellows contributed their expertise to the direct care of hospitalized COVID-19 patients in the intensive care units. We developed a robust program to screen and test patients for SARS-CoV-2 prior to endoscopic procedures. In May, with the gradual decline in the number of hospitalized COVID-19 services within UW Medicine and around the region, we were gradually able to resume elective endoscopic procedures and in-person clinic visits.

Despite these challenges, our faculty and fellows have remained at the forefront of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. Although Digestive Disease Week could not be held in-person this year, several faculty and fellows had important abstracts and posters accepted to this meeting. Our faculty have continued to publish in high-profile journals including the New England Journal of Medicine, JAMA, Gut, and Gastroenterology.

Our research centers, including the Center for Microbiome Science and Therapeutics (CMiST), the Center for Liver Investigation Fostering Discovery (C-LIFE), and the Gastrointestinal Biorepository and Patient Registry, continue to thrive. These centers support active clinical research programs supported by NIH funding, philanthropic gifts, and industry-sponsored studies.

In June, we bid a fond farewell to Dr. John Inadomi, our Division Head for the past 10 years, who became Chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of Utah. I thank him sincerely for his 10 years of service and stewardship of the Division. We have grown and thrived under his care and wish him the best in the next stages of his remarkable career. We also must thank and bid farewell to Dr. Rahul Kuver, who served as the fellowship Program Director for the past decade. Under his leadership, the fellowship program has excelled and reached national prominence. We will miss him tremendously.

We welcome Dr. Jeffrey Jacobs, one of our own fellowship graduates, to the faculty where he will specialize in the care of patients with inflammatory bowel disease. Dr. Mark Derleth has been appointed as the new fellowship Program Director, and Dr. Iris Liou as the new Associate Program Director. I am certain that the fellowship program will continue to prosper and grow under their leadership. We also welcome 7 new fellows to the UWGI family - Drs. Omeed Alipour (UCLA), Naomi Chou (Beth Israel-Deaconess/Harvard), Alexander Dao (Medstar-Georgetown), Nicole de Cuir (Columbia), Carlos Moscoso (Minnesota), Sam Rosenfeld (University of Washington), and Erik Snider (University of Washington).

I am honored to be asked to serve as Interim Division Head while a national search for the next head is conducted. I am grateful to the faculty, fellows, and staff of the Division and their unending dedication to patient care, education, and the advancement of the science of gastroenterology and hepatology.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Ko, MD, MS
FACULTY FAREWELLS

DR. JOHN INADOMI

AFTER SERVING AS DEPARTMENT HEAD FOR 10 YEARS, JOHN INADOMI IS MOVING ON TO BECOME DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE CHAIR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH.

“A leader like yourself is hard to come by, and We have been so lucky over the past ten years to work with you. To me, your personal example has been very inspiring in a sense that one person actually CAN do it all and do it outstandingly well.”

- Tanya Khokhlova

“John, hate to see you leaving us. Thank you for the letters, the raises, and the parties. And for keeping all of us together. It must be good training for what you might get in Utah. Please take care and don't be a stranger. We will miss you.”

- Lei

“It's hard for me to believe that it has been ten years since John became the Division Head. I remember how excited I was for him to arrive, and he certainly lived up to my high expectations. John's dedicated, innovative, hands-on leadership has moved the Division forward on every front.”

- Lisa Strate

“I would like to express my deepest appreciation for the interest and support Dr. Inadomi showed me from the first moment we interviewed after my retirement from Group Health. A man with his accomplishments, keen mind, and big heart only matched by his humility will be sorely missed. Lucky, indeed, are those who will now constitute his new professional family.”

- Sheldon Rosen

DR. RAHUL KUVER

RAHUL KUVER IS TAKING A POSITION AT THE BOISE, ID VA AFTER SERVING AS DIRECTOR OF THE GASTROENTEROLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR THE PAST DECADE.

“Rahul was my first appointment of a faculty to a leadership position in the Division, and he has been an indispensable force leading to the success of our Divisional education programs. These have been the best of times, and I would like to thank Rahul for his commitment to education, his dedication to the individual success of each fellow, and his tireless work that elevated the national reputation of our training program. From a personal perspective I thank him for his counsel, his friendship, and for his support that enabled us to achieve our educational goals for the Division.”

- John Inadomi

“Rahul, thanks for everything! It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with you!”

- George Ioannou

“Rahul, I want to thank you for the incredible job you have done with the fellowship program and for being a great colleague at UW. You have seen the fellowship program through many upheavals in structure mandated by national policy changes and have brought it to an outstanding level.”

- Bill Grady

“Rahul, thanks for your leadership of the GI fellowship program over the past decade - we've all benefitted from the good work you've done.”

- David Kearney
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW PROGRAM LEADERSHIP!

MARK DERLETH, MD
Director, Gastroenterology Fellowship Program

IRIS LIOU, MD
Associate Director, Gastroenterology Fellowship Program

INCOMING FELLOWS

OMEED ALIPOUR
University of California
Los Angeles, CA

NAOMI CHOU
Beth Israel Deaconess
Boston, MA

ALEXANDER DAO
Medstar Georgetown
Washington, DC

NICOLE DE CUIR
Columbia University
New York, NY

CARLOS MOSCOSO
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

SAMUEL ROSENFELD
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

ERIK SNIDER
University of Washington
Seattle, WA

PROMOTIONS & HIRES

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR PROMOTIONS AND NEW POSITIONS!

PROMOTIONS:

CHRISTOPHER DAMMAN, MD
Clinical Associate Professor

MARGARET EUGENIO, MD
Clinical Associate Professor

ELIZABETH MORRISON, MD
Clinical Professor

ADAM TEMPLETON, MD
Clinical Associate Professor

ELISA BODEN, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor

TATIANA KHOKHLOVA, PHD
Research Associate Professor

HIRES:

ANA BACIC, ARNP
Harborview Medical Center

LAURA BRAZER, ARNP
Teaching Associate, Northwest Hospital

SARAH CHOU, PA-C
Teaching Associate, UWMC & ESC, IBD Program

PHILLIP VUTIEN, MD, MS
Acting Instructor/Senior Fellow

JEFFREY JACOBS, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor

PROMOTIONS:

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ELIZABETH MORRISON, MD
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ELISA BODEN, MD
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PHILLIP VUTIEN, MD, MS
Acting Instructor/Senior Fellow

JEFFREY JACOBS, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor
**DR. LIOU GRANTED 2020 AWMA EXCETIONAL MENTOR AWARD**

Dr. Iris Liou was selected by the Awards Committee of the American Medical Women’s Association as one of the 2020 recipients of the Exceptional Mentor Award. This award celebrates those who have made an impact on the lives of students in medicine. An “Exceptional Mentor” goes above and beyond what is required and actively reaches out to those around him/her to help guide them in their career path.

**ASHLEY SCHMAING, ARNP NAMED 2020 TOP APP BY SEATTLE MET**

Ashley Schmaing, ARNP was voted by her peers as a top APP in the 2020 Seattle Met magazine’s Top Doctors, Nurse Practitioners or Physician Assistants list. The list will be excerpted in the Summer 2020 issue of Seattle Met.

The Top Doctors list was researched by PRS (Professional Research Services) based on an online peer-review survey that was open to certified and practicing doctors, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants within the greater Seattle metropolitan area. Thousands of votes were cast honoring excellence in the health care field.

**DR. TOMIZAWA RECOGNIZED AT 2020 ASGE CRYSTAL AWARDS**

The prestigious Crystal Awards is the annual recognition of gastroenterologists who have made a tremendous contribution to the field of GI endoscopy and to quality patient care. Dr. Yutaka Tomizawa was awarded a Research Award for the project entitled “Risk factors neoplasia in U.S. patients with gastric intestinal metaplasia.” Funding for his project will be provided for 2 years.

**2020 PUBLICATIONS:**

- Solid organ donation after death in the United States: Data-driven messaging to encourage potential donors.
  Bambha K | 2020 | PMID: 31917505

- LIVER TRANSPLANTATION: WILL XENOTRANSPLANTATION BE THE ANSWER TO THE DONOR ORGAN SHORTAGE?
  Carithers RL Jr. | 2020 | PMID: 32675865

- What Is Organized Screening and What Is Its Value?
  Dominitz JA | 2020 | PMID: 32439078

- Assessment of a Deep Learning Model to Predict Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Patients With Hepatitis C Cirrhosis.
  Ioannou GN | 2020 | PMID: 32870314

- Good for Us All.
  Issaka RB | 2020 | PMID: 32644116

- Effect of Stiffness of Large Extravascular Hematomas on Their Susceptibility to Boiling Histotripsy Liquefaction in Vitro.
  Khokhlova TD | 2020 | PMID: 32444137

- Spotlight: Gastrointestinal Evaluation of Iron Deficiency Anemia.
  Ko CW | 2020 | PMID: 32863196

  McDonald GB | 2020 | PMID: 31958813

- Hot-Water Bathing Improves Symptoms in Patients with Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome and Is Modulated by Chronic Cannabis Use.
  Rosen S | 2020 | PMID: 32472256

- Endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) for Barrett's esophagus (BE)-related early neoplasia after standard endoscopic management is feasible and safe.
  Tomizawa Y | 2020 | PMID: 32258371
Starting March 27th, 2020, the Division of Gastroenterology at the University of Washington affiliated hospitals implemented a universal protocol in order to continue to perform necessary gastrointestinal endoscopies during the COVID-19 pandemic. All outpatients scheduled for endoscopy were contacted by a staff member prior to their procedure using a standardized telephone protocol, including an explanation of preprocedural SARS-CoV-2 testing and a standardized questionnaire to screen for COVID-19 infection. These questions included assessment of recent onset of COVID-19 related symptoms including fever, cough, shortness of breath, acute diarrhea, dysgeusia, and anosmia. Patients were also asked if they had been recently exposed to any individuals who were positive for COVID-19. The telephone screen was considered positive if any of the symptoms were reported or if there was a known exposure to someone with known COVID-19. Every patient also received testing with SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR nasopharyngeal swab within 72 hours prior to their procedure. Patients were subsequently contacted 14 days after their procedure to assess for possible COVID-19 infection / exposure and were retested with SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR nasopharyngeal test if they were experiencing any of the symptoms or had a recent known exposure.

With the incredible effort of dedicated nursing and support staff, we were able to successfully implement this aggressive protocol, and the Division of Gastroenterology at the University of Washington was able to continue to offer safe and high quality service to our patients. Between March 27th, 2020 and June 30th, 2020, the Division was able to successfully perform endoscopic procedures on 3,689 unique patients. Only five tested positive for COVID-19 during this time and their procedures were rescheduled. With agress post-procedural follow up conducted by our staff, we were able to reach nearly 97% of patients who had undergone a procedure, 1.2% of whom screened positive for new symptoms or exposure. All of these patients were retested for COVID-19 and were negative. The results of our protocol have been cited by the American Gastroenterological Association in their recent guidance regarding virus testing before endoscopic procedures and reopening of endoscopy centers.

Through this work, we have implemented a new method to communicated with patients through two-way texting, resulting in increased response times and patient satisfaction for all procedure-related communication. We are hopeful this will also have a positive impact on unnecessary cancellations and no-shows. We will be exploring this texting fuctionality as an option for other patient communications in the clinic.

We would like to thank the hardworking and innovative Digestive Health team for keeping the procedure suite running smoothly and safely during this transition into what is our new normal. It was truly an impressive multi-role team effort that required focus and collaboration to ensure each procedure patient was provided the nursing-driven screening questionnaires and associated response-based interview questions, as well as SARS-CoV-2 testing and results reporting within a strict 3 day turnaround. We have continued these safety protocols as we have returned to full procedure capacity and have adopted improvements to deliver better care to all of our patients.

Anand Singla, MD, MS
Julie Barnett - Health Services Manager

For the latest updates from UW Medicine Incident Command, visit the Daily Update
COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

ACCURACY OF VOLUMETRIC LASER ENDOMICROSCOPY FOR DYSPLASIA IN BARRETT’S ESOPHAGUS: A PROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY
Adam Templeton, Wynn Burke, Brandon Dickinson, Anand Singla, John Inadomi, Michael Saunders
Abstract

MALNUTRITION IS ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED IN-HOSPITAL MORTALITY AND COMPLICATIONS IN PATIENTS WITH NON-VARICEAL UPPER GI BLEEDING
Anand Singla, Cynthia Ko
Abstract

PROBE-BASED CONFOCAL LASER ENDOMICROSCOPY (P-CLE) IS USEFUL AS AN ALTERNATIVE “OPTICAL” BIOPSY MODALITY IN DIAGNOSIS OF GASTRIC INTESTINAL METAPLASIA (GIM) IN U.S. POPULATION
Yutaka Tomizawa, Anand Baxi, Bryan Balmadrid, John Inadomi, Lisa Strate
Abstract

POSTERS OF DISTINCTION

A PHASE II OPEN LABEL STUDY OF NEIHULIZUMAB, ANTI-CD162 (PSGL-1) ANTIBODY, IN PATIENTS WITH MODERATELY TO SEVERELY ACTIVE, ANTI-TNF ALPHA AND/OR ANTI-INTEGRIN REFRACTORY ULCERATIVE COLITIS
Scott Lee
Abstract

TRANSNASAL PROBE FOR MEASURING GUT TRANSPORT FUNCTION
Christopher Damman
Abstract

FELLOW CONTRIBUTIONS

EVALUATING ERGONOMICS IN ENDOSCOPY THROUGH SURVEYING FACULTY AND TRAINEE GASTROENTEROLOGISTS IN ACADEMIC CENTERS
Rebecca Kosowicz
Abstract

MANAGEMENT OF DO-NOT-RESUSCITATE (DNR) PATIENTS WHO REQUIRE ENDOSCOPY: A NATIONAL SURVEY OF CURRENT PRACTICES AND BELIEFS OF U.S. GASTROENTEROLOGISTS
Lauren Feld
Abstract

PREVALENCE AND ASSOCIATION OF CANNABIS USE WITH DISEASE ACTIVITY IN PATIENTS WITH INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE
Jeffrey Jacobs
Abstract