OVERVIEW

The Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology offers high quality comprehensive care for patients with acute and chronic gastrointestinal and hepatic disorders. The outpatient clinical practice continues to be very busy. Our outpatient clinical practice is predominantly at the Doctor’s Office Building on the main campus, but we do have a large service at the Veteran’s Administration Medical Center, we provide outpatient services at St. Mary’s Health Center, Missouri Baptist Hospital, and we staff an outreach clinic at Marshall Browning Hospital in DuQuoin, IL. On average, we see over 1,800 outpatients per month at these venues. We perform over 840 endoscopy procedures per month and routinely see between 250 and 275 new patients per month. In addition, we staff 3 inpatient services at Saint Louis University Hospital (general GI, liver, and biliary).

Both clinical and basic research activities are active. Our GI clinical studies unit sees on average 130 clinical research patients each month for ongoing research protocols. In FY ’08, we had over 38 active clinical protocols and we were either principal investigator or co-investigator on 27 NIH grants or contracts. Dr. Adrian M. Di Bisceglie presented the final results of the NIH-sponsored HALT C Study evaluating the efficacy of maintenance therapy with interferon in patients with chronic hepatitis C and advanced liver disease who have failed to respond to traditional antiviral therapy. Further, Dr. Bacon presented the results of a large multicenter trial called the DIRECT trial which evaluated the retreatment of patients who had previously failed to respond to antiviral therapy. Dr. Brent Tetri is the principal investigator for the Saint Louis University site of a large NIH-sponsored study evaluating patients with nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH). Approximately 2.5 million dollars in research funding is received each year to support these and other projects. The Saint Louis University Liver Center continues to be a viable entity with over 40 members, regular conferences and a funding source for clinical and basic investigation within the University.

Educational activities include teaching subspecialty residents, Internal Medicine housestaff and medical students in both inpatient and outpatient gastroenterology and hepatology. Several conferences take place throughout the month including GI Hepato Tumor Conference, Liver Pathology Conference, General GI Colorectal Path, Clinical Case Management, Motility Conference, Research Conference, Journal Club, Pancreatobiliary Journal Club, GI Fellows Case Conference, GI Grand Rounds, Research Conference, Pathophysiology Conference - and Liver Transplant Conference as well as the various conferences hosted by the Department of Internal Medicine. The Division has an active visiting professor program and our faculty members participate in visiting professor programs nationally and internationally.

The division has arranged to have an International Visiting Professor of Hepatology every year for the last 12 years as shown below. We have been pleased to host prominent figures in hepatology from around the world and asked them to visit our institution, interact with our faculty and meet our trainees.

1996 Oliver James, M.D., Professor, Senior Research Investigator, Newcastle University, Newcastle, United Kingdom
DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

1997 Michael P. Manns, M.D., Director and Professor, Division of Gastroenterology. Medizinsche Hochsule Hanover, Hanover School of Medicine, Hanover, Germany

1998 Geoffrey C. Farrell, M.D., Storr Professor of Hepatic Medicine, University of Sydney Westmead Hospital, Westmead, Australia

1999 Lawrie W. Powell, M.D., Director, Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Professor, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

2000 Juan Rodés, M.D., Professor, Hospital Clinic I Provincial De Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

2001 Michael C. Kew, M.B.B.Ch., F.C.P. (SA), M.D., Dora Dart Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

2002 Didier Lebrec, M.D., F.R.C.P., Directeur de Recherche, Inserm Institute National De La Sante, Clichy Cedex, France

2003 John G. O’Grady, MB, BCh, BAO, NUI, FRCPI, M.D., King’s College Hospital, London, England

2004 Peter Ferenci, M.D., Professor, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

2005 Elizabeth “Jenny” Heathcote, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.P.(C), Professor, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

2006 James M. Neuberger, M.D., F.R.C.P., Consultant Physician and Honorary, Professor of Medicine, Liver Unit, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, United Kingdom

2007 Stefan Zeuzem, M.D., Professor, J.W. Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany

In FY’08, the faculty of the Division published over 56 original papers, reviews, and book chapters. The Division directs several regional CME courses designed for practicing physicians. The GI Cancers course, organized by Dr. Banke Agarwal has been an extremely successful educational endeavor bringing together over 300 participants from around the country. Over the last year, we have had an evening dinner debate series that has been very successful.

The Division continues to work closely with the lay group called the Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center, which is a charitable not-for-profit organization devoted to raising money to support research and education at the Liver Center. Each fall, there is a fundraising event called Denim & Diamonds. This event has featured performances by Willie Nelson, Asleep at the Wheel, and inspirational speaking by Naomi Judd, Charlie Armey, and by Dr. Frank O’Donnell. Over the last 5 years of this event, the Friend’s have raised over $1.6 million to support research and education for the Saint Louis University Liver Center.

Adjunct Assistant Professor
Mary S. Burton, M.D.

Emeritus Assistant Clinical Professor
Max Inman, M.D.

Assistant Clinical Professor
Timothy T. Brady, M.D.
Barry D. Brown, M.D.
Damon C. Cline, M.D.
James W. Dimitroff, M.D.
Barbara Dixon Scott, M.D.
Mike H. Giacaman, M.D.
Rodolfo T. Guilen, M.D.
Frans Handoyo, M.D.
Chaudhary Khan, M.D.
Marin Marcu, M.D.
Jeffrey E. Mathews, M.D.
Robert McMahon, M.D.
Raymond Mohrman, M.D.
Michael E. Presti, M.D.
Jose A. Ramirez, M.D.
Richard T. Riegel, M.D.
Joel Y. Riley, M.D.
Melvin B. Saltzman, D.O.
Tara Talwar, M.B.B.S.

Instructor
Radhika Kumari, M.D.

Senior Clinical Instructor
John F. Carter, M.D.

Clinical Instructor
Altaf Khan, M.D.

Post-Doctoral Fellows
Soo Hyung Ryu, M.D.
Zekuan Xu, M.D., Ph.D.

Office Manager
Ms. Linda Mahn

Business Manager
Ms. Lou Ann Bierman, R.N., M.S.N.
DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

HONORS AND RECOGNITION

Banke Agarwal, M.D.
Best Doctors 2007
Vice-Chair, UGI section, Annual Scientific Program Committee, American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.
Listed in Consumer Research Council’s “America’s Top Physicians”
Marquis Who’s Who in America, 62st Edition
Marquis Who’s Who in Science and Engineering

Bruce R. Bacon, M.D.
Best Doctors 2007
Certificate of Added Qualification Board on Transplant Hepatology, American Board of Internal Medicine
Member, Advisory Committee for the National Institutes of Health’s Commission on Digestive Diseases

Adrian M. Di Bisceglie, M.D.
Best Doctors 2007

Glenn L. Gordon, M.D.
American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award

Fasiha Kanwal, M.D.
Emerging Leaders in Gastroenterology Award
Plenary Session presentations at the VA National HSR&D Meeting

Frank R. Burton, M.D.
Best Doctors 2007

Charlene M. Prather, M.D.
Best Doctors 2007

Brent A. Tetri, M.D.
Best Doctors 2007

NEW FACULTY ENTERING THE DIVISION IN 2007

Cindy X. Cai, M.D., Assistant Research Professor, joined the Division of Gastroenterology in July 2007. Her current research projects include 1) insulin-mediated signaling pathways in the pathogenesis of NASH and hepatic fibrogenesis, and 2) nuclear ferritin in the protection against DNA damage.

Glenn L. Gordon, M.D., Adjunct Associate Professor, received his training in gastroenterology at the University of Chicago. He is transitioning to full-time in the Division of Gastroenterology and currently splits his time between his private practice of gastroenterology in Mexico, Missouri and SLUCare.
GRANTS AND CONTRACTS HELD BY EACH FACULTY MEMBER

Banke Agarwal, M.D.

Bruce R. Bacon, M.D.
Saint Louis University Liver Center Award, “Regulation of Hepcidin Expression,” 2005-2008, $60,000.

Alex S. Befeler, M.D.


Robert S. Britton, Ph.D.

Cindy Cai, M.D., Ph.D.

Ellison Medical Foundation, “Nuclear ferritin may protect against oxidative and light-induced DNA damage in retinal pigment epithelial cells,” 2007-2010, $150,000.

Adrian M. Di Bisceglie, M.D.


Fasiha Kanwal, M.D.
Department of Veterans Affairs, Health Services Research & Development, VA Merit Review Award, “Quality of Care Among Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infection,” 2008-2011, $644,000.

American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, “Quality of Endoscopic Care in Patients with Cirrhosis,” 2008-2010, $75,000.
Charlene M. Prather, M.D.


American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation, “ABIM Practice Improvement Modules (PIMs),” 2007, $4,000.

Xiaofeng Fan, M.D., Ph.D.
NIH/NIDDK R01 DK080711-01, “Hepatitis C Virus Quasispecies in the Resistance to Antiviral Therapy,” 2008-2013, $1,470,000.

Brent A. Neuschwander-Tetri, M.D.


During fiscal year 2008 the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology had 34 studies with different sponsors. Due to confidentiality agreements and non-publicity clauses in contracts with sponsors, specific information pertaining to industry sponsored research may not be released in public documents.