DDW 2016: Basic and Translational Activities and Interests of the AGA Council

Welcome to the May issue of Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology. With Digestive Disease Week® (DDW) just around the corner, we have compiled the following section highlights and meeting guides prepared by the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) Council Sections listed later. We hope that this feature helps support the basic and translational research communities within the AGA, as well as assisting our readers in taking advantage of the vast array of offerings at DDW.

Thanks very much to the section chairs and vice chairs, as well as the AGA staff who helped prepare this compilation, and to all of you for your support of Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

Looking forward to seeing you in San Diego!

JERROLD R. TURNER, MD, PhD, AGAF
Editor-in-Chief

DDW 2016 for the AGA Council sections are as follows:

- Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology Section
- Gastrointestinal Oncology Section
- Growth, Development and Child Health Section
- Immunology, Microbiology and Inflammatory Bowel Diseases Section
- Intestinal Disorders Section
- Liver and Biliary Section
- Neurogastroenterology and Motility Section
- Obesity, Metabolism and Nutrition Section
- Pancreatic Disorders Section

Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology Section
Charalabos Pothoulakis, MD, and Linda C. Samuelson, PhD

Introduction

The AGA Council section “Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology” (CMG) has broad interests in the basic mechanisms underlying digestive diseases and gastrointestinal physiology. The recent name change from our past name, “Regulatory Peptides, Cell Signaling, and Molecular Biology,” reflects the broad basic science focus of our section. From its origins in the study of gastrointestinal hormones, the section’s membership has interests representing many areas of cutting-edge science, including growth factors and stem cells, cellular differentiation in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, epigenetics, mechanisms of receptor function, basic physiology and cell biology, luminal chemosensing, intestinal inflammation, and mucosal injury and healing. CMG strives to invite outside speakers who are leading scientists in their fields to present forward-looking scientific programming at DDW.

We have an exciting line-up for DDW 2016. CMG will sponsor a distinguished abstract plenary session, 4 research symposia, 7 research fora, and 7 poster sessions. We had 189 abstracts submitted to our section, a marked increase over past years. We look forward to seeing you at DDW!

Research Fora

Saturday, May 21, 2016: “Organoid Models of Gastrointestinal Disorders” and “Microbiome Determinants of C difficile Infection” (including an overview by Tor Savidge).

Sunday, May 22, 2016: “Transcriptional and Epigenetic Regulation of GI Cancers.”

Monday, May 23, 2016: “Receptors and Enteric Neurosciences,” “Mechanisms Regulating GI Epithelial Cell Homeostasis,” and “Stem Cell Biology.”

Tuesday, May 23, 2016: “Inflammatory Signaling in the GI Tract.”

Distinguished Abstract Plenary

We will hold our section’s distinguished abstract plenary session on Saturday, May 21, 2016. Six outstanding abstracts will focus on themes of stem cells, cell signaling, and cellular differentiation in health and disease. At this session, the CMG section also will present the Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology Section Research Mentor Award to James R. Goldenring, MD, PhD, AGAF.

Symposia

Saturday, May 21, 2016: “Genetic and Epigenetic Drivers of Colorectal Cancer.” This symposium covers epigenetic mechanisms of intestinal growth and colon cancer, including the role of long-noncoding RNAs, the impact of RNA-binding proteins, and a current view of the driver mutations responsible for tumor initiation and progression. Presenters include: Dimitrios Iliopoulos, Blair Madison, and William M. Grady.

Sunday, May 22, 2016: “Intestinal Stem Cell Niche.” This symposium presents a current view of the microenvironment that regulates intestinal stem cells, including an appreciation of the signaling pathways that regulate stem cell self-renewal, proliferation, and differentiation, as well as the key epithelial and mesenchymal cell populations that support stem cell homeostasis. Presenters include: Calvin Kuo, Linda C. Samuelson, and Klaus H. Kaestner.

Sunday, May 22, 2016: “Bile Acid Signaling in Health and Disease.” This symposium will examine the physiology and pathophysiology of bile acids, with experts in the field...
presenting current understanding of the role of bile acids for regulation of metabolism and inflammatory processes, and impact in disease processes during pregnancy. Presenters include: Ronald M. Evans, Kristina Schoonjans, and Catherine Williamson.

**Monday, May 23, 2016:** “Gastrointestinal and Metabolic Complications of Obesity.” This symposium explores metabolic signaling and disease processes associated with obesity, including signaling mechanisms regulating lipid metabolism and obesity-related changes in gastrointestinal motility, and the role of the inamasome in metabolic signaling. Presenters include: Simon W. Beaven, Shanthi Srinivasan, and Matam Vijay-Kuman.

**Poster Sessions**
Finally, CMG is sponsoring 7 poster sessions.

**Saturday, May 21, 2016:** “Cancer Genetics and Biology,” “Transcriptional and Epigenetic Regulation of GI Function,” and “Stem Cells and Organoids.”

**Sunday, May 22, 2016:** “Receptor Signaling” and “Metabolic Signaling.”

**Monday, May 23, 2016:** “Clostridium difficile Infection: Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, and Management.”

**Tuesday, May 24, 2016:** “Cell Signaling and Inflammation.”

**Gastrointestinal Oncology Section**
*William M. Grady, MD, AGAF, and Rhonda F. Souza, MD, AGAF*

**Introduction**
The GI Oncology section focuses on themes in oncology that pertain to multiple cancer types and is not restricted to a single organ site. Our membership is diverse, with basic scientists engaged in the investigation of fundamental mechanisms of cancer as well as organ-based cancer research; translational scientists involved in the application of basic findings to the clinical management of people at risk for cancer, people with premalignant lesions, or people with GI cancer; outcomes and epidemiology researchers, and clinical scientists interested in cancer prevention, screening, and new imaging technologies. We have more than 2000 members in our section, with recent growth seen in our international members, particularly in young international members.

**Research Fora**
The GI Oncology section has exciting research fora encompassing clinical, translational, and basic science. Our “Must See” research sessions for DDW 2016 are highlighted.

**Saturday, May 21, 2016:** “Barrett’s Esophagus: New Models, New Signaling Pathways, and the Value of Acid Suppression.” This translational research forum covers novel models to study Barrett’s esophagus, new insights into molecular factors regulating the behavior of Barrett’s esophagus, and the pros and cons of acid suppression for this condition. For anyone with an interest in Barrett’s esophagus a “do not miss” summary talk putting these new findings into the current context of our knowledge of Barrett’s esophagus will be delivered by Dr. Stuart Spechler, an international expert in esophageal diseases, especially Barrett’s esophagus.

**Sunday, May 22, 2016:** “Inflammation-Associated Gastric and Colon Carcinogenesis.” This basic science research forum includes a set of exciting studies that advance our understanding of basic mechanisms involved in inflammation-associated cancer. The topics cover the role of inflammatory signaling in immune cell activation and novel roles of inflammatory factors in cancer biology. In addition, the impact of targeting “inflammation-activated receptors” as a potential therapeutic target will be presented. This session will occur on Sunday in the new Basic Science Themed Track entitled “Inflammation and GI Cancers.”

**Tuesday, May 24, 2016:** “Endoscopic and Molecular Colon Cancer Screening and Surveillance: Benefits and Latest Advances.” This translational research forum covers the pros and cons of currently available colon cancer screening tests including endoscopy, fecal occult blood testing/FIT, and molecular marker assays (eg, Cologuard), and will provide information on the latest advances in molecular strategies applicable to both screening and surveillance of colon cancer.

**Distinguished Abstract Plenary**
**Monday, May 23, 2016:** This session features some of the most highly rated abstracts submitted to DDW 2016 and will present the latest advances in the area of GI Oncology clinical and basic science research. Topics will cover advances in our understanding of the risk of colorectal cancer after a negative colonoscopy, and of the role of diet, microRNAs, and bacteria on colorectal cancer development. Other topics will include the role of gene fusions in esophageal adenocarcinoma and circulating neuroendocrine gene transcripts that predict the progression and recurrence of these tumors after surgery.

**Symposia**
**Sunday, May 22, 2016:** “GRG SPRING SYMPOSIUM: Inflammation in Cancer: Friend or Foe?” This cutting edge translational symposium will host a panel of international experts discussing inflammation as a “double-edge sword” in cancer. Dr Michael Karin will present “Inflammatory Pathways and Cancer Development” and Dr Michael Morse will present “Cancer Vaccines Making a Comeback.” This is a “must see” session for investigators interested in both inflammation and cancer.

**Monday, May 23, 2016:** “Gastric Intestinal Metaplasia: What it Is and What to Do.” This sensational clinical symposium features a panel of international experts covering topics relevant to the practical management of patients with gastric intestinal metaplasia. Topics include the diagnosis of gastric intestinal metaplasia, the role of endoscopic and advanced endoscopic imaging in the surveillance of this
condition, and current and emerging therapies to reduce its progression to cancer.

**Tuesday, May 24, 2016:** “Updated Understanding and Approach to Managing Neoplastic Cysts/IPMNs [Intraductal Papillary Mucinous Neoplasm] of the Pancreas.” This exciting translational symposium features a panel of international experts covering topics relevant to the practice and management of patients with neoplastic cysts and IPMNs of the pancreas. Topics include the identification and evaluation of pancreatic cysts and cyst fluid analysis, and application of recommendations from the 2012 Fukuoka and 2015 AGA guidelines to your practice.

**State of the Art**

Five of our Research Fora will culminate in State-of-the-Art talks given by leading experts in the field.

**Saturday, May 21, 2016:** “Multifaceted Roles of RNAs in Tumorigenesis” by Dr Nicholas O. Davidson. Dr Davidson is an internationally recognized leader in the regulation of RNA expression, and his talk will conclude the session entitled, “RNAs and Their Binding Proteins: Multifaceted Roles in Tumorigenesis.”

**Sunday, May 22, 2016:** “Overview of Biomarkers for GI Cancers with Focus on Emerging Biomarkers Nearing Clinical Use” by Dr Joseph Sung. This talk is being given by an international authority in biomarkers who has been leading the field of biomarker development for GI cancers and will conclude the session entitled, “Biomarkers for Detection, Treatment, and Prognosis of GI Cancers.”

**Monday, May 23, 2016:** “Acinar to Ductal Metaplasia: Transdifferentiation or Dedifferentiation” by Dr Jason Mills. This talk is given by an internationally recognized thought leader in metaplasia and will conclude the session entitled, “Pancreatic Cancers: Advances in Biology and Therapeutics.”

“Hereditary and Familial Contributions to Colorectal Cancer in the Young” by Dr Dennis Ahnen. This talk is being given by an international leader in the field of hereditary cancer research and will conclude the session entitled, “Cancer Susceptibility and Familial Cancer Syndromes.”

“Overview and Implications for Understanding Gastric Diseases” by Dr Richard M. Peek. Dr Peek has led the field of gastric cancer research and his talk will conclude the session entitled, “Gastric Neoplasms: Precursors, Biology, Diagnosis, and Therapy.”

**Other Events**

**GIONC 2016 Research Mentor Award Recipient: John Carethers, MD, AGAF.** This award will be presented at the start of the GIONC Distinguished Abstract Plenary Session on **Monday, May 23, 2016.** Please stop by and congratulate Dr Carethers on this well-deserved award as an outstanding mentor.

**GIONC Business Meeting.** Our business meeting will be held immediately after the GIONC Distinguished Abstract Plenary Session on **Monday, May 23, 2016.**

**Growth, Development, and Child Health Section**

**Noah F. Shroyer, PhD, and Maria Oliva-Hemker, MD**

**Introduction**

The Growth, Development, and Child Health (GDCH) section is the home for pediatrics and developmental biology within the AGA. The membership of the GDCH has the most diverse range of digestive health interests within the AGA, representing the interests of pediatrics within all digestive organ systems as well as basic science related to growth, development, and pediatrics.

**Research Fora**

The GDCH section will feature 7 fora at DDW 2016, the majority of which will showcase both abstract and invited presentations.

**Saturday, May 21, 2016:** “Pediatric Intestinal Disorders,” “Molecular Mechanisms of Growth and Development of the GI Tract,” and “Microbial Dysbiosis in Pediatric Disease.”

**Sunday, May 22, 2016:** “Pediatric Functional and Motility Disorders.”

**Monday, May 23, 2016:** “Developmental Biology of the GI Tract” and “Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Diseases.”

**Tuesday, May 24, 2016:** “Functional and Motility Disorders in Children: Influence of Microbes and Inflammation.”

**Symposia**

The GDCH section also will showcase 5 clinical and translational symposia of invited leaders in their fields.

**Sunday, May 22, 2016:** “Gut Microbiome in Pediatric Gastrointestinal Diseases” and “Circadian Dysrhythmia in Digestive Health and Disease.”

**Monday, May 23, 2016:** “Innovative Approaches to Curing Intestinal Failure: The Future of Cell and Tissue Therapy”

“Food Related Gastrointestinal Conditions” includes “Food Allergies and Eosinophilic Esophagitis” (Chris Liaecours), “Gluten Hypersensitivity” (Alessio Fasano), and “Influence of Diet on Irritable Bowel Syndrome and Functional Abdominal Pain” (Carlo Di Lorenzo).

“Updates on Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Children” includes “Current and Emerging Biologics for Pediatric IBD [Inflammatory Bowel Disease]” (Jeff Hyams), “Very Early Onset IBD” (Aleixo Muise), “Therapeutic Role for Fecal Microbiome Transplantation in Pediatric IBD” (David Susan), and “Measuring and Improving Quality of Care in Pediatric IBD” (Wallace Crandall).

**Poster Sessions**

The GDCH section planned 6 poster sessions. The topics include the following: “Pediatric IBD: Clinical and Translational Studies,” “Pediatric Gut Microbiome and Microbiology,” “Molecular Mechanisms of Growth, Differentiation, and Disease,” “Clinical Pediatric Gastroenterology,”...
“Translational Studies Across the Lifespan,” and “Pediatric Functional and Motility Disorders.”

**Immunology, Microbiology, and Inflammatory Bowel Diseases Section**

**Edward V. Loftus, Jr, MD, AGAF, and Mark S. Silverberg, MD, PhD**

**Introduction**

The Immunology, Microbiology, and Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (IMIBD) section covers important major scientific topics such as innate and adaptive immunity, genetics and the microbiome, animal models of IBD, mucosal immunity, epithelial cell biology, and stem cells.

**Research Fora**

IMIBD will feature 18 research fora at DDW 2016.

**Saturday, May 21, 2016:** “Natural History and Outcomes in Inflammatory Bowel Disease,” “Microbiome: Structure and Function,” “Epidemiology of Inflammatory Bowel Disease,” “Natural History and Outcomes in Inflammatory Bowel Disease II,” “IBD: Cytokines, Signaling and Receptors,” and “Diagnoses in Inflammatory Bowel Disease.”

**Sunday, May 22, 2016:** “Identification of Genes and their Biology in IBD Pathogenesis,” “Quality of Life and Psychosocial Care in Inflammatory Bowel Disease,” and “Adverse Events Related to Therapy in Inflammatory Bowel Disease.”

**Monday, May 23, 2016:** “Microbial Induced Mucosal Inflammation and Immunity,” “Biologic-Palooza in Inflammatory Bowel Disease,” “Basic Science Potpourri: Unique Therapy Targets and Approaches to Understand IBD Pathogenesis,” and “Therapeutic Drug Monitoring in Inflammatory Bowel Disease.”

**Tuesday, May 24, 2016:** “Controlled Clinical Trials in Inflammatory Bowel Disease,” “IBD Target Development: Pre Clinical Studies,” “Uncontrolled Therapeutic Observations in Humans with Inflammatory Bowel Disease,” “Disease Activity Assessment in Inflammatory Bowel Disease,” and “Disease Complications in Inflammatory Bowel Disease.”

**Distinguished Abstract Plenary**

IMIBD will showcase the best abstracts at the Distinguished Abstract Plenary on **Monday, May 23, 2016**. In the middle of the session, the section leaders will present the section Research Mentor Award to William J. Sandborn, MD, AGAF.

The poster hall will feature more than 600 posters submitted to the IMIBD section. Topics include the following: “IBD: Adverse Events Related to Therapy,” “IBD: Comparative Effectiveness Studies,” “IBD: Controlled Clinical Trials in Humans,” “IBD: Diagnostics in IBD,” “IBD: Disease Activity Assessment,” “IBD: Disease Complications,” “IBD: Epidemiology,” “IBD: Natural History and Outcomes,” “IBD: Practice Management/Quality of Care/Quality Assurance,” “IBD: Quality of Life/Psychosocial Care,” “IBD: Therapeutic Monitoring,” “IBD: Uncontrolled Therapeutic Observations in Humans,” “Pediatric IBD: Clinical and Translational Studies,” “Animal Models: Pre-Clinical Treatment of Intestinal Inflammation,” “Epithelial Cell Function in Inflammation,” “Fecal Transplant Research,” “IBD: Cytokines, Signaling and Receptors,” “IBD: Genomics and Gene Function,” “IBD: Innate and Adaptive Lymphoid Activation and Regulation,” “Inflammation and GI Cancers,” “Mechanisms of Fibrosis,” “Microbial-Induced Mucosal Inflammation and Immunity,” “Microbiome: Structure and Function,” “Mucosal Innate Immune Function and Innate Host Defense,” “Prebiotics and Probiotics,” and “Cell Stem Cell Biology.”

**Symposia**

IMIBD also programmed 4 symposia.

**Saturday, May 21, 2016:** “Kiron and Kamala Das Symposium: Gut Bugs and Their Products: The Keys to Inflammatory Drive?”

**Sunday, May 22, 2016:** “Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Is It Different Between East and West?”

**Monday, May 23, 2016:** “From Association to Function: Translating IBD Genetics Research to Biology”

**Tuesday, May 24, 2016:** “Anti-Integrin Versus Anti-TNF [Tumor Necrosis Factor] for IBD: Steel Cage Match”

**Intestinal Disorders Section**

**Nicholas O. Davidson, MD, AGAF, and Wayne I. Lenczer, MD, AGAF**

**Introduction**

The Intestinal Disorders (ID) section represents a community of clinical, translational, and basic scientists interested in disease-focused and pathway-driven processes underlying celiac disease; radiation- and chemotherapy-induced injury; diarrhea and malabsorption; microbial pathogenesis and mechanisms of microbe host cross-talk; nutrient, salt, and water transport; epithelial barrier function and wound repair; and epithelial functions in innate immunity. We aim to foster collaborations among interactive scientific communities by featuring outstanding basic, translational, and clinical research in these areas. These core values and goals are reflected in our programing at DDW.

**Research Fora**

For DDW 2016, the ID section is sponsoring and co-sponsoring the following research fora:

**Saturday, May 21, 2016:** “Understanding the Microbial Host Interaction” (Chairs: Jonathan Jacobs and Nicholas O. Davidson), “Inflammation, Injury and Repair Mechanisms in the Gut” (Chairs: Peter Higgins and Georg Lamprecht), and “Host Commensal Microbes, Cross-Talk and Synergy” (Chairs: Gary D. Wu and Neeleindu Dey).

**Sunday, May 22, 2016:** “Genetic Pathways Regulating Intestinal Epithelial Damage, Repair and Death” (Chairs: Matthew A. Ciorba and Florian Rieder) and “Intestinal Epithelial Barrier Function and Wound Repair” (Chairs: Asma Nusrat and Prashant Nighot).
Monday, May 23, 2016: “Genetic Pathways for Growth, Injury and Tumorigenesis: In Vivo (Non-Human) Models of Gastrointestinal Disorders” (Chairs: Scott Magness and Yatrik Shah), “Ion Transport” (Chairs: Pawel R. Kiela and Pradeep K. Dudeja), “New Insights Into Intestinal Adaptation and Short Bowel Syndrome” (Chairs: Julian R. Walters and Deborah C. Rubin), and “Bile Acids as Signaling Mediators in Intestinal Disease” (Chairs: Jervoise Andreyev and Paul A. Dawson).

Tuesday, May 24, 2016: “IBS [Irritable Bowel Syndrome] Pathophysiology” (Chairs: Yehuda Ringel and Gregory S. Sayuk), “Gut Infections and Microbial Pathogenesis” (Chairs: Beth McCormick and V. K. Viswanathan), “Celiac-Intestine: Updates on Management of Celiac Disease” (Chairs: Sheila E. Crowe and Dawn M. Wiese), and “Updates on Celiac Disease: New Insights From Epidemiologic Studies” (Chairs: Anneli Ivarsson and Stefano Guandalini).

Symposia

Saturday, May 21, 2016: “Understanding the Microbial Host Interaction” will include “Antimicrobial Defense of the Intestine” (Janelle Ayre), “Pattern Recognition Receptors and Intestinal Microbial Defense” (David Artis), and “Gut Epithelial Cell–Microbiota Interactions” (Andrew S. Neish).

Sunday, May 22, 2016: “Novel and Alternative Therapies for Celiac Disease” will include “Rationale for Alternative Therapies” (Peter H. Green), “Targets for Treatment” (Elena F. Verdu), “Current Status of Studies” (Joseph A. Murray), and “Evaluation and Management of Refractory Celiac Disease” (Ciaran P. Kelly).

Tuesday, May 24, 2016: “Updates on Acquisition and Therapy of Clostridium difficile” will include “Risk Factors and Preventive Practice in 2016” (Erik R. Dubberke), “The Benefits and Risks of FMT for C diff” (Colleen R. Kelly), and “Alternative Therapies for C diff: IVIG, Fidaxomicin, and Beyond” (Krishna Rao).

State of the Art

Saturday, May 21, 2016: “Mechanisms of Intestinal Restitution” (Thaddeus Stappenbeck).

Other Events

ID Business Meeting: The business meeting will be held on Monday, May 23, 2016 from 5:45 to 6:45 pm in Room 33 of the convention center. This will follow ID_RFH_03: New Insights into Intestinal Adaptation and Short Bowel Syndrome.

Liver and Biliary Section

Jayant A. Talwalkar, MD, MPH, and Kenneth E. Sherman, MD, PhD

Introduction

The membership of the Liver and Biliary (LB) section has remained balanced over the past 2 years; as of January 2015, more than 4900 active members are affiliated with the section, making it one of the largest sections. Domestic members comprise 67% of the section and international members comprise 23%. More than 18% of the members are trainees or young GIs. Other membership categories include senior members, residents, and nurse practitioners/physician assistants.

Although the section is not the current leader in liver-biliary programming at DDW, we have made concerted efforts to work with the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases to create joint programming for the benefit of our attendees.

Research Fora

The LB section is sponsoring 3 research fora, which will have oral abstract presentations centered on general themes. These include the following:

Saturday, May 21, 2016: “Liver and Biliary Carcinoma: Management, Etiology, Diagnosis and Natural History.”

Tuesday, May 24, 2016: “Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis,” “Clinical Biliary Tract Disorders,” and “Microbiome and Liver Disease.”

Symposia

Clinical Symposium: Three clinical symposia are being sponsored independently or jointly with other AGA Institute sections at DDW 2016.

The clinical symposium on Saturday, May 21, 2016, is focused on “Controversies in Autoimmune Liver Disease.” A panel of speakers will discuss topics including “Refractory AIH (Michael Heneghan), “Overlap Syndromes with PBC/PSC [Primary Biliary Cirrhosis/Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis] (Marilyn Mayo), and “Recurrent Disease After LT” (Aldo Montano-Loza). Autoimmune liver disease remains a challenging diagnostic and management problem for clinicians. This symposium will highlight those challenges and best approaches for management of these complex patients.

The clinical symposium on Sunday, May 22, 2016, will highlight the “Recent Advances in Acute on Chronic Liver Failure (ACLF).” Topics include the following: “Definition and Types of ACLF” (Jacqueline O’Leary), “Role of Infection in ACLF” (Jasmohan Bajaj), and “Role of Surgery in ACLF” (Patrick Kamath). Acute-on-Chronic Liver Failure frequently is unrecognized. This symposium will highlight the clinical issues in assessment and management of this difficult entity.

The AGA Emmet B. Keeffe Symposium on Sunday, May 22, 2016, will tackle the topic of “Assessing Hepatic Fibrosis–Truth, Lies and Wishes.” Topics include the following: “Liver Biopsy and Computer Based Histomorphometry” (Zachary Goodman), “Laboratory Tests that Predict Fibrosis Stage” (Richard Sterling), and “Elastography-Shake Your Liver” (Nezam Afdhal). A world-class group of speakers will honor the memory of Dr Emmet Keeffe by bringing clarity to the world of hepatic fibrosis determination.

Research Symposia

Two research symposia hybrid sessions will incorporate oral abstract presentations with invited talks.
The research symposium hybrid on **Monday, May 23, 2016**, is focused on “Hepatitis Prevention.” The session will begin with the talk, “Treatment as Prevention—Breaking the HCV [Hepatitis C Virus] Epidemic” (Carmilla Graham), followed by this will be 2 abstract presentations and a period for questions and answers. A growing hepatitis C virus epidemic is spreading across the United States. This symposium will examine ways to prevent hepatitis C and other viral hepatitis infections.

Another research symposium hybrid on **Monday, May 23, 2016**, is focused on “Natural History of Viral Hepatitis,” which will start off with “Hepatitis B—Stages, Transitions and Outcomes” (Anna Lok), afterward, 3 abstract presentations will follow. Hepatitis B disease staging remains a difficult problem for clinicians. This symposium will highlight new advances in our understanding of the natural history of hepatitis B virus and other hepatitis viruses.

### Translational Symposia

LB will feature 1 translational symposium that was jointly programmed with other AGA Institute sections at DDW 2016.

The translational symposium on **Sunday, May 22, 2016**, will explore “Mediators of Inflammation and Fibrosis in the Gastrointestinal Tract.” Topics include the following: “Not Written in Stone: Modifying Hepatic Fibrosis” (Craig McClain), “Common Pathways of Bowl inflammation and Scarring” (Claudio Fiocchi), “Intrinsic and Extrinsic Modifiers of Esophageal Inflammation” (Rhonda Souza), and “Pancreatic Inflammatory Processes—Changing the Course of Disease” (Minoltì Apte). Once thought to be immutable, fibrosis now is thought to represent a dynamic and plastic process. This symposium will highlight recent advances in the field and look to the future for the direction of new treatment modalities.

### State of the Art

A highlight for LB is “The Dr. Charles S. Lieber Lecture—New Frontiers: Transcriptional Factors in HCC [Hepatocellular Carcinoma] Development,” which will be held on **Tuesday, May 24, 2016**. The session will feature a talk entitled, “Transcriptional Factors in HCC [Hepatocellular Carcinoma] Development” by Jack Wands.

### Poster Sessions

For DDW 2016, the LB section will offer multiple poster presentation forums for accepted scientific abstracts. The poster sessions will be divided into the following categories:

- **Saturday, May 21, 2016**: “Complications of Cirrhosis and Portal Hypertension” and “Metabolic and Genetic Liver Disease.”

- **Sunday, May 22, 2016**: “Liver and Biliary Carcinoma: Management, Etiology, Diagnosis and Natural History.”

- **Monday, May 23, 2016**: “Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Diseases” and “Pharmacoeconomics and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Liver Disease.”

- **Tuesday, May 24, 2016**: “Clinical Hepatitis: Etiology, Diagnosis and Natural History,” “Microbiome and Liver Disease,” “Pediatric Liver and Biliary Diseases,” “Clinical Hepatitis: Prevention and Treatment,” and “Clinical Biliary Tract Disorders, Stone Diseases and Stone Pathogenesis.”

### Neurogastroenterology and Motility Section

#### Satish S. C. Rao, MD, PhD, AGAF, and John Wiley, MD

**Introduction**

The Neurogastroenterology and Motility (NGM) section is pleased to present some outstanding advances in basic, translational, and clinical research at our San Diego meeting. There have been significant new developments in basic science and mechanisms, novel therapeutic targets, several refinements of diagnostic techniques, and several promising new drugs in the pipeline. At this DDW, the NGM section offerings reflect the broad spectrum of scientific discovery, innovation, and excitement, supplemented by a significant increase in abstract submissions. The NGM section received 503 abstracts and 396 were accepted, of which 84 will be presented orally and the rest as posters.

**Research Fora**

There are several ground-breaking and novel research fora in which cutting-edge science will be discussed. These include joint sessions co-sponsored by other sections. We introduce a novel feature of state-of-the-art lectures at the end of each oral abstract session to summarize and bring together the latest advances by an international expert in the field.

- **Saturday, May 21, 2016**: “Novel Diagnosis and Treatments for Functional Dyspepsia, Bloating and GERD,” “Advances in Cellular and Molecular Enteric Neurobiology,” concluding with a state-of-the-art lecture entitled, “Novel Animal Models for Enteric Neurobiology” by Dr Pankaj J. Pasricha; “Emerging Paradigms in Enteric Sensory Neurobiology,” concluding with a state-of-the-art lecture entitled, “Novel Targets for Treatment of Visceral Pain” by Dr Stuart Brierle; and a novel session entitled “Advances in Enteric Channels, Exchangers, and Transporters,” which will conclude with a state-of-the-art lecture entitled, “Recent Advances in Our Understanding of Endocannabinoids and the Enteric Nervous System.”

- **Sunday, May 22, 2016**: “Microbiota, FODMAP Diet, and IBS” will include a state-of-the-art lecture by Dr William D. Chey on “FODMAP and IBS.” “Clinical Advances in Swallowing Disorders,” will conclude with a state-of-the-art lecture entitled, “Esophagogastric Junction Morphology Assessment in Health and Disease and Implications for Management” by Dr Peter Kahrilas. Another outstanding session entitled, “Diagnosis and Advances in Understanding and Management of Irritable Bowel Syndrome,” will conclude with a state-of-the-art lecture entitled, “Diagnostic Testing in IBS: Looking Through the Crystal Ball” by Dr Brennan Spiegel. Finally, “Gastric and Small Bowel Motility and Dysmotility,” will conclude with a state-of-the-art
lecture entitled, “Management of Chronic Unexplained Nausea,” by Dr William Hasler.

**Monday, May 23, 2016:** “Brain and Gut–Are They Talking?” This session will include a state-of-the-art lecture by Dr Qasim Aziz on this topic.

**Tuesday, May 24, 2016:** “Anorectal Disorders: Bench to Bedside” will include a state-of-the-art lecture by Dr Adil Bharucha on “Newer Diagnostic Tests for Anorectal Disorders: How Useful?” Also, we have “Constipation and Colonic Motility: What’s New?” which will conclude with a state-of-the-art lecture entitled, “Opioid-Induced Constipation: Who, Why, and How to Manage” by Dr Ashok Tuteja. Another exciting session is entitled, “Gastroparesis: Bench to Bedside,” and will conclude with a state-of-the-art lecture entitled, “Advances in Pathophysiology and Diagnosis of Gastroparesis” by Dr Henry Parkman. Finally, we will co-sponsor a pediatric forum entitled, “From Neonates to Adults: Keeping the Gut Moving.”

**Distinguished Abstract Plenary**

On **Monday, May 23, 2016**, do not miss the best and most outstanding research in the field that will be presented at this NGM distinguished plenary session. Attendees will be able to listen and deliberate the most significant advances from bench to translational to clinical neurogastroenterology and motility. In addition, they will see the presentation of the 2016 Research Mentor Award to Jackie D. Wood, PhD, AGAF, RFF.

**Symposia**

The NGM section is sponsoring several research, translational, and clinical symposia that feature expert invited speakers and hot topics in neurogastroenterology and motility.

Building on a very successful program last year, on **Monday, May 23, 2016**, we again will use a new format of active audience participation and discussion centered on controversies and questions in clinical motility. Drs Peter Kahrilas, William Chey, and Satish Rao will chair the session entitled, “Motility Matters: An Interactive Forum to Debate What Progress the Field Has Made.” This symposium will use a debate format with a panel led by a moderator to discuss new diagnostic modalities in motility disorders, pathophysiological correlates of symptoms in patients with functional and motility disorders, and critically evaluate the efficacy of newer approaches to treatment of motility disorders.

Another excellent clinical symposium on **Sunday, May 22, 2016**, entitled “New Concepts in Esophageal Physiology: The Role of Esophageal Wall Mechanics in Symptom Generation” will explore the pathogenesis of symptoms, esophageal biomechanics, and flow dynamics and cellular and molecular mechanisms for esophageal pain, and will be chaired by Drs Benson Massey and Abraham Khan.

The research symposium on **Saturday, May 21, 2016**, will be “Glia, ICC [Interstitial Cells of Cajal], and Smooth Muscle: Emerging Concepts and Future Directions.” This state-of-the-art symposium chaired by Drs James Galligan and Fievos Christofi will bring experts in the field to discuss their groundbreaking research on the role of glia in neuromuscular function in health and disease, the role of interstitial cells of Cajal, and what is new in smooth muscle, and inform us about new directions we need to take and where the next generation of discoveries will come from.

This year’s first translational symposium will be on **Saturday, May 21, 2016**, and will focus on “Bacterial Metabolites in Gastrointestinal Diseases.” Chaired by Drs Purna Kashyap and Elena Verdu, this innovative session will feature a discussion on the role of metagenomics, SCFA, and bacterial metabolites in the pathogenesis of IBS, IBD, obesity, and colon cancer, and how D-lactic acidosis, brain fogliness, and bacterial overgrowth may be linked.

The second translational symposium also will be held on **Saturday, May 21, 2016**, and will be entitled, “The Brain-Gut Axis–Novel Onsights from Translational Research.” This exciting symposium chaired by Drs John Wiley and Emeran Mayer will articulate what is new in our understanding of the brain and gut axis as it relates to functional brain imaging, discuss the importance of these imaging techniques in functional pain disorders, and, importantly, examine the significance of performing reverse translational studies and test potential therapeutic interventions.

**Poster Sessions**

The poster sessions remain extremely popular with attendees and will cover a wide range of cutting-edge topics. Sessions will be held every day from **Saturday, May 21 to Tuesday, May 24, 2016**, and will cover an array of topics.

**Saturday, May 21, 2016:** Topics covered will include the following: Enteric Neurobiology: Cell and Molecular Biology; Enteric Neurobiology: Pharmacology and Physiology; Esophageal Motility and Dysmotility; and Functional Dyspepsia, Nausea, and Vomiting.

**Sunday, May 22, 2016:** Topics covered will include the following: Brain-Gut Axis; Constipation and Other Functional Colonic Syndromes; and Sensory Neurobiology including Visceral Nociception/Pain and Neuroimmunology.

**Monday, May 23, 2016:** Topics covered on this day will include the following: Gastroparesis, and Irritable Bowel Syndrome: Clinical.

**Tuesday, May 24, 2016:** Posters presented on this day will include the following: Anorectal Dysmotility; Irritable Bowel Syndrome: Pathophysiology; Oropharyngeal Dysmotility; Pediatric Functional and Motility Disorders; and Small Bowel Motility, Intestinal Disorders, and Food Intolerance.

**Obesity, Metabolism, and Nutrition Section**

**Dennis D. Black, MD, AGAF, and Sandeep Gupta, MD, FASGE**

**Introduction**

In recent years, DDW programming by the Obesity, Metabolism, and Nutrition (OMN) section has emphasized subject areas that have appealed to a majority of meeting attendees, especially those affiliated not only with the OMN.
section, but also other sections with which we share common interests, as reflected by our strong participation in cross-sectional programming. A major emphasis on obesity and nutritional and metabolic disorders was solidified by a section name change in 2013 to “Obesity, Metabolism, and Nutrition,” reflecting a research and clinical focus on this spectrum of major health problems. New programming has included fora and symposia highlighting related topics, including bariatric surgery and its impact on nutritional status, GI neuroendocrinology and metabolism, new and innovative endoscopic and other treatments of obesity and diabetes, fatty liver disease, GI regulation of energy balance, weight and metabolic function, microbiota and metabolic regulation, and nutrition and metabolism across the life cycle. Nutritional support in all of its forms used in the management of a variety of diseases, including obesity, intestinal failure, and inflammatory bowel disease, as well as nutrient absorption and metabolism, also have continued to be the focus of OMN programming. The OMN section also has endeavored to strike a balance between basic research to better describe disease phenotypes and translational research to develop new therapies, and clinical and translational research to better describe disease phenotypes and test new therapeutic approaches. This year, with the approval by the Food and Drug Administration of new endoscopic bariatric devices, we are emphasizing the use and effectiveness of these approaches in several sessions.

**Research Fora**

For DDW 2016, the OMN section is sponsoring 6 research fora, each with a focused theme and encompassing basic and translational research. These include the following.

**Saturday, May 21, 2016:** “Obesity: Clinical and Epidemiological Studies.” Studies will be presented on the pathophysiology and clinical features of human obesity and its complications, as well as mechanisms and effectiveness of therapeutic interventions.

“Obesity Treatment: New Endoscopic Approaches.” Abstracts will be presented on the use of new endoscopic bariatric procedures in obesity therapy, as well as their effectiveness, complications, and limitations.

**Sunday, May 22, 2016:** “Regulation of Food Intake, Energy Expenditure, and Metabolic Function.” Research presented will involve brain-gut signaling networks that regulate caloric intake, energy expenditure, and metabolic function and the perturbations that occur in disease states, including obesity and diabetes.

“Obesity: Non-Surgical Treatment Effectiveness and Cost.” Abstracts will cover nonsurgical approaches to obesity, including bariatric devices and pharmacotherapy, and their effectiveness and economic impact.

**Monday, May 23, 2016:** “Obesity: Basic Studies.” Basic research will be presented on the normal physiologic regulation of mechanisms contributing to body mass and metabolic state, as well as perturbations that occur in obesity and diabetes, and amelioration by bariatric surgery and other therapeutic approaches.

**Tuesday, May 24, 2016:** “Nutrient and Vitamin Absorption and Metabolism.” Abstracts will cover new research on the basic and clinical aspects of nutrient and vitamin absorption in health and disease.

**Symposia**

In addition to these research fora, the OMN section will be sponsoring 4 themed symposia.

**Saturday, May 21, 2016:** “Intestinal Nutrient Transporters as Endocrine Targets.” Presenters at this research symposium will discuss how endocrine/paracrine signaling influences nutrient transporters and how nutrient flux across the intestinal epithelium is important for normal physiology and for the development of pathologic states. Talks will include “Hepcidin Regulation of Intestinal Iron Transport” (Elizabeta Nemeth), “Short-Chain Fatty Acid G-Protein-Coupled Receptors and Colon Health” (Vadivel Ganapathy), and “GI Hormone Regulation of Intestinal Lipid Absorption and Metabolism” (Patrick Tso).

**Sunday, May 22, 2016:** “Obesity Treatment–Genes, Diets and Resources.” This clinical symposium will inform participants of the emerging role of “precision medicine” in the management of obesity, as well as the most effective diet and lifestyle interventions in the management of obesity in adolescents and adults, and how to use local resources for lifestyle modification for obesity intervention. Presentations include “Why Precision Medicine May Be the Future of Obesity Treatment” (Molly Bray), “Which Comes First, Overeating or Obesity?” (David Ludwig), and “Moving Beyond the Kitchen–Helping Patients Creatively Navigate Local Resources” (Joseph A. Skelton).

**Monday, May 23, 2016:** “Food as a Drug: Nutritional Therapies of GI Disease.” This collaborative symposium will cover the emerging study of variations in genes involved in carbohydrate digestion/absorption to guide dietary therapy in IBS, the role of dietary nutrients and dietary supplements in IBD treatment, the role of enteral nutrition in the treatment of intestinal failure, and the role of diet in the management of obesity, metabolic syndrome, and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. Topics include “Dietary Treatment of IBS: Can Genetics Guide Personalized Dietary Therapy?” (Robert Shulman), “Enteral Nutrition and Nutraceutical Supplements for IBD: What Works and What Doesn’t?” (Gerard E. Mullin), “Enteral Nutrition to Promote Intestinal Failure Rehabilitation” (Jeffrey Rudolph), and “Diet and Metabolic Regulation in Obesity, Insulin Resistance, and NAFLD (Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease)” (Rohit Kohli).

**Tuesday, May 24, 2016:** “Approach to Obesity in Children: Not Just Small Adults.” This clinical symposium will cover metabolic abnormalities and morbidities associated with obesity in children and their relationship to nutrition, genetics, and inflammation in the setting of the metabolic syndrome, as well as describe the approach to treatment of pediatric obesity, including the roles of nutrition, lifestyle changes, pharmacotherapy, and bariatric surgery in a multidisciplinary setting. Presentations include “Impact of Genetics on Pathogenesis and Response to Treatment in Pediatric Obesity” (Joan Han), “Metabolic Syndrome in
Children” (Carey Lumeng), “Multidisciplinary Approach to Treatment of Pediatric Obesity (Miriam Vos), and “Role of Bariatric Surgery in Obese Adolescents” (TBA).

**State of the Art**

The OMN section will feature one state-of-the-art lecture session this year.

**Sunday, May 22, 2016: “The Microbiome, Obesity, and Diabetes: The Future for Translation to Human Disease.”** These 2 state-of-the-art lectures will highlight how recent advances in elucidating the role of the gut microbiome in obesity and diabetes are translating to new therapeutic approaches. Lectures include “New Insights Into the Role of the Microbiome in Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes” (Max Nieuwdorp) and “The Gut Microbiome and Metabolic Regulation: What’s New and Translatable to Obesity Treatment” (Lee M. Kaplan).

**Poster Sessions**

Poster sessions scheduled for **Saturday, May 21, 2016 through Tuesday, May 24, 2016**, will cover an array of topics, including “Regulation of Food Intake and Energy Expenditure,” “Gut Microbiota and Metabolic Regulation,” “Nutritional Support and Clinical Nutrition,” “GI Regulation of Metabolic Function,” “New Therapies for Obesity: Pre-Clinical and Clinical,” “Obesity: Clinical and Epidemiological Studies,” “Surgical and Endoscopic Treatment of Obesity,” “Vitamins and Micronutrients: Basic and Clinical,” “Obesity: Basic and Mechanistic Studies,” and “Microbiota and Intestinal Disease.”

**Pancreatic Disorders Section**

*Matthew J. DiMagno, MD, and Santhi S. Vege, MD, AGAF, FACP*

**Introduction**

The Pancreatic Disorders (PAN) section of the AGA Council has 2909 members, which is a 20% increase compared with 2015. For DDW 2016, PAN received 273 abstracts, which represents an increase of 23% over 1 year and 36% over 2 years. Abstract programming includes 40 (15%) accepted for oral presentation and 180 (66%) accepted for poster presentation. Two abstracts were selected for presentation at the AGA Presidential and Clinical Plenary Session.

The PAN section members’ interests span from clinical practice to clinical, translational, and basic science investigation. Popular clinical and translational themes include acute and chronic pancreatitis; pancreatic necrosis; autoimmune pancreatitis; pancreatic cystic neoplasms, IPMN, and neuroendocrine tumors; cancer; pancreatic endoscopy and imaging; and pancreatic cancer risk factors, biomarkers, and diagnosis.

Basic science and translational themes focus on basic regulatory mechanisms and pathways relevant to popular PAN clinical topics, including inflammation and injury, immunology and fibrosis, healing and regeneration, growth, and neoplasia. These basic interests are organized under 3 abstract descriptors, including: Pancreatic genetics, epigenetics, pathology, cell biology, and pathology; Pancreatitis: inflammation, fibrogenesis, and immunology; and Microbiome and pancreatic disease.

**Research Fora**

For DDW 2016, the PAN section is sponsoring 5 research fora, each with a focused theme pertaining to clinical, translational, or basic research. These include the following. **Saturday, May 21, 2016: “Pancreatic Cystic Neoplasms.”** **Sunday, May 22, 2016: “Acute Pancreatitis.”** **Monday, May 23, 2016: “Pathobiology of the Pancreas.”** **Tuesday, May 24, 2016: “Chemoprevention and Novel Treatments of Pancreatic Cancer” and “Chronic Pancreatitis.”**

Do not miss 3 AGA-sponsored hybrid clinical research fora featuring many PAN section abstracts and exciting keynote speakers: “Clinical Trials: Preventing Post-ERCP Pancreatitis and Treating Pancreatic Necrosis,” “Pancreatic Cancer Screening,” and “Chemoprevention and Novel Treatments of Pancreatic Cancer.” The PAN also cosponsors the research fora “Carcinoid and Neuroendocrine Tumors.”

**Poster Sessions**

Poster sessions scheduled for **Saturday, May 21, 2016 through Tuesday, May 24, 2016**, will cover an array of topics. In response to universally positive feedback, poster judging will be offered again at DDW 2016 and afford junior presenters the exciting opportunity to engage with and impress senior experts in the field. Also, do not miss the AGA-sponsored Poster Tour (ticketed event) on “Acute Pancreatitis” led by Drs Mel Wilcox and Bechien Wu.

**Saturday, May 21, 2016:** “Pancreatitits: Inflammation, Fibrogenesis, and Immunology” and “Pancreatic Cancer: Risk Factors, Biomarkers, and Diagnosis.”

**Sunday, May 22, 2016:** “Pancreatic Cystic Neoplasms,” “Pancreatic Disorders: Endoscopy and Imaging,” “Microbiome and Pancreatic Disease,” and “Clinical Acute Pancreatitis II.”

**Monday, May 23, 2016:** “Clinical Acute Pancreatitis I.”

**Tuesday, May 24, 2016:** “Clinical Chronic Pancreatitis,” “Pancreatitis: Inflammation, Fibrogenesis, and Immunology,” and “Pancreatic Genetics, Epigenetics, Cell Biology, and Pathobiology.”

**Symposia**

For DDW 2016 the PAN section is sponsoring or cosponsoring a Collaborative Global Topic Symposium, 3 translational symposia, and 4 clinical symposia.

The Collaborative Global Topic Symposium **Saturday, May 21, 2016**, focuses on “Regenerative Medicine: Emerging Therapy for Pancreatic and GI Tract Disorders” and will highlight the key concepts and tools of regenerative medicine and application to the pancreas and intestinal tract. Topics include the following: “Nuclear Reprogramming Factors: Mechanistic Players and Therapeutic Tools in...”
Regenerative Medicine” (Gwen Lomberk), “Pioneer Transcription Factors in Acinar, Ductal, and Endocrine Homeostasis” (Francisco Real), “Acinar to Ductal Metaplasia in Pancreas Regeneration” (Howard Crawford), and “Tissue Regeneration of the GI Tract Using Stem Cell Derived Organoids” (David Tuveson).

The translational symposium on **Saturday, May 21, 2016**, focuses on “Implications and Limitations for Genetic Testing in Pancreatic Diseases,” a practical topic relevant to clinical practice that examines important and inter-related aspects of genetic testing in chronic pancreatitis and the application of genetic and epigenetic tools to understanding and treating pancreatic cancer. Topics include the following: “Introductory Case: Sporadic PRSS1 Mutation in Patient With Single Attack of Pancreatitis (Matthew DiMagno), “Presentation of Research Mentor Award: David C. Whitcomb, MD, PhD, AGAF” (Matthew DiMagno and Santhi Vege), “View of the Geneticist–Classifying the Significance of Mutations” (Randall Brand), “Pro and Con of Genetic Screening in Chronic Pancreatitis” (David C. Whitcomb), “Genomic Analysis in Chronic Pancreatitis” (Andrew Rhim), and “Epigenetics at the Intersection of Chronic Pancreatitis and Pancreatic Cancer” (Raul Urrutia).

The clinical symposium on **Sunday, May 22, 2016**, focuses on “Determining the Etiology of Patients Labeled With Idiopathic Pancreatitis.” Topics include the following: “Definition of Idiopathic Pancreatitis and Role of Pancreas Divisum” (Matthew DiMagno), “Sphincter of Oddi Dysfunction” (Stuart Sherman), “Genetic Associations With Idiopathic Pancreatitis” (Nageshwar Reddy), and “INSPPIRE Consortium: Prevalence of Idiopathic Pancreatitis in Infants and Toddlers” (Aliye Uc).

The translational symposium **Sunday, May 22, 2016**, focuses on “Novel Targets for Treating Acute Pancreatitis.” Topics include the following: “Disrupting Neurogenic Mechanisms of Inflammation” (Rodger Liddle), “Carbon Monoxide Based Therapies for Acute Pancreatitis” (Aida Habtezion), “Is TNF [Tumor Necrosis Factor]-α Signaling an Appropriate Target in Acute Pancreatitis?” (George Perides), “Targeting Acinar Ductal Metaplasia to Promote Tissue Healing” (Maximillian Reichert), and “Where and When Might These Novel Approaches Be of Clinical Value?” (Fred Gorelick).

The second clinical symposium on **Sunday, May 22, 2016**, focuses on “Update: Medical Management of Autoimmune Pancreatitis and IgG4-Related Sclerosis Cholangitis” and will be immediately followed by the “Pancreatic Disorders Section Business Meeting.” This is a less common but serious clinical situation with significant morbidity that warrants a multidisciplinary collaborative approach. Topics include the following: “Definitions of Remission, Recrudescence, and Relapse in AIP” (Suresh Chari), “Using a Steroid Trial in AIP: What Is the Role?” (Myung-Hwan Kim), “Induction and Maintenance of Remission in AIP: Role of Glucocorticoids” (Kazuichi Okazaki), “Management of Relapses and Maintenance of Remission: Role of Immunomodulators” (Phil Hart), and “Management of Relapses and Maintenance of Remission: Role of B-Cell Depletion Therapy” (Mark Topazian).

The PAN section also is cosponsoring a clinical symposium **Sunday, May 22, 2016**, focused on “Duodenoscope-Associated Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae Infections: Epidemiology, Regulations, and Best Practices.”

The PAN section is cosponsoring a clinical symposium **Monday, May 23, 2016**, focusing on “Management of Pancreatic Necrosis.”

The translational symposium on **Tuesday, May 24, 2016**, focuses on “Update: Pain in Chronic Pancreatitis.” Topics include the following: “Mechanisms of Visceral Pain in Chronic Pancreatitis” (Chung Owyang), “Pain and Fibrosis: Targeting TGF [Transforming Growth Factor] β as a Unifying Theme in Chronic Pancreatitis” (Jay Pasricha), “Assessing Pain and Opioid Dependence in Chronic Pancreatitis” (Claudia Campbell), and “Treating Pain in Chronic Pancreatitis: Pharmacological and Non-pharmacological Approaches” (Marco Bruno).

The PAN section also is cosponsoring a translational symposium on **Tuesday, May 24, 2016**, focused on “Updated Understanding and Approach to Managing Neoplastic Cysts/IPMNS of the Pancreas.”

**Other Events**

Beyond the research fora and symposia, there are plenty of other exciting events happening in the PAN section at DDW 2016.

**Sunday, May 22, 2016:** Do not miss the AGA Breakfast with Experts (Drs Suresh Chari and Darwin Conwell) focused on “Chronic Pancreatitis: Screening for Cancer and Treating the Pain.” At 5:30 pm, catch up with PAN section leaders and hear important updates and future plans for the PAN section by attending the “Pancreatic Disorders Section Business Meeting” (Room 31BC of the Convention Center), beginning immediately after the clinical symposium focused on “Update: Medical Management of Autoimmune Pancreatitis and IgG4-Related Sclerosis Cholangitis.”

**Monday, May 23, 2016:** Do not miss attending 1 of 2 breakfast sessions, either the AGA Breakfast with Experts (Drs Elmunzer and Scheiman) focused on “Managing Pancreatic Cysts–Myths and Guidelines,” or the AGA-sponsored Focused Clinical Update on “Updates in Management of Chronic Pancreatitis” (Yaday). Also attend the AGA Presidential and Clinical Plenary and hear presentations of 2 top-rated PAN section abstracts, “Detection of Pancreatic High-Grade Dysplasia and Cancer Using Novel Methylated DNA Markers: Discovery and Tissue Validation” (Shounak Majumder), and “Molecular Markers Help Define Cyst Type in the Pancreas: An International, Multicenter Study of Over 300 Cysts” (Anne Marie Lennon). At 12 noon, join Drs Mel Wilcox and Bechien Wu for the AGA-sponsored Poster Tour of abstracts on “Acute Pancreatitis.”

**Conflicts of interest**

The author discloses no conflicts.

**Most current article**

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