DDW 2018: Activities and Interests of the AGA Council

With Digestive Disease Week® (DDW) just around the corner, we have compiled the following section highlights and meeting guides prepared by the AGA Council Sections listed below. 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 the Journal.

Looking forward to seeing you in DC,

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

DDW 2018 for the AGA Council

- Basic & Clinical Intestinal Disorders
- Cellular & Molecular Gastroenterology
- Clinical Practice
- Esophageal, Gastric & Duodenal Disorders
- Gastrointestinal Oncology
- Growth, Development & Child Health
- Imaging, Endoscopy & Advanced Technology
- Immunology, Microbiology & Inflammatory Bowel Diseases
- Liver & Biliary
- Microbiome and Microbial Diseases in the Gastrointestinal Tract
- Neurogastroenterology & Motility
- Obesity, Metabolism & Nutrition
- Pancreatic Disorders

Basic & Clinical Intestinal Disorders
Wayne I. Lencer, MD, AGAF and Joseph A. Murray, MD

Introduction
The Basic and Clinical Intestinal Disorders section (BCID) represents a community of clinical, translational and basic scientists interested in disease-focused and pathway-driven processes underlying:

- Celiac disease and food intolerances;
- Radiation, chemotherapy, and hypoxia-induced injury and repair;
- Diarrhea, malabsorption and enteropathies.
- Microbial pathogenesis and mechanisms of microbe-host cross talk;
- Nutrient, solute, salt and water transport;
- Epithelial cell and molecular biology;
- Epithelial barrier function and wound repair;
- Epithelial functions in innate immunity and inflammation; and
- Irritable bowel syndrome.

Our section aims to foster collaboration among interactive scientific communities by featuring outstanding basic, translational and clinical research in these areas.

Research Fora

Saturday, June 2, 2018: “Diarrhea and Irritable Bowel Syndrome – New Advances”, “Epithelial Ion, Water and Nutrient Absorption”, “Epithelial Barrier Functions II”

Sunday, June 3, 2018: “Epithelial Junctions and Barrier Function”, “Immune Check Point Inhibitor Induced Diarrhea”

Monday, June 4, 2018: “Intestinal Inflammation, Fibrosis and Regeneration”, “Microbial Pathogens and Toxins of the Intestine and Colon”, “Celiac Epidemiology”

Tuesday, June 5, 2018: “Microbial-Induced Mucosal Inflammation and Innate Immunity”, “Basic Mechanisms of Tissue Repair”, “Inflammatory, Proliferative and Adaptive Responses of the Intestinal Epithelium”

Poster Sessions
BCID is sponsoring 13 poster sessions. The topics include the following:

- Microbes in Epithelial Function and Inflammation
- Epithelial Ion, Water and Nutrient Absorption
- Cell Molecular Biology of Intestinal Barrier, Injury, Repair, Fibrosis
- Inflammation and GI Cancers
- Intestinal Inflammation, Fibrosis and Regeneration
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- Celiac Disease and Gluten Related Disorders I
- Celiac Disease and Gluten Related Disorders II
- Food Intolerances, Allergy and Sensitivities
- In Vivo and Organoid Models of Gastrointestinal Disorders
- Stem Cell Biology
- Inflammation and GI Cancers
- Diarrheal Diseases, Bacterial Overgrowth, Drug Induced and Other Enteropathies
Symposia

Sunday, June 3, 2018: “Diarrheal and Autoimmune Disorders of the Intestinal Mucosa”

Monday, June 4, 2018: “Celiac Disease: Diagnosis Best Practices”, “Celiac Disease: Treatment and Monitoring” and “Breeching Tolerance”

Tuesday, June 5, 2018: “Food Allergies and Sensitivities”

State of the Art

Saturday, June 2, 2018: “Frances and Don W. Powell, MD Lecture: Innate Immune Signaling at Mucosal Surfaces”

Sunday, June 3, 2018: “Tuft and Paneth Cells: Dueling Roles in Innate and Acquired Immunity”

Tuesday, June 5, 2018: “Microbial-Induced Alterations to Pathogen Infection.”

Research Mentor Award

Established in 2010, the Research Mentor Award recognizes an individual for his or her achievements as an outstanding mentor in a specific area of research.

The award will be presented to Gary Wu, MD, AGAF during the Frances and Don W. Powell, MD Lecture: Innate Immune Signaling at Mucosal Surfaces on Saturday, June 2 at 2:00 PM in room 103.

Cellular & Molecular Gastroenterology

Linda Samuelson PhD and Jason Mills, PhD

Introduction

The AGA Council section “Cellular & Molecular Gastroenterology” (CMG) has broad interests in the basic mechanisms underlying digestive diseases and gastrointestinal biology. The section’s membership has interests representing many areas of cutting-edge science, including growth factors, stem cells, cellular differentiation, 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 lineup for DDW 2018. CMG will sponsor a distinguished abstract plenary session, 4 research symposia, 7 research fora, and 11 poster sessions. We look forward to seeing you at DDW!

Research Fora

Topical Research Fora have been organized based on the top-scored abstracts. Four of the seven are cross-sectional, drawing abstracts from several sections.

Saturday, June 2, 2018: “Stem Cells in the Origin and Progression of Cancer”, “Cellular Plasticity in Regeneration and Metaplasia”

Sunday, June 3, 2018: “Organoid Models of Gastrointestinal Disorders”

Monday, June 4, 2018: “Stem Cell Biology”

Tuesday, June 5, 2018: “Microbe Sensing and Inflammatory Signaling”, “In Vivo Models of Gastrointestinal Disorders” and “Intestinal Epithelial Cell Biology”

Distinguished Abstract Plenary/Poster Sessions

Our distinguished abstract plenary session and business meeting will include six outstanding abstracts that focus on themes of stem cells, cell signaling, cellular differentiation, and mucosal injury and repair in health and disease. At this session, the CMG section will also present the Cellular & Molecular Gastroenterology Section Research Mentor Award to Charalabos Pothoulakis, MD.

Monday June 4, 2018: “Cellular & Molecular Gastroenterology Distinguished Abstract Plenary and Section Business Meeting”

CMG is sponsoring 11 poster sessions.

Saturday, June 2, 2018: “Gastric Neoplasms: Precursor Lesions and Biology”, “Growth Factors in Cell Proliferation and Differentiation”, “Genetic, Transcriptional and Epigenetic Mechanisms”

Sunday, June 3, 2018: “GI Injury, Inflammation and Fibrosis”, “Receptor Signaling and Enteric Neuroscience”, “Chemosensing in the GI Tract Cancer Location, Biomarkers and Progression”

Monday, June 4, 2018: “GI Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering”, “Physiology and Cell Biology of GI Tissues.”

Tuesday, June 5, 2018: “Cell Signaling in Inflammation, Injury and Repair”, “Cell and Molecular Biology of Intestinal Disorders”

Symposia

Saturday, June 2, 2018: “Intestinal Stem Cell Responses to Pathogen Infection.” Presenters include: Michele Battle, Yana Zavros, and Howard Crawford.

Sunday, June 3, 2018: “Organoids and Engineered Organ Systems”. Presenters include: John Lynch, Hyun Jung Kim, Nancy Albrighton, and Salman Khetani.

Monday, June 4, 2018: “Metabolic/Nutritional Regulation of Intestinal Stem Cells.” Presenters include: Owen Sansom, Omer Yilmaz, and Leonard Augenlicht

Monday, June 4, 2018: “Gastrointestinal Stem Cell Plasticity”. Presenters include: Christopher Lengner, Nick Barker, and Ramesh Shivdasani

Research Mentor Award

Established in 2010, the Research Mentor Award recognizes an individual for his or her achievements as an outstanding mentor in a specific area of research.

The award will be presented to Charalabos Pothoulakis, MD during Cellular & Molecular Gastroenterology Distinguished Abstract Plenary and Section Business Meeting, Monday June 4, 4:00 p.m., 102a.
Clinical Practice
Joel H. Rubenstein, MD, AGAF and Paul Moayyedi, MD, PhD, AGAF

Introduction
The mission of the Clinical Practice section is to promote the optimum delivery of high quality, cost-effective gastrointestinal healthcare. Best practices will primarily be identified through cutting-edge research in areas such as epidemiology, population health screening, outcomes research, performance metrics, health economics, systematic reviews, practice management and medical education.

Research Fora
The CP section will feature seven research fora, which will have oral abstract presentations and invited speakers centered on general themes. These include the following:

Saturday, June 2, 2018: “Caring for Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Quality Matters”, “Missed Lesions and Appropriate Follow-Up of Screening and Surveillance”, “Randomized Trials of Extending the Reach of Colorectal Cancer Screening”

Sunday June 3, 2018: “Management of Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders”, “The Rising Incidence of Colorectal Cancer Among Young Adults: Who, Why and What Should We Do About It?”

Tuesday, June 5, 2018: “Improving Access, Therapy and Cost. The Three Legged Stool of Microbial Transplant for C. Difficile”, “There Will Be Blood. So How Do We Stop It?”

Symposia
CP will also program seven symposia challenging clinical topics and highlighting recent practice guidelines.

Saturday, June 2, 2018: “Endoscopic Performance Metrics: Are Quality Measures High Quality?”

Sunday, June 3, 2018: “How to Manage Difficult Gastroenterology Consultations”, “Screening for Esophageal Adenocarcinoma: Practical Solutions to the Challenge of Primary Screening”

Monday, June 4, 2018: “Impact of America’s Opioid Epidemic on the Practice of Gastroenterology”

Tuesday, June 5, 2018: “Chronic Diarrhea and IBS: Current Knowledge and Update on Management Strategies”, “CRC Screening Cage Matches: The Sequel”, “Serrated Neoplasia of the Colon: Current Concepts and Best Practice”

Poster Sessions
CP is sponsoring 13 poster sessions. The topics include the following: "Epidemiology and Outcomes of Functional GI Disease," "Epidemiology and Outcomes of GI Bleeding," "Epidemiology of GI Disease," "GI Cancer Epidemiology and Screening," "Health Care Delivery," "Health Disparities," "Health Economics," "IBD Epidemiology and Clinical Outcomes," "Medical Education," "Patient Reported Outcomes," "Population Colorectal Cancer Screening," "Process Improvement," and "Systematic Reviews.

Research Mentor Award
Established in 2010, the Research Mentor Award recognizes an individual for his or her achievements as an outstanding mentor in a specific area of research.

The award will be presented to Amnon Sonnenberg, MD, MSc during Missed Lesions and Appropriate Follow-Up of Screening and Surveillance, Saturday, June 2, 10-11:30 a.m., room 207.

Esophageal, Gastric & Duodenal Disorders
John Y. Kao, MD, AGAF and Ikuo Hirano, MD, AGAF

Introduction
The EGD section continues to heavily contribute to the educational and research mission of the AGA Institute and remains a highly visible section at Digestive Disease Week® (DDW). The attendance at DDW continues to be robust, with nearly all of the EGD section’s clinical sessions exceeding expected capacity. The section is diverse in regards to representation of multiple upper GI diseases including esophagus, stomach, and duodenum. Advances continue to develop in the area of esophageal reflux and motility testing (e.g., high resolution manometry and mucosal impedance measurements), endoscopic reflux therapies as well as continued strong interest in both clinical and basic research in eosinophilic esophagitis and Barrett’s esophagus. Dominant areas of investigation in this section include esophageal physiologic testing, eosinophilic esophagitis, H. pylori infection and its chronic implications, GERD and extraesophageal GERD, Barrett’s esophagus, esophageal and gastric dysmotility, and GI bleeding.

Research Fora
The EGD section will feature nine research fora, which will have oral abstract presentations and invited speakers centered on general themes. These include the following:

Saturday, June 2, 2018: “Advances in the Diagnosis and Management of Barrett’s Esophagus”, “H. pylori Epidemiology, Diagnosis and Treatment”

Sunday, June 3, 2018: “Advances in Extraesophageal Manifestations of GERD”, “Advances in the Diagnosis of GERD”, “Advances in the Management of Eosinophilic
Esophagitis’, "Advances in the Therapy of GERD”, “New Concepts in the Pathogenesis of Barrett’s Esophagus”, “Scientific Advances in Eosinophilic Esophagitis”

**Tuesday, June 5, 2018:** “H. pylori Host Response/Mucosal Defense, Injury and Repair”

### Distinguished Abstract Plenary

The EGD section will hold its distinguished abstract plenary, *Esophageal, Gastric & Duodenal Disorders (EGD)* Section Distinguished Abstract Plenary: The Best of Barrett’s, EOE, GERD, H. pylori, on Tuesday, June 5. The session will include the presentation of the 2018 EGD Section Research Mentor Award to Dr. Nicholas J. Shaheen, MD, MPH, AGAF, at the beginning of this session.

### Symposia

EGD will also program five symposia addressing challenging clinical topics and highlighting recent practice guidelines.

**Saturday, June 2, 2018:** "Donald O. Castell, MD, Lecture: Concepts and Controversies in the Management of Esophageal Disorders"

**Sunday, June 3, 2018:** "Kristin and David Peura, MD, Lecture: Celebrating the Successes of *H. pylori* Discovery"

**Monday, June 4, 2018:** "Update on NSAIDs Bleeding”, “Update on the Management of Eosinophilic Esophagitis”

**Tuesday, June 5, 2018:** "Advances in the Management of Barrett’s Esophagus"

### Poster Sessions

EGD is sponsoring 15 poster sessions. The topics include the following: "Barrett’s Esophagus: Diagnosis, Management and Surveillance,” "Eosinophilic Esophagitis: Clinical," "Eosinophilic Esophagitis: Translational or Basic," "Esophageal Motility and Dysmotility," "Functional Dyspepsia, Nausea and Vomiting," "Gastric Neoplasms: Precursor Lesions, Biology, Diagnosis and Therapy," "GERD/Barrett’s: Pathogenesis," "GERD: Complications and Extra-Esophageal Presentations," "GERD: Diagnostic Testing," "GERD: Medical, Surgical and Endoscopic Therapies," "*Helicobacter pylori*: Epidemiology, Diagnosis and Outcomes," "*Helicobacter pylori*: Host Response and Pathogenesis," "*Helicobacter pylori*: Treatment and Antimicrobial Resistance," "Mucosal Defense, Secretion, Injury, Repair and Healing," and "Peptic Ulcer Disease and Non-Variceal UGI Bleeding."

### Research Mentor Award

Established in 2010, the Research Mentor Award recognizes an individual for his or her achievements as an outstanding mentor in a specific area of research.

The award will be presented to Nicholas J. Shaheen, MD, MPH, AGAF during the *Esophageal, Gastric & Duodenal Disorders (EGD)* Section Distinguished Abstract Plenary: The **Best of Barrett’s, EOE, GERD, H. pylori**, Tuesday, June 5, 10-11:30 a.m., 10-10:06 a.m., room 201.

### Other Events

At DDW 2018, EGD is programming the annual Funderburg Symposium, *Recent Advances in the Understanding and Management of Gastric Cancer*, Sunday, June 3, 8-9:30 a.m.

### Gastrointestinal Oncology

**John Lynch, MD, PhD and Andrew Chan, MD, MPH**

**Introduction**

The Gastrointestinal Oncology Section is dedicated to expanding and advancing the science and practice of gastroenterology primarily by providing educational leadership in topics central to the initiation, progression, diagnosis and treatment of gastrointestinal tract cancers by programming high quality and the latest advances in clinical, translational, and basic science research. The foci of our section are divided under two broad, inter-related themes of organ systems and gastrointestinal cancer biology.

**Research Fora**

The Gastrointestinal Oncology Research Fora were developed to include many of the most outstanding abstracts submitted to our section for presentation in Washington, DC. Fora topics reflect the most current research interests of our section members, and bring together thematically related abstracts to foster greater interactions between presenters and the audience.

**Saturday, June 2, 2018:** “Innovating Physiologically Relevant Gastrointestinal-Cancer Models”, “New Frontiers in Gastrointestinal-Cancer Genomics, “Inflammation and Cancer: Deeper Insights From Molecular Pathways and Genetic Landscapes”

**Monday, June 4, 2018:** “Hereditary Colon Cancer and Cancer Predisposition”, “The Gastrointestinal-Cancer Microbiome — Which Came First?”, “The Future of Barrett’s Esophagus Screening, Risk Stratification and Surveillance: Updates From the NCI Barrett’s Esophagus Translational Research Network”, “Gastric Neoplasms: Precursor Lesions, Biology, Diagnosis and Therapy”

**Tuesday, June 5, 2018:** “Colorectal Cancer Screening and Surveillance”

**Distinguished Abstract Plenary/Poster Sessions**

The Gastrointestinal Oncology Distinguished Abstract Plenary is delighted to present six outstanding abstracts. Topics will be of interest to clinicians as well as basic scientists and will explore novel biomarkers, habits associated with colon cancer survival, and mechanisms of carcinogenesis.
Monday, June 4, 2018: “Gastrointestinal Oncology Distinguished Abstract Plenary and Section Business Meeting”

Anyone interested in supporting the section’s mission, invigorating our outreach, or ideas for 2018 DDW Symposia topics should attend.

GIONC is sponsoring 28 poster sessions. The topics include the following:

- Biomarkers for Detection, Treatment and Prognosis of GI Cancers I
- Cancer Stem Cells and Circulating Tumor Cells
- Canceromics: Cancer Genomics, Epigenomics, Metabolomics, Proteomics and Systems Biology
- Esophageal and Junctional Neoplasms: Precursor Lesions, Biology, Diagnosis and Clinical Therapeutics
- Inflammation and GI Cancers
- Microbiome and Cancer
- Pancreatic Cancer: Risk Factors, Biology, Diagnosis and Clinical Therapeutics
- Colon Cancer Screening
- Tumor Cell Biology, Immunology and Microenvironment
- Gastric Neoplasms: Precursor Lesions, Biology, Diagnosis and Therapy I
- GI Cancer Research Models: Organoids, Engineered Cell and Tissue Platforms and Animal Models
- Metabolism, Obesity, Microbiome and Nutrition in GI Cancer Pathogenesis
- Molecular Mechanisms and Pathways in Carcinogenesis and Metastasis: Bench to Bedside I
- Biomarkers for Detection, Treatment and Prognosis of GI Cancers II
- Cancer Prevention and Chemoprevention I
- Carcinoid and Neuroendocrine Neoplasms: Biology, Diagnosis and Clinical Therapeutics
- Epidemiology I
- Esophageal and Junctional Neoplasms: Precursor Lesions, Biology, Diagnosis and Clinical Therapeutics I
- Familial Cancer Syndromes and Cancer Genetics
- Translational and Targeted Therapies for GI Cancers
- Biomarkers for Detection, Treatment and Prognosis of GI Cancers III
- Cancer Prevention and Chemoprevention II
- Epidemiology II
- Esophageal and Junctional Neoplasms: Precursor Lesions, Biology, Diagnosis and Clinical Therapeutics II
- Gastric Neoplasms: Precursor Lesions, Biology, Diagnosis and Therapy II
- Liver and Biliary Carcinoma: Management, Etiology, Diagnosis and Natural History
- Molecular Mechanisms and Pathways in Carcinogenesis and Metastasis: Bench to Bedside II
- Population Health Screening: Colorectal Cancer, Esophageal Cancer, Hepatocellular Carcinoma, Other Screening

Other Events

Sunday, June 3, 2018: Gastroenterology Research Group (GRG) Spring Symposium

We encourage GI Oncology members to attend the GRG Symposium entitled “GRG Spring Symposium: Towards a New Generation of Ecologically Friendly Antibiotics” 2009 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, Ada Yonath, will discuss her work exploring the mechanisms by which many common antibiotics target microbes.

Research Mentor Award

Established in 2010, the Research Mentor Award recognizes an individual for his or her achievements as an outstanding mentor in a specific area of research.

The award will be presented to Randall W. Burt, MD AGAF during Gastrointestinal Oncology Distinguished Abstract Plenary and Section Business Meeting, Monday, June 4, 2018 4-5:30 p.m., 103

Growth, Development & Child Health

Maria Oliva-Hemker, MD and Mark R. Frey, PhD

Introduction

The Growth, Development & Child Health (GDCH) section serves dual roles in both attracting basic scientists focused on the biological pathways that regulate the growth, development and differentiation of the gastrointestinal tract as well as clinicians interested in gastrointestinal diseases affecting the pediatric population.

Research Fora

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

Saturday, June 2, 2018: “Mechanisms of Intestinal Injury and Repair”, “Functional Pediatric Disorders”

Sunday, June 3, 2018: “Developmental Biology of the Gastrointestinal Tract”

Monday, June 4, 2018: “Pediatric IBD”, “Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine”

Tuesday, June 5, 2018: “Potpourri of Pediatric Gastroenterology”, “Pediatric Intestinal Inflammation: Basic Advances”
Symposia
The GDCH section will also showcase 1 clinical symposium of invited leaders in their fields.

Sunday, June 3, 2018: “Management of Pediatric IBD”

Distinguished Abstract Plenary/Poster Sessions
GDCH is sponsoring 10 poster sessions. The topics include the following:

- GI Tract Growth and Development: Basic and Translational Advances
- Food Intolerances, Allergy and Sensitivities
- Genetics and Intestinal Disorders
- Pediatric Functional and Motility Disorders I
- Pediatric IBD: Clinical and Translational Studies I
- Pediatric Liver and Biliary Diseases
- Pediatric Nutrition and Obesity
- Pediatric IBD: Clinical and Translational Studies II
- Pediatric Functional and Motility Disorders II
- Clinical Pediatric Gastroenterology: Other

Research Mentor Award
Established in 2010, the Research Mentor Award recognizes an individual for his or her achievements as an outstanding mentor in a specific area of research.

The award will be presented to Deborah Gumucio, MPH, PhD during Developmental Biology of the Gastrointestinal Tract, Sunday, June 3, 8-9:30 a.m.

Imaging, Endoscopy & Advanced Technology
John M. DeWitt, MD, AGAF and Jacques Van Dam, MD, PhD, AGAF

Introduction
The Imaging, Endoscopy & Advanced Technology (IEAT) section of the AGA Council identifies research submitted to Digestive Disease Week® (DDW) that incorporates novel applications or improvements to existing technology or new techniques that image or treat disorders of the gastrointestinal tract, liver, bile ducts, gallbladder or pancreas. Along with other sections of the council, it designs multidisciplinary symposia and sessions for DDW that are designed to appeal to clinicians and scientists in gastroenterology, surgery and radiology.

Research Fora
The IEAT section will feature four research fora.

Saturday, June 2, 2018: “Advances in Colorectal Polyp Detection”, “Advances in Imaging and Therapy of the Pancreas and Biliary System”

Symposia
IEAT will also program four symposia.

Saturday, June 2, 2018: “Advanced Endoscopy of the Biliary Tract”, “Advances in Imaging of the Pancreatic Disease”

Sunday, June 3, 2018: “Infection Transmission in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy”

Monday, June 4, 2018: “Detection, Diagnosis and Management of Pancreatic Cysts in 2018”

Posters
The IEAT section is sponsoring 11 poster sessions, covering the following topics: “Confocal Endomicroscopy and Other Optical Sectioning Techniques,” “Diagnostic and Therapeutic Applications I,” “Diagnostic and Therapeutic Applications II,” “Enhanced Endoscopic Imaging Including Molecular Imaging; Spectroscopy and Fluorescence Imaging; and Optical Coherence Tomography,” “Imaging and Therapeutic Intervention in Obesity and Metabolic Disease,” “Imaging of the GI Tract,” “Imaging Techniques Including Comparative Studies and Efficacy,” and “Novel/Experimental Endoscopy.”

Research Mentor Award
Established in 2010, the Research Mentor Award recognizes an individual for his or her achievements as an outstanding mentor in a specific area of research.

The award will be presented to Michael B. Wallace, MD, MPH, AGAF, during Advances in Imaging and Therapy of the Pancreas and Biliary System, Saturday, June 2, 4-5:30 p.m., room 144.

Immunology, Microbiology & Inflammatory Bowel Diseases
Mark Silverberg, MD, PhD, FRCPC and Uma Mahadevan, MD

Introduction
The IMIBD section executes the AGA’s strategic plan by providing an international forum to present and evaluate the most exciting and innovative research in the field. By providing a forum for debate, collaboration and an exchange of ideas, the IMIBD section helps define what is state-of-the-art care in IBD and pushes the boundaries of science in search of a cure. Established and emerging leaders collate this information to provide education and training to both the next generation of researchers as well as for providers caring for patients with IBD. This enhanced knowledge leads to improved practice and
quality, ultimately showing the value of section through the work of its diverse members.

**Research Fora**

**Saturday, June 2, 2018:** “IBD Epidemiology and Natural History”, “IBD: Adverse Events Related to Therapy”, “Uncontrolled Therapeutic Observations and Disease Complications in IBD”

**Sunday, June 3, 2018:** “Safety Signals in the Biologic Era”, “IBD: Clinical Dilemmas: From Ivory Tower to Daily Practice”, “Old School Therapies: Aminosalicylates to Acupuncture”, “IBD: Cytokines, Signaling and Receptors”

**Monday, June 4, 2018:** “The Role of Endoscopy in IBD: 2018”, “IBD: Genomics and Gene Function”

**Tuesday, June 5, 2018:** “Epithelial Cell Function in Inflammation”, “Controlled Clinical Trials in Humans: Part I”, “Controlled Clinical Trials in Humans: Part II”, “IBD Diagnostics and Disease Activity Assessment”, “Animal Models to Develop Therapies for IBD”, “IBD: Innate and Adaptive Lymphoid Activation and Regulation”

**Distinguished Abstract Plenary/Poster Sessions**

**Monday, June 4, 2018:** “Immunology, Microbiology & Inflammatory Bowel Diseases Distinguished Abstract Plenary and Section Business Meeting”

IMIBD is sponsoring 22 poster sessions. The 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 (Non-Biologic)
- Pediatric IBD: Clinical and Translational Studies
- Animal Models: Pre-Clinical Treatment of Intestinal Inflammation
- Epithelial Cell Function in Inflammation
- IBD: Cytokines, Signaling and Receptors
- IBD: Genomics and Gene Function
- IBD: Innate and Adaptive Lymphoid Activation and Regulation
- IBD: Microbiome
- Intestinal Inflammation, Fibrosis and Regeneration
- Microbial-Based Therapy
- Mucosal Innate Immune Function and Innate Host Defense

**Symposia**

**Saturday, June 2, 2018:** “Can We Predict Who Will Get IBD? Can We Prevent It? Answers From Human Studies”

**Sunday, June 3, 2018:** “Kiron and Kamala Das Symposium — Therapeutic Drug Monitoring: Do We Have a Consensus?”

**Monday, June 4, 2018:** “Farron and Martin Brotman, MD, Lecture — Monitoring for Dysplasia in IBD: Who, What, When and How”, “It’s Still a Free Country: Choice in IBD Management”, “Visceral Fat and Obesity in Inflammatory Bowel Disease”

**Research Mentor Award**

Established in 2010, the Research Mentor Award recognizes an individual for his or her achievements as an outstanding mentor in a specific area of research.

The award will be presented to Claudia Fiocchi, MD during Immunology, Microbiology & Inflammatory Bowel Diseases Distinguished Abstract Plenary, Monday, June 4, 4-5:30 p.m., 4:00 PM, Ballroom A.

**Liver & Biliary**

**Kenneth E. Sherman, MD, PhD and Vijay Shah, MD**

**Introduction**

The Liver & Biliary (LB) section is dedicated to advancing the science and clinical practice of gastroenterology by providing leadership in topics central to the epidemiology, diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic hepatobiliary diseases. The section is focused on providing state-of-the-art programming in all aspects of clinical, translational and basic science research as it relates to liver disease and transplantation. It is the second largest section in the AGA Council, and collaborates with multiple AGA sections and the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) in offering abstract-driven sessions at Digestive Disease Week® (DDW).

**Research Fora**

The LB section will feature 5 fora, the majority of which will showcase both abstract and invited presentations.

**Saturday, June 2, 2018:** “NAFLD and NASH”

**Sunday, June 3, 2018:** “Complications of Cirrhosis and Portal Hypertension”

**Monday, June 4, 2018:** “Alcoholic Liver Disease”

**Tuesday, June 5, 2018:** “Clinical Biliary Tract Diseases”, “Liver Disease in Pregnancy”

**Distinguished Abstract Plenary/Poster Sessions**

LB is sponsoring 11 poster sessions. The topics include the following:

- Clinical Biliary Tract Disorders, Stone Diseases and Stone Pathogenesis
- Complications of Cirrhosis and Portal Hypertension
- Hepatic Fibrosis, Diagnosis and Treatment
- Metabolic and Genetic Liver Disease
- Molecular Mechanisms of Growth and Development of the GI Tract, Liver and Pancreas
Symposia
Saturday, June 2, 2018: “A Day of Hepatobiliary Consults”
Monday, June 4, 2018: “AGA Emmet B. Keeffe Symposium — Hepatitis D: Forgotten but Not Lost”

State of the Art
Sunday, June 3, 2018: The Dr. Charles S. Lieber Lecture — Mechanisms of Autoimmune Associated Liver Injury: How Are PBC, PSC and Autoimmune Hepatitis Alike and Different?

Research Mentor Award
Established in 2010, the Research Mentor Award recognizes an individual for his or her achievements as an outstanding mentor in a specific area of research.
The award will be presented to Scott L. Friedman during AGA Emmet B. Keeffe Symposium — Hepatitis D: Forgotten but Not Lost, Monday, June 4, 2018, 10 – 11:30 AM, 145B.

Microbiome and Microbial Diseases in the Gastrointestinal Tract
Eugene B. Chang, MD, AGAF and Tor Christopher Savidge, PhD

Introduction
DDW® 2018 is the inaugural event for members interested in this new section of the council. The goal of the Microbiome and Microbial Diseases in the Gastrointestinal Tract (MMDGT) section is to promote ideas, research, technology, education and dialogue that advance the understanding of the gastrointestinal microbiome in health and disease.

Research Fora
The MMDGT is offering 4 research sessions that feature outstanding speakers who will present findings that highlight emerging areas of discovery that advance our understanding of the role of the gut microbiome in health and disease. MMDGT is also happy to co-sponsor many sessions this year as the microbiome is a cross cutting field of interest that goes beyond this section. Please be sure to use the mobile planner and app once its available to see all the MMDGT related sessions.
Saturday, June 2, 2018: “Clostridium difficile Colitis: Pathogenesis, Diagnosis, Management and Therapy”, “Microbiome and Microbial Diseases in the Gastrointestinal Tract (MMDGT) Section Distinguished Abstract Plenary”, “Microbiome and Cancer”
Monday, June 4, 2018: “Role of the Gut Microbiome in Immune and Inflammatory Diseases”, “Diet and Microbiome”
Tuesday, June 5, 2018: “The Microbiome-Gut-Brain Axis in Health and Disease”, “Biotics in Health and Disease”

Poster Sessions
MMDGT is sponsoring 4 poster sessions which have been organized into the following topics:
- Highlights of Microbiome Research
- Basic and Translational: Microbiome and Microbial Diseases of the GI Tract
- Highlights of Microbiome Research II
- Clinical and Translational: Microbiome and Microbial Diseases in the Gastrointestinal Tract

Symposia
The MMDGT symposia will feature outstanding speakers, selected abstract-driven talks, and topics in formats that provides attendees with what’s current and hot, but also a look into the future of the microbiome field. A mix of basic science, translational, and clinical topics will be presented.
Saturday, June 2, 2018: “Clinical Research Design for Microbial-Based Interventions”, “Gut Feelings: Microbiome-Gut-Brain Interactions in Neurodevelopmental Disease”, “Obesity and the Microbiome”
Sunday, June 3, 2018: “The Human Gut Microbiome: A Commitment to Moving Beyond Descriptions of Parts to Dissections of Function”, “The Human Gut Microbiome: Developing Tools and Strategies for Manipulating Its Properties”, “MMDGT Town Hall Meeting: Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Microbial Universe With Jeff Gordon and Fellow Explorers”, “The Charles M. Mansbach, II, MD, Memorial Lecture: Microbiome and Host Metabolism”
Monday, June 4, 2018: Defining the Healthy Gut Microbiome
Tuesday, June 5, 2018: “Environmental Impact on the Human Gut Microbiome”

Research Mentor Award
Established in 2010, the Research Mentor Award recognizes an individual for his or her achievements as an outstanding mentor in a specific area of research.
The award will be presented to Jeffery I. Gordon, MD during The Human Gut Microbiome: A Commitment to Moving Beyond Descriptions of Parts to Dissections of Function, Sunday, June 2, from 8:00 – 9:30 AM, 144
Neurogastroenterology & Motility Section
John W. Wiley, MD and Lin Chang, MD, AGAF

Introduction

The Neurogastroenterology & Motility Section (NGM) section of the AGA Council is dedicated to serving the field of Neurogastroenterology and Gastrointestinal Motility by promoting excellence in research, innovation, education and training. Some of the sections’ main goals are:

1. To attract the best science and cutting-edge research in neurogastroenterology and GI motility for presentation at Digestive Disease Week® (DDW).
2. To educate and train gastroenterologists, research scientists, surgeons, physiologists, trainees, nurses and technicians on the latest developments in the field.
3. To foster interdisciplinary basic science, translational and clinical research.
4. To lead and critically examine the development of novel tools for studying neurogastroenterology and motility disorders, and gut and brain interactions, both at the bench side and for patient care.

Research Fora

The NGM section will feature 11 research fora in which cutting-edge science will be discussed. These include joint sessions co-sponsored by other sections.

Saturday, June 2, 2018: “Enteric Neurobiology: Cell and Molecular Biology”, “Esophageal Motility and Dysmotility”, “Functional Dyspepsia, Nausea and Vomiting”, “Gastroparesis and Small Intestine Dysmotility”

Sunday, June 3, 2018: “Constipation and Other Functional Colonice Syndromes”, “Irritable Bowel Syndrome: Clinical”

Monday, June 4, 2018: “Brain-Gut Axis (Including Neuroimaging, Vagal Pathways and Neurobiology of Satiety, Obesity and Metabolic Disorders)”, “Sensory Neurobiology Including Visceral Nociception/Pain and Neuroimmunology (Neurogenic Inflammation and Interactions With the Microbiome)”

Tuesday, June 5, 2018: “Anorectal Dysmotility”, “Irritable Bowel Syndrome: Pathophysiology”, “Novel Mechanisms and Treatment in Irritable Bowel Syndrome”

Distinguished Abstract Plenary

The NGM section will hold its distinguished abstract plenary on Monday, June 4. Do not miss the best and most outstanding research in the field that will be presented at this plenary. Attendees will be able to listen and deliberate the most significant advance from bench to translational to clinical neurogastroenterology and motility. In addition, they will see the presentation of the 2018 Research Mentor Award to Richard W. Mccallum, MD, AGAF, at the end of this session.

Symposia

NGM will also program five symposia.

Saturday, June 2, 2018: “Central Neurmodulators for Chronic Gastrointestinal Pain and Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders (Disorders of Gut-Brain Interaction: A Rome Foundation Working Team Report)”, “Josephine and Michael Camilleri, MD, Lecture: Pharmacogenomics and Drug Treatment of Functional Motility and Sensation Disorders”

Sunday, June 3, 2018: “Gut Microbiome, Sensory Mechanisms and Barrier Function”

Monday, June 4, 2018: “Motility Matters 2018: An Interactive Case-Based and Panel Discussion on Current Understanding and Management of Gastrointestinal Motility Disorders”

An interactive debate forum with three sets of panelists and moderators, each discussing advances in treatment of esophageal, gastric and colorectal disorders and actively engaging the audience.

Tuesday, June 5, 2018: “The Value of Impedance Measurements in Clinical Esophagology”

Poster Sessions

The NGM section is sponsoring 11 poster sessions, covering a wide range of cutting-edge topics: "Anorectal Dysmotility (Including Fecal Incontinence, Dyssynergia and Pelvic Floor Disorders)," "Brain-Gut Axis (Including Neuroimaging, Vagal Pathways and Neurobiology of Satiety, Obesity and Metabolic Disorders)," "Constipation and Other Functional Colonice Syndromes," "Development of the Enteric Nervous System," "Diarrheal Diseases, Bacterial Overgrowth, Drug Induced and Other Enteropathies," "Enteric Neurobiology: Cell and Molecular Biology (Including Neurons, Glia, ICC, Smooth Muscle and Stem Cells)," "Enteric Neuromuscular Biology: Pharmacology," "Epithelial Junctions and Barrier Function," "Esophageal Motility and Dysmotility," "Functional Dyspepsia, Nausea and Vomiting," "Gastroparesis and Small Intestinal Dysmotility," "Irritable Bowel Syndrome: Clinical," "Irritable Bowel Syndrome: Pathophysiology," "Oropharyngeal Dysmotility," "Pediatric Functional and Motility Disorders," "Sensory Neurobiology Including Visceral Nociception/Pain and Neuroimmunology (Neurogenic Inflammation and Interactions With the Microbiome)," and "The Microbiome-Gut-Brain Axis in Health and Disease."

Research Mentor Award

Established in 2010, the Research Mentor Award recognizes an individual for his or her achievements as an outstanding mentor in a specific area of research.

The award will be presented to Richard W. Mccallum, MD, AGAF during the Neurogastroenterology & Motility (NGM) Section Distinguished Abstract Plenary and Section Business Meeting, Monday, June 4, 4-5:30 p.m., room 201.
Obesity, Metabolism & Nutrition
Dennis D. Black, MD, AGAF and Sandeep K. Gupta, MD, AGAF

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. Our programming includes fora and symposia highlighting related topics, including bariatric surgery, 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, have also continued to be the focus of OMN programming. The OMN section has also endeavored to strike a balance between basic research to shed light on disease mechanisms, including pre-clinical studies to develop new therapies, and clinical and translational research to better describe disease phenotypes and test new therapeutic approaches.

Research Fora
For DDW 2018, the OMN section is sponsoring three Research Fora, each with a focused theme and encompassing basic and translational research. These include:

Sunday, June 3, 2018: “Endoscopic and Surgical Therapies of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders”
Monday, June 4, 2018: “Intestinal Failure and Nutritional Support”
Monday, May 8, 2017: “Nutrient Absorption and Regulation of Intake”

Poster Sessions
OMN is sponsoring 10 poster sessions. The topics include the following:

“Obesity: Basic and Mechanistic Studies”, “Obesity: Clinical and Epidemiological Studies”, “Endoscopic and Surgical Therapies of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders”, “Microbial Regulation of Host Metabolic and Energy Homeostasis”, Nutritional Support: Enteral and Parenteral”, “Intestinal Failure/Short Gut: Basic and Clinical. Diet and the Gut Microbiome “Food Intolerance, Allergy and Sensitivities” Role of the Gut Microbiome in Immune and Inflammatory Diseases”, “Nutrient Absorption and Intestinal Epithelial Function”, “Obesity: Pre-Clinical and Clinical”, “Regulation of Food Intake, Energy Expenditure and Metabolic Function”, “Vitamins and Micronutrients: Basic and Clinical”, “Imaging and Therapeutic Intervention in Obesity and Metabolic Disease”.

Symposia
Saturday, June 2, 2018: “Apples and Pears: Understanding the Origins of Obesity Phenotypes”, “Dietary Management of Pediatric Gastrointestinal Diseases”
Sunday, June 3, 2018: “Short Bowel Syndrome: Is a “Little” Bowel Still a “Big” Deal? — An Update”
Monday, June 4, 2018: “Anemia and Gastrointestinal Disorders”
Tuesday, June 5, 2018: “Hot Topics in Parenteral Nutrition”

Research Mentor Award
Established in 2010, the Research Mentor Award recognizes an individual for his or her achievements as an outstanding mentor in a specific area of research.

The award will be presented to Lee Kaplan, MD, PhD during Endoscopic and Surgical Therapies of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders, Sunday, June 4, 2018 at 10:00 am, Ballroom B.

Pancreatic Disorders
Santhi Swaroop Vege, MD, AGAF, FACP, FACP and Stephen J. Pandol, MD

Introduction
The Pancreatic Disorders (PAN) Section is dedicated to presenting the most up-to-date clinical and basic science information to as many dedicated members as possible. It provides an all-inclusive group of experts as speakers, who are whetted out by large number of stakeholders and peer reviewed on the best platform in the world.

Research Fora
Saturday, June 2, 2018: “Pancreatic Cystic Neoplasms, IPMN and Neuroendocrine Tumors”
Sunday, June 3, 2018: “Pancreatic Disorders (PAN) Section Distinguished Abstract Plenary”, “Basic Themes in Pancreatic Disorders”, “Pancreatic Cancer: Risk Factors, Biology, Diagnosis and Clinical Therapeutics”, “Clinical Acute Pancreatitis”
Tuesday, June 5, 2018: “Clinical Chronic Pancreatitis”

Distinguished Abstract Plenary/Poster Sessions
PAN is sponsoring 11 poster sessions. The topics include the following:

- Clinical Acute Pancreatitis
- Pancreatic Cancer: Risk Factors, Biology, Diagnosis and Clinical Therapeutics
- Pancreatic Cystic Neoplasms, IPMN and Neuroendocrine Tumors
- Clinical Acute Pancreatitis II
- Clinical Chronic Pancreatitis
- Pancreatic Disorders: Endoscopy and Imaging
- Pancreatic Cancer: Risk Factors, Biology, Diagnosis and Clinical Therapeutics II
- Pancreatic Disorders: Endoscopy and Imaging II
- Pancreatic Genetics, Epigenetics, Physiology, Cell Biology and Pathobiology
- Pancreatitis: Inflammation, Fibrogenesis and Immunology
- The Microbiome in Pancreatitis, Pancreatic Malabsorption and Pancreatic Tumorigenesis

**Symposia**

**Saturday, June 2, 2018:** “Pancreatic Acinar Cell Organelles: What Happens When They Fail?”, “Chronic Pancreatitis Controversies”

**Sunday, June 3, 2018:** “Pancreatic Cancer: Novel Diagnostics and Precision Medicine”

**Monday, June 4, 2018:** “IG G4 Disease: Is This a New Entity?”, “Walled-Off Necrosis in Acute Pancreatitis: Uncertainties and Need for Future Research”

**Research Mentor Award**

Established in 2010, the Research Mentor Award recognizes an individual for his or her achievements as an outstanding mentor in a specific area of research.

The award will be presented to Suresh T. Chari, MD during IG G4 Disease: Is This a New Entity?, Monday, June 4, 10-11:30 AM, 151A.