



Patrons Circle

A PUBLICATION FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE UCLA DIVISION OF DIGESTIVE DISEASES

Support from Eli and Edythe Broad Enables Division to Become a Leader in IBD Research, Patient Care

After experiencing unparalleled success as an entrepreneur, Eli Broad, along with his wife, Edythe, have spent the last 15 years as full-time philanthropists. During that time they have touched countless lives in Los Angeles – their home for more than 50 years – and beyond through their support of the arts, education reform, and scientific and medical research to improve human health. That support has included transformative gifts to the UCLA Division of Digestive Diseases that have made UCLA a national leader in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) research and patient care.

Eli Broad is the only person to found Fortune 500 companies in two different industries. With Donald Kaufman, he started Kaufman and Broad Home Corporation (now KB Home) in 1957, which became the first homebuilder traded on the New York Stock Exchange. In 1971, Mr. Broad acquired Sun Life Insurance Company of America and built it into a major retirement-savings services company, SunAmerica,



Eli and Edythe Broad

Inc. With the merger of SunAmerica with AIG in 1999, Mr. Broad stepped down as CEO to turn his attention to full-time philanthropy.

The Broads have adopted the approach of “venture philanthropy,” applying Mr. Broad’s entrepreneurial spirit to their charitable giving. The Broad Foundations, which include The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation and The Broad Art Foundation, aim to advance entrepreneurship for the public good in education, science and the arts. The investments in scientific and medical research have focused in human genomics,

stem cell research, and IBD. An estimated 40 percent of private IBD research funding in the United States comes from The Broad Foundation.

Mr. Broad says he and his wife became interested in supporting IBD research and patient care more

**UCLA Division of
Digestive Diseases**

**SPRING
2015**

[Continued on page 7](#) ▶



Gary Gitnick, M.D., F.A.C.G.
Fran and Ray Stark
Foundation Chair
Professor of Medicine



Eric Esrailian, M.D., M.P.H.
Lincy Foundation Chair in
Clinical Gastroenterology
Associate Clinical Professor
of Medicine

From the Division Chiefs

In this edition of the Patron Circle newsletter, we are looking forward to sharing with you a snapshot of the outstanding faculty and programs for which the UCLA Division of Digestive Diseases is recognized. The benchmarks on which a high caliber Division is measured are its achievements on the leading edge of research, its exceptional care for all patients it serves and a training enterprise that prepares tomorrow's medical trailblazers. These core areas remain paramount to our mission.

As we look ahead, we join the campus in celebrating the launch of the Centennial Campaign for UCLA. We are an integral part of this historic and transformative endeavor, and we are grateful for your participation as we aim for this milestone. We feel extremely fortunate that we have a community of friends with a philanthropic spirit and an optimism to make this world better. The help of forward-thinking and generous visionaries like Eli and Edythe Broad propel us into a future in medicine we can only imagine.

You will see in the pages that follow, that we are adding exceptional medical talent to our ranks as the Division's clinical footprint grows to regions in the Northwest Valley and to the South. In addition, we are imbuing the next generation of scientists with the thrill of discovery through our innovative youth-centered STEM program. Through investigation led by such centers of excellence as our Oppenheimer Family Center for Neurobiology of Stress, you will learn that we remain at the forefront of science's most challenging questions, such as understanding the contributing factors in chronic pain and how brain-gut interactions effect disease and treatment.

With all of these programs, and more, we continue to strive for the best in comprehensive research, personalized care and education. We could not be more excited about this year and the years to come. We hope that you will enjoy the stories in our spring newsletter. Thank you for all you do for the UCLA Division of Digestive Diseases.

**LET
THERE
BE**

**THE CENTENNIAL
CAMPAIGN FOR
UCLA**

UCLA Heading International Effort to Understand Brain Mechanisms Underlying Chronic Pain

The factors underlying chronic pain syndromes such as migraine, chronic gastrointestinal pain (including irritable bowel syndrome), chronic pelvic pain, fibromyalgia and low back pain continue to be poorly understood, and most patients with chronic pain are unable to find satisfactory treatments. Although numerous drugs have appeared promising in animal studies, they have invariably failed to translate into effective new human therapies. Dr. Emeran Mayer, a professor in the Division and executive director of the Gail and Gerald Oppenheimer Family Center for Neurobiology of Stress at UCLA, says there is now a growing consensus that the failure of traditional research approaches has to do with the fact that in cases of chronic pain, the human brain plays a prominent role in symptom severity and persistence.

"We are now recognizing that chronic pain is a brain disease, and if we want to treat it more effectively, we need to better understand and treat the mechanisms in the human brain that are driving it," says Dr. Mayer, who has dedicated his career to studying chronic visceral pain mechanisms.

In a first-of-its-kind undertaking to learn more about those mechanisms, UCLA is serving as the main hub for the new Pain and Interoception Imaging Network (PAIN), a

standardized database for brain imaging associated with chronic pain. Funded by the National Institutes of Health, PAIN links multiple institutions – so far, 14 in North America and Europe are participating – in an effort to collect thousands of brain scans and other clinical information that will help researchers analyze various chronic pain conditions.

Brain imaging represents an exciting new frontier for gaining a better grasp of the processes driving chronic pain – an understanding that could ultimately lead to breakthroughs in treatment. But such studies conducted by individual institutions typically involve small sample sizes, Dr. Mayer says. "There is too much heterogeneity to make sense of the results in such small samples," he explains. "Because each institution has applied different methods using different imaging equipment, it has been difficult to combine the results of individual studies in a meaningful way."

In addition to yielding sample sizes for brain imaging studies that will be unprecedented in pain research, PAIN will encourage standardized collection processes so that there will be large numbers of scans obtained using the same parameters.

The goal is to collect up to 2,000 scans within three years. In addition to the brain scans, investigators will have access to clinical and biological information on patients, enabling them to tease out important features of chronic-pain conditions and thereby accelerating research and treatment development.

"This is a fundamentally different approach to chronic pain research," Dr. Mayer says. "Instead of coming up with a hypothesis and then looking for data to support it, this allows us to use sophisticated mathematical algorithms to extract information from a large data set on how brain circuits are structurally altered or functioning differently in chronic pain. It's data-driven – we find the patterns and then we can make informed hypotheses about the mechanisms underlying these patterns. We think this approach can lead to major breakthroughs in understanding chronic pain and, ultimately, to the development of the effective new treatments that are so desperately needed."



Emeran Mayer, M.D.

Director, UCLA Gail and Gerald Oppenheimer Family Center for Neurobiology of Stress

Co-Director, CURE: Digestive Diseases Research Center

CURE: Digestive Diseases Research Center

Celebrates 40 Years of Leadership

From its establishment 40 years ago, the Center for Ulcer Research and Education: Digestive Diseases Research Center (CURE: DDRC) has been a world leader in many areas of digestive diseases-related research, supporting the work of young and established investigators alike at both UCLA and the Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System-West Los Angeles (VAGLAHS-WLA). In those 40 years, the focus of CURE has changed dramatically – in part because the center was instrumental in solving the

clinical problem CURE was originally established to tackle.

“CURE has undergone a great evolution from its initial focus on ulcer to become a much more diversified and all-encompassing center,” says CURE: DDRC director Dr. Enrique Rozengurt, Distinguished Professor and Ronald Hirshberg Chair in Pancreatic Cancer Research. “This is a multifaceted center that, in spite of the time that has passed, continues to be at the forefront of many advances in the digestive diseases field.”

Founded as the Center for Ulcer

Research and Education, CURE began at the VA/UCLA in 1974 under the leadership of Dr. Morton Grossman, considered the father of modern gastrointestinal endocrine physiology. CURE was funded to find the causes and best methods for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of peptic ulcer – then a major public health problem – as well as related mucosal diseases. In the center’s first decade-plus, these goals were largely achieved, thanks to discoveries of CURE investigators on the processes regulating gastric acid secretion, which proved instrumental

Events | DIVISION OF DIGESTIVE DISEASES



Patrons Circle
RECEPTION
L to R: Ruth and
Alan Berliner



L to R: William
Fitzgerald and
Sandra Krause



L to R: Eli and Edythe Broad

The UCLA Division of Digestive Diseases was pleased to host events over the last several months that highlighted its faculty’s groundbreaking research. Guests enjoyed a reception at the Beverly Hills Hotel with a lecture by Dr. Dimitrios Iliopoulos titled “Big Data: A Hollywood Story with a Healthy Ending” that shed light on advances being made in expediting drug discoveries. In an intimate gathering at the home of Despina and Jay Landers; Dr. Lin Chang and registered dietician, Nancee Jaffe, engaged guests on the popular topic of nutrition and overall health with their presentation titled, “Taking Control: Understanding How Diet, Stress and Gender Affect Your Mind-Body Wellness.” A reception and panel discussion, featuring Dr. Daniel Hommes, Dr. Raman Muthusamy and Dr. Simon

to the development of anti-secretory drugs that have provided effective treatment for peptic ulcer disease.

CURE received funding in 1989 to become an NIH/NIDDK research core center and began to delve more deeply into understanding the molecular and cellular mechanisms of other conditions of the digestive system, from inflammatory diseases and cancer to brain-gut interactions and functional disorders. Among the most renowned was work that initially started at CURE in the early 1980s around understanding neural pathways and the brain-gut axis. Drs. Yvette Taché and Emeran Mayer contributed to a new understanding – Dr. Taché through laboratory findings and Dr. Mayer from the clinical standpoint – of how brain activity changes in response to visceral pain in patients with irritable bowel syndrome. Dr. Rozengurt, recruited to UCLA in 1997, pioneered the understanding of the activities of gastrointestinal peptides, with important clinical implications for

new treatments for gastrointestinal cancers. More recently, CURE has emerged as a leader in unraveling the causes of inflammatory bowel disease under the leadership of Dr. Charalabos Pothoulakis, and in the identification of potential new treatment strategies for pancreatic cancer, under the leadership of Dr. Rozengurt.

The creation of the CURE: DDRC established an infrastructure that helped to accelerate the research, recruitment, training and continued development of young investigators, as well as providing a forum for faculty to work across disciplinary boundaries. One of the key ways in which CURE supports digestive diseases programs at UCLA is

through its Biomedical Research Cores, which give members easy access to essential technologies and clinical materials, as well as specialized expertise needed to carry out experiments.

For Dr. Catia Sternini, professor in the Division and a member of the center's leadership, CURE:DDRC's long-standing success lies in its ability to adapt to the changing needs of the field. "Behind the continued success and tremendous achievements of CURE throughout the years is the willingness of CURE investigators to reinvent themselves," she says. "By expanding interests and using cutting-edge technologies, CURE has remained at the forefront."

Enrique Rozengurt, D.V.M., Ph.D
Director, CURE Digestive Diseases Research Center
Distinguished Professor



Beaven at the Hotel Palomar engaged friends of the Division in a discussion titled "A Fantastic Voyage: Technology and Medicine in 2014" that centered on today's state-of-the-art medical technologies and what the future may hold. In addition, Mrs. Bren Simon hosted the Division's Ambassadors at her home to celebrate the launch of the Centennial Campaign for UCLA. The dinner featured remarks by Tony Pritzker, Co-Chair of the campaign and an al fresco viewing of the moving UCLA video "Let There Be."



Digestive Diseases RECEPTION

L to R: Cherna Gitnick, Dr. Gary Gitnick, William and Reva Tooley and Jacquie Rosenberg



L to R: Dr. Eric Esrailian, Nancee Jaffe, Despina and Jay Landers, Dr. Lin Chang and Dr. Gary Gitnick



Events Continued on page 8 ►



STEM program students

STEM Program Offers Invaluable Experiences to Students from Under-Resourced High Schools

A pilot education program initiated by the UCLA Division of Digestive Diseases is having a profound impact on teens from under-resourced Los Angeles schools by providing them with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education and, equally important, mentorship at UCLA's world-renowned campus facilities. The program, a collaboration with the Los Angeles Unified School District and United Teachers Los Angeles, identifies student participants through the Fulfillment Fund, the non-profit college access organization founded by Dr. Gary Gitnick, chief of the Division.

"As a nation, we need more young people going into the sciences, and we know that the earlier you start getting students excited about these fields, the better," says Dr. Gitnick. "The Fulfillment Fund has 37 years of experience in delivering programs to young people that have been highly effective, starting in the seventh grade."

"By bringing Fulfillment Fund students to UCLA, we are exposing them to healthcare-related careers

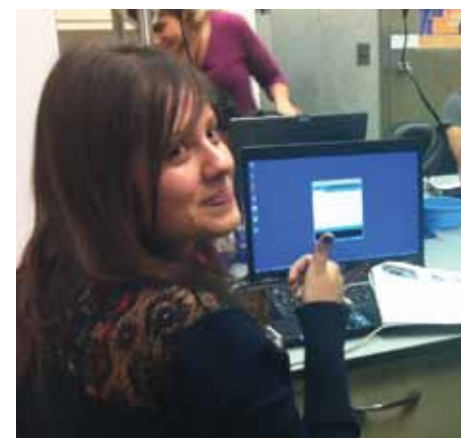
that they may have never considered prior to signing up for our program," explains Christina Vorvis, a Ph.D. student in the Division who helped to facilitate the program. "It is vital to educate students on the opportunities of STEM-related fields at a much younger age and encourage them to give back to their communities through education and professional training."

The STEM pilot program started three years ago with 20 Fulfillment Fund students spending a summer gaining experience in the Division's research laboratories. The program's science component, led by Vorvis, focuses on biomedical research and potential science careers. An engineering component, led by Dr. Shyam Natarajan, integrates an engineering/technology-based curriculum with hands-on activities.

Students are invited to continue through the program for up to five years, with the opportunity to gain patient-related experience when they are high school juniors and seniors. Students who complete the program go through a white-coat graduation ceremony and receive a special certificate.

"There is a huge demand for this type of experience among the low-income schools with which we have partnered," says Maria Espinosa Booth, Chief Operating Officer for the Fulfillment Fund. "Students jumped at the opportunity to get this experience in a university setting. We are hoping this program will continue to grow."

"Little things can be life-changing for kids from impoverished backgrounds," adds Dr. Gitnick. "Just coming to a major college campus on a regular basis can be eye-opening and highly motivating."



Indra Hernandez Fulfillment Fund student who is now a UCLA freshman majoring in biology.

Dr. Yvette Taché Receives Prestigious Middleton Award from Veterans Affairs

For more than three decades, Dr. Yvette Taché has been a leader in unraveling the complex brain-gut interactions that occur when stress leads to gastrointestinal disorders, paving the way for new treatments.

Now, Dr. Taché's pioneering work has been recognized with the highest honor for scientific achievement given to a researcher or clinician by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dr. Taché, a professor in the Division since 1982, was named winner of the 2014 William S. Middleton Award, making her the first female recipient since 1960. The award honors senior Veterans Health Administration investigators who have achieved international acclaim for accomplishments in areas of prime importance to the VA's research mission.

"As basic scientists, we are always thinking about how our discoveries might be translated into a better understanding of a disease and improved treatments," says Dr. Taché, associate director of the CURE: Digestive Diseases Research Center at UCLA and co-director of the Center for Neurobiology of Stress & Women's Health. "To have the VA recognize that this experimental work will have implications on the medical needs of the veteran population is very gratifying."

Brain-gut interaction was a new field when Dr. Taché arrived at UCLA more than three decades ago. "In recent years it has emerged as an important aspect of gastroenterology research," Dr. Taché notes. "I am hopeful that the recognition through this award will encourage young researchers to continue to build on our findings."



Yvette Taché Ph.D.

*Co-director, Gail and Gerald Oppenheimer Family Center for Neurobiology of Stress
Director Animal Core, Center of Digestive Diseases Research*

Eli and Edith Broad, continued from page 1

than 15 years ago, inspired by the diagnosis that one of their sons had Crohn's disease. "After doing a lot of research at the UCLA medical school library, it was very clear to me that no one knew the cause or cure," he says, "and I saw that UCLA could become the national leader in this area."

Mr. and Mrs. Broad helped to make that a reality through multiple gifts from their foundation. They established the Eli and Edythe Broad Chair in the Department of Medicine, which led to the successful recruitment of Charalabos (Harry)

Pothoulakis, MD, a leading IBD researcher at Harvard University, as director of basic research for the UCLA Center for Inflammatory Bowel Diseases. Since joining the Division in 2007, Dr. Pothoulakis has built a large program with more than 30 top scientists focusing on IBD. In addition, the Broads contributed funds to establish a clinical IBD program within the center, headed by a renowned IBD clinician, Dr. Daniel Hommes; and a new Center for Systems Biomedicine, led by Dr. Dimitrios Iliopoulos, which focuses on expediting drug

discoveries. More recently, Mr. and Mrs. Broad contributed \$2 million toward innovative new IBD research projects within the Division. "We have become research and clinical leaders in IBD, and that would not have been possible without the support from the Broads," says Dr. Pothoulakis.

"Los Angeles and the country have been very good to us, and we want to give back," says Mr. Broad. "This is a difficult disease, but UCLA has come a long way and I applaud the people we've supported for the great progress they are making."

UCLA | DIVISION OF DIGESTIVE DISEASES Events



PANEL DISCUSSION
A Fantastic Voyage:
Technology and Medicine
in 2014



L to R: Dr. Daniel Hommes, Dr. Raman Muthusamy and Dr. Simon Beaven



L to R: Claude Arnall and Sari and Michael Arnall



L to R: Keets and Hugh Cassar



L to R: Dr. Gary Gitnick and Dr. Manfred Mosk



AMBASSADORS DINNER

L to R: Mrs. Bren Simon and Dr. Eric Esrailian



Tony Pritzker



L to R: Ghada Irani and Dr. Ray Irani



L to R: Tamar and Vatche Manoukian

New Minimally Invasive Surgical Weight-Loss Options



Rabindra R. Watson, M.D.
*Director of Faculty Career
Development in Advanced
Endoscopy*

Each year in the United States, more than 200,000 people undergo bariatric surgery for weight loss. The most common of these operations is the gastric bypass, which creates a small upper pouch that is reconnected to the small intestine as a physiological strategy for reducing food intake. Unfortunately, while the procedure is often initially successful, many patients begin to regain their weight after a period of time, and as many as one in five will eventually return to their pre-surgical state.

Rabindra R. Watson, M.D., a member of the Division's interventional endoscopy team, has conducted research showing that one of the key factors involved in the weight gain is the gradual stretching of the surgically created gastric pouch, which allows for increased consumption. With that discovery, Dr. Watson and colleagues developed an endoscopic technique to improve on the results of the weight-loss surgery by re-sewing the pouch to counter the stretching. The minimally invasive procedure, called endoscopic transoral outlet reduction (TORe), is typically done on an outpatient basis and offered at only a handful of centers around the country.

"There haven't been good options in the past for patients who have gained weight after their bariatric surgery," Dr. Watson says. "For one, redoing an operation carries risks that many surgeons and patients don't feel comfortable taking. And there has been a stigma – many patients get a message like, 'You had your chance and you blew it.' Many come to us feeling abandoned and despondent."

The new procedure helps to empower patients, Dr. Watson says. "When they come in they know something is off, and they feel validated to learn that their anatomy has in fact changed," he explains. "I tell them this isn't going to necessarily help them lose all the weight they gained, but they can use the increased restriction as a tool to regain control over their eating habits as they seek to improve their lifestyle. Patients have been very excited by this."

In the meantime, Dr. Watson's group has been participating in efforts to expand the use of endoscopic techniques for treating obesity. Soon, he notes, endoscopy is likely to be used not just to improve the results of bariatric surgery, but instead of surgery in some cases. In particular, two approaches show considerable promise. One involves placing a balloon

in the stomach to occupy space, as a way to help patients feel full. The balloon is easily removed following the weight loss. A second places a non-permeable sleeve into the intestine to alter digestion, with the reduced rate of absorption helping patients to lose weight and treat diabetes when present.

In the near future, Dr. Watson says UCLA will be able to offer non-surgical options to a variety of patients for weight loss, including those who are significantly overweight but whose BMI is not high enough to make them eligible for bariatric surgery; children, for whom the surgery is often seen as presenting unacceptable risk; and obese adults who may benefit from the endoscopic approach and be able to avoid the risks associated with surgery.

"This is an exciting time for our patients," Dr. Watson says. "We're going to be seeing a much greater opportunity for them to benefit from these minimally invasive options."



UCLA Division of Digestive Diseases Recently Welcomed Eight New Members to Its Faculty



Sittiporn Bencharit, M.D.
*Assistant Clinical
Professor of Medicine*

Dr. Sittiporn Bencharit has been practicing in Santa Clarita since 1988. Born in Bangkok, Thailand, he attended boarding school in Hong Kong and then attended the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point for his undergraduate education. He graduated from Yale University School of Medicine in 1980, and after obtaining his residency training in internal medicine at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, he practiced primary care in rural Indiana for three years. Dr. Bencharit completed his fellowship training in gastroenterology at the University of California, San Diego in 1988. He is board-certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology.



Maggie Ham, M.D.
*Clinical Instructor of
Medicine*

Dr. Maggie Ham practices general gastroenterology with interests in women's health, inflammatory bowel disease, peptic ulcer disease, celiac disease, irritable bowel syndrome, gastroesophageal reflux disease, colorectal cancer screening, fecal incontinence, and liver disease. Her research interests have included peptic ulcer disease, mucosal defense, and inflammatory bowel disease. She has had several peer-reviewed publications and is board-certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology.

Dr. Ham graduated in 2007 from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, where she was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha and awarded the Emil Bogen Research prize. She completed her residency in internal medicine at UCLA, followed by her gastroenterology fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, a teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School. During that time, Dr. Ham was awarded the Fellowship2Leadership grant supported by Salix Pharmaceuticals, and the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Working Group research grant.



Michael G. Quon, M.D.
*Assistant Clinical
Professor of Medicine*

Dr. Michael G. Quon joined the Division faculty as part of UCLA Health Santa Clarita Digestive Diseases after spending the past 22 years in private practice with the Santa Clarita Gastroenterology Medical Group. He practices general gastroenterology and liver diseases, with particular interests in colon cancer screening, hemorrhoidal banding, pancreatic diseases, viral hepatitis, irritable bowel syndrome and inflammatory bowel disease. Dr. Quon is board-certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology.

Dr. Quon earned his Bachelor of Science degree in biological sciences from the University of Southern California, graduating summa cum laude. He received his medical degree from the Keck School of Medicine at USC and completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at LAC+USC Medical Center, where he subsequently completed his three-year gastroenterology fellowship training, including a year dedicated to bench research in pancreatic diseases.



Michael C. Jean, M.D.
*Clinical Instructor of
Medicine*

Dr. Michael Jean practices general gastroenterology, with particular interests in colon cancer screening, gastrointestinal bleeding, gastroesophageal reflux, dysphagia, inflammatory bowel disease, and irritable bowel syndrome, as well as liver disease and hepatobiliary diseases. He is board-certified in gastroenterology. Dr. Jean completed a combined BA/MD program at Lehigh University and the Medical College of Pennsylvania. He completed his internal medicine residency at Evanston Northwestern Hospital, then went on to complete his gastroenterology fellowship at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Dr. Rajinder Kaushal specializes in therapeutic endoscopy and ERCP, performing difficult colonoscopy and polypectomy, gastrointestinal infections, fecal microbiota transplant for refractory or recurrent *C. difficile* infection, and total parenteral nutrition. Prior to joining UCLA, he was in private practice in Santa Clarita. He has served as chairman of medicine, medical director of the GI Lab and member of the Medical Executive Committee and Board of Directors at Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital in Valencia, Calif., where he was the first physician elected chairman of the board. Dr. Kaushal is board-certified in both internal medicine and gastroenterology.

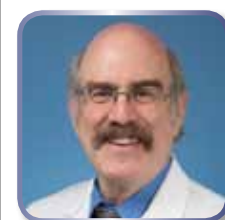
After obtaining his medical degree in India, Dr. Kaushal received further medical education in England, specializing in infectious disease and tropical medicine. Certified by the School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene at the University of Liverpool and the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Edinburgh and Glasgow, Scotland, he helped to establish one of the world's first isolation units in Liverpool for treatment of highly infectious diseases such as Ebola and Lassa fever. He completed his internal medicine residency at Mount Sinai School of Medicine/City Hospital Center in Elmhurst, NY, and his gastroenterology fellowship at Wayne State University in Detroit. As a fellow, he developed a special interest in the field of therapeutic ERCP and received further training in Germany from one of the world's leading experts and pioneers of the procedure.



Rajinder Kaushal, M.D.
*Assistant Clinical
Professor of Medicine*

Dr. David Krieger practices general gastroenterology, with particular clinical interests in gastrointestinal endoscopy, colon cancer screening, gastroesophageal reflux disease, abdominal pain, ulcer disease, inflammatory bowel syndrome, hepatitis, and gallstones. Since 1984, he has practiced in the Santa Clarita Valley and Mission Hills, Calif. In 1989, Dr. Krieger developed and has since served as the medical director of one of the first freestanding Medicare-certified endoscopy centers in Southern California. Dr. Krieger is board-certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology, and was recognized as one of the "Super Doctors of Southern California" from 2010-2012.

Dr. Krieger attended The Rockefeller University, earning a PhD in Biochemistry. He graduated from Yale Medical School, followed by a residency/fellowship in internal medicine and gastroenterology at the Wadsworth VA Hospital and UCLA School of Medicine.



David E. Krieger, M.D., Ph.D
*Assistant Clinical
Professor of Medicine*

Dr. Hamed Nayeab-Hashemi's interests include liver diseases, medical education, reflux disease, peptic ulcer disease, fecal incontinence and perianal complaints, irritable bowel syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease, colorectal cancer screening, and celiac disease. He is a member of American Gastroenterological Association Academy of Educators and is board-certified in internal medicine.

Dr. Nayeab-Hashemi graduated from Northeastern University before attending the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, from which he received his MD in 2007. He completed both his internship and residency in internal medicine at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. He then completed his fellowship training in gastroenterology at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School. During that time, he was active in researching liver diseases and liver cancer. In the final year of his fellowship, he was named the Brigham and Women's Hospital Teaching Fellow in Gastroenterology, in addition to being recognized for excellence in tutoring by Harvard Medical School.



Hamed Nayeab-Hashemi, M.D.
*Clinical Instructor of
Medicine*

Dr. Claudia Sanmiguel has joined the Division faculty as program director of the Ingestive Behavior and Obesity Program, where she is conducting research on brain-gut interactions with an emphasis on the role of the brain in the development of obesity. Dr. Sanmiguel's clinical expertise is in gastrointestinal motility disorders, including achalasia, spastic disorders of the esophagus, gastroesophageal reflux (GERD), gastroparesis and motor disorders of the colon and anorectal region. She has published original research on gastrointestinal manometry/intraluminal impedance and on the effect of electrical stimulation on GERD, gastroparesis and constipation; as well as in obesity and diabetes.

After graduating from the Pontifical Javeriana University School of Medicine in Bogota, Colombia, Dr. Sanmiguel completed her internship and residency training in internal medicine at the UCLA/Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and fellowship in gastroenterology at the UCLA Division of Digestive Diseases. She practiced gastroenterology in her native country of Colombia before moving to Canada and then the United States to pursue her interest in research on motility disorders. As part of her research training, she spent time at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, and two years at the Cleveland Clinic as a research fellow in gastrointestinal motility. She also worked as a researcher in the GI Motility Program at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.



Claudia Sanmiguel, M.D.
*Clinical Instructor of
Medicine*

UCLA Division of Digestive Diseases
405 Hilgard Avenue
BOX 957018, 100 UCLA Medical Plaza
Suite 265
Los Angeles, CA 90095-7018



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
UCLA

What Are the Benefits of Using Retirement Assets for Charitable Giving?

Distributions from retirement plans can be subject to income and estate taxes and fees when left to an individual other than a spouse.

In contrast, when you designate The UCLA Foundation as a beneficiary of some or all of your retirement plans, 100% of the balance is received tax-free and available to support whichever area of the university you choose.

Charitable gifts from retirement plans during lifetime

At age 59 1/2, when withdrawals no longer trigger a penalty, some donors choose to fund gifts to UCLA with retirement assets and lessen their future estate tax burden.

Starting at age 70 1/2, you are required to make taxable withdrawals from retirement plans, and amounts that have accumulated tax-free in an IRA or other qualified plans are an excellent source from which to make periodic charitable gifts. Although you are required to report any withdrawal as income on your tax return, if you itemize your deductions, you are allowed a charitable deduction for amounts donated, up to 50% of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for gifts of cash.

We are happy to help connect you, a Patron Circle member, with a UCLA planned giving expert, who can offer detailed and personalized information. Simply call Laurel Zeno, Senior Director of Development at (310) 825-1980 for a confidential conversation.

UCLA DIVISION OF DIGESTIVE DISEASES

Gary Gitnick, M.D., F.A.C.G.
Co-Chief, Division of Digestive Diseases

Eric Esrailian, M.D., M.P.H.
Co-Chief, Division of Digestive Diseases

Laurel Zeno
Senior Director of Development

Trisha James, M.B.A.
Business Development

Adriana Centeno
Finance and Operations

Dan Gordon
Writer/Editor

Michelle Moeck
Graphics/Production

Reed Hutchinson
Todd Cheney
Photography



A Publication of the UCLA Division of Digestive Diseases

Copyright © 2015 UCLA Division of Digestive Diseases All rights reserved