



DukeGI DIGEST

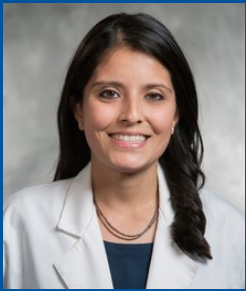
Newsletter of the Duke Division of Gastroenterology, Fall 2019

Message from the Chief

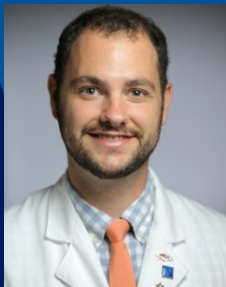
This picture here is so meaningful to me personally and to **DukeGI**. Few people have had as much influence on **DukeGI** as Dawn Provenzale. This photo includes the six current faculty members who were mentored by Dawn during fellowship. From left to right, we have one our newest faculty members in Brian Sullivan and then Ziad Gellad, Carla Brady, Katie Garman, me and Deborah



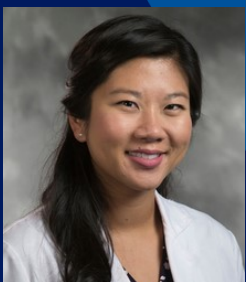
Fisher. Dawn approaches all her work with rigor and passion, and this is especially true with her mentorship. This photo is part of our history project. In one hallway, we have photographs of **DukeGI** mentors and mentees. We knew Dawn needed to be on the wall, and this group shot captures her impact. Effective mentoring is vital for successful academic programs, and this is an area of emphasis for us. With our recent growth, we have many talented fellows and junior faculty, and I am so grateful for the contributions of the mid-career and senior faculty to this effort.



Ami Patel, MD



Brian Sullivan, MD



Cece Zhang, MD

DukeGI welcomes 3 new faculty

Over the summer, we were delighted to add three of our graduating fellows to the **DukeGI** faculty. Dr. Ami Patel is a clinician educator in general gastroenterology with an interest in anorectal disorders. Dr. Brian Sullivan will join our VA faculty. He plans to build upon his fellowship research and plans to become a genetic epidemiologist focused on colorectal cancer prevention. Dr. Cece Zhang is a clinician educator. Cece will be joining our rounding group at Duke Regional Hospital with a clinical focus in inflammatory bowel disease.

New leaders for DukeGI

As part of a reorganization plan, new leaders were recently appointed for **DukeGI**. A structure was created with vice chiefs of research and education in addition to the vice chief position for clinical services. Dr. Stan Branch continues in his role as the clinical chief, and he is now supported by Dr. Dan Wild as the Associate Chief of Clinical Services for Durham County and Dr. Melissa Teitelman as the Associate Chief of Clinical Services for Wake County. Dr. Katie Garman is our Vice Chief of Research and Dr. Jane Onken is our Vice Chief of Education. As of October, all new leaders are now active in these roles supporting exciting initiatives.



Faculty spotlight: Carla Brady, MD



Dr. Carla Brady completed her residency, chief residency and fellowship at MCP Hahnemann. She initially came to Duke as a research fellow with Dr. Dawn Provenzale and then joined the Duke faculty in 2006. She is one of our transplant hepatologists and has a specific interest in women's health.

What is a typical week like for you?

Busy! My week is filled with seeing liver transplant patients and patients with chronic liver disease and fostering significant care coordination. Such care coordination requires a multidisciplinary approach, so I spend much of my other time communicating with colleagues in disciplines outside of GI/hepatology. I also perform endoscopic procedures one day a week.

You have been here during this time of rapid growth for the liver transplant program. What have been the keys to the success? The transplant team has been persistent in finding ways to improve upon the program's performance and thus ensure excellence in clinical care as a priority despite a goal of program growth. It has been intentional in establishing partnerships with community providers, and it has worked to increase the number of providers and staff on the team in order to help support the expansion of clinical volumes.

You have an interest in women's health. What are your goals for the program? I have great interest in the management of liver disease across the spectrum of a woman's life. In particular, I enjoy providing liver-related care to pregnant women, and I have been working with colleagues in other internal medicine disciplines and obstetrics to foster multidisciplinary collaborations that facilitate patient care and provide opportunities for education and research. I am also fascinated by the emerging data on the influence of menopause on liver diseases, and I believe that there are great opportunities for scientific investigation in this area.

You have been very active in AASLD. What was your strategy to get engaged and what have been the benefits to you? I strongly believe in the mission of the AASLD and have been highly supportive of its endeavors. The members and staff of AASLD are wonderful. I enjoy every opportunity I have to get to know them and work in partnership with them, and I work hard to offer my best efforts in assisting AASLD in any task for which my assistance is requested.

What do you like to do outside of work? Many years ago, a wise faculty colleague told me that when it comes to caring for children, "there are no do-overs." I remember this advice and use it as a guide in my decisions about how to balance my work and family responsibilities. I also enjoy gardening. I enjoy the creative and cultivating aspects of gardening, but I am still very much an amateur gardener. I also love college basketball. My undergraduate years were at an ACC school (UVA), so I am very much into March Madness and college basketball rivalries!



The new fellowship class of **DukeGI**: Jose Ruiz (Brown), Claire Fan (UNC), Stephanie Garbarino (Duke), Talisha Ramchal (Duke), Nicole Jawitz (Duke), and April Wall (Brigham & Women's).

News & Notes

Dr. Amit Patel was selected for the ACG Young Physician Leadership Scholars Program.

Dr. Karen Chachu was appointed Medical Director for Gastroenterology at Duke Raleigh Hospital.

Dr. Rebecca Burbridge was appointed as Program Director for the Advanced Endoscopy Fellowship.

Dr. Rahul Shimpi was appointed Director of the Esophageal Disorders Program.

Dr. Laura Rupprecht was awarded a Hartwell Fellowship to support her postdoctoral training in the Bohorquez Laboratory.

Dr. David Leiman was appointed Director of Esophageal Research and Quality.

Dr. Amy Barto was appointed as the Medical Director for the Duke South 2J Clinic.

Marie Nagel, RN from the Duke Raleigh Hospital unit has been named one of the 2019 Great 100 Nurses of North Carolina.

Elizabeth Goacher, PA-C was appointed Department of Medicine's Advanced Practice Provider (APP) Lead to chair the APP Council.

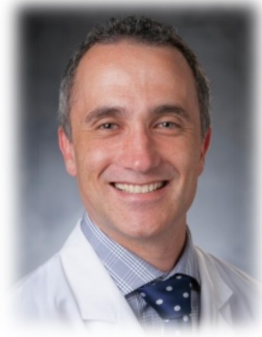
Dr. David Leiman and **Dr. Yuval Patel** received the Malcolm Tyor Award to support junior faculty research.

Dr. Jatin Roper received the Forbeck Scholar Award in recognition of his early career achievements in cancer research.



The Duke Inflammatory Bowel Disease team at the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation fundraiser in September 2019.

Faculty spotlight: Dan Wild, MD



Dr. Dan Wild came to Duke in 2009 after fellowship at Tufts and was soon recognized as a talented clinician and teacher. He established our successful small bowel endoscopy program. He was appointed as a medical director and most recently Associate Chief of Clinical Services for Durham County. Despite his clinical and administrative demands, Dan has built a productive research program.

What is a typical week like for you? I like that my typical week has me in lots of places doing lots of different things. I spend Mondays having meetings and staying on top of research. Tuesday is my clinic day for general GI, small bowel diseases and chronic GI bleeding. On Wednesdays I do procedures at 2H with double balloons and complex polypectomies. With my new role, my Wednesday mornings will include operations meetings. I perform procedures Thursdays at Brier Creek and at Duke Regional on Fridays.

You established our successful small bowel endoscopy program. What are your goals for the program?

I am very proud of our small bowel team. We have become the premier center for small bowel endoscopy in the Southeast. We are reaching areas and making diagnoses that we would not have been able to several years ago. We also hope to create a multi-disciplinary Celiac Disease clinic soon.

What research are you working on now? I have two research goals in the fire. We have completed data collection in a multi-center study retrospectively evaluating the use, yield and complications of device-assisted enteroscopy across four US centers. It has been nice collaborating with fellow small bowel enthusiasts at UMASS, NYU and LSU. I am also working with my DBE partner, Iris Vance, and some of our residents in evaluating the quality of Video Capsule Endoscopy reporting in patients referred to us for DBE.

What advice do you have for clinical faculty who want to do research? The most important thing is to find questions that excite you and to make sure they can be answered with the time and resources you have to offer it. Second, you have to learn how to collaborate effectively. Lastly, time management becomes particularly important when trying to weave research projects into a busy clinical schedule.

You were appointed Associate Chief. What do you see as the major challenges for DukeGI? GI has long been at the forefront of technological advancement which is something that I think most of us love about the field, but technologic advancement comes with a significant price tag. We must continue to work to provide top-level care with cutting edge technology but be able to do so at prices our patients and their insurers can afford.

What do you like to do outside of work? I am an avid runner, which has been made more enjoyable in the recent years by my 12 year old son who has started to share my love for it. We have enjoyed participating in local races together.

Killenberg Award to Kothari

Dr. Darsh Kothari joined the Duke faculty in 2017 and quickly became a fellow favorite. His clinical interest is in medical pancreatology. He brings great enthusiasm and an understanding of educational theory in his approach to teaching. Dr. Juan Sanchez commented, "Dr. Kothari is an amazing teacher and cares about education. He establishes an environment in which I feel comfortable asking questions. I seek opportunities to scope with him, because he provides tips to be a better endoscopist. He focuses on scope quality and ergonomics. Dr. Kothari is the type of gastroenterologist I hope to be like one day."



Academic Promotions

Associate Professor with Tenure

Ziad Gellad, MD MPH

Associate Professor

Katie Garman, MD
Nancy McGreal, MD

Assistant Professor

Darin Dufault, MD
Joshua Spaete, MD

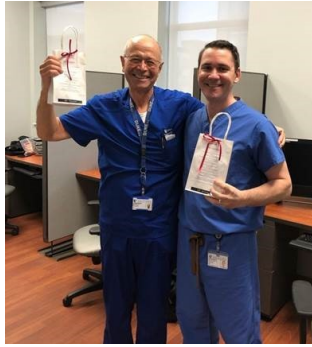
Adjunct Professor

Christine Hunt, MD

Innovator Award to Bohórquez

Dr. Diego Bohórquez has been awarded one of the NIH Director's "New Innovator," awards, which are for high-risk/high-reward work led by early-stage investigators. The award provides \$1.5 million for a five-year project. The Bohórquez laboratory studies enteroendocrine cells and recently discovered how these cells communicate directly with enteric nerves. With this grant, they will be studying links between autism spectrum related disorders and the gut, using mouse models of autism spectrum disorders and gut organoids.





Dr. Martin Poleski & Dr. Rick Wood celebrating Doctors' Day with gifts bags from the Brier Creek nursing staff.

Faculty Service Awards

30 years

Paul Jowell, MD

20 years

Deborah Fisher, MD

15 years

Carla Brady, MD
Anna Mae Diehl, MD

10 years

Nancy McGreal, MD
Bob Mook, PhD
Dan Wild, MD
Rick Wood, MD

5 years

Justin Crocker, MD
Yuval Patel, MD
Rey Quevedo, MD



At the end of his recent grand rounds, fellow Howie Lee shared this DukeGI-inspired Chinese New Year couplet.



In 1988, Dr. Rodger Liddle joined the Duke faculty and embarked on an illustrious career. He is one of the leading pancreatic researchers in the world. He was our Division Chief from 1993 until 2002, and he was VA Chief until 2017. He is regarded as a thoughtful clinician and patient teacher. He is especially generous with his time for students, fellows and faculty.

Faculty spotlight: Rodger Liddle, MD

What are the current major projects for the lab? We have two major projects. My first undertaking as a GI fellow was to develop an assay to measure cholecystokinin (CCK). Ever since, we have been working on enteroendocrine cells (EECs). EECs are sensory cells that reside in the gut mucosa. When Diego Bohórquez was in the lab we discovered that enteroendocrine cells connect to nerves and provide a connection from the lumen of the gut to the brain. I wondered if they were involved in any neurological diseases. My first thought was this was a way for prions (the infectious protein responsible for mad cow disease) to enter the gut and spread to the brain. When I discussed this with Stanley Prusiner (Nobel Prize winner in 1997 for the discovery of prions), he convinced me to work on Parkinson's disease. There is evidence that Parkinson's is a prion disease and may start in the gut. We are trying to determine if EECs are the origin of Parkinson's. The other major project is focused on pancreatitis. We have wondered why the pancreas is so sensitive to pressure. To make a long story short, we discovered that pancreatic cells express a mechanoreceptor that, if overactivated, can cause pancreatitis. We think this explains why conditions like gallstones, trauma, surgery, and even ERCP cause pancreatitis.

Your lab is well known for a very positive culture. What strategies have you taken to achieve this? It's a lesson I learned as a child – the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." I have been fortunate to have good mentors and I tried to learn from them. I applied what I saw that was successful in their labs and shied away from what didn't work.

What advice do you have for students and fellows as they embark on their research careers? I hope I have impressed everyone who comes through the lab that we want to make a difference. So, I want each project to address an important problem. If the students and fellows feel they can make a difference by doing research, then I want to do everything I can to help them do that. I think it is also important for them to enjoy what they do and be passionate about it. In what other career can you work on whatever you want and get paid for it?

What do you like to do outside of work? I love to spend time with my family. Joanne, and I have three children and six grandchildren (ages 1-9 years). We are very fortunate that they all live in the area. So, spending time with them is the best. I like most sports, but the only one I still play is golf. I love golf. And Joanne and I enjoy an occasional movie with a big bucket of popcorn. It really is the simple things.

@Duke_GI

<https://medicine.duke.edu/divisions/gastroenterology>