



DukeGI DIGEST

Newsletter of the Duke Division of Gastroenterology, Spring 2018

Message from the Chief



*Scharles Konadu, MD
General GI, Raleigh*



*Darsh Kothari, MD
Duke Durham, Durham VA
Medical pancreatology*



*Gabriel Mansouraty, MD
General GI*



*Bonike Oloruntoba, MD
Transplant Hepatology,
Raleigh*



*Rey Quevedo, MD
General GI, Regional*

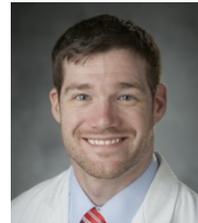
I am going to consider it a positive sign that a number of people asked me why we did not have a newsletter last fall. I do not have a great answer. Sometimes, life can really pick up speed. These newsletters are great opportunities for me to pause and acknowledge the incredible people in Duke GI—talented faculty, superb fellows and an amazing staff. Take care,
Andrew



Andrew J. Muir, MD

DukeGI welcomes 8 new faculty

The faculty of **DukeGI** continues to grow with another outstanding group joining our faculty this academic year. **Dr. Jiangbo Wang** made the transition from post-doc to research faculty. Among the clinical faculty, Duke fellow **Dr.**



*Josh Spaete, MD
Advanced Endoscopy*



*Anna Veerappan, MD
General GI, Regional*



*Jiangbo Wang, PhD
Research*

Scharles Konadu joined the General GI group at Duke Raleigh. Duke fellow **Dr. Bonike Oloruntoba** is joining Matt Kappus and splitting her time between the Raleigh practice and the transplant program. The General GI practice at Duke Regional has grown with Duke fellow **Dr. Rey Quevedo** and **Dr. Anna Veerappan** from UC-San Diego. The Pancreatobiliary Service added **Dr. Josh Spaete**, our most recent advanced endoscopy fellow. **Dr. Gabriel Mansouraty** has stepped into the advanced endoscopy fellow role and also joined the General GI faculty. **Dr. Darsh Kothari** completed his fellowship at Beth Israel-Deaconess and is establishing his practice in medical pancreatology. He will see patients at Duke South and the Durham VA.

Liddle receives lifetime achievement award

At the American Pancreatic Association Meeting in San Diego, **Dr. Rodger Liddle** received the Vay Liang & Frisca Go Award for Lifetime Achievement in Pancreatology. When talking about the award, Dr. Liddle commented, "I was humbled to be included. The previous award winners were leaders in pancreatic research and people I grew up admiring. I was introduced to many of them when I was a GI fellow and I came to know most of them quite well over the years. I am fortunate to include them among my friends. I don't know that any of my achievements compare to theirs,



but my career is not yet over, so perhaps we can still make a difference. By 'we' I mean wonderful colleagues in the lab, clinic and administration who felt the work was worth supporting and are equally deserving of recognition." Dr. Liddle continues to be a generous teacher and mentor to his fellows and faculty colleagues. We are extremely grateful for his contributions to **DukeGI**.

 **Duke University
School of Medicine**

Faculty spotlight: Diego Bohorquez, PhD

Dr. Diego Bohorquez had an interesting path to Duke. He grew up in Ecuador, completed his undergraduate work in Honduras and then came to NC State for his graduate work in nutrition. He developed an interest in the gut-brain axis and took a post-doctoral fellowship with Dr. Rodger Liddle. He built on an incredibly productive post-doc and transitioned to the Duke GI faculty. He has been widely recognized with funding and prestigious awards from the NIH, the American Gastroenterological Association, the Grass Foundation, the Dana Foundation, and the Hartwell Foundation. This year, he was awarded a prestigious TED fellowship and gave his talk in April (available on YouTube).

What led you to take this direction to be a gut-brain neuroscientist?

In the beginning there was food. And I happened to study in college how to grow food (Agriculture) and in graduate school how food is processed by the body (Nutrition and Physiology). But it was in graduate school that I began to wonder how our brain knows what type of food is in the gut and how the gut uses it to persuade the brain. A good place to start was enteroendocrine cells. These cells are in the internal lining of the gut. By 2009, it was becoming obvious that they sense food (its nutrients, volume, temperature). Dr. Rodger Liddle, who had been studying for decades a hormone produced by these cells, gave me an opportunity in his lab and here I am now studying how the gut, using signals from food, influences our brains and behaviors.

What projects are you focused on currently? We want to know how the intestine conveys signals from nutrients to brain areas that control aversion or pleasure. We use viruses to trace the paths, microscopes to see the journey in action, and intelligent mouse cages to assess how a sensory stimulus in the intestine affects decision making. This information will help treat behavioral disorders linked visceral hypersensitivity (autism, anorexia, obesity).

What is the best advice Rodger Liddle gave you? Rodger has been an exceptional mentor and a special friend. He has been generous and precise with his advice. One line that over the years has remained present is the following: Rodger once told me “people may not remember the work you did but they will remember how you made them feel.” Rodger exemplifies this line. Here is a personal account: in 2011, I attended

the FASEB meeting (the annual meeting for experiment biologists). During the poster presentation, a respected professor in the field stopped to talk about the work and he noticed that Rodger was the senior author. Before asking how is Rodger doing... he said Rodger is a gentleman. I feel honored to continue to have Rodger as a mentor.



Dr. Diego Bohorquez giving his TED talk in April 2017.

News & Notes

Mahfuzul Haque, MD was awarded the 2017 Killenberg teaching Award from the Duke GI Fellows.

Diego Bohorquez, PhD and **Cindy Moylan, MD** shared the 2017 Malcolm Tyor Award to support junior faculty research.

Anna Mae Diehl, MD received the Distinguished Faculty Award from the Duke Medical Alumni Association at Medical Alumni Weekend in November 2017.

Katie Garman, MD received the Duke Strong Start New Physician-Scientist Award from the Dean's Office.

Julius Wilder, MD has been selected for Duke's ADVANCE-UP (Academic Development, Advocacy, Networking, Coaching and Education for Underrepresented Populations) mentorship program.

Yuval Patel, MD was awarded the AASLD Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Fellowship

Kelly Buchanan MSIII received the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Medical Research Fellows Award to support her third year of research with **Diego Bohorquez, PhD**.

Katie Garman, MD and **Dan Wild, MD** have been recognized as fellows of the American Gastroenterological Association.

Deborah Fisher, MD and **Melissa Teitelman, MD** have been accepted into Duke's ALICE (Academic Leadership, Innovation, and Collaborative Engagement) leadership program for mid-career women.

Future GI fellow **Amanda Boyd, MD** has been selected as the VA chief resident for 2019-2020 (and will follow current fellow **Kara Wegermann, MD** as the 2018-2019 chief.

Faculty spotlight: Jane Onken, MD



Dr. Jane Onken came to Duke for internal medicine residency followed by gastroenterology fellowship. She joined the faculty in 1993 and established a career in inflammatory bowel disease. With her leadership as Director, the IBD program now includes seven faculty and two advanced practice providers.

What are your goals for the IBD program at Duke?

We are in a growth phase right now, having added several faculty colleagues. In addition, we are formalizing our close partnership with colorectal surgery, building multidisciplinary clinics to address some of the unique needs of our IBD patients. I would like to foster our relationships within the community – sharing our expertise with physicians as well as patients. Finally, we are working hard to expand our research collaborations including those with our basic science colleagues. Our biorepository samples are already being used by scientists in our GI Division for research that shows great promise for improving our understanding of IBD.

What are the challenges you see in the field of IBD?

When I started taking care of patients with IBD, there were only a handful of drugs available. Now, the list of available treatments is much longer, but we still have a substantial proportion of patients whose disease is refractory to therapy. I had one patient who came to me for a second opinion and said, “it seems as though this is trial and error until my doctor finds something that works.” Sadly, that often seems to be the case, but our research is working toward a goal of personalized medicine, ultimately hoping to be able to use an individual patient’s genetic makeup to identify the specific drug(s) to which they would most likely respond.

You often speak of your training with such fond memories. What was special for you about that time?

I think the current trainees get tired of me talking about the “good old days”! It was different when I trained. For better or for worse, we spent many more hours together in the hospital, and when we were off, we usually spent time together then, too. Our “teams” stayed together for a month at a time, and were often invited to the attending’s home for a dinner at the end of the rotation. I still keep in touch with many of my residency colleagues.

It is obvious from the many gifts and baked goods that your patients adore you. What do you do to establish connections with patients?

That’s very kind of you to say. I’m not sure I do anything special – but I do try to remember there are real people behind the illnesses and symptoms, and I enjoy listening to them talk about their lives, their children, their travels, and also their worries. It’s an incredible privilege to have patients confide in us, and I just try to treat my patients the way I would want someone to treat my family.

Do you still own that Nova?

Yes! It’s a 1974 Chevy Nova with 26,000 original miles. My friends wonder why I keep it, but it was my grandfather’s and it reminds of him. Plus, it’s a piece of Americana.



Dr. Jorge Obando was this year’s winner in the Pancreatic Awareness fundraiser and therefore dressed as Prince for a day. He is pictured here with **Dr. Karen Chachu** and the endoscopy unit staff at Duke Raleigh Hospital.

Promotions

Professor

Manal Abdelmalek, MD MPH

Associate Professor

Carla Brady, MD Rebecca Burbridge, MD
Steve Choi, MD Melissa Teitelman, MD



