

GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY FELLOWSHIP

Bret A. Lashner, M.D.
Fellowship Program Director

The Cleveland Clinic Foundation offers an ACGME-accredited, three-year program providing in-depth training in gastroenterology, hepatology, and nutrition as well as extensive training in clinical research to qualified applicants. The program is structured to provide the skills that will distinguish and characterize the best gastroenterologists and clinical scholars in the current era of medicine.

The program's goals are fourfold:

1. To provide the skills necessary to understand, diagnose and treat a wide-range of gastrointestinal and liver disorders.
2. To meet the training guidelines of the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy in all basic endoscopic procedures.
3. To provide a meaningful and stimulating clinical research experience.
4. To develop presentation skills and teaching abilities.

The first year of the fellowship is a clinical year with rotations on the primary inpatient gastroenterology and hepatology services as well as on the inpatient gastroenterology consultation service. Dedicated time is also provided to learn upper and lower endoscopy procedures. In the second year, nine months are dedicated to clinical research with selected opportunities for basic science research. The third year of the fellowship is aimed at fine-tuning subspecialty skills in motility disorders, inflammatory bowel disease, hepatology and nutrition as well as providing an introduction to advanced endoscopic skills and completing training in colonoscopy. The fellow's research project is also completed during the third year. An extensive conference schedule allows for formal teaching as well as the opportunity to develop presentation and teaching skills.

Fellows are exposed to a broad range of gastrointestinal and liver diseases in both the hospital and the outpatient settings. This experience is made more meaningful by the faculty of 25 full-time gastroenterologists with subspecialty interests in endoscopy, colon polyps and cancer, esophageal diseases, hepatology, inflammatory bowel disease, and nutrition.

An integral part of the training program is in clinical research. Members of the Department of Gastroenterology & Hepatology are nationally recognized leaders who are involved in clinical research in colon cancer, endoscopy, pancreatic disease, esophageal diseases, hepatology, and inflammatory bowel disease. Under the careful supervision of a mentor, fellows design, implement, and analyze a research question with the goal of completing a project and publishing a manuscript. Our fellows routinely have presented their work at national scientific meetings, have publications in top tier gastroenterology and hepatology journals, and have received competitive research grant awards. [CLICK HERE](#) to see a list of our fellows' awards, publications, and presentations in 2005.

Overview of Training:

Year One

Endoscopy	4 months
Inpatient Liver	1 month
Inpatient GI	3 months
GI Consults	3 months
Nutrition	1 month
Research	2 weeks
Vacation	3 weeks

Year Two

Inpatient Liver	3 months
Research	9 months
Vacation	3 weeks

Year Three

Nutrition	1 month
Inpatient GI	1 month
GI Consults	1 month
Clinics/Research/ Endoscopy	9 months
Vacation	3 weeks

Didactic Training:

- *Weekly Conferences*
MONDAY: Core curriculum lecture series
Swallowing Center conference
WEDNESDAY: IBD Center conference
Hepatology Center conference
THURSDAY: Hepatobiliary conference
FRIDAY: Case management conference
Research conference- monthly
- *Other Conferences*
Journal Club- monthly
Pathology sign out rounds- monthly
Morbidity and Mortality conference- quarterly

Additional information regarding our Department can be viewed at:

[Gastroenterology and Hepatology Department at Website](#)

Our program is participating in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) and in the Electronic Residency Application System (ERAS). For more information contact the Cleveland Clinic Graduate Medical Education office at (216)444-5690. Other questions regarding the program can be directed to our Program Coordinator, Ms. Justine Hughes at (216)444-0905.

Fellowship Director:

Jean-Paul Achkar, MD
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Department of Gastroenterology & Hepatology
Desk A31
9500 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44195

GASTROENTEROLOGY FELLOW PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS- 2005

Tyler Stevens, MD

Awards:

AGA Academic Skills Workshop, 2005
ASGE Con Med Award, 2005
AGA Poster of Distinction, 2005

Publications:

Stevens T, Conwell, Zuccaro G, et al. A randomized crossover study of secretin-stimulated endoscopic and Dreiling-tube pancreatic function test methods in healthy subjects. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2006: 101:351-5.

Chapters:

Stevens T, Conwell DL. Pancreatic enzyme replacement and bile salt therapy. In: *Intestinal Failure and Rehabilitation*, Seidner D, Steiger E, Matarese L, Eds. CRC Press, Boca Raton 2005, Chap 12.

Stevens T, Conwell DL. Acute Pancreatitis. 4/8/2005. Available at:
<http://www.clevelandclinicmeded.com/diseasemanagement/gastro/acutepan/acutepan.htm>.

Stevens T, Conwell DL. Chronic Pancreatitis. 5/12/2005. Available at:
<http://www.clevelandclinicmeded.com/diseasemanagement/gastro/chpan/chpan.htm>.

Stevens T, Conwell DL. Pancreatic Neoplasms. 5/12/2005. Available at:
<http://www.clevelandclinicmeded.com/diseasemanagement/gastro/pneo/pneo.htm>.

Karin Cesario, MD

Award:

ACG 2005-2006 Research Grant
“Viral Kinetics and Response Differences in HCV-Infected Obese and Non-obese Patients Treated with Pegylated Interferon and Ribavirin.” Mentor: Nizar Zein, MD.

Presentations:

EASL 2005 Annual Meeting (Paris, France)

“Impact of Obesity on Degree of Liver Disease and Response to Therapy in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C Infection”
EASL Young Investigator Award Winner.

DDW 2005 Annual Meeting

“Impact of Obesity on Degree of Liver Disease and Response to Therapy in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C Infection.” *Gastroenterology* 2005;128(4, S2):A-333.

“Male Gender, Lower ALT and Excessive Alcohol Consumption are Associated with High Viral Load in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infection.” *Gastroenterology* 2005;128(4,S2):A-746

Woosuk Park, MD

Publications:

Park W, Hicks DM, Khandwala F, Richter JE, Abelson TI, Milstein C, Vaezi MF. Laryngopharyngeal reflux: prospective cohort study evaluating optimal dose of proton-pump inhibitor therapy and pretherapy predictors of response. *Laryngoscope*. 2005 Jul; 115 (7): 1230-8

Park W, Vaezi MF. Etiology and pathogenesis of achalasia: the current understanding. *Am J Gastroenterol*. 2005 Jun; 100(6):1404-14.

Park W, Vaezi MF. Esophageal impedance recording: clinical utility and limitations. *Curr Gastroenterol Rep*. 2005 Jun;7(3):182-9.

Presentation:

Park W, Maqbool S, Shay S, Vaezi MF. Does combined impedance and pH help with the diagnosis of refractory GERD? Oral Presentation at ACG Annual Meeting, 2005.

Sandeep Patel, M.D.

Publications:

Sandeep Patel, John Vargo, Pat Trolli, John Dumot, Darwin Conwell, Rocio Lopez, Farah Khandwala, Gregory Zuccaro. Deep Sedation Occurs Frequently During Elective Endoscopy With Meperidine and Midazolam. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2005;100:2689-95.

Sandeep Patel, John Vargo. Conscious Sedation in Endoscopy. *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology: The Modern Clinician's Guide*. (Chapter accepted for publication)

Ahmed Kandiel, MD, MPH

Publication:

Fraser AG, Korelitz BI, Brensinger C, Lewis JD. Increased risk of lymphoma among inflammatory bowel disease patients treated with azathioprine and 6-mercaptopurine. *Gut* 2005;54 (8): 1121-5.

Jason Guardino, DO, MS

Presentation:

Guardino, JM. Whipple's Disease Presenting with Malabsorption and Acrodermatitis Enteropathica.

Oral presentation at American College of Gastroenterology National Fellows' Forum 2005, Boston, MA

Laura Bianchi, MD

Publication:

Bianchi, LK. Chronic Pancreatitis: A Disease of Autoimmune and Exogenous Causes. *The Gastroenterology Fellow* 2005; 3:19-22.

Jhony Doumit, MD

Presentation:

Doumit J, Brzezinski A, Lashner B, Achkar JP, Lopez R, Shen B. Comparison of safety and mortality of infliximab therapy to immunomodulator therapy in Crohn's disease: A cohort study. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2005;100:S306.

Oral Presentation at ACG Annual Meeting, 2005 (Honolulu, HI)