OU GI FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL EVENT

A great time was had by all at the GI Fellowship Annual Event on Saturday, June 25th at the home of Bill and Lisa Tierney. We thank those who attended to join us in welcoming and honoring our incoming fellows, our continuing fellows, and those who would be moving on as practicing gastroenterologists.

Please join us in congratulating those fellows who received awards: Dr. Emily Christman—Chief Fellow Award, Dr. Sindhu Kaitha—the Richard Harty Outstanding Fellow Award. Our GI fellows voted on the three teaching faculty awards and those selected as this year’s recipients were Dr. Donald Kastens for Endoscopy, Dr. Ralph Guild for Consultative Skills, and Dr. Mohammad Madhoun for Research. Please see the Annual Event photo gallery on page 6. Congratulations to all of our awardees!

SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATION

We wish to congratulate our awardee for the 2015-2016 Gastroenterology Fellowship Service Award for Outstanding Achievement in Fostering the Growth and Education of Gastroenterology Fellows, Michelle Mary Price, social worker assigned to the fellows OU Medical Specialty Clinic. Michelle provides all the social service needs for the fellow’s clinic patients. She goes above and beyond for each and every patient, even starting a monthly Hepatitis C Support group staffed by GI fellows. We are truly indebted to her for her assistance and dedication to our patients.

GI FELLOWSHIP UPDATE 2015-2016

The GI Fellows had their Professional Development Retreat on April 29th. This year hosted three speakers:
- Dr. William M. Tierney, M.D. presented Scientific Integrity and Ethics in Publishing
- Jennifer Loflin and Staci Jordan presented Billing Compliance
- Dr. Tauseef Ali, M.D. presented Ethics in Physician-Industry Relations

These presentations were followed by a “fellows only” dinner together at Hefner Grill.

GI FELLOWSHIP UPDATE CONTINUED-

Our annual GI Jeopardy was held on April 13th. The teams were drawn by our 3rd year fellows who served as team captains:
- **Bowel Brigade**: Dr. Sindhu Kaitha (captain) Drs. George Salem and Ayokunle Abegunde
- **Super Guts**: Dr. Rajesh Kanagala (captain) Drs. Sultan Mahmood and Pratyusha Parava
- **Colonic Crusaders**: Dr. Emily Christman (captain) Drs. Hussein Bitar and Aatish Patel

Categories prepared by our GI Jeopardy Master of Ceremonies, Dr. William Tierney were: Liver Tumors, GI Hormones, C. difficult, ABCs of IBD, Digestion 101, Skins and Guts. This year, despite everyone’s best efforts the Bowel Brigade were able to maintain control of the board for a large portion of the game and gained the victory. The victors received the prize of a $100 each to be used for educational expense(s).

On September 23rd, the GI Fellowship Program hosted a Professional Development Conference. Invited speaker, Dr. Melissa Medina, Ed.D, Professor, Assistant Dean of Assessment and Evaluation, Director of Preparing Future Faculty (OUHSC Graduate College), Department of Pharmacy, presented a conference on Case-Based Learning.
INTRODUCTION TO OUR NEW GI FELLOWS

While we welcome our new fellows, we want to recognize those that are leaving us as they begin their careers as gastroenterologists. **Dr. Sindhu Kaitha** is joining a private practice with Medical Center Health System-ProCare in Odessa, Texas where her husband has an established medical practice. **Dr. Emily Christman** will be joining Charlottesville Gastroenterology Associates in Charlottesville, VA. We wish Drs. Kaitha and Christman well as they begin their careers as gastroenterologists. **Dr. Rajesh Kanagala** joins our Section as an Assistant Professor. See Page 5 for more on Dr. Kanagala.

**George Salem, M.D.** - I chose to make the move to the United States in 2011 to pursue a research opportunity at Johns Hopkins IBD Research Center as a post-doctoral research fellow. Learning about gastroenterology from a microscopic to a macroscopic view game me a passion to pursue this field of medicine, and I immediately knew it wasn’t just a passion, but moreover a career. I completed my residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Oklahoma City was merely a geographical area to obtain my education, but has now become home-as I met my Okie fiancé here. I love the southern hospitality that I receive here, as it reminds me of people back home. Although my free time is scarce, I have several interests! I love going to thunder games and {thunderin’} up! My favorite sport is soccer, and my all-time favorite team is Real Madrid. I am thankful for the opportunity to stay where I am grounded and surrounded by not only great people, but by people I now consider family. I owe everything to Oklahoma for allowing me the opportunity to pursue my dreams in gastroenterology, and will be forever indebted. Boomer Sooner!

**Kelsey Able, D.O.** - I was born and raised in the Kansas suburbs of Kansas City, studying at Kansas State University for my undergraduate degree and then attending Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences for my Masters and Osteopathic Medical degrees. I then completed my Internal Medicine Residency training and subsequently served as Chief Resident following graduation in 2015 at the University of Kansas Medical Center. I am thrilled to have matched at OU and have quickly come to enjoy our new town and kind colleagues. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my husband and 18 month old son. We are avid Royals baseball fans, and budding Thunder supporters! We have recently been enjoying the Farmer’s Market in Edmond which is walking-distance from our home as well as the local splash-pads on hot days! I am looking forward to getting to know everyone.
INTRODUCTION TO OUR NEW GI FELLOWS - CONTINUED

Molly Disbrow, M.D. - Hello, my name is Molly and I couldn’t be happier to have joined the OU Gastroenterology Fellowship Program! I grew up in Kansas and played volleyball at Kansas State University before heading to the University of Kansas for medical school. For residency, I headed to Phoenix, Arizona and while we really enjoyed our adventure in the southwest, we are very happy to be back here and closer to home, friends and family. My husband Alan works for Wells Fargo commercial banking group downtown and we have a 2½ year old son, Calvin, 6 month old daughter, Cameron, and our dog’s name is Dirk. We enjoy being outside and staying active, spending time with friends and family and going to all kinds of sporting events. Thank you for this opportunity and I am looking forward to getting to know everyone!

TRAVEL AWARDS, GRANTS AND HONORS
- Dr. Emily Christman did an outstanding job serving as our Chief Fellow for the 2015-2016 academic calendar year.
- Drs. Emily Christman and Aatish Patel (alternate) were selected by their peers to represent them on the Resident Council.
- Dr. Rajesh Kanagala-received a Travel Grant to attend the Rocky Mountain Endoscopy Course in Denver, Colorado, February 17-19th, 2016.
- Dr. Ayokunle Abegunde received a Travel Award to attend the ACG 2nd Year Fellow’s Endoscopy Course in Dallas, TX, January 16-18, 2015.
- Dr. Sindhu Kaitha’s abstract received a travel grant and was selected for podium presentation at the 26th Annual North American Conference of Gastroenterology Fellows (NACGF), March 11-13, 2016 in Orlando, Florida.

COMMUNITY SERVICE/INVITED PRESENTATIONS
- Dr. Rajesh Kanagala volunteers at the Good Shepherd Ministries-Free Clinic.
- Dr. Ayokunle Abegunde was selected to present, Clostridium Difficile Infection: Advances in Management at the Central Oklahoma Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates 26th Annual Spring Conference, Oklahoma City, OK April 2016.
- Dr. Aatish Patel was selected to present, HCC Treatment Algorithms & Outcomes at the Arkansas Oklahoma Endoscopy Society Annual Meeting in Dallas, TX, on June 11, 2016.

CAMPUS LEADERSHIP
- Emily Christman-member of the Resident Council and attended the Leadership Development Institute held quarterly for our campus administration and leaders.
- Emily Christman-member of the Complications Improvement Team (OUMC).
- Aatish Patel and Ayokunle Abegunde-members of the Patient Care Committee.
- Patient Safety Improvement Project Multidisciplinary Committee-Drs. Kaitha (Chair), Kanagala, Christman and Teresa Andenoro (Clinic Nurse), and Mary Price (Clinic Social Worker).
- Quality Improvement Project Multidisciplinary Committee-Drs. Patel (Chair), Abegunde, Parava and Belinda Frost (VA Endoscopy Nurse), Carla Casey (IT-VA), and Dr. Mohammad Madhoun.

QUALITY CARE
- Dr. Abegunde received a thank you for excellent care of patient and family from Curt Steinhart, MD, Chief Medical Officer at OUMC. (June 2016)
QUALITY CARE—Continued

- Praise was received from the LEAN Team leader at the VA for early arrivals and timely consenting of patients for Drs. Kaitha, Parava and Bitar. (April 2016)
- Dr. Christman received a note of appreciation from a VA patient advocate forwarded by Belinda Frost. Patient also talked with Belinda regarding her attention to details, honesty, integrity and empathy in his medical care. (May 2016)
- Dr. Patel's interaction with Physician surveyor from the JCAHO demonstrated excellent professionalism and outstanding communication skills. His knowledge of the process and demonstration of EMR for documentation was spot on. He demonstrated exceptional leadership skills. (Janet Edwards- February 2016)

HONORARY POSTER PRESENTATIONS

The 2015-2016 academic calendar year was another productive scholarly activity year for the fellows with 12 journal articles, publications or reviews and 14 abstracts. I have highlighted 3 abstracts below. We invite you to visit our website at: https://www.oumedicine.com/department-of-internal-medicine/department-sections/digestive-diseases-and-nutrition/gastroenterology-fellowship/gi-fellowship-news to see a full listing of our 2015-2016 publications and abstracts under GI Fellowship News.


Ijlal Akbar Ali, Sultan Mahmood, Hassaan A. Zia, Rutaba Tajammal, Salman Nusrat. Inpatient Burden of Morbid Obesity in U.S.: An Analysis of Time Trends from 1997 to 2012. (Poster presentation, ACG 2015 scientific meeting, Oct 16-21, 2015, Hawaii) *This abstract was chosen for media coverage as one of the most “newsworthy” at the meeting.*

GI FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM NEWS AND PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2016-2017

- Dr. Aatish Patel will be our Chief Fellow for the 2016-2017 academic calendar year and serve as our representative on the Resident Council. Dr. Ayokunle Abegunde will serve as our alternate for the Resident Council. Our Resident Council representatives are selected by their peers. Congratulations to Drs. Patel and Abegunde!

- **New to the 2016-2017 Curriculum:** 2 week nutrition elective rotation

- **New to the 2016-2017 Curriculum:** To provide more emphasis on liver our curriculum now offers a combined IBD/Liver Case Files Conference. Drs. Richard Harty, Philip Miner and Tauseef Ali serve as preceptors for the IBD Case Files Conference and Drs. Javid Fazili and Rajesh Kanagala serve as the preceptors for the Liver Case Files Conference.

- **New to the 2016-2017 Curriculum:** In order to develop knowledge and appropriate skill with billing and coding practices, second and third year fellows assigned to the OUMC Hospitalist service will complete simulated billing cards and forms for evaluation and management services and procedures. The consult service attending will review these forms with the fellow along with their documentation to ensure the coding is consistent with compliance regulations. This skill will help serve in preparing senior level fellows for independent practice.

- **New to the 2016-2017 Curriculum:** Patient satisfaction scores will be obtained by both fellow selected patient evaluations and third party formal patient satisfaction scores (Press Ganey) as commonly done in clinical practices. The latter will be an aggregate report obtained during the ambulatory endoscopy rotation at OUMC. These measures will allow the trainee to monitor and audit their clinical performance with the goal of improvement in preparation for independent practice.
INTRODUCTION TO OUR NEW FACULTY

Dr. Rajesh Kanagala has established his practice with OU Physicians and will be a faculty member in the Department of Medicine, Section of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition at the University of Oklahoma. He graduated from Osmania Medical College and completed his Internal Medicine residency from the Medical College of Wisconsin. He completed a gastroenterology subspecialty fellowship at the University of Oklahoma. Prior to the GI Fellowship he had one year of training in Hepatology. He is a member of the American College of Gastroenterology, American Gastroenterology Association, American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and American association for the Study of Liver Diseases.

He has a special interest in chronic HBV and HCV infections, autoimmune liver diseases and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

Dr. Ahmed Bolkhir, graduated from the University of Garyounis Faculty of Medicine (Al-Arab Medical University) and received University of Garyounis Faculty of Medicine Award of Outstanding Scientific Achievement in 2004. He completed his Internal Medicine Residency at the University of Illinois – Advocate Christ Medical Center and was the recipient of the First Exceptional House Staff Award. Dr. Bolkhir completed his General GI fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine – Barnes & Jewish Hospital, under the mentorship of Dr. Steven Edmoundowicz, a world pioneer in the field of Gastroenterology and Endoscopy. Dr. Bolkhir has a special interest in advanced endoscopy, especially esophageal diseases including Barrett’s esophagus and esophageal cancer, and pancreatic cancer. During his training, he presented the first abstract hypothesizing the effect of Tamoxifen on Barrett’s esophagus at the 2014 ACG annual meeting which is currently still under investigation at Washington University. In 2015, Dr. Bolkhir pursued an extra year of training in Advanced Endoscopy at the Medical College of Wisconsin, under the mentorship of Dr. Kulwinder Dua, an international leader in the field of Gastroenterology and Endoscopy. Dr. Bolkhir has a special interest in advanced endoscopy, especially esophageal diseases including Barrett’s esophagus and esophageal cancer, and pancreatic cancer. During his training, he presented the first abstract hypothesizing the effect of Tamoxifen on Barrett’s esophagus at the 2014 ACG annual meeting which is currently still under investigation at Washington University. In 2015, Dr. Bolkhir pursued an extra year of training in Advanced Endoscopy at the Medical College of Wisconsin, under the mentorship of Dr. Kulwinder Dua, an international leader in the field of Gastroenterology and Endoscopy. During his training, he has participated in a variety of clinical trials evaluating the efficacy of different types of esophageal and biliary stents. He has presented many abstracts and published several papers in peer reviewed journals. He performs routine and advanced endoscopic procedures, but specializes in advanced procedures required for diagnosis and management of complex esophageal and pancreatico-biliary diseases and cancer.
GASTROENTEROLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

2015-2016 ANNUAL EVENT

Teaching Awards as voted by the fellows: Dr. Kastens-Endoscopy; Dr. Guild-Consult Service and Dr. Madhoun-Research

We say goodbye to those fellows leaving us, celebrate those staying with us, and welcome those that are new to our program

PHOTO GALLERY-CONTINUED
GI FELLOW ACTIVITIES

Drs. Mahmood and Bitar-ASGE 1st Year Fellows Endoscopy Course

Dr. Patel presents for AOES 2016

Digestive Disease Week 2016
Drs. Abegunde (& wife), Christman, Parava, Kaitha and Patel enjoy dinner with Dr. Maple

GI Fellow’s Professional Development Retreat

DDW 2016
Drs. Parava, Kaitha and Patel (L to R)

GI Fellow’s End of Year Celebration

DDW 2016
Drs. Christman, Parava, Patel and Kaitha (L to R)