



Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

NEWS IN BRIEF



Dr. Laura Targownik

Departmental Division Director
(Gastroenterology)

Hi there!

- 1) The purpose of our University of Toronto Gastroenterology Divisional News Brief is to offer a concise summary of the activities occurring across our division. My intent is to share our activities among our faculty, fellows, and residents semi-monthly. I also intend to use this as a forum to advertise upcoming programs and educational opportunities, and to shine a light on the important achievements and honors of our division members and trainees.
- 2) As this is a new initiative, I welcome everyone's feedback on whether you find this Newsbrief useful, or on how we can best use this communication to serve the needs of our division. For starters, I welcome the contributions of any of our divisions notable punsmiths, portmanteausarians, and other creatives to think up a catchy name that

captures the breadth of expertise and experiences in the Division of Gastroenterology

- 3) Please let either myself or our Divisional Assistant Matt Bates know about any accomplishments, activities, or achievements that you would like highlighted in the next Brief. This can include publications, presentations, awarded grants, awards of merit, CME activities, promotions, appointments, or pretty much anything. Matt can be reached at gastroenterology@utoronto.ca
- 4) The GI News Brief will be published on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month, so please let me know of anything you would like included by the 2nd or 4th Friday for it to be included.
- 5) Last, this is my first time, so go easy on me 😊

What's New in the Division?

I) Education:

On Wednesday September 25th we held our CaRMS interview day. Twenty four future gastroenterologists joined us from across Canada for interviews, but also to meet our current residents and faculty. The interviewees were treated to a tour of our hospital sites by our R5 GI residents, and those who were able to join us the night before were also our guests for appies and drinks at Firkin on Yonge. Much appreciation to all of our residents and faculty who volunteered their time to review files, conduct interviews and rank candidates.

In addition to the selection process for our Core GI Residents, we are also interviewed three residents for a Three Year Research Track Fellowship for whom we have guaranteed funding for all three years of the program.

We hope this is a demonstration of our commitment at the University of Toronto to providing the best training and experience for our future Clinician Scientists. I wanted to thank the contributions of our Research Co-Leads (Dr. Jordan Feld and Dr. Nazia Selzner) and Dr. Grover for getting accreditation (and applicants) for this important initiative!

Fingers crossed until Match Day on Wednesday November 6th!!!

Also, much appreciation to our site education leads (Drs. Gallinger, Tse, Tartaro, Fung, James, and Mosko) who have been working extra time to help complete the Accreditation Questionnaire requires as part of our upcoming Royal College Training Program Review in 2020. Watch this space for updates regarding the accreditation process

2) Quality Improvement and Innovation

On September 4th, 2019, Dr. David Wong presented his experience with an unfortunate case of a man who was found to have potentially treatable HCC, but was not made aware of the importance of the diagnosis in a manner that indicated the urgent need for close follow-up. This case highlights the importance of developing a system to ensure adequacy of follow-up and communication between specialists and referrers, as well as the necessity of developing a system to communicate critical results in a manner that is rational and respectful of the patient's capacity to absorb critical medical information.

It is now up to us to determine how we are going to channel these insights into research and implementation of programs designed to improve the patient experience

3) Communications:

Over the next few months, we are going to be modernizing and “usefulizing” our Divisional Website. The Divisional website is the most common initial point of contact for physicians, prospective residents and fellows, and patients to learn about our Division and its members. The first step in making our Website more welcoming is to update all of our faculty profiles. As part of this, we have been collecting headshots of our division members and residents for each member’s page, and will be soon requesting a short bio highlighting achievements and current activities. In particular, I am hoping that our faculty members will use this space to advertise to residents and students who are seeking mentorship, research opportunities, or clinical observerships and electives. Over time, we hope that each faculty member’s page will have an automatically updating feed of indexed publications, and potentially links to individual Twitter profiles

In addition, Dr. Maria Cino has volunteered her time and expertise to creating a trainee portal which our residents and fellows can use to access schedules and policies, and where we can post resident presentations from Journal Club and other rounds

Kudos to Matthew Bates, our new Division of Gastroenterology administrator, and Brienne Tulk (DOM Communications) for their guidance in organizing and managing this project.

And last, if there is anyone on faculty with an interest in communications who want to take on an active role in designing the Website or in guiding our divisions Communication strategies, please let me know. The Department of Medicine recognizes the importance of non-traditional professional activity that is impactful in considering promotion and merit in the Division.

NEW FACULTY!!!



Dr. Morwen Cunningham – UHN / Toronto Centre for Liver Disease

Please welcome Dr. Morven Cunningham who is joining the University of Toronto Division of Gastroenterology and The Toronto Centre for Liver Disease at UHN as of October 1st, 2019 as a Clinician Teacher

Dr. Cunningham obtained a MA from the University of Cambridge before undertaking her medical degree at Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, London, UK. She completed postgraduate training in General Internal Medicine, Gastroenterology and Hepatology in London and undertook a PhD at Queen Mary, University of London, studying factors influencing treatment response in chronic hepatitis C infection. Dr Cunningham moved to Toronto in 2017 to complete a Fellowship in Hepatology at University of Toronto and is excited to be taking up the position of Clinician Teacher Current research interests include hepatotoxicity of novel immunotherapy cancer treatments. She is also interested in improving patients' understanding of liver disease and in the education and mentoring of the next generation of hepatologists.

PROMOTIONS



Well-deserved congratulations to two of our esteemed faculty who have achieved impact in their fields that is nationally recognized, and as such, have earned the rank of Associate Professor.

Dr. Scott Fung:

UHN / Toronto Centre for Liver Disease – Clinician Teacher



Dr. Samir Grover:

St Michael's Hospital – Clinician Investigator



THE LAST TWO WEEKS IN REVIEW

I) On September 26th, 2019, the Toronto Centre for Liver Disease and the Toronto Multi-Organ Transplant held the 34th annual Dame Sherlock Trainee Research Day highlighting the diverse research interests and innovations of the UHN Liver team. Congratulations to the following trainees who received awards for their excellent presentations. In addition, we were proud to host Dr. Julie Heimbach from the Mayo Clinic Liver Transplant program as our Visiting Professor

- a. Phillippe Abreu Increased Need of Locoregional Therapies is a Surrogate of Tumor Biology in Patients Undergoing Liver Transplantation for Hepatocellular Carcinoma
(Supervisor: Gonzalo Sapisochin)
 - b. Osvald Nitski: Development of Artificial Intelligence Models for Risk Stratification in Liver transplant recipients (Supervisor: Mamatha Bhat)
 - c. Aaron Vanderhoff: Making OraQuick Quicker: A hepatitis C point-of-care test reduced to five minutes for viremic individuals (Supervisor: Jordan Feld)
 - d. Shannon Vandriel: Clinical Features and Outcomes in an International Cohort of 731 Alagille Syndrome Patients from 19 Countries (Supervisor: Binita Kamath)
- 2) The Jenny Heathcote Hepatology Update was held on September 27th, 2019 at the Chelsea Toronto, focusing on Fatty Liver, Cirrhosis Quality of Care and Viral Hepatitis. It is Ontario's largest event for liver education. This year's annual event was held on September 27th. Dr. Julie Heimbach from the Mayo Clinic was our visiting professor. We had a diverse array of speakers: MDs, NPs,

RDs, Palliative Care, Endocrinology and most importantly, several patients with lived experience. The patient speakers were the highlight of the event. Thanks to Dr. Hemant Shah for organizing this important educational program, sharing our knowledge and expertise with the broader community and providers and persons living with liver disease.

WHAT'S COMING UP



 **THIRTY SECOND INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON
THERAPEUTIC ENDOSCOPY**

October 30 to November 1, 2019

Royal York Hotel
TORONTO, CANADA
www.thera-endo-toronto.com

St. Michael's' 32nd Annual International Course on Therapeutic Endoscopy: Join our internationally recognized faculty from St. Michael's Hospital and guests from around the world on October 30th to November 1st for interactive educational sessions and live endoscopic demonstrations. A link to the program can be found at https://www.thera-endo-toronto.com/docs/Endoscopy_Course_Program_2019.pdf. Further

information on registration can be found at <https://www.thera-endo-toronto.com/program.html> .

NEXT ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- 1) Physician Wellness and Community Building:
 - a. How are we doing?
 - b. What are we planning?
- 2) City Wide Grand Rounds
 - a. SAVE THE DATES COMING SOON
 - b. New format is being planned, details to follow

FEEDBACK / QUESTIONS / IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT /
CONTENT FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER???

You know where to find me!

(And if you don't? Phone: 416 586 4800 x4304. Email
laura.targownik@sinaihealthsystem.ca)

Please email me if there is anything you want highlighted in the next Brief
(and don't be afraid to toot your own horns!)

*Thank
you!*