

Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology Newsletter

UNC GI Stem Cell Center of Excellence: A National Leader



Susan J. Henning, PhD,
UNC Stem Cell Group

In 2006, the UNC Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology began recruiting investigators to develop a GI Stem Cell Center of Excellence for basic and translational research. GI Division Chief, Dr. Robert Sandler, and Professor Kay Lund from the Department of Cell and Molecular Physiology, had the vision that this center was to include basic Ph.D. researchers who would interact with physician scientists to develop strategies for the identification, isolation, and therapeutic utilization of intestinal epithelial stem cells (IESCs). The faculty scientists that joined the UNC GI Stem Cell Group include an interdisciplinary team from Departments of Medicine, Pediatric Surgery, and Cell and Molecular Physiology.

At the time of the inception of the UNC GI Stem Cell Center for Excellence, a genetic signature for the intestinal epithelial stem cell had not been identified, precluding the isolation and study of these cells. Two new faculty members, Drs. Susan Henning Ph.D. and Scott Magness Ph.D., were recruited to the GI division as basic scientists to tackle the challenge of identifying biomarkers and developing isolation strategies for IESCs. Dr. Henning was previously at Baylor College of Medicine and was on the cutting edge of IESC identification of isolation techniques. Dr. Magness came to the GI division from the UNC Neuroscience center where his background was in the identification of basic gene networks that maintained stem cell identity in the nervous system. Working with transgenic mouse models, Drs. Henning and Magness have recently identified new IESC biomarkers and defined isolation strategies for IESCs that can be expanded in culture.

On the translational side, Drs. Michael Helmtrath MD and Christopher Dekaney Ph.D. were recruited to the UNC Department of Pediatric Surgery from Baylor College of Medicine to investigate the clinical relevance of IESCs. Dr. Helmtrath's model of the adaptive growth following ileo-cecal resection, Dr. Dekaney's model of chemotherapy-induced damage, and Dr. Lund's model of irradiation induced crypt loss together provide clinically relevant models to study stem cell behavior following intestinal loss, injury and damage. Importantly these models provide systems to understand how IESCs are involved in IESC regeneration or expansion, and to test therapies that may promote IESC survival, expansion and regeneration in the clinic. The research interests of these new investigators complemented the well-established laboratory of Dr. Kay Lund who has a long-standing collaboration with Dr. Helmtrath on the ileo-cecal resection model, and whose work focuses on identification of trophic factors that promote intestinal epithelial regeneration following surgical loss, injury or inflammation.

A New Home for the Stem Cell Group

In the beginning of 2010, contiguous laboratory space in the Medical Biomolecular Research Building (MBRB) was provided to the UNC Center for GI Biology and Disease to centralize the studies of the new IESC investigators. At the same time, the UNC GI Stem Cell Group was awarded a prestigious NIH Intestinal Stem Cell Consortium Grant (U01 mechanism). UNC is one of just eight groups in the U.S. that have been tasked with furthering the basic science and translational approaches involving IESCs. In addition to the U01 grant, the investigators as a group are well-funded by individual NIH grants, and a multi-investigator award from the North Carolina Biotechnology Center.

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UNC GI Stem Cell Research (continued from cover)

Stem Cell Group provides educational and training opportunities

An equally important focus of the UNC GI Stem Cell Center of Excellence is training the next generation of Ph.D. and MD scientists interested in GI problems. Currently, the primary investigators mentor eleven undergraduates; six graduate students, three surgical fellows, and two basic science postdoctoral research fellows. It is the goal of the GI Stem Cell Group to continue recruiting the highest-level candidates for training in stem cell biology. The GI Stem Cell Group hosts a monthly seminar series that has attracted speakers from Duke, NC State, and the greater Research Triangle. This seminar series has fostered several productive collaborations, continues to attract an increasing number of GI stem cell investigators in the area, and provides an educational conduit for both students and faculty.

The principle investigators of the GI Stem Cell Center of Excellence would like to extend an invitation to the UNC GI faculty to visit our facility (Henning, Magness, Dekaney and Helmrath on 4th floor MBRB and Lund lab on 6th floor MBRB). It is a hope that continued interaction with GI division faculty will foster internal collaborations and inform practicing GI physicians of the latest advances in GI stem cell technologies that can be related to their patients. Given the relevance of stem cells to human disease including complications of chemotherapy, radiation therapy, cancer risk, Crohn's disease and short bowel syndrome, the GI Stem Cell group will intensively seek interest from private sponsors and foundations as well as further support from the NIH. Short biographical sketches have been included at the end of this article to better introduce the core faculty members of the UNC GI Stem Cell Group.

Meet the UNC Stem Cell researchers

Chris Dekaney, Ph.D. earned his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University, completed his postdoctoral studies at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, and arrived at UNC in June 2007. Dr. Dekaney's research interests center on uncovering the mechanisms that induce intestinal stem cells to divide, as well as the mechanisms that cause intestinal stem cells to cease dividing. Understanding these processes is critical for development of clinical treatments for pathological conditions such as short bowel syndrome and cancer. Relevant publications: PMID: 19589945, 18656623, 19502994

Michael Helmrath, MD received his Masters in Physiology, MD, and general surgical training from the University of Cincinnati. During this period, he spent an additional two years completing a fellowship in the laboratory of Brad Warner MD, developing murine models of short bowel. Following his Pediatric Surgical training at Texas Children's Hospital, he joined the faculty there and began developing his own research laboratory under the mentorship of Susan Henning Ph.D. He joined the Surgical Faculty at UNC as an Associate Professor in 2007. Relevant publications: PMID: 18656623, 17855764, 16920699.

Susan Henning, Ph.D. spent the first 15 years of her faculty career in basic science departments. In 1989 she was recruited to Baylor College of Medicine to establish a research-training program in Pediatric Gastroenterology. This program received national acclaim for engaging basic scientists in the training of MD investigators. After almost 30 years of work on intestinal development, Dr. Henning switched her research interest to the study of IESCs and has pioneered the isolation and characterization of these cells. She was recruited to the UNC GI Division in 2007 to continue this research and to serve as a mentor for young MD and Ph.D. investigators. Dr. Henning is the Principal Investigator on the UNC component of the NIH Intestinal Stem Cell Consortium. In addition to the development of better methods for isolating IESCs, her current work also focuses on the establishment of transplantation techniques for these cells in mouse models. Relevant publications: PMID: 19589945, 18006601, 16285956

P. Kay Lund, Ph.D. earned her Ph.D. from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, did postdoctoral work at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard, then joined UNC in 1982. She has a long-standing interest in the identification of trophic factors that promote intestinal growth or repair after surgical loss or injury and how these same factors relate to risk of intestinal cancer. Her current research uses cellular, molecular, mouse model, and translational approaches to define the interactions between receptor tyrosine kinases, cytokine receptors and intrinsic suppressors of these pathways in normal intestinal stem cell renewal, regeneration after injury, or development of early precancerous adenomas. She is also testing new optical imaging approaches for improved detection of gastrointestinal disease. Relevant publications: PMID: 17297444 17916629, 19398439

Scott Magness, Ph.D. earned his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Magness was mentored by Dr. David Brenner during his graduate work and first post-doctoral fellowship at which time Dr. Magness was interested in the molecular genetics of erythropoietic protoporphyria and the molecular pathology of liver fibrosis. Dr. Magness engaged a second post-doctoral fellowship investigating the genetic maintenance of neural stem cells under mentorship of Dr. Larisa Pevny at the UNC Neuroscience Center. Dr. Magness returned to the UNC GI Division as faculty in the spring of 2006. He is currently focused on developing mouse models to identify, isolate, and culture intestinal epithelial stem cells. He is also using newly identified cell surface markers to isolate human IESCs from discarded gastric by-pass tissues. Additional areas of research are the role of crypt-based enteroendocrine cells on IESC expansion and differentiation, and the identification and study of intestinal cancer stem cells. Relevant publications: PMID: 20185687, 19228882

In addition to invited talks and presentations during the ACG and ASGE post-graduate courses, UNC was again well-represented in the scientific session at the 2009 meeting of the ACG in San Diego. A selection of presentations and awards is listed below. Members of the GI Division are in bold/blue type, and abstracts which receive awards are noted with an asterisk.

Effect of ERCP Utilization and Biliary Complications on Post-liver Transplant Mortality and Graft Survival

Alfred Barritt, MD, Charles Miller, MD, Paul Hayashi, MD, MPH, Evan Dellon, MD, MPH

Use of an Endoscopy Database as a Gastrointestinal Cancer Registry Surrogate in a Resource-Limited Nation: Experience of the Western Honduras Gastric Cancer Project

Seth Crockett, MD, Jennifer Lund, MSPH, Douglas Morgan, MD, MPH, Ricardo Dominguez, MD

Accutane Use is Associated with Inflammatory Bowel Disease: A Case Control Study Using Administrative Data

**2009 ACG/Centocor IBD Abstract Award*
**2009 Presidential Poster*

Seth Crockett, MD, Christopher Martin, PhD, Carol Porter, MS, Michael Kappelman, MD, MPH

Can Eosinophilic Esophagitis be Differentiated From Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease? A Clinicopathologic Case-Control Study with Predictive Modeling

Evan Dellon, MD, MPH, Wood Gibbs, MD, Karen Fritchie, MD, Tara Rubinas, MD, Lindsay Wilson, MD, John Woosley, MD, PhD, Nicholas Shaheen, MD, MPH, FACG

Progression of Symptoms and Endoscopic Findings with Age: Clues of the Natural History of Eosinophilic Esophagitis?

Evan Dellon, MD, MPH, Wood Gibbs, MD, Karen Fritchie, MD, Tara Rubinas, MD, Lindsay Wilson, MD, John Woosley, MD, PhD, Nicholas Shaheen, MD, MPH, FACG

Narrow Band Imaging Highlights Endoscopic Findings in Eosinophilic Esophagitis

Evan Dellon, MD, MPH, Ryan Madanick, MD, Nicholas Shaheen, MD, MPH, FACG

Incidence and Risk Factors for Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer in Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease

**Oral presentation during the Presidential Plenary*
**2009 ACG/Centocor IBD Abstract Award*

Millie Long, MD, MPH, Hans Herfarth, MD, PhD, Clare Pipkin, MD, Carol Porter, MS, Robert Sandler, MD, MPH, Michael Kappelman, MD, MPH

Results of Esophageal pH-Multichannel Intraluminal Impedance (MII) Testing at a Tertiary Care Center Demonstrate High Rates of Persistently Abnormal Esophageal Acid Exposures on Acid Suppressive Therapy

Ryan Madanick, MD, Serena Ezzedine, MD, Evan Dellon, MD, MPH, Sima Patel, MD, Douglas Morgan, MD, MPH, Nicholas Shaheen, MD, MPH

Management Based Upon pH-Multichannel Intraluminal Impedance (MII) Results Varies Significantly Between Patients and Across Age Groups

Ryan Madanick, MD, Serena Ezzedine, MD, Evan Dellon, MD, MPH, Sima Patel, MD, Douglas Morgan, MD, MPH, Nicholas Shaheen, MD, MPH

Esomeprazole Dose and Symptom Resolution in Patients with Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD): Is There a Ceiling Effect?

** 2009 Presidential Poster*

Marta Illueca, MD, Sherry Liu, PhD, Roy Orlando, MD

Validation of a Risk Index for Advanced Proximal Colorectal Neoplasia in Asymptomatic Adults

Thomas Imperiale, MD, Elizabeth Glowinski, RN, Ching Lin-Cooper, BS, David Ransohoff, MD

Probiotics and Postprandial-Eating Associated Symptoms

Amit Ringel, BS (candidate), Jennica Jackson, BS, Olafur Palsson, PsyD, Liseanne Fedor-Hammonds, BS, Nancy DeMaria, BS, Yehuda Ringel, MD

Fluctuations in Stool Consistency in Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)

** 2009 Presidential Poster*

Olafur Palsson, PsyD, Marsha Turner, MS, Jeffrey Baggish, MD, William Whitehead, PhD, FACG

Annual CME Event and Open House

The UNC Gastroenterology and Hepatology Division's annual CME event will be held on April 16-18 at the William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Course director Ryan Madanick has developed a program covering the entire field of GI. This year, the Division is proud to announce that the John Sessions lecture will be given by Michael Camilleri, MD from the Mayo Clinic.

Conference Information

The conference, titled *Update in Gastroenterology and Hepatology: Applying Sound Principles in Daily Practice*, is designed to provide an update in the most useful and recent developments in the diagnosis and management of gastrointestinal disorders as they are encountered by primary care physicians, surgeons, nurses and specialists.

Target Audience

The program is intended for Gastroenterologists, General Surgeons, Internal Medicine Physicians, Family Practice Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners and Registered Nurses.

Educational Objectives

- 1) Appropriately use testing algorithms for patients with gastrointestinal complaints
- 2) List comprehensive and ordered differential diagnoses for common gastrointestinal symptom constellations
- 3) Implement treatment options for common gastrointestinal illnesses
- 4) Discuss common side effects of treatments for gastrointestinal illnesses

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2010

IBD

The Organic/Functional Dichotomy: Can IBD and IBS Co-Exist	<i>Hans Herfarth, MD, PhD</i>
Optimizing Health Status in IBD	<i>Kim Isaacs, MD, PhD</i>
Rational Use of Biologics in IBD	<i>Scott Plevy, MD</i>
Surgery for Ulcerative Colitis: When Is This An Appropriate Option:	<i>Tim Sadiq, MD</i>
IBD Case Presentation	<i>Millie Long, MD, MPH</i>

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2010

Dysplasia and Neoplasia in the GI Tract

Ablation Therapy for Barrett's Esophagus	<i>Nicholas J. Shaheen, MD, MPH</i>
Gastric Cancer and H pylori: The Importance of Eradication	<i>Douglas Morgan, MD, MPH</i>
Duodenal Polyps in FAP: A Difficult Dilemma	<i>Christopher Rupp, MD</i>
Chemoprevention for Colorectal Cancer	<i>Robert Sandler, MD, MPH</i>
Dysplasia in IBD: Surveillance and Management	<i>Jonathan Hansen, MD, PhD</i>

Functional GI Disorders

Dietary Modification and IBS: Food For Thought	<i>Spencer D. Dorn, MD, MPH</i>
Obstructed Defecation and Chronic Rectal Pain	<i>William E. Whitehead, PhD</i>
Narcotic Bowel Syndrome	<i>Douglas A. Drossman, MD</i>

John T. Sessions Memorial Lecture: Management of Irritable Bowel Syndrome: Past, Present and Future	<i>Michael Camilleri, MD</i>
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SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2010

Esophageal Disorders

Managing Refractory GERD: Lessons from Impedance Studies	<i>Ryan D. Madanick, MD</i>
Differentiating GERD from Eosinophilic Esophagitis	<i>Evan Dellon, MD, MPH</i>
Extraesophageal Reflux Disease: Truth and Hype	<i>Roy C. Orlando, MD</i>

Hepatology

Optimizing Management in Hepatitis C	<i>Jama Darling, MD</i>
NAFLD: New Thoughts on Therapy	<i>Steven J. Zacks, MD, MPH</i>
Strategies for Preventing Variceal Hemorrhage	<i>Paul H. Hayashi, MD, MPH</i>

Breakouts

The Changing Face of GERD in 2010	<i>Nicholas J. Shaheen, MD, MPH and Roy C. Orlando, MD</i>
Constipation and Fecal Incontinence	<i>Yolanda Scarlett, MD</i>
Pancreatic Masses and Autoimmune Pancreatitis	<i>Ian Grimm, MD and Allan Hardy, MD</i>
Minimizing and Managing Endoscopic Complications	<i>Lisa Gangarosa, MD</i>
Maximizing the Patient Interview in FGIMDs	<i>Douglas A. Drossman, MD and Christine Dalton, PA-C</i>
Dyspepsia: Drugs, Bugs and Dilemmas	<i>Spencer D. Dorn, MD, MPH and Michael Camilleri, MD</i>
Approaching Acute GI Bleeding in 2010	<i>Eugene Bozymiski, MD and C. Brock Miller, MD</i>
Does This Patient Have IBD? Making the Correct Diagnosis	<i>Jonathan Hansen, MD, PhD and Millie Long, MD, MPH</i>
Managing Advanced Liver Disease	<i>Paul H. Hayashi, MD, MPH and A. Sidney Barritt, MD</i>
Obscure GI Bleeding: New Approaches to Diagnosis and Therapy	<i>Douglas Morgan, MD, MPH</i>
HCV Management: Dealing with Treatment Problems	<i>Karen Dougherty, RN</i>
Nursing Seminar: Maintaining Adherence in IBD Patients	<i>Anthea Darling, RN</i>

New Division Faculty Recruits - Keeping it in the family



**A. Sidney Barritt IV, MD,
MSCR.**

Dr. A. Sidney Barritt IV will join the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Medicine on July 1, 2010. Dr. Barritt received his undergraduate and medical education at the University of Virginia and did his internship, residency and a year as Chief Medical Resident in Internal Medicine at the University of Alabama-Birmingham. Dr. Barritt was recruited to the University of North

Carolina in 2006 to be a part of Bob Sandler's NIH sponsored T32 training grant in Gastroenterology and Epidemiology. While at UNC, Dr. Barritt has completed his Masters in Clinical Research through the Gillings School of Global Public Health, finished a fellowship in Gastroenterology and Hepatology, and completed an Advanced Hepatology and Liver Transplant fellowship as well. Dr. Barritt has research interests in non alcoholic fatty liver disease and liver transplantation.

Dr. Barritt, or Sid to his colleagues, is joined by his spouse, Millie Long, MD, M.P.H., as the newest faculty member in the division. He grudgingly roots for the Tarheels, but as a lifelong Virginia Cavalier fan, he is trying to prevent his children (Connor, 5, Tyler, 3, and baby on the way) from becoming entirely corrupted.



Millie D. Long MD, MPH

Dr. Millie D. Long will join the faculty as Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center of Excellence in July 2010. She obtained her undergraduate degree from UNC, followed by medical school at University of Virginia, internal medicine residency and chief residency at University of Alabama and a gastroenterology and hepatology fellowship at UNC. She also completed a preventive medicine

fellowship and a masters of public health in epidemiology during her time at UNC. Her research interests include the prevention of complications of therapies used in the treatment of IBD. She has been awarded a career development award from the American College of Gastroenterology to support her research. She also has an interest in teaching, and will continue to be actively involved in medical student, resident and fellow medical education as a faculty member.

Dr. Long grew up in Chapel Hill, and may be the only faculty member in the division born at Memorial Hospital! She enjoys swimming in her spare time, and was on the Varsity swim team at UNC during her college years. Her husband, A. Sidney Barritt MD, will also be joining the faculty at UNC as Assistant Professor of Medicine in Transplant Hepatology. They have 2 young children, Connor and Tyler, who will also hopefully grow up as Tar Heels.

Second-Year Medical Student Course Completes Another Successful Year

This year's second year medical student course in Gastroenterology and Hepatology was another rousing success. Under the direction of Ryan Madanick, the course continues to be one of the most well-received blocks in the second year curriculum. As in prior years, the course was a 3-week long block in November that encompassed a week of hepatology and 2 weeks of gastroenterology. As medical education is being transitioned more and more away from the lecture hall, the GI faculty continued to provide some of the most enjoyable learning experiences throughout the first two years during the small group sessions.

Drs. Evan Dellon, Kim Isaacs, Henry Lesesne, Ryan Madanick, and Yolanda Scarlett each led daily small group sessions, and received multiple accolades such as "excellent," "fantastic," and "extremely helpful" on the end-of-course evaluations. These faculty, along with Drs. Nicholas Shaheen and Michael Fried, delivered energetic lectures for all of the clinical material. Dr. Lesesne's time-honored "First Think Drugs" lecture continued to bring down the house, as it has for decades! One particular change this year that was highly appreciated by the students was the hour-long patient presentation, led by Dr. Isaacs. Instead of focusing on the symptoms of disease, this session dealt with the impact of GI disease on a patient's life.

The patient, a young woman treated by Dr. Hans Herfarth for ulcerative colitis who has written free-lance articles about her illness for the New York Times, came in to discuss several issues about problems she has faced because of her illness and how she has come to deal with having the disease. The talk seemed to really open the students' eyes to just how significant gastrointestinal problems can be for patients.

As the curriculum continues to morph, future changes in the organization of the course are likely, with more computer-based and small-group learning experiences planned for coming years. Overall, the course continues to deliver the top-notch education of which our Division and its Alumni can be proud.

Faculty and Fellow Accomplishments

At the 2/1/2010 meeting of Residency Review Committee for Internal Medicine, the American College of Graduate Medication Education (ACGME) formally accredited the **UNC Gastroenterology and Hepatology Division's Fellowship in Transplant Hepatology**.

Seth D. Crockett, MD, is set to receive his MPH degree at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health after completing course work there over the last two years. His Master's thesis is entitled: "Alcohol intake and rectal cancer: A case-control study." He was also awarded a TRaC\$10K grant for a project entitled: "Do statins reduce flares of inflammatory bowel disease? A retrospective cohort study." His grant application was one of 12 chosen for funding in the fall cycle.

Lisa M. Gangarosa, MD, gave a community outreach talk at Southpoint Mall in Durham this month. At the request of the UNC Heels in Motion Program, she spoke to a community audience of 80 about colorectal cancer, in a program that was very well received.

Hans H. Herfarth, MD, was selected to Best Doctors in America 2009-2010. Recipients of this honor are chosen after "an exhaustive peer-review survey by thousands of doctors" and "consensus support of their peers".

Miranda van Tilburg, PhD was the first author on a publication in the November, 2009, issue of Pediatrics entitled "Audio-recorded guided imagery treatment reduces functional abdominal pain in children: a pilot study." This article generated significant publicity and interest nationally and internationally, including:

- Interviews on the BBC Newshour (NPR); BBC Worldservice; Newstalk 106-108 FM (Ireland); Hoe?Zoe! (Netherlands); and Voice of America
- Print press coverage in the Duke Chronicle; El Mundo (Spain)
- Internet coverage on more than 40 websites, including: Health.yahoo.com., News.yahoo.com, USAtoday.com, News.bbc.co.uk, Reuters.com, Webmd.com, Healthday.com.

David F. Ransohoff, MD MPH, recently gave two invited talks. The first, in February, was at the NIH State-of-the-Science Conference on enhancing use and quality of colorectal cancer screening. The talk title was "Ensuring quality in colorectal screening: Avoiding misuse and overuse." The second, in March, was at the Wellcome Trust in Cambridge, UK. This was the Perspective in Clinical Proteomics Conference, and the talk was "Clinical proteomics tests for cancer: Lessons from the first 10 years."

Robert S. Sandler, MD MPH, gave the Arthur Atkinson Sr. Memorial Lecture at the Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University (10/6/09), and the Wade Vowlier Visiting Professor at the University of Washington in Seattle (10/15-16/09). Dr. Sandler is also finishing his year as past-president of the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) Institute, and current president of the AGA, the policy arm of the organization.

R. Balfour Sartor, MD, was recently honored with election into the Association of American Physicians (AAP). Founded in 1885 by seven physicians including Sir William Osler, the AAP (aap-online.org) promotes the "pursuit of medical knowledge, and the advancement through experimentation and discovery of basic and clinical science, and their application to clinical medicine." Membership is determined after highly selective peer-nomination and review process. Dr. Sartor's formal induction will be during a ceremony on April 24, 2010.

Nicholas J. Shaheen, MD MPH, was appointed an Associate Editor of the American Journal of Gastroenterology.

Coming Attractions: Alumni Notes

In the next GI Division Newsletter, we will be reporting news and updates from alumni of our GI fellowship program. If you have any updates, events, or news you'd like included in the Newsletter, please send an e-mail to gialum@unc.edu.

Over the past 2 years, we have been working to improve our website, www.med.unc.edu/gi, keeping it up to date with the most current news, and creating a whole new look. We now want to include our former fellows by establishing an Alumni page. This would be an effective way for alumni to stay in touch with our division. Because patients come to our website it might also be a way to promote patient referrals.

If you would like to be included, please respond to Nicolette DeGroot at ndegroot@med.unc.edu, and confirm your graduation date from the division, office phone number and address.

Keep in touch with the UNC GI Division!

Procedures Appointments

Outpatient general endoscopic procedures such as colonoscopy, EGD, and sigmoidoscopy can be scheduled directly through the GI Procedure Unit (919-966-5563; after hours, messages may be left at 919-966-2319).

These are considered "open access" procedures, meaning that they can be scheduled by any referring physician. Services provided by the UNC Motility Unit are also "open access". All other procedures require approval by a UNC faculty member (after completion of a referral form or following a telephone consultation).

For questions regarding urgent or complex cases, call the GI Procedures Unit (919-966-5563) and ask to speak to an attending physician in the procedures area.

Clinic Appointments

Phone: GI Program - (919) 966-2511 • Hepatology Program - (919) 966-2516

Fax: GI Program - (919) 966-6842 • Hepatology Program - (919) 966-1700