



CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

Grand Rounds
Thursday, March 2, 2006, 12:00 Noon
Clinic Auditorium

Stephan Moll, MD
Assistant Professor
Division of Hematology-Oncology

Thrombosis and Thrombophilia: Clinically-relevant New Developments

FROM DIVISIONS

- **Robert Sandler, MD**, will receive the 2006 Masters Award for Sustained Achievement in Digestive Disease in May. The award recognizes scientists and physicians who have made significant and sustained contributions to gastrointestinal disease research and who have been leaders in academia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- National Patient Safety Awareness Week, March 5 - 11. UNC is offering a [range of activities](#) to improve the safety and care of our patients.
- The Third Annual Beach Ball hosted by [Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center](#) will be held on Sat., April 8 at University Mall. For tickets and information, contact Leslie Nelson, 966-5905.

FROM THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

The Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology had an outstanding last year here at UNC under the leadership of **Dr. Robert Sandler**. Dr. Sandler has truly succeeded in balancing the needs of the division so that teaching, research, and clinical work are all flourishing.

In teaching, the division holds two Institutional National Research Service Award (T32) grants from the NIH, one to train basic scientists, under **Balfour Sartor**, and one to train fellows in epidemiology and clinical research, under Robert Sandler. The division has assumed responsibility for the Short Term Research Training Program (STRT), which is an NIH grant that provides funds for a summer research experience for 32 medical students. The division has an active clinical fellowship that is funded completely from clinical operations, and trains seven fellows. **Nicholas Shaheen** is responsible for organizing the second year course for UNC Medical Students.

In research, the division published nearly 200 articles in 2005 in the top peer-reviewed journals, including the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *JAMA*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, and *Gastroenterology*. Six members of the division serve on the Board of Editors for *Gastroenterology*, including the Senior Associate Editor and Statistical Editor. The division currently receives more than

\$10 million in research grants annually. Members of the division hold ten R01, three U01, one P30, one P20, and numerous industry and foundation awards. Among the largest of the new awards were a competing renewal of the GI Center Core Grant (\$5M), an infrastructure grant awarded to Drs. **Whitehead** and **Drossman** (\$4.5M), a P20 NIH Roadmap grant and a grant to fund the National Gnotobiotic Animal Facility to Balfour Sartor. Additionally, Douglas Drossman received the AGA Fiterman Foundation Clinical Research Award.

On the clinical side, the division was ranked 22nd by *US News and World Report* in 2005. Nine faculty members were listed among the best doctors in America (**Bozymksi, Drossman, Heizer, Isaacs, Sartor, Shaheen, Sandler, Fried,** and **Shrestha**). The division was a leader in new patient visits, and performed nearly 10,000 procedures (an increase of 15% over the past two years). In 2004, the hepatologists opened a freestanding hepatitis clinic in Greensboro in conjunction with Moses Cone Hospital. The clinic has exceeded every expectation with more than 610 new patients referred to the clinic in the first eight months (the expected number was 300 in the first year). In January 2005, the division opened the UNC Endoscopy Center at Meadowmont, providing us with an attractive, well-equipped facility that, for the first time, permits us to substantially expand our procedure volume. **Sid Levinson**, a well-respected Chapel Hill practitioner, directs the center.

The Division welcomed **Jama Darling**, MD, a hepatologist recruited from the University of California at San Francisco. Her research concerns the immunology of hepatitis infection. **Roy Orlando**, MD, Chief of Gastroenterology at Tulane is currently spending a sabbatical year here at UNC, following evacuation from hurricane Katrina.

Last, but certainly not least, members of the division serve at the highest levels of GI professional organizations. During the past five years, UNC has had two faculty members on the Governing Board of the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), two on the AGA Council, and three on the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America (including the chair of the committee). Division members have served on NIH study sections, editorial boards, advisory boards, and symposia committees.

All in all, the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology represents excellence in all areas of our mission and we look for more exciting news from the division in the future.

Questions or submissions, contact katie_obrien@med.unc.edu.