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*Michigan Hepatology Newsletter
<http://www.med.umich.edu/hepatology>*

INAUGURAL ISSUE

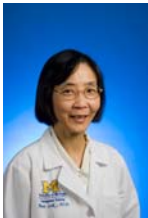


Keith Henley, MD, Professor Emeritus

As the Hepatology program at the University of Michigan celebrates our Golden Jubilee, we wish to take a moment to update our friends and to send you our best wishes. This year we celebrated the contributions of Dr. Keith Henley, founder of the U-M Hepatology program at the University of Michigan with a lifetime distinguished service award. Keith remains an active member of the GI division as an emeritus professor.



We are pleased that **Dr. Jorge Marrero** was named the first Keith S. Henley Collegiate Professor in Gastroenterology. Jorge has enjoyed a productive year as the Director of the rapidly growing multi-disciplinary Liver Tumor program. This service brings together hepatologists, transplant surgeons, radiologists, interventional radiologists, pathologists and oncologists to develop better ways to diagnose and treat patients with liver tumors here in Michigan and nationally.



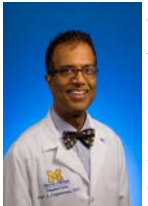
Never to be outdone by her junior colleague, **Dr. Anna Lok** was named the first Alice Lohrman Andrews Research Professor in Hepatology, a recognition which carries special meaning as it was at the bequest of a gift from one of her patients and their family, in recognition of the compassionate care they received. Anna continues as Director of Clinical Hepatology and has also been named Associate Chair for Clinical Research, Department of Internal Medicine. She is directing a new Hepatitis Clinic to streamline referrals of patients for new treatments for both hepatitis B and C.



Dr. Robert Fontana continues to distinguish himself as the Medical Director of our Liver Transplant program, which actively offers both cadaveric and living related liver transplantation. Bob has had a productive year studying acute liver failure and drug induced liver injury. Bob's work in the Acute Liver Failure Study Group contributed to the recent FDA decision to limit the approved daily dose of acetaminophen.



Dr. Fred Askari continues to expand the internationally acclaimed Wilson Disease Center of Excellence as well as study new therapies for PBC and Wilson Disease, while maintaining a busy clinical practice in hepatology and liver transplantation.

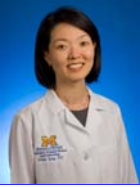


We welcome the return of **Dr. Hari Conjeevaram** to his beloved home and patients in Michigan after a brief sabbatical to Cleveland Clinic. Hari's research interests include (i) studying insulin resistance and steatosis in hepatitis C and the role of insulin sensitizing drugs in hepatitis C; (ii) treatment of Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD)/non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH); and (iii) Liver Transplantation. He will be one of the faculty actively involved in the new Hepatitis Clinic at the University of Michigan.



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Dr. Hellan Kang is involved in clinical trials for fatty liver disease as well as studying platelet growth factors which we hope will improve the safety of invasive procedures for our liver patients. Her research interests include nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, metabolic syndrome, and insulin resistance in liver transplant patients.



Dr. Richard Moseley has distinguished himself in providing liver care for our veterans in his role as Chief of Medicine Service at Veterans Affairs Ann Arbor Healthcare System. His research interests include mechanisms of bile formation and cholestasis, drug associated liver injury and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease.



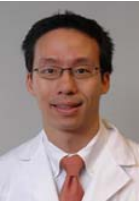
Dr. Shawn Pelletier was named the Surgical Director of Liver Transplantation in 2009. Shawn provides physician leadership in the transplant division that is committed to increased accessibility to the Liver Transplant Service by patients and referring physicians.



Dr. Pratima Sharma, a recent addition to our faculty provides robust support to our transplant program being always ready to serve our referring physicians and patients as well as advancing the science of liver transplantation through transplant related research.



Dr. Grace Su continues to lead the Ann Arbor VAMC in becoming one of the premier VA based GI divisions in the country. Grace was named the Division Chief at the Veterans Affairs in 2008. We are particularly pleased that she continues to provide distinguished hepatology care for our veterans here in Michigan including a dedicated Liver Clinic and multidisciplinary care for patients with liver tumors.



Dr. Andrew Tai, who joined us on July 1, 2009 from Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, will expand his research on novel targets for hepatitis C drug development. Andrew brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise on the molecular virology of hepatitis which will contribute to our research programs to advance therapies for hepatitis B and C.



Dr. Rebecca Van Dyke was honored this past year with 2 teaching awards, one from the medical school and one from the department. She has also compiled a library of all the important articles on liver diseases for our GI fellows. It would seem that Rebecca would have no time left for anything else, but she has clinics at the Main Hospital, Canton satellite clinic and the Ann Arbor VAMC.



Another notable addition to our faculty is **Dr. Michael Volk** who provides extensive support to our transplant program, our referring physicians and patients as well as advancing the science of liver transplantation through transplant related research. Michael has particular interest in ethical issues of liver transplantation and outcomes research in hepatology.