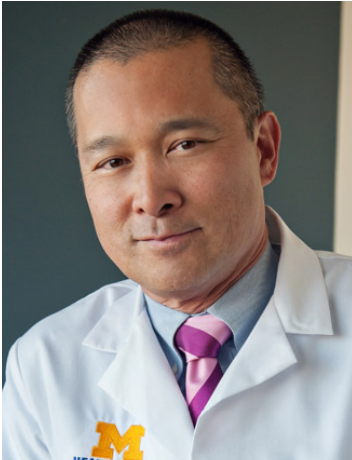


# *A Letter from the Division Chief*

January 2024



**William D. Chey, MD**

**Chief, Division of  
Gastroenterology  
and Hepatology**

**H. Marvin Pollard  
Professor of  
Gastroenterology**

## *“It’s great to be a Michigan Wolverine!”*

If you were lucky enough to attend a football game in the Big House during this historic championship season, you no doubt heard this chant which also can be applied to our beloved Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology. From groundbreaking research which has led to a record number of career development awards and total research funding in excess of \$35M to the creation of innovative clinical programs which are increasing access, streamlining clinical operations, and improving outcomes, our division is in the midst of a renaissance that will identify and leverage the many innovative, state of the art assets at our disposal.

For example, we have already launched a comprehensive effort to reimagine our Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program. We have recently completed a blueprint to overhaul and significantly expand our clinical IBD program. This will include an expansion of our clinical IBD physicians and advanced practice providers, the addition of a patient navigator, and implementation of a triage system for new consultations. We are also developing specialized training pathways for fellows interested in a clinical career in IBD and expanding our educational offerings for patients and community physicians. Execution of this plan will be led by our Director of IBD – Dr. Peter Higgins and our newly minted Clinical Director of IBD – Dr. Srinivas Bishu. We are indebted to Marc Weiser and the Weiser Family, whose generosity is helping us to make the IBD program the “Leaders and Best”. We also have ambitious plans for programmatic growth in obesity, advanced endoscopic imaging, colorectal cancer and alcoholic liver disease. It is truly a great time to be a Michigan Wolverine!

I hope you enjoy this newsletter which contains just a few of the achievements of our remarkable scholars and clinicians.

## *“GO BLUE!!”*

WDC