Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition Fellowship Program

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago™

Chicago, IL

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Director, Fellowship Training Program

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Welcome from Dr. Wershil

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Welcome from Dr. Wershil

Greetings, and thank you for your interest in our Fellowship Program in Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago and Northwestern University’s McGaw Medical Center. We are proud of our recent ranking as 8th in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* for pediatric gastroenterology. Our mission is to train the future academic and clinical leaders in pediatric gastroenterology and hepatology. In order to do this, we developed a curriculum that provides an intensive and comprehensive exposure to all the essential elements required of today’s active subspecialist. The first year is predominantly clinical with an exposure to a vast array of gastrointestinal and liver diseases. As well, the fellow will acquire the procedure skills necessary for competency. While concentrating on clinical activity, we work with the fellows throughout the first year to develop their individualized agendas for the more research-oriented activities of the second and third years. The Division, Department, and Northwestern Medical Center offer a tremendous depth of activities in both basic and clinical research to draw upon. Our job is to help guide the fellows to the mentors that will best serve their individual goals. In the end, we take great pride in the accomplishments of our fellows and their professional development as they move on to successful careers.

We look forward to the selection process for the coming year and encourage you to contact us with any questions or issues that might arise. Again thank you for considering our program and the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Barry K. Wershil, MD
Division Head, Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago
Professor, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Program Overview

The educational mission of the Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition Fellowship Training Program is to provide trainees with the experiences necessary to become competent clinical gastroenterologists and hepatologists, and in the process define their career paths and goals. To do this, we focus on presenting a comprehensive clinical, educational, procedural, and research exposure over the course of the program. This fellowship is fully accredited through the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and meets the training requirements of the American Board of Pediatrics for subspecialty certification in Pediatric Gastroenterology.

The three year fellowship program consists of 12 months of clinical education and 24 months of research experience. The first year of the program predominantly involves the acquisition of clinical and procedural skills and the participation in teaching responsibilities. But the trainee is also introduced to various aspects of clinical and basic research methodology. Over the next two years, there is an increase in research time, while new teaching and administrative tasks are assumed. Some activities are common to all years of fellowship training. Throughout the three years, fellows are required to attend the key departmental, division, and joint fellowship conferences as part of their core educational experience. Administrative responsibilities include scheduling some of these educational activities and maintaining the teaching file for the ambulatory practice.

First Year

During the first year of fellowship, fellows spend the majority of their time involved in the inpatient and outpatient services. First year fellows have primary clinical responsibility for inpatients (either on the GI or liver service). In addition, fellows perform consultations, attend outpatient clinics, and participate in any and all procedures deemed necessary on patients they evaluate on the inpatient service or in clinic. Fellows participate in weekly divisional conferences and are expected to present in these conferences on average twice per month. During the second half of the year, the fellows begin the process of formulating their individualized research agenda for the second and third years, including identification of a mentor, defining a research project, establishing a scholarly oversight committee, and if necessary, formulate an IRB proposal.

- **Inpatient Service:** 11 months
- **Call:** 8-10 weeks of call per academic year
- **Clinics:** 2-3 sessions per week

Second Year

The majority of time in the second year is devoted to research. Fellows begin work on the project chosen in the latter part of their first year and are encouraged to write a review article and/or case report during the second year of fellowship. Some additional administrative duties are assigned to second year fellows such as scheduling and organizing the monthly Pathology and Radiology Conferences. Fellows see new patients as well as follow established patients in GI clinic, and attend subspecialty clinics in IBD and intestinal rehabilitation. Their inpatient responsibilities are limited to approximately 4-6 weeks during the year. Fellows participate in any and all procedures deemed necessary on their patients. Second year fellows have increased responsibility for teaching residents rotating on the GI service, including providing occasional didactic sessions on common GI problems.

- **Inpatient Service:** 4-6 weeks per academic year
- **Call:** 8-10 weeks of call per academic year
- **Clinics:** 2 sessions per week

Third Year

The emphasis for the third year remains research. Fellows are expected to have at least one research project ready to be submitted as an abstract and presented at a national meeting. Fellows are also encouraged to write and submit a research grant. Fellows continue to see new and established patients in their GI clinic, and have subspecialty clinic exposure in motility and anorectal anomalies. There is flexibility to allow third year fellows to attend clinical experience approximate with their career goals (i.e. hepatology). They have inpatient service for 2-4 weeks during the year. Fellows participate in any and all procedures deemed necessary on their patients. Third year fellows have even greater responsibility for teaching residents and medical students rotating through the division. Senior fellows are often called upon to give lectures to the pediatric residents and students and many continue as faculty facilitators at the medical school as well.

- **Inpatient Service:** 2-4 weeks per academic year
- **Call:** 8-10 weeks of call per academic year
- **Clinics:** 2 sessions per week
Additional Training Opportunities

We are one of the few programs in the country that offer an accredited Pediatric Transplant Hepatology fellowship under the direction of Dr. Estella Alonso. This training program is not part of the core Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition Fellowship and requires completion of a three-year Pediatric Gastroenterology Fellowship and an application to the program, which is reviewed on a competitive basis. This additional year of training is recommended for individuals interested in a career in Hepatology and Liver Transplantation.

This one-year fellowship is divided into six months of inpatient coverage on the Hepatology/Transplant service, and six months dedicated to a clinical or basic research project in the area of Hepatology or Transplantation Medicine. Throughout the year, the fellow will participate in weekly Hepatology and Liver Transplant clinics, and play an active role in the pre-operative evaluation of patients for liver transplant as well as the post-operative management. They will also be called upon to give lectures to the pediatric GI fellows, residents and medical students throughout the duration of this fellowship.

Academic Program

The weekly “Fellows Conference” is the principal meeting for the purpose of stimulating the active interchange of information and ideas among the fellows. The program director directs the conference and any faculty and staff are welcomed to attend. Case related discussion, literature reviews, research topics, etc. take place in round-table fashion. The topics are known and literature is assigned well in advance, so the meeting can serve to discuss conflicting data and to cement ideas. All fellows are required to attend.

Fellows also participate in the following other conferences:

**Divisional Conferences:**
- Journal Club – once per month
- Clinical Subject Review – once per month
- Research Conference – once per month
- Radiology Conference – once per month
- Clinical Case Conference – once per month
- GI Pathology Conference – twice per month
- Hepatology Pathology Conference – once per month
- Transplant Team Meeting – weekly
- Transplant M&M – monthly
- Faculty Peer Review (case conference) – quarterly
- Joint Adult/Pediatric GI Topic Conference – weekly

**Departmental Conferences:**
- Pediatric Grand Rounds – weekly
- Firm Rounds – weekly

Our philosophy is that writing manuscripts and grants at an early stage is absolutely essential to the development of an academic career. Fellows are urged to write and publish clinically-oriented manuscripts during the clinical year and to publish results of research projects. Most fellows publish 2-4 clinical papers, including case reports and clinical studies, and 1-2 designed research papers, by the completion of fellowship.

Teaching skills are improved by giving lectures to students and residents. A member of the faculty often sits in on these lectures to provide feedback on the quality and method of presentation. Fellows also present regularly at divisional conferences (i.e., journal club, clinical case conferences, and research conferences) that serve to strengthen skills in verbal presentation that would lead to presenting at one or more national meetings.
On Saturday, June 9, 2012, Children’s Memorial’s main hospital moved to 225 E. Chicago Avenue, and became Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago. This new 23-story, state-of-the-art hospital helps further our mission to provide superior care to the region’s most critically ill and injured children. Lurie Children’s:

- Is the only hospital in Illinois that is included in the honor roll of Best Children’s Hospitals by U.S. News & World Report
- Is licensed for 288 beds and all private rooms
- Has an emergency department with 45 beds (increased from 25 beds) to better respond to regional demands and includes three trauma/procedure rooms, four nurse triage rooms, two diagnostic radiology rooms and one dedicated CT scanner.
- Is designed to increase patient safety, accommodate new technology and make care more efficient

Moving to the downtown Chicago campus of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine increases clinical, academic and research opportunities to lead to better care for children. It also:

- Helps us recruit top pediatric specialists to Chicago
- Encourages child and adult health researchers to work closer together
- Allows faster transport for critically-ill newborns from Prentice Women’s Hospital – the largest birthing center in Illinois
- Improves transition of our patients with chronic conditions into adult care at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago

Lurie Children’s is located at 225 E. Chicago Avenue between Chicago Avenue and Superior Street, just west of Northwestern Memorial Hospital’s Prentice Women’s Hospital. Parking for patients and visitors is available in the Huron-Superior parking garage, which is just across Superior Street from the hospital. There is a pedestrian overpass to provide access to/from the Huron-Superior parking garage. With validation, parking costs $10 for 0-7 hours and $15 for more than 7 hours.

For more information on parking, driving directions, and public transportation options, please visit: http://www.luriechildrens.org/en-us/care-services/parking-locations/Pages/lurie-childrens.aspx
Divisional Overview

The Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago was recently ranked 8th in the nation by U.S. News & World Report for pediatric gastroenterology. While patient care is paramount, we are also committed to the education and professional development of our fellows. There are 15 full time attending physicians in the division and all hold faculty appointments within the Department of Pediatrics at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

The senior faculty members collectively have more than 60 years of experience teaching in this subspecialty. Dr. Barry K. Wershil, Division Head, has more than 25 years of experience in training Pediatric Gastroenterology fellows. Dr. Peter F. Whittington, Director of the Siragusa Transplantation Center, is a leader in the field of Pediatric Hepatology and Transplant Hepatology and has been training subspecialists for more than 30 years. Dr. Estella M. Alonso, Medical Director of Liver Transplantation, provides more than 20 years of experienced leadership and education in the field of Pediatric Hepatology and Liver Transplantation. The division also has an experienced and dedicated nursing and clinical nutrition staff.

The inpatient services are divided into Gastroenterology/Nutrition and Hepatology. On the Gastroenterology service, the typical daily census is 6-12 patients, and the service averages 6-8 consults per week. The average daily census on the Hepatology inpatient service is 4-8 patients, including 2-4 post-transplant patients, and the service averages about 2-4 consults per week.

The division has approximately 6,000 patient visits in the outpatient setting per year. About two-thirds of those patients are from the Chicago/upper Midwest region, while the rest are from a wide geographic area, including many national and international referrals. Pediatricians and Gastroenterologists refer the majority of patients for tertiary services. Some of the more common diagnoses encountered in our general GI clinics are gastroesophageal reflux, failure to thrive, recurrent abdominal pain, constipation, celiac disease, and allergic bowel disorder.

We also have subspecialty clinics in functional gastrointestinal and motility disorders, inflammatory bowel disease, eosinophilic esophagitis and allergic bowel disease, and intestinal failure. The hepatology outpatient clinic sees an incredible array of liver diseases as it is the only specialized clinic in Illinois and is a referral center for the Midwest.

The main hospital is now located in the downtown Streeterville neighborhood, and we still have an outpatient center located in the Lincoln Park neighborhood in Chicago. Fellows attend outpatient clinics at those two locations, and there is shuttle service between the main hospital and outpatient center. The Division also has satellite gastroenterology outpatient clinics in six suburban partner locations: Arlington Heights, Glenview, Lake Forest, Tinley Park, Westchester, and Winfield.
Barry K. Wershil, MD
Professor, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Division Head, Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago
Attending Physician, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago

Dr. Wershil completed a Pediatric Residency and Chief Residency at St. Louis Children’s Hospital in St. Louis, MO. He completed a Pediatric Gastroenterology Fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital and Children’s Hospital in Boston, MA, and a Research Fellowship in the Department of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA.

Clinical Interests: Eosinophilic Esophagitis, Food Allergy
Research Interests: Eosinophilic Esophagitis, Mast cell function in the GI tract

Selected Recent Publications:

Jeffrey B. Brown, MD
Assistant Professor, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Director, Fellowship Training Program, Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
Attending Physician, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago

Dr. Brown completed a Pediatric Residency program and Pediatric Gastroenterology Fellowship at Lurie Children’s (formerly Children’s Memorial Hospital) in Chicago, IL.

Clinical interests: Inflammatory Bowel Disease
Research interests: Inflammatory Bowel Disease, specifically laboratory investigation of intestinal lymphocyte trafficking in models of inflammatory bowel disease and the relationship of inflammation, intestinal stem cells, and colon cancer.

Selected Recent Publications:
Estella M. Alonso, MD  
Professor, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
Medical Director of Liver Transplantation, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago  
Attending Physician, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago  

Dr. Alonso completed a Pediatric Residency program at Lurie Children’s (formerly Children’s Memorial Hospital) in Chicago, IL. She completed a Pediatric Gastroenterology Fellowship at the University of Chicago in Chicago, IL, and a Research Fellowship in the Liver Research Laboratory at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, CA.

Clinical interests: Liver disease and transplantation, acute liver failure, biliary atresia, and primary sclerosing cholangitis
Research interests: Rehabilitation and outcome after liver transplantation, acute liver failure, primary sclerosing cholangitis, and transplant tolerance

Selected Recent Publications:

Lee Bass, MD  
Assistant Professor, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
Director of Endoscopy and Clinical Practice Director, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition  
Attending Physician, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago  

Dr. Bass completed a Pediatric Residency and Chief Residency at St. Louis Children’s Hospital in St. Louis, MO. He completed a Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition Fellowship at Lurie Children’s (formerly Children’s Memorial Hospital) in Chicago, IL.

Clinical interests: Gastroesophageal reflux, cholestatic liver disease, primary sclerosing cholangitis with Inflammatory Bowel Disease, autoimmune liver disease, portal hypertension, therapeutic endoscopy, Capsule endoscopy
Research interests: Novel uses of capsule endoscopy, innovative teaching approaches of endoscopy to trainees

Selected Recent Publications:
Dr. Chogle completed his residency in General Pediatrics at Children’s Hospital at SUNY Downstate and fellowship in Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at Lurie Children’s Hospital (formerly Children’s Memorial Hospital) in Chicago, IL. Dr. Chogle has helped build our center of excellence for children with gastrointestinal motility and functional bowel disorders.

**Clinical interests:** Swallowing disorders, dysphagia, esophageal achalasia, refractory nausea, gastroparesis, intestinal pseudo-obstruction, chronic constipation, anal dysfunction, cyclic vomiting syndrome, functional abdominal pain and irritable bowel syndrome. Comprehensive holistic approach in treatment of functional GI disorders including use of natural medications and psychotherapy.

**Research interests:** Gastrointestinal motility and functional disorders.

**Selected Recent Publications:**


Dr. Cohran completed a Pediatric Residency program, Pediatric Gastroenterology Fellowship, and an Advanced Clinical Research Fellowship at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, OH.

**Clinical Interests:** Intestinal rehabilitation and transplantation

**Research Interests:** Outcomes in transplantation, specifically stem cell activation and its role in intestinal adaptation

**Selected Recent Publications:**

Mark H. Fishbein, MD  
**Associate Professor, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine**  
**Attending Physician, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago**

Dr. Fishbein completed both a Pediatric Residency program and Pediatric Gastroenterology Fellowship at the University of Chicago in Chicago, IL.

**Clinical interests:** Feeding aversion and feeding disorders  
**Research interests:** Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, quality of life for families of children with feeding disorders, and the relationship between grocery shopping and obesity

**Selected Recent Publications:**
1. Fishbein M, Flock S, and Benton K. Self-Assessment of Pediatric Feeding Therapists in the State of Illinois. (accepted for publication) ASHA SIG 13 (Perspectives) 2013

Maria T. Greene, MD  
**Assistant Professor, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine**  
**Attending Physician, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago**

Dr. Greene completed a Pediatric Residency program at Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch, NJ. She completed a Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition Fellowship at Lurie Children’s (formerly Children’s Memorial Hospital) in Chicago, IL.

**Clinical interests:** Feeding/swallowing difficulties, failure to thrive/growth failure, pancreatic disorders  
**Research interests:** Dysphagia, swallowing disorders

**Selected Recent Publications:**
Amir Kagalwalla, MD
Associate Professor, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Attending Physician, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago

Dr. Kagalwalla completed a Pediatric Residency program and a Pediatric Gastroenterology Fellowship at Children’s Hospital of Michigan in Detroit, Michigan.

Clinical interests: Food Allergies

Research interests: Eosinophilic Esophagitis

Selected Recent Publications:

Saeed Mohammad, MD
Assistant Professor, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Attending Physician, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago

Dr. Mohammad completed a Pediatric Residency program at Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital, Nashville, TN. He completed fellowships in Pediatric Gastroenterology and Transplant Hepatology at Lurie Children’s (formerly Children’s Memorial Hospital) in Chicago, IL.

Clinical interests: Childhood liver disease and transplantation, acute liver failure, cholestatic liver disease.

Research interests: Long term outcomes after liver transplantation, Comparative effectiveness research, Transition of care

Selected Recent Publications:
Joshua Prozialeck, MD
Assistant Professor, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Attending Physician, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago

Dr. Prozialeck completed his Pediatric Residency and his Pediatric Gastroenterology Fellowship at Lurie Children’s (formerly Children’s Memorial Hospital) in Chicago, IL.

Clinical Interest: Intestinal rehabilitation, advanced endoscopy
Research Interests: Short gut, quality improvement, endoscopic procedures, nutrition support
Selected Recent Publications:

Miguel Saps, MD
Associate Professor, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Director, Gastrointestinal Motility and Functional Bowel Disorders Program,
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago
Attending Physician, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago

Dr. Saps completed a Pediatric Gastroenterology and Hepatology Residency program at Hospital Ramon y Cajal, Hospital La Paz in Madrid, Spain. He completed a Clinical Research Fellowship in Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, CA. He then pursued a Pediatric Residency at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY, and then a Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition Fellowship atChildren’s Hospital of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, PA.

Clinical Interests: Functional bowel disorders and motility disorders
Research Interests: Treatment pathogenesis and epidemiology of functional gastrointestinal disorders
Selected Recent Publications:
Jennifer Strople, MD  
Assistant Professor, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
Attending Physician, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago

Dr. Strople completed both a Pediatric Residency program and Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition Fellowship at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, OH. Dr. Strople also obtained a Masters of Science in Epidemiology and Biostatics at the University of Cincinnati while in fellowship training.

**Clinical Interests:** Inflammatory Bowel Disease  
**Research Interests:** Inflammatory Bowel Disease, specifically outcomes and quality improvement

**Selected Recent Publications:**
3. Bousvaros A, Goldsmith J, Strople J, et al. Making the Right Diagnosis: Differentiating Between Crohn’s Disease and Ulcerative Colitis in Children and Young Adults, A case-Based Monograph focusing on Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease, published by NASPGHAN and CDHNF, May 2009

Joshua Wechsler, MD  
Instructor, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
Attending Physician, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago

Dr. Wechsler completed a Pediatric Residency program at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, IN. He completed a Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition Fellowship at Lurie Children’s (formerly Children’s Memorial Hospital) in Chicago, IL.

**Clinical interests:** Eosinophilic Esophagitis and allergic bowel disorders  
**Research interest:** Role of mast cells and their effecter molecule, histamine, in the pathogenesis of gastrointestinal inflammation.

**Selected Recent Publications:**
Peter F. Whittington, MD
The Sally Burnett Searle Professor of Pediatrics and Transplantation, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Director, Siragusa Transplantation Center, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago
Attending Physician, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago

Dr Whittington completed a Pediatric Residency and Chief Residency at the University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences in Memphis, TN. He completed Gastroenterology Fellowship at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD and at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI. He has been on the academic faculty at the University of Tennessee center for the Health Sciences (1978-1984), The University of Chicago (1984-1997) and Northwestern University (1997-present).

Clinical interests: Childhood liver diseases, in particular neonatal hemochromatosis, genetic cholestasis, and biliary atresia, and pediatric liver transplantation.

Research interests: Mechanisms of liver injury in gestational alloimmune liver disease; improving diagnosis and treatment of gestational alloimmune liver disease; mechanisms of liver injury and repair in cholestatic liver disease; clinical trials in biliary atresia and NAFLD/NASH.

Selected recent publications:
First Year Fellows:

Sunpreet Kaur, MD
Dr. Kaur graduated from SUNY Stony Brook School of Medicine in New York and completed her Pediatric Residency at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, NY.

Jacob Kurowski, MD
Dr. Kurowski graduated from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in Columbus, OH, and completed his Pediatric Residency training at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago (formerly Children’s Memorial Hospital) in Chicago, IL.

Second Year Fellows:

Daniel O’Connell, MD
Dr. O’Connell completed a combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics Residency at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He served as Pediatric Chief Resident at Michigan following his residency. He is working on a Masters in Clinical Investigation at Northwestern during his fellowship. His research interests are nutritional therapies for the treatment of GI disease and specifically gluten-free and low carbohydrate diets for irritable bowel syndrome.

Marisa Rodriguez, MD
Dr. Rodriguez completed her Pediatric Residency training at Baylor College of Medicine/Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston, TX. She is currently working on a clinical research project entitled “Assessing self-efficacy in adolescents with inflammatory bowel disease”.

Third Year Fellows:

Akihiro Asai, MD
Dr. Asai completed his Pediatric Residency training at NewYork-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital in New York, NY. He is currently working on a translational research project entitled “The fibrogenic role of Sonic Hedgehog pathway in Gestational Alloimmune Liver Disease/ Neonatal Hemochromatosis”.

John Rosen, MD
Dr. Rosen completed his pediatric residency training at NYU Medical Center in New York, NY. He is currently working on a translational research project entitled “Role of TRPV1 in Post-Infectious Chronic Abdominal Pain”.

Fourth Year Fellow:

Henry Lin, MD
Dr. Lin completed his Pediatric Residency training at at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago (formerly Children’s Memorial Hospital) in Chicago, IL and his Pediatric Gastroenterology Fellowship training at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia in Philadelphia, PA. He is currently working on research projects entitled “Humoral Mediated Liver Injury in Childhood Liver Diseases” and “Long-term Follow-up of Minimization of Immunosuppression in Pediatric Liver Transplantation”.

Current Fellows (from left to right): John Rosen, MD, Jacob Kurowski, MD, Henry Lin, MD, Akihiro Asai, MD, Daniel O’Connell, MD, and Sunpreet Kaur, MD. Not pictured: Marisa Rodriguez, MD.
Advanced Practice Nurses

Beata Borawski, RN, MSN, APN
Specialty: General Gastroenterology, Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Ilana Lee Cabrera, RN, MSN, CPNP
Specialty: Liver transplant

Tracy Kruger, RN, MSN, CPNP
Specialty: Intestinal Rehabilitation and Transplant

Maria Manuel Rubio, RN, MSN, APN, PNP
Specialty: General Gastroenterology, Eosinophilic Esophagitis

Jessica Zimont, RN, MSN, APN/FNP-BC
Specialty: Intestinal Rehabilitation and Transplant

Registered Nurses

Joyce Chesniak, RN, BSN
Specialty: General Gastroenterology

Amelia Cima, RN, BSN
Specialty: General Gastroenterology, Endoscopy

Theresa Cristino, RN, BSN
Specialty: General Gastroenterology

Dolores Cupuro, RN, BSN
Specialty: General Gastroenterology, Gastrointestinal Motility Disorders

Dhey Delute, RN
Specialty: Hepatology Clinical Research

Emily Ellisor, RN, BSN
Specialty: General Gastroenterology, Eosinophilic Esophagitis, Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Therese Hess, RN, BSN
Specialty: Hepatology

Sue Kelly, RN, BSN
Specialty: Hepatology Clinical Research

Cindy Riazi, RN, BSN, CPN
Specialty: Hepatology

Ronda Shaykin, RN, BSN
Specialty: General Gastroenterology, Eosinophilic Esophagitis

Clinical Nutritionists

Karin Ballard, MS, RD, LDN
Specialty: Hepatology and Liver transplant, Inpatient Gastroenterology

Sally Schwartz, RD, CSP, LDN
Specialty: Outpatient General Gastroenterology, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Eosinophilic Esophagitis, Celiac disease

Lisa Sharda, RD, LDN, IBCLC
Specialty: Outpatient General Gastroenterology, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Eosinophilic Esophagitis, Celiac disease

Carmyn Zoller, RD
Specialty: Intestinal Rehabilitation
After the first year, fellows devote about 80 percent effort to research. Each fellow can choose a course of either basic or clinical research and opportunities are not limited to the resources of the Division. While there are adequate resources for research and mentorship within the division, fellows may pursue their research education in laboratories at Northwestern. The Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition currently has about 60 active research projects, 26 of which have received peer review funding, and have had more than 50 peer reviewed journal articles published between January 2006 and present.

**Children’s Hospital of Chicago Research Center**

Basic science research occurs in the Children’s Hospital of Chicago Research Center (CHCRC). It is the only institution dedicated to pediatric research in Illinois and one of only a handful in the nation. CHCRC’s mission is to generate new knowledge leading to advancements in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases that affect the development of children through adolescence as well as adult disorders that derive from them. In 2007, the center was awarded $28.5 million in external grants and contracts, 60 percent of which came from the federal government, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH). CHCRC is one of 13 multidisciplinary centers of Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine, where principal investigators who are part of CHCRC are full time faculty members.

The laboratory facilities at CHCRC are fully equipped with standard biochemical, molecular biological, and tissue culture facilities. Each floor also has conference areas equipped with VCRs and slide projectors for teaching and lab meetings. Most laboratories at CHCRC are outfitted with standard biochemical, molecular biological, tissue culture facilities, -20° and -80° freezers, bench top centrifuges, gel electrophoresis boxes and power supplies, tissue culture hoods and incubators, gel drying and speed vac equipment, luminometer, balances, and pH meters. CHCRC has common equipment space on each floor. Each laboratory, therefore, has ready access to isotope preparation areas, PCR preparation areas, cold rooms, centrifuge areas with ultracentrifuges, and other heavy equipment. There are two labs of 250 NSF equipped for ES cell tissue culture with laminar flow hood, centrifuges, CO2 incubators, needle pullers, microforge, inverted phase microscopes and a Leitz micromanipulator. The animal facilities are fully approved by the NIH. The animals are housed under VAF conditions using microisolator caging in laminar flow cubicles. Centralized computers control water, temperature and light cycles. Gene knockout and transgenic facilities are also located in CHCRC.

**Gastroenterology and Hepatology**

**Laboratory Staff**

**Dr. Wershil’s Lab**
Research Scientist: Ming Wang, MD

Dr. Wershil’s research interests include the role of mast cells in GI inflammation and homeostasis. This work involves the use of mouse models to investigate mast cells and mast cell mediators in a variety of inflammatory reactions, including allergic, neurogenic, and immune inflammation. The lab is also interested in the pathogenesis of eosinophilic esophagitis, and specifically the mediators that influence the pathology of the esophagus.
Center for Intestinal and Liver Inflammation Research
Director: Xiao-Di Tan, MD

The center was created in 2011 with a mission to promote a better understanding of the pathogenic mechanisms and therapies of diseases of the digestive system, in particular the immune mechanisms of inflammatory diseases, transplantation and tolerance. The center is investigator-driven, consisting of a small group of dedicated, enthusiastic, and productive researchers, all of whom study the mechanisms of diseases involving the liver and intestines. They have common interests in immunology, cell signaling, and cell death as they relate to digestive diseases.

Principal Investigators:
Jeffrey B Brown, MD: Pathogenesis of Inflammatory Bowel Disease; Animal Models of IBD
Valeria Cohran, MD: Epithelial Signal Transduction Pathways involved in Growth and Repair
Isabelle DePlaen, MD: Pathogenesis of Necrotizing Enterocolitis
Xiao-Di Tan, MD: Mechanisms of Gut Mucosal Injury and Repair
Barry K Wershil, MD: Mast cell function in the gut; Mechanisms of eosinophil-mediated inflammation
Peter F Whittington, MD: Mechanism of Liver Injury; Congenital Hemochromatosis

Dr. Whittington’s Lab
Lab Manager: Padmini Malladi, MS
Research Associate: Xiaomin Pan, MD

Dr. Whittington and his lab are involved in translational research utilizing animal and cell-based models and molecular approaches to understand the immune mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis of neonatal hemochromatosis and biliary atresia. He is also interested in hepatocyte "survival" cell signaling involved in nutrient sensing and fatty liver disease and in the protective response to cholestasis.
Thank you for your interest in our Fellowship Program. We accept applications through ERAS. We have two fellowship positions available each academic year, and we typically interview applicants in February, March, and April.

When submitting your application through ERAS, you will need to submit the following:

1. Completed application form
2. Photo
3. Curriculum Vitae
   - Where applicable, please include the following: education, post-graduate training, additional training, work experience, honors or awards, research experience, publications, and presentations
4. Personal Statement outlining your career goals in Pediatric Gastroenterology
5. Three letters of recommendation
   - One letter should be from the pediatric department chair, residency program director, or chief of staff from the hospital in which your residency training was done
   - If letters are being submitted electronically, they should be sent in PDF format, signed electronically, and sent directly from the author’s email address
6. USMLE Scores for Steps 1, 2, and 3
7. Copy of Medical License (if applicable)
8. Medical School Transcripts (required for foreign medical graduates only)
9. ECFMG (required for foreign medical graduates)