

Emory is a leader in digestive diseases research.

You can help.

BASIC SCIENCE: UNDERSTANDING DISEASE

Shanthi Srinivasan, MD, professor of medicine and interim director of Emory Division of Digestive Diseases, focuses her research on the enteric nervous system and how it is affected in different disease states such as diabetes, obesity, and inflammatory bowel disease, as well as the effect of the enteric nervous system on beta cell development and obesity.



Mark J. Czaja, MD, professor of medicine, studies the mechanisms of liver injury and hepatocyte death in order to develop new therapeutic approaches to prevent human liver failure. His team attempts to define signal transduction pathways that mediate liver injury from inflammatory factors, and regulate the development of steatosis and the progression to steatohepatitis in fatty liver disease.



C. Chris Yun, MD, professor of medicine, studies the roles of a natural, bioactive lipid called lysophosphatidic acids (LPA), its receptors, and LPA-producing autotaxin in the initiation and progression of colorectal cancer and colitis. His lab also studies the roles of Na⁺/H⁺ exchanger NHE3 in diarrheal diseases, diabetes, and hypertension, as well as the underlying mechanisms that regulate trafficking and subcellular localization of NHE3.



CLINICAL TRIALS: IMPROVING PATIENT CARE



Qiang Cai, MD, professor of medicine, focuses his clinical research on treating diseases of the pancreas, gallbladder, and bile duct. In one project, he is working to improve ERCP, a procedure that combines endoscopy with X-rays to diagnose and treat diseases such as pancreatic cancer.



Tanvi Dhere, MD, associate professor of medicine, studies inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), Crohn's disease, and *C. difficile*, a highly infectious bacterium that can cause life-threatening inflammation of the colon. In one study, she is exploring the use of fecal microbial transplants to treat patients with *C. difficile* infection who have had only one or two episodes but are at risk for relapse.



Jennifer Christie, MD, associate professor of medicine and interim associate director for clinical affairs in Emory Division of Digestive Diseases, focuses on understanding the impact that functional bowel disorders have on men and women and identifying treatment for these disorders. She conducts research on the prevalence of the gastroparesis in subpopulations as well as its treatments and clinical outcomes.



Field Willingham, MD, associate professor of medicine, focuses on clinical trial and translational research in interventional and therapeutic endoscopy. His group has pioneered several major innovations including the first description of mycophenolate mofetil for autoimmune pancreatitis in an adult, hybrid management of foregut mass lesions, EUS-based modification of the transplant protocol for cholangiocarcinoma, and hybrid organ-sparing, minimally-invasive resection of gastrointestinal stromal tumors.

SUPPORT THE DIVISION OF DIGESTIVE DISEASES

Emory's expertise in digestive disease research begins with the basic sciences, where innovative ideas are born, and continues through every phase of clinical trials. Our strategy is to convert laboratory findings into new approaches for diagnosing, treating, and preventing disease. This takes tremendous resources, and the division's faculty relies on the generosity of private donors. Philanthropy helps Emory specialists apply their extraordinary expertise to life-changing discoveries. You can support their work with a gift to the Division of Digestive Diseases.

- **ENDOW A FACULTY CHAIR**, which will help Emory attract and retain leaders in digestive disease research. An essential foundation for academic medical research, endowed chairs enable these leaders to explore new treatments and promising techniques.
- **PROVIDE SEED FUNDING**, so the best ideas can take root and grow. Donor support for basic science research advances innovative studies that are too early in the research process to secure federal funding.
- **BRIDGE THE GAP** between external grants. Bridge funding allows researchers to advance their work at critical points of discovery.

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