To: GI faculty, fellows, staff
Departments of Medicine, Surgery, Pathology, Radiology

From: David A. Katzka, MD, GI fellowship director
Jonathan P. Katz, MD, Associate GI fellowship director
Michael L. Kochman, MD, Endoscopy training director
Nancy Wells, GI fellowship coordinator
David C. Metz, MD
Anil K. Rustgi, MD

Date: June 22, 2009

We are delighted to welcome and introduce to you the new GI fellows, who are starting July 1, 2009, and thank the graduating first year fellows (Drs. Ranjeeta Bahirwani, Rotonya Carr, David Goldberg, Caroline Kerner, Pari Shah and S. Abbas Fehmi) for their dedicated, outstanding effort and performance.

The new GI fellows are the following:

Allen L. Hwang, MD
Shivan J. Mehta, MD
Paul Menard-Katcher, MD
Frank I. Scott, IV, MD
Vesselin T. Tomov, MD PhD
Anna M. Buchner, MD PhD – Advanced Endoscopy Fellow
Allen L. Hwang, MD

Originally from Taiwan, Allen was an undergraduate at Indiana University with majors in Biology (B.S., working in plant biology) and Mathematics and Chemistry (B.A.). Graduating with Highest Distinction, Allen was supported by the Wells (Merit) Scholarship, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Golden Key National Honor Societies, and held a variety of leadership positions. He next went to Duke University Medical School where he excelled in both basic sciences and clinical rotations, graduating Alpha Omega Alpha, and earning the Senior Scholar Award and the Endocrine Society Medical Student Achievement Award. Allen completed his internal medicine residency at UCSF, where he has been part of the PRIME program, which emphasizes an enhanced curriculum in clinical epidemiology and research methodology. After his clinical year of GI fellowship, Allen will join the MSCE degree program with a focus in epidemiology.

Shivan J. Mehta, MD

Shivan was an undergraduate at Yale University, graduating cum laude and with distinction in his major of Economics. He did research in the impact of HIV/AIDS, with support from the Richter Fellowship and Sunrise Foundation Research Grant; he was active in the Yale School of Public Health and the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality. Shivan was next a medical student at Penn, where he was very active in urban and global health initiatives through the organization of symposia, free health clinics and seminar series. He received the Kaiser Family Foundation Grant. Concurrently, Shivan pursued a Wharton MBA in health care management. Shivan completed his internal medicine residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital of Columbia University. After his clinical year of GI fellowship, Shivan will join the MSCE degree program with a focus in health care economics and outcomes.

Paul Menard-Katcher, MD

Paul was an undergraduate at Emory University where he was active in a weekly sports clinic for Special Olympians and a Red Cross platelet donor program. After graduating, Paul worked for the AFNA National Education & Research Fund where he developed a preceptorship program for inner city minority high school students. He was then in the Bryn Mawr College Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program. Paul completed his medical degree from Penn where he excelled in all aspects of his curriculum, and was active again in extracurricular programs. Paul conducted research with Dr. Gary Lichtenstein in IBD/C. difficile, and in colon cancer with Drs. Greg Enders and Jim Lewis. He completed his internal residency at Penn, highlighted by his being selected as one of the Chief Medical Residents in 2008-2009. Paul will pursue clinical research in colon cancer screening and surveillance after his clinical year of GI fellowship.
Frank I. Scott, IV, MD

Frank was an undergraduate at Penn, graduating with a major in Biology. Part of that time involved research at CHOP (Dr. Steven Douglas) working in NK cells and HIV. Frank then received his medical degree from Temple University where he was elected into Alpha Omega Alpha, received the Emmanuel M. Weinberger Award in Infectious Diseases and earned outstanding academic achievement in Medical Biochemistry and Immunology. He completed his internal medicine residency at NY-Presbyterian-Well Cornell, conducting research in HCV/HCV (Drs. Andrew Talal & Kristen Marks) as well as colon cancer (Dr. Brian Bosworth). Frank will pursue basic/translational research after completion of his clinical GI fellowship year.

Vesselin T. Tomov, MD PhD

Originally from Bulgaria, Vesselin (Vesko) was an undergraduate at Vassar college, which included a semester abroad at the University of Western Australia (Perth), majoring in Biochemistry. He received many honors, including election into Phi Beta Kappa, the Chemical Rubber Company Freshman Chemistry Award, Oliver M. Lammert Prize for Excellence in Biochemistry, Honors in Biochemistry and General Honors. He was part of the “Big Brothers” program as well, and served as a tutor to other students. He then was part of the MD PhD program at Harvard Medical School where he excelled in clinical rotations and research, and did his PhD thesis under Dr. Brian Seed, with a focus on HIV. Vesko was also helpful in that Department’s computer technology and systems implementation. He completed his internal medicine residency program at Penn as part of the short-track physician-scientist program. Vesko will pursue basic research after completion of his clinical GI fellowship year.

Anna M. Buchner, MD PhD, Advanced Endoscopy Fellow

Originally from Poland, Anna received her MD (graduating summa cum laude) and PhD (graduating with distinction) degrees from Wroclaw Medical University, supported by a scholarship for the top 1% of her class and also, a European Union Tempus Scholarship. She received the Dean’s Prize for the Top Graduate and the Outstanding Student Medal. She was then a research associate at the VA medical center in Albuquerque, New Mexico and completed her internal medicine residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago. This was followed by a hepatology fellowship at the University of Miami Center for Liver Diseases and she has just completed her GI fellowship at Mayo-Jacksonville, working closely with Dr. Mike Wallace on novel endoscopic imaging research. She has published extensively, and earned the ASGE Endoscopy research award and the ACG North American Fellow Travel grant. Anna will work closely with our Therapeutic Endoscopy Program, led by Drs. Ginsberg, Kochman, Ahmad, Jaffe and Long.