

Gastroenterology 2011–2016: Looking Back and Forward



With this June 2016 issue, the term of our editorial team comes to a close after 5 years.¹ It has been a privilege for us to have *Gastroenterology* based at the University of Michigan, and to work so closely with our colleague editors (Table 1) who have also become friends (if they were not already). Although 9 of our 16 associate editors and 11 of our 16 special section editors are currently based at Michigan, the remaining editors span institutions across the United States, France, and Germany. We were very fortunate to include among our board of editors not only gastroenterologists but also two renowned gastrointestinal pathologists (Jonathan Braun and Asma Nusrat) and a renowned pancreas surgeon who is a member of the United States National Academy of Medicine (Diane Simeone). Having the majority of editors based in 1 location is a clear advantage because it allows regular face-to-face interactions, aside from our weekly conference calls, albeit the essential criteria is expertise and track record in relevant clinical, translational, and basic research. Indeed, our team has a difficult-to-match depth and breadth and seasoned expertise including 13 of our 16 editors being either current or past department chairs or division/section chiefs. We are indebted to the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) for giving our team the honor and privilege to shepherd the Journal over the past 5 years.

Highlights of the 2011–2016 Years

Certainly, the major highlight for us has been the privilege to oversee the Journal and hopefully be of service to the clinical, research, and training communities of our field. The most difficult aspect of our role has been when we made decisions to turn down manuscripts, including those from

friends, but we have made every effort to be as fair as possible and to give all the manuscripts ample deliberation. No doubt, the bar for acceptance has been high, and we acknowledge that the review process has its inherent subjective aspects. With an acceptance rate of approximately 10%,² the majority of manuscripts (approximately 90%) were, by definition, turned down and these rejected papers included manuscripts submitted by our associate editors that were handled by guest editors. The editor-in-chief, Bishr Omary, made a decision upon taking on his editor role not to submit original research from his group to *Gastroenterology*, similar to his predecessor Dr Anil Rustgi (Editor, 2006–2011).

We are delighted that our editorial team has introduced several features and established partnerships that appear to have been well-received. These features and partnerships include:

- (i) The special section *Mentoring, Education and Training (MET) Corner* that is edited by Dr John Del Valle. All MET Corner content is open access with a readily accessible compilation of the commentaries³ that relate to mentoring/education/training aspects, as the name of this section implies (see this June issue for Dr Del Valle's closing commentary that nicely summarizes all the terrific contributions to this section during his 5-year tenure⁴).
- (ii) The special section *Gastroenterology in Motion* that is edited by Drs Ralf Kiesslich and Thomas Wang. This section focuses on videos of imaging and advanced technology in the areas of gastroenterology, hepatology, and pancreatology.⁵
- (iii) The special section *Practical Teaching Cases* that is edited by Drs Grace Elta and Robert Fontana.⁶ This section provides informative patient

cases to test the knowledge of readers regarding common clinical scenarios for digestive disease health care professionals. GI fellows in particular are encouraged to submit content to this section.

- (iv) Commentary Section: this section historically included comments provided by members of the board of editors. We expanded this section to include timely discussions of topics of broad interest to the digestive disease and health community at large, that are authored by international experts. Examples include commentaries provided by leadership at the National Institutes of Health⁷ and the Department of Veterans Affairs.⁸
- (v) During our term *Gastroenterology* went mobile with a full-journal app available for Apple and Android devices. With this mobile experience, readers can access full issues of the journal from their cell phones and tablets, anywhere, anytime. Also, in the last year, *Gastroenterology* launched a new mobile app called *Clinical Image Challenge*, which repurposes content from the journal's popular *Clinical Challenges and Images in GI* section. The app features interesting and uncommon clinical cases accompanied by striking images. New content is added weekly and can be "favorited" and "shared." To find this app, search for "AGA App Central" in the Apple and Android stores.
- (vi) Partnership with the new AGA basic science open access journal, *Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology (CMGH)* that published its first issue in

Table 1. *Gastroenterology* 2011–2016 Board of Editors^a

Associate Editors		
Jonathan Braun, MD, PhD University of California, Los Angeles Los Angeles, California Naga P. Chalasani, MD Indiana University School of Medicine Indianapolis, Indiana Douglas A. Corley, MD, PhD Kaiser-Division of Research Oakland, California Bill L. Hasler, MD University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan Malcolm J. Low, MD, PhD University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan	Asma Nusrat, MD University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan Jean-Michel Pawlotsky, MD, PhD University of Paris Créteil, France Douglas J. Robertson, MD, MPH Dartmouth Medical School Hanover, New Hampshire Linda C. Samuelson, PhD University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan Bruce E. Sands, MD Mount Sinai School of Medicine New York, New York	Detlef Schuppan, MD, PhD University of Mainz Mainz, Germany Diane M. Simeone, MD University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan John A. Williams, MD, PhD University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan
Special Section Editors		
Covering the Cover Anson W. Lowe, MD Stanford University Palo Alto, California Richard H. Moseley, MD Gastroenterology of the Rockies Boulder, Colorado Press Highlights Grace L. Su, MD University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan Clinical Challenges and Images in GI and Practical Teaching Cases Grace Elta, MD Robert J. Fontana, MD University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan	Gastroenterology in Motion Ralf Kiesslich, MD, PhD University of Mainz Mainz, Germany Thomas D. Wang, MD, PhD University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan Print and Digital Media Reviews Joel H. Rubenstein, MD, MSc University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan Reviews in Basic and Clinical Gastroenterology Robert F. Schwabe, MD Columbia University New York, NY John W. Wiley, MD University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan	Online John (Jay) F. Kuemmerle, MD Virginia Commonwealth University Richmond, Virginia MET Corner (Mentoring, Education and Training) John Del Valle, MD University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan Biostatistics Julie A. Douglas, PhD Cathie Spino, DSc University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan Selected Summaries Philip S. Schoenfeld, MD, MEd, MSc John Y. Kao, MD University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan

^aThe Board of Editors also includes John M. Carethers, MD, and Chung Owyang, MD, as senior associate editors and M. Bishr Omary MD, PhD, as editor-in-chief (all based at the University of Michigan). Other associate editors who started with us but rotated off owing to unanticipated commitments are Anna Lok, MD (University of Michigan), and David Lieberman, MD (Oregon Health & Science University). Jerrold Turner, MD, PhD (Brigham and Women's Hospital), also started with us in 2011 but stepped down to assume editorship of our sister journal *CMGH*. We were very fortunate that Drs Chalasani, Nusrat, and Robertson were able to join us to take over the editor roles for Drs Lok, Turner, and Lieberman, respectively. In addition, Ashwin Ananthakrishnan, MBBS, MPH (Massachusetts General Hospital), covered for Dr Bruce Sands for nearly 1 year and serves frequently as guest editor.

January 2015⁹ and has been doing exceptionally well because of its ability to attract outstanding manuscripts. *CMGH* provides a new superb venue to publish digestive disease related basic and translational work, and now allows *Gastroenterology* to have 2 partner AGA journals: the clinically oriented *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology* (CGH)

and the more basic-oriented *CMGH*. This partnership provides an efficient and author-friendly mechanism for meritorious manuscripts that did not receive sufficient publication priority for acceptance in *Gastroenterology* (before or after external review) to be considered for potential publication by the editors of *CGH* or *CMGH*.²

(vii) An expedited review mechanism for basic science and clinical manuscripts that have been reviewed but turned down by high-profile journals that publish impactful articles.²

(viii) The Print and Digital Media Reviews section was enhanced by its editor, Dr Joel Rubenstein, to include reviews of websites that

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