

Creating Futures

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

How does liver cell cancer develop, and how can we treat it more effectively? Can we build on novel therapies to improve the lives of patients with inflammatory bowel disease? These are key questions being asked by Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology researchers at the Anschutz Medical Campus. Donors can help us build on CU's outstanding internal medicine legacy by making a gift to support its programs.

Liver Disease

Since 1963 when then-faculty member Thomas Starzl, MD, PhD, performed the world's first liver transplant, CU faculty have been scientific pioneers in the area of liver disease. They have made key contributions to this evolution, and in areas such as alcoholic liver disease, injury mechanisms, liver metabolism, regulation of cholesterol, mechanisms of gallstone formation and hepatic cystic disorders.

Yet many gaps remain. As a result, liver disease remains a leading cause of morbidity and mortality. Although thought to be exacerbated by alcoholism or obesity, liver disease can affect any of us. We have many of the pieces in place to make CU a Center of Excellence for liver diseases, the most comprehensive of its kind within a 900-mile radius. Donors can help us get there by supporting:

- **An endowed chair for Gregory Everson, MD**, to support the vital work of this liver-transplant and chronic Hepatitis C therapies pioneer, and maximize his impact on tomorrow's patients and clinicians
- **An endowment for faculty support** to better enable CU to recruit top talent, help CU keep the pace with other leading medical centers, and incentivize top hepatologists to pursue academic research rather than lucrative private practice.
- **Ongoing support for advanced fellowship training** in hepatology and liver transplantation to extend CU's legacy of training exceptional physicians

Obesity, the GI Tract and the Liver

Obesity, which now afflicts Americans in record numbers, impacts almost every organ in the body including the gastrointestinal system and liver. Coincident with the rising rates of obesity and diabetes mellitus, Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) has emerged as the most common chronic liver disease in the U.S. CU hepatologists are working on novel discoveries in this area.

Donors can help CU develop an integrated **Gastrointestinal and Liver Obesity Program (GALOP)** to extend our scientific knowledge of the interactions between the GI tract, the liver and body fat. Program investigators will pursue state-of-the-art therapeutic interventions, such as novel endoscopic surgical approaches, for patients with obesity-related GI and liver disorders.



Gregory Everson, MD

"It is said that you can't manage what you can't measure. Providing a key missing metric of overall liver function offers a platform for advances in liver disease management that will fundamentally change the practice of liver medicine. This will be a huge transformation, and its prospective impact is so big and profound that it is hard to grasp in advance."

Dr. Gregory Everson's work in quantifying liver functionality at the Anschutz Medical Campus is attractive for endowed support because it is relatively inexpensive when compared to the expected outcome, the outcome is fairly close at hand and the magnitude of its impact in liver medicine is significant. This opportunity truly represents the CU Foundation's vision of enabling CU donors to transform lives worldwide."

David L. Cohen, Patient of Gregory Everson, MD

"I came to work here from Harvard five years ago, because stepping onto an entirely new medical campus is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. There is a real need for work in the field of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) throughout the Rocky Mountain region. The Anschutz Medical Campus allows us to take a multi-disciplinary, multi-departmental approach to our research. If you walk through the lab, you will find MDs and PhDs, physicians and scientists, working elbow-to-elbow at the same bench. This is the kind of unique collaboration that makes for new discoveries. This is what I live for every day."



Sean P. Colgan, PhD

Advanced Interventional Endoscopy

Raj J. Shah, MD and **Norio Fukami, MD**, each nationally recognized in advanced interventional endoscopy, lead a physician team within the Digestive Health Center that is revolutionizing the delivery of GI care.

Shah is investigating new ways to diagnose and treat pancreatic and liver duct cancers, as well as benign blockages of the pancreas and liver ducts in patients who may have once required more invasive surgical treatments. Fukami is pioneering endotherapeutic procedures that maximize the safety and effectiveness of delicate internal procedures—including the treatment of early cancers and precancerous lesions of the intestinal tract.

By supporting the **Yang K. Chen Memorial Fund**, donors can honor the founder of the Rocky Mountain Interventional Endoscopy Course, a visionary dedicated to education and technology development. Funds support research and development of new, minimally invasive approaches to the treatment of digestive diseases, education and training in advanced endoscopy, and the demonstration of innovative technologies through the RMIE course.

The research of **Hugo Rosen, MD**, head of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, has helped us better understand immune response mechanisms to the hepatitis C virus, helping to improve diagnoses and novel targets for treatments.



Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Though it affects 1.5 million Americans, Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), including ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, has received scant attention. But this complex web of gastrointestinal ailments—which have strong genetic and environmental components—can prohibit patients from living life to its fullest.

One key to managing IBD may lie in a better understanding of mucosal inflammation. A research program led by CU faculty member **Sean Colgan, PhD**, has been defining new drug targets and novel diagnostic markers that may improve targeting of treatments for the diverse set of IBD subsidence phenotypes.

We aim to build an IBD Center of Excellence, and serve present and future populations with this debilitating diagnosis. Donors can support:

- **An endowed chair in IBD research** for Dr. Colgan to expand our research program's exceptional strength and educate tomorrow's biomedical scientists
- **Recruitment of two clinicians** whose sole full-time clinical focus will be in IBD
- **An endowment** to support a dedicated portion of a surgeon's time solely for IBD patients, a critical need for a comprehensive IBD program

Donors Make the Difference

The University of Colorado is poised to be a national leader in gastrointestinal and hepatological research, practice and care. So many of our families and loved ones would benefit from these resources and expertise, here in the Rocky Mountain region. You can make an important contribution to the future of internal medicine at the Anschutz Medical Campus. Please support us in this vital endeavor.

To learn about the many ways you can make a gift contact:

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School of Medicine

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