The Dr. Moshe B. Goldgraber Advanced Fellowship Training Program in Digestive Diseases & Related Disorders

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The Dr. Moshe B. Goldgraber Advanced Fellowship Training Program in Digestive Diseases and Related Disorders provides a unique opportunity for talented young Israeli physicians and scientists to undertake advanced study in gastroenterology at the University of Chicago. Fellows may pursue basic or clinical research under the aegis of world-leading experts in UChicago’s Section of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition for up to two years. Through this immersive experience they will gain the grounding in advanced research methodology and treatment techniques needed to become independent investigators or clinicians. The program honors dedicated young researchers and physicians with the potential to become future leaders in gastroenterology research and care. Fellowship recipients will return to Israel to share their training with others and advance our understanding of and ability to treat gastro-intestinal (GI) disorders.

Moshe B. Goldgraber

Dr. Moshe B. Goldgraber was born in Zamosc, Poland. He trained in medicine at Italy’s historic University of Padua, graduating as Nazi forces overran Poland. Unable to return home, he made his way to Palestine in 1939. He started his career at Hadassah Hospital’s Institute of Pathology on Mount Scopus under Professor Herman Zondek, moving in the 1940s to the Tel-Aviv area as a specialist in internal medicine at Beilinson and Assuta Hospitals. With the establishment in 1948 of the State of Israel, he was among the team of physicians who helped establish the government hospital system. His own clinical base became the well-known Tel-Hashomer Hospital near Tel-Aviv.

In 1952, Dr. Goldgraber arrived at the University of Chicago as a member of the first cadre of Israeli physicians sent to the US for advanced training. Here, he initiated a more than decade-long collaboration with Drs. Walter L. Palmer, Joseph B. Kirsner and other gastroenterologists. The partnership was marked by seminal contributions to the field. With Dr. Kirsner, Dr. Goldgraber showed the capacity of the colon to react immunologically and helped define its immunological potential—work which triggered basic and clinical research that continues to this day. Dr. Goldgraber was instrumental also in elucidating the classic features of tissue reaction seen in ulcerative colitis, in particular the granulomatous inflammation of the colon that occurs in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

In 1965, Dr. Goldgraber returned to Israel to the Hadassah Medical Center and Hebrew University Medical School in Jerusalem where he resumed his work in internal medicine and led the Department of Allergy. In addition to his main research, clinical and educational duties, Dr. Goldgraber served for 34 years as attending physician to Jerusalem’s renowned Hansen (Leprosy) Hospital, a role to which he was devoted. Dr. Goldgraber retired in 1982, but remained active in medicine well into his 80s. He died in Jerusalem in November 2007.

The architect of UChicago’s gastroenterology program was a giant in the field. Considered by many to be one of the founding fathers of modern gastroenterology, Dr. Kirsner is credited with transforming the field from an art—in his own words, “speculative, impressionistic, anecdotal, almost mystical at times”—into a science. Over the course of a storied 77-year career at the University, he conducted groundbreaking research that demonstrated the importance of diet to treating IBD, established the link between IBD and the immune system and genes, and showed the heightened risk patients with the condition face for developing colon cancer. In all, Dr. Kirsner wrote more than 750 scientific papers and 18 books, including Inflammatory Bowel Disease, now in its sixth edition and still the authoritative textbook on the subject. He also helped found the American Gastroenterological Association, the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases. In his clinical practice he was an exemplar of compassionate patient care. Dr. Kirsner’s passion, commitment, and sense of service took him far and wide.

Joseph B. Kirsner

At the end of World War II, he was one of the first physicians on the ground in war-torn Europe ministering to the liberated survivors of Nazi concentration camps. Months later, he tended prisoners of war in Japan. For decades, he was personal physician to King Hassan II of Morocco. Always though Dr. Kirsner returned to the University of Chicago. Here, from 1935 through his death at 102 in 2012, he built a program in GI medicine of global standing. Today, this program is a research powerhouse and destination for patients worldwide. In addition to his clinical and research contributions, Dr. Kirsner’s legacy lives on in the generations of students he mentored who have themselves gone on to stellar careers in the field and to whom he passed on his dedication to patients. This cohort includes Dr. David T. Rubin, Joseph B. Kirsner Professor of Medicine, Section Chief, Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, and Co-Director, Digestive Diseases Center.
We push the envelope—with science, discovery, and innovation. As an academic medical center, that's our job, to continually push ourselves to find the next 'best treatment option' for our patients. I believe that the University of Chicago Medicine's rich legacy and collaborative model will lead us to advances in our field and successes here that we have only imagined.”

David T. Rubin, MD, The Joseph B. Kirsner Professor of Medicine.
About the Fellowship

- The Fellowship is offered to Israeli citizens with an MD, a PhD, or both degrees.
- All citizens of Israel, regardless of gender or religion, are eligible for the Fellowship.
- Candidates with an MD degree who have already completed their Internal Medicine training and gastroenterology training with clinical research experience are preferred. Candidates whose sole interest is clinical gastroenterology (i.e., those who do not have research interests) will also be considered.
- Candidates with a PhD degree need not have prior research experience in the field of digestive diseases, but must have an interest in pursuing digestive disease related research at the University of Chicago (i.e., diet and pharmacology).
- Applicants from each of the five medical schools in Israel, as well as the Weizmann Institute, may be nominated for the Fellowship. Independent and referral candidates from other institutions will also be considered.
- Proficiency in written and spoken English is required.
- Fellowship recipients are expected to return to Israel after completing their fellowship.
- Clinical candidates must be ECFMG-certified by passing the Steps 1 & 2 Clinical Skills components of the US Medical Licensing Exam for temporary licensing to practice in the United States and to obtain a category J visitor visa. See www.ecfmg.org for more information.

Please send applications to:
Anna Gomberg
The University of Chicago Medicine
MC 4076
5841 S. Maryland Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60637
OR EMAIL TO
ibdcenter@uchicago.edu

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 1, 2015 FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2016.

Sponsored by:
The Maor Foundation

Faculty contacts
David T. Rubin, MD, The Joseph B. Kirsner Professor of Medicine; Section Chief, Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition; Co-Director, Digestive Diseases Center
Research focus: inflammatory bowel disease outcomes, cancer prevention, and inflammation markers

Eugene B. Chang, MD, The Martin Boyer Professor of Medicine; Associate Section Chief for Research; Director, Digestive Disease Research Core Center
Research focus: The study of the enteric microbiome in health and IBD, host-microbe interactions, mucosal pathobiology, and the role of heat shock proteins in inflammation and colorectal cancers

Application process

Individuals interested in the Fellowship should submit the following:

1. A letter of recommendation from the Dean or department head of the institution with which the candidate is currently affiliated;
2. A second letter of recommendation from a direct supervisor personally familiar with the candidate’s research if this individual is someone other than the Dean or department head;
3. A letter from the candidate outlining his or her current interests and work, career goals and the professional and personal benefits he or she seeks from the Fellowship;
4. The candidate’s curriculum vitae and bibliography;
5. A photocopy of the appropriate identifying page from a valid Israeli passport.

Clinical research applicants will be sponsored by the University of Chicago Medicine’s Graduate Medical Education Office via the ECFMG Program. Basic research applicants will be sponsored by the University of Chicago to obtain a J-1 visa. Final candidates will be chosen by a Peer-Review Selection Committee.