



Digestive Disease Center

Staff Listing

2015–2016

About the Digestive Disease Center

The Digestive Disease Center at Cleveland Clinic Florida, an integral part of the Cleveland Clinic Digestive Disease Institute, streamlines the operational efficiency of providing individualized and multidisciplinary care for you and your patients with complex conditions. This collaboration helps us offer the most advanced, safest and proven treatments, performed in the most effective and patient-friendly way. Our center enhances opportunities for cutting-edge research, physician education and open, trusted patient referral partnerships.

Our center includes:

- colorectal surgery
- gastroenterology and therapeutic endoscopy
- general surgery
- bariatric and metabolic surgery
- breast surgery
- abdominal transplantation



Cleveland Clinic Florida Digestive Disease Center Leadership

Steven D. Wexner, MD, PHD(Hon)

*Center Director
Chair, Department of
Colorectal Surgery*

.....

Roger J. Charles, MD

*Chair, Department of
Gastroenterology and
Therapeutic Endoscopy*

.....

Raul J. Rosenthal, MD

*Chief of Staff
Chair, Department of General
and Minimally Invasive
Surgery and Bariatric and
Metabolic Institute*

.....

Andreas G. Tzakis, MD, PhD

*Director, Department of
Abdominal Transplantation*



Dear Colleague:

It is a pleasure to share with you our Cleveland Clinic Florida Digestive Disease Center staff listing for 2015-2016. The Digestive Disease Center at Cleveland Clinic Florida is comprised of a number of specialties and a continually diversifying and expanding inventory of disciplines. The superlative care afforded by our world renowned team of experts facilitates integrated patient centric care of the entire gamut of digestive diseases.



The departments within the Digestive Disease Center (DDC) include colorectal surgery, gastroenterology, general, bariatric, and minimally invasive surgery which includes breast and hepatopancreatobiliary surgery, and abdominal transplantation which includes abdominal transplant surgery, transplant hepatology and transplant nephrology. All of the more than 250 employees in the Digestive Disease Center including 30 staff, 50 residents and fellows in training are part of the 550 employees of the Digestive Disease Institute within the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

The Department of Colorectal Surgery, which I have had the honor of chairing since 1993, began with the late David G. Jagelman and me in 1987. Our advances have brought about improved outcomes for patients with rectal cancer, colon cancer, Crohn's disease, mucosal ulcerative colitis, and functional disorders including constipation, prolapse, and incontinence. Numerous methods of improved minimal access surgery including laparoscopy have been pioneered by members of our department.

The Department of Gastroenterology, chaired by Roger Charles, MD, provides expertise in nutrition, therapeutic and advanced endoscopy, endoscopic ultrasound, hepatology, inherited colorectal cancer, and motility disorders. Our team of gastroenterologists is continually engaged in research and education.

The Department of General and Minimally Invasive Surgery and the Bariatric and Metabolic Institute are chaired by our Chief of Staff, Raul J. Rosenthal, MD. Both programs are comprised of international leaders including experts in breast and hepatopancreatobiliary surgery. The luminaries in these subspecialties are relied upon as resources for the health of patients from throughout the world.

The newest department, Abdominal Transplantation, is led by the world's premier abdominal transplant surgeon, Andreas Tzakis, MD. Dr. Tzakis has been recognized in every continent for his innovative, successful approaches to abdominal transplant surgery. He leads a team of four transplant surgeons, three transplant nephrologists, and two transplant hepatologists and over 40 additional support staff.

Education and research are part of our mission and are fundamental factors in our success. The colorectal surgery residency program is the largest in the country. This program, initially accredited in 1989, has produced surgical leaders throughout the world. The fellowship program in gastroenterology was accredited in 2001, the bariatric and minimally invasive surgery fellowship in 2002, and the general surgery residency program in 2012. Each year members of the Digestive Disease Center organize and host Digestive Disease Week in Florida. Next year, the 27th Annual David G. Jagelman, MD and 37th Rupert B. Turnbull International Colorectal Disease Symposium will be held in conjunction with Rupert B. Turnbull the 15th Annual Surgery of the Foregut Symposium and the 5th Annual Gastroenterology and Hepatology Symposium at the Boca Raton Resort and Club on February 2-7, 2016. We expect to have over 1,000 attendees from over 50 countries at this event. As you can see by this brief review, our faculty, our programs, and our scope of services are among the finest in the world.

I encourage you to avail yourself of our resources and to collaborate with us to improve outcomes for patients.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Wexner, MD, PhD(Hon), FACS, FRCS, FRCS(Ed)
Director, Digestive Disease Center and
Chair, Department of Colorectal Surgery

Advanced Colonoscopy

Fernando Castro, MD
Roger Charles, MD
Giovanna DaSilva, MD*
Tolga Erim, DO*
Brenda Jimenez, MD*
Luis Lara, MD
David Maron, MD*
Haane Massarotti, MD*
Juan Noguerras, MD
Nicole Palekar, MD
Ronnie Pimentel, MD
Jeffrey Ponsky, MD
Dana Sands, MD*
John Rivas, MD*
Alison Schneider, MD
Andrew Ukleja, MD
Eric Weiss, MD*
Bobby Zervos, MD

Anorectal Surgery

(hemorrhoids, fistulas, abscesses, fissures, stenosis)

Giovanna DaSilva, MD*
David Maron, MD*
Haane Massarotti, MD*
Juan Noguerras, MD
Lester Rosen, MD
Dana Sands, MD*
Eric Weiss, MD*
Steven Wexner, MD

Artificial Bowel Sphincter

Juan Noguerras, MD
Steven Wexner, MD

Colon Cancer

Giovanna DaSilva, MD*
David Maron, MD*
Juan Noguerras, MD
Dana Sands, MD*
Eric Weiss, MD*
Steven Wexner, MD

Colonic Volvulus

Giovanna DaSilva, MD*
David Maron, MD*
Haane Massarotti, MD*
Juan Noguerras, MD
Dana Sands, MD*
Eric Weiss, MD*
Steven Wexner, MD

Surgery for Fecal Incontinence

Giovanna DaSilva, MD*
David Maron, MD*
Juan Noguerras, MD
Dana Sands, MD*
Eric Weiss, MD*
Steven Wexner, MD

Intestinal Fistulas

Giovanna DaSilva, MD*
David Maron, MD*
Juan Noguerras, MD
Dana Sands, MD*
Eric Weiss, MD*
Steven Wexner, MD

J-Pouch/Pouchitis

Giovanna DaSilva, MD*
David Maron, MD*
Juan Noguerras, MD
Dana Sands, MD*
Eric Weiss, MD*
Steven Wexner, MD

Rectal Cancer

Giovanna DaSilva, MD*
David Maron, MD*
Juan Noguerras, MD
Dana Sands, MD*
Eric Weiss, MD*
Steven Wexner, MD

Rectal Prolapse

Giovanna DaSilva, MD*
David Maron, MD*
Juan Noguerras, MD
Dana Sands, MD*
Eric Weiss, MD*
Steven Wexner, MD

Reoperative Pelvic Surgery/ Revision Pouch Surgery

Giovanna DaSilva, MD*
David Maron, MD*
Juan Noguerras, MD
Dana Sands, MD*
Eric Weiss, MD*
Steven Wexner, MD

Robotic Surgery

David Maron, MD*
Eric Weiss, MD*



About the Department of Colorectal Surgery

As one of the largest and most internationally acclaimed colorectal surgery centers in the United States, members of the Department of Colorectal Surgery diagnose and treat a broad array of diseases affecting the colon, rectum and anus. Our staff has pioneered improvements in patient care for rectal cancer, ulcerative colitis, familial adenomatous polyposis, Crohn's disease, fecal incontinence and hemorrhoids. In addition, we have developed or helped to develop numerous techniques including stimulated graciloplasty, sacral nerve stimulation, artificial bowel sphincter, adhesion barriers, reconstruction with colonic J-pouch following rectal cancer removal, and laparoscopic management of colorectal disorders.

Let's Collaborate!

To make a referral with a specialist in the Department of Colorectal Surgery call:

954.659.5278

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Department of Colorectal Surgery
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Sacral Nerve Stimulation

Giovanna DaSilva, MD*
Steven Wexner, MD

Stoma Revisions

Giovanna DaSilva, MD*
David Maron, MD*
Juan Noguerras, MD
Dana Sands, MD*
Eric Weiss, MD*
Steven Wexner, MD

Surgery for Constipation

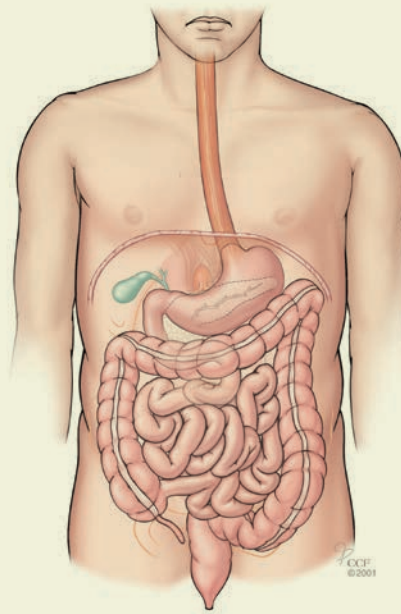
Giovanna DaSilva, MD*
David Maron, MD*
Juan Noguerras, MD
Dana Sands, MD*
Eric Weiss, MD*
Steven Wexner, MD

Transanal Endoscopic Surgery

Dana Sands, MD*

Ulcerative Colitis/ Crohn's Disease/Inflammatory Bowel Disease Surgery

Giovanna DaSilva, MD*
David Maron, MD*
Juan Noguerras, MD
Dana Sands, MD*
Eric Weiss, MD*
Steven Wexner, MD



About the Department of Gastroenterology and Therapeutic Endoscopy

As a top provider of gastroenterology care, the Department of Gastroenterology is dedicated to using innovative diagnostic tools and treatments such as endoscopic ultrasound with fine needle aspiration, SpyGlass® technology and ablative techniques for Barrett's esophagus. The department has one of the largest small bowel enteroscopy programs in Florida with specialists in medical and surgical treatment of gastrointestinal diseases working as a team through close collaboration that enables a seamless transition between specialties.

Advanced Endoscopy

Roger Charles, MD
Tolga Erim, DO*
Luis Lara, MD
Nicole Palekar, MD
Ronnie Pimentel, MD
Jeffrey Ponsky, MD
John Rivas, MD*
Bobby Zervos, MD

Biliary Diseases

Tolga Erim, DO*
Luis Lara, MD
Nicole Palekar, MD
Ronnie Pimentel, MD
Bobby Zervos, MD

Capsule Endoscopy

Fernando Castro, MD
Roger Charles, MD
Tolga Erim, DO*
Brenda Jimenez, MD*
Luis Lara, MD
Nicole Palekar, MD
Ronnie Pimentel, MD
Alison Schneider, MD
Andrew Ukleja, MD
Bobby Zervos, MD

Celiac Disease

Roger Charles, MD
Brenda Jimenez, MD*
Alison Schneider, MD
Andrew Ukleja, MD

Esophageal Neoplasms and Barrett's Esophagus

Tolga Erim, DO*
Nicole Palekar, MD
Ronnie Pimentel, MD
Jeffrey Ponsky, MD
Alison Schneider, MD

Functional GI Disorders, GI Motility, Esophageal Disorders, GERD

Alison Schneider, MD

Gastroparesis

Brenda Jimenez, MD*
Alison Schneider, MD
Andrew Ukleja, MD



To make a referral with a
specialist in the Department
of Gastroenterology and
Therapeutic Endoscopy call:
954.659.5646

General Gastroenterology

Fernando Castro, MD
Roger Charles, MD
Tolga Erim, DO*
Brenda Jimenez, MD*
Luis Lara, MD
Nicole Palekar, MD
Ronnie Pimentel, MD
John Rivas, MD
Alison Schneider, MD*
Andrew Ukleja, MD
Bobby Zervos, MD

Hereditary Polyposis and Hereditary Colon Cancer

Brenda Jimenez, MD*
Alison Schneider, MD

Ulcerative Colitis/ Crohn's Disease/Inflammatory Bowel Disease (Medical)

Fernando Castro, MD
Roger Charles, MD
Nicole Palekar, MD
Ronnie Pimentel, MD
Alison Schneider, MD
Andrew Ukleja, MD

Intestinal Motility Disorders

Brenda Jimenez, MD*
Alison Schneider, MD
Andrew Ukleja, MD

Liver Diseases

Fernando Castro, MD
Andrew Ukleja, MD
Bobby Zervos, MD

Nutrition

Andrew Ukleja, MD

Pancreas Islet Auto-Transplantation

Luis Lara, MD
Conrad Simpfendorfer, MD*

Pancreas Disease

Tolga Erim, DO*
Luis Lara, MD
Nicole Palekar, MD
Ronnie Pimentel, MD

Small Bowel Diseases

Fernando Castro, MD
Roger Charles, MD
Luis Lara, MD
Alison Schneider, MD
Andrew Ukleja, MD

About the Department of General and Minimally Invasive Surgery

Cleveland Clinic Florida is home to one of the leading general surgery programs in Florida. Our center diagnoses and treats a broad array of diseases affecting the upper gastrointestinal track, abdominal wall and breast. The development of optoelectronic instrumentation has allowed surgeons to perform surgical procedures minimizing the size of incisions. As a result, our patients have fewer complications, less pain, early discharge from the hospital and resume their daily activity sooner.

About the Bariatric and Metabolic Institute

The institute has achieved a world-renowned reputation for achieving excellent outcomes for the use of innovative and state-of-the-art treatment modalities for patients with severe obesity and metabolic syndrome. Cleveland Clinic Florida has been designated as a Center of Excellence by the American College of Surgeons since 2005. New approaches for complicated cases have been pioneered at our Institute including the description of the techniques for remnant gastrectomy in patients with gastro-gastric fistulae and proximal gastrectomy for chronic staple line disruptions after sleeve gastrectomies.

Let's Collaborate!

To make a referral with a specialist in the Department of General and Minimally Invasive Surgery call:

954.659.5232

or to make a referral with a specialist in the Bariatric and Metabolic Institute call:

954.659.5249

Abdominal Wall Surgery

Alex Ordonez, MD*
Raul Rosenthal, MD
Samuel Szomstein, MD*

Bariatric Surgery

Emanuele Lo Menzo, MD*
Raul Rosenthal, MD
Samuel Szomstein, MD*

Breast Surgery

Cassann Blake, MD
Margaret Gilot, MD

Bypass/Weight Loss Surgery

Emanuele Lo Menzo, MD*
Alex Ordonez, MD*
Raul Rosenthal, MD
Samuel Szomstein, MD*

Gastroparesis

Raul Rosenthal, MD

General Surgery

Emanuele Lo Menzo, MD*
Alex Ordonez, MD*
Raul Rosenthal, MD
Conrad Simpfendorfer, MD*
Samuel Szomstein, MD*

Hepato-pancreato-biliary Surgery

Alex Ordonez, MD*
Diego Reino, MD
Raul Rosenthal, MD
Gabriel Schnickel, MD
Conrad Simpfendorfer, MD*
Samuel Szomstein, MD*
Andreas Tzakis, MD
Melissa Watson, MD

Hepatology

Fernando Castro, MD
John Rivas, MD*
Conrad Simpfendorfer, MD*
Andreas Tzakis, MD
Bobby Zervos, MD

Laparoscopic Surgery of Esophagus, Stomach, Duodenum

Emanuele Lo Menzo, MD*
Alex Ordonez, MD*
Raul Rosenthal, MD

Liver and Pancreas Surgery

Alex Ordonez, MD*
Conrad Simpfendorfer, MD*
Andreas Tzakis, MD
Melissa Watson, MD

About the Department of Abdominal Transplantation

In April 2013, Cleveland Clinic Florida proudly received United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) approval to start the liver and kidney transplant program at the Weston campus. The first liver and kidney transplants were performed in July 2013. Subsequently the hospital received Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approval for both programs in July 2014. So far a total 59 liver and 75 kidney transplant procedures have been performed by our transplant team.

The Florida program has the clinical expertise to support a comprehensive transplant program as a collaborative partner of Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, which has more than 50 years of experience and proven protocols in organ transplantation. Research shows that about 15 percent of patients have to travel out of the South Florida area for liver transplants. Cleveland Clinic Florida's transplant program is an ideal location to build an accessible transplant program.

About Cleveland Clinic Florida's Educational Programs

The Digestive Disease Center at Cleveland Clinic Florida is actively involved in the education of the future generation of physicians. The Center is proud to have Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and Fellowship Council (FC) accredited residency and fellowship programs in the Departments of Colorectal Surgery, Gastroenterology, General Surgery and in the Bariatric and Metabolic Institute. Research and education is an integral part of our daily activities and we have a number of ongoing clinical trials all designed to improve the quality of our patients' lives.



Kidney Transplant Team

Neerja Agrawal, MD
Surafel Gebreselassie, MD
Nicolas Muruve, MD
Nader Najafian, MD
Diego Reino, MD
Gabriel Schnickel, MD
Andreas Tzakis, MD
Melissa Watson, MD

Liver Transplant Team

Fernando Castro, MD
Diego Reino, MD
John Rivas, MD*
Gabriel Schnickel, MD
Conrad Simpfendorfer, MD
Andreas Tzakis, MD
Melissa Watson, MD
Bobby Zervos, MD

To make a referral with a specialist in the Department of Abdominal Transplantation, call toll-free: **1.855.ORGDONR**

Department of Colorectal Surgery

Clinical Fellows

Ahmed Chadi, MD*
Haane Massarotti, MD*
Ido Mizrahi, MD

Residents

Nadav Haim, MD
Andrea Petrucci, MD
Karen Sherman, MD
Radhika Smith, MD
Joshua Wolf, MD

Department of Gastroenterology and Therapeutic Endoscopy

Fellows

Alicia Alvarez, MD
Bahaaeldeen Ismail, MD
Leyla Maric, MD
Brent Murchie, MD
Amareshwar Podugu, MD
Sandra Rodriguez, MD

Bariatric and Metabolic Institute

Clinical Fellows

Abhiman Cheeyandira, MD
Mandip Joshi, MD
Aaron Lee, MD

Department of General Surgery

Clinical Fellow

Mayank Roy, MD (HPB)

Residents

Hira Ahmad, MD
Emanuela Alvarenga, MD
Adam Bauermeister, MD
Jaime Bichara Tobar, MD
Alejandro Cracco, MD
Tarik Elarini, MD
James Flippin, MD
Rama Ganga, MD
Hasan Kirat, MD
Savannah Moon, MD
David Nguyen, MD
Omobolanle Oyefule, MD
Ana Pena, MD
Steven Perrins, MD
Meenakshi Rajan, MD
Cesar Reategui, MD
Armando Rosales, MD
Morris Sasson, MD
Sangeetha Setty, MD
Rishabh Shah, MD
Garrett Wegerif, MD

*Cleveland Clinic Florida DDC alumni

Track Your Patient Care Online with DrConnect®

Track Your Patient Care Online

eClevelandClinic DrConnect® is an internet-based program developed to provide physicians who refer their patients to Cleveland Clinic secure, close to real-time information about their patient's treatment progress.

To establish your own DrConnect® account, log onto **eclevelandclinic.org**. If you have any questions or need help signing up, please call **877.224.7367**.

Clinical Trials

For more information about our Digestive Disease Center clinical trials, please visit **clevelandclinicflorida.org/research**.

Coming Events

**Digestive Disease Institute's
International Interdisciplinary Education Week
Hosted by the Cleveland Clinic Digestive Disease
Institute**

February 2–7, 2016

For more information or to register, visit
clevelandclinicfloridaCME.org

To learn more about Cleveland Clinic Florida's educational programs, please visit
clevelandclinicflorida.org/education



Let's Collaborate!

To make a referral with a Digestive Disease Center specialist call:

- Colorectal Surgery:
954.659.5278
- Gastroenterology and
Therapeutic Endoscopy:
954.659.5646
- General and Minimally
Invasive Surgery:
954.659.5232
- Bariatric and Metabolic
Institute: **954.659.5249**
- Abdominal Transplantation:
1.855.ORGDONR

For more information about the Center or to learn more about specialists, visit
clevelandclinicflorida.org.



Digestive Disease Center
2950 Cleveland Clinic Blvd.
Weston, FL 33331

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL
PERMIT NO. 4163



Cleveland Clinic Florida, located in Weston, West Palm Beach, Atlantis, Palm Beach Gardens and Parkland, is a not-for-profit, multi-specialty, academic medical center that integrates clinical and hospital care with research and education. Cleveland Clinic Florida has 240 physicians with expertise in 35 specialties. The medical campus is fully integrated and includes diagnostic centers, outpatient surgery and a 24-hour emergency department located in the state-of-the-art hospital. Cleveland Clinic Florida ranked third among the 66 best hospitals in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale metro area and ninth in Florida in US News & World Report's 2015-2016 ranking of Best Hospitals metro area rankings. Cleveland Clinic Florida is an integral part of Cleveland Clinic Ohio, where providing outstanding patient care is based upon the principles of cooperation, compassion and innovation. Physicians at Cleveland Clinic are experts in the treatment of complex conditions that are difficult to diagnose. For more information about Cleveland Clinic Florida, visit clevelandclinicflorida.org.