



Annual USC Update in GI and Liver Disease: Controversies and Guidelines in 2026

September 18, 2026

3:00 pm-7:00 pm

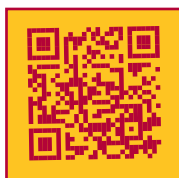
September 19, 2026

7:00 am-4:05 pm

**The Westin Pasadena
Pasadena, CA
Live Conference**

Keck School of Medicine of **USC**

Presented by:
Department of Medicine
Division of Gastrointestinal and Liver Diseases
USC Office of Continuing Medical Education



PROGRAM AGENDA

Friday, September 18, 2026

- 3:00 pm **Registration**
- 3:45 pm **Welcome**
Liyun Yuan, MD, PhD and Ara Sahakian, MD
- Session I: Great Debates in GI and Hepatology**
- 4:00 pm **Dysplasia in IBD: Surgical vs Endoscopic Treatment?**
Moderator: Ara Sahakian, MD
Damie Odufalu, MD and Sarah Choi, MD
- 4:45 pm **A High-Stakes Case of Acute Severe Alcohol-Associated Hepatitis: Transplant Now or Treat with Steroids?**
Moderators: Saroja Bangaru, MD and Michael Lin, MD
Pro: Time is Liver: The Case for Early Liver Transplantation
Christine Tien, MD
Con: Earn the Transplant: Why Steroid Response Should Come First
Andrea R. Amaro, MD
Summary: Saroja Bangaru, MD and Michael Lin, MD
- 5:30 pm **Questions/Panel Discussion**
Brian Kim, MD and Brian P. Lee, MD
- 6:00 pm **Opening Keynote Address**
The Conundrum of Unexplained Biliary Pain and Acute Pancreatitis
Gregory A. Cote', MD, MS
- 7:00 pm **Adjourn**
- 7:00 pm **Welcome Reception**

Saturday, September 19, 2026

- 7:00 am **Registration**
- 8:00 am **Welcome Back**
Liyun Yuan, MD, PhD and Ara Sahakian, MD
- Session II: Liver**
Moderators: Helen Han, MD and Liyun Yuan, MD, PhD
- 8:10 am **New Horizons in Liver Transplantation: Expanding Indications, Expanding Donors**
Jeffrey A. Kahn, MD
- 8:30 am **Downstage, Bridge, Role of Immunotherapy: Expand Transplant Eligibility in Advanced HCC and Cholangiocarcinoma**
Kali Zhou, MD, MAS
- 8:50 am **When Cholestatic Liver Disease Progresses: Second-Line Therapies and Timing of Transplantation**
Saro Khemichian, MD
- 9:10 am **The Pregnant Liver: Navigating Risk to Achieve Optimal Outcomes**
Ani Kardashian, MD, MS
- 9:30 am **Hepatology Keynote Address**
MASLD Uncovered: From Silent Disease to System-Wide Action
Meena B. Bansal, MD
- 10:00 am **Panel Discussion**
- 10:20 am **Break**

PROGRAM AGENDA

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Session III: Upper GI

Moderator: Brent Hiramoto, MD

10:40 am **Eosinophilic Esophagitis: What's New in 2026**

Anisa Shaker, MD

11:00 am **Gastroparesis: Stick with Meds and Diet, or Endoscopy/Surgery to the Rescue?**

Nipaporn Pichetshote, MD and Ara Sahakian, MD

11:20 am **Small Bowel Crohn's Disease: Modern Approaches to Detection**

Neel K. Mann, MD

11:50 am **Panel Discussion/Questions**

12:00 pm **Lunch**

Session IV: Lower GI

Moderator: Damie Odufalu, MD

1:00 pm **Complex Bowel Dysfunction: Refractory Constipation and Incontinence**

Brent Hiramoto, MD

1:20 pm **Microscopic Colitis: Diagnosis and Management in 2026**

Cynthia Cherfane, MD

1:40 pm **IBD Therapeutics in 2026: New Drugs, New Strategies**

Sarah Sheibani, MD

2:00 pm **Break**

Session V: Advanced Endoscopy

Moderator: Ara Sahakian, MD

2:20 pm **The William R. Grigsby Lecture**

From Users to Builders: Empowering Gastroenterologists in the Age of Generative AI

Dennis L. Shung, MD, PhD

2:50 pm **Obesity in the Age of GLP Inhibitors: Where Do Interventions Fit In?**

Danise Bi, MD

3:10 pm **Endo-Hepatology: Portal Pressure, Liver Biopsy and Beyond**

Thomas Wang, MD

3:30 pm **Stents, Stones, and Strictures: What's New in ERCP in 2026?**

James L. Buxbaum, MD

3:50 pm **Panel Discussion/Questions**

4:00 pm **Closing Remarks**

Ara Sahakian, MD and Liyun Yuan, MD, PhD

4:05 pm **Adjourn**

FACULTY

COURSE DIRECTORS

Keck Medicine of USC

Liyun Yuan, MD, PhD

Course Co-Director
Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
Division of Gastrointestinal & Liver Diseases

Ara Sahakian, MD

Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
Director of Endoscopy
Director of GI Service, Keck Hospital
Division of Gastrointestinal & Liver Diseases

KECK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OF USC

Division of Gastrointestinal & Liver Diseases

Saroja D. Bangaru, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
(Clinician Educator)

Danse Bi, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

James L. Buxbaum, MD

Professor of Medicine
(Clinical Scholar)
Executive Director, Digestive Health
Institute, Keck Medicine of USC

Cynthia Cherfane, MD

Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine

Helen Han, MD

Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
Program Director of the Transplant Hepatology
Fellowship Program
Medical Director, Living Donor Program

Brent Hiramoto, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

Jeffrey A. Kahn, MD

Professor of Clinical Medicine
Medical Director, Liver Transplant Program

Ani Kardashian, MD, MS

Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

Saro Khemichian, MD

Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
Associate Medical Director,
Liver Transplant Program

Brian Kim, MD

Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
Fellowship Director for Gastroenterology
and Hepatology

Brian P. Lee, MD

Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine

Michael Lin, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

Neel K. Mann, MD

Co-Director of the Small Bowel Center
Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine
(Clinician Educator)

Damie Odufalu, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

Nipaporn Pichetshote, MD

Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine
(Clinician Educator)

Anisa Shaker, MD, AGAF

Associate Professor of Medicine
Director of the Swallowing and
Esophageal Disorders Center
Co-Director Esophageal and Foregut Disorders
Center, Digestive Health Institute

Sarah Sheibani, MD

Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
Co-Director of IBD Center, Digestive Health

Thomas Wang, MD

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine
(Clinician Educator)

Kali Zhou, MD, MAS

Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

FACULTY

GUEST FACULTY

Meena B. Bansal, MD

Professor of Medicine, Liver Diseases
Division of Liver Diseases
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
System Chief, Division of Liver
Diseases Director, MASLD/MASH
(NAFLD/NASH) Center of Excellence
New York, NY

Dennis L. Shung, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Medicine
Senior Associate Consultant,
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Director of Clinical Generative Artificial Intelligence
and Informatics
Physician Lead, Digital SCOUT Pillar of Innovation,
Department of Medicine
Secondary Appointment, Department
of Artificial Intelligence and Informatics
Mayo Clinic Rochester
Rochester, NY

Gregory A. Coté, MD, MS

Professor of Medicine
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
School of Medicine
Oregon Health & Science University
Portland, OR

KECK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OF USC

USC/GI Liver Fellows

Andrea R. Amaro, MD

USC Combined GI & Transplant
Hepatology Fellows, PGY-6

Christine Tien, MD

USC Combined GI & Transplant
Hepatology Fellows, PGY-6

Division of Colorectal Surgery

Sarah Choi, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Recent advances in gastroenterology and hepatology are transforming patient care. Novel therapies are improving outcomes for IBD, MASLD, Met-ALD, cholestatic liver diseases, and viral hepatitis, while innovations in endoscopy and imaging are reshaping the management of pancreaticobiliary disorders, motility disorders, and early GI neoplasia. Despite this progress, important clinical challenges and knowledge gaps remain. This conference will provide practical, evidence-based updates on pancreatic disorders, acute alcohol-associated hepatitis, obesity management, metabolic liver diseases, emerging transplant strategies for advanced HCC and cholangiocarcinoma, and advances in upper and lower GI diseases. Through expert-led presentations, attendees will gain the latest insights to enhance patient care and clinical practice.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Apply novel pharmacological and diagnostic methods in managing gastrointestinal and liver diseases.
- Integrate revised standards into clinical decision-making and patient management.
- Engage in multidisciplinary teamwork to optimize care for complex cases.
- Use metrics to assess the impact of new interventions on patient health.
- Enhance the networking of USC GI/Liver specialty and local community.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This course is designed for gastroenterologists, hepatologists, surgeons, oncologists, and allied health professionals from local and regional community practices near Keck Medical Center (Los Angeles, Orange County, and surrounding areas) who want to improve their knowledge of GI/liver.

ACCREDITATION STATEMENT

The Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

CREDIT DESIGNATION

The Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California designates this live activity for a maximum of 9.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credits commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The following may apply 9.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™* for license renewal: Registered Nurses may report up to 9.5 credit hour(s) toward the CME requirements for license renewal by their state Board of Registered Nurses (BRN). CME may be noted on the license renewal application in lieu of a BRN provider number.

Physician Assistants: The National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants states that *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* accredited courses are acceptable CME requirements for recertification.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Registration cancellations must be received by the USC Office of CME (fax or email) by September 9, 2025, 12:00 pm PDT for a refund. A \$50 cancellation fee will be applied. In the event of course cancellation by conference organizers, all registration fees will be fully refunded. USC will not refund any travel costs incurred.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

To book a room at the Westin Pasadena, please scan the QR code below or visit: <https://marriott.com/en-us/hotels/laxpw-the-westin-pasadena/rooms/>



REGISTRATION FORM

Annual USC Update in GI and Liver Disease: Controversies and Guidelines in 2026: September 18-19, 2026

Live Conference

TUITION

Early bird fees for live registration end on September 14, 2026 at 12:00 pm PDT.
After September 14, 2026: Please register on-site on September 18-19, 2026.

	Early Bird	After September 14
Physician	☐ \$299	☐ \$350
NP/PA/APP	☐ \$199	☐ \$250
RN/AH	☐ \$199	☐ \$250
Fellow/Resident/Student	☐ \$99	☐ \$99



LOCATION

The Westin Pasadena: 191 N. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, California, 91101

PARKING

Self-parking rate is \$19 or valet is available for \$28. Parking rates are subject to change because they are managed by the city of Pasadena.

REGISTRATION

Mail: Office of CME, 1540 Alcazar Street, CHP 223, Los Angeles, CA 90033
Mail-in registration must be postmarked by September 14, 2026.

Online: keckusc.cloud-cme.com/GI2026

Phone: (323) 442-2555 AMEX, Mastercard, Visa

Email: usceme@usc.edu | Website: keckusc.cloud-cme.com/GI2026

On-site: Available September 18, 3:00 pm and September 19, 7:00 am at the Westin Pasadena.

Name_____

Degree_____ Medical License Number_____

Email Address*_____ Phone number_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____

Zip Code_____ Specialty_____

Institutional Affiliation_____

Special Dietary or Physical Needs _____

We strive to accommodate dietary restrictions. Please note that not all food items may meet special requirements. Food items will be labeled for your convenience.

*Registration confirmation and event reminder will be emailed.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

No cash accepted.

☐ Check (Check payable to USC. Check payment must be postmarked by September 14, 2026)

☐ Credit Card (Mastercard or Visa. AMEX by Phone/Mail only)

Credit Card Number_____

Expiration Date _____ Security Code_____

Authorized Signature _____ Amount \$ _____

COURSES ARE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION

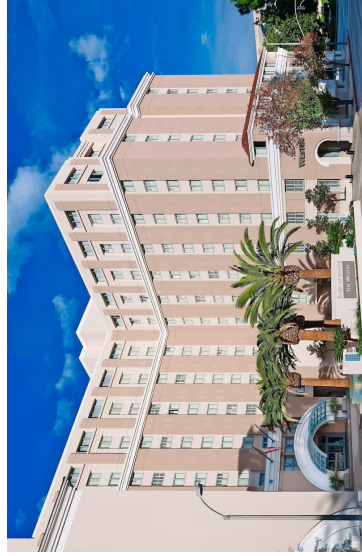


Keck School of Medicine of USC

Office of Continuing Medical Education

1540 Alcazar Street, CHP 223

Los Angeles, CA 90033



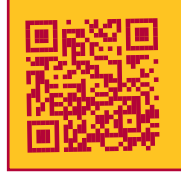
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