

SCOPE IT OUT!

May 2024

Missouri Gastroenterology Society

TAKE A PEEK INSIDE

- President's Message
- Member Spotlight
- Sponsorship Opportunities
- Upcoming events
- Social media channels
- Invitation to Join



MISSOURI GASTROENTEROLOGY SOCIETY

UPCOMING EVENTS

CME/AAPA

Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Management of Immune-Mediated Inflammatory Diseases

Addressing Shared Pathophysiology With JAK Inhibitors

📅 Wednesday, May 22, 2024

🕒 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM CDT

📍 Virtual Conference; PRE-REGISTER TODAY! [Click Here](#)

👤 Aline Charabaty, MD, AGAF, FACG

Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
Clinical Director of the IBD Center
Johns Hopkins - Sibley Memorial Hospital
Washington DC

President's Corner

The Missouri Gastroenterology Society (MOGI) is a brand new GI organization formed by Gastroenterologists as an idea in the early days of the COVID pandemic. It slowly developed, with the tremendous help of dedicated GI physicians from across Missouri, as an organization hoping to focus on bringing together gastroenterologists to educate, advocate, and develop a camaraderie between disparate groups of providers from across the state.

MOGI was an opportunity for us to develop a voice as both gastroenterologists, as well as patient advocates, serving those in all parts of the state. We wanted a group to advocate for us about regulatory, payor, and reimbursement issues state-wide.

We gathered a group from academic and private/employed practices and formed MOGI. We successfully launched our first set of meetings and learned about the resources and advocacy around colon cancer in Missouri. We learned about how we are doing, and how we can all do better to drive down the numbers of those patients developing colon cancer in our own communities.

At our second meeting, we then turned our attention to the one and only Doc Schmidt, a recent graduate, and newly minted attending gastroenterologist. He taught us how to harness the power of social media to teach, educate, and even laugh about gastroenterology. He has created a successful brand and uses it for his own practice in greater St Louis. As we plan for the next meeting, on Immune mediated inflammatory bowel diseases, we will share some cutting edge knowledge about the new and evolving field of JAK inhibitors and truly hope you can come join us.

We cannot do this work advocating for our specialty without help from all the GI physicians in the state. We should, and must, have a voice at the table in Jefferson City, as well as institutions in the state providing patient care; those who work daily to bring GI services to our patients. We are much stronger and successful as a team working together, so I urge you to come join us in our adventures!

***Sheetal Sharma, MD FACG
President, Missouri Gastroenterology Society (MOGI)***

Member Spotlight

Dr. Sheetal Sharma

Dr. Sharma is the current President of the Missouri GI Society. He is an Advanced Therapeutic Gastroenterology Faculty (EUS/ERCP) at Mercy Clinic and Hospital in Washington, Missouri. He is also Section Chief of Gastroenterology and Chairman of the Mercy-wide GI Specialty Council.

Originally from the East Coast, Dr. Sharma and his family slowly made their way west and landed in STL. He grew up in Upstate NY, surrounded by the beautiful Adirondack mountains. He went to prep school at Hotchkiss, and then went off to Cornell. He won a research grant, and went to study in London, where he attended medical school at Guys' King and Saint Thomas School of Medicine. While in Europe he found his love of travelling. Each European adventure was filled with history and culture. He returned and completed training in Medicine, as well as General and Advanced Therapeutic Gastroenterology at Albany Medical Center. After getting married, his wife (an EP Cardiologist) and he went off to Ohio State as Assistant Professors in their respective fields.

His wife was recruited to Washington University and off they came to STL. He decided to leave academics and came to Mercy Washington, where he became head of the department, started the advanced endoscopy services, and became Chair of the Mercy Wide GI specialty council. He also enjoys advancing GI on the national stage, and had an opportunity to Chair the ACG Patient Care Committee for several years. This is part of the reason he decided to help improve and advocate for the GI physicians in Missouri.

As their kids grew up, the family started travelling every chance they got. When the kids were young, sometimes it was as simple as trips to Disney, Hawaii, NY City, or even Washington, DC. However, as the kids got old enough it was adventures in London, Paris, and Barcelona. Dr. Sharma's favorite and a trip of a lifetime was to see what Darwin saw on the Galapagos Islands. Aside from travelling, and being an Uber driver for the kids; he enjoys cooking, tennis, cycling and relaxing with friends and family.



Become a member of the Missouri Gastroenterology Society and keep up to date on the latest issues affecting GI providers throughout our state! Join by scanning the QR code or visit <https://www.missourigi.org/membership>



Membership in the Society offers the following benefits:

- ✓ ***Complimentary registration to the MO GI Society's Annual Meeting***
- ✓ ***Ability to Earn MOC Points and AMA PRA Category 1 Credit***
- ✓ ***Establish new connections with gastroenterologists from around the state and share ideas about making all GI providers successful well into the future***
- ✓ ***Advocate for the profession on legislative, regulatory, and payer (both public and private) issues state-wide.***