Kaiser Permanente is among the nation’s largest and most highly regarded health care delivery organizations. Our large and diverse patient base provides a full panel of fundamental and complex cases that give fellows the invaluable tools needed to practice in the medical environment of their choice.

**Spotlight on Therapeutic Endoscopy**

Starting from your first year of fellowship, one of our core objectives is to help you master the art—and science—of diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy. Beginning with upper endoscopies and diagnostic colonoscopies, the cornerstones of every modern GI practice, you will learn not only the technical performance of these procedures including gastrointestinal emergencies, but also the ability to articulate a particular procedure’s indication, risk, benefit, alternatives, and limitations.

Then, depending on your interest and program director approval, you may choose to pursue an endoscopic concentration during your senior year of fellowship. We are a high-volume center, performing over 9,600 colonoscopies, over 400 endoscopic ultrasound examinations, and over 400 ERCPs annually.

At Los Angeles Medical Center, we perform a wide range of interventional gastroenterology procedures including:

- Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP), including advanced interventions such as direct cholangioscopy (baby scope/Spyscope)
- Endoscopic ultrasound with fine needle aspiration (EUS-FNA) and complex interventional EUS (rendezvous, transduodenal stent placement, etc)
- Endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR), upper and lower
- Endoscopic ampullectomy
- Radiofrequency ablation (RFA)
- Endoluminal stenting
- Single balloon and double balloon enteroscopy (via regional sites)
- Wireless video capsule endoscopy
Early exposure will be particularly important to help you in your subsequent career path—for example, pursuing a third-tier Advanced Endoscopy Fellowship. Similarly, with a robust regional database of 3.7 million members as well as a regional research facility (Walnut Center), advanced endoscopy-themed research projects are not only feasible, but highly encouraged and supported.

**Spotlight on Inflammatory Bowel Disease**

The Inflammatory Bowel Disease program at Los Angeles Medical Center is a multi-disciplinary team including gastroenterologists, colorectal surgeons and a team of radiologists with specialized training in the management of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Dr. Marianne Fahmy specializes in the diagnosis and management of patients with complex inflammatory bowel disease.

In 2013, we cared for over 11,000 unique patients with either Crohn's disease or Ulcerative Colitis across Southern California and over 900 individuals at our medical center. In addition to inpatient management of acute disease exacerbations, all fellows rotate through a weekly IBD-focused clinic that is precepted by Dr. Fahmy. This provides the opportunity to gain experience in managing both straightforward and highly complex cases of inflammatory bowel disease. Many of these complex cases are further discussed at a monthly interdisciplinary meeting.

**Spotlight on Motility Training**

We offer a full range of gastrointestinal motility testing and serve as the regional referral center for Southern California Kaiser Permanente. Services provided by our medical center include the following:

- Breath testing for bacterial overgrowth and carbohydrate malabsorption
- High resolution esophageal manometry
- BRAVO and catheter-based pH testing
- Anorectal manometry
- Colonic motility testing
- Gastric emptying testing

Additional services include bio-feedback training and gastric electrical pacing.

The motility program at LAMC is led by Dr. Kenny Liu. Dr. Liu specializes in disorders of esophageal motility and refractory reflux disease. In addition, fellows with a special interest in motility training have pursued elective rotations outside the Kaiser Permanente health system both locally as well as across the country as part of the clinical motility training program sponsored by the American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society.
Spotlight on Hepatology

The Hepatology service at LAMC is staffed by five full-time hepatologists. Los Angeles is the regional referral center for KP Southern California and provides comprehensive pre- and post-transplant care under the leadership of Dr. Amandeep Sahota. In 2013, LAMC provided care for over 4,900 patients with cirrhosis. Approximately 50 members receive liver transplantation on an annual basis. Members are referred out-of-network for liver transplant surgery. For fellows interested in pursuing a career in transplant Hepatology, numerous opportunities also exist to rotate in regional transplant centers.

A weekly multi-disciplinary liver tumor board is held in conjunction with our hepatologists, interventional radiology and hepatobiliary surgery teams.

During their three years of training, fellows spend a total of six months on the inpatient Hepatology service and maintain a continuity Hepatology clinic. Additional opportunities exist to gain expertise in state-of-the-art management of Hepatitis C under the mentorship of Dr. Amandeep Sahota, the Kaiser Permanente Southern California regional lead for Hepatitis C care.

Spotlight on Pancreatic Care

The Center for Pancreatic Care (CPC) is a regional program based at LAMC. This virtual network brings together therapeutic endoscopists from across the region as well as gastroenterologists, radiologists, surgeons and nutrition services at LAMC. The mission of the Center is to provide an innovative approach to comprehensive care for patients with pancreatic disorders including acute pancreatitis, chronic pancreatitis, cystic neoplasms and pancreatic cancer.

Regional innovations at Kaiser Permanente Southern California developed through the CPC include implementation of an inpatient acute pancreatitis order-set to streamline care for patients hospitalized with acute pancreatitis at any one of our 15 area hospitals.

Our team has also developed a regional guideline for incidental cystic neoplasms of the pancreas that has helped to standardize reporting of these lesions across all radiology departments in KPSC. The guideline also provides recommendations based on evidence that was generated through research conducted at KPSC.
In addition to a monthly case-based multi-disciplinary pancreas conference, fellows gain exposure to the management of complex cases of pancreatitis as LAMC is the tertiary referral center for Southern California with over 700 admissions for acute or chronic pancreatitis on an annual basis.

**Digestive Health and Wellness Program**

We believe a comprehensive, team-oriented approach is necessary to achieve optimal outcomes for patients with functional gastrointestinal disorders. The Digestive Health and Wellness Program incorporates gastroenterology, nutrition services, stress management education as well as physical therapy into the care of patients with irritable bowel syndrome. An integrated treatment plan is developed with specific treatment recommendations and care goals tailored to the needs of an individual patient.

Our gastroenterologists work to confirm a diagnosis of irritable bowel syndrome while excluding other potential causes for a patient’s symptoms. In addition, evaluation is performed to identify potential contributing factors such as motility disturbances or small intestinal bacterial overgrowth. Meanwhile, our nutrition counseling services will provide dietary counseling on methods to reduce symptoms through alteration in diet such as adherence to a low fermentation diet (low in fermentable oligo-, di-, monosaccharides and polyols FODMAP). An additional key component to the Digestive Health and Wellness Program is participation in the Stress Management program offered through Health Education at KP Los Angeles. Here, techniques such as mindful meditation are used to address the impact of stress and visceral hypersensitivity on symptoms in patients with functional gastrointestinal disorders. Finally, services including bio-feedback training are offered through our partners in physical therapy.

**Focus on Quality and Innovation**

We believe that quality improvement and innovation are the cornerstones to delivering exceptional care. Examples of quality improvement initiatives include our continuous peer-review process led by Dr. Vijayamalani Pampati, DO and inpatient task force to prevent hospital acquired infections. Innovations in care delivery include the proactive office encounter in all ambulatory visits and implementation of a regional fecal microbiota transplant (FMT) program for patients with refractory clostridium difficile.

This philosophy extends to the Gastroenterology Training program as well. All fellows are expected to participate in a quality improvement project as well as develop a tailored curriculum to further develop their area(s) of interest within during their 2nd and 3rd years of training.

To learn more about:
- How to apply
- Our faculty and residents
- Available clerkships & electives
- Benefits & Salary

Visit us online today at residency.kp.org/scal

Gastroenterology Los Angeles Medical Center