

Amy L. Lightner MD, is Associate Professor of Surgery in the Department of Colon and Rectal Surgery at Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, the Associate Chair of Surgical Research, and is an Associate Professor of Inflammation and Immunity with a focus on regenerative therapy for Crohn's disease. Dr. Lightner received her B.A. in human biology from Stanford University, completed her surgical training in general surgery at University of California at Los Angeles and undertook post-doctoral work at Stanford University under a California Institute of Regenerative Medicine Training Grant focused on the differentiation pathways of embryonic stem cells. She completed a fellowship in colorectal surgery at Mayo Clinic. She has received extramural funding from the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, Cure for IBD, Rainin Foundation, and the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery to study the use of stem cell based therapies for IBD, and has received additional internal funding for ongoing clinical trials in fistulizing and intestinal Crohn's disease.

Jean H. Ashburn MD, is Assistant Professor of Colorectal Surgery and staff surgeon at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She is a graduate of Wake Forest University School of Medicine and completed a residency in general surgery at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She then completed a fellowship in colorectal surgery at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio, where she was a staff surgeon prior to joining the Department of Surgery at Wake Forest University. She has particular clinical and research interests in complex inflammatory bowel disease, reoperative pelvic surgery, and corrective/restorative surgery of the lower gastrointestinal tract.

Mantaj S. Brar MD, MSc, is Assistant Professor of Surgery and Surgeon-Investigator in the Department of Surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada. Dr. Brar completed his undergraduate degree at McGill University and obtained his medical degree from the University of Toronto. He completed his general surgery training and colon and rectal surgery fellowship at the University of Calgary. Following fellowship, he completed a MSc. in Medical Statistics at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and was awarded a graduate statistician certification from the Royal Statistical Society (UK). His clinical interests are in inflammatory bowel disease surgery and minimally invasive surgery. His research interests are in inflammatory bowel disease surgical outcomes, and the appropriate use and interpretation of advanced statistical models in medical literature.

Michele Carvello MD, is a consultant surgeon in the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery at Humanitas Clinical and Research Hospital in Milan, Italy. He completed his training in Gastrointestinal Surgery in San Raffaele Hospital in Milan. Subsequently, he completed his research fellowships at Massachusetts General Hospital (Boston, US) and at University Medical Center Utrecht The Netherlands, focusing on minimally invasive surgery. He has a special interest in the surgical management of inflammatory bowel disease and colorectal cancer. His research interests focus mainly on inflammatory bowel disease, colorectal cancer, and the application of new technologies such as fluorescence angiography.

Phillip R. Fleshner MD, is Clinical Professor of Surgery at the UCLA School of Medicine, when he is the Program Director of the ACGME accredited colorectal surgery residency. His research interests include multidisciplinary examinations of clinical and subclinical factors affecting the perioperative care of the surgical patient; stratification of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis phenotypic subgroups, relating these to surgical outcomes and using the results to shape pre-and post-operative protocols; optimizing the surgical outcomes of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis; examining the effects of perioperative immune suppression on the outcomes of IBD surgery.

Gaetano Gallo MD, is Researcher in the Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences at University of Catanzaro, Italy. He completed his training in general surgery at University of Catanzaro and the Department of Colorectal Surgery, S. Rita Clinic (Vercelli). Subsequently, he completed a research fellowship in colorectal surgery at the Department of Surgery–Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam and at the Department of Digestive and Endocrine Surgery - Pole Hepato-Digestif, Nouvel Hopital Civil University Hospital of Strasbourg. He has a clinical and academic interest in proctology in inflammatory bowel disease, functional and pelvic floor Disorders, IBD and microbiome and colorectal cancer.

Paulo Gustavo Kotze MD, MSc, PhD, is Assistant Professor of Surgery and Head of the Colorectal Surgery Unit at Cajuru University Hospital of the Catholic University in Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil. He received his medical degree at the Federal University of Paraná and completed his general surgery training at the Evangelical University Hospital in Curitiba. He also completed a senior fellowship in colorectal surgery at the Clinics Hospital from the Federal University of Parana. Dr. Kotze achieved his masters degrees in surgery at the Catholic University in 2008 and joined the faculty of medicine at the same university his PhD degree studying the influence of biological therapy on surgical outcomes in Crohn's disease, in the University of Campinas, in São Paulo, Brazil. He has special interest in the fields of biological therapy and surgery in inflammatory bowel disease.

Stefan D. Holubar MD, MS, is received his Medical degree from the University of Vermont. He completed his residency at North Shore-Long Island Jewish Hospital, and a colorectal surgery fellowship at Mayo Clinic, including a Master of Science degree in clinical and translational research. He is currently the Director of Research for the Department of Colon and Rectal Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. His main clinical and research focus is inflammatory bowel disease—specifically pelvic pouch surgery, surgery for recurrent Crohn's disease, as well as minimally invasive surgery, enhanced recovery, and outcomes research. The focus of his research is prevention of postoperative venous thromboembolism.

Lillian M. Reza, FRCS, is a higher general surgical trainee in her fifth year of training at North East Thames London deanery. She completed her undergraduate medical training at Bart's and The London School of Medicine, and is currently pursuing a research degree at St Mark's Fistula Research unit. Her research is focused on the etiology, classification, and management of ileoanal pouch fistulas.

Antonino Spinelli MD, PhD, is Director of the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery and Full Professor of Surgery at Humanitas University, Rozzano in Milan, Italy.

Scott A. Strong, MD, is the James R. Hines Professor of Surgery at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. His training included a residency in general surgery at Michigan State University Butterworth Hospital, and a residency and research fellowship in colorectal surgery at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Strong serves as the Surgical Director of the Digestive Health Center, Chief of Gastrointestinal Surgery, and Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs in the Department of Surgery.

Philip J. Tozer, MD, is a Consultant Colorectal surgeon at St Mark's Hospital in London, UK. He received his undergraduate medical education at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine and subsequently an MD (Res) from Imperial College London. He has a clinical and academic interest in advanced proctology, perianal fistula disease, and inflammatory bowel disease. He is an academic supervisor to a number of research fellows at St Mark's

Fistula Research unit, investigating the etiology, diagnosis, and novel therapeutics in the management of perianal fistulas.

Adam Truong, MD, is a general surgery resident at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, California. Dr. Truong completed his undergraduate degree at the University of California, Irvine before obtaining a masters degree in global medicine at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. He returned to the University of California, Irvine to obtain his medical degree. He has a keen interest in clinical outcomes research and has published on the relevance of albumin as a predictor of perioperative morbidity following colorectal surgery, operative techniques for rectal cancer, enhanced recovery protocols, and operative inflammatory bowel disease. Dr. Truong is currently investigating the use of induced pluripotent stem cells and organoid technology to advance anorectal fistula healing in Crohn's disease.

Janindra Warusavitarne is a consultant colorectal surgeon at St Mark's Hospital in London. He has a special interest in inflammatory bowel disease surgery and is the lead surgeon for inflammatory bowel disease at St Mark's Hospital. He obtained his medical degree at the University of Newcastle in Australia and completed his surgical training and subsequent specialist colorectal training in Australia. During his training he spent one year as a resident surgical officer at St Mark's and subsequently returned to Australia to commence his consultant practice.

Takayuki Yamamoto, MD, is Clinical Professor at the Mie University School of Medicine and Chief of the Department of Surgery and Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center at Yokkaichi Hazu Medical Center, Yokkaichi, Japan. Professor Yamamoto has undertaken clinical research in the field of surgical management of Crohn's disease at the University of Birmingham, UK. His achievements include progress in advanced surgical procedures including strictureplasty, assessment of risk factors for postoperative complications or recurrence, and the negative effect of smoking on clinical course of Crohn's disease.

Karen Zaghayan, MD, is Assistant Professor of Surgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Dr. Zaghayan received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of California, Los Angeles. She then completed medical school at the University of California, San Diego before pursuing general surgery residency and colon and rectal surgery fellowship at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles where she remained to establish her practice. Dr. Zaghayan's research interests include rectal cancer and inflammatory bowel disease including methods to improve outcomes in patients with colon & rectal diseases.