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Jan R. Cloyde Legacy Award

Reflection from Digestive Disease Week 2024 in Washington, D.C.

Participating in Digestive Disease Week 2024 was an incredible experience teeming with learning and networking. Throughout the conference I attended a number of sessions, with highlights including the Lower GI Symposium (hosted by my mentor, Dr. Lin Chang) as well as the Constipation postgraduate course, both of which were helpful updates on lower GI diagnosis pathophysiology, as well as a deep dive on constipation treatment modalities. I attended a UCLA networking event at the National Women's History Museum on May 18, where I was able to connect with individuals who have supported my training program including Dr. Eric Esrailian (Chief of the Digestive Diseases division), my mentor Dr. Lin Chang, research colleagues, residency trainees interested in GI, current GI fellows, and UCLA alumni gastroenterologists. Presenting my three posters was a wonderful experience; many researchers and trainees engaged with the posters and asked astute questions, including how our research might apply to the transgender population (which I believe is a great future direction for our research). On May 20, I attended a Women in Neurogastroenterology Interest Group hosted by the ANMS, during which a panel of women leaders in NeuroGI spoke about their career paths, work-life integration, and self-advocacy in what was historically a male-dominated space. After this session, I connected with Dr. Linda Nguyen, who hosted the panel – she is a Stanford Neurogastroenterologist who is the Director of GI Motility and Neurogastroenterology at Stanford and is heavily involved in their NeuroGI fellowship. Because there is great overlap in the program that my mentor and I created for myself and the one in Stanford, we exchanged contact information and are planning to meet in June to exchange ideas for our training programs moving forward.

Overall, the experience afforded invaluable educational and networking opportunities for me to advance my Disorders of Gut-Brain Interaction – Internal Medicine path. I am incredibly grateful to have received support to present at DDW this year.