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Welcome Associate Editors Ajay Goel, Aida Habtezion, and Walter Park

Jonathan D. Kaunitz¹

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Ajay Goel, MS (Honors), PhD, AGAF



Dr. Goel is a basic researcher, who received his Ph.D. degree in Biophysics from Panjab University, India, in 1996. He subsequently completed a 1-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, followed by three additional years of training at the Department of Medicine, University of California San Diego, La Jolla. He subsequently was appointed as a Research Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, at UCSD, before moving to the Baylor Scott & White Research Institute in Dallas, TX, in 2003.

Dr. Goel currently serves as a Professor and Director, Center for Gastrointestinal Research, and Director, Center for Epigenetics, Cancer Prevention and Genomics at the Baylor Scott & White Research Institute. Dr. Goel currently also holds the Michael E. Ramsay Chair in Translational Epigenomics and Oncology. His laboratory is primarily interested in understanding the genetic and epigenetic aspects of gastrointestinal cancers, with a substantial portion of his research focused on translational aspects of these malignancies. Dr. Goel has published more than 225 original research articles, invited reviews, and book chapters in some of the leading gastroenterology- and oncology-related journals including *Gastroenterology*, *Gut*, *Journal of National Cancer Institute*, *Cancer Research*, *Clinical Cancer Research*, *Hepatology*, *Proceedings on National Academy of Sciences*, and *The New England Journal of Medicine*. He is also a primary inventor on more than 15 international patents aimed at developing biomarkers for the diagnosis, prognosis, and prediction of gastrointestinal cancers. He is currently using advanced genomic and transcriptomic approaches to develop novel DNA- and microRNA-based biomarkers for the early detection of colorectal, pancreatic, and esophageal cancers. Dr. Goel currently serves as PI on four NIH/NCI grants, a

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grant from the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) and several other institutional and foundation-funded grants.

As an Associate Editor for *Digestive Diseases and Sciences*, he would like to help increase the impact and visibility of the journal as one of the prominent publications within the gastroenterology community by promoting the translational aspects of genetic and epigenetic studies published by the journal.

Aida Habtezion, MD, MSc, FRCPC

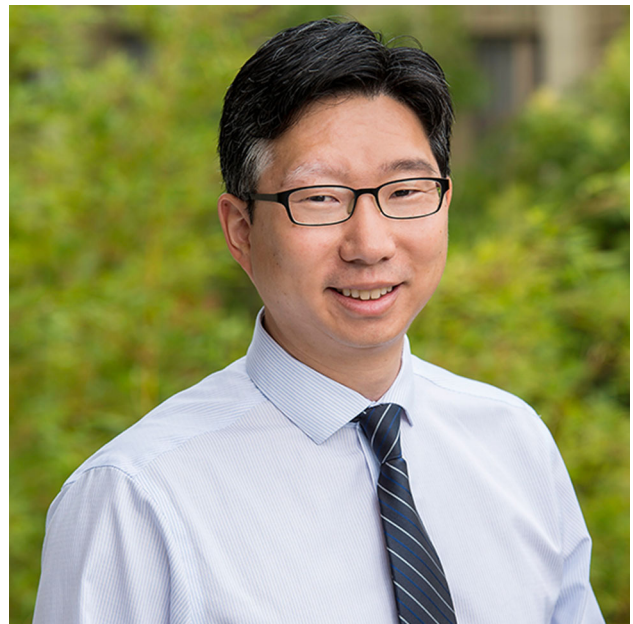


Dr. Habtezion is a physician–scientist with training in gastroenterology and immunology. Dr. Habtezion obtained her medical degree from McMaster University, completed an Internal Medicine residency at the University of Western Ontario, a Gastroenterology Fellowship at the University of Toronto, and a postdoctoral research fellowship at Stanford University. She is currently appointed as Ballinger-Swindells Family Scholar, Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology and Institute for Immunity, Transplantation and Infection at Stanford University. She is also a member of the Clinical, Integrative and Molecular Gastroenterology (CIMG) Study Section for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Her research, which addresses leukocyte recruitment and immune responses in diseases

affecting the pancreas and the intestine, is supported by foundation and NIH grants.

As Associate Editor for *Digestive Diseases and Sciences*, she would like to help increase the influence and standing of the journal by promoting and advancing the quality of the basic and translational pancreas research published by *Digestive Diseases and Sciences*.

Walter Park, MD



Walter Park received his medical degree at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and completed his medical residency and fellowship in gastroenterology at Stanford University Medical Center. While a fellow, he obtained a Masters In Science in Health Services Research from Stanford University. Dr. Park is currently an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Stanford University School of Medicine and Medical Director of the Benign Pancreas Program within Stanford Health Care. His research focuses on biomarker development and validation of pancreatic cysts, early detection of pancreas cancer, the natural history of chronic pancreatitis, and health policy reforms on the practice of gastroenterology.

As Associate Editor, Dr. Park is excited to promote high-quality clinical and translational research in pancreatic diseases in order to further the quality and impact of *Digestive Diseases and Sciences*.