



The 30th Annual

Virginia Liver Symposium and Update in Gastroenterology

March 21, 2026 | The Westin Richmond

Presented by the VCU Health Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition,
and VCU Health Continuing Education



Continuing Education

SCHEDULE

A.M.

7:00 **Registration and breakfast with exhibitors**
7:55 **Welcome and introduction**
Milan Patel, MD; Arun Sanyal, MD and
Richard Sterling, MD, MSc

SESSION I

Gastrointestinal Motility and Functional Disorders

Educational objectives:

1. To recognize and diagnosis esophageal motility disorders.
2. To review effective management of slow-transit constipation.
3. To diagnosis and manage irritable bowel syndrome.

Moderator: Ravi Vachhani, MD

8:00 **GERD and Barrett's: Future of Diagnosis and Management**
Milan Patel, MD
8:25 **Slow-Transit Constipation: Evaluation and Management**
Marcus Healey, MD
8:50 **Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Irritable Bowel Syndrome Overlap**
Raseen Tariq, MD
9:15 **Panel discussion**
9:25 **Alvin Zfass State of the Art Lecture: MASLD Call to Action Metabolic Medicine**
Arun Sanyal, MD
10:00 **Break with exhibitors**

SESSION II

Understanding cirrhosis and liver diseases

Educational objectives:

1. To identify nomenclature and diagnosis of MASLD.
2. To describe varying modalities of therapy for MASLD.
3. To recognize drug induced liver injury.

Moderator: Obi Aseem, MD

10:20 **Drug Induced Liver Injury: Early Recognition and Management**
Vaishali Patel MD
10:45 **Screening and Diagnosis for MASLD: Identifying patients in clinic**
Richard Sterling, MD
11:10 **Managing Co-Morbidities of MASLD**
Trey Wickham, MD
11:35 **Alcohol Related Liver Injury: Diagnosis and Management**
Juan Pablo Arab, MD

P.M.

12:00 **Panel discussion**
12:10 **Lunch with exhibitors**
12:40 **Workshop sessions**
A. Effective Utilization of APPs in GI and Hepatology
HoChong Gilles, DNP

B. Endoscopy Nurse Session –

Colonoscopy Preparation

Jennifer Almeda, NP; Christen Dillon, RN; and
Amanda Tullidge, NP

C. Appropriate Patient Selection Based on Co-morbidities for an Ambulatory Surgical Center

Catherine Cooper, MD; Ashley Foster, NP

D. Management of Chronic Viral Hepatitis: Current Therapies

Reena Cherian, DNP, FNP-BC; Shawn Lewis, NP;
Richard Sterling, MD

SESSION III

Common gastrointestinal disorders

Educational objectives:

1. To explain the effective utilization of stool testing for colon cancer.
2. To identify pioneering techniques utilizing endoscopic ultrasound management of complex patients.
3. To determine optimal biologic therapies for Inflammatory Bowel Disease.
4. To identify advances in advanced endoscopy.

Moderator: Doumit Bouhaidar, MD

1:10 **Ergonomics in Endoscopy**
Nikita Chadha, DO
1:35 **Endo-Hepatology: Innovation and Outcomes**
Sahaj Rathi, MBBS
2:00 **The First Visit: Which Biologic Should I Start With?**
Stephen Bickston, MD
2:25 **Use of Intestinal Ultrasound in Inflammatory Bowel Disease**
Sasha Mangray, MD
2:25 **Panel discussion**
3:00 **Break with exhibitors**

SESSION IV

Liver diseases and transplant

Educational objectives:

1. To identify compensated versus decompensated cirrhosis and indications for liver transplant evaluation.
2. To explain the role and value of living donor liver transplantation.
3. To describe post-transplant liver complications.

Moderator: Joel Wedd, MD

3:20 **Protecting the Kidney in the End-Stage Liver Disease Patient**
Adam Dossaji, MD
3:45 **Hepatocellular carcinoma: Identification and modalities of treatment**
Scott Matherly, MD
4:10 **Long-Term Care of the Liver Transplant Patient**
Brian Davis, MD
4:35 **Panel discussion**
4:45 **Final comments**

Course description and target audience

The Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, the Liver Transplant Program, and VCU Health Continuing Education are pleased to offer the 30th Annual Virginia Liver Symposium and Update in Gastroenterology taking place in Richmond, VA. The program is designed for primary care and sub-specialty physicians, and advanced practice providers who treat patients with gastrointestinal and liver disorders.

Course objectives

- Explain the major components of motility related disorders in the upper and lower gastrointestinal tract.
- Identify signs of cirrhosis and criteria for referral for evaluation of liver transplantation.
- Identify techniques to manage and treat endoscopically complex patients in GI and Hepatology.

VCU Health course directors

Richard K. Sterling, MD, MSc, FACP, FACG, FAASLD, AGAF

Professor of Medicine
Chief, Section of Hepatology
Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

Milan Patel, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

Annette McVey, MSN, RN, GRN

Endoscopy Nurse Clinician
Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

VCU Health faculty

Catherine Cooper, MD

Associate Professor of Anesthesiology
Medical Director, Stony Point Endoscopy Center

Adam Dossaji, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine
VCU School of Medicine

Trey Wickham, MD, FAAP

Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics
Program Director for the Endocrinology Fellowship Training Program

VCU Health Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition faculty

Jennifer Almeda, NP

Advanced Practice Provider, Gastroenterology

Juan Pablo Arab, MD

Transplant Hepatologist and Director of Alcohol Sciences

Sayed Obaidullah (Obi) Aseem, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Stephen Bickston, MD

Professor of Medicine
Director, Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Doumit BouHaidar, MD

Professor of Medicine
Director of Endoscopy

Nikita Chadha, DO

Gastroenterology and Hepatology Fellow

Reena Cherian, DNP, FNP-BC

Advanced Practice Provider, Hepatology

Brian Davis, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Central Virginia Veterans Healthcare System

Christen Dillon, RN

Nurse Navigator, Gastroenterology

Ashley Foster, ACNP

Advanced Practice Provider
Stony Point Endoscopy Center

HoChong Gilles, DNP, FNP-BC, AF-AASLD

Program Director, Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Liver Transplantation
Central Virginia VA Health Care System

Marcus Healey, DO, MS

Gastroenterology and Hepatology Fellow

Shawn Lewis, NP

Advanced Practice Provider, Hepatology

Sasha Mangray, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Scott Matherly, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine
Co-Director, HCC Clinic

Vaishali Patel, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Sahaj Rathi, MBBS

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Arun Sanyal, MD

Z. Reno Vlahcevic Professor of Medicine, Physiology and Molecular Pathology
Director, Stravitz-Sanyal Institute for Liver Disease and Metabolic Health
Interim Chair, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

Raseen Tariq, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Amanda Tullidge, AGACNP-BC

Advanced Practice Provider, Gateway Endoscopy

Ravi Vachhani, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine
Gastroenterology and Hepatology Fellowship Director

Joel Wedd, MD, MPH

Associate Professor of Medicine
Director of Liver Transplantation



REGISTRATION

Register online at vcu.cloud-cme.com/liver

Registration rates

\$280	Physician (includes MOC)
\$180	Healthcare Providers (non-physician)
\$20	VCU Health Employee
\$20	Central Virginia Veterans Healthcare System - Residents & GI Fellows, Faculty, Transplant Staff

Syllabus Free download available

Cancellation policy

Registration fee, less a 25% non-refundable administrative fee, will be refunded only if written notice of cancellation is received via email to ceinfo@vcuhealth.org on or before March 6, 2026. There will be no refunds after that date.

Questions?

Contact VCU Health Continuing Education. Box 980048 | Richmond, VA | 804.828.3640 | ceinfo@vcuhealth.org

Accreditation and credit



In support of improving patient care, VCU Health Continuing Education is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

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Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the participant to earn up to **7.5 MOC points** in the American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program.

Participants will earn MOC points equivalent to the amount of CME credits claimed for the activity. It is the CME activity provider's responsibility to submit participant completion information to ACCME for the purpose of granting ABIM MOC credit.

Disclaimers

Minimum and maximum numbers for attendance at this event have been established, and we reserve the right to substitute speakers/topics, adjust credit hours, or cancel if necessary.

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All participants have the right to participate in this continuing education activity without discrimination due to age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, language, physical or mental disability, socioeconomic status, sex (sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and pregnancy), protected veteran status, marital status, genetic information, or any other protected characteristics under applicable federal, state, or local law. If you need accommodations to participate in this activity, please contact us at ceinfo@vcuhealth.org for more information. Requests for accommodations must be received 21 days prior to activity start date.

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All complaints must be made in writing to ceinfo@vcuhealth.org.

All complaints will be logged into the complaint log. The Director, Continuing Education will attempt to resolve the complaint within the first contact, when possible, and will respond to the client and customer's concerns within 5 business days of the initial complaint. At the time of the first contact, Director, Continuing Education will inform the complainant if more time will be needed to research the complaint.

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Disclosure statement

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