



**The 30<sup>th</sup> 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



**VCU**Health™

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:** Richard Sterling, MD, MSc

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 30<sup>th</sup> 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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

VCU Health Continuing Education designates this live activity for a maximum of 7.5 **AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

VCU Health Continuing Education designates this activity for a maximum of 7.5 **ANCC contact hours**. Nurses should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



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. By attending this event you grant VCU Health Continuing Education the right at the event to record, film, photograph, or capture your likeness in any media and to distribute, broadcast, use, or otherwise disseminate, in perpetuity, such media without any further approval from or any payment to you.

### Accommodation

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](mailto:ceinfo@vcuhealth.org) for more information. Requests for accommodations must be received 21 days prior to activity start date.

### Complaint Policy and Resolution Process

All complaints must be made in writing to [ceinfo@vcuhealth.org](mailto: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.

If the complaint is still unresolved after communication with the Director, Continuing Education, or if the initial complaint is not addressed in a timely manner, the complainant may contact the President & CEO, UHS-PEP. The President & CEO will then contact the complainant and endeavor to resolve the complaint within 10 business days after being contacted.

The complaint log will be regularly reviewed to identify areas of operations and service that may require improvement. The Director, Continuing Education will research reoccurring complaint matters and recommend process and procedure changes, when appropriate. These changes will be noted on the Complaint Resolution Log, and any necessary policy and/or procedure updates will be made within 15 business days thereafter.

### Disclosure statement

In compliance with ACCME Standards, all planners and presenter relationships with commercial supporters have been resolved. All presenting faculty affirm that they will employ the best available evidence from all sources to support any clinical recommendations made in their presentations. If learners detect any commercial bias in any presentation, they should document their observations on the activity evaluation.