MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL
GLOBAL HEALTH

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL
GASTROENTEROLOGY

QUARTER 2
JANUARY 2026

MGH GLOBAL GASTROENTEROLOGY Newsletter





Dr. Akwi W Asombang
Interventional Gastroenterologist
Associate Professor of Medicine,
Harvard Medical School
Director, Global Health Programs in Gastroenterology.
Massachusetts General Hospital, USA.



Dr. Jennifer Kizza-Brown
Internal Medicine Resident,
Massachusetts General Hospital, USA
MGH Global Gastroenterology Volunteer



Angelo Autiak Ayii Chol
Medical Student, Suez University, Egypt.
MGH Global Gastroenterology Volunteer

Message from Editorial Board

"With rare exceptions, all of your most important achievements on this planet will come from working with others—or, in a word, partnership." — Paul Farmer

The MGH Global Gastroenterology Program strives to build partnerships and collaborations that are transformative, sustainable, and long-lasting. As we begin the new year filled with goals, strategies, and inspiration, we remain steadfast in our determination to build meaningful relationships and create an environment for innovation, teaching, clinical care, research, and bilateral exchange of skill and knowledge. We strive for equity in building the agenda, developing programs, and creating impactful outcomes. The benefits of our partnerships will be experienced by all members. Our relationships are not unilateral but unified and dedicated to the communities we serve.

Our newsletter will continue to highlight the brilliance within our national and international global health communities. We'll share opportunities for learning and mutually beneficial initiatives.
Join us in our journey. Support the MGH Global Gastroenterology Program.

MGH GLOBAL GASTROENTEROLOGY CLINICAL OBSERVERS

Clinical observership advances global health by creating opportunities for bilateral exchange of knowledge, skills, and perspectives in gastroenterology. The 2026 clinical observers will be under the mentorship and supervision of MGH faculty. This will enable them to strengthen their global collaboration and acquire knowledge or skills that they would then use to improve patient care in their home institutions.



Dr. Gonzalo López Roldán
Gastroenterologist
Centro Médico Teknon,
Spain



Dr. Anmol Malhotra
DM Gastroenterology Trainee
Kasturba Medical College,
Manipal, India



Dr. Oluwafunmilayo Adeniyi
Pediatric Gastroenterologist
College of Medicine, University of Lagos, Nigeria
ACG International GI Training Grant Recipient



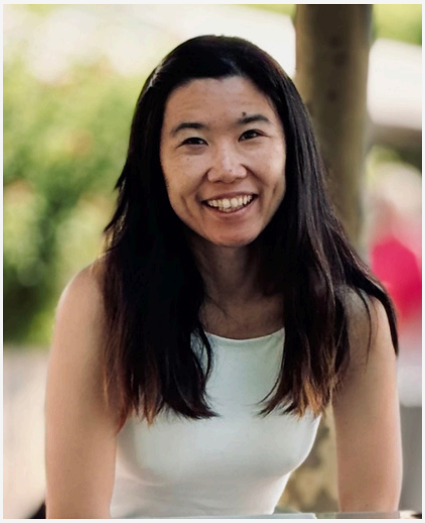
Dr. Enock Syabbalo
Gastroenterologist
University of Zambia, Zambia
ASGE Endoscopic Training Award Recipient

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QUARTER 2
JANUARY 2026

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MGH GLOBAL GASTROENTEROLOGY/BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Anne F Liu, MD

Dr. Liu serves as an Associate Physician in Gastroenterology at Brigham and Women's Hospital and as a Clinical Instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School. She holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of California, Los Angeles, an M.D. from Stanford University School of Medicine, completed an internal-medicine residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital, and concluded a gastroenterology fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

She sustained her hepatitis C virus research initiated during a Johnson & Johnson Global Health Scholars program in Rwanda—a tenure that encompassed academic instruction, inpatient service, and comprehensive community screening for HBV, HCV, HIV, and preventive health measures.

After two years as a hospitalist at Yale and a period in private practice at Harbor Medical, Dr. Liu rejoined Brigham and Women's Hospital as a full-time faculty member, dedicating herself to advanced clinical care, graduate medical education, medical oncology trials, and the development of international colon-cancer screening initiatives, including a forthcoming site visit to Uzbekistan in January 2026.

BWH Bariatric Endoscopy with Dr. Pichamol Jirapinyo and Dr. Christopher Thompson

Dr. Jirapinyo is an advanced and bariatric endoscopist at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), where she serves as Associate Director of Bariatric Endoscopy. Dr. Thompson is the Director of Endoscopy at BWH, Co-Director of the Center for Weight Management and Wellness, and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Jirapinyo and Dr. Thompson participated in one of the world's largest bariatric meetings, the Oxford International Bariatric Club (IBC) World Congress 2025, held at the University of Oxford, and they participated in the Bariatric Endoscopy Live Global. Dr Thompson participated in the 39th Hong Kong Live Endoscopy held in Hong Kong







Coming Up National Bariatric Endoscopy Participation



ASGE STAR Advanced Bariatric Suturing

Dr. Pichamol Jirapinyo is participating as course director along with Dr Christopher G. Chapman, Dr. Allison Schulman and Dr Shelby A. Sullivan.
This course will provide extensive hands-on training in advanced bariatric suturing.
March 6, 2026, 12:00 PM - March 8, 2026, 1:00 PM
US Central Time
Location: ASGE IT&T
Registration: *https://public.asge.org/Public/Events/Event_Display.aspx?WebsiteKey=fdb869b8-75af-46de-949c-a78efb8d5549&EventKey=STARMAR26*

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JANUARY 2026

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ADVANCED ENDOSCOPY FELLOWSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM IN GHANA AT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR LIVER AND DIGESTIVE HEALTH (CELDH)

We are establishing an advanced endoscopy fellowship training program in Ghana at Center of Excellence for Liver and Digestive Health (CELDH) as the first formal advanced endoscopy fellowship in Ghana and West Africa. CELDH is part of the Africa Institute for Liver and Digestive Disease (AILDD), an organization founded by Dr Lewis Roberts and Dr Victor Ankoma-Sey.

We performed the first ERCP at CELDH in May 2024, and we are working with a team of volunteer medical doctors, nurses, and technologists in Ghana, Nigeria, and the USA to establish the first advanced endoscopy fellowship training program in Ghana. The program will provide training in advanced endoscopy and provide clinical care for patients. Ghana, with a population of more than 35 million, has no interventional gastroenterologist. In fact, there are no training facilities for interventional gastroenterology within West Africa, with very limited programs across the entire African continent. The lack of available interventional gastroenterologists and training programs negatively impacts patient care and clinical outcomes due to limited access. Through collaboration, we are building a team of trainers for the successful implementation of clinical and research programs starting this month (January 2026). The initial program is 2 years, with the goal of recruiting more trainees during year two and sustaining the growth of trained interventional gastroenterologists, thus improving access to care and resource allocation across Africa.

MEET THE TEAM

CELDH ADVANCED ENDOSCOPY FELLOWSHIP

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

- Dr Akwi Asombang
- Dr Mitchell Mahmoud

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Dr Lewis Roberts
- Dr Thomas Amankonah
- Dr Adwoa Agyei-Nkansah
- Dr Akosua Agyen-Frimpong
- Dr Kenneth Tachi
- Dr Otis Stephen

FACULTY

- Nurse anesthetist: Mr Collison
- HPB surgeon (on call): Dr Asare Offei
- Radiologist: Dr Juliana Nkrumah Mills
- Radiographer: Alex Fosu Kwarteng

2026-2028 TRAINEES

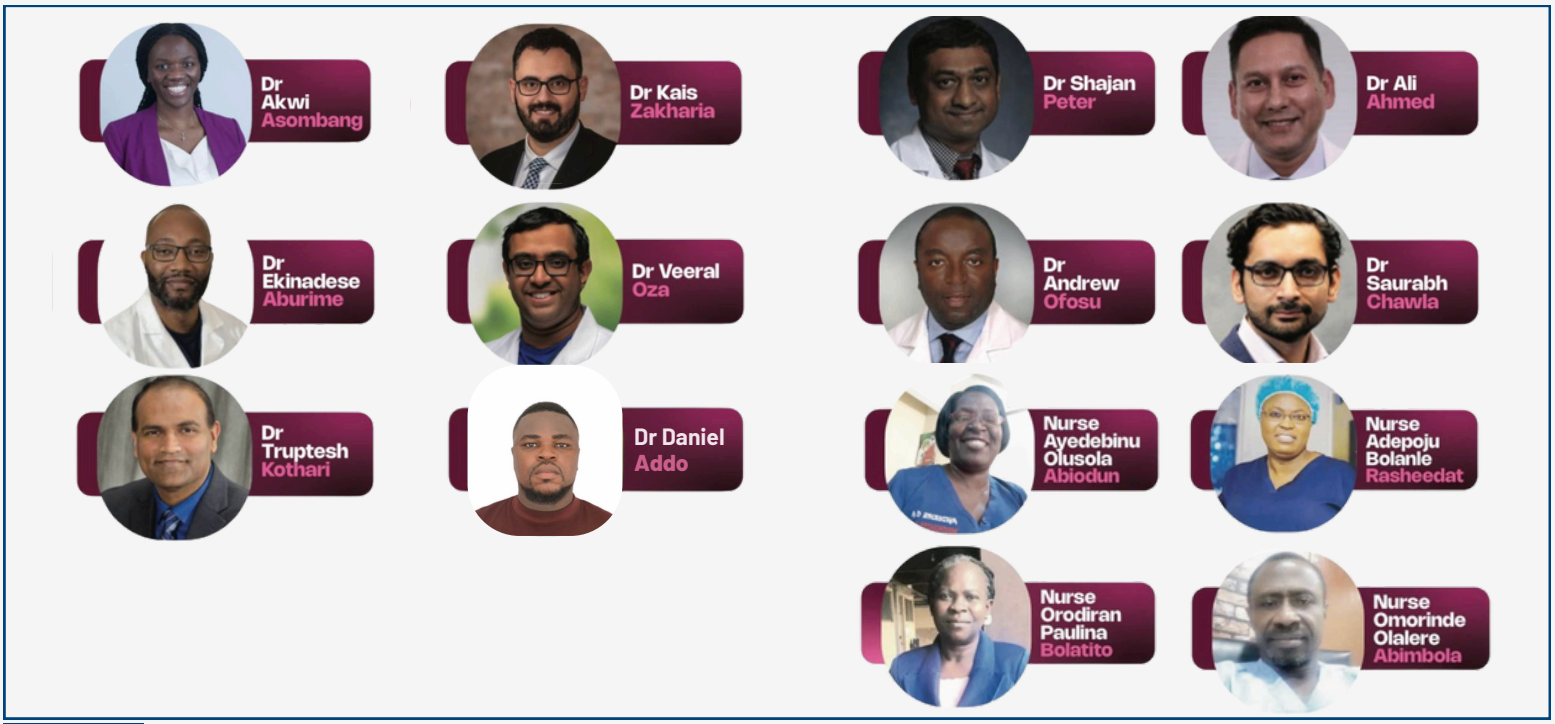
Gastroenterologists

- Dr. Akosua Agyen-Frimpong
- Dr. Kenneth Tachi
- Dr Adwoa Agyei-Nkansah

Nurses

- Evans Abbey
- Michael Obeng
- Prince Addai
- Derrick Ntow

FACULTY TRAINERS



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JANUARY 2026

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INTERNATIONAL GI TRAINING AWARD AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Endoscopic Training Award

The ASGE Endoscopic Training Award provides Advanced Fellows or Junior Faculty the opportunity to train outside of their home country with a premier GI Endoscopist or group to advance their training. The award assists in underwriting reasonable and customary travel and living expenses for a period of one to three months. The grant consists of a $5,000 cash stipend issued prior to the recipient's travel. Up to three awards will be available annually for North American and International ASGE members.

DEADLINE: **Sunday, February 15, 2026**

https://www.asge.org/home/about-asge/grants-awards/grants/endoscopic-training-award

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

Advancing Digestive Health, Improving Patient Outcomes

American College of Gastroenterology International GI Training Grants

North American International GI Training Grant

The North American International GI Training Grant provides partial financial support to U.S. and Canadian GI Fellows in training or GI Physicians who have completed their training within the last 5 years, to receive clinical or clinical research training or education in Gastroenterology and Hepatology outside of North America.

DEADLINE: **April 15, 2026**

http://gi.org/trainees/gi-training-grants/

International GI Training Grant

The International GI Training Grant provides partial financial support to physicians outside of the United States and Canada to receive clinical or clinical research training or education in Gastroenterology and Hepatology in selected medical training centers in North America.

DEADLINE: **April 15, 2026**

http://gi.org/trainees/gi-training-grants/

AWARDS AND HONORS



Dr Akwi W Asombang, MGH 2025 American College of Gastroenterology International Leadership Award



Dr. Linda S. Lee, BWH National Pancreas Foundation's Nobility in Science Award.



Dr. Christopher Thompson, BWH, 2025 Endoscopy, Technology & Imaging Section Research Mentor Award from the American Gastroenterological Institute Council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MGH GLOBAL GASTROENTEROLOGY EDUCATIONAL SERIES

This program is CME approved by Mass General Brigham Office of Continuing Professional Development

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 14TH, 2026 | 09:00 - 11:00 AM EST



Moinak Sen Sarma, MD, DM (Ped.Gastro)

Additional Professor
Dept. of Pediatric Gastroenterology
Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences
Lucknow, India

Topic: Pancreatic Diseases in Children: Epidemiology, Diagnosis, and Clinical Outcomes

Registration: *https://shorturl.at/29qYO*

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COLORECTAL CANCER IN AFRICA: RAISING AWARENESS 2026 | LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

