

GASTRO GIRL, INC. AND AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GASTROENTEROLOGY INTRODUCE GI ONDEMAND: GASTROENTEROLOGY'S VIRTUAL CARE AND SUPPORT PLATFORM

Telehealth Features Enable Reimbursement for Video Visits; Full-Ecosystem Support Provides Patients with Easy and Convenient Way to Manage Chronic Digestive Health Conditions

San Antonio, TX – Gastro Girl, Inc. in partnership with the American College of Gastroenterology announces a joint venture to bring GI OnDEMAND to market as gastroenterology's virtual care and support platform. GI OnDEMAND features telehealth capabilities that enable providers to get reimbursed for out-of-office patient support and provide patients with an easy and convenient way to manage their chronic digestive health conditions through virtual office visits with their gastroenterologists and other members of their care team, such as registered dietitians and psychologists who have specific GI expertise. Patients also have access to trusted health information and an online support community.

“In partnership with Gastro Girl, ACG is excited to bring GI OnDEMAND to our members and the millions of patients they collectively serve,” said ACG President Sunanda V. Kane, MD, MSPH, FACG. “This bold initiative is aligned with the College’s mission to advance gastroenterology and improve patient care. We are confident that our members, who like most healthcare providers are navigating an ever-changing and challenging healthcare environment, will find GI OnDEMAND a catalyst to delivering next-generation patient care while expanding their opportunities for reimbursement.”

GI OnDEMAND is created to integrate with a provider’s patient workflow with easy scheduling and documentation of virtual patient appointments. Similar to in-office visits, providers can submit for reimbursement for the telehealth patient care services they provide, according to Jordan J. Karlitz, MD, FACG, Chief Medical Officer and Director of Clinical Operations, Gastro Girl. “When one considers that GIs may provide multiple hours of patient care services per week in between in person office visits, frequently by telephone or email, GI OnDemand is a game changer. It can enhance continuity of care, provide HIPAA-compliant

provider-patient communication and can allow reimbursement for out of office encounters.”

“Addressing a critical gap that exists for patients who are living with chronic GI health conditions, GI OnDEMAND provides full-ecosystem support between office visits to improve the collaborative partnership between patients and their digestive health caregivers and help patients better adhere to their treatment plans,” said Gastro Girl Founder, Jacqueline Gaulin. “Gastro Girl’s partnering with ACG, an organization with a unique focus on clinical gastroenterology and the needs of practicing GI clinicians and their patients, means that GI OnDemand has the clinical backbone and essential features to support the professional needs of GI practices in providing high quality care and patient support via telehealth.”

About GI OnDEMAND

GI OnDEMAND is a joint venture between the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) and Gastro Girl, Inc. As gastroenterology’s virtual care and support platform, GI OnDEMAND is offered as an ACG member benefit and features telehealth capabilities that enable providers to get reimbursed for out-of-office patient support and provide patients with an easy and convenient way to manage their chronic digestive health conditions through virtual office visits; access to trusted health information and an online support community. GI OnDEMAND features a comprehensive HIPAA-compliant telehealth suite that includes secure video, end-to-end practice management tools like scheduling, document sharing, EHR integration, billing, and other capabilities and workflow solutions designed for next-generation patient engagement.

giondemand.com

About the American College of Gastroenterology

Founded in 1932, the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) is an organization with an international membership of more than 14,000 individuals from 86 countries. The College's vision is to be the pre-eminent professional organization that champions the evolving needs of clinicians in the delivery of high quality, evidence-based, and compassionate health care to gastroenterology

(continued on page 50)

(continued from page 48)

patients. The mission of the College is to advance world-class care for patients with gastrointestinal disorders through excellence, innovation and advocacy in the areas of scientific investigation, education, prevention and treatment.

gi.org

Follow ACG on Twitter: [@AmCollegeGastro](https://twitter.com/AmCollegeGastro)

About Gastro Girl, Inc.

Gastro Girl, Inc., is a patient-centric health company that empowers patients to achieve optimal digestive health. Leveraging the latest technologies and its partnership with The American College of Gastroenterology (ACG), Gastro Girl’s mission is to bring GI stakeholders together to provide patients with the help they need when and how they

need it. Since 2016 Gastro Girl has served as the ACG’s official patient education partner, expanding this partnership in 2019 to bring GI OnDEMAND to market as gastroenterology’s virtual care and support platform.

Learn more at: gastrogirl.com

Follow Gastro Girl on Twitter: [@gastrogirl](https://twitter.com/gastrogirl)

For more information about GI OnDEMAND, visit our website:

giondemand.com

THREE PIONEERING PHYSICIAN SCIENTISTS AWARDED 2019 SHERMAN PRIZES FOR FOCUSING ON CRITICAL UNMET NEEDS IN INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASES

Honorees Recognized for Building Multi-Disciplinary IBD Centers, Driving Innovative Research on Environmental Triggers and Novel Therapies, Enabling a Treatment Revolution and Tackling One of IBD’s Most Difficult Complications

NAPLES, Florida – The Bruce and Cynthia Sherman Charitable Foundation announced the recipients of the 2019 Sherman Prizes, recognizing outstanding achievements in the fight to overcome Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis, also known as the inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD).

Maria T. Abreu, MD, Professor of Medicine, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine; Director, Crohn’s & Colitis Center, University of Miami Health System, Miami, FL, is a champion for patients, particularly those in underserved communities. She is awarded a \$100,000 Sherman Prize for identifying an epidemic of IBD in Miami’s Hispanic community; advancing novel research to understand environmental triggers for IBD and exploring ways to optimize treatment; and mentoring junior colleagues in advancing their own innovative research. Dr. Abreu is beloved by her patients and is a relentless advocate, running marathons and triathlons in her spare time to raise money and awareness for IBD.

William J. Sandborn, MD, Chief, Division

(continued on page 52)

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(continued from page 50)

of Gastroenterology and Director, Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center, UC San Diego Health; Professor of Medicine, UC San Diego School of Medicine, San Diego, CA, is awarded a \$100,000 Sherman Prize for his groundbreaking work in IBD clinical trial design that enabled a revolution in treatment that set the standard for clinical care; leading the development of innovative medicines to provide patients with much-needed options; and helping to establish holistic care models that have improved patient care and outcomes. Dr. Sandborn is a sought-after clinician who has improved the quality of life for patients who feel they have run out of options, and a mentor to colleagues and students who have gone on to run major IBD centers.

Florian Rieder, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Inflammation and Immunity; Clinical Staff, Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH, is awarded the \$25,000 Sherman Emerging Leader Prize for his key role in advancing the development of novel therapies to treat fibrostenosis, a common and potentially devastating complication of IBD. Dr. Rieder is a respected early-career clinician, researcher and educator who devotes considerable energy to supporting junior talent and creating opportunities for others to make an impact for patients.

“In the fourth year of the Sherman Prize, we’re proud to honor Drs. Abreu, Sandborn and Rieder, visionaries who share a deep commitment to addressing the unmet challenges of IBD,” said Prize founders Bruce and Cynthia Sherman. “The holistic care they provide and the rigorous scientific research they lead is improving the quality of life for people with IBD today, and laying the foundation for greater discoveries in the future.”

Millions of people worldwide suffer from Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis, which are chronic, inflammatory diseases that damage the gastrointestinal tract. While there are effective treatments, there is no cure and available medicines do not work for everyone. The Bruce and Cynthia Sherman Charitable Foundation established the Sherman Prize to recognize and reward talented individuals for their pioneering achievements in improving outcomes for people living with these

diseases. Through this first-of-its-kind Prize, the Shermans aim to create a ripple effect, spreading awareness of excellence and inspiring others to continue innovating.

“IBD can be devastating, disrupting people’s lives and livelihoods,” said Dr. Dermot P.B. McGovern, Sherman Prize Selection Committee Chair and the Joshua L. and Lisa Z. Greer Endowed Chair in Inflammatory Bowel Disease Genetics at Cedars-Sinai. “Not only have these Sherman Prize honorees made incredible contributions to improving treatment and care, they are exceptional teachers, mentoring the next generation of physician scientists to ensure continued advances in the field.”

The Sherman Prizes were presented on December 12th at the Advances in Inflammatory Bowel Diseases conference in Orlando, Florida.

About the Sherman Prize

Every year, two \$100,000 Sherman Prizes are awarded to individuals with extraordinary track records of achievement making exceptional and pioneering contributions, transforming IBD care and inspiring tomorrow’s innovators. A \$25,000 Sherman Emerging Leader Prize is awarded to an individual making impressive contributions early in his or her career and showing great promise for significant contributions in the future. Sherman Prize honorees are selected by the Sherman Prize Board of Directors, with guidance from a nationally renowned group of IBD experts who comprise the Sherman Prize Selection Committee. Nominations for the 2020 Sherman Prizes may be submitted at ShermanPrize.org beginning in March 2020.

Learn more at: ShermanPrize.org

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