Center for Digestive Diseases
Comprehensive Care for Digestive Conditions
Be Well
By partnering with leading experts to improve your digestive health

Be Inspired
By dedicated physicians who provide highly personalized patient care

Be Amazed
By all the possibilities of modern medicine at one of America’s Best Hospitals
Welcome to the Center for Digestive Diseases

The Center for Digestive Diseases at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center provides expertise in all aspects of gastrointestinal disease management in a multidisciplinary environment. Our reputation for excellence and innovation comes from the unequaled success of our large clinical practice, advanced technology, and cutting-edge research programs.

As the population ages, digestive disease is on the rise. The Center’s therapeutic endoscopists are at the forefront of innovation and research, providing comprehensive care for a variety of digestive conditions, from the more common concerns to the most challenging and complex disorders.
A National Leader in Therapeutic Endoscopy

Our Therapeutic Endoscopy Program is at the forefront of minimally invasive treatment of digestive disorders. Endoscopy is a powerful diagnostic tool, allowing physicians to visualize different portions of the digestive tract. The Hospital’s experts are continually leading advances in the field and, as a result, our patients are the first to benefit from new approaches and technologies.

An endoscope provides physicians with the ability to see within the body. A small, flexible tube with a camera at the tip can be guided through the mouth or rectum to the area of the digestive tract the physician needs to explore. In recent years, endoscopy has evolved into a therapeutic approach — one that allows us to evaluate, diagnose, and treat a patient’s condition at the same time. The same endoscopy tube that provides access to the upper and lower gastrointestinal tract also can serve as a portal into the GI system, enabling physicians to clear obstructions, remove stones and cysts, and destroy cancerous tumors without making an incision in the body.

Using these minimally invasive techniques, our highly skilled therapeutic endoscopy team is often able to identify and resolve a patient’s problem in a single visit. These advanced endoscopic procedures can lessen pain and discomfort, and result in faster healing and an earlier return to normal activities. Most are performed on an outpatient basis and do not require a hospital stay. Our dedicated physicians are known for their comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to patient care. They collaborate with physicians and surgeons in NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia’s Pancreas Center, which is internationally known for the diagnosis and treatment of the full spectrum of pancreatic and biliary diseases.

Members of the Therapeutic Endoscopy Program include Frank G. Gress, MD, Clinical Chief, Division of Digestive Diseases; John M. Poneros, MD, Assistant Director, Endoscopy; Tamas A. Gonda, MD; Amrita Sethi, MD; and Claudine Kipp, Physician Assistant.
Why Choose Us?

The Therapeutic Endoscopy Program at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia is among the largest and most pre-eminent in the New York region, performing more than 12,000 procedures annually. Our physicians provide innovative solutions for a diverse patient population, including those with multiple medical conditions.

Our team has been among the first to introduce state-of-the-art endoscopic technologies and treatments. In addition, the Therapeutic Endoscopy Program has gained national prominence for:

- treating a wide range of digestive disorders, from the more common to the most challenging and complex
- resolving complications related to previous surgeries, alleviating pain and improving quality of life
- discovering new ways to prevent cancerous and precancerous conditions
- providing access to select clinical trials offered only at a few major hospitals throughout the United States
- partnering with referring physicians to be sure our patients receive exceptional and continuity of care
- offering our patients the convenience of same day appointments
General Gastroenterology

Physicians in the Center for Digestive Diseases provide diagnoses and treatment for a wide variety of medical problems related to the stomach, intestinal tract, biliary tract, gallbladder, bowel, and liver, including:

- colon polyps and colon cancer
- constipation
- GI bleeding
- hemorrhoids
- irritable bowel syndrome
- chronic diarrheal disorders
- peptic ulcer disease
- rectal incontinence
- dysphagia (swallowing disorders)
- anemia and occult bleeding
- diverticular disease

They utilize advanced diagnostics and therapies in the management of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), particularly Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis. And while there is not yet a cure for these disorders, treatment may dramatically reduce the symptoms and bring about remission.

In addition, the Center offers routine colorectal screenings and screenings for Barrett’s esophagus — a precancerous condition associated with gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). Procedures such as endoscopic ultrasound, endoscopic mucosal resection, and photodynamic and Barrx™ ablation therapies can effectively treat Barrett’s esophagus and early esophageal cancer.

Other Conditions We Treat

- cancers of the pancreas, esophagus, bile ducts, stomach, bowel, and liver
- pancreatitis, infections, and abscesses of the pancreas
- Barrett’s esophagus and precancerous lesions of the GI tract
- obstructions, pseudocysts, tumors, and stones
- obscure GI bleeding and large GI polyps
- bile duct leaks and narrowing
- biliary obstruction — fluid build-up in the gall bladder and bile ducts
- motility disorders — abnormal contractions and spasms in the intestine
Our Services

Therapeutic Endoscopy Program

The Therapeutic Endoscopy Program performs one of the highest volumes of digestive procedures in the New York metropolitan area to diagnose a variety of digestive conditions. Coordinated patient care and collaboration with physicians from a variety of disciplines means comprehensive care is provided in one central location. Our physicians work together to develop a unified, individualized treatment plan for each patient.

Our state-of-the-art Endoscopy Center offers a full complement of advanced diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopic services, including:

- endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)
- sphincter of Oddi manometry (SOD)
- endoscopic ultrasound with fine-needle aspiration (EUS FNA)
- colonic stents, esophageal stents, small bowel stents, and other stent placement for palliative purposes
- small bowel enteroscopy to evaluate gastrointestinal bleeding
- video capsule endoscopy
- endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR), Barrx™, and photodynamic therapy
- routine colonoscopy screening and treatment of small tumors and polyps
- esophageal dilation
- SpyGlass™ Visualization System, which allows for greater direct visualization of the bile and pancreatic ducts and can improve results for patients
- single and double balloon enteroscopy
- advanced radiological imaging, including magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography (MRCP), endoscopic ultrasound, as well as MRI, CT, and PET scans, that provide detailed information to increase diagnostic accuracy and improve patient care
- Remicade® infusion therapy
- screening for Barrett’s esophagus for those suffering from chronic reflux disease
Advanced Technologies

New imaging techniques, such as the SpyGlass™ Visualization System, now allow our physicians to view the pancreas and bile ducts with a precision never achieved before, providing more reliable diagnosis and minimally invasive treatment options.

The confocal laser endomicroscope obtains enhanced images of the digestive tract to detect and treat early cancers.

Radiofrequency ablation uses electrical energy to destroy cancerous and precancerous tissue and is an effective treatment for Barrett’s esophagus.

Endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR) and endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) represent major advances in treating Barrett’s esophagus and early GI cancers.

Photodynamic therapy employs light waves to treat small shallow tumors in the esophagus and bile ducts of patients who cannot tolerate open surgery.

Cryotherapy, or tissue freezing, addresses a variety of precancerous and other lesions in the digestive tract.

DNA analysis of tissue samples — fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH) — helps our physicians to evaluate abnormal narrowing of the bile duct.
The therapeutic endoscopists of NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia are exploring early detection and treatment of cancerous and precancerous conditions in the digestive tract; direct delivery of cancer drugs to the pancreas; genetic markers that predict bile duct cancer; and strategies for the prevention and treatment of digestive disease. In our basic science laboratories, researchers are focused on understanding the role of chronic inflammation in promoting colorectal, esophageal, and pancreatic cancers.

As part of the Center for Digestive Diseases, we offer our patients the opportunity to participate in clinical trials of the newest treatment options.

The laboratory of Timothy C. Wang, MD, Chief of Digestive and Liver Disease at NewYork-Presbyterian/ Columbia University Medical Center, is at the forefront of research in gastrointestinal cancers.

(Above) Associate research scientist Aleskandra Urbanska and technician Ashlesha S. Muley are members of Dr. Wang’s distinguished research team.
Patient Referrals

We understand the need for prompt testing and consultation with all relevant specialties and schedule visits quickly and conveniently. The Center’s coordinator will provide patients with individualized attention throughout the care process.

Referring Physicians

A referring physician may call the Center for Digestive Diseases for further consultation, co-management, or transfer of a patient to our program. The referring physician will be provided with timely feedback regarding findings and recommendations for the patient.

Patients

Patients may call the Center for Digestive Diseases directly to schedule a consultation. A coordinator works with patients to schedule a convenient appointment, obtain medical records, answer questions, and provide support.

Contact Us

Center for Digestive Diseases
NewYork-Presbyterian/
Columbia University Medical Center
630 West 168th Street
New York, NY 10032
General GI: (212) 305-1021
Interventional GI: (212) 305-1909
Email: digestivehealth@nyp.org
www.ColumbiaGI.org

myNYP.org

MyNYP.org is a free service that enables you to safely store your health information and manage medical records online. The service offers you the ability to consolidate and organize health information generated during hospital and physician visits in a private account. The information can be easily shared with clinicians, trusted family members, and other caregivers whenever and wherever you need it. Information can only be accessed and shared by you or with your permission.
Centers for Digestive Diseases

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital has a Center of Excellence for the treatment of digestive diseases. The Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center offers a comprehensive and coordinated approach to digestive disease care, and the programs, services, and centers here provide access to the latest developments in the field. A referring physician may call for further consultation, co-management, or transfer of a patient to NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia. The referring physician will be provided with timely feedback regarding our findings and recommendations for the patient.

Areas of Expertise

In addition to routine colorectal screenings, we provide diagnosis and treatment for a wide range of medical problems related to the stomach, intestinal tract, biliary tract, gallbladder, pancreas, bowel, and liver, including:

- Colon polyps and colon cancer
- GI bleeding
- Anorectal conditions
- Irritable bowel disease
- Irritable bowel syndrome
- GERD
- Gastritis
- Chronic diarrheal disorders
- Peptic ulcer disease/ulcers
- Rectal incontinence
- Dysphagia (swallowing disorders)
- Anemia and occult bleeding
- Diverticular disease
- GI cancers of the pancreas, esophagus, bile ducts, stomach, bowel, and liver
- Celiac disease
- Pancreatitis, infections, and abscesses of the pancreas
- Barrett’s esophagus and precancerous lesions of the GI tract
- Obstructions, pseudocysts, tumors, and stones
- Obscure GI bleeding and large GI polyps
- Bile duct leaks and narrowing
- Fluid build-up in the gallbladder and bile ducts (biliary obstruction)
- Motility disorders (abnormal contractions and spasms in the intestine)
- Liver disease

Our advanced procedures include GI endoscopy, GI and colorectal robotic surgery, weight loss surgery, and liver transplantation.

Directory

**Pancreas Center**
Herbert Irving Pavilion, 8th Floor
161 Fort Washington Avenue
New York, NY 10032
www.pancreascenter.com
Referrals: (212) 305-9467

**Interventional GI**
Herbert Irving Pavilion, 13th Floor
161 Fort Washington Avenue
New York, NY 10032
www.columbiaGI.org
Referrals: (212) 305-1021

**Celiac Center**
Harkness Pavilion
9th Floor, Suite 934
180 Fort Washington Avenue
New York, NY 10032
www.celiacdiseasecenter.org
Referrals: (212) 342-4529

**Division of Colorectal Surgery**
Herbert Irving Pavilion, 13th Floor
161 Fort Washington Avenue
New York, NY 10032
www.columbiasurgery.org/colorectal
Referrals: (212) 342-1155

**Center for Metabolic and Weight Loss Surgery**
Herbert Irving Pavilion, 5th Floor, Suite 524
161 Fort Washington Avenue
New York, NY 10032
http://obesitymd.org
Referrals: (212) 305-4000

**Center for Liver Disease and Transplantation**
Presbyterian Hospital, 14th Floor
622 West 168th Street
New York, NY 10032
www.livermd.org
Referrals: (212) 305-0914

For more information or questions, please contact digestivehealth@nyp.org.