



# Gastrointestinal Infection Society of India (GISI)

Department of Gastroenterology (Microbiology Division)

Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh – 160012, INDIA

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GISI NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2014

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*May the light that we celebrate at Diwali show us the way and lead us together on the path of peace and social harmony.*

*Editorial board of GISI wishes you a very Happy Diwali*



# Gastrointestinal Infection Society of India

## NEWSLETTER

[www.gisi.in](http://www.gisi.in)

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Editor

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### **Leaky Gut - A Source of Non-AIDS Complications in HIV-Positive Patients**

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection is no longer a fatal condition, thanks to newer medications inhibiting the retrovirus, but a puzzling phenomenon has surfaced among these patients - non-AIDS complications. In an article published in PLOS Pathogens, authors revealed how bacterial products seep out of the colon, trigger inflammation throughout the body and set into motion the processes of cardiovascular, neurodegenerative, chronic kidney and metabolic diseases, and cancer. "Because the space inside the colon contains the highest concentration of bacteria in the body, we provide evidence that bacterial products are leaking out of the colon into the bloodstream of these patients," said senior author, Alan D. Levine, PhD, from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. "The immune system responds by launching an attack on these bacterial products, activating inflammation throughout the body that never stops."

Levine and colleagues demonstrated in their investigation that patients whose HIV was well controlled with antiretroviral medications still had weakened intestinal tight junctions. They came to this conclusion by comparing biopsies from 31 virally suppressed HIV-positive patients and from 35 healthy patients who had no HIV infection. "Not only did we find evidence of less tight junctions in the virally suppressed HIV-positive patients, we found that the reduction in tight junctions increased the farther down we went into the colon," Levine said. "So essentially, these patients had the weakest tight junctions where the most bacteria are located. Additionally, we correlated the reduced tight junctions with increased inflammation."

These findings provide a clear target for clinical intervention - repair the molecular and structural epithelial leakiness in the tight junctions of the colon. However, critical questions must be resolved: Is the disruption caused by an HIV infection, the remaining HIV virus itself, antiretroviral drugs or all three combined to play a role in weakened tight junctions? What changes in epithelial cells might cause decreased activity of the tight junctions?

"The key observation here is that virally suppressed HIV-positive patients have an important molecular and tissue defect - a leaky gut," Levine said. "Thus, the clinical implication is quite clear. We will need additional supplemental therapeutic approaches to repair this damaged epithelium in the colon."

## ACHIEVEMENTS

**Prof. Rakesh Kochhar**, Department of Gastroenterology, PGIMER, Chandigarh

1. Invited to present a paper at Falk Symposium in Amsterdam on September 4- 5, 2014, on celiac disease
2. Presented a paper at the Digestive Diseases Week, Chicago. May 5-6, 2014.
3. Invited speaker of Indo-Qatar Gastroenterology Meeting in February 2014, at Qatar.

**Dr. Zubin Sharma**, Digestive oncologist and Interventional GI Endoscopist, Aditya Gastro Centre, Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan

1. Awarded membership in American College of Gastroenterology
2. Awarded membership in European society of Digestive Oncology
3. Completed certified fellowship training in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy from Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai in August 2014

**Prof. Chetana Vaishnavi**, Department of Gastroenterology (Microbiology Division), Chandigarh

1. Review Editor for Frontiers Journal
2. Editorial Board Member of Open Access Journal of Science and Technology

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **GISICON 2015 will be organized by the Dept. of Microbiology in association with Dept. of Medicine, Govt. Medical College, Jammu tentatively in Oct 2015.**
2. Bidding for GISICON 2017, 2019 and 2021 are invited from all the GISI members and shall be accepted on first-come first-served basis.
3. Life Membership fees of GISI are INR 3000.00 payable by bank draft or cheque at par in favour of "Gastrointestinal Infection Society of India" payable at Chandigarh, INDIA.
4. Articles for **Journal of Gastrointestinal Infections** should be submitted as soft copy to the Editor, GISI. Instructions to authors are available under GISI Journal action link.
5. All GISI members are requested to pass on any news that they desire to be published in the newsletter. This will include information of awards received, fellowships obtained or travel abroad for academic purposes and any other information that may be of interest to the members.
6. Indian Life Members desirous of receiving Certificate of Membership may send a Demand Draft of INR 250.00 in advance. Foreign Members may send USD 25.00 in favour of 'Gastrointestinal Infection Society of India', payable at Chandigarh, addressed to Prof. C. Vaishnavi, Dept. of Gastroenterology, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh-160012, India. Kindly quote your Life Membership No. along with the request.

## CONTACT US

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## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Note: GISI Life Membership is open to Clinical Microbiologists/Gastroenterologists/Clinicians and Health Care Workers involved in the specialty of gastrointestinal infections.

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1	<b>Full Name</b> (Prof/Dr/Mr/Ms/Mrs)	<b>First:</b>	<b>Middle:</b> <b>Last:</b>
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6	<b>Telephone (with STD code)</b>	<b>Office:</b>	<b>Residence:</b>
7	<b>Fax (with STD code)</b>		
8	<b>Mobile</b>		
9	<b>E-mail</b>		

REGISTRATION FEE DETAILS		
1	<b>Life Membership Fee</b>	1. Individuals (India): INR 3000.00 2. Individuals (Foreign): USD 200.00 3. Institutions: INR 3000.00 4. Patrons: INR 20,000.00 and above
2	<b>Payment Details</b>	<b>Cheque/Demand draft</b> (select one) <b>Cheque/Draft No.</b> <b>Bank details:</b> <b>Dated:</b> <b>Amount:</b> Cheques/Demand draft should be drawn in favour of "Gastrointestinal Infection Society of India" payable at Chandigarh.
3	<b>Declaration</b>	I declare that the information given by me is true and correct and that I will abide by the association rules and regulations if my membership application is approved.
4	<b>Date</b>	<b>Signature:</b>
5	<b>Place</b>	

OFFICE USE ONLY		
1	<b>Date received</b>	
2	<b>Membership No.</b>	
3	<b>Demand draft No.</b>	<b>Date:</b>
4	<b>Receipt No.</b>	<b>Date:</b>
5	<b>Verified by</b>	<b>Name:</b> <b>Signature:</b>

Membership form and the cheque/draft should be mailed to Dr. Chetana Vaishnavi, Professor, Division of Microbiology, Department of Gastroenterology, PGIMER, Chandigarh. Mobile No. 09417002682, E-mail: c.vaishnavi@rediffmail.com