Over the past year or so, faculty members within the Division of Gastroenterology have distinguished themselves as laboratory researchers, teachers, clinicians, and public health advocates, publishing their work and thereby bringing the latest medical and scientific knowledge to the benefit of patients everywhere.

Following are Division highlights from the past year.

- A pivotal study, published in Gastroenterology by Steven Itzkowitz, MD, Professor, demonstrated that a new noninvasive test accurately detected 86% of colon cancers. The test, manufactured by Exact Science, examines DNA contained in stool samples to detect cancer.

- Thomas Ullman, MD, Assistant Professor, and colleagues published an article in Gastroenterology, demonstrating that chronic bowel inflammation is a risk factor for colorectal cancer in patients with ulcerative colitis.

- Dr. Ullman, Daniel Pressent, MD, Clinical Professor, and Arthur Kornbluth, MD, Clinical Professor, launched clinical trials for new treatments for Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis.

- The Division of Gastroenterology reached its goal of enrolling an initial 1000 patients in its Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) biobank. Using DNA and protein taken from blood and tissue samples, the biobank, which aims to enroll 2000+ patients including affected and unaffected family members and control subjects, enables cutting-edge research in the genetics of IBD as well as the development of novel biomarkers for disease and disease activity.

- Suzanne Rose, MD, Professor, advanced to fellowship in the American Society of Gastroenterology. She is also the Chair-Elect for the Group on Educational Affairs of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

- Dr. Rose participated in a consensus conference conducted by the American Gastroenterological Association Institute Future Trends Committee. The conference report entitled, “The best of times and the worst of times: sustaining the future of academic gastroenterology in the United States” was published in Gastroenterology.

- Sita Chokhavatia, MD, Associate Professor, was elected president of the New York Gastroenterology Association for 2007-2008.