

RUSH Center for Crohn's and Colitis

The RUSH Center for Crohn's and Colitis offers a multidisciplinary approach to treating patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). RUSH's team includes clinical faculty members from different disciplines whose collaboration allows for a wider range of expertise for patients with more complicated disease profiles.



Our specialists offer comprehensive options to manage these conditions based on extensive clinical experience and cutting-edge research. Treatment options include but are not limited to colonoscopy, chromoendoscopy, endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography, endoscopic ultrasound, esophagogastroduodenoscopy, newly approved medical therapy, infusion therapy, laparoscopy and psychotherapy.

We are happy to care for patients who need advanced inpatient management, seek second opinions, or are transferring care from other hospitals to our inpatient IBD service. Our practice places a high level of importance on working alongside referring providers to fully benefit the patient.

Unique Approaches. We research innovative treatment options for IBD-related conditions. Patients may qualify to enroll in **clinical trials** led by RUSH researchers, such as our ongoing stem cell trial for treating Crohn's fistulas, providing access to cutting-edge treatments and therapies.

The Center for Crohn's and Colitis also offers access to the RUSH Ostomy Support Group. Patients who are living with ileostomies, colostomies, and urostomies; are caring for a loved one with an ostomy; or are considering a possible diversion surgery can take advantage of our virtual forum. The support group allows individuals to ask questions and discuss ostomy-related issues while learning from expert guest speakers, building mutual support and finding camaraderie.

The program offers an **infusion center** located on the main hospital campus of our primary clinic, making it convenient to receive this service without additional travel or time. Patients also may receive infusion services recommended by referring physicians.

We also closely coordinate IBD care with radiology and pathology teams. In addition, our pilot **robotic surgery program** has pushed forward treatment through procedures like the construction of ileal pouch anal-anastomosis (IPAA, j-pouches) or laser surgery to treat perianal fistulas.

IBD patients can typically be seen within 24 hours. We can also offer same-day collaborative consultations with multiple members of our team from different disciplines, either in person or via video.

Conditions we treat

- Cancer or dysplasia associated with ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease
- Complex stricturing Crohn's disease
- Crohn's disease
- Diseases of the ileal pouch
- Fertility issues in IBD
- Fistula
- Malnutrition in IBD
- Microscopic colitis
- Novel treatments in patients who have failed all approved medications
- Pouchitis
- Ulcerative colitis

Multidisciplinary collaboration

Our team is staffed by several gastroenterologists and colorectal surgeons. The team is supported by the following:

- Dietitians. We offer an on-site consultation with a dietitian who specializes in IBD to discuss a dietary plan that meets each patient's needs.
- Psychologists. We provide the opportunity to see an on-site psychologist with a special clinical focus and expertise in IBD.
- Specialized IBD pharmacists. We have a specialized IBD pharmacist available to discuss potential concerns about medications.

Meet our team

Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition



Joseph Frasca, MD | Gastroenterology Services

Fellowship: University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine, Burlington, Vermont
Residency: University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago, MacNeal Hospital Berwyn, Illinois
Medical School: Indiana University School of Medicine Indianapolis, Indiana



Ali Keshavarzian, MD | Gastroenterology Services

Fellowship: Royal Postgraduate School, London, England
Fellowship: University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland
Residency: Hillingdon Hospital, Uxbridge, England
Residency: Guys Hospital, London
Medical School: Tehran University School of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran



Maham Lodhi, MD | Gastroenterology Services

Fellowship: RUSH University Medical Center, Chicago
Residency: University of Illinois Medical Center, Chicago
Medical School: University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago, Illinois



Veena Nannegari, MD | Gastroenterology Services

Fellowship: Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY, University of Chicago, Illinois
Residency: Albany Medical Center, Albany, New York
Medical School: Ross University School of Medicine Dominica, West Indies



Garth Swanson | Gastroenterology Services

Fellowship: RUSH University Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois
Fellowship: RUSH University Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois
Residency: RUSH University Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois
Medical School: University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Columbia, South Carolina

Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery



Marissa Anderson, MD | Colon and Rectal Surgery Services

Fellowship: New York University Langone Health, New York City, New York
Residency: University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas
Medical School: University of Miami School of Medicine, Miami, Florida



Henry Govekar, MD | Colon and Rectal Surgery Services; General Surgery Services

Fellowship: Cleveland Clinic Florida-Medical Staff Office, Weston, Florida
Residency: University of Colorado - General Surgery, Aurora, Colorado
Medical School: RUSH Medical College,



JB Joo, MD | Colon and Rectal Surgery Services

Residency: John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Chicago, Illinois
Residency: University of Illinois College of Medicine, Peoria, Illinois
Medical School: Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois



John Konen, MD | Colon and Rectal Surgery Services

Fellowship: University of Massachusetts Medical Center, Worcester, Massachusetts
Residency: University of Vermont Medical Center, Burlington, Vermont
Medical School: Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, Grand Rapids, Michigan



Theodore Saclarides | Colon and Rectal Surgery Services; General Surgery Services

Fellowship: Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota
Residency: RUSH University Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois
Medical School: University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, Florida

Locations

RUSH University Medical Center

Professional Building
1725 W. Harrison St., Suite 1138
Chicago, IL 60612

RUSH Oak Park

610 S. Maple Ave., Suite 5500
Oak Park, IL 60304

RUSH Oak Brook

2011 York Rd.
Oak Brook, IL 60523

RUSH South Loop

1411 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL, 60605

Learn more:
[RUSH.edu/services/crohns-disease-and-colitis-care](https://www.rush.edu/services/crohns-disease-and-colitis-care)