



Irving Waxman, MD

The James R. Lowenstine Professor of
Internal Medicine

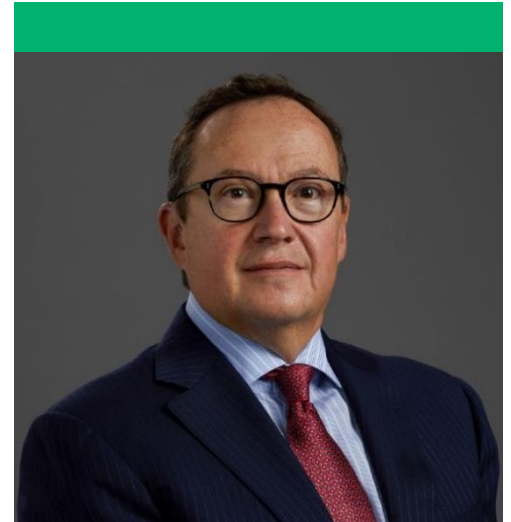
Advancement of Medicine

With the funds from this endowment, I have enhanced the educational, research and faculty engagement missions for Digestive Diseases at Rush. This includes financing a research coordinator to support the ongoing education program.

In 2024, I organized the second annual Rush Endoscopy Live event, which had over 125 attendees and 15 experts from eight states and three countries. This was a high point, as it showcased Rush's Digestive Diseases team through live procedures, immersive hands-on training, and expert speakers on topics such as esophagus, bariatrics, pancreas, biliary, colon, complications and the future of endoscopy.

I also reinstated the immune-mediated bowel diseases, or IMBD, fellowship to promote continued expertise in the field. We welcomed one fellow in 2024, and we are training this individual to become an IMBD expert and support research within the field. I served as a guest speaker and invited moderator on 10 occasions, including at Digestive Disease Week and during Grand Rounds at Rush, as well as in five states and two countries. Additionally, I co-authored four peer-reviewed journal articles, and under my leadership, the Digestive Diseases team initiated five research studies in 2024.

I joined Rush in October 2021 from the University of Chicago, where I was the Sara and Harold Lincoln Thompson Professor of Medicine and Surgery and the Director of the Center for Endoscopic Research and Therapeutics. Prior to that, I served at multiple top-tier institutions, including MD Anderson Cancer Center, Harvard Medical School and the National Autonomous University of Mexico.





Education and Clinical Care

Since the beginning of my career, I have focused on educating and supporting trainees. I've received recognition from previous institutions for this work and trained countless gastroenterology residents and fellows who went on to excel in clinical care and research. I've mentored 17 trainees who are now successful leaders in gastroenterology across the world, including in the U.S., Mexico, Italy, Japan and Argentina.

I am focused on providing the best possible complex interventional endoscopic care for patients and supporting referring physicians. I am tirelessly focused on developing the Digestive Diseases Service Line while providing clinical care to patients and supporting faculty.

Leadership and Service

I aim to lead by example. In the first week of my arrival at Rush, I started supporting the clinical schedule by opening endoscopy blocks, taking on additional calls and services, and developing mechanisms to support trainees, faculty and staff in their career pursuits. In 2024, I continued to provide outpatient clinical care and perform procedures at the Center for Interventional and Therapeutic Endoscopy on a weekly basis.

In addition, I have been a longstanding member of numerous medical societies since 1992 and held multiple leadership roles, which recently include vice chair of the Endoscopy, Technology and Imaging Section of the American Gastroenterological Association Institute (2020) and invited member of the editorial board for *Annals of Laparoscopic and Endoscopic Surgery* (2020). As of 2024, I have affiliations with 16 peer-reviewed journals.

Research

As of 2024, I have published 213 peer-reviewed journal articles, 32 chapters and 36 abstracts and completed four reviews. I have received over \$2 million in grant funding for research and currently have an h-index of 43. My research centers on high-resolution endoscopy, endolumenal resection, endosonography-guided therapy and therapeutic approaches to complex pancreatic-biliary diseases. Since 2023, nine research studies have been initiated, with 12 more starting or opening by the end of 2025.



Grants

Through continuing medical education programs like Rush Endoscopy Live, I have secured an additional \$220,000 in sponsorships and \$15,000 in grants and funding.

Notable Accomplishments

- Gastroenterology and GI care at Rush University Medical Center moved up 17 positions in *U.S. News & World Report's* rankings to 23rd in 2024.
- I served as an invited speaker and moderator 10 times in 2024.
- We improved patient throughput in endoscopy, specifically as it relates to on-time starts and consistency in anesthesia.
- I continue to support the growth of gastroenterology service offerings to patients and physician colleagues via consistent recruitment.
- I continue to develop leadership opportunities for GI faculty to support the growth and development of programs and teams.

The Year Ahead: 2025 and Beyond

Looking ahead, I will continue to effectively utilize these funds to enhance the educational, research and faculty engagement missions for Digestive Diseases at Rush. This includes the continuation of financing a research coordinator to support the ongoing education program. Additionally, I will continue to support the IMBD fellowship, with the objective of training our fellows to become experts in the field. Planning for the next Rush Endoscopy Live event is also underway for early 2026.

With Gratitude

I want to extend my heartfelt thank you for your generous investment in the James R. Lowenstine professorship. Your support not only honors the vital work being done in our field of Digestive Diseases but also creates lasting opportunities for innovation, education and patient care. Your commitment is deeply appreciated, and it will have a meaningful impact for years to come. I take this responsibility seriously and am dedicated to upholding Mr. Lowenstine's legacy.