

2

Gastroenterology and Hepatology as Subspecialties

JEREMY HUGH BARON, D.M., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P.G.

Abstract

Gastroenterology grew as a subspecialty in Germany in the 19th century. In the 1880s and 1890s, Austrian and German clinics were attended by American physicians who, on returning to the U.S., founded the American Gastroenterological Association in 1897. The creation of a subspecialty board, however, had to wait until 1941. At The Mount Sinai Hospital, Dr. A.A. Berg was appointed Surgeon in 1899. His practice focused on the alimentary tract, which in 1910 became one of the four surgical specialties. In 1914, further subdivision led to the stomach and duodenum becoming additional specialties. In 1917, wards were endowed for Dr. Berg's specialty. The first Mount Sinai physician to have an interest in gastroenterology was Morris Manges, but the first to limit his practice to gastroenterology was Dr. Edward Aronson, for whom a specialist outpatient division was formed in 1913. Aronson died in 1922 and was succeeded by Dr. Burrill Crohn, who was followed in 1934 by Dr. Asher Winkelstein; all three collaborated closely with the surgeons, physiologists and biochemists. In 1958, Dr. Henry Janowitz became chief of the Division of Gastroenterology; he was succeeded in 1983 by Dr. David Sachar, who was followed in 1999 by his associate Dr. Steven Itzkowitz. In 1958 Dr. Fenton Schaffner became chief of the Division of Hepatology (now headed by Dr. Paul Berk), and in 1979 Dr. LeLeiko became chief of Pediatric Gastroenterology. **Key Words:** Gastroenterology, hepatology, history.

Germany

THE SUBSPECIALTY OF GASTROENTEROLOGY was created in Germany in the late 19th century, following the scientific advances in German clinics (1). To take the stomach as an example, Tiedemann and Gmelin measured the concentration of hydrochloric acid in 1824, the year after Prout's seminal presentation to the Royal Society, London. Muller and Schwann described pepsin in 1835, Enderlin found HCl in the stomach of a decapitated criminal in 1843, and Leube introduced the test meal in 1871 (1).

Ewald wrote the first textbook of gastroenterology in 1879, and his pupil Boas started the first gastroenterology clinic and laboratory, in Berlin, in 1886 (2). Boas called himself "special-

ist in gastrointestinal diseases" and in 1895 founded the first gastroenterological journal, *Archiv für Verdauungs-Krankheiten* (later *Gastroenterologia* and then *Digestion*). Meanwhile Ewald and Boas introduced the first fractional test meal in 1886, the year Jaworski and Gluzinski measured gastric secretion of HCl as the equivalent amount of a standardized concentration of NaOH/100 cc gastric juice used to titrate a 100 mL volume of gastric juice. In 1892, Ewald measured free and total acidity with Congo red and phenolphthalein indicators.

United States

The United States followed the German pattern (3, 4). In the 1880s and 1890s, many American physicians went to Austrian and German gastroenterological clinics and practiced this subspecialty when they returned. Moreover, many German gastroenterologists had emigrated to the United States. There were 17 founders of the American Gastroenterological Association in 1897. Einhorn was born in Poland. Hemmeter's

From the Dr. Henry D. Janowitz Division of Gastroenterology, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY.

Address correspondence to Dr. J.H. Baron, Division of Gastroenterology, Box 1069, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, One East 100th Street, New York, NY 10029-6574.

tion of the pertinent X-rays and the surgical specimen, the case was open for discussion, which included medical, psychiatric and physiological aspects. Later these were conducted off the ward at a formal conference” (10).

Henry D. Janowitz founded the first division of gastroenterology in the Department of Medicine in 1958 and headed it until 1983. Other associated divisions were created, such as Hepatology (Fenton Schaffner, 1958) and Pediatric Gastroenterology (Neal LeLeiko, 1979). Thus, gastroenterology became one of the new separate groups of internal medicine, each of which was headed by a physician ranked as an associate attending in medicine with responsibility for an outpatient clinic and, usually, a laboratory. Today The Dr. Henry D. Janowitz Division of Gastroenterology (named in 1992), headed by Dr. Steven Itzkowitz of the Department of Medicine, has a faculty of fifty. Dr. Paul Berk's Division of Liver Diseases has three, and Pediatric Gastroenterology has five attendings.

References

1. Garrison FH. History of gastro-enterology (with special reference to American developments). *Am J Dig Dis* 1935; 1:893–898.
2. Hoenig LJ, Boyle JD. The life and death of Ismar Boas. *J Clin Gastroenterol* 1988; 10:16–24.
3. Boyle JD. The American Gastroenterological Association: History of its first seventy-five years. *Gastroenterology* 1973; 65(6 Pt 2):1022–1106.
4. Kirsner JB. The development of American gastroenterology. New York: Raven Press; 1990.
5. Dreiling DA. The first fifty years — a history of evolution of the American College of Gastroenterology as a society for clinical gastroenterology. *Am J Gastroenterol* 1983; 78:138–139.
6. Crohn BB. Gastroenterology as a surgical specialty at The Mount Sinai Hospital. *J Mt Sinai Hosp* 1951; 17:843–847.
7. Crohn BB. Gastroenterology at The Mount Sinai Hospital. *J Mt Sinai Hosp* 1945; 12:129–136.
8. Crohn BB. Notes on the evolution of a medical specialist 1907–65. New York: Burrill B. Crohn Research Foundation; 1984.
9. Lyons AS, editor. Dr. Burrill B. Crohn. Recorded April 7, 1965. Archives, Mount Sinai Hospital.
10. Simon B. In: Memoriam. Ralph M. Colp, M.D. *Mt Sinai Hosp J* 1975; 42:95–98.