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Raja Atreya, MD

University Hospital Erlangen
Erlangen, Germany

Raja Atreya is a professor of translational immunology in irritable bowel disease (IBD) and head of the IBD Unit and Clinical Study Centre at the University Hospital Erlangen in Germany.

Prof Atreya received his initial and medical degrees, both summa cum laude, from the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz medical school in Mainz, Germany. He then went on to work as a physician at the University Medical Center in Mainz and subsequently participated in the postgraduate program on antigen-specific immunotherapy. In 2010, he was appointed as professor for IBD at the University Hospital Erlangen and was appointed to his current post in 2016.

Prof Atreya's research work focuses on the identification of response predictors (eg, molecular endoscopy) and interleukin 23-mediated resistance mechanisms to biological therapies for IBD. He has received many awards in the course of his career, including the Theodor Frerichs Award from the German Society for Internal Medicine; the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize for Young Researchers from the Paul Ehrlich Foundation; and the Rising Star Award from United European Gastroenterology (UEG).

His work has also been widely published, with articles in peer-reviewed journals such as *Nature Medicine*, *The Lancet Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, *Gastroenterology*, *Gut*, and *Journal of Crohn's and Colitis*.



Silvio Danese, MD, PhD

IRCCS San Raffaele Hospital
Milan, Italy

Silvio Danese is a full professor of gastroenterology and director of the Residency Program of Gastroenterology at Vita-Salute San Raffaele University in Milan, Italy; director of the Gastroenterology and Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Unit at Istituto Clinico San Raffaele in Milan; and a faculty member of the PhD program in molecular and experimental medicine at Humanitas University in Milan.

His training began with the achievement of a cum laude degree in medicine in 1999 at the Catholic University School of Medicine in Rome, where he subsequently specialized in gastroenterology. At the same university, he obtained his PhD in metabolism in 2004. From 2002 to 2004, he was a research associate at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Clinically, Prof Danese focuses on chronic inflammatory bowel diseases and is also an expert in the field of digestive endoscopy and general gastroenterology. His research includes the study of pathogenic mechanisms and the action of biological drugs in chronic inflammatory bowel diseases.

He is a member of several scientific societies, including the European Crohn's and Colitis Organization (ECCO) (past president); United European Gastroenterology (UEG) (current UEG research committee chair); the International Organization for the Study of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IOIBD) (current secretary and chair of the clinical trial task force); the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA); and the Societa' Italiana di Gastroenterologia (SIGE).

He is the author or co-author of more than 700 publications in scientific journals and book chapters and currently serves as associate editor for the *Journal of Crohn's and Colitis*, *Gut*, and *World Journal of Gastroenterology*. He also is an active participant in national and international congresses in the sector.



Bruce E. Sands, MD, MS

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
New York, NY, United States

Bruce Sands is on the didactic faculty of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and a professor of medicine at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, New York. He also holds various appointments at 5 hospitals within the Mount Sinai Health System in New York.

Dr Sands earned his medical degree at Boston University School of Medicine in Boston, Massachusetts, and his master of science in epidemiology at Harvard School of Public Health in Boston. He also completed the Mass General Physician Organization certificate program in physician leadership at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

He is an elected member of the International Organization for the Study of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IOIBD), has received recognition as being among the best physicians in his field (eg, Castle Connolly America's and New York's top doctors over the past 5 years; *New York Times Magazine's* "New York Super Doctors"), and is a Clarivate "highly cited researcher." He has also been on the editorial board of many peer-reviewed journals, including *Inflammatory Bowel Disease*, *Gastroenterology*, *Digestive Diseases and Sciences*, and *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Dr Sands is the author or co-author of more than 400 publications in scientific journals and book chapters and has presented his research nationally and internationally.