

Ochsner's Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of conditions of the gastrointestinal tract or the digestive tract. This includes esophageal disorders, peptic ulcer disease, diseases of the hepatobiliary system, medical management of pancreatic disease, liver and pancreas transplantation, and the evaluation and management of chronic liver disease.

Utilizing the most advanced technologies and equipment available, our skilled physicians and staff combined with our extensive clinical research programs make this one of the finest gastroenterology programs in the Gulf South. Ochsner's Gastroenterology Section was listed as one of the best in the United States for five years in a row by *U.S. News and World Report*.

There are three main areas of specialty:

TREATMENT OF BARRETT'S ESOPHAGUS

Barrett's esophagus is a condition in which an abnormal, intestinal epithelium called specialized intestinal metaplasia replaces the stratified squamous epithelium that normally lines the distal esophagus. The condition develops as a consequence of chronic gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), and predisposes the development of adenocarcinoma of the esophagus. Utilizing the innovative HALO technologies developed by Barrx Medical, Inc., Ochsner physicians are able to successfully treat and safely remove the diseased esophageal lining referred to as Barrett's esophagus.

- Leading-edge Barrx technology results in fast, straightforward, uniform treatment
- A short, easily tolerated endoscopic procedure
- Tightly controlled, uniformed ablation of the epithelium
- Clinical evaluations completed for all types of Barrett's tissue

ENHANCED ENDOSCOPIC ULTRASOUND (EUS)

Endoscopic ultrasound is a minimally invasive procedure that combines the use of endoscopes and ultrasound. Ochsner is one of very few hospitals in the U.S. to use the latest enhancement in ultrasound technology—the ALOKA Alpha 10 system processor. This new technology offers unmatched image quality providing the most accurate medical images currently available of the gastrointestinal tract wall and helps the surgeon, radiologist, oncologist and internist to diagnose and treat many gastrointestinal cancers and other gastrointestinal problems.

- Advanced technology provides unmatched image quality to enhance doctor's ability to perform procedures
- Supports better diagnosis and treatment
- Minimally invasive procedure supports faster surgical and recovery times
- ALOKA Alpha 10 system processor provides improved connectivity with other ultrasound components, enhanced data analysis capabilities

SPYGLASS™ FIBER-OPTIC TECHNOLOGY

Ochsner physicians and staff utilize a new medical, fiber-optic technology called SpyGlass™ Direct Visualization System, to develop more accurate diagnoses in some of the smallest channels in the human body—the bile ducts leading to the liver and pancreas. A miniature 6,000-pixel fiber optic camera probe fits easily into the endoscope and provides real-time images of these small bodily channels. The SpyGlass system could lead to earlier detection of suspected malignancies, gallstones, blockages, or cystic lesions.

- Advanced technology enables doctors to develop more accurate diagnoses
- Provides substantial improvement over black and white x-rays
- Supports earlier detection and effective treatment
- Lessens the need for additional testing or repeat ERCPs

Department of Colon and Rectal Surgery

Supported by the advanced, state of the art technology available at Ochsner Health System, the Department of Colon and Rectal Surgery evaluates and treats diseases and conditions of the anus, rectum and colon, including all aspects of inflammatory bowel disease. We also conduct advanced clinical research programs to pioneer creative and innovative new techniques and treatments.

Along with our experienced and highly skilled staff of doctors and nurses, ours is recognized as one of the finest colorectal programs in the United States and a premier program in the Gulf South. The department enjoys a highly experienced staff with more than 95 years of combined experience in the surgical treatment of diseases of the small intestine, colon, rectum, and anus, which saw more than 6,800 patients last year and performed more than 7,500 colonoscopies, 150 complex anorectal procedures and 400 major abdominal procedures.

The department specializes in:

The Surgical Treatment of Colon, Rectal, Anal Cancer

- Multidisciplinary approach maximizes sphincter preservation and survival
- Performed over 400 sphincter sparing procedures for rectal cancer
- Utilizes advanced technology including minimally invasive laparoscopic technology to improve patient outcomes

Treatment of Other Colon and Rectal Conditions

- Complex diverticular disease with minimally invasive techniques
- Rectal prolapse using abdominal and perineal procedures
- Ostomies and stomal problems with the assistance of experienced Enterostomal therapy nurses
- Colonic Inertia

Treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Disease

- Performed 350 restorative proctocolectomies, 60 continent ileostomies, and 500 inflammatory bowel disease procedures.
- Highest experience with inflammatory bowel disease in the Gulf South
- Bowel preservation using strictureplasty in Crohn's disease

Treatment of Complex Anorectal Conditions

- Includes sphincter reconstruction for fecal incontinence, complex fistulas
- Utilizes cutting edge technology including the Action artificial bowel sphincter, Fibrin Glue and the fistula plug for complex fistulas
- Operative and nonoperative management of anal fissures

Endoscopic Management

- Complex polyps
- Strictures and obstructions

The department strives to combine innovative treatments with personal, individualized patient care by board-certified and experienced staff.

Center for Digestive Disorders Contact Information

Digestive Disorders Team



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Terry Hicks, M.D.
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Nathaniel Winstead, M.D.
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NURSE PRACTITIONERS:

Peggy Alexander, N.P.
Colon Rectal Surgery Team

Toni Maroo, N.P.
Gastroenterology Team

CONTACT INFORMATION

Colon Rectal Surgery Department:

Main Line: 504-842-4060

Fax Number: 504-842-3960

Priority Line: 504-842-5884

After Hours: 504-842-3000

(Ask for colorectal fellow/staff on call)

Gastro/Hepatology/

Biliary Department:

Main Line: 504-842-4015

Fax Number: 504-842-0098

Pancreatobiliary Hotline:

Main Line: 504-842-5409