

**DOUGLAS A. DROSSMAN, M.D.**

**President, Drossman Center for the Education and Practice of Biopsychosocial Care LLC**

**President, Drossman Consulting LLC and Drossman Gastroenterology PLLC**

**President Emeritus and COO, Rome Foundation**

**Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Psychiatry, University of North Carolina School of Medicine**

**Founder and Co-Director Emeritus, UNC Center for Functional GI and Motility Disorders**

Dr. Drossman received his M.D. degree at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and his medical residency was at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and NYU – Bellevue Medical Center. He subspecialized in biopsychosocial medicine at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and in Gastroenterology at the University of North Carolina. Dr. Drossman was one of the first gastroenterologists to develop the field of brain-gut interactions and Neurogastroenterology in terms of research, patient care and education.

Dr. Drossman is Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Psychiatry in Gastroenterology at the University Of North Carolina School of Medicine where he was on staff from 1977 through 2011. He founded and co-directed of the UNC Center for Functional Gastrointestinal and Motility Disorders (1993-2011). He was also founder, past chair (1989-1993) and newsletter editor of the Functional Brain-Gut Research Group of the AGA, past Chair of the American Digestive Health Foundation’s Digestive Health Initiative (1999-2001) and of the Motility and Nerve-Gut Section of the AGA Council (2001-2005). He is Past-President of the American Psychosomatic Society (1997), a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, a Master of the American College of Gastroenterology, and is on the Board of Directors of the International Foundation for Functional GI Disorders (IFFGD) ([www.iffgd.org](http://www.iffgd.org)). He has served on three committees of the Institute of Medicine Committee on Gulf War and Health, responsible for the gastrointestinal disorders. He has been an Ad Hoc member of NIH- NCCAM Advisory board, and has served on the NIH- National Commission on Digestive Diseases.

In 2012, Dr. Drossman founded the Drossman Center for the Education and Practice of Biopsychosocial Care (DrossmanCare -[www.drossmancenter.com](http://www.drossmancenter.com)) to help train physicians in relationship centered biopsychosocial care with emphasis on communication skills and enhancing the patient doctor relationship.

Dr. Drossman is president of Drossman Gastroenterology PLLC ([www.drossmangastroenterology.com](http://www.drossmangastroenterology.com)) and receives referrals nationally and internationally to consult or manage in the care of difficult to diagnose and treat patients with functional gastrointestinal and motility disorders. With regard to patient care he has been identified as a “Best Gastroenterologist” in Men’s Health (2007) and in Woman’s Health (2008) and is featured as one of 12 gastroenterologists in a book “Best Gastroenterology Practices” (2007). He has received annual “Who’s Who”, “Patient Choice” and “Best Doctors” citations for over 20 years.

Dr. Drossman established Drossman Consulting, LLC to consult with academic programs in medicine, psychiatry and digestive diseases, with Federal (NIH) or pharmaceutical agencies, gastrointestinal medical practices, pharmaceutical advisory boards, health care foundations, medical legal groups, and non-profit health care and educational and media companies. He also consults with over 20 industry and regulatory agencies regarding the design and evaluation of treatment trials or on data analysis.

A major contribution relates to Dr. Drossman being the organizing founder and President of the Rome Foundation, a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the lives of individuals with FGIDs. He served as Chair (beginning in 1990) of the Rome Working Team Committees, President of the Rome Foundation Board from its inception until May 2019 ([www.theromefoundation.org](http://www.theromefoundation.org)), and is currently President Emeritus and Chief of Operations. He is a founder and member of the Executive Committee of the Rome Foundation Research Institute (RFRI) in 2018. He has also been Senior Editor of the textbooks of Functional GI disorders (Rome I, II, III, IV) and other Rome IV products released since 2016: the Multi-Dimensional Clinical Profile for FGIDs (completing 2<sup>nd</sup> edition), the Rome IV Clinical algorithms (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), the Rome IV slide sets and the Rome IV Interactive Clinical Decision Toolkit, an intelligent software application.

Dr. Drossman's research contributions have advanced the care of patients with IBS and other FGIDs. His early research defined the epidemiology of bowel function and dysfunction and this work constituted the origins of the symptom based Rome criteria, the standard for diagnosis as required by FDA. They have been validated and published in Gastroenterology and the Rome Foundation educational products, and are used globally by clinical gastroenterologists, investigators, and industry. The Rome Foundation concept of minimal diagnostic testing using criteria and "red flags", and the therapeutic approaches to FGID that have emerged have brought order to the management of this constellation of GI disorders and in effect legitimized these disorders to investigators, clinicians and patients.

Several of his research areas have been federally funded (NIH). His first grant demonstrated the IBS is not a psychiatric disease but rather that psychosocial factors predict symptoms and health care seeking, as he's also shown for IBD and celiac disease. In 1990 he was the first to identify the role of sexual and physical abuse as factors adversely affecting symptoms and outcomes of medical and GI illnesses. Later using brain imaging he demonstrated mechanistically how abuse was linked to pain severity through anterior mid cingulate activation. Similarly, through his Institute of Medicine Committee work, he demonstrated how war trauma led to post-infection IBS among deployed soldiers. From this, the VA system approved medical benefits for veterans so afflicted. Dr. Drossman also improved knowledge of the effects of opioids within gastroenterology. He published on opioid-induced constipation and over a decade ago identified and in 2007 characterized narcotic bowel syndrome as a separate entity of opioid induced central hyperalgesia. He then demonstrated clinical improvement with systematic detoxification; his protocol is now used globally.

Dr. Drossman has developed and validated several clinical and psychosocial assessment measures widely used in research and clinical practice: the IBS-QOL, Rating Form for IBD Concerns, Functional Bowel Disorder Severity Index, UC-CD Health Status Scale, Abuse Severity Measure, the Patient Provider Relationship and the Patient Satisfaction Scales for IBS; all instruments are used internationally and distributed through the Rome Foundation and MAPI.

With regard to treatment, he was principal investigator in a 5-year multi-center study that first demonstrated in 2003 the value of a cognitive behavioral therapy and also of desipramine, a tricyclic antidepressant for treatment of functional bowel disorders. He is considered a world expert in the use antidepressants and other centrally acting medication for treating painful GI disorders. In this regard he is responsible through the Rome Foundation for renaming this class of medication as central neuromodulators which links a more scientific understanding of their value as well as destigmatizing the terminology to be more accepted by patients and provider. This work relating to the influence of

psychosocial factors on symptoms and GI function and the use of neuromodulator treatment has been the basis for a clinical understanding of the brain gut axis.

Dr. Drossman has received research awards to include the Janssen Award for Clinical Research (1999), the American Psychosomatic Society President's Award (2003), the AGA Joseph B. Kirsner-Fiterman Award in Clinical Research (2005) the AGA Mentors Research Scholar Award (2007), the American Journal of Gastroenterology Lectureship award (2011) and the ACG David Sun Award (2012). He was also awarded membership in the Faculty of 1000 (F1000).

Dr. Drossman has published over 350 peer review articles and over 140 book chapters, has edited or written 20 books and acquired over \$15 million in grants. He was Associate Editor of *Gastroenterology* (2001-2006), has served on six other editorial and advisory boards in Gastroenterology, psychosomatic medicine, behavioral medicine, and patient health and was the Gastroenterology Section Editor of the Merck Manual for 17 years.

An area unique to Dr. Drossman is his excellence in teaching not only on the functional GI disorders, but also in communication skills and patient centered care. He has been a visiting professor at 143 academic programs and has given over 700 lectures. He has written numerous articles and produced educational videotapes on the biobehavioral aspects of medical care, medical interviewing and the patient-doctor relationship and he received second prize at the 1997 AMA International Film Festival. Dr. Drossman is a Charter Fellow of the American Academy of Communication in Health Care, and he facilitates workshops and communication skills training programs with industry, AGA, ACG and the Rome Foundation. Dr. Drossman's educational entity DrossmanCare formed a collaboration with the Rome Foundation in late 2018 to develop educational programs focused on communication skill development. They have recently released "Communication 202" which is a digitally based learning tool of case vignettes where ineffective and effective interview styles are presented in an effort to enhance the patient provider interaction.

As an educator and clinician, Dr. Drossman received the AGA Distinguished Educator Award (2004), the AGA Mentor Clinical Scholar Award (2007) and was identified as a "Best Gastroenterologist" in Men's Health (2007) and in Woman's Health (2008) and is featured as one of 12 gastroenterologists in a book "Best Gastroenterology Practices" (2007). This work relates to his effort not only to improve patient outcomes but also improve knowledge, skills and satisfaction of patients and their providers.

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