

# SMITA ROUILLARD, MD

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Chair of the Chiefs of Gastroenterology, Fresno Medical Center

I returned to work from maternity leave to find myself in a one-physician department. My immediate task was to hire new physicians to expand our department's capabilities. I looked for doctors who combined clinical excellence with a caring bedside manner – exactly the kind of physician I'd want treating my own family.

In 2004, I was asked to also become chief of Fresno's eleven medicine specialty departments, which include areas such as oncology and cardiology. I've been pleased to mentor future leaders of those departments and to pass on lessons learned from my own experience.

I was especially honored in 2006 when the chiefs of all TPMG Gastroenterology departments selected me as their own chair of the chiefs. Together, we set regional goals for all GI departments. Currently, we're working to improve our colorectal cancer screening rates, believing there's no more potent weapon in the fight against cancer than early diagnosis.

I thrive in my role as clinician and administrator, just as I want our members to thrive under our care.



**"IT'S EXCITING TO HELP MY DEPARTMENT EXCEL."**