

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE STUDY OF LIVER DISEASES



2012

ANNUAL

REPORT

www.aasld.org



VISION:

To Prevent and Cure Liver Disease

MISSION:

To advance the science and practice of hepatology, liver transplantation and hepatobiliary surgery, thereby promoting liver health and optimal care of patients with liver and biliary tract disease.

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

2012 Annual Report

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“2012 was a significant year for AASLD—from a record-setting Annual Meeting to increased efforts in the education of young investigators and clinicians.”

Year in Review & New Initiatives

J. Gregory Fitz, MD, 2013 AASLD President
Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao, MD, 2012 AASLD President

2012 Year in Review

It is with great pleasure that we share with you the AASLD 2012 Annual Report. 2012 was a significant year for AASLD—from a record-setting Annual Meeting to increased efforts in the education of young investigators and clinicians. We thank everyone who supported The AASLD Liver Research Fund—without you we cannot continue the research, training, and educational programs that are vital to the future of hepatology and the improved health of our patients.

Thanks to your generosity, AASLD was able to fund 19 research and career development awards for a total of \$2.1 million, and 24 abstract awards during The Liver Meeting® 2012 for a total of \$23,500, thus continuing the essential role of funding young investigators and their research as they embark on their careers in the field of hepatology.

However, the number of trained hepatology providers cannot meet the demands of an increasing number of patients and the available therapies. In order to address this need, AASLD established the Emerging Liver Scholar mentoring program with the goal of recruiting young professionals (medical students and residents) to a career in liver disease research and/or practice. 2012 was the first-year of this program, and 18 residents from around the country were matched with established and respected members of AASLD in order to establish a long-term mentoring relationship.

Recognizing that the treatment of patients with liver disease goes beyond the realm of gastroenterology and hepatology, AASLD has created online educational resources for clinicians. The AASLD Curriculum and Training (ACT) Program and the online journal, Clinical Liver Disease (CLD) were developed to address this need. The first modules of each program were dedicated to HCV treatment. AASLD is offering both these programs free of charge both to members and non-members, in and out of the United States, because of our commitment educating practitioners and ultimately improving the care of patients with liver disease. AASLD will continue to provide education for the hepatology community through online education and at The Liver Meeting®.

The Liver Meeting® 2012 had 9,563 attendees, representing 93 countries, with 53% of attendees from North America. Nearly 200 speakers presented 2,081 abstracts, including 1798 posters, 252 oral sessions; and 991 exhibitors, representing 75 organizations.

2012 was quite a success for AASLD—and we are looking forward to an even more successful 2013.

Sincerely,



Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao, MD
2012 AASLD President

2013 Initiatives: Planning

Pick up the most recent copy of Hepatology or Liver Transplantation. Inside, you will see the evidence of an organization on the move. In addition to the best scientific articles, the heart of it all, there are opportunities across a broad spectrum of interests and approaches. We have come a long way from the days of “one meeting, one journal”. Single Topic Conferences, international collaborations, Liver Learning and the web-based Clinical Liver Disease journal are all key components of the organization. Our practice guidelines address the most important clinical issues before us and are widely used outside of the organization. In addition, with the recent ACT programs, there are serious efforts to broaden the educational mission of the AASLD to help non-hepatologists develop the skills required for managing patients with liver diseases.

These diverse but complementary activities make sense. After all, the vision of the organization is to prevent and cure liver disease. However, the scope of these efforts continues to increase, and there are significant demands on both the financial resources of the organization and the volunteer time available to our members. These considerations raise fundamental questions about whether the current organization is in the best position to continue to lead the world in pursuing this vision over the next decade.

To that end, we have initiated a strategic planning process to help us to prioritize our activities for this year ...and for this decade. The questions are fundamental, and will require the full engagement of all of us. How many members do we want and need? How do we best embrace the obvious international implications of the global burden of disease? What are our responsibilities for training those outside of our current membership including primary care, public policy and even politicians? Even more importantly, what are our responsibilities in patient advocacy? We have long been focused on professional education and research, but the world is changing.

Our sincere hope is that the answers to these questions can help us to make better use of the resources of the AASLD. Among these, the time and energy of our members is the most important. We look forward to what the future holds!

Sincerely,



J. Gregory Fitz, MD
2013 AASLD President



“...AASLD offers aspiring young investigators the support they need to begin a career resolving unanswered questions.”

Mina Rakoski, MD

2011 Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Fellowship



A Lucky Twist of *Fate*



After receiving her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nutritional Sciences from Cornell University, Dr. Mina Rakoski planned to study gastroenterology with a focus on IBD. However, upon entering medical school, she was assigned to a hepatology elective where she experienced her first liver transplant selection committee meeting. She became engaged with the field because individuals from various disciplines were involved in the treatment of these patients.

She was a 2011 AASLD Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Fellowship recipient. As she states, "The award helped expand my clinical expertise, but also supported me while I continued data collection, analysis, and publication of my research." Her research focus is on liver disease in the elderly, and how supportive interventions by health care professionals can affect patient outcomes. Dr. Rakoski's research may

one day identify preventable factors that contribute to frequent hospital readmissions and poor quality of life for elderly patients with liver disease.

"AASLD awards, grants, and fellowships allow the field of hepatology to continue to grow by training the clinicians and scientists that find the answers that change medicine," she says. "...AASLD offers aspiring young investigators the support they need to begin a career resolving unanswered questions."

Rakoski believes that AASLD plays a vital role by providing clinicians, scientists, and patients a unifying organization that promotes the prevention and cure of liver disease.

"In the current era, funding is sparse which often discourages young investigators from pursuing careers in research. This results in lost advances and knowledge that might have put us one step closer to preventing and finding cures for liver-related diseases."

Dr. Rakoski is currently a Clinical Lecturer in Hepatology at the University of Michigan Health System.

Since its inception, AASLD has directed over \$10 Million to support GI fellows seeking advanced training focused on patient care in Transplant Hepatology through the Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Fellowship. Over 171 fellows have been supported through this program.



“AASLD awards, grants, and fellowships provide research funding that is placed in the context of a clear clinical goal: improving outcomes for patients with liver disease.”

Dahlene Fusco, MD, PhD

2010 Shelia Sherlock Clinical & Translational Research Award

Advancing the Understanding of HCV



Dr. Dahlene Fusco's path to hepatology research started at a weekly Hepatitis Clinic at Weill Cornell Medical College. At the time, Dr. Fusco was an infectious disease fellow who had studied HIV immunology, and innate immune responses to influenza. After seeing first-hand the devastating effects of end-stage liver disease due to viral hepatitis, Dr. Fusco turned her efforts towards advancing the understanding of Hepatitis C (HCV) disease development and identifying new drug targets for HCV therapy.

The 2010 Sheila Sherlock Clinical and Translational Research Award in Liver Diseases allowed Dr. Fusco to join the laboratory of Dr. Raymond Chung at Massachusetts General Hospital, where she studied how human liver cells, or hepatocytes, used interferon (IFN) to defend themselves against HCV infection. Dr. Fusco's team screened the human genome for the genes required for IFN to effectively suppress HCV—Interferon Effector Genes. Their research identified 120 such Interferon Effector Genes; and they are currently working to understand how these genes help IFN slow viruses such as HCV. This research could lead to a treatment that will directly stimulate these specific genes.

"AASLD awards, grants, and fellowships provide research funding that is placed in the context of a clear clinical goal: improving outcomes for patients with liver disease.

According to CDC statistics, 1 in 12 persons worldwide (or 500 million people) are living with chronic viral hepatitis. "The global burden of viral hepatitis, the impaired quality of life, work years lost, cost to society, and patient / family... could be improved significantly through a combination of more widespread prevention and increased access to treatment."

Dr. Fusco believes that the rapidly-evolving nature of liver disease treatment requires a central body for the collection and exchange of the latest information, and that AASLD serves as that resource.

"At a time when funding is tight everywhere, AASLD is putting substantial effort into drawing early hepatologists toward meaningful research. As someone who has benefitted directly from this, I am extremely grateful to AASLD and hope that I will be able to return this gift by producing ongoing meaningful research in the field of viral hepatitis."

Dr. Fusco is currently an Assistant in Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and an instructor at Harvard Medical School.

In AASLD's continued efforts to prevent and cure liver disease, the Clinical and Translational Research Awards program has provided over \$4.5 million in support of young investigators pursuing new and innovative liver-related research.

2012 RESEARCH AND CARE

The current need for more adequately trained hepatology professionals is crucial in order for patients to receive effective and appropriate care. AASLD is committed to supporting the research and career development that will lead to a cure for patients with liver disease. In 2012 AASLD was able to fund over \$2.1M in liver research.

The AASLD Research and Career Development Awards Program is designed to:

- Provide additional training for those caring for patients with liver disease
- Fund new and innovative liver-related research
- Encourage young investigators new to the field
- Improve access to trained hepatology providers for patients with liver disease

The AASLD awards program has a proven track record of success. Since 2000, AASLD has funded more than 727 awards for a total of about \$30.5 million. This level of support is made possible from donations to The AASLD Liver Research Fund.

AASLD/ALF Liver Scholar Awards

A three-year basic science award of \$225,000 (\$75,000/year) that:

- Encourages young investigators to pursue a career in liver-related research;
- Bridges the gap between completion of research training and attaining status as an independent research scientist;
- Enhances the capability to compete for research grants from national sources, particularly the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

2012 RECIPIENTS

Jun Hee Lee, PhD, MS

University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

MENTOR: Bishr Omary, PhD, MD

RESEARCH PROJECT: *Protective Role of Sestrins Against Metabolic Pathologies in Liver*

John Mengshol, MD, PhD

University of Colorado School of Medicine
Denver, CO

MENTOR: Hugo Rosen, MD

RESEARCH PROJECT: *Hepatitis C Virus Stimulation of Immune Regulatory Galectin-9 Production by Kupffer Cells*

Soona Shin, PhD, MS

University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

MENTOR: Klaus H. Kaestner, PhD

RESEARCH PROJECT: *The Role of Keap1/Nrf2 in Modulating Redox Status of Hepatic Progenitor Cells*

Jason Wertheim, MD, PhD

Northwestern University
Chicago, IL

MENTOR: Michael Abecasis, MD

RESEARCH PROJECT: *Liver Tissue Engineering: Novel Methods for Organ Design and Animal Model Development*

AASLD gratefully acknowledges funding for the 2012 Liver Scholar Awards from Genentech, Gilead Sciences, and Merck, and donors to the New Challenges-New Solutions campaign and The AASLD Liver Research Fund.

AASLD Sheila Sherlock Clinical and Translational Research Award in Liver Diseases

A two-year clinical and/or translational research award of \$150,000 (\$75,000/year) that fosters career development in a liver-related area and is presented to an individual that has shown commitment to excellence at an early stage in their research study.

This award is named in honor of Dame Sheila Sherlock for her pioneering research and dedication to young research fellows which helped elevate hepatology to the discipline it is today.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

2012 RECIPIENT

Winston Dunn, MD

University of Kansas Medical Center Research Institute
Kansas City, KS

MENTOR: Steven Weinman, MD

RESEARCH PROJECT: *Donor rs738409 Affects Fibrosis Progression in Liver Transplant for Hepatitis C*

ORAL (PI): *Donor rs738409 Genotype Affects Fibrosis Progression in Liver Transplantation for Hepatitis C*

AASLD gratefully acknowledges funding for the 2012 Sheila Sherlock Clinical and Translational Research Award from Genentech and donors to the New Challenges-New Solutions campaign and The AASLD Liver Research Fund.

AASLD Clinical and Translational Research Award in Liver Diseases

A two-year clinical and/or translational research award of \$150,000 (\$75,000/year) that fosters career development in a liver-related area and is presented to an individual that has shown commitment to excellence at an early stage in their research study.

2012 RECIPIENT

Yvonne Flores, PhD, MPH

University of California, School of Public Health
Los Angeles, CA

MENTOR: Hal Yee, MD

RESEARCH PROJECT: *The Impact of Genetic and Environmental Risk Factors on Liver Disease Susceptibility in a Cohort of Mexican Adults*

AASLD gratefully acknowledges funding for the 2012 Clinical and Translational Research Award from Merck and donors to the New Challenges-New Solutions campaign and The AASLD Liver Research Fund.

AASLD Career Development Award in Liver Transplantation

In Memory of the University of Michigan Transplant Team

A two-year award of \$90,000 (\$45,000/year) designed to foster career development for an individual performing clinical and/or translational research in the field of liver transplantation and who has shown commitment to excellence in the field at an early stage in their career.

2012 RECIPIENT

Laura Wozniak, MD

UCLA Pediatric Liver Transplant Program
Los Angeles, CA

MENTOR: Sue McDiarmid, MD

RESEARCH PROJECT: *Identification of Immune Profiles of Tolerance in Pediatric Liver Transplantation*

AASLD gratefully acknowledges funding for the 2012 Career Development Award in Liver Transplantation from Astellas USA Foundation and donors to the New Challenges-New Solutions campaign and The AASLD Liver Research Fund.

AASLD Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Fellowship

Provides \$60,000 in salary and benefit support for gastroenterology fellows pursuing an additional full-year of training focused on patient care in hepatology; including liver transplantation, and hepatology research.

2012 RECIPIENTS

Andrew deLemos, MD

Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA

MENTOR: Raymond T. Chung, MD

POSTER (PI): *Immunohistochemical Staining for Oxidized Phospholipids in Patients with NAFLD/NASH*

Frank DiPaola, MD

Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Cincinnati, OH

MENTOR: William Balistreri, MD

David S. Goldberg, MD, MSCE

University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

MENTOR: K. Rajender Reddy, MD

ORAL (PI): *The Epidemiology of Consent for Deceased Organ Donation in the United States*

ORAL (CO-AUTHOR): *Exception point applications for 15 points for liver transplantation: An unintended consequence of the Share 15 policy*

Robert C. Huebert, MD

Mayo Clinic in Rochester
Rochester, MN

MENTOR: Vijay Shah, MD

Amol Rangnekar, MD

Columbia University Medical Center
New York, NY

MENTOR: Robert Brown, MD

ORAL (CO-AUTHOR): *2-year survival is significantly lower in Spontaneous survivors with non-Acetaminophen Acute liver failure versus liver transplant recipients*

POSTER (PI): *Quality of life is significantly impaired in long-term survivors of Acute Liver Failure (ALF) and particularly in Acetaminophen Overdose Patients*

Monika A. Sarkar, MD

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

MENTOR: Marion Peters, MD

POSTER (PI): *Chronic Hepatitis B Management in a California Integrated Care Population*

AASLD gratefully acknowledges funding for the 2012 Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Fellowship Program from Gilead Sciences, Merck, and Salix Pharmaceuticals and donors to the New Challenges-New Solutions campaign and The AASLD Liver Research Fund.

*Oral and poster refer to presentations conducted by the authors at The Liver Meeting® 2012



Drs. Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao and Steven Lidofsky with the 2012 Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Fellowship Recipients

AASLD NP/PA Clinical Hepatology Fellowship

Provides \$78,000 in salary and benefit support for certified and licensed physician assistants (PA) or nurse practitioners (NP) pursuing a full year of training focused on clinical care in hepatology and is designed to:

- Increase the number of associate practitioners in clinical hepatology;
- Facilitate the transition (or shift in emphasis) into clinical hepatology for associate practitioners;
- Increase access for liver disease patients to adequately trained clinicians.

2012 RECIPIENTS**Jennifer Deuel, PA-C**

Hahnemann University Hospital
Philadelphia, PA

MENTOR: David Sass, MD

Jennifer Hatch, MPAS, PA-C, RD

University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT

MENTOR: Terry Box, MD

Calvin Lee, NP

New York Methodist Hospital
Brooklyn, NY

MENTOR: Smruti Mohanty, MD

Kaitlyn Musto, PA-C

Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville
Jacksonville, FL

MENTOR: Denise Harnois, DO

Nicole Timmerman, NP, PA-C

University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

MENTOR: Anna Suk-Fong Lok, MD

Chunxia Spring Wu, NP

Liver Institute at Methodist Dallas
Dallas, TX

MENTOR: Parvez Mantry, MD

AASLD gratefully acknowledges funding for the 2012 NP/PA Clinical Hepatology Fellowship Program from Genentech, Salix Pharmaceuticals, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, and donors to the New Challenges-New Solutions campaign and The AASLD Liver Research Fund.

2012 AASLD Abstract Awards

Fellow Research Award

A \$1,000 award presented for the best abstract submitted to The Liver Meeting® by a fellow.

Hayato Nakagawa, MD, PhD

University of San Diego, California
San Diego, CA

ABSTRACT: *Loss of E-cadherin in the liver induces sclerosing cholangitis and promotes tumorigenesis in mice*

AASLD acknowledges funding for the 2012 Fellow Research Award is made possible through a grant from the SunTrust Foundation.

Pediatric Research Award

A \$1,000 award presented for the best abstract submitted to The Liver Meeting® by a physician/scientist with a primary appointment affiliation in a department of pediatrics.

Emmanuel Gonzales, MD, PhD

Bicêtre Hospital at University of Paris-Sud
Paris, France

ABSTRACT: *In vitro and in vivo effects of chaperone therapy with 4-phenylbutyrate on ABCB1 missense mutations involved in progressive familial intrahepatic cholestasis type 2 (PFIC2)*

AASLD acknowledges funding for the 2012 Pediatric Research Award is made possible through a grant from the SunTrust Foundation.

Resident Research Award

The purpose of this \$1,000 award is to recognize high quality research undertaken by a resident in training. The recipient must be a primary contributor on the project and committed to a career in hepatology.

Carl Scott Swendsen, MD

Digestive Disease Research Center, Scott & White Hospital, Texas A&M HSC College of Medicine
Temple, TX

ABSTRACT: *microRNA mediated interaction of TGF-6 and BMP1 signaling pathway in hepatic stellate cells during alcoholic liver injury*

Student Research Award

A \$1,000 award presented for research conducted by a graduate or undergraduate student.

Davide Povero, MS

University of California, San Diego
San Diego, CA

ABSTRACT: *Hepatocytes release microparticles during lipotoxicity that have potent pro-angiogenic effects in vitro and in vivo through Vanin-1-dependent internalization*

AASLD acknowledges funding for the 2012 Student Research Award is made possible through a grant from the SunTrust Foundation.

PSC Partners Seeking a Cure Award

A \$3,000 award presented to the investigator presenting the most promising PSC research at The Liver Meeting®.

Lina Lindström, MD

Karolinska Institutet
Stockholm, Sweden

ABSTRACT: *A reduction in alkaline phosphatase levels is associated to improved prognosis in primary sclerosing cholangitis: A 14 year follow up of the Scandinavian ursodeoxycholic acid trial*

AASLD acknowledges funding for the 2012 PSC Partners Seeking a Cure Award from PSC Partners.



Dr. Garcia-Tsao and the 2012 Young Investigator Travel Award Recipients

Liver Transplant and/or Hepatobiliary Surgery Fellow Award

These \$1,000 travel awards enable liver transplant and/or hepatobiliary surgery fellows submitting abstracts for The Liver Meeting® to receive travel support.

YoungRok Choi, MD

Seoul National University College of Medicine
Seoul, South Korea

ABSTRACT: *The Distribution of Fat in the Liver and Correlation between Estimated Fat Fraction Using MRI and Liver Biopsy*

Shunji Nagai, MD

Henry Ford Hospital
Detroit, MI

ABSTRACT: *Peritransplant Lymphopenia is a Novel Prognostic Factor in Hepatocellular Carcinoma after Liver Transplantation*

AASLD acknowledges funding for the 2012 Liver Transplant and/or Hepatobiliary Surgery Fellow Awards is made possible through a grant from Ikaria.

Dr. Edmund J. Bini Memorial Travel Award

This \$2,500 memorial travel award was established to honor Dr. Edmund Bini's outstanding career as a clinician and researcher. The award is presented to a fellow or junior investigator who submits the most outstanding abstract on clinical hepatitis C research for The Liver Meeting®.

Chen-Hua Liu, MD

National Taiwan University Hospital
Taipei, Taiwan

ABSTRACT: *Peginterferon alfa-2a plus Low Dose Ribavirin versus Peginterferon alfa-2a Monotherapy for Dialysis Patients with Hepatitis C Virus Genotype 1 Infection: A Randomized Trial*

AASLD gratefully acknowledges the donors to the AASLD Liver Research Fund whose gifts support funding for the 2012 Dr. Edmund J. Bini Travel Award.

Dr. Harold O. Conn Memorial Travel Award

This \$2,500 memorial travel award was established to honor Dr. Harold Conn's career as a leader in the field of chronic liver disease and portal hypertension. The award is presented to a fellow or junior investigator who submits the most outstanding abstract on portal hypertension research for The Liver Meeting®.

Radha K. Dhiman, MD, DM, FAMS, FACG

Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER)
Chandigarh, India

ABSTRACT: *Efficacy and safety of a probiotic preparation in the secondary prophylaxis of hepatic encephalopathy in cirrhotic patients: Interim results of a double blind, randomized, placebo controlled study*

AASLD gratefully acknowledges the donors to the AASLD Liver Research Fund whose gifts support funding for the 2012 Dr. Harold O. Conn Travel Award.

Professor Margit Hamosh Memorial Travel Award

This \$2,500 memorial travel award was established to honor the memory of Dr. Margit Hamosh's life and legacy. The award is presented to a fellow or junior investigator who submits the most outstanding abstract on hepatocellular carcinoma research for The Liver Meeting®.

Hayato Hikita, MD, PhD

Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine
Osaka, Japan

ABSTRACT: *Oxidative stresses play a major role in cancer development in apoptosis-prone liver.*

AASLD gratefully acknowledges the donors to the AASLD Liver Research Fund whose gifts support funding for the 2012 Professor Margit Hamosh Travel Award.

Young Investigator Travel Awards

These \$500 travel awards are presented to young investigators submitting the best abstracts for The Liver Meeting®.

Johnny Amer, PhD

Hadassah-Hebrew University Hospital
Jerusalem, Israel

ABSTRACT: *Vitamin D levels in Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease associate with Insulin resistance and Liver progression via a Novel NLG4 dependent NK recognition*

Jennifer A. Flemming, MD, FRCP(C)

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

ABSTRACT: *Candidates for Surveillance for Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) Among Patients with Advanced Cirrhosis in the United States.*

Naveen Gara, MD

National Institute of Health
Washington, DC

ABSTRACT: *Durability of Antibody Response Following Hepatitis B Vaccination in Healthcare Workers Vaccinated as Adults.*

Mohamed Habib, MSC

King's Thrombosis Centre
London, United Kingdom

ABSTRACT: *Evidence of rebalanced coagulation in acute liver disease.*

Wei Hu

University Hospital Aachen
Aachen, Germany

ABSTRACT: *Cyclin E1, but not Cyclin E2 is required for efficient liver regeneration in Cdk2-deficient mice*

Arshi Khanam, MSc

Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences
New Delhi, India

ABSTRACT: *Enhanced Recruitment of Dendritic Cell (pDCs and mDCs) and T Cells by Granulocyte Colony Stimulating Factor (G-CSF) Therapy Helps Improved Survival in Acute-on-Chronic Liver Failure (ACLF) Patients*

Craig Lammert, MD

Mayo Clinic in Rochester
Rochester, MN

ABSTRACT: *Gene-Environment Interaction Identifies 3 Novel Loci Significantly Associated with Smoking and Family History in Primary Biliary Cirrhosis*

Milos Lazic, PhD

University of California, San Diego
San Diego, CA

ABSTRACT: *Resistance to the Fas-induced Liver Hemorrhage and Lethality in Hepatocyte-specific Bid-deficient mice*

Yann Malato, PhD

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

ABSTRACT: *In vivo reprogramming of hepatocytes into precursors of cholangiocarcinomas*

Francesca Romana Ponziani, MD

A. Gemelli Hospital
Rome, Italy

ABSTRACT: *Epidemiology of portal and deep vein thrombosis in hospitalized cirrhotic patients: A single center experience*

Edgar N. Tafaleng, BS

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Pittsburgh, PA

ABSTRACT: *In vitro modeling of alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency using induced pluripotent stem cell-derived hepatocytes from alpha-1-antitrypsin deficient patients*

AASLD acknowledges funding for the 2012 Young Investigator Travel Awards is made possible through an independent grant from Merck.

Midlevel Professional Awards

These \$500 awards are presented for the best abstracts submitted to The Liver Meeting® by an associate.

M. Katherine Dokus, MPH

University of Rochester
Rochester, NY

ABSTRACT: *An evidence based post transplant HCC surveillance protocol to minimize costs and improve patient safety*

Anna Marie Hefner, MSN

Southern California Liver Centers
San Diego, CA

ABSTRACT: *Facilitating Lifestyle Changes to Manage Progressive Fatty Liver Disease*

2012 DISTINGUISHED AWARD

AASLD Distinguished Achievement Award

The AASLD Distinguished Achievement Award is given to an individual in honor of his or her sustained scientific contributions to the field of liver disease and the scientific foundations of hepatology. The award honors a sustained contribution rather than a single discovery or major achievement. The awardee need not be a member of AASLD and may be a non-scientist but the contribution should be solidly in the area of liver disease, physiology, anatomy or pathology.

Anna Mae Diehl, MD

The Liver Center at Duke University
Durham, North Carolina



Dr. Anna Mae Diehl received her medical degree from Georgetown University. She completed her internal medicine training, and fellowship in gastroenterology and hepatology at Johns Hopkins University. She was a faculty member at Johns Hopkins University most of her professional career, being promoted to Professor of Medicine in 1997.

In 2004, Dr. Diehl was recruited to Duke University to lead their gastroenterology and hepatology programs, and was awarded the Florence McAlister Endowed Professorship. Her research has defined pathways that regulate regeneration of injured livers, particularly advancing treatment of fatty liver diseases. She is predominantly interested in identifying immune-related mechanisms that regulate these processes in both alcohol-induced and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease.

Dr. Diehl has served AASLD in a number of capacities including participation in the Basic Research Committee, Clinical Practice Committee, Education Committee, NIH Liaison committee, Nominating committee, and on AASLD's Governing Board. She has authored more than 170 articles and book chapters, including several position papers on pathogenesis and treatment of fatty liver diseases.

Dr. Anna Mae Diehl is Professor of Medicine, Chief of Gastroenterology, and Director of the Liver Center at Duke University.

Distinguished Clinician Educator/Mentor Award

The Distinguished Clinician Educator/Mentor Award is given in honor of the sustained service of clinician educators to AASLD or the liver community in general. The award recognizes the skills of outstanding clinicians and educators who have made momentous contributions to hepatology over an extended period. The awardee need not be a member of AASLD.

Nathan M. Bass, MB, ChB, PhD, FACP

University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, California



Dr. Nathan M. (Tony) Bass is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Dr. Bass graduated from the University of Cape Town Medical School MB, ChB (MD) in 1973, earning his PhD in 1978. He completed residencies in internal medicine and hepatology at Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town and the Royal Free Hospital, London, and in gastroenterology at UCSF.

Dr. Bass served on the faculty at UCSF from 1983 to 2011. The positions held during this period included Medical Director of the Liver Transplant Service and Director of the Transplant and Advanced Hepatology Training Program at the University of California, San Francisco. He was also a Principle Investigator on individual and consortium grants from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Bass has mentored six AASLD Advanced/Transplant Hepatology fellows as well as one Jan Albrecht Clinical and Translational Research award recipient.

D RECIPIENTS

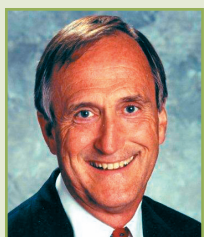
Dr. Bass has served on numerous AASLD standing committees, including the Training and Workforce Committee. He has published over 240 peer-reviewed manuscripts, editorials, review articles and textbook chapters. His particular interests are in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, liver transplantation, hepatic encephalopathy, and portal hypertension.

AASLD Distinguished Service Award

The AASLD Distinguished Service Award is given to an individual in honor of his or her sustained service to AASLD or the liver disease community in general. The award recognizes service provided to the community of hepatology researchers and clinicians over an extended period; service that is well above and beyond that provided by many members who serve on the Governing Board and Committees of AASLD. The awardee need not be a member of AASLD.

Thomas D. Boyer, MD

University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona



Thomas D. Boyer, MD, graduated from the University Of Southern California School Of Medicine in 1969. He trained in hepatology with Dr. Telfer Reynolds and Dr. Allan Redeker. In 2000 he joined the University of Arizona Health Network in Tucson as Director of

the Liver Research Institute and Medical Director of the Liver Transplant program.

Dr. Boyer's clinical research interests focus on complications of cirrhosis, and the investigation of the function and regulation of the glutathione S-transferases. He has published numerous articles, book chapters and editorials on these areas of investigation. Additionally he coauthored the AASLD Practice Guidelines on TIPS (transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt). He also is the editor of Zakim and Boyer's Hepatology which is in its 6th edition.

Dr. Boyer served on the AASLD governing board from 1998–2003. It was during his tenure as president in 2002 that the Annual Meeting was relocated from Dallas to Boston. He served as chair on both the AASLD Training and Education committee and NIH Liaison Committee; and is currently the immediate past-president and a member of the Executive Committee for the International Association for the Study of the Liver (IASL).

Dr. Boyer is currently professor and chair of medicine at University of Arizona. He continues to have an active clinical practice. Successfully diagnosing and treating patients with a variety of hepatic disorders remains his most fulfilling activity. Additionally he enjoys teaching medical students and residents about liver disease in the hope of inspiring an interest in hepatology as his mentors did for him.



Drs. Thomas Boyer, Nathan Bass, Anna Mae Diehl, and Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao

2012 AASLD Emerging Liver Scholar Resident Travel Award Program

The Emerging Liver Scholar program was designed to promote the study of hepatology among residents who have potential for a career in academic medicine and who might be interested in choosing adult or pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology, hepatopathology, surgery, or GI radiology with an emphasis on hepatobiliary imaging as their career focus.

Veeral H. Ajmera, MD
Brigham and Women's Hospital
MENTOR: Chinweike Ukomadu, MD, PhD

Badr Al-Bawardy, MD
Mayo Clinic in Rochester
MENTOR: John B. Gross, MD

Faiza Bhatti, MBBS, MD
Saint Louis University
MENTOR: Brent A. Tetri, MD

James F. Crismale, MD
Mount Sinai Medical Center
MENTOR: Andrea D. Branch, PhD

John N. Gaetano, MD
University of Chicago
MENTOR: Donald M. Jensen, MD

Michal Ganz, MD
University of Massachusetts Medical School
MENTOR: Gyongyi Szabo, MD, PhD

Christopher Holden Henry, MD
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
MENTOR: Simona Rossi, MD

Allison J. Kwong, MD
University of California San Francisco
MENTOR: Oren K. Fix, MD, MSc

Miguel A. Lalama, MD, MPH
Mayo Clinic in Rochester
MENTOR: W. Ray Kim, MD

Michael V. Mendoza, MD, MS
Emory University
MENTOR: Saul J. Karpen, MD, PhD

Omobonike Oloruntoba, MD
Duke University
MENTOR: Andrew Muir, MD

Cristhine Chogas Pastorini, MD
University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital
MENTOR: Cynthia Levy, MD

Anna L. Peters, MD, PhD, BS
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
MENTOR: Rohit Kohli, MD

Thomas Pham, MD
Wexner Medical Center
The Ohio State University
MENTOR: Ginny L. Bumgardner, MD, PhD

Latifa Sage Silski, MD, BA
Wexner Medical Center
The Ohio State University
MENTOR: Ginny L. Bumgardner, MD, PhD

Douglas A. Simonetto, MD
Mayo Clinic in Rochester
MENTOR: Vijay Shah, MD

Justin B. Taylor, MD, MSc
Northwestern Memorial Hospital
MENTOR: Mary E. Rinella, MD

Andrew P. Wright, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital
MENTOR: Kathleen E. Corey, MD, MPH



TRAIN/EDUCATE

American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM)

AASLD collaborated with ABIM in 2012 to create a three-year competency-based pilot program in gastroenterology-transplant hepatology training. Candidates enrolled in the program will be granted an exception to existing ABIM training requirements that will allow them to sit for certification in both Gastroenterology and Transplant Hepatology upon successful completion of the pilot.

The Liver Meeting® 2012

The premier event in the science and practice of hepatology; where the cutting edge in the study and treatment of liver and biliary diseases is defined. The Liver Meeting® is designed specifically to educate hepatology professionals on the dynamic changes in their field and to connect leading scientists around the world.

More than 9,000 hepatologists and hepatology health professionals from around the world met to exchange groundbreaking basic and clinical research in liver disease, and present and interchange opinions on state-of-the-art care and management of the full spectrum of patients with liver disease. The exhibit hall was comprised of more than 991 exhibit staff representing 76 companies displaying products and services related to hepatology.

The Liver Meeting® 2012 attendance, scores, evaluations and comments reflect a meeting that is maintaining its credibility and increasing its popularity within the hepatology community. 2013 will see The Liver Meeting® in Washington, DC for the first time.

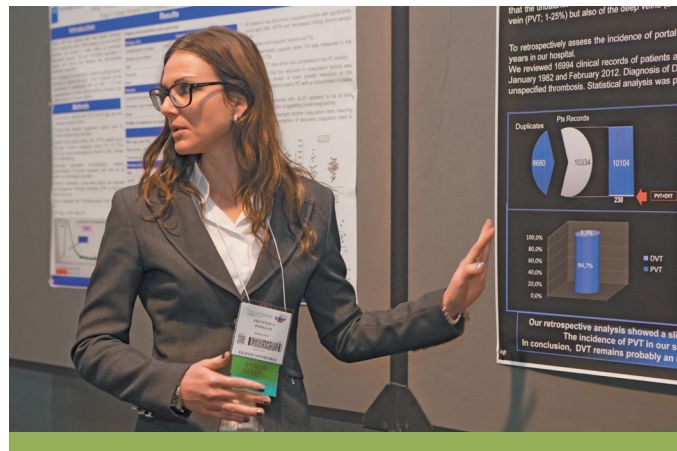
Postgraduate Course

The AASLD Postgraduate Course highlights a significant issue of liver research facing physicians today; the 2012 course attracted more than 2,700 registrants.

TOPIC: *Personalized Medicine and the Practice of Hepatology*

COURSE DIRECTORS: J. Geogry Fitz, MD
Andrew P. Feranchak, MD

This course introduced important advances in the genetic and molecular understanding of liver diseases into the clinical arena. The program emphasized new findings that relate directly to



understanding the mechanisms of liver injury and approaches to clinical management. There has been substantial progress in the science of hepatology that relates directly to common liver diseases, including cholestasis, viral hepatitis, NASH and the progression of fibrosis toward cirrhosis. Further, these insights have helped to direct newer therapeutic approaches to the treatment of these disorders, as well as management of the complications of cirrhosis. Based on these considerations, a series of expert lectures and case-related discussions were utilized to address both common and complex issues in hepatology, and to ascertain progress toward personalized

medical management based on risk. The educational emphasis was placed on the evolving insights into the pathogenesis of liver injuries, and how these insights influence prevention and management now and in the future.

Scientific and Educational Activities at The Liver Meeting®

As the leading organization focused solely on advancing the science and practice of hepatology, AASLD offers scientific educational activities that are developed by leading hepatologists. Each activity features expert speakers presenting the finest data in the most current and critical topics of liver disease.

More than 2900 abstracts were submitted. 71% were accepted for oral and poster presentation with 239 receiving recognition as a Poster of Distinction. Thirty-seven scientific sessions were conducted to present the most up-to-date research available in the field. The oral sessions were complemented by more than 40 interactive posters sessions. Only AASLD activities meet the increasing demand of hepatology’s growing importance as a medical specialty by providing participants the opportunity to exchange research, discuss outcomes, and interact with colleagues focused on liver and biliary diseases.



Invited Lectures at The Liver Meeting®

The offering of groundbreaking research by top scientists in their specific areas of hepatobiliary research continued to be a priority.

The lectures featured:

Global Forum

The global forum focused on the world-wide public health epidemic of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). The aim of this program was to develop a discussion on this topic among the five major regions of the world, North America, Europe, Asia, South America and Africa. The speakers represented each region and discussed important issues and/or barriers regarding screening, diagnosis and management of HCC as they pertain to each region. The discussion addressed the most important public health problems regarding HCC in each of these regions.

Hepatitis Debrief

In the 18 months since the inception of the direct acting antiviral era, we have witnessed extraordinary progress in the development of increasingly effective, tolerable, and finite combination regimens for management of chronic hepatitis C. This session reviewed new data presented at The Liver Meeting® pertinent to combination treatments that add new direct antiviral agents to an interferon/ribavirin backbone, as well as all-oral, interferon sparing regimens. The session was designed to rapidly synthesize the new data so that they can be useful to the practitioner on a real-time basis.

Hans Popper Basic Science State-of-the-Art Lecture

In his lecture titled *Inflammatory Control in Health and Disease*, Ruslan Medzhitov, PhD, discussed the physiological role of inflammation in control of tissue homeostasis and adaptation to noxious states, such as stress, tissue damage and infection.

This annual lecture recognizes Dr. Popper, the founder of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD), for his role in the establishment of HEPATOLOGY and his promotion of the intellectual spirit of the Association.



Leon Schiff State-of-the-Art Lecture

Alcoholic Hepatitis delivered by Philippe Mathurin, MD, PhD, discussed the recent advances in the pathogenesis of alcoholic hepatitis.

This annual lecture recognizes Dr. Schiff's work to elevate the study and practice of hepatology to the discipline it is today. A restricted fund has been established to support the lecture in perpetuity and AASLD gratefully acknowledges the National Genetics Institute for their generous support of this program.

Thomas E. Starzl Transplant Surgery State-of-the-Art Lecture

Elizabeth A. Pomfret, MD, PhD, delivered her lecture on *Controversies in Transplant for HCC* that discussed the current treatment standards and clinical implications for a multidisciplinary approach to hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) treatment, and described the current allocation scheme for liver transplantation in patients with HCC.

This annual lecture recognizes the pioneering work that Dr. Starzl has done to elevate liver transplantation from an experimental procedure to one that saves thousands of lives annually. A restricted fund has been established to support the lecture in perpetuity and AASLD gratefully acknowledges the donors to this fund, for their support.

The Liver Meeting® 2012 (continued)

Hyman J. Zimmerman Hepatotoxicity State-of-the-Art Lecture

Neil Kaplowitz, MD delivered a lecture titled *Mitochondria and Drug-induced Liver Injury* that provided an overview of the regulation of mitochondrial function and its role in the pathogenesis of hepatotoxicity.

The annual presentation of this lecture continues to recognize Dr. Zimmerman's contributions to the field by providing valuable insights on liver toxicity and injury. A restricted fund has been established to support the lecture in perpetuity and AASLD gratefully acknowledges Eli Lilly and Company for their generous support of this program.

President's Choice Lecture

The President's Choice lecture *Hepatitis B: A Journey from 1982 to 2012*, delivered by Anna S.F. Lok, MD, discussed the progress in prevention

and management of hepatitis B from 1982 to 2012, including the success of vaccines and antiviral therapy and the yet unresolved issues from the perspective of the speaker who began her career in 1982 and who devoted most of the last 3 decades to hepatitis B research.



Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Special Interest Groups were formed in November 2007. Since their inception, groups have developed and progressed on separate agendas. In 2009 SIGs evolved beyond their original goals of producing educational programs for The Liver Meeting®. Several groups have also ventured into research development. This will mean greater exchange and involvement for their members and future advancement in the field of hepatology. Six SIGs developed and presented programs at The Liver Meeting®2012. These programs were harmonized with the abstract sessions and created poster tours in a virtual environment. In 2012 the Liver Cell Biology in Hepatic Disease SIG launched. There are currently 2,258 SIG members that participate in the following groups:

- Acute on Chronic Liver Failure
CHAIR: Jasmohan Bajaj, MD
- Cholestatic Liver Disorders
CHAIR: Saul J. Karpen, MD, PhD
- Hepatitis B
CHAIR: Brian J. McMahon, MD
- Hepatitis C
CHAIR: Michael W. Fried, MD
- Hepatobiliary Neoplasia
Chair: Morris Sherman, MD, PhD
- Hepatotoxicity
CHAIR: Robert J. Fontana, MD
- Liver Cell Biology in Hepatic Disease
CHAIR: Mark A. McNiven, PhD
- Liver Fibrosis
CHAIR: Natalie Torok, MD
- Liver Transplantation and Surgery
CHAIR: David C. Mulligan, MD
- Pediatric Liver Disorders
CHAIR: Regino Gonzalez-Peralta, MD
- Portal Hypertension
CHAIR: Michael B. Fallon, MD
- Steatosis and Steatohepatitis
CHAIR: Naga P. Chalasani, MD

Single Topic Conferences

In 2012, three Single Topic Conferences (STC) and one Emerging Trends Conference (ETC) were conducted.

1. Clinical STC: Acetaminophen Poisoning
2. Basic STC: Mitochondria and Hepatotoxicity
3. Hepatitis STC: HCV Direct Antiviral Agents (DAA): Concepts, Development, and Optimal Use
4. ETC: Emerging Trends in Liver Imaging

Attendee evaluations suggested the meetings provided good value and would like to see AASLD continue and possibly expand its STC offerings. Most attendees felt the conferences were free of commercial bias (87%), and 79% of the respondents agreed the conferences built new research collaborations and gained new research ideas.

Digestive Disease Week

DDW is sponsored through the partnership of four leading medical societies focused on the digestive system: AASLD, American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), and The Society for Surgery of the

Alimentary Tract (SSAT). As a sponsoring society with a strong presence and an excellent liver and biliary tract education program, AASLD's successful liver-specific sessions include state-of-the-art presentations, clinical symposia, presidential plenaries, research fora, poster presentations, and a Research Highlights session devoted to Hepatology: The Year in Review.

AASLD Curriculum & Training: *ACT-on-HCV*

Launched at The Liver Meeting® *ACT on HCV* includes five modules which are interactive, case-based discussions that participants can respond to and use to obtain guidance on real-life clinical scenarios. This program provides practical strategies for managing patients with HCV and is designed to increase the confidence and competence of healthcare professionals who are new to providing care for patients with HCV. The AASLD Hepatology Associates Committee was charged with developing this curriculum to support the core education, understanding, and ability of this expanded group of healthcare professionals.



LiverLearning®

AASLD is expanding its online educational presence and has developed and launched a website to deliver future and existing content. LiverLearning has become “The Official E-learning Portal of AASLD”. This portal brings together all online educational materials in a streamlined and searchable format, configured to allow the user to access every type of content AASLD has to offer.

Collaboration

AASLD's *Strategic Plan* devotes a goal to collaboration with other U.S. and international professional organizations to achieve mutual goals. This goal directs AASLD to expand its impact on education, research, training and therapy of liver disease by collaborating with related societies and organizations. AASLD actively seeks cooperative ventures with appropriate national, regional and international organizations in order to pursue projects of mutual interest. These interactions are meant to be mutually beneficial and increase our ability to fulfill our vision and mission of treating and curing liver disease.

2012 collaborative efforts included:

Alpha-1 Foundation

Research Grants

American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM)

Competency-based Curriculum
Transplant Hepatology Certification
Liaison Committee on Recertification
Hepatology Knowledge Module

American College of Gastroenterology (ACG)

Practice Guidelines
Training Directors Workshop

American College of Physicians (ACP)

Subspecialty Advisory Group on Socioeconomic Affairs
Council of Subspecialty Societies

American College of Radiology

Participants in the Emerging Trends Conference on Liver Imaging

American Gastroenterological Association (AGA)

Digestive Disease Week
Academic Skills Workshop
Training Directors Workshop

American Liver Foundation (ALF)

Support for Liver Scholar Research Awards
Combined awards selection committee 2012

American Medical Association

Physicians Consortium for Practice Improvement (PCPI)

American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)

GI Cancers Symposium, content advisor

American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE)

Digestive Disease Week
The Liver Meeting®

American Subspecialty Professors (ASP)

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
Co-sponsored the Hepatitis Single Topic Conference on *Chronic Viral Hepatitis Strategies to Improve Effectiveness of Screening and Treatment*
Co-sponsored the AASLD/CDC Corner on *Global Perspectives on Viral Hepatitis*

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
Co-sponsored the Summer Research Conference on *Liver Biology: Fundamental Mechanisms & Translational Applications*

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Co-sponsored the Hepatotoxicity Meeting *Why DILI Idiosyncrasy? The Immune System and Beyond*

International Liver Disease Associations

European Association for the Study of the Liver
Asian-Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver
International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care
Latin-American Association for the Study of the Liver
International Association for Hepatic Encephalopathy and Nitrogen Metabolism

International Liver Transplantation Society (ILTS)

The Liver Meeting®
Liver Transplantation Journal

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

NIDDK
NIAAA and NIDA (Scientific Management Review Board)
NCI
NIAID—Co-sponsored the AASLD/NIAID NIH Corner on *Viral Hepatitis: Past Present and Future*

North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (NASPGHAN)

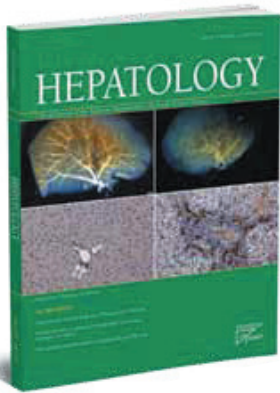
The Liver Meeting®
Digestive Disease Week

Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT)

Digestive Disease Week

United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS)

Journals



HEPATOLOGY

The premier publication in the field of liver disease, **HEPATOLOGY** publishes original, peer reviewed articles concerning all aspects of liver structure, function, and disease. Each month, the distinguished Editorial Board monitors and selects only the best articles on

subjects such as immunology, chronic hepatitis, viral hepatitis, cirrhosis, genetic and metabolic liver diseases and their complications, liver cancer, and drug metabolism.

2012 EDITOR: Michael H. Nathanson, MD



LIVER TRANSPLANTATION

Since the first application of liver transplantation in a clinical situation was reported more than twenty years ago, there has been a great deal of growth in this field and more is anticipated. As an official publication of AASLD and the ILTS, *Liver Transplantation*

delivers current, peer-reviewed articles on surgical techniques, clinical investigations and drug research—the information necessary to keep abreast of this evolving specialty.

2012 EDITORS: John R. Lake, MD;
John P. Roberts, MD

Clinical Practice Guidelines

AASLD develops clinical practice guidelines supported by a high level of scientific evidence to assist practitioner and patient decisions about appropriate health care for specific clinical circumstances. Where published information is insufficient to make strongly evidence-based recommendations, the state of the art of current practice based on descriptive reports and expert opinions are published as position papers. AASLD has published 16 practice guidelines and two position papers which are updated regularly at www.aasld.org and rewritten and published in the society's journals every five years.

In recent years, AASLD has partnered with several societies to develop practice guidelines under the oversight of the Practice Guidelines Committee. Letters of Agreement define the terms of collaboration which include representation on the writing group, review of each draft, and concurrent publication in each society's journal. Related societies expressing interest in endorsing AASLD guidelines are provided early drafts for review and approval.

PUBLISHED

- Diagnosis and Management of Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (in collaboration with the American College of Gastroenterology and the American Gastroenterological Association)
- Long-Term Management of the Successful Adult Liver Transplant (in collaboration with the American Society of Transplantation)

APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION

- Long Term Medical Management of the Pediatric Patient following Liver Transplantation (in collaboration with the American Society of Transplantation and endorsement by the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition)
- Update of Management of Adult Patients with Ascites due to Cirrhosis

IN DEVELOPMENT

- Evaluation of the Adult Patient for Liver Transplantation (in collaboration with the American Society of Transplantation)
- Evaluation of the Pediatric Patient for Liver Transplantation (in collaboration with the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition and the American Society of Transplantation)
- Diagnosis and Management of Hepatic Encephalopathy (in collaboration with the European Association for the Study of the Liver)



CLINICAL LIVER DISEASE (CLD)

CLD is the latest online learning resource of AASLD. Clinical in focus,

CLD blends text, audio, video, webinars, and other interactive content into educational interventions launched every two months. These interventions are designed for any physician or healthcare provider caring for a patient with liver disease.

2012 EDITOR: Michael R. Lucey, MD

EFFECT

The public policy agenda of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) continued to grow and evolve in 2012. As the role of the government has expanded with regard to medical practice and medical research, so have AASLD's interactions with the government and with other organizations. As you will read in the sections below, AASLD has been a significant and growing participant as key decisions are made at the White House, in Congress, and throughout government agencies.

Since 2009, the provision of healthcare has been a key issue dominating much of the attention of Congress and the administration. Similarly, policy and funding issues related to biomedical research have always been front and center. And, as we know, the impact of liver disease on the health of Americans has never been greater. Fortunately, the quality of treatments has been improving steadily, particularly with regard to viral hepatitis. AASLD's mission in this area is to ensure that public policies keep pace with scientific advancements and understanding.

The items highlighted below are just some of those on which we have worked and have had a significant impact.



Research

As always, advocating for increased funding for research is one of the main activities of AASLD during Liver Capitol Hill Day, as well as throughout the year. Funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) research is critically important to AASLD members—and to their patients.

In addition to funding issues, AASLD enjoyed a significant victory in 2012 when our three and one half year campaign in opposition to a short-sighted proposal to restructure two key institutes of NIH in a manner that would likely have significantly reduced alcohol-related liver disease research proved victorious. In December, the leadership of NIH announced that, rather than essentially merging the two institutes, it would instead assure better coordination in those areas of research where interests were similar while maintaining the integrity of the existing institutes. This led the effort to stop this plan.

On another front, AASLD was a strong advocate for passage of the Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act, which

will help to make additional funding available to research on those cancers that have a five year survival rate below fifty percent. Primary liver cancer currently has an eleven percent survival rate and we hope this legislation will lead to more breakthroughs in this area.

The goals associated with AASLD's public policy mission are too numerous to detail here. We continue to pursue all of our public policy priorities in a reasonable and measured way based on scientific evidence.

Patient Care

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta is the home of the Division of Viral Hepatitis. Funding for this important agency—the only element of CDC that currently addresses liver disease in any way—has been consistently inadequate. AASLD has worked with Congress and the administration and continues to seek additional funding to assure that CDC is able to bring its prevention and treatment messages about viral hepatitis to all fifty states.

With the implementation of the Affordable Healthcare Act (ACA) moving ahead in 2012, AASLD has increased its involvement substantially in the development of quality measures for physicians treating patients with liver disease. This complex process will have an important role in the future in assuring access to care for patients.

We have also continued to work closely with some of the leading officials at the Food and Drug Administration to assure that otherwise safe drugs are taken appropriately to reduce the incidence of liver toxicity among Americans from accidental overdoses. AASLD continues its involvement with regard to FDA action to improve acetaminophen safety. We continue to seek reasonable actions from the FDA to reduce the unacceptable levels of accidental overdose in this country.

Liver Capitol Hill Day

In 2012, AASLD sponsored its Fourth Annual Liver Capitol Hill Day (LCHD) on March 14, bringing together AASLD member-physicians, some of their patients, and representatives of six patient advocacy organizations in a day of meetings with Senate and House members and staff, advocating for increased research funding and better patient care. The 60 advocates conducted more than 80 meetings on Capitol Hill, working in teams that combined patients and physicians.

We fully expect that our program will be continued and expanded on March 13, 2013, when AASLD members and our partners from patient advocacy organizations will return to Capitol Hill for the Fifth Annual LCHD. The Association has made a strong commitment to keeping liver disease on the radar as Congress faces tough budget decisions. A significant part of this mission is to explain the long-term cost avoidance associated with diagnosing and treating all liver diseases—including viral hepatitis—at the earliest possible time. And the success of that effort depends on research.

Federal Agency Day

For the last five years, AASLD has undertaken a significant effort to expand its involvement with a broader spectrum of government agencies. In 2012, more than a dozen members of the AASLD leadership came to Washington to conduct meetings throughout the greater Washington DC area.

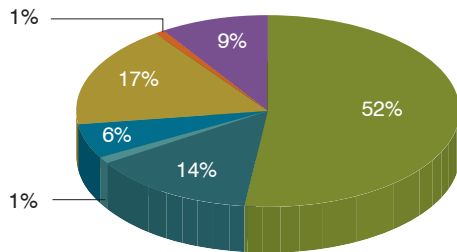
One team of AASLD leaders went to the NIH and met with the leadership of four different institutes (NIDDK, NIAID, NCI, NIAAA), as well as with the Principal Deputy Director of the NIH. The other team of leaders met with officials from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health; the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA); and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In 2013, we expect to build on this effort, possibly including additional or different agencies.



FINANCIALS

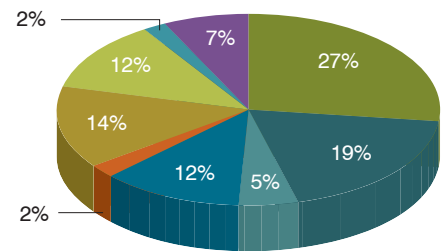
Revenue 2011

■ Annual Meeting	\$ 6,703,768
■ Awards & Grants	\$ 1,834,231
■ Communications, Professional Relations, Fundraising, & Other	\$ 141,246
■ Meetings & Education	\$ 716,515
■ Publications	\$ 2,265,291
■ Rental Income	\$ 188,970
■ Membership	\$ 1,137,657



Expenses 2011

■ Annual Meeting	\$ 3,051,936
■ Awards & Grants	\$ 2,080,464
■ Communications	\$ 547,799
■ Meetings & Education	\$ 1,355,643
■ Professional Relations	\$ 206,080
■ Publications	\$ 1,600,360
■ Leadership, IT & F&A	\$ 1,375,362
■ FR/Liver Research Fund	\$ 205,113
■ Membership	\$ 794,913



Assets

CURRENT ASSETS

	2011	2010
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 7,424,778	\$ 7,156,282
Investments—Reserve and Endowments	20,550,452	18,800,596
Investments—Liver Research Fund	5,751,327	4,431,288
Contributions receivable, current portion	1,153,575	1,112,075
Accounts receivable	610,288	750,610
Prepaid expenses	95,913	67,769
Total current assets	35,586,333	32,318,620

FIXED ASSETS

Office condominium	8,081,872	8,076,573
Furniture and equipment	412,145	380,042
	8,494,017	8,456,615
Less: Accumulated depreciation and amortization	(1,371,757)	(1,107,816)
Net fixed assets	7,122,260	7,348,799

OTHER ASSETS

Contributions receivable, net of current portion	652,640	1,197,015
Deferred financing cost, net of accumulated amortization	116,306	121,037
Deferred compensation investments	103,362	212,509
Deposits	89,673	104,580
Total other assets	961,981	1,635,141
Total assets	\$43,670,574	\$41,302,560

Liabilities and net assets

CURRENT LIABILITIES

	2011	2010
Current portion of notes payable	\$ 163,346	\$ 215,575
Current portion of bonds payable	100,000	100,000
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,658,960	591,916
Deferred revenue:		
Membership dues	718,058	751,805
Meeting registrations and exhibits	37,705	1,470
Grants and awards payable	1,226,657	991,907
Total current liabilities	3,904,726	2,652,673

LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Notes payable, net of current portion	3,587,205	3,750,552
Bonds payable, net of current portion	3,400,000	3,500,000
Interest rate swap obligation	2,461,185	1,441,641
Deferred compensation liability	103,362	212,509
Total long term liabilities	9,551,752	8,904,702
Total liabilities	13,456,478	11,557,375

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted		
Undesignated	16,084,209	18,492,510
Board designated	5,887,742	2,554,150
Total unrestricted	21,971,951	21,046,660
Temporarily restricted	4,180,295	4,636,675
Permanently restricted	4,061,850	4,061,850
Total net assets	30,214,096	29,745,185
Total liabilities and net assets	\$43,670,574	\$41,302,560

	2011			2010	
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Total
Revenue					
Annual Meeting	\$ 6,563,768	\$ 140,000	\$ -	\$ 6,703,768	\$ 6,308,468
Meetings and Education	634,015	82,500	-	716,515	554,874
Membership Dues	1,137,657	-	-	1,137,657	1,091,299
Professional Relations	16,530	10,000	-	26,530	74,828
Publications, Hepatology and Liver Transplantation Journals	2,265,291	-	-	2,265,291	2,305,938
Research and Fellowship Awards	218,481	1,615,750	-	1,834,231	1,121,875
Rental income	188,970	-	-	188,970	258,379
In kind contribution	6,900	-	-	6,900	1,000
Communications	50,000	-	-	50,000	-
Fundraising Campaign/Liver Research	56,916	-	-	56,916	148,897
Other	900	-	-	900	-
Net assets released from donor restrictions	1,909,705	(1,909,705)	-	-	-
Total revenue	13,049,133	(61,455)	-	12,987,678	11,865,558
Expenses					
Program Services:					
Annual Meeting	3,051,936	-	-	3,051,936	2,620,925
Professional Relations	206,080	-	-	206,080	329,239
Publication Journals	1,600,360	-	-	1,600,360	1,274,533
Communications	547,799	-	-	547,799	633,064
Research and Fellowship Awards	2,080,464	-	-	2,080,464	1,718,690
Meetings and Education	1,355,643	-	-	1,355,643	1,223,505
Total program services	8,842,282	-	-	8,842,282	7,799,956
Supporting Services:					
Governance, Executive and Administration	1,375,362	-	-	1,375,362	1,402,302
Membership Development and Website	794,913	-	-	794,913	716,632
Fundraising	205,113	-	-	205,113	214,916
Total supporting services	2,375,388	-	-	2,375,388	2,333,850
Total expenses	11,217,670	-	-	11,217,670	10,133,806
Change in net assets before other items	1,831,463	(61,455)	-	1,770,008	1,731,752
Other Items					
Investment (loss) income	(215,220)	(66,333)	-	(281,553)	2,698,783
Unrealized loss on interest rate swap obligation	(1,019,544)	-	-	(1,019,544)	(171,770)
Transfer of assets	328,592	(328,592)	-	-	-
Change in net assets	925,291	(456,380)	-	468,911	4,258,765
Net assets at beginning of year	21,046,660	4,636,675	4,061,850	29,745,185	25,486,4200
Net assets at end of year	\$21,971,951	\$4,180,295	\$4,061,850	\$30,214,096	\$29,745,185

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