



NEWS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF LIVER DISEASES

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Board's Loss



John M. Vierling, MD I want to announce a major change in leadership on the Governing Board of AASLD. Dr. Teresa Wright, our immediate Past-President, accepted the position as Chief Medical Officer for Roche Molecular Systems, effective March 1. Recognizing conflicts of interest involved in her new professional position, Dr. Wright concluded that it was in the best interest of AASLD that she resign from the Governing Board and relinquish her duties as Past-President.

At our February meeting, the Governing Board accepted Dr. Wright's letter of resignation with regret but also with heartfelt appreciation for all her years of dedicated service to AASLD. Although we will miss her wise counsel on the Governing Board, we sincerely wish Dr. Wright success in her new quest to develop and validate novel diagnostic tools.

As you know, the primary responsibility of the Past-President is to chair the nominating committee,
(See **PRESIDENT**, p. 8)

Thomas E. Starzl Awarded a 2004 National Medal of Science

Thomas E. Starzl, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, has been awarded a 2004 National Medal of Science by President George W. Bush in recognition of his work in liver transplantation and his discoveries in immunosuppressive medicine that progressed the field of organ transplantation.

Dr. Starzl was born in LeMars, Iowa, and received his bachelor's degree in biology from Westminster College in

Fulton, Missouri. In 1950 he earned his master's degree in anatomy from Northwestern University Medical School and by 1952 had a doctoral degree in neurophysiology and a medical degree. Dr. Starzl next pursued his interest in surgery and research with a fellowship and residencies at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, the University of Miami, and the Veterans Administration Research Hospital in Chicago. He was

(See **MEDAL**, p. 4)



Thomas E. Starzl is presented with a 2004 National Medal of Science by President George W. Bush.

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The Liver Meeting™ 2006

THE 57th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF LIVER DISEASES

Boston

Call for Abstracts

Share your research data

with hepatologists and hepatology health professionals from around the world at the field's must-attend event. Submit your original abstract for consideration and inclusion in The Liver Meeting™—AASLD's 57th Annual Meeting & Postgraduate Course—the premier meeting in the science and practice of hepatology—where the cutting edge in the study and treatment of liver and biliary disease is defined.

Beginning in April, 2006, you can complete and submit your abstract via the Internet (no other options for abstract submission will be available). Go to www.aasld.org for complete, easy-to-follow instructions.

SUBMISSION FEE - \$60 EACH

Payment must accompany each abstract and is non-refundable. Abstracts will not be considered unless payment is provided.

PRESENTATION PREFERENCE

When submitting your abstract, be sure to indicate your presentation preference: **POSTER ONLY** – if accepted, your abstract will be designated as a poster presentation. **EITHER ORAL OR POSTER** – if accepted, your abstract will be considered for an oral presentation or a poster presentation.

REVIEW AND NOTIFICATION

All abstracts are blinded for peer review and ranked on the basis of scientific merit by experts in the category selected. The AASLD Scientific Program Committee, chaired by the AASLD President and Secretary, develops the final meeting program using these rankings. You will be notified in August, 2006, whether or not your abstract has been accepted for presentation. In September, you will be able to check the status of your abstract at www.aasld.org.

LATE BREAKING ABSTRACTS - SUBMISSION FEE - \$250 EACH

Original abstracts of truly late-breaking scientific research that was conducted after June 7, 2006, will be accepted August 1 – 8, 2006. Only a limited number of abstracts may be selected for oral presentation based on scientific merit, timeliness, and interest to AASLD's membership and attendees. A special panel of peer reviewers will review the late-breaking abstracts and the corresponding author will be notified of the abstract status by September 1. Go to www.aasld.org for additional criteria and requirements.

AASLD ABSTRACT EMBARGO POLICY

Accepted abstracts are made available to the public on the AASLD Web site and are published in a special supplement of *HEPATOLOGY* in advance of the meeting. Information contained in those abstracts may not be released until the abstracts appear on the AASLD Web site.

Academic institutions, private organizations and companies with products whose value may be influenced by information contained in an abstract may issue a press release to coincide with the availability of an abstract on the AASLD Web site. However, AASLD requires information that goes beyond that contained in the abstract, e.g., discussion of the abstract done as part of a scientific presentation or presentation of additional or new information that will be available at the time of the meeting, is under embargo from release to the general public until October 27, 2006, the first day of the meeting. Information released prior to this day is a violation of the AASLD Abstract Embargo Policy and the abstract is subject to withdrawal from The Liver Meeting™ program. Authors are responsible for notifying financial and other sponsors about this policy.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE STUDY OF LIVER DISEASES



All abstract presenters must register for The Liver Meeting™

Submission Deadline: June 7, 2006

Controversies in Management of Pediatric Liver Disease Explored at AASLD Hepatitis Single Topic Conference

Approaches to managing and treating the most common liver diseases in children fueled discussion and debate at the AASLD Hepatitis Single Topic Conference *Controversies in the Management of Pediatric Liver Disease: Hepatitis B, C and NAFLD* held March 3 and 4 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Although hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) are the most common liver diseases in children, there are not currently specific guidelines for pediatric patients as there are with adults, according to course director Benjamin L. Schneider, MD.

"Because there are not clear-cut guidelines for children with these diseases, there was a great deal of discussion about complicated issues," said Dr. Schneider. "We raised some very important questions, and while we could not answer them all, we left with much food for thought."

With limited evidence-based approaches to the management of these disorders in children, significant controversy exists about the optimal methods of management. The goals of the conference included the understanding of the natural history of hepatitis B, C, and NAFLD in children, the understanding of current and potential future approaches to treatment, and the understanding of current approaches to the treatment in adults in relation to the care of children.

As a first-time STC director, Dr. Schneider noted the key to a successful program was the interaction of the participants.

"There was equal participation relative to the speakers and attendees," he said. "Our informal case conference led to some very active discussions and introduced a range of clinical approaches from many experienced colleagues in the field."

Meeting its goal of approximately 70 attendees, the STC attracted those from academia, clinical practice, industry, and the FDA. In addition to Dr. Schneider, Regino P. González-Peralta, MD and Eve A. Roberts, MD, co-directed the course.

AASLD's next single topic conference will be held June 9–11 in Warrenton, Virginia.

This program was supported by the AASLD/Roche Pharmaceuticals Hepatitis Single Topic Conference Endowment.

Future Meetings of Related Societies

The UNOS *Transplant Management Forum* presents the UNOS 14th Annual Transplant Management Forum April 24–26, 2006, at the Westin St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco, California.

Further information:
edmistel@unos.org

The Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons presents their annual scientific session and postgraduate course April 26–29, 2006, at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel in Dallas, Texas.

Further information:
<http://www.sages.org/meetinginfo.html>

The 41st Annual Meeting of the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) will take place in Vienna, Austria, April 26–30, 2006.

Further information:
www.easl.ch/easl2006

The International Association for the Study of the Liver (IASL) will hold its 24th biannual scientific meeting September 7–9, 2006 in Cairo, Egypt. The conference will be followed by the annual meeting of the **African Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AFASLD)** on September 10–11, 2006.

Deadline for abstract submission is March 15, 2006.

Further information:

<http://www.iasl2006.org/>
or contact the IASL office at iasl.office@stmugv.bayern.de.

The International Liver Transplantation Society presents their 12th Annual International Congress May 3–6, 2006, at the Milan Marriott Hotel, Milan, Italy.

Further information:
http://www.ilsts.org/meetings_future.html

The Second International Virgil Symposium on antiviral drug resistance will be held in Lyon, France, May 23, 2006.

Further information:
<http://www.virgil-net.org/>
For registration information, please contact Natacha Edme:
natacha.edme@tolbiac.inserm.fr

University of Minnesota 70th Annual Surgery Course *Advances in Hepatic, Biliary and Pancreatic Surgery* will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 14–17, 2006.

Further information:
<http://www.cme.umn.edu>

The EASL-AASLD Monothematic Conference *Genetics in Liver Diseases* will be held June 23–24 2006, in Modena, Italy.

Further information:
<http://www.easl-aasld-monothematic2006.org/>

ABIM Announces the First Transplant Hepatology CAQ Exam

The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) has announced the registration and exam dates for the first Transplant Hepatology Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) exam, which is scheduled for November 17, 2006. For the first three exam administrations (2006, 2008, and 2010), a "practice pathway" enables established practitioners without formal transplant hepatology training to sit for the exam.

ABIM certification is recognized throughout the world as signifying

excellence and demonstrates that vigorous standards have been met through intensive study, self-assessment, and evaluation. It also assures the public that the knowledge, experience, and skills required to provide high quality patient care have been attained.

To take the exam, visit the ABIM Web site at <http://www.abim.org/cert/aqthep.shtm> and register today. Be sure to register by May 1, 2006, to avoid late fees; the last date to register for this year's exam is June 1, 2006.

AASLD Transplant Hepatology CAQ Review Course is Scheduled

In preparation for the first Transplant Hepatology CAQ exam, you'll want to attend the AASLD Transplant Hepatology CAQ Review Course taking place September 16-17, 2006 in

Chicago, Illinois. The program of this comprehensive, up-to-date review course is specifically focused for those individuals taking the Certificate of Added Qualification Examination in Transplant Hepatology.

Course Directors:

Gregory J. Gores, MD; Ronald J. Sokol, MD; and Hugo R. Rosen, MD

Goals and Objectives:

- Review state-of-the-art information on the management of patients with end-stage liver disease awaiting liver transplantation.
- Review state-of-the-art information on the immediate and long-term management of patients undergoing liver transplantation.
- Review the current organ allocation policy and its implications for selecting potential liver transplant recipients.

Registration for the course will be available in mid-April this year. Watch the AASLD Web site and AASLD E-News for more details.

(MEDAL, from p. 1)

also named a Merkle Scholar in Medical Science, an annual honor recognizing only a small group of exceptionally promising young physicians.

After serving on the faculty of Northwestern University from 1958 to 1961, Dr. Starzl joined the University of Colorado School of Medicine as an associate professor in surgery in 1962. In 1964 he was promoted to professor and was named chairman of the department of surgery in 1972, a position he held until 1980.

While at the University of Colorado, Dr. Starzl's success with improving kidney transplants led him to complete the world's first human liver transplant in 1963 and the first successful liver transplant in 1967. His subsequent discoveries in immunosuppressive drugs advanced liver transplantation from an experimental procedure to an accepted form of treatment for patients with end-stage liver disease.

Dr. Starzl joined the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine as a professor of surgery in 1981. For ten years he served as chief of transplantation services at Presbyterian University Hospital, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and the Veterans Administration Hospital in Pittsburgh, overseeing the largest and busiest transplant program in the world. Dr. Starzl was then named director of the University of Pittsburgh Transplantation Institute, renamed the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute in 1996. He is currently director emeritus.

Established by Congress in 1959, the National Medal of Science is a Presidential Award given to individuals "deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to knowledge in the physical, biological, mathematical, or engineering sciences." The President appoints a committee of 12 scientists and engineers to evaluate the nominees for the award. Since its establishment, the National Medal of Science has been awarded to 417 distinguished scientists and engineers whose careers spanned decades of research and development.

Liver Transplantation's CAQ Corner Available Online at No Charge

In January 2005, *Liver Transplantation* debuted a section named "CAQ Corner" in an effort to amass study material for the Transplant Hepatology Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) exam. In conjunction with the AASLD Web site, these articles are now available free of charge in the Education section of AASLD.org.

expand your horizons

with The Liver MeetingSM 2005

ONLINE

at www.aasld.org

Missed a session you really wanted to attend at the 56th AASLD Annual Meeting in San Francisco?

Wish you could hear a speaker's lecture or view a presented poster?

Looking for web-based continuing medical education?

Access audio and slide presentations on the AASLD Web site NOW, including:

- 3 General Hepatology Update lectures
- 4 State-of-the-Art lectures
- Hepatology Associates Course
- 5 plenary sessions
- 32 parallel abstract sessions, including late-breaking abstracts
- Posters
- AASLD Postgraduate Course (Coming April 2006)

AASLD education—available any time, anywhere.

As the only medical society focused solely on the study and practice of hepatology, AASLD is YOUR resource for the latest liver disease research, information, and patient care education.


Expand your horizons at www.aasld.org.

As of December 7, 2005, The Liver MeetingSM 2005 Online is supported by educational grants from:

Platinum Supporter



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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE STUDY OF LIVER DISEASES

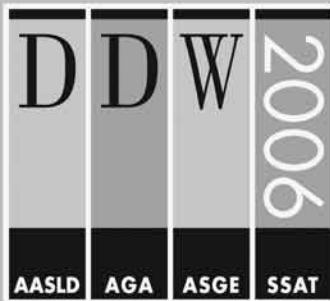


AASLD GUIDE TO LIVER SESSIONS AT DDW® 2006

MAY 20-25, 2006

LOS ANGELES CONVENTION CENTER

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



AASLD will provide an exciting up-to-date educational research program at Digestive Disease Week 2006. Throughout the four days that follow, AASLD will host clinical symposia covering the spectrum of hepatology, state-of-the-art lectures presenting the latest cutting-edge developments in the field, and plenary sessions in basic science and clinical hepatology.

AASLD, AGA, ASGE, and SSAT have also collaborated to select combined clinical symposia topics of broad interest that have direct educational value and clinical relevance. These multidisciplinary presentations by highly respected speakers will be of interest to both clinicians and basic scientists.

Along with AASLD's offerings at DDW®, and in response to the increasing presence that hepatology has within the practice of gastroenterology, AGA is also offering programs in liver disease, making more educational material available to all DDW® attendees and enhancing the discipline of hepatology. **All sessions are in the Los Angeles Convention Center (LACC). Exceptions: Meet-the-Professor luncheons are scheduled in the Marriott LA (MLA) or the Wilshire Grand (WG).**

SUNDAY, MAY 21

TIME	SESSION	HOTEL / ROOM #
8:00am – 5:00pm	DDW Poster Sessions	LACC West Hall A
8:30 – 10:00am	Presidential Plenary I (Clinical)	LACC 408A/B
10:00 – 11:00am	State-of-the-Art: Treatment of Portal Hypertension	LACC 408A/B
10:30am – Noon	Gene Expression and HBV Pathogenesis Research Fora	LACC 409A/B
10:30am – Noon	Cell Death, Oxidative Stress and Drug Toxicity Research Fora	LACC 411
10:30am – Noon	Metabolic Liver Disease, Including NAFLD	LACC 515A
2:15 – 3:45pm	Clinical Symposium: Treatment Options for Hepatitis C in Non-responders.	LACC 408A/B
2:15 – 3:45pm	Liver Cell Cancer Research Fora	LACC 409A/B
2:15 – 3:45pm	Mechanisms of Liver Injury and Repair Research Fora	LACC 411
2:15 – 3:45pm	Clinical Hepatitis: From Etiology to Therapy Research Fora	LACC 308A/B
2:15 – 3:45pm	NASH: Looking Into the Future with Genomics and Proteomics Topic Fora	LACC 301A/B
4:00 – 5:30pm	HCV Treatment I Topic Fora	LACC 408A/B
4:00 – 5:30pm	Stellate Cells and Fibrogenesis Topic Fora	LACC 409A/B
4:00 – 5:30pm	Liver Transplantation Topic Fora	LACC 411
4:00 – 5:30pm	Clinical Symposium: Cholestasis – Does Understanding Mechanism Lead to New Therapies? (Case Based)	LACC 308A/B

MONDAY, MAY 22

TIME	SESSION	HOTEL / ROOM #
8:00am – 5:00pm	DDW Poster Sessions	LACC West Hall A
8:30 – 10:00am	Presidential Plenary II (Basic/Translational)	LACC 408A/B
10:30 – 11:30am	State-of-the-Art: New Developments in HCV Therapy	LACC 408A/B
10:30am – Noon	Molecular Mechanisms and Treatment of Liver Disease Research Fora	LACC 409A/B
12:30 – 1:45pm	Meet-the-Professor: Complications of Portal Hypertension	MLA 302
12:30 – 1:45pm	Meet-the-Professor: NAFLD	MLA 304
12:30 – 1:45pm	Meet-the-Professor: Acute Liver Failure	MLA 301
12:30 – 1:45pm	Meet-the-Professor: Hepatocellular Carcinoma	MLA Concourse, Salon A
12:30 – 1:45pm	Meet-the-Professor: Autoimmune Hepatitis	MLA 307
12:30 – 1:45pm	Meet-the-Professor: Management of Variceal Bleeding	LACC 407
2:15 – 3:45pm	Clinical Symposium: Autoimmune Liver Disease for the Practicing GI	LACC 408 A/B
2:15 – 3:45pm	Clinical Symposium: Update on Pediatric Liver Transplantation (with NASPGHAN)	LACC 411
2:15 – 3:45pm	Portal Hypertension Topic Fora	LACC 409A/B
2:15 – 3:45pm	Clinical Symposium: Evidence for the Value of Prognostic Biochemical Tests in Liver Disease	LACC 501A/B/C
4:00 – 5:00pm	State-of-the-Art: Liver Transplant for HCC	LACC 408A/B
4:00 – 5:30pm	Liver-Biliary Distinguished Abstract Plenary Session	LACC 503
4:00 – 5:30pm	Combined Clinical Symposium: Primary Prophylaxis of Variceal Hemorrhage (AASLD, ASGE, AGA)	LACC Concourse Hall 152
4:00 – 5:30pm	Autoimmune and Cholestatic Disorders Topic Fora	LACC 409A/B
4:00 – 5:30pm	Experimental ASH and NASH Research Fora	LACC 411

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF LIVER DISEASES



TUESDAY, MAY 23

TIME	SESSION	HOTEL / ROOM #
8:00am – 5:00pm	DDW Poster Sessions	LACC West Hall A
8:30 – 10:00am	Therapy of Hepatitis B Topic Fora	LACC 409A/B
8:30 – 10:00am	HCV Virology, Pathogenesis and Treatment Research Fora	LACC 411
8:30 – 10:00am	Markers of Disease Topic Fora	LACC 404A/B
9:00 – 10:00am	State-of-the-Art: Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease	LACC 408A/B
10:30am – Noon	Clinical Symposium: Evaluation of Liver Masses	LACC 408A/B
10:30am – Noon	Combined Clinical Symposium: Treatment of Extrahepatic Manifestations of Hepatitis C (AASLD, AGA)	LACC Concourse Hall 151
10:30am – Noon	Clinical NASH Research Fora	LACC 409A/B
10:30am – Noon	HCV: Epidemiology, Natural History, Diagnosis Topic Fora	LACC 411
10:30am – Noon	Bile Formation and Gallstone Stone Pathogenesis Research Fora	LACC 305
12:30 – 1:45pm	Meet-the-Professor: Drug-induced Liver Injury	MLA 301
12:30 – 1:45pm	Meet-the-Professor: HCV Treatment	MLA 303
12:30 – 1:45pm	Meet-the-Professor: HBV Treatment	MLA 302
12:30 – 1:45pm	Meet-the-Professor: Hemochromatosis – From Screening to Pathogenesis to Therapy	WG Doheny
12:30 – 1:45pm	Meet-the-Professor: Controversies in Liver Biopsies – Who? When? How? Why?	MLA 305
2:15 – 3:45pm	Clinical Symposium: Vascular Diseases of the Liver	LACC 409A/B
2:15 – 3:45pm	Clinical Symposium: Hepatic Fibrogenesis – Mechanisms, Surrogate Markers and Therapeutics	LACC 411
2:15 – 3:45pm	HCV Treatment II Topic Fora	LACC 408A/B
2:15 – 3:15pm	State-of-the-Art: The Metabolic Syndrome	LACC 503
4:00 – 5:00pm	State-of-the-Art: Hepatitis B Update	LACC 408A/B
4:00 – 5:30pm	Combined Clinical Symposium: Surgery in the Cirrhotic Patient (AASLD, SSAT)	LACC Concourse Hall 151
4:00 – 5:30pm	Clinical Symposium: Liver Disease in Pregnancy	LACC 409A/B
4:00 – 5:30pm	Cholesterol Gallstones: From Genes to Microbes Research Symposium	LACC 513

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

TIME	SESSION	HOTEL / ROOM #
8:00am – 5:00pm	DDW Poster Sessions	LACC West Hall A
10:30am – Noon	Combined Clinical Symposium: Care of the Liver Transplant Patient in Non-transplant Centre (AGA, AASLD, SSAT)	LACC Concourse Hall 151
12:30 – 1:45pm	Meet-the-Professor: Treatment of Refractory Autoimmune Hepatitis	MLA 303
12:30 – 1:45pm	Meet-the-Professor: Alcoholic Liver Disease	MLA 301
12:30 – 1:45pm	Meet-the-Professor: Cholestatic Liver Disease	MLA 302
12:30 – 1:45pm	Meet-the-Professor: Management of the Patient with a Fatty Liver	WG Brentwood
12:30 – 1:45pm	Meet-the-Professor: New Therapies for Chronic Hepatitis C	MLA Caucus

2006 SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

EASL 41st Annual Meeting

April 26-30, 2006
Vienna, Austria

The Liver Meeting®

Abstracts Submission Deadline
June 7, 2006

THE HENRY M. AND LILLIAN STRATTON BASIC RESEARCH SINGLE TOPIC CONFERENCE Hepatic Fibrosis

June 9-11, 2006
The Airlie Center
Warrenton, Virginia

EASL/AASLD MONOTHEMATIC CONFERENCE Genetic Liver Diseases

June 23-24, 2006
Modena, Italy

CLINICAL RESEARCH SINGLE TOPIC CONFERENCE

Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis

September 7-9, 2006
Emory Conference Center
Atlanta, Georgia

CERTIFICATE OF ADDED QUALIFICATION (CAQ) IN TRANSPLANT HEPATOLOGY REVIEW COURSE

September 16-17, 2006
Westin O'Hare
Chicago, Illinois

57TH AASLD ANNUAL MEETING

The Liver Meeting®
October 27-31, 2006
Hynes Convention Center
Boston, Massachusetts

2006 POSTGRADUATE COURSE

Liver Diseases: Mechanisms of Liver Injury and Emerging Therapies

October 27-28, 2006
Hynes Convention Center
Boston, Massachusetts

SINGLE TOPIC CONFERENCE

Endpoints in Clinical Trials for Hepatocellular Carcinoma

December 8-9, 2006
Emory Conference Center
Atlanta, Georgia

LOCATION KEY

LACC = Los Angeles Convention Center

MLA = Marriott LA

WG = Wilshire Grand

Schedule subject to change. Please confirm times, locations, and speakers in final program.

(Please note that AASLD's sessions are highlighted)

(PRESIDENT, from p. 1)

which annually recommends candidates for councilor and councilor-at-large to the Governing Board. The Governing Board and I are very pleased that Dr. Anthony Tavill has accepted our invitation to serve as chair of the 2006 nominating committee in late March. Dr. Tavill brings to the task both his imprimatur as the elected chair of the AASLD ethics committee and the broad perspectives of a past-president.

Two other areas of great importance to AASLD members deserve comment. The first is the upcoming CAQ review course and inaugural ABIM CAQ examination. The review course, to be held in Chicago on September 16-17, is jointly sponsored by AASLD, ILTS, AST, and NASPGHAN, which testifies to the multi-societal commitment to the success of the CAQ.

The course, co-chaired by Drs. Hugo Rosen, Ronald Sokol, and Gregory Gores, will provide a comprehensive review of transplant hepatology. The first ABIM CAQ examination in transplant hepatology is scheduled for November 17 at over 200 centers. The first 3 CAQ exams (2006, 2008, and 2010) will be open to individuals with practice experience in the field who have not taken a formal CAQ fellowship.

I hope you will visit AASLD.org to review our recently updated materials.

AASLD Members On The Move

Are you moving to a new institution? Have you received a promotion or honor? AASLD NEWS wants to hear from you. Simply email your news to lprice@asld.org and in the next issue we will include you in our new column, Members On The Move.

The Web site includes information published in the CAQ Corner of *Liver Transplantation*. We are most grateful for the leadership of the editors of *Liver Transplantation*, Drs. Jorge Rakela and John Fung, for the creation of the CAQ Corner and for the diligent efforts of senior associate editor, Dr. Hugo Vargas, in producing each month's column. Since the content of the monthly CAQ Corner is an invaluable educational resource for those taking the upcoming CAQ exam, as well as anyone interested in transplant hepatology, we have made it accessible to everyone who visits the AASLD Web site.

AASLD's mission to promote the science and practice of hepatology and liver transplantation requires a persistent

focus on increasing public and private funding for research and for the career development of investigators beginning their academic careers. As you know, the Liver Scholars program of the American Liver Foundation (ALF) has been extraordinarily successful in facilitating the successful career development of junior faculty and retaining the awardees in academics. Since support for the career development of academicians in hepatology and liver transplantation is a prominent feature of our strategic plan, AASLD has increased substantially its commitment by supporting increasing numbers of Liver Scholars at a level of \$75,000 a year for 3 years. By supporting Liver Scholar awards administered by the ALF, both organizations have achieved a synergy of purpose with the least overhead and most direct benefit to awardees.

In addition to the three Liver Scholars currently supported by AASLD, the Governing Board voted to support two additional Liver Scholars beginning in 2006, in addition to continuing both the Sheila Sherlock and Jan Albrecht Awards, which are funded by Roche and Schering, respectively. AASLD will provide a total of \$787,500 to support liver research in 2006. More information is provided in a brief article on our funding of research on page 9 of this issue of NEWS. In the next issue of the newsletter, we will profile the recipients of the 2006 Liver Scholar awards.

Optimizing future ways of funding the next generation of investigators is a subject that is regularly discussed at AASLD Governing Board meetings, as is the prospect of broadening support for meritorious research proposals from established investigators. We are involved in a systematic analysis of our major fund raising capacity in order to support additional research in the future. At the same time, we are increasing our efforts in public policy and advocacy to secure additional appropriations for liver research, adopt NIDDK's Trans-NIH Action Plan for Liver Disease Research, and monitor the success rates of research applications in our discipline. Our goal is to achieve the research breakthroughs required to achieve AASLD's vision to prevent and cure liver disease.

April is National Donate Life Month

In an effort to increase public awareness of the crucial need for organ, tissue, marrow, and blood donation, April was designated as National Donate Life Month by President Bush in 2003. During this month, organizations and workplace partners across the United States will join with the Department of Health and Human Services to spotlight the life-saving gift of donation and to recognize past donors and their families.

The creation of National Donate Life Month stemmed from independent efforts across the nation to recognize

the generosity of organ and tissue donors. In 1983, the United States Congress requested the President to "issue a Proclamation designating April 22 through April 29, 1984, as National Organ Donation Awareness Week." However, one week did not prove sufficient and has since been lengthened to the month of April.

Communities nationwide will be celebrating National Donate Life Month with special events and fundraisers. For more information, please visit <http://www.organdonor.gov/>.

Make a Contribution to Honor the Founder of Modern Clinical Transplantation, Dr. Thomas E. Starzl

In 2004, AASLD established an annual Transplant State-of-the-Art Lecture in honor of Dr. Thomas E. Starzl. This lecture specifically recognizes the pioneering work that he and his colleagues have done to elevate liver transplantation from an experimental procedure to one which saves thousands of lives annually.

AASLD's state-of-the-art lectures are distinct annual events at The Liver Meeting® where top scientists in their field are personally chosen and invited by the AASLD President to present on a specific area of hepatobiliary research. AASLD established an endowed fund to support the AASLD Starzl Transplant State-of-the-Art Lecture in perpetuity.

In recognition of Dr. Starzl's most recent and prestigious award, AASLD invites you to make a contribution to support this endowment honoring "The Founder of Modern Clinical Transplantation." The generosity of your tax deductible contribution will be recognized in all printed materials produced in conjunction with The Liver Meeting® and the Starzl Transplant State-of-the-Art Lecture.

AASLD's goal for this endowment is \$100,000 and \$44,850 has been received to date. Your contribution will ensure that future transplant scientists have a distinct platform to provide their valuable insights at the annual Liver Meeting. Contributions, payable to AASLD, can be sent to AASLD, Attn: Starzl State-of-the-Art Lecture, 1729 King Street, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314.

AASLD gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and organization that have generously contributed to this fund:

Astellas Pharma US, Inc.
Clyde F. Barker, MD
Adel Bozorgzadeh, MD
Pradip Chakrabarti, MD

Chao-Long Chen, MD
David K. C. Cooper, MD
Bijan Eghtesad, MD
Ira J. Fox, MD
John J. Fung, MD, PhD
Ashokkumar B. Jain, MD
Zakiyah Kadry, MD
Dympna Kelly, MD

Charles M. Miller, MD
Ernesto P. Molmenti, MD
Michael C. Morris, MD
Eduardo A. Santiago-Delpin, MD
Byers W. Shaw, Jr., MD
Cynthia A. Smetanka, MD
Lewis Teperman, MD
Paul Terasaki, MD

AASLD Announces Recipients of 2006 Research Awards

The 2006 research awards sponsored by AASLD and the American Liver Foundation (ALF) are proud to announce the recipients of the Jan Albrecht Commitment to Clinical Research in Liver Diseases award, the Liver Scholar awards, and the Shelia Sherlock Clinical and Translational Research in Liver Diseases awards.

George N. Ioannou, BMBCH, MS, University of Washington, has been awarded the Jan Albrecht Commitment to Clinical Research in Liver Diseases award for his project "Liver Transplantation for Hepatocellular Carcinoma in the MELD Allocation Era." The award grants \$75,000 per year for two years.

Lynette A. Gillis, MD, Vanderbilt University, and Li Wang, PhD, The University of Kansas Medical Center, have been named AASLD/ALF Liver Scholars. The award grants \$75,000 per year for three years for Gillis' project "Mitochondrial Short-Chain 3-Hydroxyacyl-CoA Dehydrogenase in Hyperinsulinism and Hepatic Steatosis," and Wang's project "Nuclear Receptor SHP-Mediated

Regulation of Hepatic Lipid Homeostasis."

Ningling Kang-Decker, PhD, has been awarded the Shelia Sherlock Clinical and Translational Research in Liver Diseases award for the project "Mechanism of Nitric Oxide Inhibition of Hepatic Stellate Cell Migration in Liver Metastasis of Pancreatic Cancer." Also awarded was Ravi R. Jhaveri, MD, for the project "Investigating the Pathogenesis of Steatosis in Hepatitis C Genotype 3 Infection." The Sherlock award grants \$75,000 per year for two years.

Continuing to utilize the 2005 Jan Albrecht award, Scott W. Biggins, MD, The University of California, San Francisco, is researching "Selection Bias in Replantation Survival Models: The Impact of Listing Criteria."

AASLD congratulates the recipients of the 2006 research awards. In 2006, AASLD will provide a total of \$787,500 to support research. AASLD gratefully acknowledges the sponsorship of Schering-Plough and Roche Pharmaceuticals.

The Henry M. & Lillian Stratton Basic Research SINGLE TOPIC CONFERENCE

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Hepatic Fibrosis

THE AIRLIE CONFERENCE CENTER • WARRENTON, VIRGINIA
JUNE 9-11, 2006

There has been tremendous progress in understanding hepatic fibrosis since the last AASLD Single Topic Conference devoted to this topic in 2000. Clarification of the cellular biology of hepatic fibrosis progression and regression and molecular events underlying its pathogenesis have led to novel means of diagnosis of liver fibrosis and to the development of antifibrotic therapies. The program directly addresses these areas by stimulating interactions among clinicians, basic scientists, and representatives from the pharmaceutical industry who are developing antifibrotic drugs in preclinical and clinical studies. The meeting will provide a blueprint for research, diagnosis, and treatment of hepatic fibrosis, the most prevalent consequence of chronic liver disease worldwide.

Target Audience

Hepatologists (clinician investigators and laboratory scientists), clinical and basic research trainees, pharmaceutical and biotech investigators

Goals and Objectives

- Highlight advances in the biology of hepatic fibrosis and mechanisms underlying fibrosis regression.
- Define key elements of hepatic fibrosis diagnosis and clinical evaluation.
- Formulate principles and practice of antifibrotic trials in patients with liver disease.

Expected Outcomes

Participants will:

- Understand more about how basic biology has led to novel approaches to diagnosis and treatment of fibrosis.
- Share ideas and unpublished data to define new directions in research and priorities for progress in the field.
- Have an appreciation of key elements important to fibrosis clinical trial design.

For more information, go to www.aasld.org or contact AASLD
at 703-299-9766, fax 703-299-9622, or aasld@aasld.org

IN MEMORIAM

Peter J. Scheuer

By Jay Lefkowitz, MD



Professor Peter J. Scheuer, longtime AASLD member and supporter, and a leading international expert on liver pathology, died of pancreatic cancer at his home in London on Wednesday, March 1, 2006.

At the time of his death, Peter was Professor Emeritus of Histopathology at the Royal Free and University College Medical School of University College London. His medical training was at the Royal Free Hospital which remained his home base for an over 50-year career during which he wrote more than 300 papers and collaborated extensively with hepatologists in the famed Liver Unit, notably with the late Professor Dame Sheila Sherlock with whom he wrote some of the seminal papers on primary biliary cirrhosis.

Scheuer was a member of AASLD, IASL, EASL, and the Hans Popper Society, for all of which he was a frequently invited guest lecturer. During the past few years he gave lectures and seminars in the UK, USA, Germany, France, Italy, Denmark, South Africa, Egypt, the Netherlands, Belgium, Slovenia, Hong Kong, and Japan. His acute microscopic diagnostic skills and concise and well-organized writing style were endowments he successfully combined in his textbook "Liver Biopsy Interpretation," published in 1968, the first such textbook available for this specialty. The most recent 7th edition, with co-author Jay Lefkowitz at Columbia University in New York, was published in late 2005.

The Scheuer liver pathology lab at the Royal Free hosted scores of visiting trainees from across the globe. They

experienced firsthand his warm and generous personality, his exceptional support of younger colleagues and ever-present enthusiasm for new techniques, up-to-date data on liver disease, and developing new projects. While his writings covered the breadth of liver disease, among his classic publications were papers on histological grading of iron in liver tissue, hepatic granulomas, the pathology of hepatitis C, and a simple scoring system for chronic hepatitis (the latter two cited among the top 50 publications in liver pathology). He conceived the idea of separate "grading" and "staging" of the respective degrees of necroinflammation and fibrosis in chronic hepatitis and described a practical semi-quantitative system which is in wide use for assessing liver biopsies from patients with chronic hepatitis B and C.

From 1962 to 1963 Peter spent an important year studying in New York with the great liver pathologist Dr. Hans Popper of Mt. Sinai Medical Center. A longstanding friendship with Hans and his wife Lina ensued. Peter was, with Dr. Popper, among the founding members of a group of pathologists and clinicians interested in human liver morphology, which has met annually since 1967, familiarly known as "The Gnomes." Peter was also an honorary member of a similar, younger international group, "The Elves," founded by Drs. Neil Theise, Paul Dhillon, and Romano Colombari. He also was one of the editors for another standard textbook "Pathology of the Liver," an additional venue for enjoyable long-term collaborations with Roddy MacSween, Peter Paul Anthony, Kamal Ishak, Alastair Burt, and Bernard Portmann, among others.

Beyond hepatology, Peter was an enthusiastic cook, studied Italian, and

became an accomplished cellist in his later years. His love of music, particularly Mozart, translated into memorable chamber music events at the Scheuer home which continued until just a few weeks before his death. He leaves his wife of 45 years, Louise, a forensic expert on the juvenile skeleton and retired professor of anatomy, his son Robert and partner Thuli of London, and his son Edward, wife Mary Ann and their three daughters who live in Berkeley, California. AASLD sends condolences to Peter's family and friends and will greatly miss this much valued colleague and teacher.

The Ribavirin Pregnancy Registry

The Ribavirin Pregnancy Registry is an important public health program established to assess any birth defects occurring in outcomes of pregnancy exposed to ribavirin in-utero. It is a voluntary registry established to collect and evaluate pregnancy exposures to ribavirin.

The success of the registry depends on the continued participation of health-care providers and their ribavirin-exposed patients for registration and follow-up. The support and participation of patients and providers who have participated are greatly appreciated. For more information, please visit <http://www.ribavirinpregnancyregistry.com/>.

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AASLD'S MISSION

AASLD IS A LEADING ORGANIZATION
FOR ADVANCING THE SCIENCE AND PRACTICE
OF HEPATOLOGY

You Are Invited

The Governing Board invites all members to a reception hosted during DDW®. Please join your AASLD colleagues on Sunday, May 21 from 7:00–9:00 pm at the Omni Hotel California Plaza.

Location: Omni Hotel Los Angeles at California Plaza, 251 Olive Street, Los Angeles, California.

THANK YOU

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