



NEWS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF LIVER DISEASES

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On Science and Strategy



John M. Vierling, MD

It is a great pleasure and honor to begin my term as AASLD President. Service on the Governing Board for the past five years

has afforded me the opportunity to work closely with five different AASLD Presidents, each of whom has made extraordinary contributions to the success of AASLD in advancing the science and practice of hepatology and liver transplantation. All of us owe a debt of gratitude to AASLD's immediate Past-President Terry Wright for her dedicated leadership and many accomplishments during a very challenging year.

During 2005, AASLD initiated a comprehensive strategic plan with ambitious goals for public policy, education, and research. Our November meeting launched AASLD's ambitious initiative to obtain the consent of authors to place the content of the entire
(See **PRESIDENT**, p. 5)

AASLD Announces the 2006 Advanced Hepatology Fellowship Award Recipients

The AASLD Advanced Hepatology Fellowship Program provides salary and benefit support for GI fellows pursuing a fourth, full-year of training focused on patient care in hepatology (including liver transplantation) and hepatology research beginning on July 1, 2006.

The eligibility criteria for this year's fellowship program closely matched the recommended curriculum requirements for the Certificate of Added Qualification in Transplant Hepatology.

Congratulations to the 2006 recipients of this fellowship award, their mentors, and their sponsoring institutions for their commitment to hepatology.

AASLD is funding three of this year's fellows. Additional support from Idenix/Novartis to fund one fellow, Schering-Plough to fund three fellows, and Roche Laboratories to fund five fellows is gratefully acknowledged.

Recipients, Mentors, and Institutions are as follows:

Costica Aloman
Thomas Schiano
Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Kiran Bambha
W. Ray Kim
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine,
Rochester

Karin B. Cesario
Nizar Zein
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Michael Chang
Nezam Afdhal
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center,
Boston

Carla S. Coffin
Norah A. Terrault
The Regents of the University
of California

Rohit Kohli
Peter F. Whittington
Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago

George A. Makar
K. Rajender Reddy
University of Pennsylvania Health
System

Carmine G. Nudo
Eugene R. Schiff
University of Miami School
of Medicine

(See **AWARDS**, p. 5)

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

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE STUDY OF LIVER DISEASES



COURSE DIRECTORS



Scott L. Friedman, MD
Mount Sinai Medical Center



Don C. Rockey, MD
University of Texas
Southwestern Medical Center



D. Montgomery Bissell, MD
University of California

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

Future Meetings of Related Societies

The Philippine Society of Gastroenterology will host the **16th Conference of the Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver** March 5–8, 2006.
Further information: <http://www.apaslmanila2006.org>.

The American Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association will hold their 2006 Spring Meeting March 9–12, 2006, at the Eden Roc Resort & Spa in Miami Beach, Florida.
Further information: http://www.ahpba.org/subpage_meetings.php.

The Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver (CASL) presents the 2nd Annual CASL Winter Meeting **Updates in Hepatology** March 30 to April 2, 2006, at the Hilton Toronto in Ontario, Canada.
Further information: <http://hepatology.ca/cm/Default.asp?Page=63>.

The 21st Annual **New Treatments in Chronic Liver Disease** will be held April 1–2, 2006 at the Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines in La Jolla, California. Further information: please contact Scripps Clinic Conference Services at 858-587-4404 or med.edu@scrippsclinic.com or www.scrippsclinic.com.

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) at the National Institutes of Health presents **Management of Chronic Hepatitis B Virus** April 6–8, 2006, at the Natcher Auditorium on the NIH Campus in Bethesda, Maryland.
Further information: <http://www.niddk.nih.gov/fund/other/hbv2006/>.

The Mayo Clinic **Hepatology State-of-the-Art** will be held April 7–8, 2006, at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, Chicago, Illinois.
Further information: Contact Mayo School of Continuing Medical

Education; Telephone: 1-800-323-2688 or 507-284-2509; E-mail: cme@mayo.edu; Web Site: www.mayo.edu/cme.

PSC (Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis) Partners Seeking a Cure will host the organization's 2nd Annual Conference April 7–9, 2006, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
Further information: Joanne Grieme at jgrieme@zoominternet.net.

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 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

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/>.

The 28th Annual Aspen Conference on Pediatric Disease **Pediatric Hepatology and Liver Transplantation** will be held July 16–21, 2006, in Aspen, Colorado.
Further information: Contact Laura Werts, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, 3333 Burnet Avenue, Continuing Medical Education, ML 3003, Cincinnati, OH 45229-3039, Phone: (513) 636-1826, Fax: (513) 636-7574.

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

To add your meeting to this list in an upcoming issue of the News, please email your information to lprice@asld.org.

Management of Hepatitis B Virus

April 6-8, 2006

Natcher Conference Center

Aims of the Meeting

To assess current understanding of hepatitis B virus (HBV), the disease that it causes, and its optimal management; and to make recommendations for directions for future research, both basic and clinical.

Topics

Topics will include HBV replication and mode of inducing chronicity, the immunology of hepatitis B, the virus-host interactions, the natural history of chronic infection, and up-to-date results of trials of antiviral therapies including peginterferon, lamivudine, adefovir dipivoxil, tenofovir, entecavir, emtricitabine, and telbivudine alone and in combination.

Histological, clinical and virological endpoints of therapy and the needs for future research will be discussed.

Registration Deadline:
Monday, March 6, 2006

Sponsors

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

Hepatitis B Foundation

Hepatitis Foundation International

Organizers

Edward Doo (NIDDK)

Russell Fleischer (FDA)

Jay H. Hoofnagle (NIDDK)

T. Jake Liang (NIDDK)

Anna Lok (University of Michigan)

John Vierling (Baylor College of Medicine)

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(PRESIDENT, from p. 1)

meeting's oral and poster sessions and state-of-the-art lectures on our Web site. This is intended to extend the educational impact of our meeting by giving members and nonmembers access to the most up-to-date advances in our discipline. By providing worldwide access to our meeting, we hope to enhance global medical education and inspire interest in hepatology and liver transplantation. If you have not yet visited our Web site to view these materials, I encourage you to do so and to inform your colleagues. In the future we hope to include a synopsis of each session from the moderators to provide perspective.

When it comes to the Internet, content is king and presentation is queen. To enhance both, we have begun the redesign of our Web site to ensure that our expanded content is presented in the most appealing, user-friendly, intuitive manner possible.

It is essential for an organization such as ours to focus on the execution of a carefully constructed, multi-year strategic plan. I am pleased to report that AASLD is already making substantial progress toward achieving the goals in our strategic plan that was ratified last March. In addition to our Web-based educational efforts, we have increased substantially our financial support for additional liver scholar awards to promote career development of investigators transitioning from fellowship to faculty appointments. We have endorsed a proactive agenda in public policy and advocacy to influence health policy and to increase congressional appropriations for basic and clinical research. We have also worked to identify opportunities for synergy between AASLD and the American Liver Foundation (ALF) so that investigators and clinicians can speak with a public voice that is amplified by those representing millions of Americans afflicted with hepatobiliary diseases.

Recent examples of synergy are our hepatitis B awareness campaign during our annual meeting in San Francisco and

our support of ALF's Think B campaign. Other areas where we have made progress in achieving our strategic goals include formation of an NIH liaison committee, our first NIH Institute Forum conducted by NIAAA, and new efforts to facilitate attendance of NIH staff at our meeting. The high quality and high impact of both HEPATOLOGY and *Liver Transplantation* remains a source of pride for AASLD.

During my presidency, I look forward to working with all of you to achieve our mutual mission.

All of us are concerned about recruitment, training, funding, and retention of the critical mass of investigators, clinicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants required to advance hepatology and transplantation. AASLD provides substantial support for the training of hepatologists as well as nurse practitioners and physician assistants. Since 2000, we have supported the training of more than 100 Advanced Hepatology Fellows, and more than 80 percent remain actively involved in hepatology and are members of AASLD. This year, AASLD will fund an additional 12 fellowships (see article introducing the new recipients), but we

all recognize that this number falls far short of the need. Over the past 2 years, AASLD has supported 52 trainees in the NP/PA Fellowship program and plans to fund up to 10 positions this year.

Exams for the American Board of Internal Medicine Certificate of Added Qualification in hepatology and liver transplantation will be given for the first time this year, culminating years of work by the AASLD leadership. During 2006, we intend to identify additional sources of support for the critical needs of our trainees.

None of the achievements of AASLD would have been realized without the dedicated efforts of our Executive Director, Sherrie Cathcart, and her talented staff. Our growth and success as an association have resulted in an urgent need for additional space in our central office. Our options include leasing additional space in a new location or purchasing a building in Alexandria. We are now examining the financial implications and long-term ramifications of both options in order to meet the current and future needs of AASLD. I will provide a progress report on our decisions later this year.

(AWARDS, from p. 1)

Yumirle Padron
David Rudnick/Ross Shepherd
Washington University School
of Medicine

Surakit Pungpapong
Patrick S. Kamath
Mayo Clinic College of Medicine,
Rochester

Anna E. Rutherford
Raymond T. Chung
Massachusetts General Hospital

Ryan M. Taylor
Robert J. Fontana
University of Michigan

www.aasld.org

VISIT AASLD ON THE WEB

REMIND YOUR COLLEAGUES: NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE APRIL 1ST

LEARNING, SHARING, CARING.

An invitation to join the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD)

Times have changed and the study of liver diseases is expanding each day, but one thing remains the same—AASLD’s goal to foster the discovery and treatment of liver diseases. As the only medical society focused solely on advancing the science and practice of hepatology, AASLD’s membership encompasses ALL professionals dedicated to hepatobiliary discoveries and care of patients with liver diseases.

For years, AASLD has been home to regular members (researchers and clinicians), international members (hepatologists practicing outside of North America), and trainee members (hepatologists in training). Today, AASLD’s membership criteria is more inclusive of clinicians, strengthening its diversity and enhancing the collaborative efforts of professionals in the field of hepatology. Now nurses, transplant coordinators, research coordinators, and other hepatology health professionals are also invited to join AASLD as associate members, with a wide range of benefits never before available to this group.

Benefits of membership include:

- Free or discounted registration to The Liver Meeting—AASLD’s Annual Meeting—and Digestive Disease Week
- Free or discounted subscriptions to HEPATOLOGY and *Liver Transplantation*, AASLD’s official journals
- Discounted registration to all educational and scientific meetings
- Access to special members—only features of the AASLD Web site
- Access to a comprehensive online peer directory
- Free subscription to AASLD *NEWS*

Find out more! Visit www.aasld.org or call (703) 299-9766.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE STUDY OF LIVER DISEASES



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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.

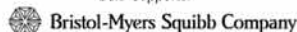
Expand your horizons at www.aasld.org.

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

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AASLD News is published six times a year and is an exclusive benefit of membership. The material published in each issue is provided to inform readers about the Association's activities. Please send comments to asld@asld.org.

AASLD'S MISSION

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

MARK THE DATES

For Annual Meeting information, please contact:

Pam Ballinger
C/O Association
Headquarters
856-439-0500

For all other meetings, please contact the **AASLD central office: 703-299-9766.**



Hepatitis Single Topic Conference (STC) Controversies in the Management of Pediatric Liver Disease: Hepatitis B, C, and NAFLD
March 3-4, 2006
Atlanta, GA

International Liver Congress
March 25-28, 2006
Shanghai, Hong Kong

Membership Application Deadline
April 1, 2006

NIH Workshop: Management of Hepatitis B Virus
April 6-8, 2006
Bethesda, MD

EASL 41st Annual Meeting
April 26-30, 2006
Vienna, Austria

Digestive Disease Week
May 20-25, 2006
Los Angeles, CA

The Henry M. and Lillian Stratton Basic Research STC Hepatic Fibrosis
June 9-11, 2006
Warrenton, VA

EASL/AASLD Monothematic Conference
June 23-26, 2006
Modena, Italy

Clinical Research STC Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis
September 7-9, 2006
Atlanta, GA

Transplant Hepatology Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) Review Course
September 16-17, 2006
Chicago, IL

THANK YOU

AASLD sincerely thanks the following entities for their generous support of the Association and its activities:

- Alpha-1 Foundation
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