



## ANNUAL MEMBERS FORUM AND BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES November 14, 2015, San Francisco, California

### CALL TO ORDER

With proper notice given and a quorum of over 50 members established, AASLD President – Gyongyi Szabo, MD, PhD, FAASLD, called the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting to order at 5:15 pm on November 14, 2015. The agenda for the meeting was approved.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Szabo presented a report of the major accomplishments achieved during the year. Over 10,000 participants were in attendance at The Liver Meeting® 2015. The next Annual Meeting will be held November 11-15, 2016 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. Szabo's report highlighted the following accomplishments that took place during 2015.

### The Liver Meeting® 2015

A record 3,286 abstracts were submitted for The Liver Meeting® 2015, a 7 % increase over prior years. The schedule for the meeting was revised in 2015. Eleven Special Interest Groups (SIGs) presented programming on Friday and the Postgraduate Course and the new Basic Science Symposium were held on Saturday.

### Industry Colloquium

The focus of the Emerging Trends Conference was an Industry Colloquium that was held on March 20-21, 2015. This meeting provided a unique opportunity for interactions between Industry and liver disease experts. This conference sought to determine how to address the long-term challenges that hepatologists are likely to face in the coming years. AASLD plans to make this a biennial conference with the next one scheduled in 2017.

### Mid-Year Course

A new Clinical State of the Art Course was held on June 27-28, 2015 which featured a comprehensive review of evidence-based approaches to the diagnosis and management of a wide range of hepatic disorders.

### New Open Access Journal

AASLD has approved the creation of a new peer-reviewed, open access journal that will publish original research articles, review articles, and clinical studies in all areas of hepatology. This new journal will have a broad translational focus similar to HEPATOLOGY but the articles will be freely available.

### Publishing Innovation in Research

*Liver Transplantation's* focus has been broadened to include pre-transplant and end-stage liver disease in addition to articles about liver transplantation.

### Practice Guidelines

#### HBV Treatment Guidelines

AASLD released its first practice guideline using the Grading of Recommendation Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) approach on November 13, 2015. The Guidelines for Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis B was accompanied by three de novo systematic reviews specifically commissioned to provide supporting evidence. The GRADE approach provides a framework for defining clinically important questions and identifying the outcomes of greatest interest, followed by a rigorous and transparent approach to acquiring and rating the quality of the body of evidence.

#### Hepatocellular Carcinoma Guidelines

A new practice guideline on hepatocellular carcinoma is under development using the GRADE approach and should be completed in late 2016.

#### Treatment Recommendations for Hepatitis C

AASLD and the Infectious Diseases Society of America, in collaboration with the International Antiviral Society – USA, released a web-based guidance on HCV on January 29, 2014. The guidance is continually updated to keep pace with new drug approvals by the Food and Drug Administration. Over 1.5 million pages were viewed during the first 10 months in 2015.

### **Ensure the Future of Hepatology**

A new mentorship program was launched in 2015 with over 50 relationships.

### **Global Outreach and Engagement**

In response to requests by AASLD's international partners to cosponsor meetings and to translate the Association's content, the Governing Board created the Global Outreach and Engagement Task Force in late 2014. This task force has provided the board with several recommendations which has resulted in over \$100,000 being pledged in support of Global Outreach and Engagement efforts.

New memoranda of understanding were developed for interacting with regional partners for the European (EASL), Asian (APASL) and Latin American (ALEH) Associations for the Study of the Liver. New Travel Awards for international members have been created. In addition, agreements have been created with international partners for the translation of The Liver Meeting® and LiverLearning® content in Chinese and Spanish.

### **AASLD Foundation**

AASLD created the AASLD Foundation on July 1, 2014 to support liver research and provide education about liver disease and its treatment to those providing care to patients. The Foundation was able to fund \$2.4 million in research awards in FY 2015.

### **New AASLD Logo and Brand**

The new logo was designed to better represent AASLD's role as the leader in the field. Since its founding in 1950, AASLD has grown in size and scope and today includes almost 5,000 members. The new logo was launched on November 13, 2015.

### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual Members Forum and Business Meeting of November 8, 2014 were presented for approval by the Secretary, Gary L. Davis, MD, FAASLD. The minutes were approved as written.

#### **Recognition of Deceased Members**

Members stood for a moment of silence in recognition and remembrance of the following members who died during the past year, including those the Association learned about since the last meeting.

- Paul Angulo, MD, FAASLD
- John L. Golan, MD, PhD, FAASLD (AASLD President in 1994)
- Zdenek Hruban, MD
- Eugene I. Winkelman, MD
- Philip N. Jones, MD, FACP

### **Membership Report**

The number of members has increased to approximately 4,802, an increase of 8% compared to 2014.

### **Affirmation of New Governing Board Members**

The Governing Board's election of the incoming Councilor and Secretary were affirmed as follows:

- **Jorge A. Bezerra**, MD, FAASLD, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, as Councilor for the term beginning January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2018, and as President-Elect in 2019, President in 2020, and immediate Past President in 2021; and
- **Kimberly A. Brown**, MD, FAASLD, Henry Ford Health System, as Secretary, for the term beginning January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2018.

AASLD members' election of **Julie K. Heimbach**, MD, Mayo Clinic, as Councilor-at-Large, was affirmed for the term January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2018.

### **Affirmation of Officers for 2016**

In accordance with the Bylaws, the officers of the Association were approved for January 1 – December 31, 2016 as follows:

- Keith D. Lindor, MD, FAASLD, President Arizona State University, College of Health Solutions
- Anna SF. Lok, MD, FAASLD, President-Elect University of Michigan Health System
- Kimberly A. Brown, MD, FAASLD, Secretary, Henry Ford Health System
- W. Ray Kim, MD, MBA, FAASLD, Treasurer Stanford University School of Medicine

### **Affirmation of the 2016 Nominating Committee**

The election of three members of the 2016 Nominating Committee by the membership was affirmed as follows:

-- Elected

- Paul Y. Kwo, MD (2016-2017)

- Cynthia Levy, MD (2016-2017)
- Michael L. Schilsky, MD, FAASLD (2016-2017)

-- Reappointed for a second year by Dr. Szabo and Dr. Di Bisceglie:

- Robert S. Brown, Jr., MD, MPH (2015-2016)
- Andrew Muir, MD (2015-2016)
- Tram T. Tran, MD (2015-2016)
- Laura Nagy, PhD (2015-2016)

-- Appointed for a two-year term:

- Steven Weinman, MD (2016-2017)  
(by Dr. Szabo)
- Kris V. Kowdley, MD (2016-2017)  
(by Dr. Lindor)

Dr. Szabo, the immediate Past President, will chair the Nominating Committee in 2016.

#### **Affirmation of AASLD Bylaw Revisions**

The election results for the approval of revisions to the AASLD Bylaws, by 98% of the votes cast, were accepted as summarized below:

- Trainee Membership  
The time provided for Trainee membership was extended from four to six years. Title I
- New SIG Section  
A provision for the formation of SIGs and the manner in which they will be established was added. Title V
- Nominating Committee  
The size of this committee was increased from 8 to 10 members and the term was extended from one to two years.

#### **Nominations for 2017 Positions**

Members were notified that the Call for Nominations for candidates for Governing Board positions in 2017 of Councilor, Treasurer, Councilor-at-Large, and Chair of the Ethics Committee, 2017 Nominating Committee, and the 2016 Distinguished Achievement, Distinguished Service, and Distinguished Clinician Educator/Mentor Awards would be open from January 2-31, 2016.

The Call for Nominations for candidates for committee appointments for 2017 would be open from January 2 - February 29, 2016.

#### **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Dr. Kim reported that the AASLD and the AASLD Foundation Financial Statements for FY 2015 (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015) had been audited. The Finance Committee oversees the financial and investment activities of AASLD and had reviewed the independent auditor's reports by Gelman, Rosenberg and Freedman.

The Governing Board reviewed and approved the FY 2015 audit reports on November 12, 2015. The auditors reported that the financial positions for AASLD and the AASLD Foundation were strong. The auditors rendered a clean opinion regarding their finances and internal control procedures. The [Combined Audited Financial Statements](#) for AASLD and the AASLD Foundation are available on the AASLD website.

Dr. Kim reviewed the FY 2015 Combined Financial Position, including revenues and expenses. He informed members that AASLD and the AASLD Foundation have funded 944 research and career development awards totaling \$36,798,267 from 2000 through June 30, 2015.

Dr. Kim noted with appreciation that the Finance Committee plays an important role and provides valuable input to the Treasurer and to AASLD, resulting in the present financial health of the Association.

#### **2016 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Dr. Lindor reported that 202 standing committee positions will exist in 2016. The membership nominated 268 individuals to fill 52 open positions for 2016 service and 61% of those appointed will be serving on a committee for the first time.

#### **RECOGNITION OF LEADERS WITH ENDING TERMS**

Dr. Lindor recognized members who will be completing their terms on December 31, 2015 for their service and commitment to AASLD as follows:

#### **Governing Board**

- Adrian M. Di Bisceglie, MD, FACP, FAASLD  
Immediate Past-President
- Gary L. Davis, MD, FAASLD  
Secretary
- Susan L. Orloff, MD  
Councilor-at-Large

**Committee Chairs**

- Laurie D. DeLeve, MD, PhD, FAASLD  
Federal Agencies Liaison Committee

**Special Interest Group (SIG) Chairs**

- Brian J. McMahon, MD, FAASLD  
Hepatitis B SIG
- Robert J. Fontana, MD, FAASLD  
Hepatotoxicity SIG
- Mark A. McNiven, PhD  
Liver Cell Biology in Hepatic Disease SIG

**INSTALLATION OF THE NEXT PRESIDENT**

Dr. Szabo expressed gratitude for the spirit of collaboration that has characterized her presidential year. She noted the tremendous opportunity to contribute to the advancement of the Association's strategic goals and thanked the Governing Board, Committees, Special Interest Groups and staff for their service.

Dr. Szabo presented the AASLD gavel to Dr. Keith Lindor as the 67<sup>th</sup> President of the Association.

**INCOMING PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

Dr. Lindor presented a plaque to Dr. Szabo in appreciation of her years of service to AASLD. He noted that Dr. Szabo has been an excellent leader, especially during her presidential year. Dr. Lindor accepted the privilege of leading the Association as the incoming President.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gary L. Davis, MD, FAASLD  
AASLD Secretary

Minutes Review Committee  
Jacqueline G. O'Leary, MD  
Hugo R. Rosen, MD, FAASLD

**2016 COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) CHAIRS**

AASLD Committee Chairs for 2016 are as follows:

- AASLD Foundation Research Awards Committee  
Cara L. Mack, MD  
Vice Chair, Meena B. Bansal, MD
- Annual Meeting Education Committee  
Andrew P. Keaveny, MD
- Basic Research Committee  
Gavin E. Arteel, PhD, FAASLD
- Clinical Research Committee  
Cynthia Levy, MD
- Education Oversight Committee  
Kimberly Ann Brown, MD, FAASLD
- Ethics Committee  
Hugo E. Vargas, MD, FAASLD
- Finance Committee  
Anne M. Larson, MD, FAASLD
- Hepatology Associates Committee  
HoChong Gilles, FNP
- Journals Publications Committee  
Lopa Mishra, MD, FAASLD
- Membership and Mentorship Committee  
William Sanchez, MD
- Nominating Committee  
Gyongyi Szabo, MD, PhD, FAASLD
- Practice Guidelines Committee  
Raphael B. Merriman, MD, FACP, FRCPI  
Vice Chair, Tram T. Tran, MD, FAASLD
- Program Evaluation Committee  
Carla W. Brady, MD, MHS
- Public and Clinical Policy Committee  
Rohit S. Satoskar, MD
- Scientific Program Committee  
Keith Lindor, MD, FAASLD  
Co-chair, Kimberly Ann Brown, MD, FAASLD
- Surgery and Liver Transplantation Committee  
Kenneth D. Chavin, MD, PhD
- Technology and Social Media Advisory Committee  
Theo Heller, MD
- Training and Workforce Committee  
Oren K. Fix, MD, MSc
- Women's Health Representative  
Kymberly Watt, MD

AASLD Special Interest Group (SIG) Chairs for 2015 are as follows:

- Acute on Chronic Liver Failure SIG  
Florence Wong, MD
- Cholestatic Liver Disorders SIG  
Mario Strazzabosco, MD, PhD
- Hepatitis B SIG  
Jordan J Feld, MD
- Hepatitis C  
Norah Terrault, MD, MPH
- Hepatobiliary Neoplasia SIG  
Gregory J. Gores, MD, FAASLD
- Hepatotoxicity SIG  
Paul H. Hayashi, MD
- Liver Cell Biology in Hepatic Disease SIG  
Natalia Nieto, PhD
- Liver Fibrosis SIG  
Jonathan A. Dranoff, MD, FAASLD
- Liver Transplantation and Surgery SIG  
Jean C. Emond, MD, FAASLD
- Pediatric Liver Disorders SIG  
Cara L. Mack, MD
- Portal Hypertension SIG  
Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao, MD, FAASLD
- Steatosis and Steatohepatitis SIG  
Mary E. Rinella, MD, FAASLD
- Clinical Practice SIG  
Mitchell L. Shiffman, MD, FAASLD
- Public Health/Healthcare Delivery SIG  
Jayant A. Talwalkar, MD, MPH