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July 2016

**Are more cures for liver disease possible through more research?
We think so. But, we need YOU to help make them a reality.**

Dear Supporter,

“The work funded by AASLD Foundation laid the foundation for my research. It allowed me to demonstrate a track record of success that has contributed to the exciting evolution of my research career.”

— **Monika Sarkar, MD, MAS**, recipient of the 2012 Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Fellowship and the 2013 Sheila Sherlock Clinical and Translational Research Award

This is just one of the many tangible impacts the Foundation’s support has had on Dr. Sarkar’s career and research. *Read more about Dr. Sarkar’s journey in the insert.*

There are plenty more researchers like Dr. Sarkar out there who are ready to dedicate their work to hepatology, yet research funding, education, and training opportunities are lacking.

Last month, the AASLD Foundation announced support of just over \$2.56 million in new research for recipients like Dr. Sarkar. That’s close to \$200,000 more than we did in 2015. Impressive growth.

But it is simply not enough. Meritorious research is still going unfunded this year!

As the largest private supporter of hepatology research in the United States, we are dedicated to bringing greater focus and resources to liver disease research and education by ensuring more financial resources are focused on liver research and education.

We are working diligently toward growth in these areas, but we need you to help us do MORE.

Did you know the AASLD Foundation is not funded through member dues? We exist thanks to the generosity of several hundred member and individual donors, industry supporters, and private foundations, who support new discoveries and more education in hepatology. Even with their generosity, meritorious research is still going unfunded this year.

That’s a problem we can fix – together as members of AASLD.

Last year, just over 5% of 5,000 members donated to support research. I am hoping to see that number grow to 10%, and I know that you will help us move the dial.

Please consider a tax-deductible donation* of \$100, \$250, \$500, or \$1,000. Visit aasldfnd.org/donate today. In addition to your donation, sharing the work and goals of the Foundation with your colleagues would help us reach more people who can help us fund more research. Our staff can provide resources for you; contact **Julie Wolfe**, Director of Development, at jwolfe@aasld.org for more information.

Your donation will have impact.

We know you share our goal of bringing new hope to your patients through research. The Foundation is **one of the most impactful organizations** you can choose to partner with in the fight against liver disease.

Our proven commitment to funding innovative liver research – first through AASLD, and now through the AASLD Foundation – has led to more than **\$40 million committed to advancing innovation in liver disease care** since 2000.

Every donor dollar invested in AASLD and Foundation research has resulted in a 219% return on investment based on additional funding from NIH and other sources. Researchers funded between 2008 and 2014 recently shared some of their results:

- 50% have gone on to receive NIH funding during or post award
- 13 R Series and 9 K Series awards were reported
- Collectively, the 16 recipients received close to \$5 million in NIH funding in fiscal year 2015 alone
- 77% of awardees told us that research from their AASLD Foundation funding was used as the basis to secure funding from other sources

In a climate of reduced research funding, our preeminent research awards and investigator training programs are **fostering researchers who are able to succeed in today's competitive environment.**

Last month, we shared with you the names of the 2016 Research Awards recipients (see aasldfnd.org/awards if you missed the announcement). These **20 investigators, our future leaders in hepatology research, will receive \$2.56 million in Foundation funding this year.** Consider the impact their work will have on liver disease – both today and in the future.

Then consider the impact of NOT being able to fund the remaining meritorious projects. Imagine the possibilities that lie within those projects – a better understanding of hepatology; new treatments; lives saved.

Visit aasldfnd.org/donate and make a quick tax-deductible donation of any amount so that we can reduce that funding gap. Your gift of \$100, \$250, \$500, or \$1,000 will bring new resources to promising researchers and encourage a stronger, better trained workforce of providers to care for liver disease patients.

Thanks in advance for considering a donation,



Bruce R. Bacon, MD, FAASLD
Chair, AASLD Foundation

PS – See the enclosed AASLD Foundation Donor Recognition fact sheet to learn how you can take advantage of a VIP Lounge during The Liver Meeting* 2016, have special access to premier seating during select sessions of the meeting, and a host of other ways we show appreciation to our donors.

*The AASLD Foundation is tax-exempt under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions made to the AASLD Foundation are deductible charitable contributions to the extent permitted by §170 of the Internal Revenue Code.