



ANNUAL MEMBERS FORUM AND BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES November 8, 2019, Boston, Massachusetts

CALL TO ORDER

With proper notice given and a quorum of over 50 members present, Dr. Michael Fried, AASLD President, called the 70th Annual Members Forum and Business Meeting to order on November 8, 2019, at 12:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Fried presented a report of the major accomplishments that were achieved in 2019. The next AASLD Annual Meeting will be held in Boston, Massachusetts on November 13-17, 2020.

THE LIVER MEETING® 2019

Individuals attending The Liver Meeting® 2019 totaled 9,300+ from 93 countries, compared to 10,000+ from 91 countries in 2018. A record 3,412 abstracts were received for the scientific program, compared to 3,345 received last year. Several new programs were added to this year's meeting which include

- Academic Skills programs
- Associates Parallel Session
- Basic Science Debrief
- NIH Corner
- Pregnancy in Liver Disease
- Social Media Session

New Strategic Plan

Dr. Fried reported that a new Strategic Plan went into effect in 2019 and several new initiatives will be implemented during the next 3 to 5 years.

EMERGING LIVER SCHOLARS (ELS) PROGRAM

Dr. Fried provided an update on the ELS program which is in its 6th year.

- In 2019, AASLD brought 40 residents to The Liver Meeting® to expose them to the field of hepatology. In addition, 25 past ELS recipients were also sponsored to attend the meeting as ELS Ambassadors.
- Past ELS recipients continue to be engaged in the Association by serving on committees, and in SIG leadership. Many have gone on to receive research funding from the AASLD Foundation.

Mid-Career Hepatology Associates Scholars

Nine SIGs sponsored an Associate Member to attend The Liver Meeting® where they will be mentored throughout the meeting, and throughout the year.

Pilot Pathway for Transplant Hepatology

Dr. Fried reported that the Pilot 3-year Transplant Hepatology (TH) training program participants comprised 91 fellows, which is 25 % of all TH fellows, from 2012 to 2019 and that the pilot fellows achieved a 100% pass rate on GI boards and transplant hepatology boards. ABIM has fully endorsed the 3-year program and plans to implement it by 2021. Dr. Fried thanked Dr. Oren Fix for his tireless efforts to win ABIM endorsement for this shortened training pathway.

Special Interest Groups

Dr. Fried gave an update on the SIGs and announced a new name for the Alcohol-associated Liver Disease SIG.

- Each SIG has developed a set of 4 core subcommittees, which will allow them to think strategically about their activities and plan programs around Education, Communication, Membership/Mentorship, and Global Outreach and Engagement.
- Theses subcommittees have created over 400 opportunities for members to participate in SIG activities, programming and leadership.

Liver Hill Day and Federal Visits

Each year the Public Policy Committee sponsors Liver Hill Day in which many AASLD members as well as several patient groups participate. In 2019, the Liver Hill Day was held on April 2 and 120 members and patients visited Congress to advocate for liver research funding. Dr. Fried invited members to participate in the next Liver Hill Day to be held on March 12, 2020.

Dr. Fried reported that a number of AASLD members met with leaders from NIAID, NCI, NIAAA, NIDDK and discussed ways in which AASLD could work with them to eliminate viral hepatitis.

Distinguished Advocacy Award - Dr. Fried announced a new category Distinguished Award and welcomed nominations for 2020. The Distinguished Advocacy Award will recognize an advocacy organization or individual that has provided sustained service to the liver disease community or work that garners public and federal legislative support which promotes liver health and quality patient care.

AASLD Publications

Dr. Fried highlighted the achievements of the 4 AASLD journals and noted that

- HEPATOLOGY's Impact Factor had increased to 14.971.
- *Hepatology Communications*, AASLD's open access journal, is now discoverable in PubMed.
- *Clinical Liver Disease* began many novel initiatives under Dr. Nancy Reau's leadership as the new Editor.
- *Liver Transplantation's* Impact Factor increased to 4.159. Dr. Fried thanked the Editor, Dr. Paul Martin, for serving longer than planned and for his outstanding dedication. Dr. Fried announced that after a competitive search, Robert S. Brown, Jr., MD, MPH, FAASLD, will be the new Editor.

Cirrhosis Quality Collaborative (CQC)

AASLD developed quality improvement measures for patients with cirrhosis and has designed a pilot collaborative chronic care network to transform care of participating patients. Ten health care systems comprise the initial network.

AASLD FOUNDATION

Dr. Bacon reported that the Foundation funded awards totaling \$3.6M in 2019, compared to \$4.06M in 2018 and \$3.5M in 2017. Since 2000, AASLD and the AASLD Foundation have funded 1,428 awards totaling over \$50M. The recently concluded Tomorrow's Cures Campaign was successful and raised over \$16M.

Dr. Fried presented a check for \$1M to Dr Bacon for the Foundation, noting that AASLD is proud to continue its support of the Foundation.

VIRAL HEPATITIS ELIMINATION TASK FORCE

Dr. John Ward, Chair, discussed the Task Force for Viral Hepatitis Elimination goals to improve prevention, diagnosis, access to care, and treatment for patients with these diseases.

- Determine approach and policies
- Interact with stakeholders
- Strategy for control
- Share knowledge and expertise

NASH TASK FORCE

Dr. Mary Rinella, Chair, presented an update on the NASH Task Force. They have contacted related medical societies to discuss co-hosting multidisciplinary meetings and patient advocate groups to initiate strategic collaborations.

PATIENT ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

Dr. Meena Bansal, Chair, presented a report about AASLD's new strategic initiative to engage patients to improve the organization's work. AASLD has assembled an advisory group to discuss how best to include patient advocacy group representatives on select standing committees, and plan for a patient advocacy group forum during The Liver Meeting®. A new registration category has been established for patient groups attending The Liver Meeting® and 21 Patient Groups are registered for this year's meeting.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Members Forum and Business Meeting of November 10, 2018 were presented for approval by Dr. Meena Bansal, AASLD Secretary. The minutes were approved as written.

Recognition of Deceased Members

Each individual's contributions were highlighted, and members stood for a moment of silence in recognition and remembrance of the following members who died since the last meeting:

- Harold J. Fallon, MD, FAASLD, President 1979
- Kurt J. Isselbacher, MD, FAASLD, President 1967
- Luis A. Balart, MD
- Karl Hermann Meyer zum Büschenfelde, MD, PhD, FRCP
- Albert Greenberg, MD
- Theodore Iancu, MD
- Edward L. Krawitt, MD, FAASLD
- Sarah Luna, PhD
- Harvey Sharp, MD
- Wilfried Sibuea, MD

Membership Report

In FY2019, AASLD members totaled 6,170 compared to 6,005 in FY2018. The ENGAGE collaborative platform was launched for Special Interest Groups

which have a total of 2,148 members, an increase of 12% from last year.

Affirmation of New Governing Board Members

The Governing Board's selection of the incoming Councilor and Treasurer were affirmed as follows:

- **W. Ray Kim, MD, MPH, FAASLD**
Stanford University Medical Center, as Councilor, for the term beginning January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2025, and as President in 2024.
- **Vijay Shah, MD, FAASLD**
Mayo Clinic, MN as Treasurer, for the term beginning January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2022.
- AASLD members' election of **Mary E. McCarthy Rinella, MD, FAASLD, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, as Councilor-at-Large, was affirmed for the term January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2022.**

Affirmation of Officers for 2020

In accordance with the Bylaws, the officers of the Association were approved for January 1 - December 31, 2020 as follows:

- **Jorge A. Bezerra, MD, FAASLD, President**
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
- **Raymond T. Chung, MD, FAASLD, President-Elect,**
Massachusetts General Hospital
- **Meena B. Bansal, MD, FAASLD, Secretary**
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
- **Vijay Shah, MD, PhD, FAASLD, Treasurer**
Mayo Clinic, MN

Affirmation of the 2020 Nominating Committee

The incoming members of the 2020 Nominating Committee were affirmed as follows:

-- Elected (2020-2021)

Jasmohan Bajaj, MD, FAASLD

Virginia Commonwealth University

Elizabeth Verna, MD, MS

Columbia University Medical Center

Mark Russo, MD, MPH, FAASLD

Carolinas Medical Center

-- Appointed (2020-2021)

Marina Serper, MD

University of Pennsylvania Health System

Cara Lynn Mack, MD, FAASLD

University of Colorado School of Medicine

Michael Fried, MD, FAASLD, the immediate Past President, will chair the Nominating Committee in 2020. Other members of the Nominating Committee include:

Robert J. Fontana, MD, FAASLD

University of Michigan

Lewis R. Roberts, MBChB, PhD, FAASLD

Mayo Clinic, MN

Saul J. Karpen, MD, PhD, FAASLD

Emory University

Oren K. Fix, MD, MSc, FAASLD

Swedish Medical Center

Nominations for 2021 Positions

Members were notified that the Call for Nominations/Volunteers for candidates for Governing Board positions in 2021 of Councilor, Councilor-at-Large, Foundation Board Trustee, 2021 Nominating Committee, 2020 Distinguished Achievement, Distinguished Clinician Educator/Mentor, Distinguished Service and Distinguished Advocacy Awards, and Standing Committees would be open from October 15, 2019 - January 15, 2020.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Dr. Bruce Luxon reported that AASLD and the AASLD Foundation Financial Statements for FY2019 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019) had been audited. The Finance Committee which oversees the financial and investment activities of AASLD had reviewed the independent auditor's reports by Gelman, Rosenberg and Freedman.

The Governing Board reviewed and approved the FY2019 audit reports on November 7, 2019. The auditors reported that the financial positions for AASLD and the AASLD Foundation were strong and rendered a clean opinion regarding the finances and internal control procedures. The Combined Audited Financial Statements for AASLD and the AASLD Foundation are available on the AASLD website.

Dr. Luxon reviewed the FY2019 Combined Financial Position, including revenues and expenses. He highlighted that AASLD had done a good job in spending 90% of annual expenses on programs which exceeds industry best practices of 77%. He expressed his appreciation for the support that he had received as Treasurer from the Finance Committee and staff during the year.

2020 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Bezerra reported that 308 standing committee positions will exist in 2020. The membership nominated 214 individuals to fill 107 open positions for 2020 service, 49% of those appointed will be serving on a committee for the first time and 48% are female who comprise 37% of the membership and 43% of all Committee chairs.

Recognition of Leaders with Ending Terms

Dr. Fried recognized members who will be completing their terms on December 31, 2019 for their service and commitment to AASLD as follows:

Governing Board

- **Ronald J. Sokol, MD, FAASLD**
Past-President
- **Bruce A. Luxon, MD, PhD, FAASLD**
Treasurer
- **Lopa Mishra, MD, FAASLD**
Councilor-at-Large

Committee Chairs

Stephen D. Zucker, MD

Ethics Committee

Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao, MD, FAASLD

Fundamentals of Liver Disease (Foundation)

W. Ray Kim, MD, FAASLD

Global Outreach and Engagement

Patrick M. Horne, MSN, ARNP, FNP-BC

Hepatology Associates Committee

Calvin Q. Pan, MD, MACP, FACG, FAASLD

Online Learning Committee

Alex Befeler, MD

CME Committee

John C. Magee, MD

Surgery and Liver Transplantation Committee

K. Gautham Reddy, MD, FAASLD

Training and Workforce Committee

Special Interest Group (SIG) Chairs

Michael R. Lucey, MD, FAASLD

Alcoholic Liver Disease (SIG)

Hugo E. Vargas, MD, FAASLD

Acute on Chronic Liver Failure (SIG)

Christopher L. Bowlus, MD, FAASLD

Cholestatic and Autoimmune Liver Diseases (SIG)

Joseph K. Lim, MD, FAASLD

Hepatitis C (SIG)

Victor J. Navarro, MD, FAASLD, MHCM

Hepatotoxicity (SIG)

Ekihiro Seki, MD, PhD, FAASLD

Liver Fibrosis (SIG)

Rohit Loomba, MD

Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (SIG)

Kathleen M. Loomes, MD, FAASLD

Pediatric Liver Disorders (SIG)

Michael Volk, MD, MSc, FAASLD

Public Health/Health Care Delivery (SIG)

James F. Trotter, MD

Liver Transplantation and Surgery (SIG)

AASLD Foundation

- **Bruce R. Bacon, MD, FAASLD**
Chair, Foundation Board of Trustees

INSTALLATION OF THE NEXT PRESIDENT

Dr. Fried presented the AASLD gavel to Dr. Jorge Bezerra who will become the 71st President of the Association, noting his confidence in his leadership.

Incoming President's Address

Dr. Bezerra expressed appreciation on behalf of AASLD to Dr. Fried for his effective leadership and dedicated service. He accepted the privilege of leading the Association as the incoming President.

Appreciation of Retiring President

Dr. Bezerra presented a plaque to Dr. Fried in appreciation of his years of service to AASLD and thanked him on behalf of AASLD members and the Governing Board for his dedicated leadership.

Dr. Fried expressed gratitude for the honor of serving the Association during his presidential year which he noted was the highpoint of his career. He thanked the organization's members and staff for making his job doable and enjoyable.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Meena B. Bansal, MD, FAASLD

AASLD Secretary

- **Minutes Review Committee**
Vijay Shah, MD, FAASLD
Mary E. Rinella, MD, FAASLD

2020 COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) CHAIRS

AASLD COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2020

- Annual Meeting Education Committee
Grace L. Su, MD, FAASLD
- Basic Research Committee
Harmeet Malhi, MD, MBBS, FAASLD
- Clinical Research Committee
Kymerly Watt, MD
- Communications and Technology Committee
Christopher Koh, MD, MHSc, FAASLD
- Continuing Medical Education Committee
Joseph K. Lim, MD, FAASLD
- Development Committee (Foundation)
Fredric D. Gordon, MD, FAASLD
- Ethics Committee
Michael H. Nathanson, MD, PhD, FAASLD
- Finance Committee
Andrew J. Muir, MD, FAASLD
- Global Outreach and Engagement Committee
Lewis R. Roberts, MBChB, PhD, FAASLD
- Hepatology Associates Committee
Elizabeth K. Goacher, PA-C, MHS
- Inclusion and Diversity Committee
Carla W. Brady, MD, MHS, FAASLD
- Industry Advancement Committee
Steven L. Flamm, MD, FAASLD
- Journals Publications Committee
Willscott E. Naugler, MD, FAASLD
- Maintenance of Certification Committee
Mark W. Russo, MD, MPH, FAASLD
- Membership and Mentorship Committee
Elizabeth J. May, MD, PhD
- Nominating Committee
Michael W. Fried, MD, FAASLD
- Online Learning Committee
Rohit S. Satoskar, MD, FAASLD
- Public Policy Committee
Tamar H. Taddei, MD, FAASLD
- Practice Guidelines Committee
George Ioannou, MD, FAASLD
- Practice Metrics Committee
Sumeet K. Asrani, MD MSc
- Scientific Program Committee
Jorge A. Bezerra, MD, FAASLD
Co-chair, Meena B. Bansal, MD, FAASLD
- Surgery and Liver Transplantation Committee
Bijan Eghtesad, MD, FAASLD
- Training and Workforce Committee
K. Gautham Reddy, MD, FAASLD
- Women's Initiatives Committee
Maria D. Hernandez, MD, MBA

AASLD SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP CHAIRS FOR 2020

- Acute on Chronic Liver Failure SIG
Puneeta Tandon, MD, FRCPC
- Alcohol-associated Liver Disease SIG
Ashwani K. Singal, MD, MS, FACG, FAASLD
- Cholestatic and Autoimmune Liver Diseases SIG
David N. Assis, MD
- Clinical Practice SIG
Kris V. Kowdley MD, FACP, FACG, AGAF, FAASLD
- Hepatitis B SIG
Mindie H. Nguyen, MD, MAS, AGAF, FAASLD
- Hepatitis C SIG
Mark S. Sulkowski, MD, FAASLD
- Hepatobiliary Neoplasia SIG
Josep M Llovet, MD, FAASLD
- Hepatology Associates SIG
HoChong Gilles, DNP, FNP-C
- Hepatotoxicity SIG
Adrian Reuben, MBBS, FRCP, FACG, FAASLD
- Liver Cell Biology in Hepatic Diseases SIG
Yasuko Iwakiri, PhD, FAASLD
- Liver Fibrosis SIG
Ekihiro Seki, MD, PhD, FAASLD
- Liver Transplantation and Surgery SIG
Michael Schilsky, MD, FAASLD
- Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease SIG
Stephen A. Harrison, MD, FAASLD
- Pediatric Liver Disorders SIG
Daniel Leung, MD, FAASLD
- Portal Hypertension: Clinical and Experimental SIG
Theo Heller, MD, FAASLD
- Public Health/Health Care Delivery SIG
Brett E. Fortune, MD, MSc