



ANNUAL MEMBERS FORUM AND BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES December 3, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

With proper notice given and a quorum of over 50 members present, Dr. Jorge Bezerra, AASLD President, called the 71st Annual Members Forum and Business Meeting to order on December 3, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Bezerra presented a report of the major accomplishments achieved in 2020.

The Liver Meeting Digital Experience

AASLD's first-ever virtual annual meeting accepted over 1,900 abstracts, offered 136 hours of on-demand content and 90 hours of invited sessions. Content remains available through February 16, 2021.

Dr. Bezerra highlighted several prominent speakers for this year's meeting including, Dr. Anthony S. Fauci giving a lecture on COVID and Dr. Griffin Rogers, director of the NIDDK, giving the President's Choice Lecture. There was also a special session with the three Nobel Laureates: Drs. Harvey Alter, Charles Rice and Michael Houghton. Featured speakers for the State of the Art Lectures were Drs. John P. Roberts, Meritxell Huch, Einar Bjornsson, And Kosta Lazaridis.

Strategic Plan

Dr. Bezerra reported on the Strategic Plan and the following initiatives:

Foster Member Engagement - Dr. Bezerra reported that AASLD has almost 6,000 members. The majority are in the U.S. and also include international members, followed by trainees, fellows, and associate members.

This year, AASLD introduced a new member category for Associate Fellows, recognizing the valuable contributions they make to the Association.

Emerging Liver Scholars (ELS) Program – This year, the Early Liver Scholars program received a record number of 159 applications with 20 accepted, which included 15 applicants from internal medicine, 3 applicants from surgery training programs, and 2 from pediatric training programs.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - AASLD members participate in at least one of 17 SIGs. Their work produces valuable programming for the association, including special sessions at the annual meeting and webinars focused on scientific findings around liver disease.

Online Education – AASLD offered 26 webinars in 2020, reaching more than 10,000 registrants. These programs were important to ensuring that members had access to the latest and greatest science in the field.

Commitment to Inclusion and Diversity - Dr. Bezerra reported that one outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic was the spotlight it threw on racial disparities and the changes needed to remedy some of the inequities in healthcare. To that end, AASLD reaffirmed its commitment to ending racial disparities and released a statement outlining concrete steps to be taken.

Lead Discoveries and Accelerate Progress

The Viral Hepatitis Elimination Task Force, led by Dr. John Ward, is an active Task Force driving collaborative efforts with other Societies, Federal and State Agencies, Foundations, and Patient Advocacy groups to develop strategies for control of viral hepatitis.

This task force recently provided critical feedback to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on their strategic roadmap for Viral Hepatitis Elimination. The group also surveyed members to gauge the impact of COVID-19 on hepatitis prevention, care, and treatment.

Nash Task Force, led by Dr. Mary Rinella, focuses on improving the outcomes for patients with NASH/NAFLD. The Task Force is currently undertaking several initiatives including:

1. Practice Guidelines focused on the care of Diabetic Patients with the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists
2. Planning for future joint symposia and multidisciplinary educational sessions.
3. Fostering collaborations with patient groups to raise disease awareness.
4. Publication of a whitepaper on liver biopsy in NASH/NAFLD, an area where there is a need to better integrate available information to improve definition, staging, and perhaps endpoints of disease – with real impact on clinical trials and patient care.
5. Initiating the rapid development of a practice guidance document

COVID-19 Task Force

A strategy to effectively respond to the pandemic was developed in response to and in collaboration with members highly committed to understand the impact of coronavirus infection on liver health and disease. A task force, led by Drs. Raymond Chung and K. Rajender Reddy, was created and has resulted in an AASLD Clinical Insight document to help providers care for patients with liver disease during the pandemic and a series of highly attended webinars on COVID-19 and the liver, that has received over 200,000 viewings and translation into multiple languages. AASLD also created patient-focused resources for various disease states that are available for download on the website.

SECURE-Cirrhosis Registry AASLD has partnered with the SECURE-Cirrhosis registry, which was developed by members with participation of hepatologists, to advance access to data around liver disease and COVID-19. Through this partnership, AASLD is

elevating awareness of the registry to increase case submissions and facilitating global partnerships to ensure case representation of underserved communities.

Cirrhosis Quality Collaborative

AASLD has made major progress in the formation of the Cirrhosis Quality Collaborative (CQC) with the formation of a Learning Health Network, which is comprised of 10 health systems that combines quality improvement and a registry to improve the care and treatment outcomes of patients with cirrhosis. A 3-year Pilot project is currently underway to reduce hospital re-admissions and improve the control of ascites. The project runs in 10 hospitals with an anticipated enrollment of 450 patients.

Practice Guidelines & Quality Measures in 2020

AASLD provided oversight of the HCV Guidance project, which was published in *Hepatology* in early 2020 and updated in the HCV Guidelines.org microsite in August 2020 with an average of 34,000 visits each month.

AASLD published the following practice guidelines and guidances in 2020: Reproductive Health in Liver Disease, Autoimmune Hepatitis in Adults and Children, and a Hepatitis C Update. Additionally, quality measures were developed on cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma with ongoing work to be completed in 2021 with a focus on quality measures for liver transplantation and peri-procedure bleeding risk management.

AASLD Journals

Dr. Bezerra reported that the AASLD journals (*HEPATOLOGY*, *Liver Transplantation*, *Hepatology Communications*, and *CLD*) remain cornerstone publications and continue to feature the latest research, Practice Guidelines and reviews in hepatology, transplantation and all other aspects of liver disease.

This year, Dr. Greg Gores was selected as the incoming Editor in Chief for *HEPATOLOGY* and he will become the new editor in January of 2022. Dr. Bezerra expressed gratitude to Dr. David Cohen for his continued leadership of *HEPATOLOGY*. Dr. Bezerra also recognized Dr. Paul Martin for his

leadership as Editor-in-Chief of *Liver Transplantation* noting that Dr. Martin's term expires on December 31, 2020. Finally, Dr. Bezerra recognized Dr. Robert Brown who will become Editor-in-Chief of *Liver Transplantation* on January 1, 2021.

Distinguished Awards

Dr. Bezerra congratulated the 2020 Distinguished Award recipients:

Dr. Russell Wiesner, recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award

Dr. Michael Lucey, recipient of the Distinguished Clinician Educator/Mentor Award

Dr. Donald Jensen, recipient of the Distinguished Service Award

The Hepatitis B Foundation, founders Dr. Tim and Joan Block, recipients of the Distinguished Advocacy Service Award

Extend Outreach

Collaboration was a key theme this year. AASLD jointly hosted the APASL-AASLD Research Methodology Workshop in Bali, Indonesia, in March before travel became restricted. The event drew over 100 participants as well as 57 early career investigator poster presenters representing 13 different countries throughout the region. AASLD also hosted joint webinars with Emirates Gastroenterology and Hepatology Society (EGHS); the Latin American Association for the Study of Liver (ALEH); the Hepatology Society of the Philippines; the Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver (CASL); and the Mexican Association for the Study of the Liver.

Patient Engagement AASLD works with more than 20 patient groups and now has patient representatives on a number of our committees. Through the work of the Patient Engagement Subcommittee, numerous patient resources have been developed to identify the impact of COVID-19 on various disease states and translating some practice guidelines into patient-facing documents. At TLMdX, there was an entire menu of events for patients, that ranged from special abstract tours, meet and greets with the hepatology community, and a special session with HHS Deputy Director, Carol Jimenez. Patients also had their own

networking lounge and resource booth in the AASLD Resource Center.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Nominations for 2022 Positions

Dr. Meena Bansal announced that the 2022 Call for Nominations/Volunteers for candidates for Governing Board positions of Councilor, Councilor-at-Large, Secretary, Foundation Board Trustee, 2022 Nominating Committee, 2021 Distinguished Achievement, Distinguished Clinician Educator/Mentor, Distinguished Service and Distinguished Advocacy Service Awards, and Standing Committees would be open from October 15, 2020 - January 15, 2021.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday, November 8, 2019 in Boston, Massachusetts, were approved by an online vote by the membership in October 2020.

Recognition of Deceased Members

The contributions of the following individuals who passed away since the last annual meeting were highlighted, and members observed a moment of silence in recognition and remembrance:

- **Ding-Shinn Chen, MD, FAASLD**
- **Roger Williams, MD, FRCP**
- **Jeremiah G. Turcotte, MD**
- **Khözema Bakir Hussain, MD**
- **W. Graham E. Cooksley, MD, FAASLD**

Membership Report

In FY2020, AASLD members totaled 5,590 compared to 6,170 in FY2019. Special Interest Groups (SIGs) currently have over 7,200 members.

PATIENT ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

Dr. Bansal, Chair, presented a report on AASLD's strategic initiatives to engage patients to improve the organization's work. Dr. Bansal provided the following Patient Engagement updates:

- Kickoff of Patient Advisory Group (PAG) at TLM 2019.
- Officially convened the PAG in January 2020.
- Curation of a patient/advocate-centric TLMdX 2020 program

- Inaugural year for the Distinguished Advocacy Service Award: selected 2020 recipient was The Hepatitis B Foundation.
- The patient community presenting at educational programs.
- Representation on committees, bringing their perspectives into our initiatives.

Patient and community representatives are on eight committees as of January 2020 (AASLD membership is not required for appointment to these positions):

Patient Advisory Group, Communications and Technology, Online Education, Practice Guidelines, Practice Metrics, Public Policy, and **NEW IN 2021:** Fundamentals of Liver Disease and Individual Fundraising.

Affirmation of New Governing Board Members

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

- **Grace L. Su, MD, FAASLD**
University of Michigan, as Councilor, for the term beginning January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2026, and as President in 2025.
- **Paul Martin, MD, FAASLD**, *University of Miami School of Medicine*, as Councilor-at-Large, for the term January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2023.

Affirmation of Officers for 2021

In accordance with the Bylaws, the officers of the Association were announced for January 1 - December 31, 2021 as follows:

- **Raymond T. Chung, MD, FAASLD, President**
Massachusetts General Hospital
- **Laurie D. DeLeve, MD, PhD, FAASLD, President-Elect**, *University of Southern California*
- **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 2021 Nominating Committee

The incoming members of the 2021 Nominating Committee were affirmed as follows:

-- Elected (2021-2022)

Jennifer C. Lai, MD

University of California, San Francisco

Nancy Reau, MD, FAASLD

Rush University Medical Center

-- Appointed (2021-2022)

Gavin E. Arteel, PhD, FAASLD

University of Pittsburgh

Andrew P. Keaveny, MD, FRCPI, FAASLD

Mayo Clinic Florida

Hoylan Fernandez, MD, MPH (I & D Member)

Baylor University Medical Center

Jorge A. Bezerra, MD, FAASLD, the immediate Past President, will chair the Nominating Committee in 2021.

Other members of the Nominating Committee:

Jasmohan S. Bajaj, MD, FAASLD

Virginia Commonwealth University

Mark W. Russo, MD, MPH, FAASLD

Carolinas Medical Center

Elizabeth C. Verna, MD, MS

Columbia University Medical Center

Cara Lynn Mack, MD, FAASLD

University of Colorado School of Medicine

Marina Serper, MD

University of Pennsylvania Health System

Announcement of Changes to AASLD Bylaws

The following Bylaw changes were approved by the membership during the Leadership election that ran from Friday, September 11, 2020 – Friday, October 2, 2020:

Bylaw Change #1: The Bylaws will be updated to replace Executive Director with Chief Executive Officer.

Bylaw Change #2: The Bylaws will be revised to delete President as Chief Executive Officer

Bylaw Change #3: Inclusion of Associate Fellow of AASLD as a member category

AASLD FOUNDATION

Dr. Bruce Luxon reported that the Foundation funded over \$2.2 million in funding towards awards and education. The 24 Research & Career Development award recipients, selected from a highly competitive applicant pool, demonstrated both exceptional aptitude and deep interest in liver disease research and treatment.

The Foundation also supported 20 Emerging Liver Scholars (ELS) in 2020:

- The ELS Program has helped attract the best and brightest young students and physicians to pursue hepatology. ELS recipients receive a meaningful experience and mentoring opportunities throughout the year.
- Since 2012, 280 ELS have participated in The Liver Meeting.
- More than 50% of ELS pursue careers in hepatology and the Foundation looks forward to their long, productive leadership in the field.
- A total of 61 exceptional early career researchers were recognized with an AASLD Foundation Abstract Award for promising research presented at The Liver Meeting Digital Experience.

100% of the Foundation's programming is supported through donations from AASLD members and the public, grants and donations from industry and private foundations, and the AASLD commits to our funding annually.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Dr. Vijay Shah reported that AASLD and the AASLD Foundation Financial Statements for FY2020 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020) were audited. The Finance Committee, which oversees the financial and investment activities of AASLD, reviewed the independent auditor's reports by Gelman, Rosenberg and Freedman.

The Governing Board reviewed and approved the FY2020 audit reports on October 16, 2020. 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. Shah reviewed the FY2020 Combined Financial Position, including revenues and expenses. He highlighted that AASLD and Foundation Consolidated had done well in spending 86% of annual expenses on programs which exceeds industry best practices of 77%.

Recognition of Leaders with Ending Terms

Dr. Bezerra recognized the following members who will be completing their terms on December 31, 2020 for their service and commitment to AASLD:

Governing Board

- **Michael W. Fried, MD, FAASLD**
Past-President
- **John R. Lake, MD, FAASLD**
Councilor-at-Large

AASLD Foundation Board

- **Robert S. Brown, Jr., MD, MPH, FAASLD**
Foundation Board Trustee

Committee Chairs

Grace Su, MD, FAASLD

Annual Meeting Education Committee

Harmeet Malhi, MD, MBBS, FAASLD

Basic Research Committee

Andrew Muir, MD, FAASLD

Finance Committee

Willscott Naugler, MD, FAASLD

Journals Publications Committee

Elizabeth May, MD, PhD

Membership and Mentorship Committee

Maria Hernandez, MD, MBA

Women's Initiatives Committee

Special Interest Group (SIG) Chairs

Kris Kowdley, MD, FACP, FACG, AGAF, FAASLD

Clinical Practice (SIG)

Mindie Nguyen, MD, MAS, AGAF, FAASLD

Hepatitis B (SIG)

Josep Llovet, MD, FAASLD

Hepatobiliary Neoplasia (SIG)

HoChong Gilles, DNP, FNP-C, AF-AASLD

Hepatology Associates (SIG)

Yasuko Iwakiri, PhD, FAASLD

Liver Cell Biology in Hepatic Disease (SIG)

Ekihiro Seki, MD, PhD, FAASLD

Liver Fibrosis (SIG)

Theo Heller, MD, FAASLD

Portal Hypertension: Clinical and Experimental (SIG)

INSTALLATION OF THE NEXT PRESIDENT

Dr. Bezerra presented the AASLD gavel to Dr. Chung, who will become the 72nd President of the Association, noting his confidence in his leadership.

Appreciation of Retiring President

Dr. Chung expressed appreciation to Dr. Bezerra for his years of service to AASLD and thanked him on behalf of AASLD members and the Governing Board for his dedicated leadership.

Dr. Bezerra expressed gratitude for the honor of serving the Association during his presidential year. He thanked the organization's members and staff for making it productive and enjoyable.

Incoming President's Address

Dr. Chung accepted the privilege of leading the Association as the incoming President and provided the following 2021 Key Priorities:

- Create AASLD Guidance on NAFLD and make accessible globally through web dissemination
- Extend the promising work begun on Viral Hepatitis Elimination by the VHE Task Force.
- A formalized relationship with the SECURE-Cirrhosis Registry to provide links to the website and promote access of interested members to data, particularly to expand research opportunities. Integration with other regions, particularly Latin America, will also be promoted for the database.

- Mobilize Regional Interest Groups (RIGs)
- Engage in the Intersociety Group on Diversity supported by our sister GI Societies
- Broaden Patient Engagement Efforts

2021 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Chung reported that 313 standing committee positions will exist in 2021. The membership nominated 308 individuals to fill 85 open positions for 2021 service, 51% of those appointed will be serving on a committee for the first time and 47% are females, who comprise 37% of the membership and 29% of all Committee chairs. 19% of Appointees are Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, or biracial.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Meena B. Bansal, MD, FAASLD
AASLD Secretary

- **Minutes Review Committee**
Jorge A. Bezerra, MD, FAASLD
Laurie D. DeLeve, MD, PhD, FAASLD

2021 COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) CHAIRS

AASLD COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2021

- Annual Meeting Education Committee
Virginia C. Clark, MD, MS
- Basic Research Committee
Bernd Schnabl, MD, 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
- Ethics Committee
Michael H. Nathanson, MD, PhD, FAASLD
- Finance Committee
Nikolaos T. Pyrsopoulos, MD, PhD, MBA, FAASLD
- Fundamentals of Liver Disease (Foundation)
Raj Vuppalanchi, 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
- Individual Fundraising Committee (Foundation)
Fredric D. Gordon, MD, FAASLD
- Industry Advancement Committee
Steven L. Flamm, MD, FAASLD
- Journals Publications Committee
Michael R. Lucey, MD, FAASLD
- Maintenance of Certification Committee
Mark W. Russo, MD, MPH, FAASLD
- Membership and Mentorship Committee
Vinay Sundaram, MD
- Nominating Committee
Jorge A. Bezerra, MD, FAASLD
- Online Learning Committee
Rohit S. Satoskar, MD, FAASLD
- Practice Guidelines Committee
George Ioannou, MD, FAASLD
- Practice Metrics Committee
Sumeet K. Asrani, MD MSc
- Public Policy Committee
Tamar H. Taddei, MD, FAASLD
- Scientific Program Committee
Raymond T. Chung, MD, FAASLD
Co-chair, Meena B. Bansal, MD, FAASLD
- Surgery and Liver Transplantation Committee
Bijan Egtesad, MD, FAASLD
- Training and Workforce Committee
Janice Jou, MD, MHS, FAASLD
- Women's Initiatives Committee
Monika Sarkar, MD, MAS

AASLD SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP CHAIRS FOR 2021

- 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
Paul J. Thuluvath, MD, AGAF, FRCP, FAASLD
- Hepatitis B SIG
Harry L. A. Janssen, MD, PhD, FAASLD
- Hepatitis C SIG
Mark S. Sulkowski, MD, FAASLD
- Hepatobiliary Neoplasia SIG
Jessica Zucman-Rossi, MD, PhD
- Hepatology Associates SIG
Lisa M. Richards, MSN, FNP, AF-AASLD
- Hepatotoxicity SIG
Adrian Reuben, MBBS, FRCP, FACG, FAASLD
- Liver Cell Biology in Hepatic Diseases SIG
Natalia Nieto, PhD
- Liver Fibrosis SIG
Yury Popov, MD, PhD
- 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
Scott W. Biggins, MD, MAS, FAASLD
- Public Health/Health Care Delivery SIG
Brett E. Fortune, MD, MSc