Dear Cholestatic and Biliary Disorders SIG Members,

The tremendous attendance at our recent session at the Liver Meeting in San Francisco clearly highlights the growing interests in this area of liver diseases. This presents us with great opportunities to drive our field forward through increasing participation of investigators and new approaches to understand these diseases. However, the relative rarity of these diseases requires collaborative efforts among many investigators. Such groups include the International PSC Study Group (IPSCSG) and the Global PBC Study Group. Both of these groups have made important advances possible in genetics, epidemiology, and prognostic models. Unfortunately, participation from North American investigators in these groups has been limited to a few centers and in the case of PSC has had limited representation from pediatric centers. In addition, there are unique questions in North American patients in terms of patient populations, healthcare delivery, and other factors.

To address these issues, a Consortium of Autoimmune Liver Diseases has been formed with the goals to:

- Increase participation of North American investigators and centers in established consortia including IPSCSG
- Provide a platform for researchers to initiate investigations into knowledge gaps unique to North America
- Recruit investigators, both new and established, into the field of cholestatic and biliary disorders

The initial objective of the Consortium is to develop a PSC Patient database aligned with the IPSCSC database that will be capable of investigating unique clinical aspects of PSC in North America across races and ethnicities and to assess the prognostic accuracy of MR elastography in PSC. The database, led by David Assis from Yale University, will be open shortly for enrollment.

Members interested in participating in the PSC database may contact David Assis (david.assis@yale.edu) for more information.

Consortium of Autoimmune Liver Disease Steering Committee

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