

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF LIVER DISEASES

# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

60TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

*Career Development and Professional Growth.*

*Healthcare Professionals and Scientists.*

*Professionals Committed to Hepatology.*

*Change in Public Policy.*

*The Vision to Prevent and Cure Liver Diseases.*

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR  
THE STUDY OF LIVER DISEASES



PROMOTE

EDUCATE

TRAIN

EFFECT

SUPPORT

## VISION

To Prevent and Cure Liver Disease

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## MISSION

To advance the science and practice of hepatology, liver transplantation and hepatobiliary surgery, thereby promoting liver health and optimal care of patients with liver and biliary tract diseases.

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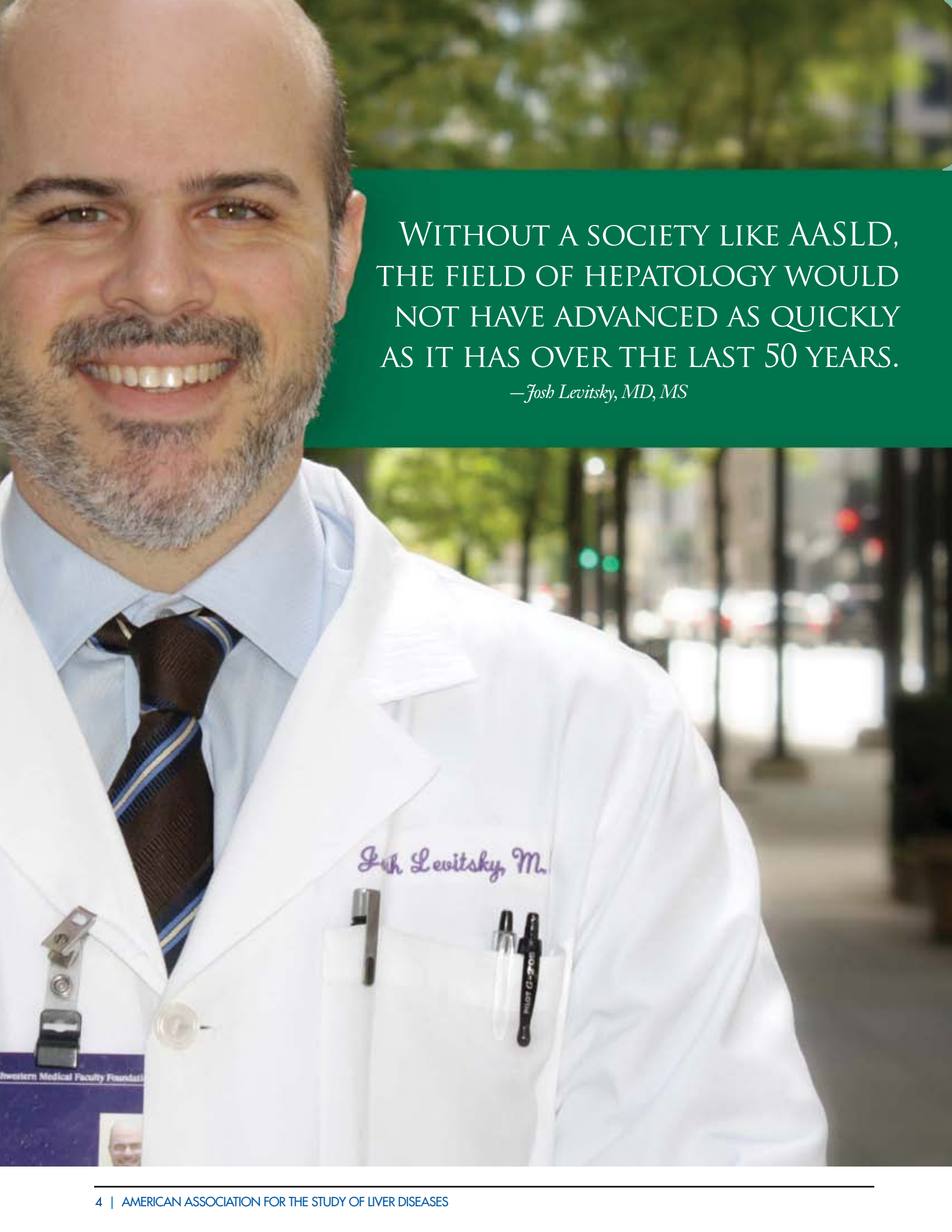
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*All photos taken at The Liver Meeting® 2010 © Allan E. Dines.*



WITHOUT A SOCIETY LIKE AASLD,  
THE FIELD OF HEPATOLOGY WOULD  
NOT HAVE ADVANCED AS QUICKLY  
AS IT HAS OVER THE LAST 50 YEARS.

—*Josh Levitsky, MD, MS*

# PROMOTE

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

## JOSH LEVITSKY, MD, MS

### 2008 CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD IN LIVER TRANSPLANTATION IN MEMORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN TRANSPLANT TEAM

**D**r. Josh Levitsky knew as the population aged there would be a growing number of patients developing serious conditions like end stage liver disease and fatty liver disease. This thought reinforced, in his eyes, the great need for committed and active research in the area of liver transplantation. *“Liver transplantation could be a cure for these patients and although it’s not without complications, it’s exciting to take a patient that is very ill and give them a long term chance of survival. There aren’t many fields that can do that,”* Levitsky said.

As the recipient of the 2008 AASLD Career Development Award, Dr. Levitsky was able to devote more time to the study of immune tolerance and alloreactivity in liver transplant recipients. “Receiving the Career Development Award has helped me tremendously. Before that I was doing mostly clinical research and retrospective studies but the Career Development Award allowed me to focus my career and the results from my study have allowed me to apply for a number of grants and collaborate with other investigators,” said Levitsky.

Dr. Levitsky believes AASLD’s award program provides the foundation future hepatologists need to develop new research. “AASLD is the primary society in our field and it’s the only society completely focused on liver disease. Without a society like AASLD, the field of hepatology would not have advanced as quickly as it has over the last 50 years,” says Levitsky.

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*The Career Development Award allowed me to focus my career and the results from my study have allowed me to apply for a number of grants and collaborate with other investigators.*

—Josh Levitsky, MD, MS

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*Levitsky is currently an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine.*

The AASLD Career Development Award in Liver Transplantation in Memory of the University of Michigan Transplant Team was established in 2008 to honor the Transplant Survival Flight Team whose transport crashed over Lake Michigan on June 4, 2007 on the return leg of an organ procurement mission. This award honors those dedicated to life-saving organ transplantation.

# SUPPORTING AASLD IS CRUCIAL TO FURTHERING OUR KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF LIVER DISEASE.

—Patrick M. Horne, MSN, ARNP, FNP-BC



# PROMOTE

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

## PATRICK M. HORNE, MSN, ARNP, FNP-BC 2009 NP/PA CLINICAL HEPATOLOGY FELLOWSHIP

**P**atrick Horne was first exposed to patients with liver disease while working as a registered nurse, and this began his interest in the field of hepatology. He began to realize how vital the liver was after seeing patients that are in liver failure – “*Hepatology is important because the liver itself is so important to life,*” he states.

Horne received the 2009 AASLD NP/PA Clinical Hepatology Fellowship and was mentored by Dr. David Nelson and Dr. Roniel Cabrera. Because of the fellowship, Horne was able to devote more time to the study of hepatology and the complexity of the field. He cites the changes in the treatment of viral Hepatitis C as an example of both the progress and potential for the field.

Horne believes there are still opportunities for investigating and curing liver disease – and AASLD offers the possibility for continued education and research to emerging researchers in the field through the awards program. Horne feels that without the AASLD awards program, many young researchers and clinicians may not have entered the field due to lack of access to funding.



*I have expanded my understanding of the liver, which in turn has translated into better patient care.*

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

*Horne is currently at the University of Florida, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition, Section of Hepatobiliary Diseases.*

Since 2004,  
**AASLD**  
has awarded  
**81**  
NP/PA Clinical  
Hepatology  
Fellowships  
for a total of  
**\$6.4**  
million.

## RESEARCH AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Research, advancing human health, and developing the next generation of hepatologists, liver transplant surgeons, and allied health professionals are among AASLD's highest priorities. AASLD's commitment to the following research and career development awards exceeded **\$1.6 MILLION** in 2010. 100% of donations to the *New Challenges – New Solutions* campaign and The Liver Research Fund are used to fund the designated research award and fellowship programs. AASLD supports the administrative costs related to these awards.

### AASLD/ALF LIVER SCHOLAR AWARD

A three-year basic science award of \$225,000 (\$75,000/year) that:

- encourages young investigators to pursue a career in liver-related research;
- bridges the gap between completion of research training and attaining status as an independent research scientist; and
- enhances the capability to compete for research grants from national sources, particularly the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

#### 2010 RECIPIENTS

##### Udayan Apte, PhD

University of Kansas Medical Center  
*Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin Signaling in Liver Regeneration Following Acetaminophen-induced Acute Liver Failure*  
Mentor: Harmut Jaeschke, PhD

##### Amal Dutta, MD, PhD

UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas  
*Regulation of Biliary Secretion and Bile Formation by the Ca<sup>2+</sup>-activated Cl-channel TMEM16A*  
Mentor: Andrew P. Feranchak, MD

##### Takeshi Saito, MD, PhD

Keck School of Medicine at USC  
*Identification of a Novel Host Innate Immune Factor that Regulates HCV*  
Mentor: Neil Kaplowitz, MD

AASLD acknowledges funding for the 2010 AASLD/ALF Liver Scholar Awards is made possible through independent grants from Bristol-Myers Squibb, Human Genome Sciences, Merck, Salix Pharmaceuticals, the Roche Foundation; and donors to the *New Challenges-New Solutions* campaign and The Liver Research Fund.

### AASLD JAN ALBRECHT COMMITMENT TO CLINICAL RESEARCH IN LIVER DISEASES AWARD

A two-year clinical research and/or translational research award of \$150,000 (\$75,000/year) that fosters career development in a liver-related area and is presented to an individual that has shown commitment to excellence at an early stage in their research study.

This award is named in honor of Janice K. Albrecht, PhD for her work in the planning, management, and oversight of hepatology research and development programs, including the treatment of viral hepatitis, for the Schering-Plough Research Institute.

#### 2010 RECIPIENT

##### Carla Coffin, MD, MSC

University of Calgary  
*Molecular Characterization of HBV Reservoirs*  
Mentor: Samuel Lee, MD

AASLD acknowledges funding for the 2010 Jan Albrecht Award is made possible through an independent grant from Merck and donors to the *New Challenges-New Solutions* campaign.



*AASLD/ALF Liver Scholar Award Recipients (Apte, Dutta, and Saito)*

# PROMOTE

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

## AASLD SHEILA SHERLOCK CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH AWARD IN LIVER DISEASES

A two-year clinical research and/or translational research award of \$150,000 (\$75,000/year) that fosters career development in a liver-related area and is presented to an individual that has shown commitment to excellence at an early stage in their research study.

This award is named in honor of Dame Sheila Sherlock for her pioneering research and dedication to young research fellows which helped elevate hepatology to the discipline it is today.

### 2010 RECIPIENT

#### **Dahlene Fusco, MD, PhD**

Massachusetts General Hospital  
*Identification of IL28B (Interferon Lambda 3) Stimulated Genes as Targets for HCV Antiviral Development*  
Mentor: Raymond Chung, MD

AASLD acknowledges funding for the 2010 Sheila Sherlock Award is made possible through an independent grant from Genentech and donors to The Liver Research Fund.

## AASLD ADVANCED/TRANSPLANT HEPATOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

A one-year award which provides \$60,000 in salary and benefit support for gastroenterology fellows pursuing an additional, full-year of training focused on patient care in advanced/transplant hepatology. The intent of the award is to prepare the trainee to be eligible for certification in transplant hepatology by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) and/or the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP).

### 2010 RECIPIENTS

#### **Kathleen Corey, MD, MPH**

Massachusetts General Hospital  
Mentor: Raymond Chung, MD

#### **Janice Jou, MD**

Duke University Medical Center  
Mentor: Andrew Muir, MD

#### **Howard Masuoka, MD, PhD**

Mayo Clinic in Rochester  
Mentors: Gregory J. Gores, MD and John J. Poterucha, MD

#### **Elizabeth Verna, MD, MS**

Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons  
Mentor: Robert S. Brown, Jr., MD

AASLD acknowledges funding for the 2010 Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Fellowship Program is made possible through independent grants from Astellas USA Foundation, Merck, the Roche Foundation, Roche Molecular Systems, SciClone Pharmaceuticals; and donors to the *New Challenges-New Solutions* campaign and The Liver Research Fund.



*AASLD Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Fellowship Recipients (Jou, Corey and Verna)*

## AASLD CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD IN LIVER TRANSPLANTATION

### In Memory of the University of Michigan Transplant Team

A two-year award of \$90,000 (\$45,000/year) designed to foster career development for an individual performing clinical and/or translational research in the field of liver transplantation and who has shown commitment to excellence in the field at an early stage in their career.

### 2010 RECIPIENT

#### **Todd V. Brennan, MD, MS**

Duke University Medical Center  
*Regulation of Alloreactive T Lymphocytes by the Innate Immune System*  
Mentor: Anna Mae Diehl, MD

AASLD acknowledges funding for the 2010 Career Development Award is made possible through an independent grant from Astellas USA Foundation.

## AASLD/LIFER CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN LIVER DISEASES AWARD

A one-year \$75,000 award designed to foster career development for an individual outside North America to perform clinical research within the United States in a liver-related area and who has shown commitment to excellence at an early stage of their research study. The award is intended to provide a mechanism that enables young investigators to develop independent and productive liver disease research careers.

### 2010 RECIPIENT

#### **Sarwa Darwish Murad, MD, PhD**

Mayo Clinic in Rochester  
*Efficacy of Neoadjuvant Chemoradiotherapy Followed by Liver Transplantation for Hilar Cholangiocarcinoma: A Multi-Center Review*  
Mentor: Julie Heimbach, MD

AASLD acknowledges funding for the 2010 AASLD/ LIFER Research Fellowship Award from the Liver Institute and Foundation for Education and Research (LIFER).

AASLD is also providing partial support for this award.

## AASLD NP/PA CLINICAL HEPATOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

A one-year award which provides \$78,000 in salary and benefit support for certified and licensed physician assistants (PA) or nurse practitioners (NP) pursuing a full year of training focused on clinical care in hepatology and is designed to:

- increase the number of associate practitioners in clinical hepatology;
- facilitate the transition (or shift in emphasis) into clinical hepatology for associate practitioners; and
- increase access for liver disease patients to adequately trained clinicians.

### 2010 RECIPIENTS

#### **Dustin Latimer, PA-C**

Drexel University College of Medicine  
Mentor: David A. Sass, MD

#### **Parminder K. Bath Sohal, BSN, MSN, CRNP**

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital  
Mentor: Victor J. Navarro, MD

#### **Ashley Reiter, MSN, CRNP**

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania  
Mentor: K. Rajender Reddy, MD

AASLD acknowledges funding for the 2010 NP/PA Clinical Hepatology Fellowship program is made possible through independent grants from the Roche Foundation, Vertex Pharmaceuticals; and donors to The Liver Research Fund.

## PSC PARTNERS SEEKING A CURE AWARD

A \$3,000 award presented to the investigator presenting the most promising primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC) research at The Liver Meeting®.

### 2010 RECIPIENT

#### **John Eaton, MD**

Mayo Clinic in Rochester  
Rochester, Minnesota

AASLD gratefully acknowledges support for the PSC Partners Seeking a Cure Award from PSC Partners.

## AASLD FELLOW RESEARCH AWARD

A \$1,000 award presented for the best abstract submitted to The Liver Meeting® by a fellow.

### 2010 RECIPIENT

#### **Richard Skoien, FRACP**

University of Queensland, Princess Alexandra Hospital  
Queensland, Australia

AASLD acknowledges funding for the 2010 AASLD Fellow Research Award is made possible through a grant from the SunTrust Foundation.



AASLD Sheila Sberlock Clinical and Translational Research Award in Liver Diseases recipient Dablene Fusco, MD, PhD with Samuel S. Lee, MD.

# PROMOTE

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH



*AASLD Young Investigator Travel Award Recipient (Chaudhary)*

## AASLD PEDIATRIC RESEARCH AWARD

A \$1,000 award presented for the best abstract submitted to The Liver Meeting® by a physician/scientist with a primary appointment affiliation in a department of pediatrics.

### 2010 RECIPIENT

**Nitika Arora Gupta, MD, DCH**

Emory University School of Medicine  
Atlanta, Georgia

AASLD acknowledges funding for the 2010 AASLD Pediatric Research Award is made possible through a grant from the SunTrust Foundation.

## AASLD STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD

A \$1,000 award presented for research conducted by a graduate or undergraduate student.

### 2010 RECIPIENT

**Vedashree Ramakrishnaiah**

Erasmus MC – University Medical Center  
Rotterdam, Netherlands

AASLD acknowledges funding for the 2010 AASLD Student Research Award is made possible through a grant from the SunTrust Foundation.

## AASLD ASSOCIATE RESEARCH AWARDS

These \$500 awards are presented for the best abstracts submitted to The Liver Meeting® by an associate.

**Matthew Bumbalough, MSN**

Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
Nashville, Tennessee

## AASLD YOUNG INVESTIGATOR TRAVEL AWARDS

These \$500 travel awards enable young investigators submitting the best abstracts for the AASLD Research Workshop to attend The Liver Meeting®.

### 2010 RECIPIENTS

**Marie-Luise Berres, MD**

University Hospital Aachen  
Aachen, Germany

**Kunal Chaudhary, MSc**

University Hospital Aachen  
Aachen, Germany

**Ketki Dongre, MSc**

GB Pant Hospital  
Delhi, India

**Mohammad R. Ebrahimkhani, MD**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

**Jens Marquardt, MD**

NCI/CCR/LEC  
Chevy Chase, Maryland

**Alessia Omenetti, MD, PhD**

Duke University Medical Center  
Durham, North Carolina

**Yury Popov, MD, PhD**

Beth Israel Deaconess  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Fatima Rangwala, MD, PhD**

Duke University Medical Center  
Durham, North Carolina

**David Scholten, MD, PhD**

University Hospital Aachen  
Aachen, Germany

**Jessica Wen, MD**

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

AASLD acknowledges funding for the 2010 Young Investigator Travel Awards is made possible through an independent grant from Merck.

# 2010 DISTINGUISHED



**SUM-PING LEE, MD, PHD**  
*Distinguished Achievement Award*

**THE AASLD DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** is given to an individual in honor of his or her sustained scientific contributions to the field of liver disease and the scientific foundations of hepatology. The award honors a sustained contribution rather than a single discovery or major achievement. The awardee need not be a member of AASLD and may be a non-scientist but the contribution should be solidly in the area of liver disease, physiology, anatomy or pathology.

## 2010 Distinguished Achievement Award Sum-Ping Lee, MD, PhD

Dr. Sum-Ping Lee graduated from the University of Hong Kong, and has an illustrious career spanning Hong Kong, New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. He is known for his research on hepato-biliary physiology.

Liver diseases, specifically bile and gallstones, have always interested Dr. Lee. He spent many years studying gallstones from a basic science standpoint using model lipid preparations, cell cultures, and animal models. With the advent of imaging techniques, Dr. Lee was able to detect the early stages of gallstone formation and follow its natural history. Dr. Lee has served as an advisor of several major scientific journals and research funding agencies, and has received many recognition awards.

Practicing medicine in different cultures has taught him that attention, effort, and responsibility are not only directed to the patient in front of him, but creates a collective experience and an opportunity to relieve human suffering. The most rewarding part of Dr. Lee's career has been drawing support, inspiration, and strength from his patients and students, much more so than they would ever realize.

"It is by teaching that I learned of my own inadequacies; it is by taking care of patients that I learned the meaning of humility, hope, and strength."



**BRUCE R. BACON, MD**  
*Distinguished Service Award*

**THE AASLD DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD** is given to an individual in honor of his or her sustained service to AASLD or the liver disease community in general. The award recognizes service provided to the community of hepatology researchers and clinicians over an extended period; service that is well above and beyond that provided by many members who serve on the Governing Board and Committees of AASLD. The awardee need not be a member of AASLD.

## 2010 Distinguished Service Award Bruce R. Bacon, MD

Dr. Bacon graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and pursued his residency and GI fellowship at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital. He served on the AASLD Governing Board from 2000 to 2005, and was President in 2004. Throughout his time on the board, he made significant contributions towards AASLD's goal of making hepatology its own discipline.

# AWARD RECIPIENTS

During his presidency, Dr. Bacon convinced the Board to create endowments for Single Topic Conferences and other special lectures so these educational opportunities would continue for future generations. Dr. Bacon also played a key role in helping to develop the transplant hepatology program with AASLD and ABIM.

He has served on several AASLD committees including the Scientific Program, Practice Guidelines, and Public Policy; he is presently serving on the Development Committee. Dr. Bacon has also been a mentor for AASLD fellowship recipients.

Dr. Bacon has helped thousands of patients as well as mentored young investigators for careers in hepatology and leadership positions in the field. He is currently the Director of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine.



**NORMAN D. GRACE, MD**  
*Distinguished Clinician Educator/Mentor Award*

**THE AASLD DISTINGUISHED CLINICIAN EDUCATOR/MENTOR AWARD** is given in honor of the sustained service of clinician educators to AASLD or the liver community in general. The award recognizes the skills of outstanding clinicians and educators who have made momentous contributions to hepatology over an extended period. The awardee need not be a member of AASLD.

## 2010 Distinguished Clinician Educator/Mentor Award Norman D. Grace, MD

Over one-hundred (100) gastroenterology fellows have trained under Dr. Grace; a number of them currently hold academic appointments at major teaching hospitals. Dr. Grace stresses to his fellows that the methodology is the most important part of a scientific paper, stating "...you need to understand how the study was designed. You don't just read the discussion and conclusion."

He has received several honors for teaching and clinical expertise - including awards from TUMS and Brigham and Womens Hospital. Dr. Grace authored over one-hundred manuscripts and book chapters, with a focus on portal hypertension, variceal bleeding, and hemochromatosis. He believes that being a good teacher also means being a good investigator.

Dr. Grace has been involved with AASLD since 1966. He was the first Chair of the Public Policy Committee and the initial Co-Chair of the Practice Guidelines Committee. He also served on the Clinical Committee, the Long Range Planning Committee, the Research Steering Committee Task Force, and the Editorial Board of HEPATOLOGY.

Dr. Grace's entire career has been in Boston - he is presently Professor of Medicine at TUMS, Director of Clinical Hepatology at Brigham and Womens Hospital, and a lecturer at Harvard Medical School.

60TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



## SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) SUMMARY

Special Interest Groups were formed in November 2007. Since their inception meeting, groups have developed and progressed on separate agendas. In May 2008, the Governing Board created a SIG Task Force to address the structure and uniformity in the developing groups. The result was the refinement of the SIG charge.

In 2009 SIGs evolved beyond their original goals of producing educational programs for The Liver Meeting®. Numerous groups have also ventured into research development – which will mean greater exchange and involvement for their members and further advancement in the field of hepatology. Below is an update of the 2010 SIG activity:

There are currently **1,622** SIG members.

### ACUTE ON CHRONIC LIVER FAILURE

**Chair:** Patrick Kamath, MD

### CHOLESTATIC LIVER DISORDERS

**Chair:** Richard M. Green, MD

**The Liver Meeting® programming:**

*Animal Models of Primary Biliary Cirrhosis*

Moderators: Richard M. Green, MD and Andrew L. Mason, MBBS, MRCPI

### HEPATITIS B

**Chair:** Robert Perrillo, MD

### HEPATOBIILIARY NEOPLASIA

**Chair:** Morris Sherman, MD

**The Liver Meeting® programming:**

*Cholangiocarcinoma: A Need to Standardize Tumor Classification?*

Moderators: Tushar Patel, MD and Gregory J. Gores, MD

### HEPATOTOXICITY

**Chair:** Paul Watkins, MD

### LIVER FIBROSIS

**Chair:** Rebecca Wells, MD

### LIVER TRANSPLANTATION AND SURGERY

**Chair:** Sandy Feng, MD

**The Liver Meeting® programming:**

*Transplantation of Small for Size Liver Grafts: The Left Lobe Challenge*

Moderators: John P. Roberts, MD, FACS and Elizabeth A. Pomfret, MD, PhD

### PEDIATRIC LIVER DISORDERS

**Chair:** Benjamin Shneider, MD

**The Liver Meeting® programming:**

*Controversies in Liver Allocation to Children*

Moderator: Karan M. Emerick, MD

### PORTAL HYPERTENSION

**Chair:** Michael B. Fallon, MD

**The Liver Meeting® programming:**

*TIPS: Redefining its Role in the Treatment of Portal Hypertension*

Moderators: Thomas D. Boyer, MD and Juan Carlos Garcia-Pagan, MD

### STEATOSIS AND STEATOHEPATITIS

**Chair:** Hari Conjeevaram, MD

**The Liver Meeting® programming:**

*Genetics and Environment in the Progression of NAFLD*

Moderators: Gyorgy Baffy, MD, PhD and Brent A. Neuschwander-Tetri, MD

## SINGLE TOPIC CONFERENCES

### AASLD/EASL CLINICAL RESEARCH SINGLE TOPIC CONFERENCE MARCH 18-19, 2010

ACLF is the common term used to describe the rapid decline in liver function in patients with cirrhosis. There is no consensus on optimal management of such patients in the ICU. The aim of this conference is to develop a consensus on the recognition and management of the patient with acute on chronic liver failure (ACLF) in the intensive care unit (ICU).

#### TOPIC: INTENSIVE CARE OF THE PATIENT WITH ACUTE ON CHRONIC LIVER FAILURE

**Course Directors:** Vicente Arroyo, MD  
Rajiv Jalan, MD  
Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao, MD  
Patrick S. Kamath, MD

*This program is supported by the AASLD Clinical Research Single Topic Conference Board Restricted Fund and co-sponsored by the European Association for the Study of the Liver: AASLD gratefully acknowledges funding for this program through independent education grants from Gambro and Ikaria.*

### TRANSPLANT HEPATOLOGY CERTIFICATION REVIEW COURSE SEPTEMBER 11, 2010

The Transplant Hepatology Certification Review Course is designed to prepare practitioners for the American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM) Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) exam. This comprehensive symposium consists of case presentations aimed to better prepare practitioners to manage patients both prior to and after liver transplantation. This program is endorsed by: ILTS, NASPGHAN, AST.

**Course Directors:** Jeffrey S. Crippin, MD  
Carl L. Berg, MD

*This course is developed as an original and independent education offering based on the public ABIM/ABP exam blueprint and is not approved or endorsed by ABIM or ABP. According to ABIM policy, no ABIM Board Members have been involved in the development of this course. AASLD does not guarantee that attending this course will result in passing the ABIM exam. AASLD gratefully acknowledges funding for this program through independent education grants from Astellas USA and Genentech.*

## JOURNALS

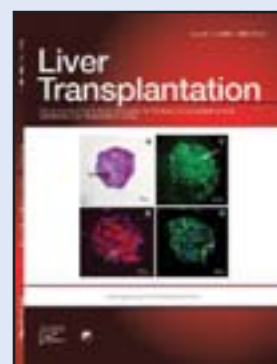


### HEPATOLOGY

The premier publication in the field of liver disease, HEPATOLOGY publishes original, peer reviewed articles concerning all aspects of liver structure, function, and disease. Each month, the distinguished Editorial Board monitors and selects only the best

articles on subjects such as immunology, chronic hepatitis, viral hepatitis, cirrhosis, genetic and metabolic liver diseases and their complications, liver cancer, and drug metabolism.

**2010 HEPATOLOGY editor:**  
Keith D. Lindor, MD



### LIVER TRANSPLANTATION

Since the first application of liver transplantation in a clinical situation was reported more than twenty years ago, there has been a great deal of growth in this field and more is anticipated. As an official publication of AASLD and the ILTS,

*Liver Transplantation* delivers current, peer-reviewed articles on surgical techniques, clinical investigations and drug research – the information necessary to keep abreast of this evolving specialty.

**2010 Liver Transplantation editors:**  
John R. Lake, MD and John P. Roberts, MD, FACS

# EDUCATE

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AND SCIENTISTS

## The Liver Meeting® Boston, MA October 29 – November 2 2010

### THE PREMIER EVENT IN THE SCIENCE AND PRACTICE OF HEPATOLOGY;

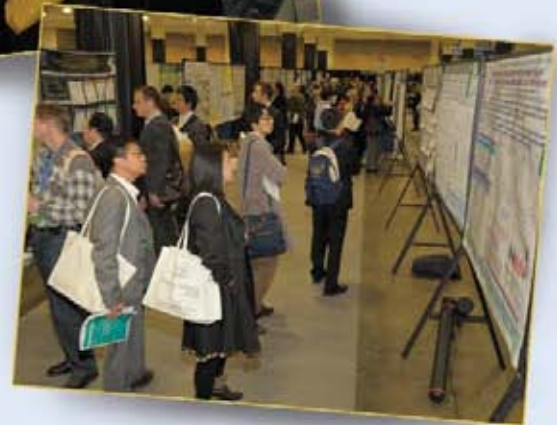
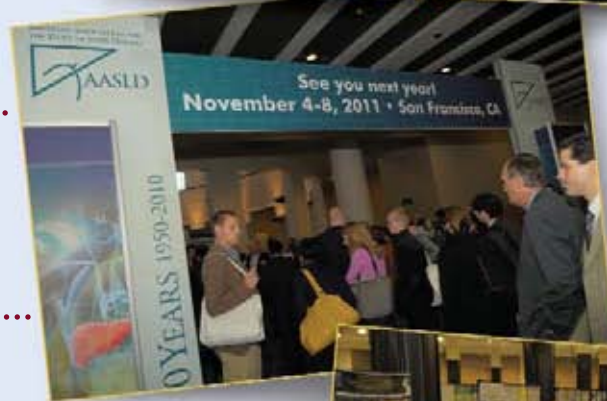
where the cutting edge in the study and treatment of liver and biliary diseases is defined. The Liver Meeting® is designed specifically to educate hepatology professionals on the dynamic changes in their field and to connect leading scientists around the world.



### RECORD REGISTRATION:

**8100 attendees; 3413** registered for the Postgraduate Course. More than **50%** were international attendees.

This year several changes were implemented based on survey results received from constituents. A few of the changes include: ending the Postgraduate Course earlier; adding more clinical programming; the debut of the Hepatitis Debrief synthesizing the new data from the meeting; and Special Interest Group programming was incorporated in the daytime abstract program.



*AASLD is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians. It is the policy of AASLD to ensure balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in all its individually or jointly sponsored educational programs.*

# TRAIN

PROFESSIONALS COMMITTED TO HEPATOLOGY

More than **2,800 ABSTRACTS** were submitted; a **4% INCREASE** over 2009. **72%** were accepted with **178** receiving recognition as a **POSTER OF DISTINCTION**.

## AASLD Postgraduate Course

Held each year in conjunction with The Liver Meeting®, the AASLD Postgraduate Course highlights a significant issue of liver research facing physicians today.

**Topic:** *Viral Hepatitis: Five Decades of Progress and Promises for the Future*

**Course Directors:** T. Jake Liang, MD  
Adrian M. Di Bisceglie, MD  
Norah Terrault, MD, MPH

Viral Hepatitis is the most common cause of acute and chronic liver disease in the world. There are five forms of well-defined viral hepatitis: A and E causing acute hepatitis, and B, C and D resulting in both acute and chronic liver disease. This comprehensive course covered current knowledge and important advances in the basic sciences of virology, immunology, vaccine development, and antiviral therapeutics; as well as the clinical topics of natural history, epidemiology, clinical management, prevention, and therapy.

Chronic viral hepatitis is also the leading cause of liver cancer in the world, which has the fastest increasing incidence among all cancers in the Western world.



## SCIENTIFIC EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIA

As the leading organization focused solely on advancing the science and practice of hepatology, AASLD offers scientific educational symposia that are developed by leading hepatologists. Each event features expert speakers presenting the finest data in the most current and critical topics of liver disease such as the Hepatitis Debrief, offered for the first time, on the last day of the meeting.

Only AASLD events meet the increasing demand of hepatology's growing importance as a medical specialty by providing participants the opportunity to exchange research, discuss outcomes, and interact with colleagues focused on liver and biliary diseases.

In order to enhance our worldwide effort to work with international medical societies and health organizations to document the burden of chronic liver disease, each of the continental liver societies participated in the Global Forum. This program provided attendees the scope of liver disease worldwide, but also communicated the individual and societal impact posed by liver disease.



## STATE-OF-THE ART LECTURES

The offering of groundbreaking discoveries by top scientists in their specific areas of hepatobiliary research continued in the annual State-of-the-Art Lectures offered during The Liver Meeting® 2010. The lectures featured:

### HANS POPPER BASIC SCIENCE STATE-OF-THE-ART LECTURE

The Hans Popper Basic Science State-of-the-Art Lecture recognizes Dr. Popper, the founder of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD), for his role in the establishment of HEPATOLOGY and his promotion of the intellectual spirit of the Association.

**Topic:** *Bile Acid Signaling—A Journey from the Nucleus to the Cell Membrane*

Speaker: Johan Auwerx, MD, PhD

### LEON SCHIFF STATE-OF-THE-ART LECTURE

The Leon Schiff State-of-the-Art Lecture recognizes Dr. Schiff's work to elevate the study and practice of hepatology to the discipline it is today. To ensure that future hepatologists have a distinct platform to provide valuable insights at The Liver Meeting®, a restricted fund has been established to support the lecture in perpetuity. AASLD gratefully acknowledges the National Genetics Institute for their generous support of this program.

**Topic:** *Genetics and Personalized Medicine for the Treatment of Hepatitis C*

Speaker: David B. Goldstein, PhD

**The Best of The Liver Meeting®**

## THOMAS E. STARZL TRANSPLANT SURGERY STATE-OF-THE-ART LECTURE

The Thomas E. Starzl Transplant Surgery State-of-the-Art Lecture recognizes the pioneering work that Dr. Starzl has done to elevate liver transplantation from an experimental procedure to one that saves thousands of lives annually. To ensure that future transplant scientists have a distinct platform to provide valuable insights at The Liver Meeting®, a restricted fund has been established to support the lecture in perpetuity. AASLD gratefully acknowledges the donors to this fund, which includes Astellas USA for their support.

**Topic:** *Hepatobiliary Neoplasia –  
Is Transplantation the Answer?*

Speaker: Michael M. Abecassis, MD, MBA

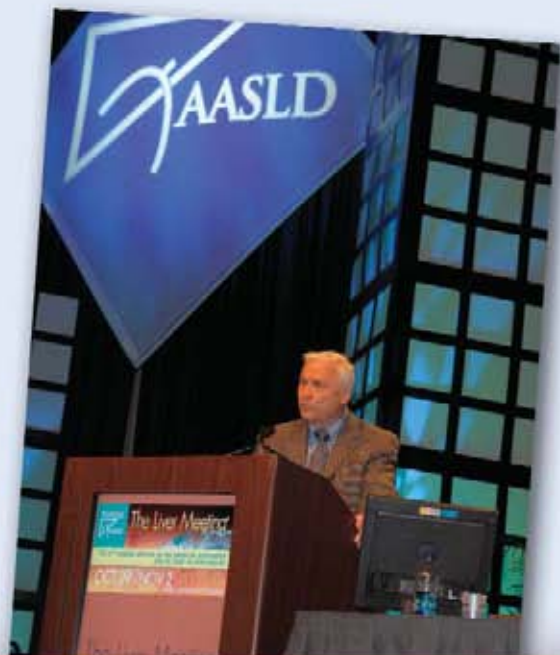


## HYMAN J. ZIMMERMAN HEPATOTOXICITY STATE-OF-THE-ART LECTURE

The Hyman J. Zimmerman Hepatotoxicity State-of-the-Art Lecture recognizes Dr. Zimmerman's work in toxic liver injury. To ensure that future scientists have a distinct platform to provide valuable insights on liver toxicity at The Liver Meeting®, a restricted fund has been established to support the lecture in perpetuity. AASLD gratefully acknowledges Eli Lilly and Company for their generous support of this program.

**Topic:** *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly:  
Innate Immunity in Liver Injury*

Speaker: Gyongyi Szabo, MD, PhD



The State-of-the-Art Lectures, General Hepatology Update, Postgraduate Course, Hepatology Associates Course, and the plenary sessions held at The Liver Meeting® 2010 were captured and are accessible online free-of-charge via the AASLD website ([www.aasld.org](http://www.aasld.org)).

In many ways, 2010 was a break out year for AASLD's efforts in the public policy arena. Early in the year, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a report entitled ***"Hepatitis and Liver Cancer: A National Strategy for Prevention and Control of Hepatitis B and C."***

That report stated one in fifty Americans has viral hepatitis and that the majority who have it are unaware of their illness. In addition, the report called for major new efforts that must include increased funding for research and education of the population, policy makers, and the medical community, as well as calling for adequately funded programs for surveillance and identification of those with viral hepatitis.

In response to the IOM report on viral hepatitis, AASLD partnered with the Trust for America's Health to issue a report outlining concrete steps to respond to the viral hepatitis epidemic. The report's release was highlighted by then-President Arun Sanyal's participation in a Congressional briefing.

The 2010 Annual Meeting also saw Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. Howard Koh giving the AASLD President's Lecture in preparation for an upcoming release of a Viral Hepatitis Action Plan. AASLD continues to increase its activities with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which will assume primary responsibility for implementing the plan.

## LIVER CAPITOL HILL DAY

AASLD sponsored its second annual Liver Capitol Hill Day (LCHD) in 2010, bringing together AASLD members and representatives of six patient advocacy organizations in a day of meetings with Senate and House members and staff, advocating for increased research funding and better patient care.

That activity was continued on April 6, 2011, as AASLD members and our partners from advocacy organizations returned to Capitol Hill for the third annual LCHD. Acknowledging that the need for adequate funding for liver research and patient care is essential, in spite of this era of budget cuts, AASLD is committed to keeping liver disease on the radar as Congress faces tough budget decisions.

## PATIENT CARE

AASLD has worked hard over the last few years to see an increase in the budget of the CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis. The President's 2012 budget includes an increase of \$5,222,000 over the current funding and sets that budget at \$25,000,000. This 26 percent-plus increase stands in stark contrast to the budget cuts that are taking place in various other accounts throughout the budget.

We have also worked closely with some of the leading officials at the Food and Drug Administration to assure that otherwise safe drugs are taken appropriately to reduce the incidence of liver toxicity among Americans from accidental overdoses. AASLD has been urging the FDA to take action to improve acetaminophen safety for years. Important first steps in protecting patients were announced in January 2011. Although not covering everything we have sought, we will continue to seek reasonable actions from the FDA to reduce the unacceptable levels of accidental overdose in this country.



## RESEARCH

As always, lobbying for increased funding for research is one of the main activities of AASLD during Liver Capitol Hill Day, as well as throughout the year. Funding for NIH, the VA, and AHRQ research is crucially important to AASLD members.

AASLD testified before the Scientific Management Review Board (SMRB) several times in 2010 opposing a structural merger of the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and the National Institute of Drug Abuse and supporting combining scientifically-relevant functions. The SMRB recommended eliminating the two institutes and creating a new addiction institute.

In light of the acceptance of that recommendation, AASLD's goal is to find a home for alcohol research, something that is not yet specified in the recommendation made by the SMRB and the Director of NIH.

AASLD continues to pursue numerous goals in a measured way based on scientific research and working individually and within coalitions to help achieve AASLD's mission to prevent and cure liver disease.

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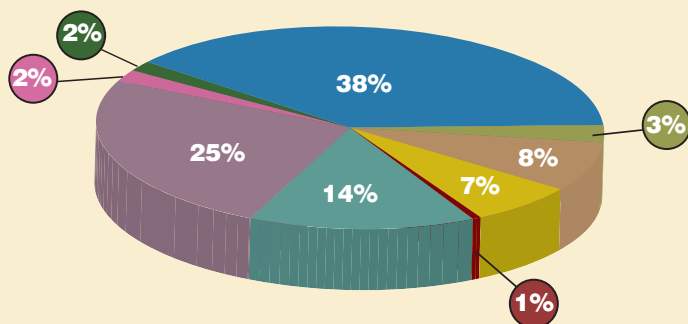
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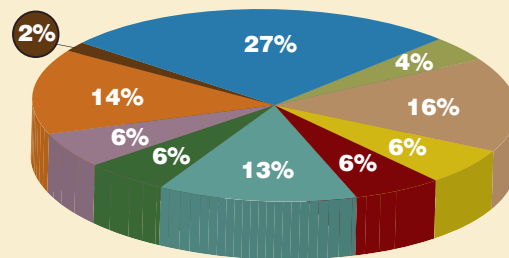
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## ACTUAL REVENUE 2009

■ Annual Meeting .....	\$5,794,593
■ Fellowship Grants .....	\$418,400
■ Meetings and Education .....	\$1,221,929
■ Membership Dues .....	\$1,026,938
■ Professional Relations .....	\$108,751
■ Publications .....	\$2,155,762
■ Fundraising Campaign/ Liver Research .....	\$3,817,412
■ Rental Income .....	\$286,302
■ Research Awards .....	\$250,000



## ACTUAL EXPENSES 2009



■ Annual Meeting .....	\$2,739,367
■ Fellowship Awards .....	\$439,793
■ Meetings and Education .....	\$1,619,919
■ Membership Development and Website .....	\$636,011
■ Professional Relations .....	\$629,899
■ Publication Journals .....	\$1,358,269
■ Research Awards .....	\$570,542
■ Fundraising .....	\$591,012
■ Executive and Administration .....	\$1,487,865
■ Communications .....	\$154,848

## ASSETS

	2009	2008
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$9,656,228	\$7,922,243
Investments	15,570,724	12,052,691
Contributions receivable, current portion	1,043,950	454,500
Accounts receivable	281,201	226,674
Prepaid expenses	93,473	107,956
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>26,645,576</b>	<b>20,764,064</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Office condominium	8,076,573	8,076,573
Furniture and equipment	469,332	454,392
	8,545,905	8,530,965
Less: Accumulated depreciation and amortization	(931,466)	(649,544)
<b>Net fixed assets</b>	<b>7,614,439</b>	<b>7,881,421</b>
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>		
Contributions receivable, net of current portion	2,221,130	854,599
Deferred financing cost, net of accumulated amortization of \$16,165	125,769	130,500
Deferred compensation	147,202	71,444
Deposits	58,585	58,585
<b>Total other assets</b>	<b>2,552,686</b>	<b>1,115,128</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$36,812,701</b>	<b>\$29,760,613</b>

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

	2009	2008
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Current portion of notes payable	\$212,975	\$210,535
Current portion of bonds payable	100,000	100,000
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,643,077	2,625,634
Deferred revenue:		
Membership	241,371	399,680
Meeting registrations and exhibits	145,658	100,588
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>2,343,081</b>	<b>3,436,437</b>
<b>LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>		
Notes payable, net of current portion	3,966,127	4,179,102
Bonds payable, net of current portion	3,600,000	3,700,000
Interest rate swap obligation	1,269,871	2,350,013
Deferred compensation liability	147,202	71,444
<b>Total long-term liabilities</b>	<b>8,983,200</b>	<b>10,300,559</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>11,326,281</b>	<b>13,736,996</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted		
Undesignated	14,514,801	8,505,706
Board-designated	2,479,150	2,396,396
<b>Total unrestricted</b>	<b>16,993,951</b>	<b>10,902,102</b>
Temporarily restricted	4,430,619	2,059,665
Permanently restricted	4,061,850	3,061,850
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>25,486,420</b>	<b>16,023,617</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$36,812,701</b>	<b>\$29,760,613</b>

# SUPPORT

THE VISION TO PREVENT AND CURE LIVER DISEASES

	2009			2008	
	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL	TOTAL
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Annual Meeting	\$ 5,794,593	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,794,593	\$ 5,802,361
Fellowship Grants	-	418,400	-	418,400	815,550
Meetings and Education	1,146,929	75,000	-	1,221,929	693,229
Membership Dues	1,026,938	-	-	1,026,938	897,192
Professional Relations	108,751	-	-	108,751	23,062
Publications, Hepatology and Liver Transplantation Journals	2,155,762	-	-	2,155,762	2,546,670
Research Awards	-	250,000	-	250,000	250,000
Rental Income	286,302	-	-	286,302	262,427
Fundraising Campaign/Liver Research	685,787	3,131,625	-	3,817,412	2,795,535
Net Assets Released from Donor Restrictions	950,629	(950,629)	-	-	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>12,155,691</b>	<b>2,924,396</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,080,087</b>	<b>14,086,026</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Program Services:</b>					
Annual Meeting	2,739,367	-	-	2,739,367	3,647,562
Professional Relations, Including Public Policy	629,899	-	-	629,899	598,511
Publication Journals	1,358,269	-	-	1,358,269	1,282,776
Communications	154,848	-	-	154,848	150,627
Fellowship Awards	439,793	-	-	439,793	1,001,071
Meetings and Education	1,619,919	-	-	1,619,919	1,364,646
Research Awards	570,542	-	-	570,542	645,228
<b>Total program services</b>	<b>7,512,637</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,512,637</b>	<b>8,690,421</b>
<b>Supporting Services:</b>					
Governance, Executive and Administration	1,487,865	-	-	1,487,865	1,475,638
Membership Development and Website	636,011	-	-	636,011	772,544
Fundraising	591,012	-	-	591,012	492,728
<b>Total supporting services</b>	<b>2,714,888</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,714,888</b>	<b>2,740,910</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>10,227,525</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,227,525</b>	<b>11,431,331</b>
Change in net assets before other items	1,928,166	2,924,396	-	4,852,562	2,654,695
<b>OTHER ITEMS</b>					
Investment income (loss)	2,342,489	1,187,610	-	3,530,009	(5,504,550)
Unrealized gain (loss) on interest rate swap obligation	1,080,142	-	-	1,080,142	(1,499,735)
Transfer of assets	741,052	(1,741,052)	1,000,000	-	-
Change in net assets	6,091,849	2,370,954	1,000,000	9,462,803	(4,349,590)
Net assets at beginning of year	10,902,102	2,059,665	3,061,850	16,023,617	20,373,207
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$16,993,951</b>	<b>\$4,430,619</b>	<b>\$4,061,850</b>	<b>\$25,486,420</b>	<b>\$16,023,617</b>

60TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

# GOVERNANCE



2010 Governing Board from left to right: Top row: Scott L. Friedman, J. Gregory Fitz, Douglas R. LaBrecque, Ginny L. Bumgardner, Jorge A. Bezerra, Adrian Di Bisceglie; Seated: Michael R. Lucey, Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao, Arun J. Sanyal, T. Jake Liang

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## 2011 INITIATIVES EDUCATION & TRAINING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

One of the top priorities is to expand the programming offered at The Liver Meeting® - based on the needs of members and attendees. The goal is to continue to elevate the status of The Liver Meeting® as the definitive source for pioneering research and treatments in liver disease. This includes strengthening current programs and developing new programs that focus on review and update of clinically relevant topics in liver diseases.

At a time when it is urgent to increase the number of practitioners and researchers in the field, AASLD remains committed to funding the awards and fellowships that attract new talent and encourages them to pursue careers in hepatology.

The 21st century requires easier access to vital and innovative data through a variety of technology driven sources. AASLD is launching a new e-Journal that will specifically focus on clinically useful and practical information - geared towards a diverse audience. This type of innovation is key to educating practitioners about the latest developments in liver disease research and treatments.

# CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

## 1. PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY:

- Members should strive to improve the care and advance the health of their patients, advance medical knowledge and demonstrate the highest levels of professionalism.
- Members shall comply with all AASLD policies including but not limited to AASLD bylaws, AASLD code of conduct as well as all laws, government regulations and requirements of other bodies governing the member on account of his or her professional status.

## 2. SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY:

- All research will be conducted in accordance with the member's institutional regulations and federal laws related to animal and human research and comply with the highest standards for the ethical treatment of animals and humans in research.
- All research reported by members will comply with the rules of authorship as outlined by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (1997).
- All potential conflicts of interest that may potentially bias the conduct and/or reporting of the research must be disclosed by all members.

## 3. PERSONAL INTEGRITY:

- Members will use AASLD resources/logo for the benefit of AASLD and not for personal gain. Thus, members will not:

- Use AASLD employees to perform services for a company/organization that the member has ownership interests or receives remuneration from.
- Engage in unauthorized use of AASLD resources to support an independent entity in which the member holds a financial or other interest.
- Use AASLD resources for personal use.
- Use the imprimatur of AASLD or one's relationship to AASLD to develop business and professional relationships that only benefit the individual.
- Influence negotiation of contracts between AASLD and other entities that the member has ownership or direct/indirect financial relationships with.
- Interfere with the audit process of the AASLD finances or attempt to influence the annual independent audit report.
- Members shall disclose any relationships that pose or could be construed to pose potential conflict of interest such as relationships which may affect or appear to affect Association activities and decisions.

## 4. BEHAVIOR TO PROMOTE THE MISSION OF AASLD:

- Members, when acting on behalf of AASLD, will make decisions that are in the best interests of AASLD.
- Members will use privileged information that they have access to for the benefit of AASLD and avoid inappropriate use of such information.

## INDUSTRY GUIDELINES

AASLD recognizes the importance of the relations between the pharmaceutical and medical device/equipment industry and healthcare professionals. Several organizations have developed guidelines and codes of ethics on this subject. AASLD encourages its members to be aware of these guidelines:

- Standards for Commercial Support  
Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)
- Code of Ethics on Interactions with Healthcare Professionals  
Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed)
- Opinion 8.061 and other related guidance from the Code of Medical Ethics  
American Medical Association (AMA)
- Compliance Program Guidance for Pharmaceutical Manufacturers  
Office of Inspector General (OIG)
- PhRMA Code on Interactions with Healthcare Professionals  
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)

## PRACTICE GUIDELINES

### PUBLISHED

- Alcoholic Liver Disease
- Diagnosis and Management of Autoimmune Hepatitis
- Diagnosis and Management of Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis

### POSTED UPDATE OF PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED GUIDELINE ON [WWW.AASLD.ORG](http://WWW.AASLD.ORG)

- Management of Hepatocellular Carcinoma: An Update

### REVIEWED

- New version of Diagnosis and Management of Hemochromatosis
- Position Paper: Management of Acute Liver Failure: 2011 Update

### IN DEVELOPMENT

- Evaluation of the Patient for Liver Transplantation
- Medical Management of the Patient following Liver Transplantation
- Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease

### AUTHORIZED FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Medical Management of the Pediatric Patient following Liver Transplantation
- Hepatic Encephalopathy
- Diagnosis, Management and Treatment of Hepatitis C: 2011 Update



## AMERICAN BOARD OF INTERNAL MEDICINE (ABIM) CERTIFICATION AND MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION (MOC)

Board Certification demonstrates that physicians have met rigorous standards through intensive study, self-assessment and evaluation. The Transplant Hepatology Exam is administered biennially by ABIM. In November 2010 diplomats sat for the exam. In support of the exam, AASLD's Training and Clinical Policy Committee in partnership with the American Society of Transplantation, International Liver Transplantation Society, and North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition planned and implemented a Transplant Hepatology Review Course. Additionally, the course is available for free in the Education section of the AASLD website ([www.aasld.org](http://www.aasld.org)).

Maintenance of Certification (recertification) promotes lifelong learning and the enhancement of the clinical judgment and skills essential for high quality patient care. Every 10 years, internists and subspecialists certified in or after 1990 renew their certificates through ABIM's Maintenance of Certification program. AASLD is committed to assisting you in the self-evaluation requirements, and has partnered with ABIM to revise the Hepatology Self-evaluation module; the module will be available to diplomats starting in 2011. AASLD continues in the development of Practice Improvement Modules (PIMs) – a web-based tool that guides physicians through the collection of patient data to identify gaps in care and ultimately implement a quality improvement plan for their practice.

# POLICY ON ACCEPTANCE AND DISCLOSURE OF EXTERNAL FUNDS

## INTRODUCTION

The primary mission of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) is to be the leading organization advancing the science and practice of hepatology, liver transplantation and hepatobiliary surgery, thereby promoting liver health and optimal care of patients with liver and biliary tract diseases.

AASLD may promote these goals by accepting external funds such as grants, sponsorships, or gifts in support of activities designed to meet the mission statement. One of the major sources of external funds over the past several years has been industry, and this has the potential to raise concern that the membership and leaders of our organization may perceive this as a possible area of conflict of interest.

The AASLD Ethics Committee has written a policy document that offers guidelines for the negotiation and acceptance of external funds to support AASLD's mission. Individuals and groups which solicit funds on behalf of AASLD must be familiar with these guidelines and clearly work within the boundaries that are designated by this policy statement. AASLD takes great care to remain independent and unbiased in its adjudication of funds provided by industry and the selection of recipients of these restricted funds.

## BACKGROUND

External funds help AASLD pursue its mission in several ways by allowing AASLD to pursue worthwhile activities that it might otherwise have to forego due to the lack of resources. They may be offered to AASLD as either restricted or unrestricted grants. Examples include:

### UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

1. Enable AASLD to undertake initiatives to promote patient care, teaching, and research in liver diseases beyond the capability of internal funds.
2. Assist in improving the quality of AASLD meetings by allowing the support of scientific educational programs such as State-of-the-Art Lectures or Single Topic Conferences (STCs).
3. Assist AASLD in providing services of value to members that advance the goals of the society that are currently beyond the capability of internal funds.

### RESTRICTED FUNDS

These are funds offered to AASLD by industry in the form of grants to promote training of hepatology fellows and associates. These funds are unencumbered in that they are under the exclusive control of AASLD.

## GUIDELINES FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF EXTERNAL FUNDS

### GENERAL POLICY

AASLD may accept external funds for high quality projects that are:

- Consistent with its mission for research, education, and improved patient care,
- Are particularly well suited to be conducted by AASLD,
- Meet an education need currently unmet by limitations in internal funds, and
- Are free of commercial bias.

### EDUCATIONAL ASSURANCES

As required by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), AASLD must retain ultimate control over educational content, selection of speakers, review of educational materials, selection of research for presentation, or other public activities with scientific content that are financed with external funds. Courses, workshops, or other educational presentations at the Annual or other national meetings are considered educational projects from the perspective of this policy. AASLD's educational projects comply with ACCME guidelines to ensure its independence from the interests of external funders. In addition, and as required by ACCME, speakers must disclose whether any part of their presentation resulted from external funding and whether they have any personal financial interest in the subject matter of the presentation. AASLD acknowledges all external funding in the appropriate venue for the activity.

### DISCLOSURE OF SUPPORT

AASLD discloses all activities that are partially or completely financed by external funds, including but not limited to research awards, presentations, publications, and support of policy efforts.

### BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS

AASLD may establish a business relationship with an individual, group, or organization for the development of journals, books, software, or other educational products. However, acceptance of any funds that come to AASLD from these relationships are governed by these guidelines for external funding of projects. It is appropriate that recognition be given to a sponsor but under no circumstances is it allowable to use such devices to endorse, develop, distribute, or sell products such as pharmaceuticals, medical devices, diagnostics, or other products purported to have a direct health benefit to patients.

### AWARDS

When AASLD accepts external funds for awards that reflect acknowledgement for work already completed, awardees are selected based on criteria established by AASLD. The sponsor has no input in the selection criteria or selection of the award recipient. The sponsor cannot impose obligations on the recipient of an award.

### ADVERTISING

AASLD journals accept advertisements for medically-related products and services. Final judgment regarding the appropriateness and acceptability of advertisements rests with the journal's editorial staff. Advertising in any other venues is approved by the AASLD Executive Committee and/or Governing Board.

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2009

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