



# NEWS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF LIVER DISEASES

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### A Transition Point



Dr. Gores

In my home state of Minnesota, spring is a time of rebirth and rejuvenation following the 'death of winter'. Likewise, school graduations also coincide with this mystical time of the year. This year, 2007, will take its place in history as the first year with a graduating class of transplant hepatologists, and the phrase "I have my boards as a sub-specialist in transplant hepatology!" will be born. Indeed, this remarkable transition point in our profession is the fruition of the work of a series of past Presidents, beginning with Joe Bloomer and finalized by Bruce Bacon. The expertise of hepatologists is now officially recognized nationally. This milestone will help promote our profession and ensure its long term viability.

#### What are the details?

On November 17, 2006, 261 of our colleagues—214 American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM)-certified adult gastroenterologists and 47 American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) certified pediatric gastroenterologists—sat

(See **PRESIDENT**, p. 4)

## Special Interest Groups

AASLD members are asked to join one or two Special Interest Groups (SIGs), which will consist of both basic and clinically oriented participants, in order to promote translational investigations, a cornerstone of progress in biomedical research. SIGs will be responsible, over time, for assembling the abstract selection committee(s) for their respective interest groups, selecting moderators for the early morning workshops, and helping to

formulate the scientific sessions at The Liver Meeting® and AASLD sessions at DDW. They will also help promote the generation of written proposals for single topic conferences; these proposals will continue to be submitted to the basic and clinical research committees for prioritization and approval.

The development of these Interest Groups (a total number of approximately 16) will be phased in over time.

(See **GROUPS**, p. 3)

## AMA and AASLD to Conduct Physician Practice Information Survey

The American Medical Association (AMA), with the support of AASLD and more than 60 other medical specialty societies, will conduct a multi-specialty survey of America's physician practices in 2007. The purpose of the survey is to collect up-to-date information on physician practice characteristics in order to develop and refine AMA and AASLD policy. Data related to professional practice expenses will also be collected. The AMA will survey thousands of physicians over the year from virtually all physician specialties to ensure accurate and fair representation

for all physicians and their patients.

During the year 2007, you may be contacted by the Gallup Organization to participate in this study. We encourage your participation in this survey, as the data obtained will be a critical source of information for the AMA and AASLD. Should you be called upon to contribute, your participation ensures that the information collected will represent you and your patients' concerns to national policy-makers. Please watch for this survey in 2007 and do your part in completing it in a thorough and accurate manner.

## In This Issue

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# CLINICAL RESEARCH SINGLE TOPIC CONFERENCE

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR  
THE STUDY OF LIVER DISEASES



## Hemochromatosis: What Has Happened After HFE?

Emory Conference Center Hotel • Atlanta, Georgia  
**September 7-9, 2007**

### COURSE DIRECTORS



**John K. Olynyk, MD, PhD**  
University of Western Australia  
and Fremantle Hospital



**Bruce R. Bacon, MD**  
Saint Louis University  
School of Medicine

In 1996, a novel MHC class 1-like gene was discovered, leading to a new understanding of the genetics of hemochromatosis. Since that time, there has been a wealth of new knowledge about various aspects of iron homeostasis and regulation. Several new genes and their protein products have been discovered, and large scale population studies have shown that many patients homozygous for the principal mutation in HFE (C282Y) do not have phenotypic expression, suggesting an interplay of effects among the various proteins of iron homeostasis.

### Goals and Objectives

- Recognize the principal impact of HFE discovery on iron homeostasis and metabolism.
- Understand the role of hepcidin in modulating iron stores.
- Understand the impact of iron in other liver diseases.

*\* This program is not a Continuing Medical Education (CME) activity.*

For more information, go to [www.aasld.org](http://www.aasld.org) or contact AASLD at 703-299-9766, fax 703-299-9622, or [aasld@aasld.org](mailto:aasld@aasld.org)

# 2007 AASLD NP/PA Clinical Hepatology Fellowship Recipients

**C**ongratulations to the 2007 NP/PA recipients of this fellowship award, their mentors, and their sponsoring institutions for their commitment to hepatology.

Financial support from Roche for 7 fellows and Schering-Plough for 2 fellows is gratefully acknowledged.

Foong-Chee (Joann) Cheah

*Mentor:* Reem Ghalib

The Liver Institute at Methodist Dallas

Joseph P. Colagreco

*Mentor:* Nezam H. Afdhal

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Cheryl C. Collins

*Mentor:* Kevin D. Mullen

Metrohealth Medical Center

Marlene A. Gross

*Mentor:* K. Rajender Reddy

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Jessica G. Irwin

*Mentor:* Norah A. Terrault

University of California, San Francisco

Kristy M. Kegley

*Mentor:* Roshan Shrestha

Piedmont Hospital

Debra A. Narcisse

*Mentor:* Paul Martin

Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Marion M. Weich

*Mentor:* Thomas J. Byrne

Mayo Clinic Arizona

## Welcome New AASLD Members

**T**rainee and International Trainee members activated as of April 30, 2007.

**Ami Ben-Ya'acov, PhD**

Jerusalem, ISRAEL

**Joseph Cheatham, MD**

APO, AP

**Sameer Dhalla, MD, MS**

New York, NY

**Kota Gopalakrishna, PhD**

Iowa City, IA

**Olav Gressner, MD**

Aachen, GERMANY

**Maarouf Hoteit, MD**

Atlanta, GA

**Ryan Hurt, MD,MS**

Louisville, KY

**Binu John, MD,MPH**

Broadview Heights, OH

**Constantine Karvellas, MD, BSc**

London, UNITED KINGDOM

**Gulam Khan, MD**

Brooklyn, NY

**Teru Kumagi, MD**

Toronto, CANADA

**Zhaodong Li, MD**

Philadelphia, PA

**Ethan Miller, MD, MA**

Scottsdale, AZ

**Heshaam Mir, MD**

Fairfax, VA

**Anuradha Rao, PhD**

Winston Salem, NC

**Kamran Shafiq, BSc, MBBS**

Leeds, UNITED KINGDOM

**Jawaid Shaw, MD**

Rochester, NY

**Lance Stein, MD**

San Diego, CA

**Alexander Weymann, MD**

Saint Louis, MO ■

Deanna H. White

*Mentor:* Gregory T. Everson

University of Colorado Health Sciences Center ■

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(GROUPS, from p. 1)

The Governing Board has elected to develop the following Interest Groups in 2007:

- Cholestatic Liver Disorders, cholangiocyte pathobiology
- Portal Hypertension, clinical and experimental
- Hepatobiliary Neoplasia, liver imaging, clinical and experimental
- Pediatric Liver Disorders
- Steatosis and Steatohepatitis
- Liver Fibrosis, non-parenchymal cells

Organizational meetings for these SIGs will be held on Monday evening, November 5, during the 2007 Annual Meeting in Boston.

The development of other SIGs will be forthcoming. Please join these groups only if they match your focused interest within hepatology as a discipline. You may join online through the Member Center on the AASLD Web site. We look forward to your involvement.

Visit Us On the Web ...



[www.aasld.org](http://www.aasld.org)

## Future Meetings of Related Societies

**L**iver Disease in Women Summit will be held at the InterContinental Hotel and Bank of America Conference Center, June 15-16, 2007, in Cleveland, Ohio.

**Further information:**

[www.clevelandclinicmeded.com/liverdisease07](http://www.clevelandclinicmeded.com/liverdisease07)

The EASL Monothematic Conference on Acute Liver Failure (ALF) will take place September 5-7, 2007, in Copenhagen, Denmark.

**Further information:**

[www.easl.ch/acute-liver-failure](http://www.easl.ch/acute-liver-failure)

The 5th Annual World Congress on the Insulin Resistance Syndrome will be held at the Boston Marriott Newton, October 11-13, 2007, in Boston, Massachusetts

**Further information:**

[www.insulinresistance.us](http://www.insulinresistance.us)

The 17th Annual Irwin M. Arias, MD, Symposium Bridging Basic Science and Liver Disease will be held November 2, 2007, in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Further information:**

[www.liverfoundation-ne.org](http://www.liverfoundation-ne.org)

**Nuclear Receptors in Liver and Digestive Diseases: A Research Workshop** will be held at the Hilton Hotel, November 7-8, 2007, in Rockville, Maryland.

**Further information:**

[www.niddk.nih.gov/fund/other/nuclear07/index.htm](http://www.niddk.nih.gov/fund/other/nuclear07/index.htm)

To add your meeting to this list in an upcoming issue of *NEWS*, please email your information to [atracy@asld.org](mailto:atracy@asld.org).

(PRESIDENT, from p. 1)

for the first board examination in transplant hepatology and 88% passed. A large number of our colleagues remain eligible to sit for the exam (criteria at [www.abim.org](http://www.abim.org)) and can take it in 2008 and/or 2010.

Indeed, the practice pathway (no additional training required) is available to candidates who have completed their training for certification in gastroenterology prior to July 1, 2007. Thereafter, additional training in transplant hepatology will be required in order to sit for the examination. The next examination is November 19, 2008, with registration from March 1- May 1, 2008. Plan early for these deadlines!

### What are the potential current dilemmas to this process?

Clearly, the pipeline for this program ultimately requires the accreditation of training programs in transplant hepatology. Last summer, 26 programs submitted a program information form (PIF) to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) in order to obtain accreditation. The time between the request for applications and the submission deadline was short, and many transplant hepatologists may not have been familiar with the details of a PIF submission. These issues resulted in only 9 programs being accredited. Kudos to those programs who obtained accreditation (see sidebar). This low acceptance rate is disappointing, but likely will be rectified this year as program directors can now respond to distinct and concrete concerns. Therefore, we expect to have approximately 25-30 programs for transplant hepatology in the near future. Those individuals who obtain hepatology training in non-accredited programs need not worry, however; they will still be eligible for the ABIM exam as long as their training occurs in an institution with an ACGME-accredited GI training program. This eligibility will likely remain in place until a sufficient number of hepatology programs are accredited.

The advent of accredited transplant hepatology programs also impacts AASLD's program of training in advanced hepatology. Currently, this program is supported by industry funds which are administered by AASLD. Clearly, AASLD training criteria must match the training expectations of the ABIM's 12-month

clinical training program.

### What is the future of hepatology accreditation?

Currently, the ACGME will only accredit programs which select individuals with prior training in gastroenterology. The rationale as to why the sequence (hepatology training prior to gastroenterology training) cannot be reversed is not compelling. The AASLD Governing Board will lobby to allow either sequence for ACGME accreditation. Fortunately, the ABIM currently allows individuals with either sequence of training to sit for the examination.

### What about certification and boards in hepatology as opposed to transplant hepatology?

The questions are simple. Does one need to be a gastroenterologist to practice hepatology? Should transplant hepatology not be encompassed within overall hepatology boards and certification? Dr. Bruce Bacon has written a commentary entitled "Hepatology: where do we go from here?" (*Gastroenterology* 2006;131:1323-1374) to address these questions, advocating distinct training for hepatology, independent of training in gastroenterology. This is a provocative, but logical and rationale, position. The AASLD Governing Board does not intend for his commentary to be 'the last snowball of spring' (a Minnesota phrase) but will pursue these questions with our members, the ABIM, and others. Enthusiasm for this proposal will be gauged, pragmatic issues addressed, and potential outward consequences explored. On this issue, stay tuned! ■

### Accredited Programs

Mount Sinai, New York, NY  
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN and  
Jacksonville, FL  
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN  
University of Florida College of  
Medicine, Gainesville, FL  
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI  
University Hospital, Cincinnati, OH  
University of Colorado, Denver, CO  
University of Washington, Seattle, WA

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# Spring Member Applicants

**P**er the AASLD Bylaws, below are the names of the Spring 2007 applicants requesting Regular, International, and Associate membership in AASLD. Current members have until June 30, 2007, to submit any questions or concerns regarding applicants to the central office. All approved applicants will be granted membership effective July 1, 2007.

## Applicants for Associate Membership

Johanna Blanding-Koskinen, BA  
Kansas City, MO

Elizabeth J Boudreau-Kelly, RN,BSN  
South Portland, ME

Marcia A Fowler, FNP-C  
Rochester, NY

Chester J Grabowski, ARNP, MS  
St Petersburg, FL

Mary S Hammond, BSN  
Medford, NJ

Stacey S Hodges, MSN  
Jackson, TN

Roberta S Lay, MSN, NP-C  
Toledo, OH

Michelle L Matteson, MSN  
Columbia, MO

Allison L Moore, MSN, ANP-C  
Dallas, TX

Kathleen A Ruping, RN  
Orlando, FL

Ann Marie Savasta, BS, MS  
Worcester, MA

James G Spellman, NP, MSN  
New York, NY

Shay Stratford, PA  
Asheville, NC

Kelly Dawn Verbal, BSN, MSN  
Winter Springs, FL

Vicki A Watson, BSN, MSN  
Sealston, VA

Lucinda M Yates, BS, ADN  
Albuquerque, NM

Colleen B Zak, RN  
Kirkwood, PA

## Applicants for International Membership

Thomas Alexander, DM, MD  
Kerala, INDIA

Paolo Angeli, MD, PhD  
Padova, ITALY

Jacques Belghiti, MD  
Clichy, FRANCE

Oscar Alfredo Beltran, MD  
Bogota, COLOMBIA

Annika Bergquist, MD, PhD  
Stockholm, SWEDEN

Charles AB Boucher, MD, PhD  
Utrecht, NETHERLANDS

Thoguluva Seshadri Chandrasekar,  
MD, DM  
Tamilnadu, INDIA

Rita C M A da Silva  
Sao Jose do Rio Preto, BRAZIL

Nasser Ebrahimi Daryani, MD  
Tehran, IRAN

Joost PH Drenth, MD, PhD  
Nijmegen, NETHERLANDS

Abdul-Naser Elzouki, MD, PhD  
Benghazi, LIBYA

Alexander Fich, MD  
Beer Sheva, ISRAEL

Sangyoung Han, MD, PhD  
Busan, SOUTH KOREA

Dieter Haussinger, PhD  
Dusseldorf, GERMANY

Kazuhiko Hayashi, MD, PhD  
Aichi, JAPAN

Jin Jook Jeong, MD, PhD  
Busan, SOUTH KOREA

Salim I Khakoo, MD, MRCP  
London, UNITED KINGDOM

Young-Chul Kim, OMD, PhD  
Seoul, SOUTH KOREA

Kazuyoshi Kon, MD\*  
Tokyo, JAPAN

Barbara A Leggett, MD, MBBS  
Brisbane, AUSTRALIA

Gerry C MacQuillan, PhD, FRACP\*  
Nedlands, AUSTRALIA

Gunnar PE Norkrans, MD, PhD  
Göteborg, SWEDEN

Makoto Oketani, MD, PhD  
Kagoshima, JAPAN

Zekeriya Suat Ozden, MD  
Feneryolu-Istanbul, TURKEY

Oscar Paez, MD  
Barranquilla, COLUMBIA

Saleem Qureshi, FCPS  
Islamabad, PAKISTAN

Maribel Rodriguez-Torres, MD  
Santurce, PUERTO RICO

Naoya Sakomoto  
Tokyo, JAPAN

Christoph Sarrazin, MD  
Homburg, GERMANY

Marcus Schuchmann, MD  
Mainz, GERMANY

(See **APPLICANTS**, p. 6)

(**APPLICANTS**, from p. 5)

Mohamed-Jamal Seffar, MD  
Rabat, MOROCCO

Eyal Shteyer, MD  
Mevaseret Zyyon, ISRAEL

Eva Urtasun Sotil, MD\*  
Pamplona, SPAIN

Christian P Strassburg, MD  
Hannover, GERMANY

Hans Ludger Tillmann, MD  
Leipzig, GERMANY

Johan Westin, MD, PhD  
Göteborg, SWEDEN

Ayman Yosry, MD  
Giza, EGYPT

Reinhart Zachoval, MD  
Munich, GERMANY

Khaled Zalata, MD, PhD  
Mansoura, EGYPT

Mohammad Reza Zali, MD, FACC  
Tehran, IRAN

**Applicants for Regular Membership**

Maureen N Ajuebor, PhD\*  
Shreveport, LA

Shahid Aziz, DO  
Fort Worth, TX

N Doungou Salla Ba, MD, MPH  
Waltham, MA

Robert James Bailey, MD, FRCP(C)  
Edmonton AB, CANADA

Sripriya Balasubramanian, MD\*  
Gold River, CA

Jaideep Behari, MD, PhD\*  
Pittsburgh, PA

Tracy L Challies, MD  
Boston, MA

John M Cullen, PhD, VMD  
Raleigh, NC

Rose M Danielson, MD\*  
Eau Claire, WI

Aldo Torre Delgadilla, MD  
MEXICO

Milan Dodig, MD  
Cleveland, OH

David A Doman, MD  
Wheaton, MD

Magdy Elkashab, MD, MSc  
Toronto ON, CANADA

Oren K Fix, MD, MSc\*  
Seattle, WA

Roberto Gedaly, MD  
Lexington, KY

Joseph George, MD  
Charleston, SC

Elias Ghandour, MD  
Lubbock, TX

Mohamed A Hassan, MD\*  
Savage, MN

Joseph H Hoffman, MD  
Park Ridge, NJ

Kishore R Iyer, MBBS, FRCS  
New York, NY

Saleem Kamili, PhD  
Atlanta, GA

Fasiha Kanwal, MD, MSHS  
St Louis, MO

Steven M Kawut, MD, MS  
New York, NY

Saverio Ligato, MD  
Canton, CT

Rui Liu, MD, PhD\*  
Chicago, IL

David M McCance, DO  
Addison, MI

Fernando E Membreno, MD, MS  
San Antonio, TX

Flavia Mendes, MD\*  
Miami, FL

Lijun Mi, MD, PhD  
Bronx, NY

Willscott Naugler, MD\*  
San Diego, CA

Naveen C Pandaraboyina, MD  
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Michael S Perkel, MD  
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Nashville, TN

Valerie Philippon, PhD  
Cambridge, MA

Basabi Rana, PhD  
Temple, TX

Arlin B Rogers, PhD, DVM  
Cambridge, MA

Paul D Russ, MD  
Englewood, CO

Matthew J Ryan, MD  
Philadelphia, PA

Aman K Singh, MD\*  
Wadsworth, IL

James S Strohecker, MD  
Columbia, SC

Karen Swanson, DO  
Rochester, MN

Eugene Scott Swenson, MD, PhD\*  
New Haven, CT

Huy N Trinh, MD  
San Jose, CA

Kasper S Wang, MD  
Los Angeles, CA

Sangjeong Yoon, MD, PhD  
Sacramento, CA

\* Current AASLD Trainee member applying  
for Regular/International membership ■



# The Liver Meeting®

B O S T O N  
NOVEMBER 2 - 6 • HYNES CONVENTION CENTER

2007

Join over 7,000 hepatologists and hepatology health professionals from across the nation and around the world by attending the 58th Annual Meeting & Postgraduate Course of AASLD – The Liver Meeting® – the premier meeting in the science and practice of hepatology – where the cutting edge in the study and treatment of liver and biliary diseases is defined.

Numerous plenary and parallel sessions, poster presentations, scientific exhibits, and the following lectures, workshops, and specialty courses make The Liver Meeting® 2007 the year's most important, must-attend event in the care and management of patients with liver diseases.

## State-of-the-Art Lectures

Hans Popper Basic Science  
State-of-the-Art Lecture  
*Cell Death and Apoptosis*  
Douglas R. Green, PhD

Leon Schiff State-of-the-Art Lecture  
*Cholestasis and Primary Biliary Cirrhosis*  
Raoul Poupon, MD

Thomas E. Starzl Transplant Surgery  
State-of-the-Art Lecture  
*On the Right Track?: Expanded Criteria  
in Deceased Donor Liver Transplantation*  
Robert Merion, MD

Hyman J. Zimmerman Hepatotoxicity  
State-of-the-Art Lecture  
*Endocannabinoids and the Liver:  
Unlikely Partners in Multiple Functions*  
George Kunos, MD, PhD

## Workshops and Specialty Courses

POSTGRADUATE COURSE  
*Pathophysiologic Basis for the Therapy  
of Liver Disease*  
COURSE DIRECTORS: Arthur J. McCullough, MD;  
Ian Wanless, MD; Michael Fallon, MD; and  
Lisa Yerian, MD

GENERAL HEPATOLOGY UPDATE  
MODERATORS: Rebecca Wells, MD and  
Sammy Saab, MD

## NIH CORNER

*Antiviral Therapy Against Hepatitis Viruses:  
Understanding and Managing Drug  
Resistance*  
COURSE DIRECTORS: Rajen Koshy, PhD and  
Anna Lok, MD

## RESEARCH WORKSHOP

*Regulatory T Cells in Tolerance and  
Immunity to the Liver*  
COURSE DIRECTORS: Kyong-Mi Chang, MD  
and Ethan M. Shevach, MD

## FOCUSED STUDY GROUP I

*Endpoints and Study Design in Clinical  
Trials in Pediatric Hepatology*  
MODERATOR: Benjamin L. Shneider, MD

## FOCUSED STUDY GROUP II

*Portopulmonary Hypertension in the Era  
of Liver Transplantation*  
MODERATORS: Norman L. Sussman, MD  
and Michael J. Krowka, MD

## HEPATOLOGY ASSOCIATES COURSE

COURSE DIRECTORS: Janet Durfee, MSN, ARNP  
and Karen Luken, MS, ARNP

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

AASLD/ASGE ENDOSCOPY COURSE  
*Endoscopic Management of Endstage Liver  
Disease: Challenges and Controversies*  
COURSE DIRECTORS: Yang K. Chen, MD  
and Lauren Gerson, MD

For information on The Liver Meeting® go to [www.aasld.org](http://www.aasld.org) and click on The Liver Meeting® or call 703-299-9766. Registration opens in late summer 2007.

## AASLD/ILTS TRANSPLANT COURSE

*Therapeutic Challenges in Liver  
Transplantation: #1 Hepatocellular  
Carcinoma; #2 Alcoholic Liver Disease  
and Other Addictive States*

COURSE DIRECTORS: Michael R. Lucey, MD  
and Juan Carlos Garcia-Valdecasas, MD

## AASLD/NASPGHAN PEDIATRIC SYMPOSIUM

*Fibrocystic Diseases of the Liver*  
COURSE DIRECTORS: Karen F. Murray, MD  
and Pramod K. Mistry, MD

*Dates and times of courses subject to change to  
adequately accommodate programming.*

## NEW Sessions in 2007

### 50 YEARS OF INTERFERONS

AASLD will acknowledge and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the discovery of interferons with a unique and special symposium.

### ADVANCES FOR PRACTITIONERS

This session will focus on recent publications that impact the practice of hepatology with an emphasis on therapeutic studies. An expert panel will answer the question for each study: Should I incorporate this information into my practice, and if so, when?

## Late-breaking Abstracts

Original abstracts of truly late-breaking scientific research that was conducted after June 3 will be accepted August 1-8. Go to [www.aasld.org](http://www.aasld.org) and click on The Liver Meeting® for additional criteria and submission requirements.

## 2007 Governing Board

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### AASLD'S MISSION

**AASLD IS A LEADING ORGANIZATION  
FOR ADVANCING THE SCIENCE AND PRACTICE  
OF HEPATOLOGY**

## MARK THE DATES

For Annual Meeting information, please contact:

**Pam Ballinger**  
C/O Association  
Headquarters  
856-439-0500

For all other meetings, please contact the **AASLD central office: 703-299-9766.**



Clinical Research STC  
September 7-9, 2007  
Atlanta, GA

2007 Postgraduate Course  
November 2-3, 2007  
Boston, MA

58th AASLD Annual Meeting  
November 2-6, 2007  
Boston, MA



## THANK YOU

**A**ASLD sincerely thanks the following entities for their generous support of the Association and its activities:

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- Novo Nordisk
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