



EASLTM

The Home of Hepatology

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

CONTENTS

1. Letter from the Secretary General and Vice-Secretary	2
2. Letter from the Managing Director	5
3. EASL Governance	6
a. Mission	6
b. Governing Board	6
c. Ethics Committee	8
d. Educational Committee	9
e. Policy and Public Health Committee	10
f. Task Forces	11
4. EASL Office	13
5. Membership	14
6. Science and Education	16
a. Events	16
i. The International Liver Congress™	16
ii. Striving towards the elimination of HCV infection	22
iii. HCC Summit 2018	22
iv. Gut-liver Axis	23
v. Global Hepatitis Summit 2018	24
vi. EASL-AASLD joint Meeting	24
vii. NAFLD Summit 2018	24
viii. Schools and Masterclasses	24
b. eLearning	27
i. Best of Slide Decks	27
ii. iLiver	27
iii. EASL HCV Advisor App	27
c. Publications	28
i. Journal of Hepatology	28
ii. Clinical Practice Guidelines	29
iii. JHEP Reports	30
7. Fellowships and Research Support	31
a. Fellowships	31
b. Mentorship	32
c. Scientific Research (Registry Grants)	33
8. Policy and Public Affairs	34
a. EASL Office Brussels	34
b. EU-funded projects	35
i. ALIVER	35
ii. LITMUS	35
iii. MICROB-PREDICT	35
iv. HA-REACT	35
v. HEPCARE	35
9. Finance	36
a. Treasurer's Report	36
b. Auditor's Report	37
c. 2018 Budget	38
10. Acknowledgements	40

1

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND VICE-SECRETARY



SECRETARY GENERAL

Prof. Tom Hemming KARLSEN



VICE-SECRETARY

Prof. Philip N. NEWSOME

EASL remains at the forefront of hepatology with its annual meeting, the International Liver Congress™. In 2018 it took place in Paris and attracted approximately 10,000 experts in hepatology, infectious medicine, gastroenterology, surgery, public health along with basic scientists, nurses and patient groups. The congress attracts experts from more than 120 different countries from all over the globe to listen to the latest updates in liver research.

Representing the core of the programme, almost 3,000 researchers submitted abstracts from their scientific work to the congress, of which only the very best 60% were selected following rigorous peer-review (each abstract is reviewed by four independent reviewers).

Increasingly, the congress contains an innovative educational programme, covering all areas of liver disease with teachers ranging far beyond hepatology, including representations of the full spectrum of the multidisciplinary landscape of hepatology such as infectious diseases, radiology, pathology, endocrinology, paediatrics, oncology, surgery and beyond.

The congress is an arena for face-to-face interactions, and EASL fosters this by providing space upon request as well as an increasing number of interactive sessions to drive academic and clinical advances such as research think tanks, morning rounds and meet-the-experts sessions.

Alongside our flagship meeting, the Journal of Hepatology remains at the top tier of journals in gastroenterology, with its most recent impact factor having risen to just over 15. Following up on this success, EASL has decided to launch JHEP reports, a full open access journal, with a particular emphasis on innovation.

The Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) are a critical part of our commitment to evidence based clinical standards and over the past ten years, EASL has published over 31 CPGs and Recommendations, including six in 2018:

- EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines for the management of patients with decompensated cirrhosis
- EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines: Management of alcohol-related liver disease
- EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines: Management of hepatocellular carcinoma
- EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines on hepatitis E virus infection
- EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines on nutrition in chronic liver disease
- EASL Recommendations on Treatment of Hepatitis C 2018.

To enhance the outreach and dissemination of the CPGs, EASL is now developing a range of tools and materials, starting in 2018 with ready-made “slide decks” for free usage. We have also made important changes to the development process of CPGs, which now include a more consistent and robust evidence grading approach and also two Delphi rounds to ensure broad external consultation of recommendations is provided.

Whilst most widely known for the ILC and our journal, EASL has a 360° approach to serving its members, with online and onsite activities spread throughout the year. Some key activities throughout 2018 warrant mentioning:

Summits: To serve the communities and specialties involved in the ongoing rapid developments in NAFLD and HCC, EASL now runs annual conferences for these topics. In 2018 both the HCC summit and the NAFLD summit were hosted in Geneva. Run deliberately as a single plenary track conference, the EASL summits are most notably characterised by the high scientific standards (including abstract submissions) integrating basic and clinical research, the involvement of high-level industry R&D speakers in the programming and extensive multidisciplinary.

Monothematic conferences: EASL monothe-matic conferences serve the highest level of specialisation within a subject. They are the key arena for scientific experts and in 2018 they focussed on the elimination of HCV infection and the gut-liver axis.

New in 2018 is the involvement of industry R&D in the programming, as well as activities to foster interaction, such as the round-table discussions on challenging or controversial topics.

Schools and E-learning: EASL schools bring together talented Young Investigators (YI) for interactive, and learner-centric educational events hosted in centres of excellence in Europe. In 2018 the YIs met in Rotterdam to learn more on abdominal sonography, they met in Barcelona to learn more on liver vascular biology, and in Bern on the subject of diagnosis and management of vascular liver diseases. The schools are extremely popular, yet attendance is restricted and all costs for attendants are covered by EASL.

The online presence of EASL is currently undergoing a major overhaul, and while comprehensive material is available on the Liver Tree™, the iLiver app and the EASL website, EASL is transitioning towards more user-friendly digital tools.

EASL has a 360° approach to serving its members, with online and onsite activities...

To underpin our commitment to education we have established an education sub-committee which will ensure we can continue to deliver a large programme of year-round educational activities while also exploring new innovative modalities.

Joint activities with AASLD: EASL partners with multiple national and continental societies, but the ties to AASLD remain particularly strong. Each December the two societies bring together rising stars among our junior membership, for networking and career training at the EASL-AASLD Masterclass. Furthermore, given our respective ties to EMA and FDA, EASL and AASLD have taken the lead on multi-stakeholder workshops fostering consensus development of endpoints and clinical trial design in complex disease areas, such as the end-point meeting in 2018 in Alexandria, USA.

Importantly, EASL continues to promote research and mobility for young investigators through a wide range of fellowships and mentorships, now including a major enhancement of existing offers. All fellowships have been revised, and from 2018 onwards include an increased level of funding as well as a stronger affiliation with host institutions.

The three individual fellowship programmes on offer are the Juan Rodes Ph.D. Studentships, Sheila Sherlock Post-Graduate Fellowships and Andrew K. Burroughs Short-Term Fellowships.

Successful EU applications in the area of liver research have been a major priority for EASL in recent years. EASL now offers active project engagement towards communication and dissemination packages in EU projects, an initiative which has become hugely valued by our members and led to involvement of the EASL communications team in three projects, ALIVER, LITMUS and MICROB-PREDICT.

Sharing science and best practice remains the centrepiece of the ILC and the EASL philosophy

We are in the process of exploring new funding opportunities within the EU so that we can expand further our support for liver research. We also remain committed to the hugely successful registry grants programme, which has become very popular with a total of 16 registries funded over the last five years. It spans common and rare diseases and has provided the springboard for more substantial follow-on funding and networks, such as LITMUS and the European Reference Network in Rare Liver Diseases (ERN RARE LIVER).

EASL also continues to strengthen its partnerships on a global scale with other major societies such as AASLD, ALEH and APASL, along with leading national societies such as the Chinese Society of Hepatology and the Japanese Society of Hepatology.

The “Best of EASL” label has become synonymous with high-level academic engagement at medical conferences and also serves as an important platform to support initiatives in Eastern Europe. EASL has engaged at both national and local level in Europe, and in 2018 saw the forming of an EASL National Society Forum which will be hosted annually at the ILC.

Linked to our Brussels office, public policy and health are major priorities for EASL, and indeed, 2019 will see the publication of a suite of EASL policy statements covering large parts of hepatology to guide the work of the newly formed EASL Policy and Public Health Committee. The committee will substantially develop our capacity in this area and further position EASL as a leading entity within the space of public health and liver disease.

It is notable that we are seeing a greater number of abstract submissions in the field of public health to our congresses, which is encouraging given our support to the HEPAMAP and HEPAHEALTH programmes over the years. We are currently working closely with the Lancet medical journal, supporting the development of an EASL-Lancet Commission for liver disease in Europe which is chaired by Professors Patrizia Burra and Michael Manns.

Despite our growth and success, we are not resting on our laurels, and must adapt to an ever-changing landscape. Interactions with the industry are critical to facilitate the development of new diagnostics and therapies and are also key in supporting our educational offer. Similarly, we are looking to develop closer links with the European Medicines Agency to provide stronger input to the regulatory landscape.

EASL aims to give back to the community and its members as much as possible, and all input and comments are most welcome at any time of the year. Sharing science and best practice remains the centrepiece of the ILC and the EASL philosophy.

Thank you for believing in EASL and for your continued support and dedication to the field.

LETTER FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR



MANAGING DIRECTOR

Laurence VERHAGEN

Just over half a century ago EASL was founded, and our association may well be now more relevant than ever before. As of June 2018, over 55% of the world's population has internet access, and data volumes are exploding: more data has been created in the past two years than in the entire previous history of humanity. And while this is undoubtedly a sign of human progress, it also poses a challenge: what information is

reliable? Who do we believe? Which sources can be trusted? This is where our association plays a crucial role for people active in the field of hepatology: we are a beacon for our community, a source of credible data, a place where like-minded people meet, and a community where peers collaborate, evaluate each other's work and build on it.

In this day and age, people expect immediate answers to their questions: we perform 65,000 searches every second on Google alone. An estimated 3 billion people use smartphones today, and technology has created an "always on" society. This is how people live, this is how people connect. These changes in society reflect the changes we as a professional association need to make to continue to stay relevant.

In addition to our live meetings we need to offer the possibility to our members and stakeholders to connect in other ways. Data should be readily available, and it should be vetted for quality, and provided in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

I joined EASL in July 2018 as its new Managing Director. With more than 25 years of association management experience and in the knowledge that change is constant, I understand the challenge that lies before us. Together with the team at HQ, and with the full support of our Board, we have taken a fresh look at our current situation and introduced many new initiatives so that our association may continue to serve its members in a rapidly evolving environment.

To name but a few examples: EASL is now providing livestreaming of its main events (ILC, HCC and NAFLD Summit) enabling wider outreach geographically and to other medical specialties where expert knowledge in liver disease management is relevant to their daily practice. The EASL community is growing. Membership is up from 4,100 in 2017 to 4,500 in 2018 and EASL is addressing its rising demand for information and education with the launch of its new website and a new membership platform in the autumn. EASL is also extending its educational offering beyond the LiverTree™ with a dedicated educational platform with CME accredited e-learning modules.

EASL is evolving with the multidisciplinary components of hepatology, working... towards the future of improved health systems

EASL internal processes are being revised to respond to the increasing regulations and compliance measures related to data privacy (GDPR) and respect for pharma and Medtech codes. Our social media impact is increasing year on year with over 30% more followers on Twitter and Facebook in 2018 and engagement levels on the rise.

EASL is evolving with the multidisciplinary components of hepatology, working closer with its partners and striving towards the future of improved health systems. Your association is doing well, and we are looking forward to a bright future filled with an ever-evolving cutting-edge service offering, that will make EASL stand out as a leading professional association where its community can find added value at any stage of their career.

3

EASL GOVERNANCE

OUR MISSION

EASL is a medical association dedicated to pursuing excellence in liver research, clinical practice of liver disorders, and in providing education to all those interested in hepatology.

While the roots of the association were founded in Europe in 1966, EASL continues to engage globally with all stakeholders in the liver field wherever they are based, in the aim to spread knowledge and expertise in best practices and the latest scientific breakthroughs in hepatology. EASL's mission is to be the Home of Hepatology so that all who are involved with treating liver disease can realise their full potential to cure and prevent it.

The purpose of the association is to promote communication between European workers interested in the liver and its disorders. In particular, the association shall:

- a) promote research concerning the liver;
- b) promote education of physicians, scientists and public awareness of liver diseases and their management;
- c) act as an advisor to European and national health authorities concerning liver diseases, provision of clinical services and the need for research funding;
- d) foster European multicentre controlled trials;
- e) facilitate scientific exchange;
- f) facilitate participation of young investigators at its meetings.

GOVERNING BOARD

The EASL Governing Board is composed of 11 scientific experts who are actively engaged and involved in the discipline. The EASL Governing Board is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in hepatology, liver research and the clinical practice of liver disorders.

The Governing Board has the following duties:

- 1) To manage the business of the association.
- 2) To carry out the resolutions taken at the Business Meeting.
- 3) To represent the association. The Secretary General has joint signatory power together with the Treasurer or any other person entrusted with the management and representation by the Governing Board.
- 4) To attend to all matters which are not delegated to or reserved for another functional body of the association pursuant to the law or the Articles of Association.
- 5) To accept new Ordinary Members, Corresponding Members and Trainee Members.
- 6) In case of considerable financial gains, the Governing Board prepares proposals for approval at the Business Meeting for the destination of parts of these gains. These destinations should serve purposes that are in agreement with the aims of the association.
- 7) To prepare proposals for alterations of the Articles of Association if necessary.
- 8) To decide about matters concerning the EASL membership fee.
- 9) To select and propose to the Business Meeting the name of the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Hepatology.



SECRETARY GENERAL
Prof. Tom Hemming KARLSEN
Oslo, Norway



VICE-SECRETARY
Prof. Philip N. NEWSOME
Birmingham, UK



TREASURER
Prof. Mauro BERNARDI
Bologna, Italy



TREASURER-ELECT
Prof. Francesco NEGRO
Geneva, Switzerland



EU POLICY COUNCILLOR
Prof. Helena CORTEZ-PINTO
Lisbon, Portugal



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
Prof. Annalisa BERZIGOTTI
Bern, Switzerland



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
Prof. Markus CORNBERG
Hannover, Germany



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
Prof. Maria REIG
Barcelona, Spain



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
Prof. Marco MARZIONI
Ancona, Italy



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
Prof. Pierre-Emmanuel RAUTOU
Clichy, France



EDUCATIONAL COUNCILLOR
Prof. Massimo PINZANI
London, UK



EDUCATIONAL COUNCILLOR-ELECT
Prof. Ulrich BEUERS
Amsterdam, The Netherlands



ETHICS COMMITTEE

The role of the Ethics Committee will be to review the membership of the panels which author EASL's Clinical Practice Guidelines to eliminate the potential for real or perceived bias which might undermine the integrity of the guidelines. The Ethics Committee will agree on guidelines for reviewing appointments to the Clinical Practice Guideline panels. Candidate membership of the panels will be proposed by the Governing Board for approval by the Ethics Committee according to these guidelines.

The Ethics Committee consists of five members who will be independent of the Governing Board membership. One member, elected by the Ethics Committee, will perform the role of the chair. Members will serve for three years. The first members of the Ethics Committee will be proposed by the Governing Board for approval by the General Assembly. New members will be proposed by the Ethics Committee for approval by the General Assembly. The Ethics Committee will meet once each year at the International Liver Congress™ and as needed.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Prof. Geoffrey M. DUSHEIKO

**MEMBER**

Prof. Jaime BOSCH

**MEMBER**

Prof. Markus HEIM

**MEMBER**

Prof. Ariane MALLAT

**MEMBER**

Prof. Christian TRAUTWEIN

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

The Educational Committee comprises six members. At least two members should represent non-hepatology specialties of relevance to EASL education.

Each member serves for a period of three years and cannot be re-elected as an Educational Committee member. New members of the Educational Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly, but are not Governing Board members.

At any point in time, one member of the Educational Committee must be below 40 years of age at the time of election, for the remaining members there is no age limit at the time of the election. The Educational Committee is organised by the Educational Councillor and supports him/her in his/her duties.



CHAIRPERSON
Prof. Massimo PINZANI



COUNCILLOR-ELECT
Prof. Ulrich BEUERS



MEMBER
Prof. Paolo ANGELI



MEMBER
Prof. Andres CARDENAS



MEMBER
Prof. Rui CASTRO



MEMBER
Prof. Karine LACOMBE



MEMBER
Prof. Helen REEVES



MEMBER
Prof. Ulrich SPENGLER

POLICY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The EASL Policy and Public Health Committee, which comprises of four members and one patient member representative, cannot be Governing Board members.

Each member serves for a period of three years and cannot be re-elected as EASL Policy and Public Health Committee members.

There is no age limit at the time of election. The EASL Policy and Public Health Committee is organised by the European Policy Councillor (EPC) and supports him/her in his/her duties.



CHAIRPERSON
Prof. Helena CORTEZ-PINTO



MEMBER
Prof. Antonio CRAXI



MEMBER
Prof. Mojca MATICIC



MEMBER
Prof. Nick SHERON



MEMBER
Prof. Martine WALMSLEY



MEMBER
Prof. Shira ZELBER-SAGI

TASK FORCES

The EASL Task Forces were implemented to improve collaboration between basic and clinical scientists from a range of disciplines sharing common specialist interests.

i. Young Investigators Task Force

The Young Investigators (YI) Task Force advises the EASL Governing Board on specific educational initiatives for young hepatologists. The group organises different activities during the International Liver Congress™ such as the YI seminar, YI sessions at the Community Hub, YI social activities, and YI Award.

Objectives of the group:

- To promote EASL activities for YIs
- To build an active and dynamic community of YIs involved in EASL activities
- To promote and facilitate discussion and exchange of information via EASL online forums and at EASL events
- To host an exclusive social networking event during the ILC solely for YIs
- To encourage other YIs to become EASL members and join the EASL Community

The group meets twice a year: once at the ILC and at the EASL Office in order to plan and organise activities.



EASL GOVERNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Prof. Pierre-Emmanuel RAUTOU

MEMBERS

Sabela LENS

Espen MELUM

Jean-Charles NAULT

Salvatore PIANO



ii. Nurse and Allied Health Professionals task force

EASL recognises the role of nurses and Allied Health Professionals in leading initiatives to improve education, standards and ultimately the care for patients with liver disease. In 2018, a special Allied Health Professionals membership was initiated.

The Nurse and Allied Health Professionals (AHP) Task Force aims to improve communication within the European nurse community and to advise the EASL Governing Board on topics of interest.

Objectives of the group:

- To work collaboratively on the research and quality agenda. Develop links with affiliated liver nursing forums, committees, societies across Europe.
- Develop programmes, including Nurses and Allied Health Professionals Forum at ILC intended to benefit nurses and AHPs.
- Work jointly with the EASL Office to have a sustainable membership programme for nurses and AHPs.
- Collaboration in strengthening liver nursing across Europe with joint funding and links to ongoing medical projects.
- Working together to raise and improve the experience of care, and to deliver a quality service to people with liver disease and their families that is measurable and transparent.



EASL GOVERNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Prof. Annalisa BERZIGOTTI

MEMBERS

Michelle CLAYTON
Lynda GREENSLADE
Nathalie GOUTTE
Kristine HJORT
Kathrin HUSI
Neus LLARCH
Markus REISS



4 EASL OFFICE



The EASL headquarters is based in Geneva, Switzerland. A team of 27 employees are dedicated to promoting EASL's mission in its three strategic directions in science, education and advocacy.

All EASL projects and initiatives are coordinated and executed by the EASL office. The team covers a broad range of expertise from advocacy, marketing and public relations to event management, education, publishing and finance management.

The EASL team runs a comprehensive portfolio of conferences, schools and related educational meetings including its flagship annual International Liver Congress™.

EASL is responsible for the Journal of Hepatology and is developing alternative publication models for the further dissemination and sharing of high quality research.

The team is pro-actively forming collaborations with an educational scope and is launching its new educational platform soon.

The office manages and engages with its members, manages fellowships, mentorships and grant programmes, maintains communication with its sponsors and provides support to EU-funded projects.

Looking to the future the EASL brand is going from strength to strength and the team look forward to continuing its collaboration with the EASL community, and advocating for the highest standards in hepatology.

5

MEMBERSHIP



In April 1966, EASL began as a small group of 70 hepatologists from 15 European countries who came together to share expertise in best medical practices.

Now with over 4,500 members from all over the world, EASL is an influential international organisation. It attracts the foremost hepatology experts as members and has an impressive track record in promoting research in liver disease, supporting wider education, and promoting changes in European liver policy.

EASL membership is valid per calendar year (01 January – 31 December) and includes:

- Journal of Hepatology online access
- Reduced fees to the International Liver Congress™ and EASL events
- LiverTree™ access
- Best education: Schools and Masterclass
- Best research: Fellowships and Mentorship
- Financial support for EU funded projects, Fellowships and Registry Grants
- Opportunities to host EASL events

In addition to the exclusive membership benefits, EASL also offers free scientific material available to the entire hepatology community. The aim being to share and spread scientific knowledge widely to tackle liver disease effectively. EASL members and non-members can benefit from the following ‘open to all’ materials and tools:

- HCV advisor app
- iLiver app
- Conference debriefs on YouTube
- Clinical Practice Guidelines
- Journal of Hepatology Snapshots
- Journal of Hepatology Articles in Press
- LiverTree™ – Grand Round Series
- Live Tweeting during EASL events

1,106 NEW APPLICANTS

3,298 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

2018 MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

1966 70 HEPATOLOGISTS
15 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

2018 4,500 MEMBERS WORLDWIDE

1,924
REGULAR MEMBERS

1,508
CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

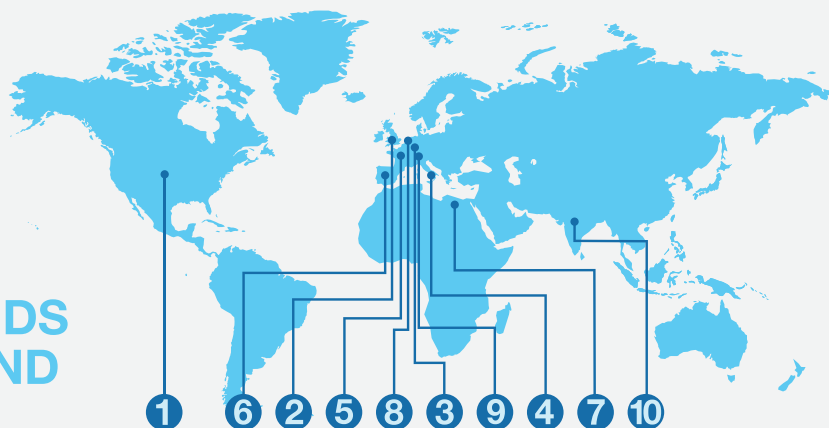
828
TRAINEE MEMBERS

14
NURSE MEMBERS

171
EMERITUS MEMBERS

TOP 10

- 1 USA
- 2 UK
- 3 GERMANY
- 4 ITALY
- 5 FRANCE
- 6 SPAIN
- 7 EGYPT
- 8 NETHERLANDS
- 9 SWITZERLAND
- 10 INDIA



6

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

a. EVENTS

i. The International Liver Congress™



PARIS, FRANCE, 11-15 APRIL 2018

EASL applies for accreditation from the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) for all its educational activities.

The International Liver Congress™ is the annual EASL meeting and the flagship event in our educational calendar. Every year in April, scientific and medical experts from a broad range of fields including hepatology, gastroenterology, internal medicine, cell biology, transplant surgery, infectious diseases, microbiology and virology, pharmacology, pathology and radiology, and imaging, come together from around the world to learn about the latest in liver research.

Specialists share recent data, present studies, and findings, and discuss the hottest topics in liver disease. In 2018, the annual congress attracted 9,669 delegates and 142 media representatives from all over the world making this a truly international networking opportunity.



36

MEET THE EXPERT SESSIONS



33

POSTER TOURS



32

ORAL ePOSTER SESSIONS



21

PARALLEL SESSIONS



17

SYMPOSIA



9

RESEARCH THINK TANKS



8

BREAKFAST MORNING ROUNDS SESSIONS



5

GRAND ROUNDS



5

PUBLIC HEALTH SESSIONS



4

CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE SESSIONS



4

PRO AND CONS SESSIONS



4

SOLVE THE CASE SESSIONS



3

GENERAL SESSIONS



3

STATE OF THE ART LECTURES



2

FELLOWSHIP AND REGISTRY GRANT SESSIONS



1

BEST POSTER SUMMARY



1

HOT TOPIC IN LIVER TRANSPLANT SESSION



1

SKILLS IN HEPATOLOGY SYMPOSIUM



1

LATE BREAKER SESSION



1

EU FUNDED PROJECTS SESSION



1

NURSES & ASSOCIATES FORUM



1

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



1

BASIC SCIENCE SEMINAR: LIVER IMMUNOLOGY AND IMMUNOTHERAPY



1

POSTGRADUATE COURSE: END STAGE LIVER DISEASE



1

CRITICAL REFLECTION ON LANDMARK PAPER SESSION



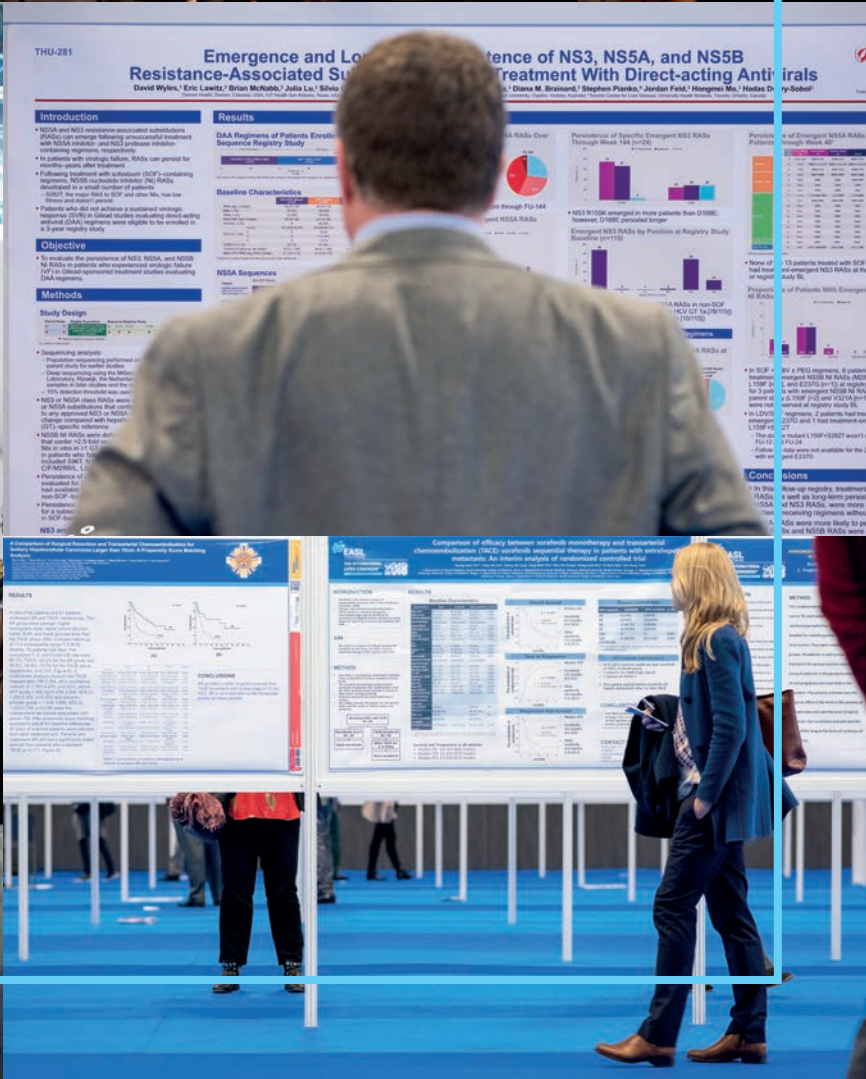
1

HANDS-ON SKILLS IN HEPATOLOGY SESSION (VARIOUS TECHNIQUES)



1

WRAP UP SESSION



The ILC 2018 scientific programme exceeded expectations by covering a full spectrum of clinical and basic research on liver disease. Interesting new data were discussed and presented in outstanding sessions, as well as during the Satellite Symposia and mini-workshops.

The scientific programme was designed to distinguish between specialties and fields, enabling visitors to make informed choices on sessions of interest based on the scientific content to be presented rather than just on the type of session being held.

EASL thanks its sponsors and participating companies for their generous support.

<http://2018.ilc-congress.eu/exhibition-industry/acknowledgements>

#ILC2018

9,669
DELEGATES

7 CPGs

82
EXHIBITORS

2,760
ABSTRACTS
SUBMITTED

1,750
ABSTRACTS
ACCEPTED

948
YOUNG
INVESTIGATORS

121
COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED

TOP 10 Countries attending

2
FRANCE

3
UK

4
GERMANY

5
ITALY

6
CHINA

7
SPAIN

8
SWITZERLAND

9
EGYPT

10
NETHERLANDS

New in 2018 - Public Health

A very welcome addition this year was the public health category, which addressed pressing issues from a more societal perspective. Sessions covered a range of topics in viral hepatitis and NAFLD/NASH. Health state transition models predicted lower morbidity and mortality with early treatment of HCV with DAAs and lower lifetime costs; that ultrasound surveillance for HCC was shown to be cost effective in HCV related cirrhosis after SVR, but was unlikely to be so in F3. Molecular phylogenetic analyses were able to link cases of an HAV outbreak among MSM in Italy to three European outbreaks, suggesting that efforts to increase HAV vaccine coverage in high-risk groups are required.

In other Public Health sessions delegates were urged to become activists and the authoritative voice in the debate around alcohol use to help to reduce one of the more frequent and preventable liver diseases. The need for such action was evidenced by the HEPAHEALTH report released during ILC 2018, which provided an up-to-date status report of the burden of liver disease across Europe.



Research Think Tanks

The Research Think Tanks were a new initiative at ILC 2018 and will be key sessions in future meetings. These sessions provided a forum for academic debate between different organisations with shared objectives, supporting EASL's commitment to identifying new research pathways to improve the lives of all patients living with liver disease. The programmes for each of the Think Tanks were developed by research interest groups or consortia, and were coordinated by EASL. The research Think Tanks covered a broad range of topics, for example, two on viral hepatitis considered the barriers preventing elimination of HCV and the need for a vaccine in an era where infection can be cured in most patients.

Meet the Experts

Delegates had the opportunity to meet face-to-face with top experts in their fields of interest at several Meet the Expert sessions throughout the week. The sessions covered HCV infection in patients with HCC, difficult cases in HCV, cirrhosis after HCV cure, whether patients with chronic hepatitis B infection should be treated, when nucleoside analogue therapy can be stopped in HBV, management of HDV, management of HEV, prevention of decompensation in cirrhosis, antibiotic stewardship in cirrhosis. The more informal setting was conducive to relaxed, interactive discussion of the most pressing issues in hepatology today.



Recognition Awards

The first EASL Recognition Awardees were acknowledged in Vienna 2006. Over a decade later the tradition continues to recognise the scientists, the men and women, who write the history of our association and progress the field of hepatology.

During ILC 2018, EASL recognised the men and women who are writing the history of EASL with outstanding contributions to liver disease care and research in Europe.



Professors Anna Lok, Mario Mondelli and Didier Samuel were awarded EASL Recognition Awards for their contributions to liver disease care and research



Young Investigators at The ILC 2018

EASL encourages Young Investigators (YIs) to be active in the field of hepatology and invites them to take part at the ILC. A dedicated YI lounge was located beside the EASL booth allowing YIs to socialise and talk with members of the YI Task Force, to meet other YIs from different nationalities as well as find information about the EASL Masterclass, Mentorship and Fellowship programmes, upcoming Schools of Hepatology, and the Journal of Hepatology.

EASL also provides bursaries to the authors of the best-accepted abstracts to financially support young fellows to attend the ILC.

EASL presented a prestigious series of accolades in support of young hepatologists. With special recognition for their outstanding achievements in liver disease research, the EASL Governing Board and Young Investigator Concerted Action Group granted 2018 EASL Young Investigator Awards to Professor Pierre-Emmanuel Rautou (France) and Dr Jesús M. Banalles (Spain).

The awardees were acknowledged during a General Session at the ILC in front of thousands of liver experts. They also presented their submitted abstract at the corresponding parallel session. EASL Awardees receive a cash prize and are invited to publish a review in the Journal of Hepatology.



National Associations Village

Every year, EASL offers national associations an opportunity to promote their society, national activities and events during the ILC. In 2018, the following associations attended showcasing how active the hepatology field is in different locations around the world:

RSLS	Russian Scientific Liver Society
TASL	Turkish Association of Studies of the Liver
HASL	Hellenic Association for the Study of the Liver
ÖGGH	Österreichische Gesellschaft für Gastroenterologie & Hepatologie
BASL	British Association for the Study of the Liver
MASL	Mediterranean Association for the Study of Liver
PASL	Polish Association for the Study of the Liver
SGF	Swedish Society of Gastroenterology
AEEH	Spanish Association for the Study of the Liver
BgASL	Bulgarian Association for the Study of the Liver
SASL	Swiss Association for the Study of the Liver
BASL	Belgium Association for the Study of the Liver
AGHA	Azerbaijan Gastroenterology and Hepatology Association
AISF	Associazione Italiana per lo Studio del Fegato
SRGH	Romanian Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
CSH	Czech Society of Hepatology
AFEF	Société Française d'Hépatologie
GHA	Georgian Hepatology Association
SHS	Slovak Society of Hepatology
GASL	German Association for the Study of the Liver
IsAL	Israel Association for the Study of the Liver
DSH	Armenian Association for the Study of the Liver
DSH	Dutch Society of Hepatology

ii. Striving towards the elimination of HCV infection

EASL Monothematic Conference
Geneva, Switzerland, 02-05 February 2018

Globally, morbidity and mortality due to HCV infection continues to rise. However, the availability of simple and tolerable DAA therapies for HCV infection with cure rates >90% is one of the greatest medical advances in decades. This has brought considerable optimism to people working in HCV. The World Health Organization (WHO) has set an ambitious goal to eliminate HCV as a major public health threat by 2030. Between 2015 and 2030, the WHO targets include reducing new HCV infections by 80%, and the number of HCV deaths by 65%, and increasing HCV diagnoses to 90% and the number of eligible persons receiving HCV treatment to 80%.

Today at the EASL Monothematic Conference, major stakeholders in the field of HCV convened with scientists, clinicians, regulatory agencies and the pharmaceutical industry to discuss and understand the burden of HCV. Experts will present progress and future directions to work towards the WHO goal of eliminating HCV as a major public health threat by 2030.

iii. HCC summit 2018

Geneva, Switzerland, 01-03 March 2018

HCC is considered one of the most important causes of death in patients affected with chronic liver disease. In the past years, major advances in the early diagnosis and treatment, particularly in advanced stages, have taken place.

The third EASL Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) Summit was attended by nearly 300 basic scientists, clinical researchers, industry leaders, and renowned scientists from around the world. HCC is one of the most serious outcomes of cirrhosis and is responsible for 70-90% of cases of primary liver cancer. This year's summit covered both the basic and translational/clinical aspects of the disease with a particular focus on new targeted therapies.

EASL thanks its generous contributors for their support with the association's various activities through unrestricted grants

iv. Gut-liver Axis

EASL Monothematic Conference
Leuven, Belgium, 07-09 June 2018

The gastrointestinal tract, or gut, is home to a microbiome that contains more genetic material than the human genome and the liver is at the nexus between a vast source of hormones, nutrients and toxins. This fact unsurprisingly links the two in a myriad of ways. The conference examined therapies designed to modify the components of the gut-liver axis, such as bile acid signaling, fecal transplantation, adsorbent carbons, and pro- and antibiotics, among others.

The first EASL Monothematic Conference on Gut-Liver Axis took place at the Leuven Institute in Leuven, Belgium.

The conference was attended by nearly 150 basic scientists, clinical researchers, industry leaders, and renowned scientists from around the world. Bringing together many of the world's eminent scientists, experts, and partners from industry, the conference goal was to facilitate interaction and collaborative exchange so that the latest developments in gut-liver interplay research can be understood by academia, industry and the global scientific audience.



v. Global Hepatitis Summit 2018

ISVHLD

Toronto, Canada, 14-17 June, 2018

The Global Hepatitis Summit in Toronto, Canada, brought together leaders from around the world to discuss outstanding basic and clinical science while addressing public health issues around viral hepatitis and other liver diseases. With a new focus on Public/Global Health and the addition of a Global Village, this was an ISVHLD meeting not to be missed.

AASLD, EASL and ISVHLD hosted an HCC symposium on 15 June 2018 during the 16th International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis and Liver Disease. The HCC Symposium brought together leading experts to discuss the state of the art in epidemiology, surveillance, research and clinical management of HCC.

vi. NAFLD endpoints

EASL-AASLD Joint meeting

Alexandria, USA, 29 – 30 June 2018

The purpose of the workshop was to bring together the academic, regulatory and pharmaceutical communities to discuss therapeutic endpoints, trial designs and appropriate patient populations and safety concerns with regards to novel therapeutic approaches for treatment of NAFLD. This meeting was unique in that it brought all the important and relevant parties to the table to discuss these critical issues that need resolution before substantial progress can be made in delivering the next generation of therapeutic agents to affected individuals with NAFLD.

AASLD and EASL possess the expertise in NAFLD to bridge the current knowledge gaps that regulatory and pharmaceutical industry have identified as important issues hampering development of novel therapeutic agents for NAFLD.

vii. NAFLD Summit 2018

Geneva, Switzerland, 20-22 September 2018

NAFLD has become a leading cause of chronic liver disease globally given the rise in levels of obesity and type 2 diabetes mellitus. It presents unique challenges to the liver community given the complex multi-factorial origins of obesity and the metabolic syndrome and also the presence of multiple co-morbidities in many patients with NAFLD. There also remain many challenges such as the identification of at-risk individuals, the development of lifestyle and pharmacological therapies and ultimately the assessment of their cost-effectiveness.

This summit covered the whole spectrum of basic and translational/clinical aspects of NAFLD, including views from patient groups and the latest advances in new therapeutic developments.



viii. Schools and Masterclasses

The EASL Schools of Hepatology contribute to the training of new generations of hepatologists and are a major element of our association. They are designed specifically for young fellows enrolled in hepatology-oriented departments or more experienced clinicians who want to be exposed to the newest trends in hepatology.

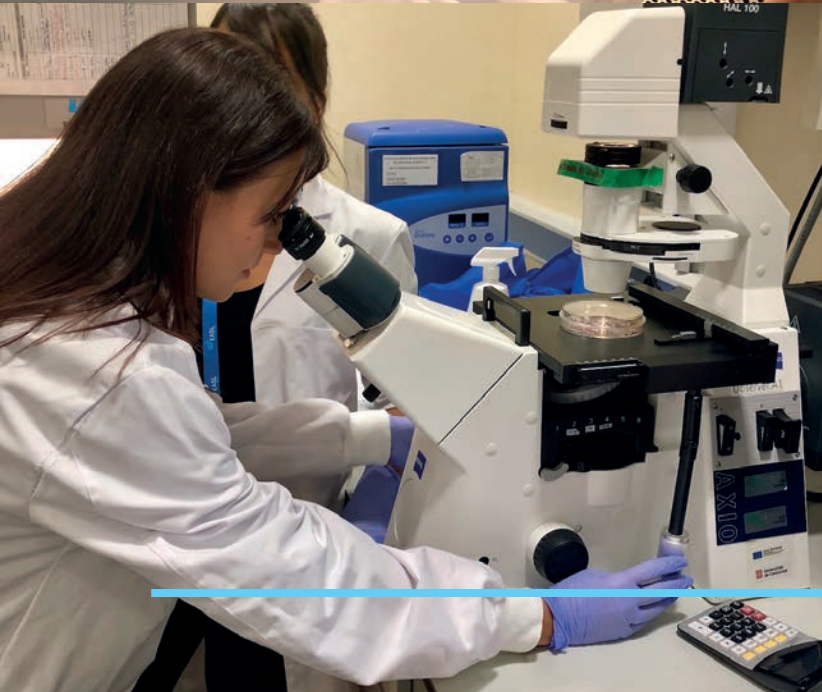
For selected applicants, EASL covers transportation costs to attend and accommodation during the school.

Abdominal Sonography

Clinical School

Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 07-08 September 2018

The sonography clinical school is intended for physicians with no or minimal experience in abdominal sonography. The major aim is to learn the basics: how to perform abdominal sonography in a patient with liver disease. The first part is on anatomy, i.e. the recognition of the large abdominal organs and structures with emphasis on the liver.





Liver Vascular Biology

Basic School

Barcelona, Spain, 25-27 October 2018

The 2018 Basic School of Hepatology provided updated information about how to properly characterise liver vascular cells phenotype, function, and interactions, combining state of the art lectures, short seminars, and extensive hands-on practices. In addition, soft practical exercises focused on the improvement of scientific communication skills. A major aim of the School is to potentiate close interaction between faculty and participants, therefore a reduced number of applicants (maximum 36) were selected to be part of the experience.

The School was developed at the IDIBAPS Biomedical Research Centre in Barcelona.

AASLD-EASL Joint Masterclass

Florida, United States,

29 November - 01 December 2018

The AASLD and EASL Masterclass 2018 provided a unique educational event for experienced clinical researchers and basic scientists from leading academic institutions in the field of liver diseases from both sides of the Atlantic.

Diagnosis and Management of Vascular Liver Diseases

Clinical School

Bern, Switzerland, 23-24 November 2018

Vascular liver diseases are a diverse group of diseases which are frequent in clinical practice and complex, multidisciplinary in their management. With the large availability of ultrasonography, these diseases are more and more recognised and hepatologists should know how to handle them. They should also be aware of the limitations of the current knowledge and the area which could be better researched. This school followed the new model of 'flip-class' with active participation of the fellows who had to answer a complex question related to a real case.

b. E-LEARNING

i. Best of Slide Decks

This year, Clinical Practice Guidelines and ILC Slide Decks were developed open to all.

The Best of ILC slide decks provide an overview of the research highlights in each of the topics: metabolism, alcohol and toxicity, cholestasis and autoimmune, cirrhosis and complications, general hepatology, liver tumours and viral hepatitis.

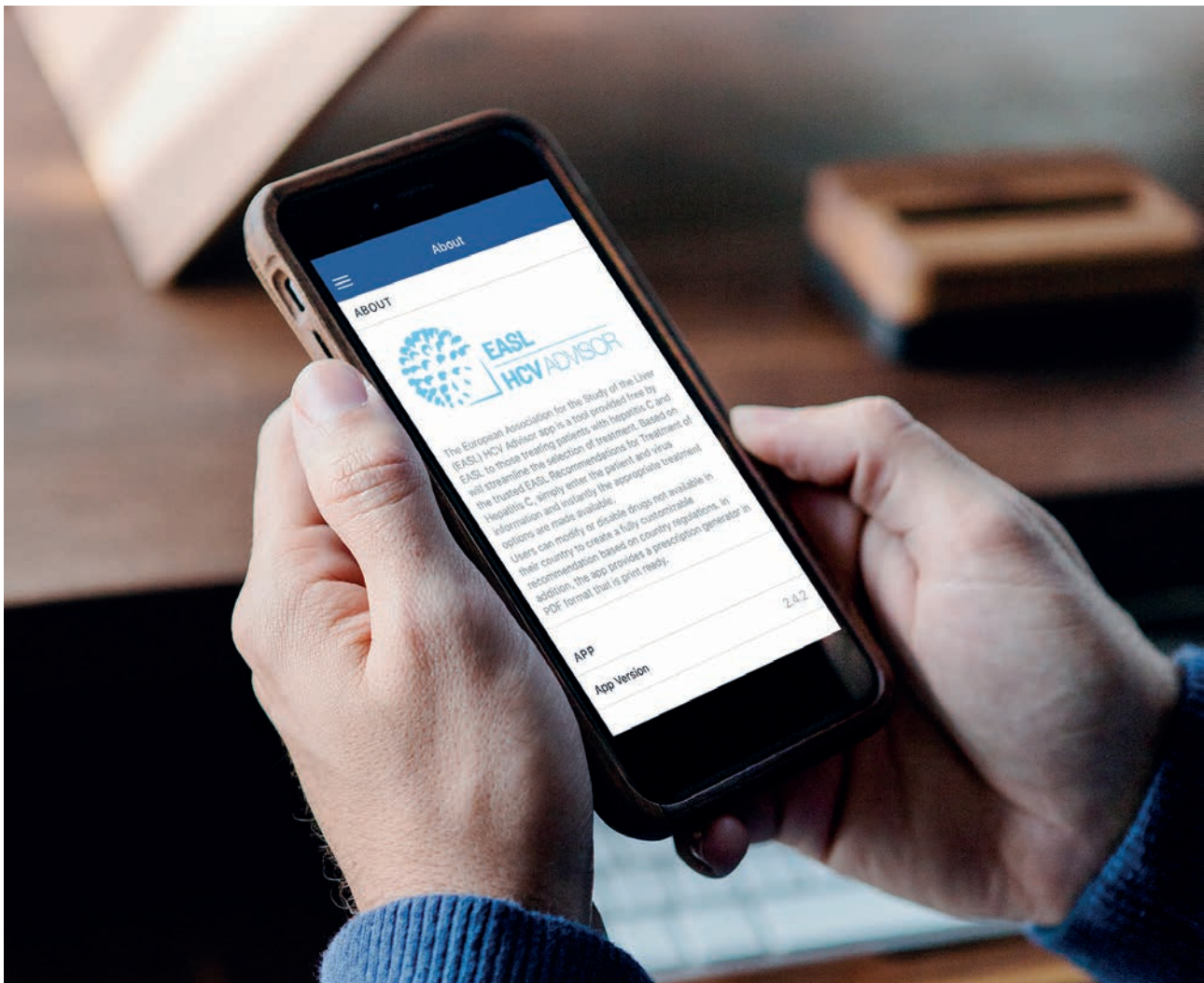
ii. iLiver

iLiver is a free app featuring content that is fully approved by independent expert reviewers and EASL Governing Board representatives. This interactive and dynamic app is designed exclusively for professional use, delivering instant medical information and clinical recommendations to medical experts (i.e., hepatologists, gastroenterologists and specialists in internal medicine) around the world.

Once downloaded, the app content can be accessed without an internet connection making it a helpful reference tool that can be used at a patient's bedside. iLiver is a resource that provides up-to-date clinical recommendations and information in over 26 different areas of liver disease.

iii. EASL HCV Advisor App

The HCV Advisor app is a tool provided free by EASL to health care professionals treating patients with hepatitis C. The app streamlines the selection of treatment. Based on the trusted EASL guidelines for treatment of hepatitis C, clinicians can simply enter the patient and virus information and instantly review the appropriate treatment options available.



c. PUBLICATIONS

Journal of Hepatology

The Journal of Hepatology is a monthly, English language, peer-reviewed journal. As the official journal of EASL, it provides an international forum for the publication of original articles, reviews and letters to the Editor describing basic laboratory, translational, and clinical investigations in hepatology.

All articles undergo a rigorous peer review and are selected based on the originality of the findings, the superior quality of the work described, and the clarity of presentation.

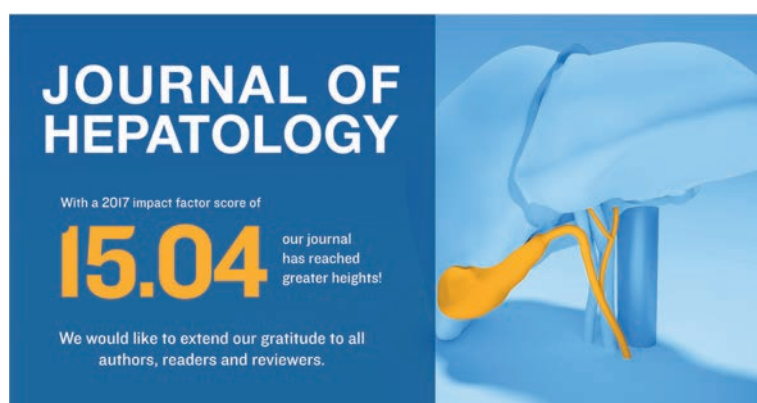
The 2017 Impact Factor for Journal of Hepatology reached 15.040. This is the first time that a dedicated hepatology journal has reached an Impact Factor above 15.

The 2017 Impact Factor for the Journal of Hepatology is now 15.040. This is the first time that a dedicated hepatology journal has reached an IF above 15.

This was made possible by the hard work of our editors and reviewers and the trust of our authors and readers, whom we would like to thank wholeheartedly.

The Journal website provides maximum visibility by way of a user-friendly, state of the art hosting platform. The availability of mobile apps means that the Journal can be accessed using smartphones or tablets and is compatible with both iOS and Android devices.

Visit www.journal-of-hepatology.eu



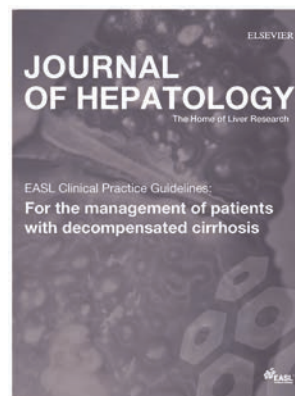
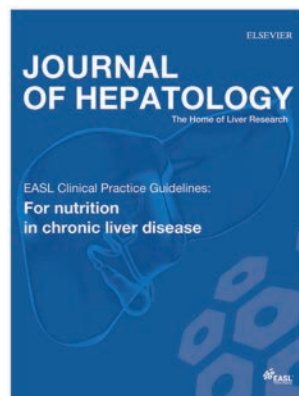
Clinical Practice Guidelines

The first EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) were released in October 2008. CPGs are distributed via the Journal of Hepatology and define the use of diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive modalities, including non-invasive and invasive procedures in the management of patients with various liver diseases.

They are intended to assist physicians and other healthcare providers as well as patients and interested individuals in the clinical decision-making process by describing a range of generally accepted approaches for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of specific liver diseases.

In 2018, the Journal of Hepatology published the following EASL CPGs:

- Nutrition in chronic liver disease
- Management of patients with decompensated cirrhosis
- Hepatitis E virus infection
- Management of alcohol-related liver disease
- Management of hepatocellular carcinoma
- Treatment of Hepatitis C 2018



JHEP Reports

With the growth in the Impact Factor and the resulting increase in selection pressure, increasingly many good papers do not find a place in the Journal of Hepatology. After a careful analysis, EASL decided to launch a new open access journal, JHEP Reports, with the ambition of establishing a top 10 journal in the field of gastroenterology and hepatology, with an impact factor >7 .

JHEP Reports will publish original papers, reviews, and letters to the Editor concerned with basic, translation and clinical research in the field of hepatology. The aim is to create an innovative journal that publishes content covering global issues in hepatology, with a specific focus on clinical trials, novel diagnostics, precision medicine and therapeutics, cellular and molecular research, metabolism, cancer, microbiome, systems biology, epidemiology, and biotechnology advances and devices.

Objectives:

- Increase EASL's footprint in clinical, translational and basic research in hepatology
- Provide a home to authors who want to publish quickly and in a respected journal
- Give a home to the many good papers that are rejected from Journal of Hepatology
- Offer a Gold Open Access possibility to (European) hepatologists



7

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

a. FELLOWSHIPS

EASL Daniel Alagille Award

The aim of this fellowship is to encourage biomedical research in the field of paediatric and adult genetic cholestatic diseases sharing mutual disease-causing mechanisms.

An annual scientific award of €25,000 is provided to support a research-based project. The EASL Daniel Alagille Award is generously sponsored by CTRS laboratories and applications opened from 30 October – 30 November 2018.



Teresa CARDOSO DELGADO

Ph.D. Studentship Juan Rodes



Muhammad ATIF



Roberta FORLANO



Elisabetta CAON

Post-Graduate Fellowship Sheila Sherlock



Annarein KERBERT



Jan MASEK



Wenshi WANG



Short-Term Fellowship Andrew K. Burroughs



Mattias MANDORFER



Antonietta ROMANO

b. MENTORSHIP

The Mentorship Programme was created as a means of enhancing scientific exchange and personal developmental relationships in which a more experienced and knowledgeable hepatologist would guide a Young Investigator through a crucial stage of their career path.

Mentor



Prof. Olivier CHAZOILLERES, MD

Mentee



Luliana NENU

Mentor



Peter R. GALLE, MD, PhD

Mentee



Marta ALFONSO

c. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (REGISTRY GRANTS)

Devoted to understanding the liver and its related diseases, EASL promotes research and education through the sharing of research findings in hepatology. Funding provided by EASL helps to organise consortia groups dedicated to data gathering with a specific focus on liver disease. A minimum of €150,000 is awarded to support one or more consortia groups.

EASL members interested in applying for Registry Grant funding must apply online. Applications are reviewed by the EASL Scientific Committee and the funded registry project should begin by June of the awarded year. Successful applicants are requested to attend the ILC in April when awarded projects are announced.

2018 AWARDED PROJECTS		
HEAD OF THE CONSORTIUM	PROJECT TITLE	COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE
Prof. Valerio NOBILI	The European Paediatric Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease Registry (EU-PNAFLD)	Italy
Dr. Cyriel PONSIOEN	International PSC Registry	The Netherlands



8

POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

a. EASL OFFICE BRUSSELS

In 2018 the EASL office in Brussels continued to focus its work around the advocacy priorities agreed by the EASL Governing Board in 2014, which include EU research policies Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe. Key priorities for EASL encompass policies on viral hepatitis, alcohol-related liver disease and NAFLD, which are mostly related to the access of treatment in the case of viral hepatitis, and to alcohol and food-related policies in the EU. With the aim to clearly define and communicate EASL's positions, policy statements have been developed which will become public during ILC 2019.

As far as research policy is concerned, 2018 was an important year as we continued to move towards the launch of the new Framework Programme Horizon Europe, 2021–2027. EASL's EU public affairs team continued to work closely with the Alliance for Biomedical Research (BioMed Alliance) by providing input to the call made by the Biomed Alliance which asked European Institutions to increase the total Horizon Europe budget to at least €120–125 billion, and to dedicate 25–30% of the Horizon Europe budget to biomedical and health-related research.

The HEPAHEALTH Project Report was unveiled at the ILC 2018. The Report, which was commissioned, supervised and reviewed by EASL with the assistance of the HEPAHEALTH Steering Committee, outlines the risk factors and the burden of liver disease in Europe and selected Asian countries. The Report is now on the EASL website, and a paper was published in the Journal of Hepatology in 2018, summarising the most important findings.

We are now in the process of developing a second phase of HEPAHEALTH, aiming modelling data from selected countries, in order to predict, how the burden of liver disease will progress and how different political strategies can change this progression.

EASL kept a robust connection with European Reference Networks (ERN), in particular the Rare liver diseases ERN.

Liver disease prevention also had a prominent part in our work, and in 2018 we continued to work on the Audio-Visual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) campaign in an effort to strengthen a Commission proposal that regulates television. We were successful in persuading MEPs and Member States to expand the Commission proposal to cover video sharing platforms such as YouTube.

Together with UEG, Eurocare and other partners we have been working on a campaign to amend EU legislation to include **mandatory labelling of products containing alcohol**. As a result, the alcohol industry was asked by the Commission to put forward proposals on how this might be done under voluntary regulation, and those proposals are now under consideration by the Health Commissioner's cabinet.

As each November, EASL participated in the Awareness Week on Alcohol Related Harm (AWARH) and the theme in 2018 was "Harm to Others". Coinciding with AWARH the 8th European Alcohol Policy Conference was organised by SHAAP and Eurocare. The Conference was held in Edinburgh, Scotland 20–21 November. The theme of the Conference was Enlightened Alcohol Policy for the 21st Century.

In November 2018, the European Commission recognised the importance of hepatitis when it relaunched the civil society forum in HIV and AIDS to include TB and Hepatitis for the first time.

Finally, in early December 2018 the newly inaugurated Policy and Public Health Committee had its first meeting at the EASL office in Geneva. The Committee is Chaired by Helena Cortez-Pinto and includes expert clinicians, a patient representative, and a nutrition expert, namely Antonio Craxi, Mojca Matičič, Nick Sheron, Martine Walmsley and Shira Zelber.

b. EU-FUNDED PROJECTS

EASL is the exploitation and dissemination arm of three major EU funded projects: ALIVER, LITMUS, and most recently, MICROB-PREDICT. In addition to providing financial support to all three projects, EASL is also lending its support to project execution. To find out more about these innovative projects, visit the EASL website.

i. ALIVER

Each year over 170,000 people die from liver cirrhosis in Europe. There are over one million deaths globally. Twenty-nine million EU citizens and 650 million people globally suffer from a chronic liver disease. The economic burden of liver disease in Europe has been estimated at over €15.8 billion per annum.

The ALIVER Consortium has developed a novel and innovative liver dialysis machine that will help the liver to naturally regenerate or, where that does not prove possible, to keep patients alive and healthy until a donated liver becomes available. DIALIVE has been demonstrated to be effective in pre-clinical tests.

The 24-patient ALIVER study is funded by a €6.4 million EU Horizon 2020 grant, awarded to a consortium of 11 institutions from seven countries in Europe, including Yaqrit Ltd, a spinout company from University College London that is developing the DIALIVE device and IBM Ireland Ltd, which will be applying data analytics to identify new biomarkers that can help to optimise treatment protocols. In July 2018, the first patient in the ALIVER international trial of the DIALIVE system was recruited at the Royal Free Hospital in London.

In 2018, an animated short-film produced by the ALIVER consortium titled “Life After Liver Failure”, premiered at The International Liver Congress™. The ad was created by EASL in order to raise public awareness around the challenges of liver failure and liver cirrhosis.

ii. LITMUS

The Liver Investigation: Testing Marker Utility in Steatohepatitis (LITMUS) project funded by the European Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking, brings together clinicians and scientists from prominent academic centres across Europe with companies from the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) in a Euros 34 million project which focuses on developing, validating and qualifying better biomarkers for testing NAFLD. It is co-ordinated by Newcastle University and EASL is proud to take part in the LITMUS project and offer dissemination assistance. Their common goals are developing, validating and qualifying better biomarkers for testing NAFLD.

iii. MICROB-PREDICT

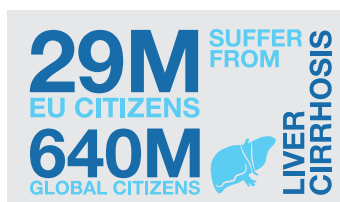
MICROB-PREDICT, a €15 million project, unites the expertise from 22 different European partners (hospitals, research foundations and institutes, patient and physician associations, and small-and-medium-sized enterprises, SMEs) in 10 countries. MICROB-PREDICT will investigate the human microbiome to identify predictors and mechanisms associated with the development of decompensation of cirrhosis and progression to acute-on-chronic liver failure (ACLF) and death.

iv. HA-REACT

This is a joint action on HIV and Co-infection Prevention and Harm Reduction (HA-REACT) addressing existing gaps in the prevention of HIV and other co-infections, especially tuberculosis (TB) and viral hepatitis, among people who inject drugs (PWID).

v. HEP CARE

EASL is a non-funded partner of the Hepcare Europe project, a collaboration between five institutions across four member states (Ireland, UK, Spain, Romania), has developed, implemented and evaluated interventions to improve the identification, evaluation and treatment of HCV in vulnerable populations (homeless, prisons, PWID). A system of care containing several work packages has been set up aimed at intensified screening (HepCheck), Linkage to Care (HepLink), Education (HepEd), intensified Peer Support (HepFriend) and cost effectiveness (HepCost) to provide a comprehensive new system of care for vulnerable populations.



9

FINANCE

TREASURER'S REPORT

**TREASURER**

Prof. Mauro BERNARDI

Dear Members,

As EASL Treasurer, I am honoured to provide you with the Treasurer Report for the 2018 financial accounts.

During 2018 our association made further progress successfully delivering its activities and strengthening its organisational structure.

The International Liver Congress™ held in Paris achieved its targets and remains a major financial pillar for our organisation, making again a significant contribution to our income. In addition to this large event we were able, as planned, to undertake several scientific and educational events related to the mission of EASL.

As a core activity of our association, the Journal of Hepatology continues to make a significant recurring financial contribution to our association.

I would also like to thank our members and donors who provide important financial support to our association each year.

The financial management and stewardship of our association has again been pursued with prudence. During 2018 our operating budget remained in line with forecasts and the budgeted operating expenses could be well covered within the approved budget.

With an accumulated surplus in excess of €10 Million EASL is in a strong financial position. The EASL Board is therefore recommending to the Annual General Assembly to allocate €5 Million from the general surplus funds to establish a Reserve Fund. These reserves will cover approximately 12 months of organisational costs and will allow the association to weather potential unforeseen events, which is in line with good governance practice.

EASL's 2018 financial accounts have been audited by an external audit firm, as per standard practice, and following the Swiss Code of Obligations and the association's Constitution. This audit has confirmed that EASL's accounts are held in good order and reflect properly the financial status of the Association.

Therefore, I am pleased to confirm again this year that our association is in a healthy financial situation and well prepared to face the challenges of the future. After 10 years serving as EASL's Treasurer it is my pleasure to hand over this task to my successor Prof. Francesco Negro. I have highly appreciated your confidence over these years and I wish our association continued success in its important mission.



Report of the statutory auditors
on the limited statutory examination
to the general meeting of

European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), Geneva

As statutory auditors, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, income statement and notes) of European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), Geneva for the year ended 31 December 2018.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Board. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of entity's personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of entity's documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of the operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements and the proposed appropriation of available earnings do not comply with Swiss law and the entity's articles of incorporation.

A. Gautier, Société Fiduciaire SA
Antoine Gautier,
Audit Expert No 100651

Geneva, 4 March 2019
AG/sk 100494ROR-18 – 12 ex.

Enclosures : - Financial statements (balance sheet, income statement, and notes)

2018 ACTUAL vs BUDGET AND 2017 COMPARISON IN K€

OPERATING BUDGET		2017 FINAL	2018 BUDGET
INCOME		6,905	6,096
ILC RESULT ^[PNL]		3,895	2,823
	INCOME	8,459	8,213
	- EXPENSES (excluding Staff cost)	-4,564	-5,390
GRANTS & SPONSORS REVENUE		1,067	1,438
	EDUCATIONAL GRANTS & SPONSORS	997	1,372
	UEG SUPPORT	57	57
	OTHERS SUPPORT (INTERCEPT)	13	9
JOURNAL RESULT ^[PNL]		832	785
	INCOME	1,124	1,080
	JOURNAL ROYALTIES	651	590
	EDITORIAL OFFICE SUPPORT	433	450
	SIGNING B./OTHERS (200KE / 5-y)	40	40
	- EXPENSES (Excluding Staff cost)	-292	-295
	CONSULTANCY / HONORARIUM	-288	-290
	OFFICE OVERHEADS / APPS	-4	-5
MEMBERSHIP REVENUE		694	700
FINANCIAL REVENUE		417	350
EXPENSES		5,553	6,041
EASL RESEARCH GRANTS		591	863
	EASL REGISTRY GRANTS	150	150
	FELLOWSHIPS & MENTORSHIPS	441	713
BUSINESS CHARGES		580	557
	GOVERNANCE (HONORARIUM)	108	118
	GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS	125	130
	PROMOTION - SISTER SOCIETIES	133	130
	BEST OF EASL		10
	COMMITTEES (BOARD/CAG/CPG...)	75	50
	EUROPEAN ADVOCACY & MEETINGS	139	119
NON-BUSINESS CHARGES		729	811
	EDUCATION E-TOOLS & E-LEARNING	186	190
	MEMBER MULTIREGISTRATION + ICZ		2
	MARKETING & COMMUNICATION	38	50
	LANCET COMMISSION		70
	LEGAL, FINANCE & CONSULTANCY	505	500
SHARED SERVICES (OFFICE)		3,339	3,352
	STAFF COSTS	2,963	2,940
	ALL OVERHEADS (IT/TRAVELS/MEALS)	264	250
	CRM	11	
	BUILDING CHARGES	101	162
EASL SMALL CONFERENCES		314	458
	MONOTHEMATIC CONFERENCES	316	250
	SPECIAL CONFERENCES (HCC 2017)	-119	70
	BASIC SCHOOLS	58	90
	YI MASTERCLASS	59	48
OPERATING RESULT		1,352	55
TRANSFER OF 2017 RESULT TO 2018 INCOME		-470	470
NEW 2018 PROJECTS			470
	NEW JOURNAL		80
	CORPORATE OUT		190
	EASL LANCET COMMISSION		70
	CRM		55
	NEW WEBSITE		75
2018 FINAL OPERATING RESULT			55

2018 FINAL	Var. % Final 2018 vs Budget 2018	
5,579	-517	-8%
3,388	565	20%
8,605	392	5%
-5,217	173	-3%
841	-597	-42%
757	-615	-45%
57	0	
27	18	
569	-216	-27%
849	-231	-21%
328	-262	-44%
450	0	0%
70	30	75%
-279	16	-5%
-279	11	-4%
0	5	-100%
765	65	9%
16	-334	-95%
5,789	-252	-4%
774	-89	-10%
150	0	
624	-89	-12%
568	11	2%
142	24	20%
126	-4	-18%
137	7	6%
47		
28	-22	-44%
87	-32	-27%
1,152	341	42%
49	-141	-74%
3		
34	-16	-32%
27		
1,039	539	108%
2,953	-399	-12%
2,608	-332	-11%
213	-37	-15%
0	0	
132	-30	-19%
342	-116	-25%
185	-65	-26%
16	-54	-77%
103	13	15%
37	-11	-22%
-210	-265	-481%
470		
255	-215	-46%
80	0	0%
134	-56	-30%
	-70	-100%
41	-14	-25%
	-75	-100%
5		

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EASL would like to thank AbbVie, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Gilead, and MSD for their continuous support.

These collaborations are key to reducing the incidence and burden of liver disease, and we look forward to continuing our fruitful partnership to fulfil our joint mission of tackling liver disease and maximising your presence within the hepatology arena and across other disciplines in 2019.

The AbbVie logo, consisting of the word "abbvie" in a lowercase, sans-serif font.

Bristol-Myers Squibb



GILEAD



MSD

INVENTING FOR LIFE

