



EASL **ANNUAL** REPORT **2009**

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INTRODUCTION

Liver disease is on the rise in Europe with over 6% of deaths within the EU being attributed to disorders of the liver. The main causes of liver disease, alcohol, obesity and viral hepatitis, are all amenable to treatment when identified at an early stage. EASL, as the leading professional liver-oriented organisation in Europe, has set out as its mission to reduce the burden of liver disease. We believe that this goal will be achieved by coordinating a broad range of activities comprising research, education, promotion of public awareness, political lobbying, facilitation of scientific exchange and encouragement of young clinicians and researchers. In this report we will summarise the activities undertaken over the last year and present our plans for the future.

For over forty years EASL has held an annual meeting, now known as the International Liver Congress™, where the best basic science, translational and clinical research is presented to over 7000 clinicians and scientists. This is always an exciting meeting which provides a platform for scientific exchange as well as generating inspiration for future research. However, EASL's commitment to scientific exchange extends beyond this to a portfolio of programmes from Monothematic and Special Conferences which allow single topics to be explored in more depth, through to Basic and Clinical Schools of Hepatology where intensive teaching is delivered in a small group format. Members of EASL who are unable to attend our meetings can access many of the key lectures through our web-casting facility.

Over the last few years EASL has committed substantial resources to political lobbying in Europe with the aim of increasing research funding into liver disease, generating effective policies to control the major determinants of liver disease such as alcohol and obesity and promotion of best clinical practice in the management of viral hepatitis and liver cancer. We are just beginning to see some of the fruits of our labours in research funding but political lobbying requires endurance and investment.

A new initiative which EASL plans to launch in 2010 is a public awareness campaign. Our patients face a confusing mass of information on their diseases when searching the internet or other sources. This includes a lot of misinformation hence our aim is to provide helpful and accurate information through our website. Increasing public awareness on liver disease is also aimed at improving the early detection rates for liver related illness and removing the stigma surrounding viral hepatitis and alcohol-related liver disease.

As you read through this report you will appreciate how active we are and will better understand the scale of the task we have set ourselves. EASL is a collaborative organisation and we would welcome contacts and support from individuals or organisations who are interested in working together with us.

Prof. Dr. Heiner Wedemeyer
EASL Secretary General

Prof. Mark Thursz
EASL Vice-Secretary

EASL GOVERNING BOARD

EASL is an association dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in liver research and in the clinical practice of liver disorders. EASL is run by a Governing Board of 11 experts actively engaged and involved in the discipline. Our aim is to actively involve young scientists and hepatologists in a wide range of educational activities to stimulate their contribution and support their research. Throughout its history, EASL has endeavored to raise awareness and stimulate interest in liver disease. In doing so, EASL has attracted an ever growing number of experts and sponsors concerned with the health and wellbeing of individuals all over the world. We invite all those who wish to take up the challenge, to join EASL and to become part of our vision.



Peter Jansen Educational Councillor	Dominique-Charles Valla EU Policy Councillor	Daniele Prati Scientific Committee member	Darius Moradpour Scientific Committee member	Fabien Zoulim Educational Councillor	George V. Papatheodoridis Scientific Committee member
Ramon Bataller Scientific Committee member	Mauro Bernardi Treasurer	Heiner Wedemeyer Secretary General	Mark Thursz Vice-Secretary	Tania Roskams Scientific Committee member	

EASL'S MISSION

EASL provides professional leadership in the liver disease arena and aims to:

- Reduce the prevalence of liver disease in our community and worldwide
- Minimize the suffering of patients and to prevent liver related deaths
- Promote clinical, basic and translational research
- Foster international scientific exchange



PROMOTE **RESEARCH**
CONCERNING THE LIVER
(HEPATOLOGY)

PROMOTE **STATE-OF-THE ART**
EDUCATION OF PHYSICIANS
AND SCIENTISTS

ACT AS **AN ADVISOR**
TO **EUROPEAN**
HEALTH AUTHORITIES

SUPPORT THE **PARTICIPATION**
OF **YOUNG INVESTIGATORS**
AT **EASL MEETINGS AND**
EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

FOSTER **PUBLIC AWARENESS**
OF **LIVER DISEASES** AND
THEIR **MANAGEMENT**

FACILITATE **SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE**
AND **FOSTER EUROPEAN** MULTI-CENTER
CONTROLLED **TRIALS**

The International Liver Congress™ is EASL's annual meeting and is held every year in April in major European cities with adequate facilities and easy travel connections from all continents. Each meeting has a scientific program composed of State-of-the-Art lectures and a large number of symposia complemented by oral and poster presentations for which abstracts are submitted. The congress begins with Joint Workshops followed by a Postgraduate Course that provides an overview of different features in Hepatology.

Moreover, the Postgraduate Course focuses on one topic selected by the Governing Board. The program is developed as State-of-the-Art presentations with a special emphasis on clinical practice, as well as question and answer sessions to foster interaction with the audience and evaluate the overall benefit of the course. The education value of the course is also evaluated by questionnaires completed by the audience. Previous Postgraduate Courses include:

- LIVER TUMOURS - Copenhagen 2009
- MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE CRITICAL CONDITIONS IN HEPATOLOGY - Vienna 2010

The 2010 International Liver Congress™ was held in Vienna, Austria, 14-18 April, and was a huge success, despite the Eyjafjallajökull volcanic eruption, thanks to the commitment of all the speakers and participants. The congress welcomed a record 7602 attendees; 100 times more participants than the very first EASL meeting held in Marburg, Germany in 1966. 189 new EASL members registered onsite, bringing EASL membership to 2537 persons.

In 2011, the International Liver Congress™ will take place March 30 – April 3, in the metropolis of Berlin, Germany, home to renowned universities and research institutes. The Postgraduate Course will be on Cholestatic Diseases of the Liver and Bile Ducts. EASL will start a new initiative in Berlin with the organization of a Basic Science Seminar. The topic of the seminar will be on Viral Hepatitis. The aim of this seminar is to promote basic science research and attract scientists involved in liver research while fostering interaction between basic science and clinical research. The seminar format will encourage informal and lively discussion of the technical challenges and new advances in liver research. Another objective is to promote scientific presentations from young investigators. Following a successful Young Investigators Forum in Vienna 2010, EASL decided to carry this new initiative forward by involving even more young hepatologists in the EASL community. The global objective of this initiative is firstly to promote Hepatology as a career choice for young medical doctors or scientists, but also to be a pillar of support for young scientists by offering education, training, exchange programs and fellowships, as well as aspects regarding the ways to develop a career in the field. EASL has continued to involve Young Investigators by listening to their suggestions, which will be used to design a dynamic and tailor-made program for the International Liver Congress™ 2011.

The ever growing success of the International Liver Congress™ in terms of attendance and scientific excellence is noteworthy with over 7000 participants each year.

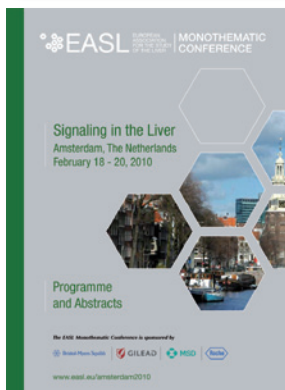
Year	Number of Congress	Venue	Number of Registered Delegates
2011	46	Berlin	8,000 Expected
2010	45	Vienna	7,602
2009	44	Copenhagen	7,017
2008	43	Milan	7,480
2007	42	Barcelona	5,769
2006	41	Vienna	5,162

Lexicon: State-of-the-art applies to the highest level of development in a scientific field achieved at a particular time, as a result of modern methods. The State-of-the-art format referred to above makes reference to the most recent and best, up-to-the-minute scientific data.

YEARLY CALENDAR OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES



Beyond its annual meeting, EASL also organizes a wide range of activities and key educational events in the field of hepatology. Once a year, EASL hosts a Special Conference attracting between 600 and 800 participants. The scientific program of each Special Conference is built around a single topic discussed in a State-of-the Art format. EASL's 2010 Special Conference held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, June 25-26 was dedicated to Hepatocellular Carcinoma, a serious health problem and the 3rd cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide. Together with sister societies the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD), the Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver (APASL) and the Latin-America Association for the Study of the Liver (ALEH), EASL dedicated its Special Conference to this major subject to discuss screening, diagnosis, treatment and the latest developments on Hepatocellular Carcinoma.



EASL also organizes 3 smaller scale Monothematic Conferences each year. 150-250 participants attend each conference to hear the scientific program that is developed on a single topic and discussed in a State-of-the Art format. The program is reviewed and approved by the EASL Educational Councilors and Governing Board. Interaction between speakers and attendees is highly encouraged. In 2010, EASL has organized 3 Monothematic Conferences:

- **SIGNALING IN THE LIVER, AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS, FEBRUARY 18-20**
- **DELTA HEPATITIS, ISTANBUL, TURKEY, SEPTEMBER 24-26**
- **ALCOHOLIC LIVER DISEASE, ATHENS, GREECE, DECEMBER 10-12**

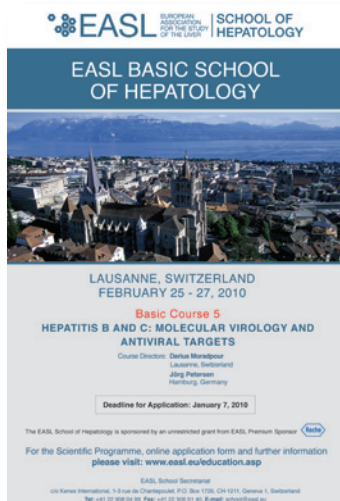


The Monothematic Conference on Alcoholic Liver Disease is particularly noteworthy as it forms part of EASL's commitment to the European Alcohol and Health Forum (EAHF).

See www.easl.eu for more information



Lexicon: State-of-the-art applies to the highest level of development in a scientific field achieved at a particular time, as a result of modern methods. The State-of-the-art format referred to above makes reference to the most recent and best, up-to-the-minute scientific data.

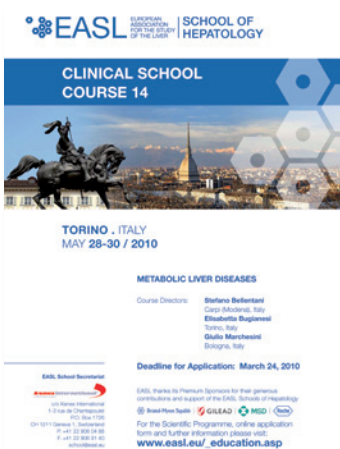


The EASL School of Hepatology began in 2003 as an educational event within a vast portfolio of activities, held apart from the International Liver Congress™ annual meeting.

The Schools of Hepatology aim to diffuse the highest standards in clinical hepatology and are intended as a series of events that will cover different aspects in the field of hepatology. The EASL School of Hepatology targets young fellows enrolled in hepatology-oriented departments, or more experienced clinicians who want to be exposed to the newest trends in hepatology.

The age limit is 40 and participants have to apply for a place on the course. Courses are usually held in a medical organization, research center, university etc..

The School format is that of a residential course with a limited attendance. The Schools offer intense interaction, plenty of time for personal discussions and exchange with a distinguished faculty as well as a balanced blend of lectures on theoretical and practical issues with clinical cases-based discussions. Each year, EASL organizes 1 Basic School of Hepatology and 2 Clinical Schools of Hepatology.



The EASL Educational Councillors and Governing Board review the programs proposed by the chairs. The Educational Councillors review all applications from young hepatologists mainly based on their dedication to hepatology and their age, giving priority to first time participants, to select a small number of participants (30 to 40) in order to facilitate discussions during each course.

In 2009 EASL organised 1 Basic and 2 Clinical Schools of Hepatology:

- LIVER IMMUNOLOGY, LISBON, PORTUGAL
- VIRAL HEPATITIS, PARIS, FRANCE
- AUTOIMMUNE HEPATITIS, PBC AND PSC, HANNOVER, GERMANY



In 2010, EASL has programmed 3 Schools of Hepatology (1 Basic and 2 Clinical):

- HEPATITIS B AND C: MOLECULAR VIROLOGY AND ANTIVIRAL TARGETS, LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND, FEBRUARY 25-27, 2010
- METABOLIC LIVER DISEASES, TORINO, ITALY, MAY 28-30
- ENDOSCOPY AND LIVER DISEASE, BARCELONA, SPAIN, DECEMBER 10-11



EASL MEMBERSHIP

EASL is a renowned society of clinicians and scientists striving to promote liver research and improve the treatment of liver diseases worldwide and currently has almost 3000 Members from all over the world.

There are 4 Membership categories:

- **REGULAR MEMBERS**
(for individuals from Europe and Israel)
- **CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**
(for individuals from non-European countries)
- **EMERITUS MEMBERS**
(for regular members over 65 years that have been EASL members for at least 10 years)
- **TRAINEE MEMBERS**
(for trainees up to 35 years. Proof of age and trainee status is required)

Membership benefits include:

- **Free annual subscription** to the **Journal of Hepatology**
- **Reduced registration Fees** to the International Liver Congress™ and to all other EASL Meetings (see www.easl.eu for full details)
- **Free and instant access to over 500 multimedia** presentations from congresses and e-Series available in both webcast and iPhone/iPad compatible video podcasts
- Possibility to host fellows as part of the **EASL Fellowship Program**
- Possibility to organize **EASL Monothematic and Special Conferences**
- Possibility to host one of the **EASL Schools of Hepatology**
- EASL newsletters - Bi-monthly
'What's New?' and quarterly 'EU Bulletin'
- **Financial support** for the application to the **EU Research Framework Program (FP7)**

MANY WAYS ONE AIM, BECOME PART OF OUR VISION... JOIN EASL!

EASL EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE LIVER

MANY WAYS ONE AIM

THE CONQUEST OF ALL LIVER DISEASE

MEMBERS' BENEFITS:

- Free subscription to the **Journal of Hepatology**
- Reduced registration fees to **The International Liver Congress™** and all other **EASL Meetings**
- Free access to **webcasts/podcasts** and **E-Series**
- Possibility to host fellows as part of the **EASL Fellowship Program**
- Opportunity to organize **EASL Monothematic and Special Conferences**
- Possibility to host one of the **EASL Schools of Hepatology**
- **EASL Newsletter**
- Application support for the **EU Research Framework Program (FP7)**

EASL Membership is valid for one calendar year, January 1st to December 31st. Visit www.easl.eu for full conditions.

BECOME PART OF OUR VISION... JOIN EASL!

EASL's mission is to **promote** liver research and **improve** the treatment of liver disease throughout the world. We aim to **involve** young scientists and hepatologists in our activities, **encourage** active contribution and **support** research. This is instrumental in our success.

Throughout its history, EASL has endeavored to **raise awareness** and **stimulate interest** in liver diseases. In doing so, EASL has attracted an ever growing number of experts and sponsors concerned with the **health** and **wellbeing** of individuals all over the world. We invite all those who wish to take up a challenge to **join EASL** and become part of **our vision**.

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EASL SHEILA SHERLOCK FELLOWSHIP

EASL launched its first research fellowship programme in 1997 and dedicated it to honor the memory of Prof. Dame Sheila Sherlock, hence the name EASL Sheila Sherlock Fellowships Programme.

3 Fellowship programmes are available;

- **3 Post-Doctorate** Fellowships
- **3 Entry Level** Fellowships
- **Short-Term** Fellowships

The aim of these programmes is to enhance the mobility of investigators within different European institutions, to actively promote scientific exchange among research units in hepatology. EASL invests heavily in its members to encourage continued learning and research, and in 2010 dedicated 450,000 Euros exclusively to Fellowships.

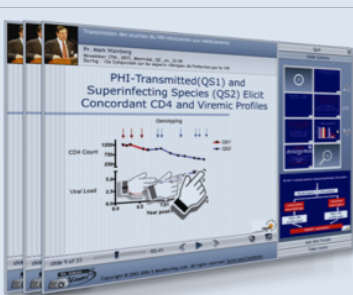
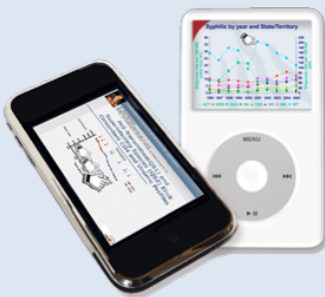


100% compatible with i-pad!

EASL provides webcasting of selected courses and conferences. This technique allows the Association to greatly expand the reach of specialized educational content provided at EASL events. EASL members have instant **free access** to full presentations following webcasted events. Non-EASL members can use the new **pay-as-you-view system**, introduced in April 2010, on www.easl.eu to download and view selected presentations. Viewers can listen to full multimedia presentations from the comfort of their home or office, and even via iPod or iPad, and take part in interactive pre and post quizzes. For selected talks, PowerPoint slides are also available for download. Webcasted presentations are selected by the EASL Governing Board. The following presentations are available:

- **Monothematic conferences**
- **Special conferences**
- **State-of-the-Art** (during the International Liver Congress™)
- **Post Graduate Course** (during the International Liver Congress™)
- Selected **symposia**

The e-Series was developed in 2008 as an exclusive online educational tool and EASL membership benefit. The e-Series are original talks providing valuable insights into hepatology and recorded throughout the world uniquely for EASL members. Their aim is to disseminate a wide variety of topics related to liver disease and each talk in this series has been carefully selected by the EASL Governing Board. Each month, special topics are covered in depth by experts in the field and EASL members receive presentations delivered by internationally renowned speakers directly in their mailbox.



EASL writes Clinical Practice Guidelines that are distributed via the Journal of Hepatology. These guidelines 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.

EASL has currently produced the following Clinical Practice Guidelines and is in continuous development aiming to release further titles in the future:

- Management of Chronic Hepatitis B
- Management of Cholestatic Liver Diseases
- Management of HFE Hemochromatosis
- Management of Ascites

Future titles include:

- Management of Hepatocellular Carcinoma
- Management of Hepatitis C Virus Infection
- Management of Alcoholic Liver Disease
- Management of Acute Liver Failure
- Management of Wilson's Disease



EASL EU & PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMME

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals of EASL's EU advocacy programme are consistent with the aims of the society; promoting research in hepatology, fostering multicentre clinical trials, increasing public awareness about liver disease and acting as an advisor to European health authorities. Compared to other specialist groups in the European advocacy arena EASL is a relative newcomer. Nevertheless we are beginning to see substantial returns from our three years of effort. EASL is now recognised as the voice of the liver community in Brussels and Strasbourg which has been important in helping us to raise the profile of liver diseases among stakeholders and EU institutions (Parliament, Commission and Council). Positioning ourselves amongst the other healthcare professional groups has been vital in order to have a voice in EU public health policies and funding for research in the area of liver diseases. However, advocacy programmes consume precious resources and we have therefore chosen to focus our efforts on alcohol health policy, research funding, viral hepatitis and liver cancer.

RESOURCES

The EASL Governing Board has identified the EU & Public Affairs programme as a priority activity and has therefore added the support of the EASL Vice-Secretary, Prof Mark Thursz, to the work currently undertaken by the EU & Public Affairs Councillor, Prof Dominique-Charles Valla. Professional advice and facilitation are provided by a specialized local agency in Brussels.

ALCOHOL HEALTH POLICY

In the field of alcohol, EASL has become a member of the European Alcohol and Health Forum in February 2010, which has allowed increased interaction with Directorate General for Health and consumer (DG SANCO), collaboration with various NGOs aiming to limit alcohol related harm, and contacts with umbrella organizations for alcohol industry and trade. As a commitment to the Forum, EASL will organize a Monothematic Conference on Alcoholic Liver Diseases to take place on 10-12 December 2010, in Athens. EASL will also participate in various policy events on alcohol policy in Europe, as a follow-up to the WHO resolution on alcohol. EASL has become part of the Chronic Disease Alliance which is a consortium of professional and patient groups who are jointly lobbying for public health policies which address the major determinants of ill health in Europe: alcohol, tobacco, obesity and lack of physical exercise. A paper outlining a set of policy recommendations is to be presented to the new EC health commissioner, John Dalli, during the course of 2010. EASL's Governing Board has recently approved a position statement on alcohol policy. EASL participated in the EU presidency workshop on alcohol which took place in Stockholm in November 2009. The Swedish presidency issued a strongly worded policy paper on alcohol control which mirrors the draft WHO resolution on alcohol which received formal adoption in May 2010. We are most grateful for the support of Prof Philippe Mathurin who presented on behalf of EASL to the Swedish presidency workshop.



EASL EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE LIVER

EASL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

EASL EU FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME APPLICATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME

There is a need for high quality applications to the European Union for funding to support research into liver disease. To this end, EASL's EU grant scheme is designed specifically to encourage applications under Framework Programme 7 (FP7). EASL support is open to groups of individuals led by one or more EASL members who wish to apply for funding within one of the EC Framework Programmes.

CONDITIONS TO APPLY

- An initial grant up to 10,000€ will be awarded allowing applicants to meet and discuss the content and outline of their proposal.
- Following initial meetings, should applicants decide to go ahead with a full application, they can apply for additional funding of 10,000€ from EASL towards the costs of completing and submitting the final application to the European Commission.
- Finally, EASL will endorse the application before its final submission after reviewing the scientific plans and consortium structure.
- EASL will select one application per year.

All applications to be sent to: easloffice@easloffice.eu

The 2010 EU framework programme is sponsored by an unrestricted educational grant from our Pharmacy (EASL) Sponsors

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Sponsors: Bristol-Myers Squibb, GILEAD, MSD, Roche

EASL EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE LIVER

EASL IN THE EU

RESEARCH
EASL is advocating for better funding for liver research within the 7th Framework Programme and for an enhanced representation of liver disease among future priorities of the 8th Framework Programme.

ALCOHOL
EASL is campaigning for a stronger application of the 2002 Resolution on the reduction of alcohol-related harm. As a member of the European Commission's Alcohol and Health Forum (EASL), EASL commits to the training of healthcare professionals. Read our position paper at www.easl.eu

CANCER
Together with the European Liver Patients Association (ELPA) within the European Community Partnership for Action Against Cancer, EASL is advocating for the revision of liver cancer prevention and treatment in the European Cancer code. This partnership is dedicated to reducing the number of new cancer cases (www.elsa.eu).

HEPATITIS
In conjunction with the European Liver Patients Association (ELPA) and the World Hepatitis Alliance, and in support of the 2002 Resolution on viral hepatitis, EASL is advocating for hepatitis screening, improved research funding opportunities, and the development of a European surveillance system.

CHRONIC DISEASES
As a member of the Chronic Disease Alliance (CDA), EASL presented policy recommendations to EU decision-makers to address the major health determinants, including alcohol. Read the CDA recommendations at www.easl.eu

Over the last three years, EASL has been engaging in a series of advocacy activities at the EU level to push for more ambitious policies that tackle liver disease in a comprehensive way and improve liver research.

EASL is particularly active in the policy areas mentioned above and collaborates with key European partners to achieve policy changes that make a positive impact.

www.easl.eu

VIRAL HEPATITIS

In the field of viral hepatitis, EASL cooperated with the European Liver Patient Association (ELPA) in organizing events at the European Parliament on the World Hepatitis Day. EASL also supported ELPA initiative pushing the European Council and the Commission to promote a recommendation on targeted screening for viral hepatitis. EASL is also supporting an initiative from leading European scientists in the field of viral hepatitis and from ELPA, to organize a large meeting in Brussels on the public health aspects of viral hepatitis in Europe.

In October 2010, EASL participated in the first Summit Conference on Hepatitis B & C in Brussels. The conference brings together European and national public health professionals, DG SANCO staff and other stakeholders. EASL, working with a number of European experts in viral hepatitis provide education on viral hepatitis, identify the key issues in the management of infection and propose public health policies to address the problems.

LIVER CANCER

Cancer advocacy is already very strong in Brussels with many professional and patient based groups competing for attention and to focus policymakers on their own area of interest. Although liver cancer has been virtually ignored, EASL has taken the pragmatic decision not to launch a unilateral campaign which we do not have the resources to sustain. EASL has therefore aligned with the European Liver Patients Association (ELPA) and has joined the European Partnership Against Cancer which was recently launched by DG SANCO to promote information for the public and patients as well as to generate guidelines for the management of cancer in the European Union. This is a relatively new initiative and we are grateful for the assistance of Prof Jean-Francois Dufour for his support in attending EPAC meetings.

RESEARCH

Whilst all of the activities above aim to raise the profile of liver diseases among European stakeholders and policy makers, EASL has engaged in direct contacts with DG Research officials. The aim is to allow increased access of researchers in the field of liver disease to forthcoming calls in the context of the current 7th Framework programme. These contacts also aim to incorporate among the priorities of the 8th Framework programme issues highly relevant to liver diseases. EASL has a major role to play in coordinating the actions that national associations for the study of the liver should initiate at the level of the respective member states, to have liver set as a priority in the European research agenda.

Prior advocacy efforts in DG Research have begun to pay dividends in the form of specific liver focussed calls in the last two FP7 calls for proposals. Furthermore, the EASL Governing Board is delighted that two multicentre research consortia have been funded in the last year: Fatty Liver, Inhibition of Progression (FLIP) lead by Prof Vlad Rtziu has already held a launch meeting and the Acute Hepatitis C Consortium (HEPACUTE) lead by Prof Helmut Diepolder heard about their successful funding application in March 2010. Despite these successes it clearly remains a difficult objective to persuade DG Research staff to prioritise liver research.

As of January 2010, the Journal layout has changed. Most noticeable are the new covers which also include the trademarked EASL logo.



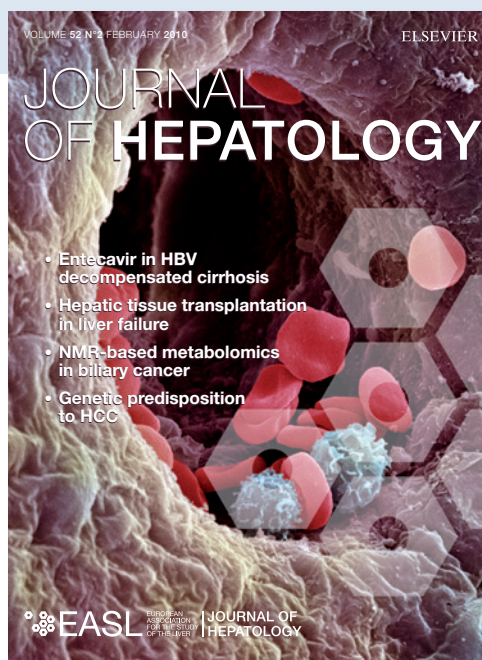
The Journal of Hepatology is the official journal of the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), the premier liver association in Europe. Since its founding in 1985, the Journal has seen an impressive development and readership numbers are ever increasing, with a worldwide distribution now reaching over 20,000 readers. Under the direction of the Milan Editorial Team led by Prof. Massimo Colombo (2005-2009), the impact factor of the Journal steadily increased to 7.818 and now ranks second amongst journals dedicated to Hepatology, and fourth amongst journals in the field of Hepatogastroenterology. With the new Editorial Team elected in September 2009, and led by Prof. Didier Samuel, we expect the impact factor to continue this upward trend. The new Editorial Team includes one Editor-In-Chief, two Co-Editors, sixteen Associate Editors, seven special section Editors, and a statistical consultant. A new development for the Journal is the establishment of a Central Editorial Office located within the EASL headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, which is comprised of one Editorial Manager and two Editorial Assistants, and three freelance Graphic Designers. All manuscript submissions are managed through the new Elsevier Editorial System.



Some of the previously published sections continue in the new version of the Journal but under new names and several new sections have appeared. The Journal has introduced a Focus section to highlight the most poignant manuscripts in each issue. While Hepatology Snapshot briefly aims to describe either a basic mechanism of a molecular pathway, a detailed application of a new drug, or a schematic representation of a clinical aspect in hepatology. The Clinical Application of Basic Science section provides the reader with further insights into basic science within and outside the field of hepatology which have potential clinical application for hepatologists. The section Frontiers in Liver Transplantation provides insight into the most recent breakthroughs in the transplantation field and emphasizes that it is now considered a permanent trend within the field of hepatology. Highly debated issues are highlighted in Controversies in Hepatology. This section not only summarizes the pros and cons of specific issues, but also presents the controversial advice of two experts with differing opinions on a current clinical and basic subject. The most relevant papers published in other journals are highlighted in the International Hepatology section.

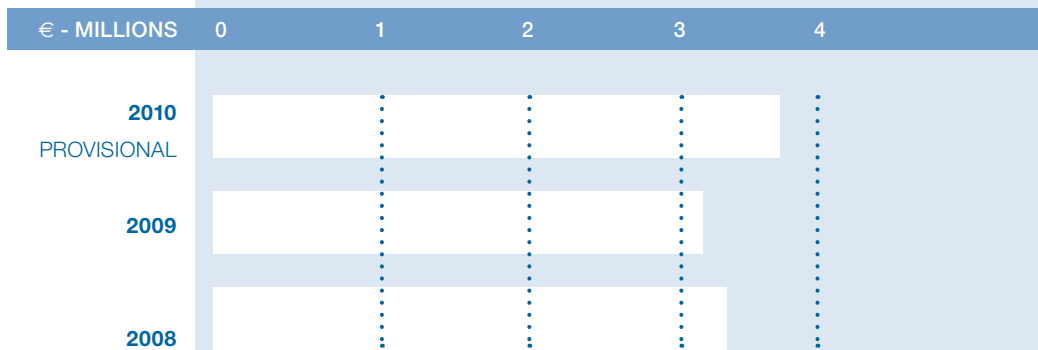
The aim of the Journal of Hepatology is to keep the reader at the forefront of all breakthrough developments in the fields of liver cancer, biliary cancer, viral hepatitis, portal hypertension, liver failure, liver injury, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, alcoholic liver disease, cholestasis, metabolic disease, autoimmune liver diseases, liver transplantation, and genetic and proteomic developments in Hepatology.

The yearly EASL membership fee includes an annual subscription to the Journal of Hepatology.



EASL FINANCIAL REPORT 2009

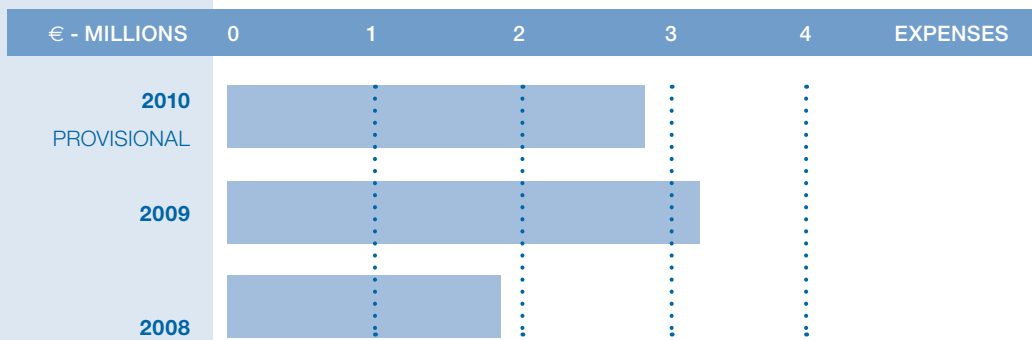
The 2009 income is fully in line with the provisional budget presented at the EASL Business Meeting held at the Copenhagen International Liver Congress™ in April 2009. Despite the unfavourable financial context due to the worldwide economical crisis, figures almost matched those realized in 2008, as shown in the graph below. The main sources of 2009 income were represented by the International Liver Congress™ revenues (≈ 40%) and the unrestricted support from Premium Sponsors (≈ 30%): Bristol-Myers Squibb, Gilead, M.S.D., and Roche; EASL memberships accounted for ≈ 8.5%.





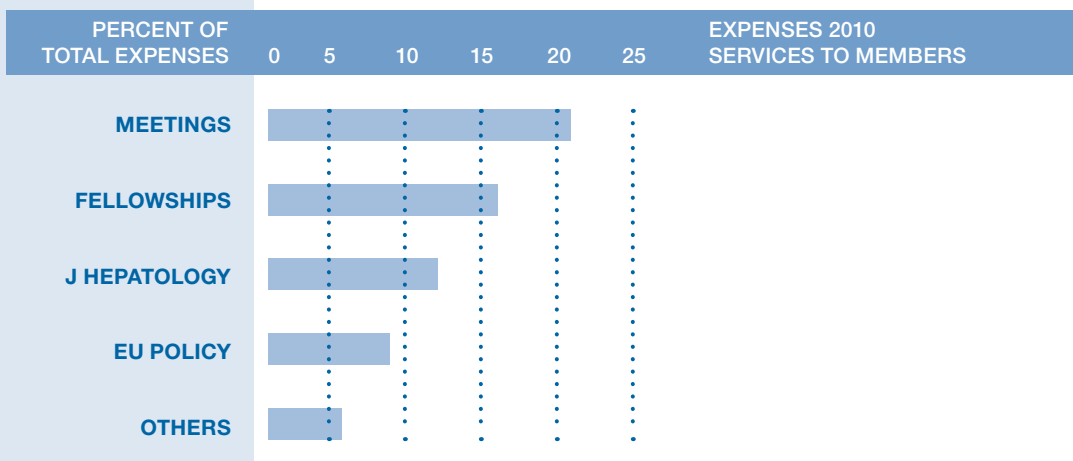
The provisional income for 2010 is expected to be close to 3,5 Million Euros. The 2010 International Liver Congress™ in Vienna was a great success and will most likely provide revenue enabling the association to again cover approximately 40% of the global income. The generous support by Premium Sponsors has also been secured for 2010. Elsevier, who publishes the Journal of Hepatology, the official journal of EASL, will increase its contribution to cover the expenses of the newly established Editorial Office in Geneva.

Contrary to income, expenses were far greater than expected, as shown in the following figure. This was due to several factors, such as outstanding taxation, delayed payments of expenses related to Meetings held in 2008, legal issues related to updating the register of commerce in Geneva, the establishment of the new EASL Office in Geneva, the drawing up of new contracts, the worldwide trademark registering of the new EASL logo, the complete renewal of the EASL website, etc.



However, it has to be outlined that greater expenses were also related to the increased financial support for EASL Fellowships, both entry level and post-doctoral research, increased expenses for the organization of Monothematic Conferences and Schools of Hepatology, the set up of the new EASL website, the opening of the new Editorial Office to support editorial work on the Journal of Hepatology, which has led to the complete renewal of the Journal layout and will succeed in improving the support to authors and editors.

The expenses are expected to decline in 2010, allowing a provisional positive balance of approximately 800,000 Euros. The provisional budget 2010 confirms and perpetuates the growing commitment of EASL in providing its members with services, to which almost 2/3 of the expenses are devoted, as illustrated in the following figure.



AUDITOR'S REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE LIVER

Balance sheet as of 31st December	2009 EUR	2008 EUR
ASSETS		
Cash	1'184	447
Working accounts banks	4'865'230	2'187'590
Investment deposit	6'023'251	8'046'545
Accounts receivable	74'550	88'599
Withholding tax	12'424	37'501
Debtors	0	1'104
Total Assets	10'976'639	10'361'786
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS'EQUITY		
Accounts payable	218	0
Accrued liabilities Expenses	472'541	275'444
Accrued liabilities Membership	126'967	110'591
Total liabilities	599'726	386'035
EQUITY		
Capital contribution	1'842'618	1'842'618
Result brought forward	8'133'133	7'111'728
Result for the period	401'162	1'021'405
Total equity	10'376'913	9'975'751
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	10'976'639	10'361'786

Donations in kind and services for the year 2010

EASL is very grateful to have received booths at no charge at the following meetings:

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD), Oct 29 - Nov 2, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

20th Conference of the Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver (APASL), China National Convention Center, March 25-28, 2010 Beijing, China.

United European Gastroenterology Federation (UEGF), UEGW 2010 October 23 - 27, Barcelona, Spain



**Profit and Loss account for the
period from 1st January to 31st December**

REVENUES FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S ACTIVITIES

	2009	2008
	EUR	EUR
Membership fees	273'981	268'797
Revenue from annual congress	1'292'498	1'500'000
Revenues from meetings	30'000	79'128
UEGW	73'240	0
Unrestricted support	988'654	950'000
Royalties for Journal of Hepatology	265'719	182'874
Other income	80'523	0
Total revenues from the association's activities	3'004'615	2'980'799

FINANCIAL REVENUES AND COSTS

Gain on investment	2'910	29'396
Loss on investment	-2'236	-115'560
Unrealized investment gain	361'442	398'296
Unrealized investment loss	-38'540	-1'025'555
Financial income	234'296	378'352
Financial charges	-39'531	-42'023
Exchange loss	-8'751	-47'820
Net financial income	509'590	-424'913

Total income	3'514'205	2'555'886
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EXPENSES

Administration general	487'930	89'161
EASL Congress & Conferences	876'077	0
Sponsorship Handling (Kenes)	0	100'000
Membership Handling (Kenes)	0	28'016
Professional consultants	125'950	18'690
Promotion of EASL	90'747	35'621
GB Activities (GB Meeting/Sponsorship Meeting)	186'958	121'476
Sister Societies Meeting	18'638	0
Investment Meeting	2'175	5'164
BMI Meeting	3'813	0
Kenes invoice (Kenes)	-174	0
Press conference	83'413	134'889
Schools of Hepatology	152'091	81'702
Sponsored meeting	63'268	217'851
Clinical practice guidelines	41'435	73'125
EU Public Affairs	211'383	287'744
Fellowship and awards	356'094	262'600
Service providers	0	28'850
Webcasting	13'673	11'920
Journal of Hepatology	204'008	37'672
VAT	195'562	0
Total expenses	3'113'041	1'534'481

Result for the period	401'161	1'021'405
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PREMIUM SPONSORSHIP

Companies are invited to support EASL's aims and educational activities on an annual basis through Premium Sponsorship. EASL wishes to take this opportunity to thank it's Premium Sponsors for their commitment and unrestricted educational grants supporting a vast educational programme for the year 2010 described in this Annual Report.



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