

EASL **ANNUAL REPORT** 2011 & **PRELIMINARY REPORT** 2012

www.easl.eu



www.easl.eu/facebook



twitter.com/easlnews



www.easl.eu/gplus



www.easl.eu/youtube

INDEX

EASL ANNUAL REPORT 2011

- 2 **INTRODUCTION**
- 3 **EASL GOVERNING BOARD**
- 4 **EASL MISSION**
- 5 **EASL'S ANNUAL MEETING: THE INTERNATIONAL LIVER CONGRESS™**
- 8 **YEARLY CALENDAR OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**
 - EASL SPECIAL CONFERENCE
 - EASL MONOTHEMATIC CONFERENCE
- 11 **EASL SCHOOLS OF HEPATOLOGY**
- 12 **CHINESE SCHOOLS OF HEPATOLOGY**
- 13 **EASL MEMBERSHIP**
- 14 **EASL SHEILA SHERLOCK FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME**
 - SHORT-TERM TRAINING
 - ENTRY-LEVEL RESEARCH
 - POST-DOC RESEARCH
 - PHYSICIAN SCIENTIST PROGRAMME
- 15 **EASL E-LEARNING**
- 16 **EASL CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES**
- 17 **EASL EU AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMME**
- 19 **THE JOURNAL OF HEPATOLOGY**
- 21 **FINANCIAL REPORT 2011**
- 23 **AUDITOR'S REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE LIVER**

INTRODUCTION

'Are we doing the right thing?' is a question that the EASL Governing Board asks at each meeting and during every decision process taken. And it is not always easy to tell right away: many of our decisions will only have impact over time. At the moment, it seems that we and our predecessors have done a few things right.

First of all, the International Liver Congress™ 2012 (ILC) in Barcelona turned out to be a record breaking event in many ways. With over 9,400 participants, EASL reached an all-time high which was way beyond all expectations. But not only was the number of registered participants high, the attendance in the various sessions was also unbelievable. For the general sessions we had to manage an overflow of over 1,000 people who could not find a seat in the main auditorium. At the same time, the quality of the meeting also seems to have been outstanding, judged by the overwhelmingly positive feedback we received from attendees. The launch of the iLiver app at the ILC 2012 was another highlight for EASL and another milestone in our quest to enhance electronic communication for members and for the medical community at large.

But it was not only the ILC that broke records; the Journal of Hepatology has also improved tremendously over the past few years and is arguably now the most innovative Journal in the field of Hepatology. In 2010 it reached a record impact factor and was able to maintain its high level of 9.26 in 2011. We are very thankful to the entire editorial team and to the Journal of Hepatology team in the EASL office in Geneva.

2011-2012 has also been a very successful period in terms of published EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs). Through a concerted effort of many contributors it was possible, in June 2011, to produce an updated document on the Management of Hepatitis C Virus Infection. This was followed by the release of 4 Clinical Practice Guidelines in early 2012 including Wilson's Disease, the Management of Hepatocellular Carcinoma, and revised Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Management of Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection. Most notably, we were very proud to present our first CPGs on the Management of Alcoholic Liver Disease. As mentioned in the 2010 Annual Report, our efforts to tackle Alcoholic Liver Disease in Europe have so far not been as successful as we would wish them to be and we are convinced that the presentation of the CPG's on Alcoholic Liver Disease will be another milestone in order to help fight and more importantly prevent Alcoholic Liver Disease in Europe.

Finally, last but not least, we have pursued our commitment to work at the EU-level with various stakeholders, trying to have an impact on the attention that is given to the fight against liver disease at the EU-level. While the activities in the area of health seem to be more and more impacted by the economic crisis, we were able to launch, together with other members of the Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe (BioMed Alliance), an initiative calling for the establishment of an EU-council for health research, which would be an independent body of experts involved in prioritising health research within the framework programmes. EASL, together with UEG, is represented here most prominently by Prof. Manns from Hannover, Germany, and we hope that by joining forces with even larger medical societies such as cardiologists, pulmonologists, and oncologists we shall convince the Members of Parliament and the Commission to go ahead with the creation of this EU council for health research.

We, the EASL Governing Board, are most thankful to the EASL office for providing us with such tremendous support in our quest to position liver disease research more prominently amongst other areas of medical research and in ensuring that EASL remains as the recognised representative for liver disease research and education in Europe. And, we are equally thankful to all of the EASL members for providing us with continued support in our effort to improve the situation for patients with liver disease in Europe.

Thank you for your continued commitment to EASL and support in our efforts in the global fight against liver disease.



Prof. Mark Thursz, MD FRCP

EASL SECRETARY GENERAL



Prof. Markus Peck, MD

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 (the Secretary General, Vice-Secretary, Treasurer, 5 Scientific Committee members, the EU Policy Councillor and 2 Educational Councillors) 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 endeavoured 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.



Secretary General

Mark Thursz, London, UK

Vice-Secretary

Markus Peck, Vienna, Austria

Treasurer

Mauro Bernardi, Bologna, Italy

Scientific Committee member

Matías A. Avila, Pamplona, Spain

Scientific Committee member

Frank Lammert, Homburg, Germany

Scientific Committee member

George V. Papatheodoridis, Athens, Greece

Scientific Committee member

Daniele Prati, Lecco, Italy

Scientific Committee member

Tania Roskams, Leuven, Belgium
(replaced by Laurent Castera, Clichy, France in April 2012)

EU Policy Councillor

Dominique-Charles Valla, Clichy, France
(replaced by Patrizia Burra, Padua, Italy in April 2012)

Educational Councillor

Jean-François Dufour, Bern, Switzerland

Educational Councillor

Fabien Zoulim, Lyon, France

EASL 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 PREVENT LIVER RELATED DEATHS
- PROMOTE CLINICAL, BASIC AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH
- FOSTER INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE



EASL ILC



The International Liver Congress™ is the annual meeting of the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL). It is held every year in April in major European cities with adequate facilities and easy travel connections from all continents. The congress has a scientific programme 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 providing an overview of different features in Hepatology. The programme content 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 to evaluate the overall benefit of the course. The educational value of the course is also evaluated by questionnaires completed by the audience. Previous Postgraduate Courses include:

- **MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE CRITICAL CONDITIONS IN HEPATOLOGY - Vienna 2010**
- **CHOLESTATIC DISEASES OF THE LIVER AND BILE DUCTS – Berlin 2011**
- **ALCOHOLIC LIVER DISEASE – Barcelona 2012**



The International Liver Congress™ 2011 (46th annual meeting of EASL) hosted in Berlin, Germany, March 30 - April 3, 2011 was a tremendous success with excellent attendance: 8062 registered participants. A new initiative was launched with the organisation of a Basic Science Seminar on viral hepatitis that was particularly well attended. The aim of this seminar was to promote basic science research and to foster interaction between basic science and clinical researchers. The seminar format encouraged informal and lively discussion of the technical challenges and new advances in liver research. This was just one element of a scientific programme of extremely high standard that also included; Grand Rounds, EU Grant Session and the Health Burden of Viral Hepatitis after the WHO resolution - Call for Action. EASL released its 5th Clinical Practice Guidelines on the 'Management of Hepatitis C Virus Infection' during the congress and special emphasis was given to Young Investigators.

The 2011 meeting built on the successful Young Investigators Forum (initiated in Vienna 2010) providing a place where young professionals could voice their opinion, listen to testimonials and ask for career advice. The objective of this forum is to promote hepatology as a career choice for young medical doctors or scientists. EASL granted 200 bursaries to Young Investigators to help support them in attending the International Liver Congress™ 2011 and ran an Educational Seminar entitled 'Statistics course for trainees in hepatology' specifically for young researchers. In addition, for the first time ever, EASL organised a special networking event exclusively for young investigators that was strongly supported by members of the EASL Governing Board together with the Honorary President Prof. D. Dhumeaux. EASL acts as a pillar of support to young scientists through offering education, training, exchange programmes and fellowships.



The International Liver Congress™ 2011 also hosted 17 national liver associations located in the National Associations Village onsite in Berlin in the aim to showcase liver-related actions and activities at local level. 135 journalists attended and the global media reach generated from the 757 articles written was estimated at 101,927,493 persons. In order to reach out to a wider community, EASL launched its Facebook page www.easl.eu/facebook and a Twitter account dedicated solely to the International Liver Congress™ www.twitter.com/ILCpress.

Networking and exchange of knowledge were optimised with cutting edge applications such as Q4U and Chance2Meet. Q4U, a sophisticated and focused Q&A session, was implemented during the Postgraduate Course. This system enabled delegates to text questions to speakers in real time, while lectures were being given and allowed participants to accurately test their knowledge. Finally, EASL reached a record of 3089 members from all over the world thanks to those who renewed membership or joined the EASL community on site.

The International Liver Congress™ 2012 (EASL's 47th annual congress) held in April 2012 in Barcelona, Spain was an equally record breaking event with 9,415 registered delegates. A full account of this meeting will be provided in the 2012 Annual Report.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Year	Number of Congress	Venue	Number of Registered Delegates
2013	48	Amsterdam	over 9,400 expected!
2012	47	Barcelona	9,415
2011	46	Berlin	8,062
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

BERLIN 2011 CONGRESS STATISTICS

Top 10 participating countries / Number of delegates

1	USA	939
2	Germany	873
3	Italy	640
4	France	474
5	UK	472
6	Spain	340
7	China	323
8	Switzerland	220
9	Russia	178
10	Turkey	158

YEARLY CALENDAR OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES



Beyond its annual meeting, EASL also organises a wide range of activities and key educational events in the field of hepatology. Once a year, EASL hosts a Special Conference attracting between 500 and 800 participants. The scientific programme of each Special Conference is built around a single topic discussed in a State-of-the Art format.

In 2010, EASL dedicated its Special Conference to hepatocellular carcinoma, a serious health problem and the 3rd cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide. In 2011, liver transplantation, another worthy topic in the field, was discussed in Lisbon, Portugal from December 15-17, 2011. The 2011 EASL Special Conference provided a first-class up-to-date overview of liver transplantation, covering the entire patient journey from selection, to new surgical approaches, short and long-term complications and follow-up. The programme approved by the EASL Governing Board was supported by The European Liver and Intestine Transplant Association (ELITA) together with and the European Society for Organ Transplantation ESOT, and the conference was co-endorsed by the European-African Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (E-AHPBA), International Liver Transplantation Society (ILTS) and Liver Intensive Care Group of Europe (LICAGE). The content of the meeting not only provided liver transplant physicians and surgeons with a current overview, but also focused on both developing and controversial areas. Practical guidance was given and scientific background together with future developments were discussed in detail.

In 2012, EASL joined efforts with the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease (AASLD) to produce a Special Conference dedicated to Therapy of Hepatitis C: Clinical application and drug development. Major discussion points of the conference included:

- How to use the new DAAs in real-world settings
- How to manage side-effects
- Efficacy in populations not treated in pivotal registration trials

Such information is vital for physicians starting to use these drugs in order to know which patients should be treated now. Another exciting element is perspectives on IFN-free treatment regimens. After more than 25 years, therapies can no longer be developed that will not require interferon alpha which is known to cause many side-effects and is also very expensive. Hepatologists today are clearly experiencing a paradigm shift in the therapy of hepatitis C and the 2012 EASL-AASLD Special Conference can be considered as a milestone meeting for the development of new guidelines in Europe.




EASL EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE LIVER | **MONOTHEMATIC CONFERENCE**

EASL also organises 2-3 smaller scale Monothematic Conferences each year attracting up to 300 participants. The attending delegates participate in a scientific programme that is developed on a single topic and discussed in a State-of-the Art format, and interaction between speakers and attendees is highly encouraged. The programme is reviewed and approved by the EASL Educational Councillors and Governing Board.

In 2011, EASL organised two Monothematic Conferences:

EVALUATION OF DISEASE SEVERITY AND PROGNOSIS IN CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE, JANUARY 28-29, NICE, FRANCE



Prognosis and management of chronic liver diseases greatly depends on the amount and progression of liver fibrosis. Liver biopsy has traditionally been considered the reference method for diagnosing and staging liver fibrosis. However, there is an extensive debate on the accuracy of liver biopsy as a 'gold standard' that has been prompted by the continuous proposition of different non-invasive methodologies able to provide initial staging as well as increased flexibility in the longitudinal follow-up of patients with chronic liver disease.

At present, these non invasive tools are increasingly used in clinical practice and this has grown to such a level that clarification and guidance on their use are needed.

This conference aimed to provide a critical review and analysis of the best available tools for the assessment of disease severity and progression in different stages of fibrogenic chronic liver diseases. To this end, an international panel of key experts and participants from all around the world actively interacted to resolve pending issues and to highlighted areas needing further analysis and investigation.

Central issues addressed included:

- Pathophysiology of disease progression in chronic liver diseases
- 'Gold' standards for disease severity evaluation
- Clinical use of currently available non invasive tools for disease severity evaluation
- Novel and future techniques
- Diagnostic and prognostic markers in patients with cirrhosis
- Disease regression and impact of treatment

**LIVER FIBROSIS:
COMMON AND ORGAN SPECIFIC MECHANISMS,JUNE 17-18, PETERSBERG, GERMANY**

The field of fibrosis is among the most vibrant and rapidly advancing in all of hepatology. New insights into cell and molecular biology, inflammation, genetics and stem cells have converged to accelerate progress, which will surely improve the care of patients with liver disease in the coming years. It is in this spirit of progress that EASL developed this Monothematic Conference. The breadth of topics was selected to enhance collaboration and stimulate new ideas among the attendees.



Three EASL Monothematic Conferences will be held throughout 2012.

- **IMLI - IMMUNE MEDIATED LIVER INJURY,**
JANUARY 19-21, 2012, STRATFORD UPON AVON, BIRMINGHAM, UK
- **VASCULAR LIVER DISEASES,**
JUNE 22-23, 2012, TALLINN, ESTONIA
- **HIV AND THE LIVER,**
DECEMBER 7-8, 2012, LONDON, UK
(co-sponsored and supported by the European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS))



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.

SCHOOLS OF HEPATOLOGY

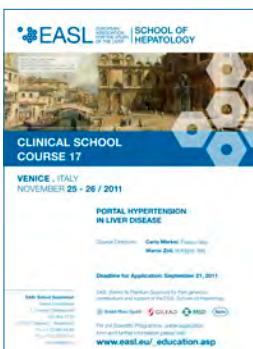


The EASL Schools of Hepatology have continued to evolve since they started in 2003. These educational events are held apart from the International Liver Congress™ and aim to diffuse the highest standards in basic and clinical hepatology. The schools are intended as a series of events covering different aspects in the field of liver disease.

The EASL Schools of Hepatology target young fellows enrolled in hepatology-oriented departments, or more experienced clinicians who want to be exposed to the newest trends in hepatology. Participants have to apply for a place on the course; application for the EASL Schools of Hepatology is free and open to young fellows under the age of 35 and/or still in training.



For selected applicants, EASL will cover transportation costs to attend the school and accommodation during the event. Approximately 30 places are available for each school and priority is given to registered EASL members during the selection process.



Courses are usually held in a medical institute, research centre or university. 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 case-based discussions.

The EASL Educational Councillors and Governing Board review programmes proposed by the chairs. The Educational Councillors review all the applications from young hepatologists and select the candidates primarily based on their dedication to hepatology and their age. Priority is given to first time participants and to select a small number of participants (30 to 40 maximum) in order to facilitate discussions during each course.

Each year, EASL organises 1 Basic School of Hepatology and 2 Clinical Schools of Hepatology. In 2011, EASL organised the following schools:

- **EASL BASIC SCHOOL OF HEPATOLOGY COURSE 6: CELL BIOLOGY OF THE LIVER,** FEBRUARY 10-12, 2011, UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN, NETHERLANDS
- **EASL CLINICAL SCHOOL OF HEPATOLOGY COURSE 16: HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA,** JUNE 5-6, 2011, JERUSALEM, ISRAEL
- **EASL CLINICAL SCHOOL OF HEPATOLOGY, COURSE 17: PORTAL HYPERTENSION IN LIVER DISEASE,** NOVEMBER 25-26, 2011, VENICE, ITALY

CHINESE SCHOOL OF HEPATOLOGY

The schools have generated great success over the past years hence EASL decided to take the school format beyond Europe in 2011 to hold its very first Chinese School: EASL-CHS School of Hepatology. The school took place from April 13-19, 2011 in 2 venues; the Rujin Hospital in Shanghai and the Beijing Friendship Hospital, Capital Medical University, Beijing (2 days in each city). Five EASL representatives visited both destinations and the two-day School of Hepatology attracted approximately 60 young Chinese doctors.

The school was co-organised with Professor Ji-Dong Jia together with members of the department of hepatology. Young physicians, GI fellows and infectious disease doctors with an interest in hepatology were invited to attend this two-day school to listen to lectures and join case presentations. The programme comprised of formal lectures in the morning and workshops on clinical hepatology, viral hepatitis, immunology, liver radiology and liver pathology in the afternoon. As well as the discussions and workshops, additional topics of interest included; the organisation of a department of hepatology, the organisation of trials, the building of a hepatology career and the writing of a scientific paper. From an educational perspective, the emphasis was placed on active interaction between teachers and participants.

Overall, these EASL China Schools of Hepatology were a great success and both the Chinese and the EASL delegates concluded that EASL should be advised to continue such efforts in the future. We greatly thank the pharmaceutical industry for their financial support in the organisation of these Schools of Hepatology.



MEMBERSHIP

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

THERE ARE 5 MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

- **REGULAR**
(for individuals from Europe and Israel)
- **CORRESPONDING**
(for individuals from non-European countries)
- **EMERITUS**
(for regular members over 65 years that have been EASL members for at least 10 years)
- **TRAINEE**
(for trainees up to 35 years. Proof of age and trainee status is required)
- **CORPORATE**
(Special conditions for EASL sponsors – please see the EASL Sponsorship brochure for conditions)

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 Programme**
- Possibility to organise **EASL Monothematic and Special Conferences**
- Possibility to host one of the **EASL Schools of Hepatology**
- EASL bi-monthly **'What's New?'** newsletters and quarterly **'EU Bulletin'**
- **Financial support** for the application to the **EU Research Framework Programme (FP7)**



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

EASL SHEILA SHERLOCK FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

EASL launched its first research fellowship programme in 1997 to enhance the mobility of investigators within different European institutions, to encourage continued learning and research, and to actively promote scientific exchange among research units in hepatology. The fellowships were dedicated to the memory of Prof. Dame Sheila Sherlock, hence the name EASL Sheila Sherlock Fellowship Programme.

2011 POST-DOC RESEARCH AWARDEES



Daniele J. Felmlee
(UK)



Magdalena Filipowicz
(Switzerland)



Lemonica J. Koumbi
(Greece)

2011 ENTRY LEVEL RESEARCH AWARDEES



Ruchi Bansal
(The Netherlands)



Federica Cerini
(Italy)



Rita Garcia-Martinez
(Spain)

→ Full details of the fellowships programmes and list of awardees can be found on www.easl.eu/_fellowship

The fellowships have been a great success and EASL currently supports up to 20 laureates each year investing over 500,000€ in post-doctorat, entry-level and short-term training. Due to the ever increasing number of requests from researchers, EASL has decided to launch an additional fellowship opportunity starting in 2011. The new physician-scientists fellowship programme will enable practicing physician-scientists to take leave from their clinical duties for 6-12 months in order to pursue research in a research laboratory.

The following fellowship programmes are available:

- **POST-DOCTORATE (UP TO 3 FELLOWSHIPS EACH YEAR)**
- **ENTRY-LEVEL (UP TO 3 FELLOWSHIPS EACH YEAR)**
- **PHYSICIAN-SCIENTISTS (1 SIX MONTH FELLOWSHIP AND 1 TWELVE MONTH FELLOWSHIP EACH YEAR)**
- **SHORT-TERM (MAXIMUM OF 3 MONTHS)**

EASL E-LEARNING

EASL has continuously developed a wide range of e-learning tools with specialised educational content allowing those interested in hepatology to expand their knowledge on liver disease whilst learning through virtual meetings from across the globe. EASL members can download selected courses, listen to original and exclusive talks, take part in interactive quizzes, view and create multimedia presentations from an e-library of webcasted conferences.

EASL e-learning tools include: webcasts and video podcasts of Monothematic Conferences, Special Conferences, State-of-the-Art lectures and Post-Graduate Courses from the International Liver Congress™, in addition to selected symposia from conferences dedicated specifically to hepatology. EASL also provides on line presentations available free to its members in the form of e-series where special topics are covered in depth by experts in the field, and e-posters enabling users to search for specific content, as well as make comments on posters and ask questions to authors.

In a continuous effort to provide innovative educational tools, EASL has developed the iLiver app throughout 2011. This electronic text book of medicine for iPhone and iPad enables medical experts quick reference to regularly updated information on liver diseases and treatment. The iLiver app will provide easy-to-access EASL validated and frequently updated medical information related to liver diseases in an interactive format that can be used at the bedside by physicians worldwide. The official launch is planned at the International Liver Congress™ in Barcelona 2012.

Throughout 2011, EASL has also been working to implement on line CME accreditation that will be available early 2013.



EASL CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

EASL has developed a range of Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) since the first issue that was released in October 2008. These guidelines 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.

EASL has already produced the following Clinical Practice Guidelines:

- MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC HEPATITIS B
- MANAGEMENT OF CHOLESTATIC LIVER DISEASES
- MANAGEMENT OF HFE HEMOCHROMATOSIS
- MANAGEMENT OF ASCITES, SPONTANEOUS BACTERIAL PERITONITIS, AND HEPATORENAL SYNDROME IN CIRRHOSIS

In 2011, CPGs on the Management of Hepatitis C Virus Infection were released. These are to be followed by four publications over the course of 2012:

- MANAGEMENT OF WILSONS DISEASE
- MANAGEMENT OF HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA
- REVISED CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES ON THE MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC HEPATITIS B
- MANAGEMENT OF ALCOHOLIC LIVER DISEASE



EASL-AASLD Joint Guidelines on Hepatic Encephalopathy

In autumn 2009, initial discussions began between AASLD and EASL regarding the creation of joint AASLD/EASL Practice Guidelines. A letter of agreement was signed in September 2010 and work began on the development of guidelines on Hepatic Encephalopathy. These guidelines, approved by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and the European Association for the Study of the Liver, shall represent the position of both associations from a European and American perspective. The document is intended for use by physicians, and the recommendations shall suggest preferred approaches to the diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive aspects of care. The AASLD/EASL Practice Guidelines are intended to be flexible, in contrast to standards of care, which are often inflexible policies to be followed in every case. Specific recommendations are to be based on relevant published information. The writing group has continued their efforts throughout 2011 and a first formal draft review is planned for summer 2012. The manuscript is planned to be finalised and sent to the AASLD and EASL Governing Boards for approval and co-publication in Hepatology and the Journal of Hepatology in 2013.

EASL EU & PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMME

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

As in previous years EASL continues to focus on five main areas of work whilst promoting research in Hepatology and increasing public awareness of liver disease. Our work since 2008 has given us substantial returns and we continue to be recognised as the voice of the liver community in Brussels and Strasbourg. This recognition helps us raise the profile of liver disease among all stakeholders, including the different EU institutions (Parliament, Commission and Council). Through positioning ourselves as one of the main healthcare professional groups actively working in Brussels we have ensured that our voice is heard and that more funding is allocated to liver disease research.

Our overall objectives for the coming months include ensuring liver disease research funds are available through Horizon 2020 and other European Commission funding programmes, together with working with other stakeholders to promote the development of policies aimed at preventing liver disease.

RESOURCES

The EASL Governing Board remains committed to the EU Public Affairs programme and throughout 2011 Prof. Markus Peck-Radosavljevic, EASL Vice-Secretary and Prof. Dominique Valla, EU Policy Councillor worked closely in furthering the EASL agenda in Brussels. Since April 2012 Prof. Patrizia Burra has been EASL's new EU Policy Councillor and, together with Prof. Peck-Radosavljevic, heads the EASL EU Public Affairs team.

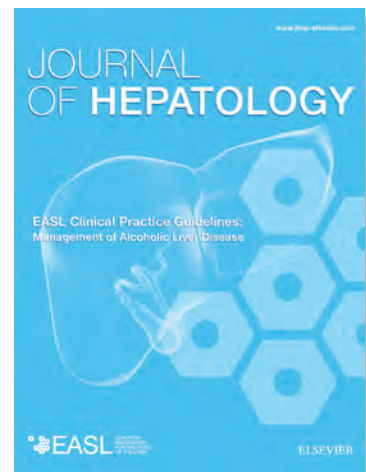
In mid-2011, the EASL Governing Board decided to bring the management and coordination of the EU Public Affairs programme in-house with a dedicated staff person working to ensure an EASL presence in Brussels when and as needed.

ALCOHOL HEALTH POLICY

EASL continues to be an active member of the European Alcohol and Health Forum (EAHF), the European Commission's platform where members active at European level can debate, compare approaches and act to tackle alcohol related harm. EASL's membership of EAHF allows for increased interaction with the Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) and also for collaboration with various NGOs and the establishment of contacts with umbrella organisations in alcohol-related industry and trade.

As part of its on-going commitment to the EAHF, EASL organised a Monothematic Conference on Alcoholic Liver Disease in December 2010. In 2011, EASL's commitment was the publication and distribution of the EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Management of Alcoholic Liver Disease.

For 2012, EASL's commitment will be the preparation, publication and dissemination of its Literature Review on the burden of liver disease which contains a chapter dedicated exclusively to Alcoholic Liver Disease.



VIRAL HEPATITIS

EASL, working with other stakeholders in the field of viral hepatitis, identifies the key issues in the management of infection and making proposals to the relevant policymakers to help address issues related to education and management of viral hepatitis.

EASL continues to work closely with the European Liver Patients Association (ELPA) and the World Hepatitis Alliance (WHA) in an effort to ensure that the burden of viral hepatitis does not grow. As a result EASL has been involved, and participated in, a number of events held at the European Parliament.

Over the coming year our focus will continue to be on working towards achieving a council recommendation/conclusion on viral hepatitis screening that acknowledges the high burden the disease places on health systems and puts in place measures to identify the large number of undiagnosed carriers.

LIVER CANCER

Over the last months EASL has focused firmly on establishing closer links with other stakeholders in the field of cancer. As a result, EASL has been invited to participate in events which have been held at the European Parliament, mainly related to highlighting the links between viral hepatitis/alcohol and liver cancer. In addition, we continue to work with the European Partnership Against Cancer, an initiative launched by DG SANCO, and have recently taken part in meetings relating to achieving a consensus regarding quality criteria for health checks.

RESEARCH

Working to fulfill its mission of promoting research in Hepatology, EASL has engaged in direct contact with officials at the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RESEARCH) with a view to ensuring that liver disease features in Calls published under the 7th Framework Programme. In addition, over the last year EASL has been involved in providing input to the Commission and Parliament with a view to helping structure the funding strategy which will be implemented from 2014 onwards: Horizon 2020.

EASL's provision of input to the Commission and Parliament has been both direct and through our membership of the Alliance for Biomedical Research (Biomed Alliance). EASL joined the Alliance in 2010 aware that policymakers often fail to see the link between a strong and competitive research sector and a healthy and active population. As part of the Biomed Alliance and working together with other organisations EASL is looking to underline this win-win situation to those in Member States who make the decisions on research priorities and budgets. EASL member Prof. Michael Manns was joint EASL/UEG representative to the Biomed Alliance working group which looked into the basis for the call for a European Health Council for Research (EuHCR) and keeps working on this project.

Finally, as in previous years, EASL has continued to support the work of its members through its FP7 support programme. For the 2012 Calls EASL provided grants to four different projects, one of which was successful at stage II. The PathCo (Pathogen Co-infection: HIV-1, Tuberculosis, Malaria and hepatitis C virus) project consortium is at present in negotiations with the Commission regarding the final amount it will receive for the project.

CHRONIC DISEASES

Since 2010 EASL has been a member of the European Chronic Disease Alliance (ECDA), a consortium of professional and patient groups that work together to ensure public health policies are in place which address the major determinants of ill-health in Europe i.e. alcohol, tobacco, obesity and lack of physical exercise.

During 2011, the ECDA met Commissioner John Dalli twice to discuss the 2010 Council Conclusions on Chronic Disease and also the EU's input to the UN High-Level meeting on NCDs. An EASL representative attended both these meetings. ECDA also worked together to provide DG SANCO with input to its EU Reflection Process on Chronic Disease. The full document was submitted to DG SANCO and will continue to be disseminated to interested stakeholders throughout 2012.

THE JOURNAL OF HEPATOLOGY

Throughout 2011, the editorial office have continued to make huge efforts to improve the lay out of the journal, to better control the quality of the papers published and have strived to bring the most updated state-of-the-art content.

The Journal of Hepatology is the official journal of the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), the leading 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 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.



In 2011 the impact factor remained above 9 for the second consecutive time at 9.264 which is a huge achievement indicating that the Journal of Hepatology is currently ranked as number 4 in the ISI category amongst journals in the field of Hepatogastroenterology: «Gastroenterology and Hepatology» (source: Thomson® Scientific). This ranking is a testament to the journal's outstanding relevance in the field. EASL would like to thank the Journal's editors, reviewers, authors, and readers who have contributed to this outstanding result. The Editorial Team elected in September 2009 is led by Prof. Didier Samuel and expects the impact factor to continue this upward trend.

The Editorial Team 2010-2011 includes one Editor-In-Chief, two Co-Editors, eighteen Associate Editors, nine Special Section Editors, two Focus Editors, two Web 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, one Editorial Assistant, one Medical Illustrator, and one freelance Graphic Designer. All manuscript submissions are managed through the new Elsevier Editorial System.

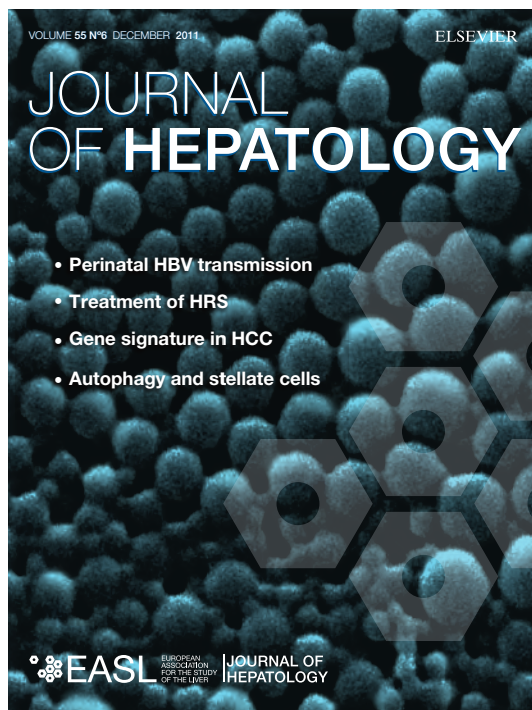
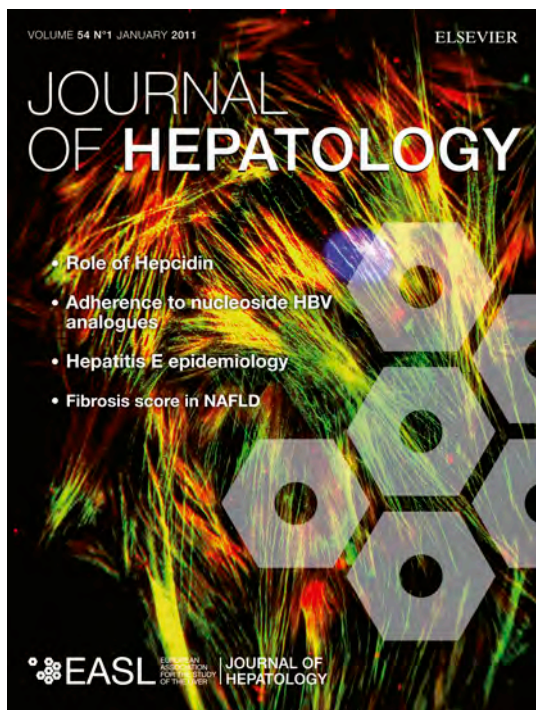
Some of the previously published sections continue in the new version of the Journal but under new names and several new sections have appeared. The Journal has introduced a *Focus* section to highlight the most poignant manuscripts in each issue. While *Hepatology Snapshot* briefly aims to describe 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 summarizes the pros and cons of specific issues on a current clinical and basic subject. The most relevant papers published in other journals are highlighted in the *International Hepatology* section. The section *Letters to the Editor* provides short comments on topical issues or readers' reactions to articles published in the Journal.

The Journal has developed a new Website, with new features including Issue Highlights, Editor's Picks, a selection of the most interesting reviews and Special Sections, and videocasts commenting on relevant papers published in the Journal.

The material is updated twice a month for each published issue.

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.

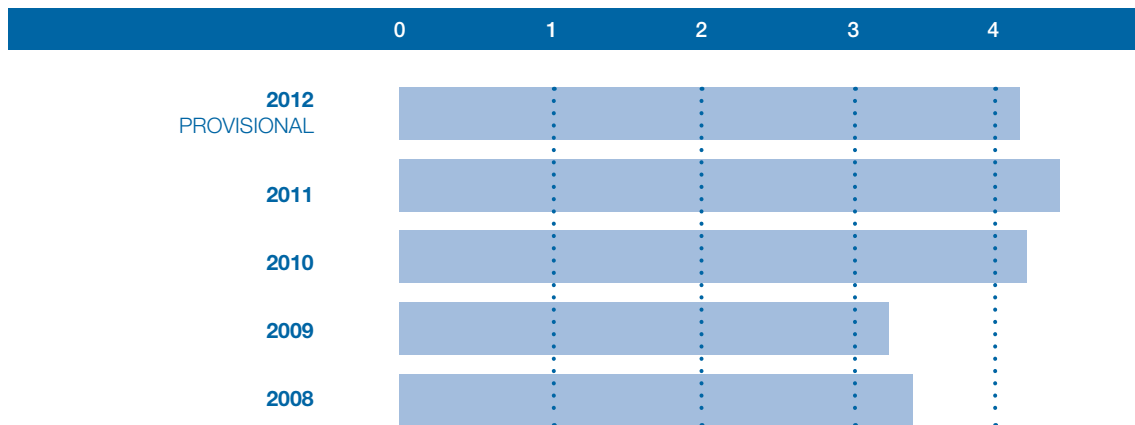
The yearly EASL membership fee includes an annual subscription to the Journal of Hepatology.



EASL FINANCIAL REPORT 2011

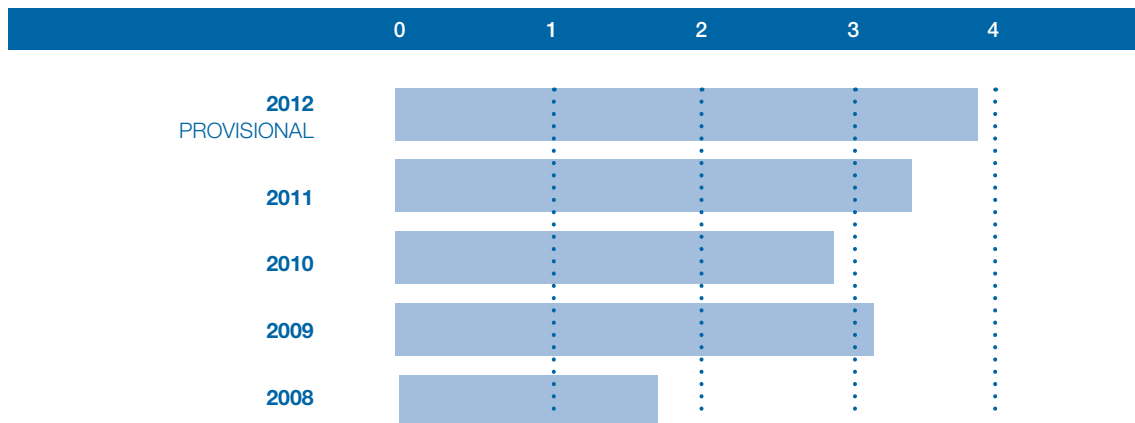
The 2011 income, as shown in the figure below, exceeded that of the provisional budget presented at the EASL Business Meeting held during the International Liver Congress™ (ILC) in Berlin, March 2011. This was mainly due to a further increase in membership and the huge success of the ILC that was attended by over 8,000 delegates. Once again, thanks go to the Banque Cantonale Vaudoise, EASL's banking partner, as income from investments exceeded expected figures, despite the persisting unfavourable financial context due to the worldwide economic crisis. The main sources of income for 2011 were represented by the International Liver Congress™ revenues (\approx 45%) and the unrestricted support from Premium Sponsors (\approx 23%): Bristol-Myers Squibb, Gilead, M.S.D., and Roche. EASL memberships accounted for \approx 9.5%.

INCOME (SHOWN IN € MILLIONS)



The provisional income for 2012 is expected to be close to € 4,2 million. The 2012 International Liver Congress™ in Barcelona was again a great success and will most probably provide revenue enabling the association to once more cover over 40% of the global income. The generous support from Premium Sponsors has also been secured for 2012.

EXPENSES (SHOWN IN € MILLIONS)



As in 2010, 2011 expenses almost matched the figures anticipated in the provisional budget, as shown in the figure on the previous page. There were some unforeseen expenses related to new initiatives, such as the Concerted Action Groups, international activities such as schools of hepatology that EASL held in China, and the search for real estate. EASL sponsored events were within budget; the fellowship budget allocated was not entirely used as EASL received fewer renewal requests than expected. There were also fewer expenses regarding i-Tools, as not all of them were fully developed during 2011. To promote the association, the EASL booth was present at a higher number of meetings, and this required more money than expected.

The expenses related to the Journal of Hepatology, which had raised concerns in 2010, were within budget in 2011. To this respect, the Editorial team of the Journal has to be praised for their efforts in reducing costs. Lastly, there were greater costs for the EASL office, related to the recruitment of two new employees.

The slight increase in expenses foreseen in 2012 is mainly due to:

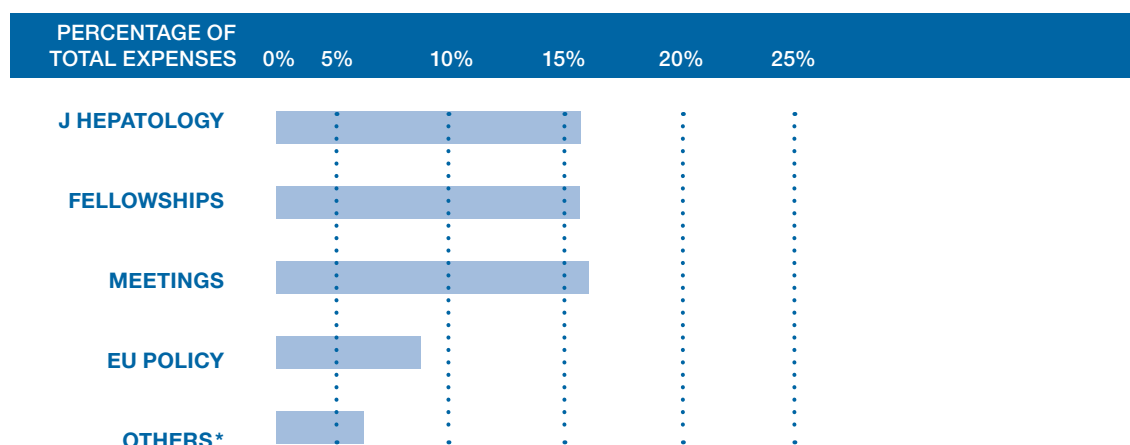
- Fellowships - in order to pay overhead expenses to the hosting institutions,
- i-tools - to support several projects such as i-Liver, EASL website, and the development of the Liver Tree,
- EU policy activities - to foster initiatives such as the EASL Literature Review White Paper on the Burden of Liver Disease in Europe and Hepamap, as well as financial support for a greater number of applications to EU,
- Promotion of the association by participating in various congresses worldwide with the EASL booth.

As a final point, the EASL office will increase the number of projects that will be directly managed in-house, and this will require the recruitment of additional employees.

As a result, the provisional balance for the 2012 budget is expected to be €340,436.

To conclude, the commitment of EASL in providing its members with services is witnessed by the fact that almost 2/3 of the expenses are devoted to this purpose, as illustrated in the final figure.

EXPENSES 2012 SERVICES TO MEMBERS



* Others include: clinical practice guidelines, webcasting, website, and tools

AUDITOR'S REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE LIVER 2011

Balance sheet as of 31st December

ASSETS

	2011 EUR	2010 EUR
Cash	4'208	5'539
Working accounts banks	6'405'071	5'233'426
Investment deposit	7'673'207	7'769'101
Accounts receivable	247'978	242'352
Withholding tax	6'777	2'516
VAT receivable	38'305	0
Total Assets	14'375'546	13'252'934

LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

Accounts payable	0	5'954
Accrued liabilities Expenses	552'819	588'660
Accrued liabilities Membership	274'811	259'856
Accrued liabilities Journal	165'000	180'000
Accrued liabilities Sponsors	552'482	500'000
Total liabilities	1'545'111	1'534'469

EQUITY

Capital contribution	1'842'618	1'842'618
Result brought forward	9'875'847	8'534'295
Result for the period	1'111'970	1'341'552
Total equity	12'830'435	11'718'465

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

14'375'546

13'252'934

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

REVENUES FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S ACTIVITIES

	2011 EUR	2010 EUR
Membership fees	417'758	322'936
Revenue from annual congress (ILC)	1'988'957	1'884'503
Revenues from meetings	0	37'749
UEGW	57'143	57'143
Royalties for Journal of Hepatology	180'000	276'576
Support from industry	1'000'000	1'000'000
Other income	70'054	14'753
Total revenues from the association's activities	3'713'912	3'593'660

FINANCIAL REVENUES AND COSTS

Gain on investment	0	3'055
Loss on investment	-9'248	-38'183
Unrealized investment gain	118'357	37'176
Unrealized investment loss	-107'314	-105'336
Financial income	332'193	312'496
Financial charges	-19'917	-21'636
Exchange loss	-75'447	-3'453
Exchange gain	44'639	97'778
Net financial income	283'264	281'899

Total income

3'997'176

3'875'558

EXPENSES

EASL Congress & Conferences (Monothematic + Special Conf)	333'514	494'902
School of Hepatology	112'516	117'731
GB Honorarium & GB Secretariat	125'100	113'351
GB Meetings	114'805	81'760
Investment Meetings	902	926
BMI Meetings	4'267	4'893
Professional consultants (Lawyer, accountant, audit,...)	93'478	83'488
Sister Societies Meetings & Promotion	55'441	57'622
Endorsed Meetings	40'021	10'667
Fundraising	0	238
Concerted Action Groups	10'539	0
International Activities	1'179	0
Real Estate Investigations	8'160	0
Press Agency	56'499	81'068
Clinical Practice Guidelines	10'158	3'539
EU Policy Activities / EU Public Affairs	199'814	201'406
Fellowships	466'000	392'004
Communication & E Tools	246'947	133'413
Journal of Hepatology	200'871	239'269
EASL Office - General Administration	810'064	548'974
VAT	-5'070	-31'245
Total expenses	2'885'206	2'534'007

Result for the period

1'111'970

1'341'552

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 throughout 2011 as described in this Annual Report.



WHY WE SUPPORT EASL...



Bristol-Myers Squibb

A global biopharmaceutical company whose mission is to discover, develop and deliver innovative medicines.

We are committed to Helping Advance the Management of Liver Disease.



GILEAD

Gilead Sciences discovers and develops innovative medicines in areas of unmet need. Aiming to improve patient care in life-threatening diseases, our commitment includes over a decade of liver disease research.

Roche

Life writes the questions - We pursue the answers. When it comes to disease there are as many questions as people. We can't provide an answer to them all. But we can help with our expertise. That's why Roche supports EASL.



MSD

From developing new therapies that treat and prevent disease to helping people in need, we're committed to improving health and well-being around the world this is why we support EASL in promoting state-of-the-art education to physicians and scientists.

**BECOME
PART OF OUR
VISION...**

*Apply
now!*

**JOIN
THE EASL
COMMUNITY**

www.easl.eu

membership@easloffice.eu



www.easl.eu/facebook



twitter.com/easnews



www.easl.eu/gplus



www.easl.eu/youtube



www.easl.eu/facebook



twitter.com/easlnews



www.easl.eu/gplus



www.easl.eu/youtube

EASL Office

Phone: +41 22 807 03 60

Fax: +41 22 328 07 24

E-mail: easloffice@easloffice.eu

www.easl.eu