



ANNUAL REPORT 2015



CONTENTS

Letter from the Secretary General	2
Executive Summary	3
Governing Board	5
Concerted Action Groups (CAG)	6
Our Mission	9
Membership	11
Publications	13
Events	17
Ethics Committee	33
Young Investigators	34
Scientific Research	37
EU and Public Affairs	38
Education	40
Communication Channels	43
Finance	45

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear Colleagues,

Over the past 50 years, EASL has experienced unprecedented growth from a small scientific society focused primarily on Europe – 70 delegates from 10 countries in 1966 – to a large multifaceted organisation with global reach – with 4,100 members from more than 100 countries in 2015.

Last year was a very special year for EASL: we celebrated two anniversaries - our 50th anniversary at the International Liver Congress™ 2015 and the 30th anniversary of our flagship publication, the Journal of Hepatology, making it the leading journal in Hepatology with an impact factor above 11!

With this growth, EASL still embodies the pioneering spirit that led to its creation, with, for example, an age limit of 48 for Governing Board members, making us one of the youngest scientific committees among all professional medical organisations. Having been born at the same time as our association, it is with great pride that I accepted to be Secretary General with the help of Tom Karlsen from Norway as Vice-Secretary.

But in which direction should EASL now go?

Since its birth, hepatology has always been characterized by a multidisciplinary approach and we need to keep the liver at the nexus among those other medical specialities with whom we interact in our daily practice. In that respect, EASL is very active in further strengthening its relationships, through the organisation of joint symposiums during the International Liver Congress™ with other European or International associations.

EASL is also very active in providing state-of-the-art Education to its members. Although we believe that no “virtual platform” will ever substitute the need for face-to-face scientific discussions and social interactions, we need to move forward and to expand our online activities. We are currently in the process of reshaping our educational offer in order to better address the needs and expectations of our members, especially those located in areas outside Europe, and you’ll see some exciting, new developments in 2016!

We look forward to seeing you in Barcelona at our 51st International Liver Congress™ in 2016.

Dr. Laurent Castera
Secretary General, EASL





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2015 has been a special year for our Association: EASL celebrated 50 years of hepatology with another record attendance of over 10,000 delegates at The International Liver Congress™ (ILC) in Vienna. This was the first Annual Congress that has ever been fully managed in-house. ILC 2015 was a great success with liver experts coming from all over the world and EASL has undoubtedly become the “Home of Hepatology”.

This year was also the 30th anniversary of EASL’s flagship publication, the Journal of Hepatology, which, thanks to amazing editorial support, is now the leading journal in Hepatology with an impact factor above 11. We should all be very proud of our achievements during the past year. EASL’s success depends on the work undertaken by our Governing Board members, the EASL Office, and the Journal of Hepatology’s Editorial team. 2015 was also a key year for our European Affairs with the opening of our branch office in Brussels.



EASL membership continues to grow and my sincere thanks go out to all the active EASL members who have chosen to be part of our liver community. I am also indebted for the remarkable trust given to the entire EASL office by the EASL Governing Board.

In the future, EASL aims to maintain its position as the Home of Hepatology by providing the best scientific programmes and education. The entire team will continue to work hard to serve the EASL Governing Board and the liver community on a daily basis. It is our duty to safeguard the smooth management of operations at future events to secure the sustainability of our Association for the years to come.

Our end goal is to ensure that EASL – the Home of Hepatology – is the reference for the liver at the international level.

Mr. Grégoire Pavillon
Executive Director, EASL

GOVERNING BOARD

EASL is an association driven by Governing Board members dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in liver research, in the clinical practice of liver disorders, and in providing education to all those interested in Hepatology. The EASL Governing Board is composed of 12 experts (the Secretary General, Vice-Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Director, 5 Scientific Committee members, the EU Policy Councillor, and 2 Educational Councillors). The Governing Board's role is to progressively take EASL and liver disease research into the future.

While the roots of the association were grounded in Europe, EASL engages globally with all stakeholders in the liver wherever they are based, and spreads best practices and the latest scientific knowledge on Hepatology across the globe.



Secretary General
Clichy, France
DR. LAURENT CASTERA



Vice-Secretary
Oslo, Norway
PROF. TOM HEMMING
KARLSEN



Treasurer
Bologna, Italy
PROF. MAURO BERNARDI



Executive Director
Geneva, Switzerland
GRÉGOIRE PAVILLON



EU Policy Councillor
Padua, Italy
PROF. PATRIZIA BURRA



Scientific Committee
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK
DR. HELEN LOUISE REEVES



Scientific Committee
Lisbon, Portugal
PROF. CECILIA RODRIGUES



Scientific Committee
Aachen, Germany
PROF. FRANK TACKE



Scientific Committee
Barcelona, Spain
DR. ALEJANDRO FORNER



Scientific Committee
Milano, Italy
DR. ALESSIO AGHEMO



Educational Councillor
London, UK
PROF. MASSIMO PINZANI



Educational Councillor
Geneva, Switzerland
PROF. FRANCESCO NEGRO

CONCERTED ACTION GROUPS (CAG)

EASL has implemented Concerted Action Groups (CAG) to improve collaboration between basic and clinical scientists from a range of disciplines sharing common specialist interests.

While fostering interaction among scientists, the Concerted Action Groups also carry out educational activities in a specific area, field or discipline of hepatology. In particular, the Concerted Action Groups advise the EASL Governing Board on its educational programmes.

There are 3 Concerted Action Groups and one Focus Group to-date:

- Basic Science CAG
- Young Investigators CAG
- Public Health CAG
- Eastern Europe Focus Group

Basic Science CAG

The Basic Science Concerted Action Group (BS-CAG) is an advisory group to EASL's Governing Board. It is formed by basic scientists working in various fields and disciplines that are of interest for hepatology research.

The aims of the BS-CAG:

- Provide advice to the EASL Governing Board on "hot" new developments/topics in basic science, helping to design relevant content for various events such as the Basic Science Seminar during The International Liver Congress™, Basic Science Schools, and Monothematic Conferences
- Review the programmes for the Basic Science Seminar, Schools of Hepatology, and Monothematic Conferences
- Promote the interaction between clinical researchers and basic scientists with common interests in all the different aspects of liver biology and disease
- Make the latest technological developments in molecular analysis accessible to clinical researchers
- Foster the interaction between clinical researchers and basic scientists. The benefits of mutual interaction include the exchange of human samples, technology, experimental models, and know-how

Basic Science CAG



Cecilia Rodrigues
EASL Governing Board representative

-
- Matias Avila
 - Ralf Bartenschlager
 - Sabine Colnot
 - Fernando Corrales
 - Robert Eferl
 - Jose Carlos Fernandez-Checa
 - Catherine Postic
 - Gisa Tiegs

Public Health CAG

The Public Health Concerted Action Group (PH-CAG) improves and strengthens EASL's approach to public health issues. The group focuses on different aspects of Public Health, i.e. health burden, social impacts, prevention, control, screening strategies for several forms of liver diseases and their consequences.

The aims of the PH-CAG:

- Attract scientists and healthcare providers with interest in public health, prevention, and control of liver disease
- Improve the role of EASL in providing educational activities in these fields
- Assist the EASL Governing Board on public health issues, and on the organization of initiatives in this field
- Review EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines and other official documents related to public health issues
- Facilitate the relationship with existing public health boards, and improve lobbying and cooperation initiatives with official institutions

Public Health CAG



Alessio Aghemo
EASL Governing Board representative

Patrizia Burra

Manuel Carballo

Sylvie Deuffic-Burban

Angelos Hatzakis

David Goldberg

Daniele Prati

Françoise Rudot-Thoraval

Nick Sheron

Mira Kojouharova

Magda Rosinka

Stefan Wiktor

Young Investigators CAG

The Young Investigators Concerted Action Group (YI-CAG) works on the diverse programmes offered to Young Investigators during The International Congress™ (YI Forum and Seminar). EASL strives to provide Young Investigators with the best opportunities for development in the field of hepatology. Throughout the years, EASL has developed several fellowships and bursary programmes to enable young scientists to participate in EASL activities and meetings.

The aims of the YI-CAG:

- Build an active and dynamic community of YIs
- Promote and facilitate discussion and exchange of information both online and offline
- Create new YI dedicated events such as the EASL Masterclass
- Host an exclusive social networking event for YIs during The International Liver Congress™
- Provide opportunities to contribute to the development of smartphone and tablet applications
- Create an online network of friends via the EASL Facebook page
- Involve YIs in the development and update of the EASL Wikipedia page
- Encourage other YIs to become EASL members
- Inspire existing members to renew and stay actively involved in EASL activities

Young Investigators CAG



Laurent Castera
EASL Governing Board representative



Giacomo Germani
Group Leader and YI representative

Upkar Gill

Rodrigo Liberal

Femke Heindryck

Pierre-Emmanuel Rautou

Eastern Europe Focus Group

The Eastern Europe Focus Group (EEFG) advises the EASL Governing Board on their activities and collaboration opportunities in Eastern Europe countries. The group meets once or twice a year.

The aims of the EEFG are to:

- Listen and understand to the needs of scientists and healthcare providers in these countries
- Improve the presence and awareness of EASL in Eastern Europe countries
- Advise the EASL Governing Board on the organisation of specific initiatives
- Facilitate the relationship with existing EASL members from Eastern Europe and to improve collaboration and cooperation initiatives

Eastern Europe Focus Group



Frank Tacke
EASL Governing Board representative

Marina Maevaskaya

Jerzy Jaroszewicz

Liana Gheorghe

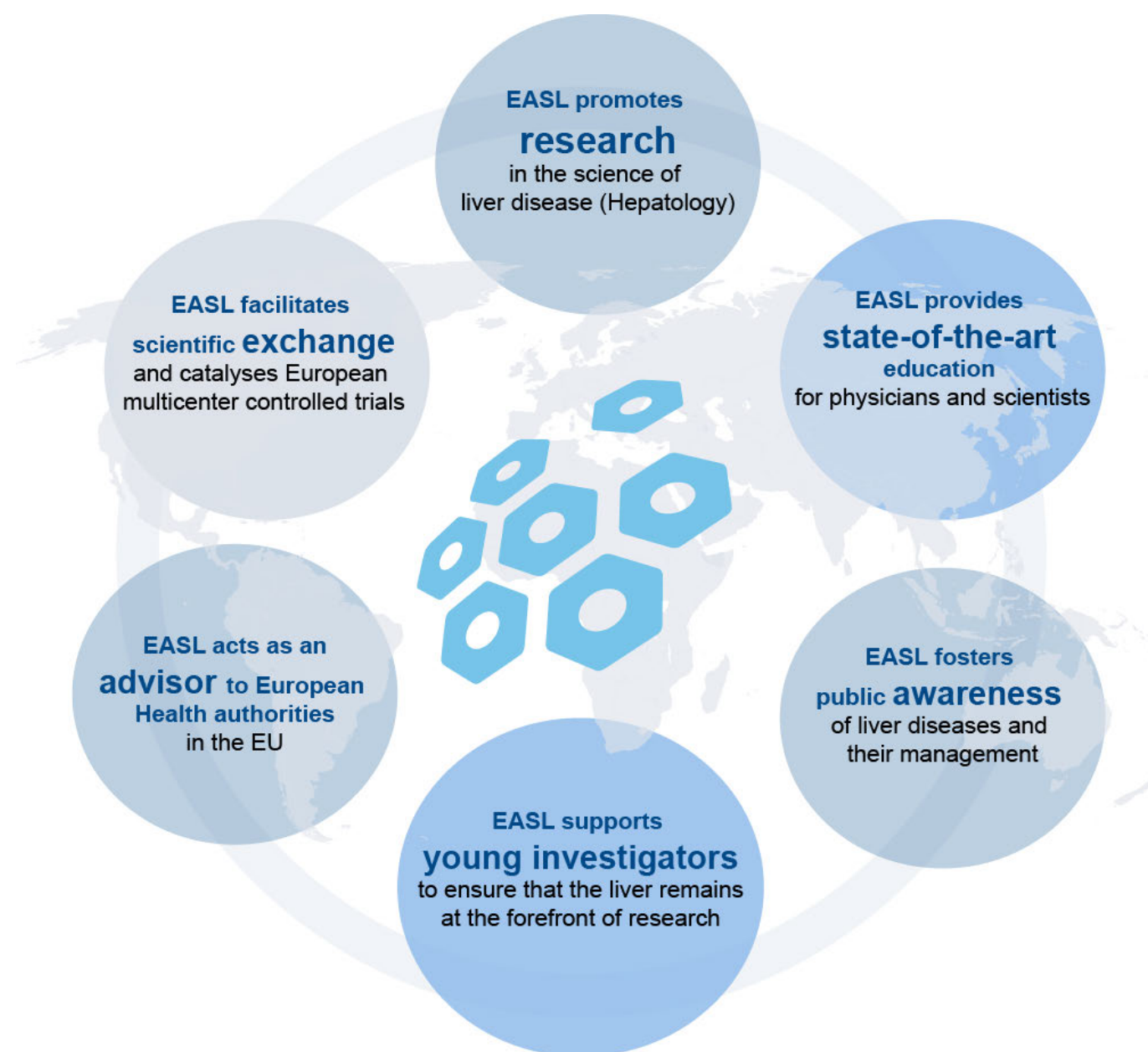
Marieta Simoneva

Goran Jankovic

Alexander Nersissov



OUR MISSION



**MANY
WAYS
ONE
AIM:
BEATING
LIVER
DISEASE**

MEMBERSHIP



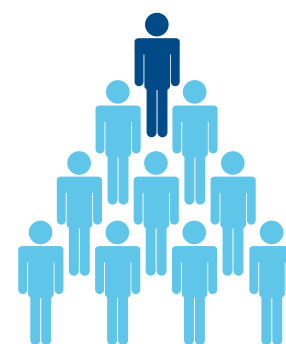
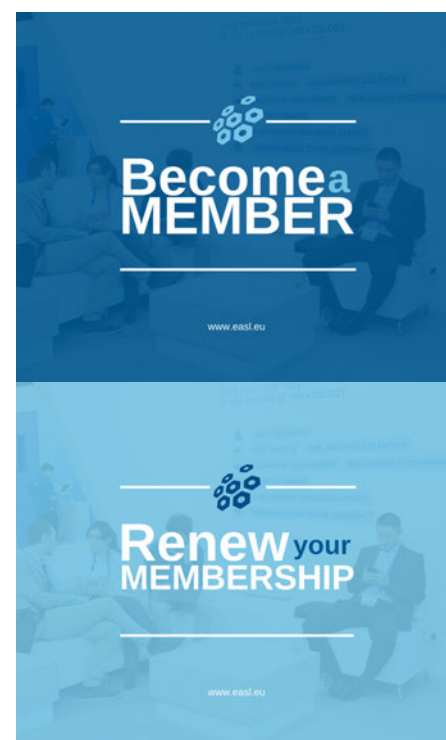
The European Association for the Study of the Liver started as a small group of 70 hepatologists from 15 European countries who came together to share best medical practice in April 1966.

50 years later, EASL has evolved into a world-class scientific society dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in liver research and in the clinical practice of liver disorders. EASL gathers members from all over the world and has over 4,085 members to-date.

EASL members enjoy the following benefits:

- Online access to the Journal of Hepatology
- Reduced fees to The International Liver Congress™ (ILC) and all EASL meetings
- Free access to the LiverTree™
- Possibility to host fellows as part of the EASL Fellowship programme
- Opportunity to organise EASL conferences
- Possibility to register to the EASL Mentorship programme
- Opportunity to host one of the EASL Schools of Hepatology
- Priority registration to the Schools of Hepatology
- EU funding and application support for the EU Research Framework programme
- Funding opportunities (endorsed and sponsored events, registry grant application)

For more information on EASL membership, check out:
www.easl.eu/discover/why-join-easl/become-a-member



4,085
MEMBERS IN 2015

MEMBER CATEGORIES FOR 2015

REGULAR MEMBERS:	1,977
CORRESPONDING MEMBERS:	1,271
TRAINEE MEMBERS:	721
EMERITUS MEMBERS:	116



NEW APPLICANTS

891



MEMBER RENEWALS

3,194

TOP COUNTRIES FOR MEMBERS OF 2015

- 1 USA
- 2 UNITED KINGDOM
- 3 GERMANY
- 4 ITALY
- 5 SPAIN
- 6 FRANCE
- 7 EGYPT
- 8 AUSTRALIA
- 9 NETHERLANDS
- 10 SWITZERLAND

PUBLICATIONS



Journal of Hepatology

The Journal of Hepatology is the official Journal of EASL. Since its creation in 1985, the Journal has seen an impressive development and readership numbers are ever increasing. Over time, it has developed into one of the leading journals in the field, publishing the newest discoveries in hepatology. EASL membership includes free access to the Journal of Hepatology.

During 2015 the Journal of Hepatology 2014's Impact Factor was released, it was an outstanding 11.336, making it the fastest growing and most consistently impactful hepatology publication globally in 2015.

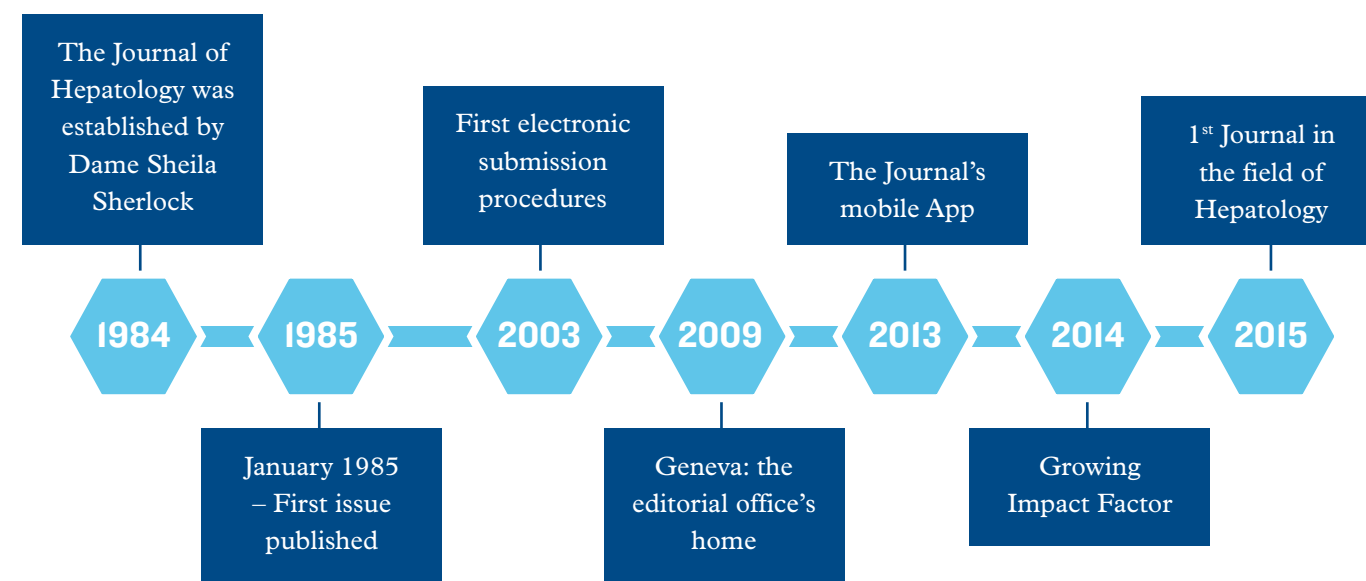
This is the highest Impact Factor that the Journal of Hepatology has achieved and marks EASL's commitment to providing the liver community with the most up-to-date work and data of the highest quality.

With this Impact Factor, the official journal of EASL is ranked 1st in the field of 'Hepatology' and 4th in the field of 'Gastroenterology and Hepatology' (source: Thomson® Scientific), which is a continued testament to the Journal's outstanding relevance in the field. The impact factor growth has been mirrored by the continuous increase in the number of submissions to the Journal and downloads from the different platforms where the Journal is hosted.

Two major landmarks for the Journal have been reached in the past year. On January 1st, 2015, a new editorial team, led by Professor Rajiv Jalan, took over the management of the Journal for a five-year term. As highlighted in his January 2016 editorial, the transition between the two teams was flawless, and has enabled several new initiatives to be successfully implemented. These include the press release program and the new section on Public health issues related to hepatology, among others. In addition, the Journal of Hepatology celebrated its 30th anniversary at the International Liver Congress™ 2015 in Vienna, with a special supplement "Emerging Trends in Hepatology".

The Journal website provides maximum visibility by way of a user-friendly, state-of-the-art hosting platform. The launch of a new app means that the Journal may now be accessed using smartphones as well as tablets and is compatible with both iOS and Android devices.

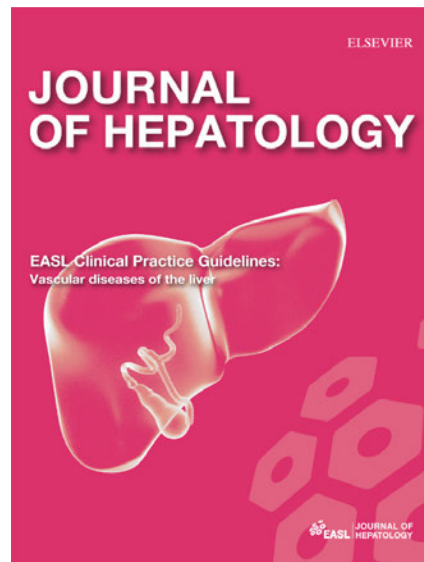
Celebrating 30 years



My vision for the Journal over the next five years is to build on the excellent progress it has made over these past years and try and improve its Impact Factor. As importantly, however, I will aim to retain the impressive readability of the journal, build further on the science it publishes, grow its geo-political influence, and allow better interaction with the general public and patients to allow improvement of the perception of liver disease.

Professor Rajiv Jalan

PUBLICATIONS



CPGs

The first EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) were released in October 2008, and are distributed via the Journal of Hepatology. They 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 2015 the Journal of Hepatology published the following EASL guidelines:

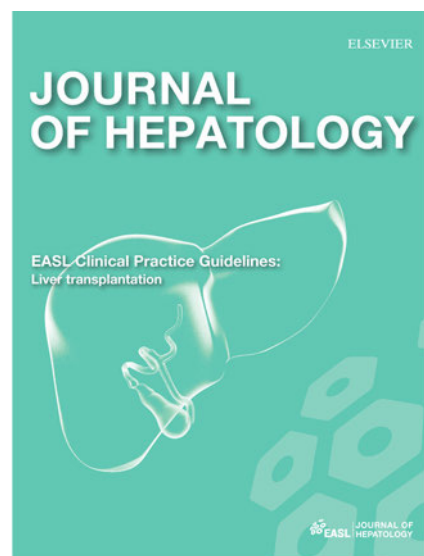
- EASL Recommendations on Treatment of Hepatitis C 2015
- EASL-ALEH Clinical Practice Guidelines: Non-invasive tests for evaluation of liver disease severity and prognosis
- EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines: Autoimmune hepatitis

In addition the following guidelines were released but will be published by the Journal of Hepatology in 2016:

- EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines: Liver transplantation
- EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines: Vascular diseases of the liver

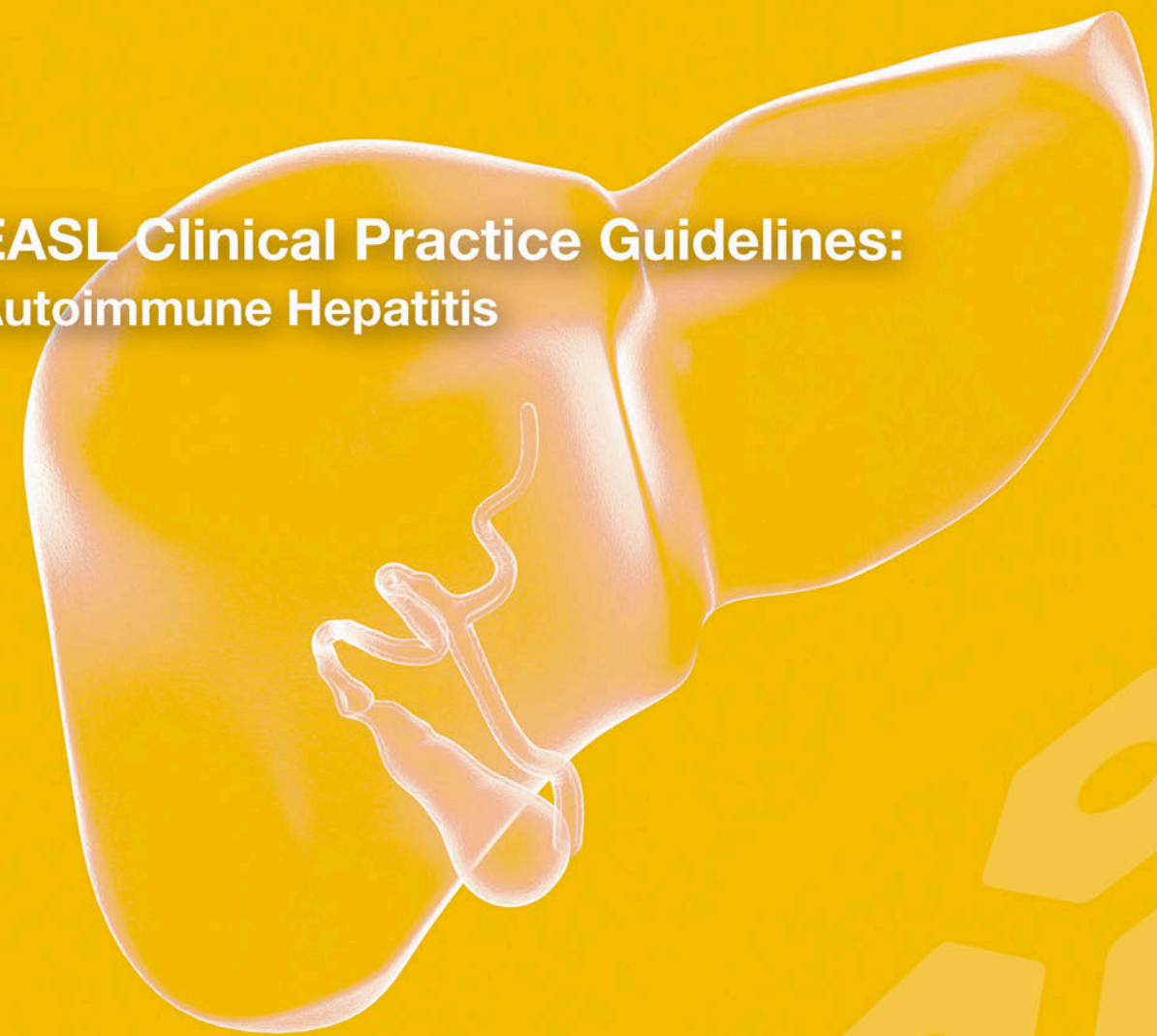
2016 EASL expects to release new guidelines on the following topics:

- EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines: Gallstone disease
- EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines: Benign liver tumors
- EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines: Acute liver failure
- EASL Recommendations on Treatment of Hepatitis C
- EASL–EASD–EASO Clinical Practice Guidelines: Management of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease



JOURNAL OF HEPATOLOGY

EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines: Autoimmune Hepatitis



EVENTS

The International Liver Congress™ 2015

The Congress has a scientific programme composed of

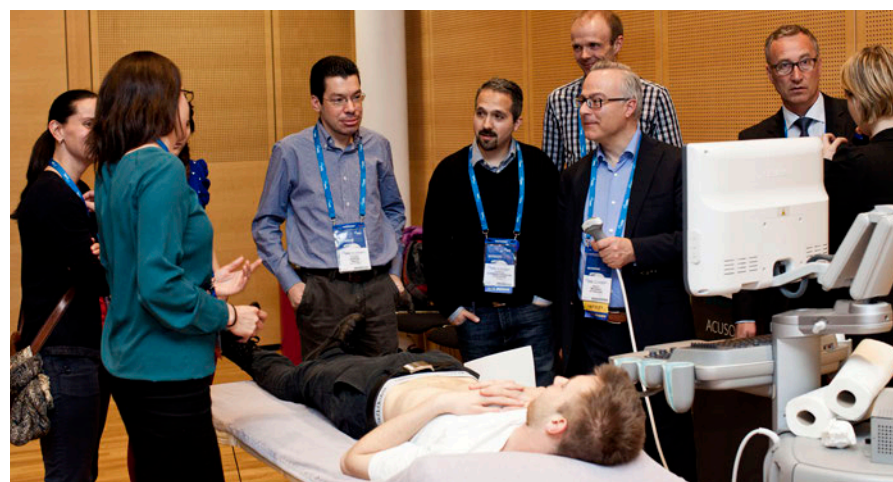
- 16 Joint Workshops
- 1 Postgraduate Course
- 1 Basics Science Seminar
- 1 Nurses & Associates Forum
- 1 EU Session
- 4 General Sessions
- 16 Parallel Sessions
- 3 Sonography Courses
- 29 Early Morning Workshop
- 2 State-of-the-Art Sessions
- 5 Grand Rounds
- 15 Symposia
- 1 Highlights from the Literature Session
- 1 Business Meeting
- 2 Young Investigator Sessions
- 1 New HCV Guidelines Session
- 1 Late breaker session
- 1 Liver endoscopy session
- 1 session for the 30th anniversary of the Journal of Hepatology
- 4 Hands on sessions on ultrasound
- 12 Oral eposter sessions
- 1 Fellowship and registry Grant session

The International Liver Congress™ is EASL's annual meeting for hepatologists. It takes place annually and unites hepatologists and those interested in the liver from all over the world.

The ILC 2015 scientific program exceeded expectations by covering a full spectrum within liver disease's clinical and basic research. Interesting new data were discussed and presented during outstanding sessions, as well as in the 14 Satellite Symposia. The clinical aspects of viral hepatitis were at the core of the scientific program with special focus on Hepatitis C; and several sessions were dedicated to epidemiology, prevention, screening and treatment of viral hepatitis. Liver fibrosis management was another key topic with several seminars on novel non-invasive methods that can reduce the need for liver biopsies in liver disease patients. Major topics within hepatocellular carcinoma, genetic and autoimmune liver diseases, alcoholic and non-alcoholic fatty liver diseases as well as primary biliary cirrhosis were covered by leading specialists and scientists in their respective fields.



According to EASL's post-event survey, 95% of delegates found the quality of the ILC 2015 scientific programme good or excellent, with 45.8% attending the Congress to learn about new developments, and 39% to attend scientific sessions.



10,127
DELEGATES



2,674
ABSTRACTS
SUBMITTED



770
YOUNG
INVESTIGATORS



366
SPEAKERS



124
COUNTRIES


TOP COUNTRIES


- 
- 1 USA
 - 2 GERMANY
 - 3 UNITED KINGDOM
 - 4 ITALY
 - 5 FRANCE
 - 6 SPAIN
 - 7 AUSTRIA
 - 8 CHINA
 - 9 BRAZIL
 - 10 SWITZERLAND

ABSTRACTS SUBMITTED FOR PRESENTATION AT THE ILC

 1966 = 45

 2002 = 500

 2012 = 2,395

 2015 = 2,674



EVENTS

Recognition Awards

The first EASL Recognition Awards ceremony was held during the 41st Annual Meeting in Vienna in 2006, the EASL Governing Board selected nominees and recipients received their awards in the presence of the liver community during the annual EASL meeting.

The two recipients perfectly illustrated the goals of the association in creating this new award: bright, active scientists who had provided major advances in science, knowledge, clinical care and teaching in their own field of expertise; and are recognised and admired worldwide for their accomplishments.

To this day, EASL is proud to continue to honour the men and women who write the history of Hepatology through presenting the EASL Recognition Awards.

In 2015, there were three recognition awardees: Prof. Roberto de Franchis, Prof. Dominique-Charles Valla and Prof. Shiv Kumar Sarin.



Young Investigators at The ILC



EASL encourages Young Investigators to be active in the field of Hepatology. A dedicated YI lounge located beside the EASL booth was allocated to Young Investigators to socialize and talk with members of the Young Investigator Concerted Action Group, 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.

The EASL YI Forum provided bursaries to the presenting authors of the best accepted abstracts supporting young fellows by helping them financially to attend The International Liver Congress™.

In 2015, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of EASL, the YI-CAG introduced a new annual award specifically dedicated for young fellows. Every year, the EASL Governing Board and YI-CAG will select YI awardees based on their international liver research achievements to-date.

Awardees were acknowledged during a General Session at The International Liver Congress™ in front of thousands of liver experts. They also presented their submitted abstract at the corresponding parallel session at the ILC. Additionally, awardees received a cash prize and were invited to publish a review in the Journal of Hepatology.

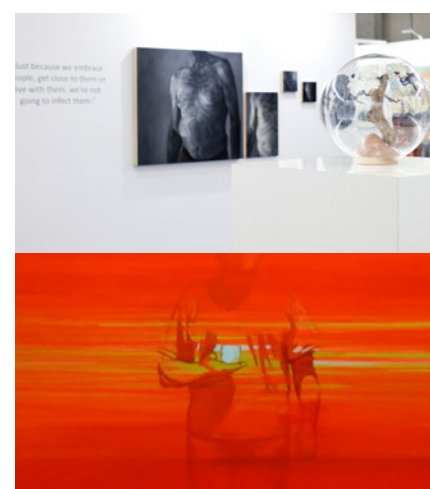


EVENTS

The Perspectives Project

Perspectives – Art, Liver Diseases and Me is a unique project that brings together patients affected by Hepatitis C and artists from various countries around the world to jointly create a series of paintings, sculptures, installations, photos, videos and other artistic expressions that creatively portray — and help others understand — the impact of the disease. Each artistic expression depicts a significant “moment of meaning” for the patient.

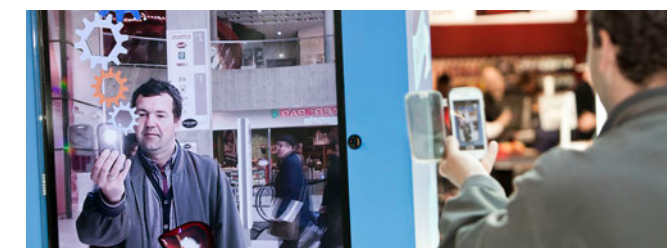
All art pieces have been created by artists who have had a deep conversation with HCV patients to capture the feelings and communicate the impact that the disease has in their life. The stories of these patients serve as a reminder of the need to better understand and collaborate to help improve standards of care in liver diseases such as Hepatitis C. The artistic expressions represent a “moment of meaning” of the HCV burden, stigma and hope, providing a unique perspective into the impact of these diseases.



Liver Works Campaign

The Liver Works was an awareness campaign that aimed to provide information about the science of the liver and liver diseases. To mark the launch of the campaign, Yellow People took to the streets of Vienna ahead of The International Liver Congress™ 2015.

To help better understand the liver and the role it plays in the body to the general public, an Augmented Reality mirror was placed in the centre of Vienna. The Augmented Reality mirror let the public see their liver superimposed on their body and interact with them as they moved, and provided interesting and engaging information about the role of the liver in the body.



EVENTS

National Associations Village

EASL continues to offer national associations an opportunity to promote their society, national activities and events during The International Liver Congress™. In 2015, the following associations attended to show just how active the Hepatology field is in different locations around the world:

Armenian Hepatology Association	AHA
Austrian Society of Gastroenterology & Hepatology	OEGGH
Association for the Study of the Liver, Dhaka, Bangladesh	ASLDB
British Liver Trust	British Liver Trust
Bulgarian Association for the Study of the Liver	BgASL
Danish Society for Gastroenterology and Hepatology	DSGH
German Association for the Study of the Liver	GASL
Hellenic Association for the Study of the Liver	HASL
International Liver Cancer Association	ILCA
Italian Association for the Study of the Liver	A.I.S.F & F.I.R.E
Mediterranean Association for Study of Liver	MASL
Polish Association for Study of Liver	PASL
The Portuguese Association for the Study of the Liver	APEF
Romanian Association for the Study of Liver	ARSF
Russian Scientific Liver Society	RSLs
Slovak Society of Hepatology	SHS
Spanish Association for the Study of the Liver	AEEH
Swiss Association for the Study of the Liver	SASL
Netherlands' Association for the Study of the Liver	NASL
Ukrainian Association for the Study of the Liver Disease	UASL



Special Conferences

End-stage liver disease: a multifaceted condition – Glasgow, September 25-27, 2015

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.

This Special Conference on end-stage liver disease was an exceptional occasion to gather experts and specialists from the fields of viral hepatitis, immunity, alcohol liver disease and NASH. The pathophysiology, treatment, cardinal manifestations in peripheral organs and the role of bacterial infections were addressed by top specialists. Interesting lectures on transplantation and the use of stem cells were also discussed.

 **8.54 /10**

SCIENTIFIC CONTENT

 **8.32 /10**

USEFULNESS OF EVENT
TO MY PRACTICE



EVENTS



Monothematic Conferences

EASL organises 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 promoting interaction between speakers and attendees. The programme is reviewed and approved by the EASL Educational Councillors and Governing Board.

Microbiota and non-alcoholic fatty liver diseases – Innsbruck, February 26-28 2015

 **91**
ABSTRACTS
SUBMITTED


 **8.66 /10**
USEFULNESS OF EVENT
TO MY PRACTICE


 **9.20 /10**
SCIENTIFIC
CONTENT

 **TESTIMONIAL**
“Excellent topic for a monothematic meeting.”

The world-wide exponential increase in metabolic syndromes such as diabetes and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) has increased the awareness about the importance in understanding the underlying mechanisms of these diseases. Attendees had a unique opportunity to explore and discuss the latest in the field of metabolic diseases in relation to the critical involvement of intestinal microbiota in metabolic inflammation with leading scientists and top experts. Topics such as the role of inflammation and the inflammasome, the gut and hepatic microbiota, type 2 diabetes, novel therapies for NASH and NAFLD were addressed.

Liver disease in resource-limited settings – Bucharest, May 28-30, 2015

 **50**
ABSTRACTS
SUBMITTED


 **8.38 /10**
USEFULNESS OF EVENT
TO MY PRACTICE

 **8.45 /10**
SCIENTIFIC
CONTENT

By organizing this monothematic in Bucharest, EASL aimed to gather specialists and experts in chronic liver disease, from academia to governmental agencies and NGO's in limited resources countries. Key topics such as hepatocellular carcinoma, alcoholic and non-alcoholic liver diseases, viral hepatitis diagnostic and treatment and liver transplantation in Eastern Europe were covered.

Autoimmune Hepatitis – London, September 4-5, 2015, co-organised with AASLD

 **65**
ABSTRACTS
SUBMITTED

 **8.38 /10**
USEFULNESS OF EVENT
TO MY PRACTICE

 **8.45 /10**
SCIENTIFIC
CONTENT

 **TESTIMONIAL**
“Excellent; Very well educational talk.”

The EASL-AASLD co-organised autoimmune hepatitis meeting gathered prestigious speakers and renowned experts within the fields of liver immunity, genetics and transplantation. Interesting aspects on the role of microRNA, gut-liver axis and parallels with type 1 diabetes were discussed. The research needs in autoimmune hepatitis were addressed in a roundtable session generating animated discussions and debates, and gave a unique opportunity for the attendees to interact with the specialists.



EVENTS



Schools of Hepatology

Every year EASL hosts three schools (2 clinical and 1 basic) for Young Investigators which provide teaching in an intimate environment to facilitate exchange between experts and trainees. 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.

Molecular biology and pathogenesis of hepatitis viruses – Lausanne, February 5-7, 2015

Despite the recent advances in understanding the molecular mechanisms of hepatitis virus infections and the development of new treatments, major challenges still remain in order to improve the clinical management of patients and basic science research. The molecular biology and pathogenesis of hepatitis viruses' school was an opportunity to review basic concepts and discuss the future challenges in this field. The attendees had the chance to learn about current and future tools and techniques to study hepatitis viruses in vitro and in vivo, virus-host interactions, as well as HCC associated pathogenesis of Hepatitis B and C from world-renowned experts.

Liver cirrhosis and complications – Moscow, June 5-6, 2015

Different aspects of liver cirrhosis complications were addressed during this school in Moscow. The mechanisms of disease progression and the various clinical manifestations including portal hypertension, renal, neurological and respiratory defects were addressed. Extensive discussions with leading experts on patient's management and nutrition as well as liver transplantation offered a unique opportunity for attendees to learn and debate on this complex disease.

Management of critically ill cirrhotic patients – Barcelona, October 22-23, 2015

Theoretical and practical sessions covering different types and pathogenesis of acute-on-chronic-liver failure (ACLF), variceal bleeding treatments, and acute kidney failure were held. Specific diagnostic and therapeutic algorithms in patients with ACLF were also discussed. The attendees also had the opportunity to become familiar with the latest techniques such as TIPS, albumin dialysis, and vasoactive treatment. This EASL School of Hepatology, organised by a prestigious and highly specialised liver intensive care unit, gave attendees a unique opportunity to learn from renowned experts.

“

Amazing opportunity to meet both specialists and YI, which enabled us to exchange experiences

”



“

Great opportunity to learn and practice

”

“

I find EASL schools very useful to learn quickly and gain important medical information, meet colleagues from other countries, and exchange information

”



EVENTS



Masterclass

The 2-day EASL Masterclass offers a combination of scientific content with training in other areas (i.e. presentation skills taught by a professional coach) offered in a workshop-style atmosphere. There were ample networking opportunities for Young Investigators and the Masterclass is a unique occasion to meet senior EASL experts and Key Opinion Leaders in the field of Hepatology.

Mezzana Bigli Pavia, December 3-5, 2015



58

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS



64% EXCELLENT

32% ABOVE AVERAGE

USEFULNESS OF EVENT TO MY PRACTICE



57% EXCELLENT

43% ABOVE AVERAGE

SCIENTIFIC CONTENT



TESTIMONIALS

“The interactive case discussions were really helpful.”

“The organisation was more than excellent! Congrats to EASL staff for their kindness and enthusiasm.”

The scientific sessions of this Masterclass focused on different topics such as viral hepatitis and metabolic and cholestatic liver diseases. Basic science seminars and workshops saw discussions on a range of interesting topics such as the use of betablockers in patients with advanced cirrhosis, or the treatment of HCV decompensated cirrhotic patients before or after transplantation, and provided attendees the opportunity to interact and network with renowned specialists.

Best of EASL

EASL has a strong tradition of producing top quality education and sharing the latest news and updates in Hepatology across the world. Nevertheless, financial, logistical and regulatory constraints often prevent qualified hepatologists from accessing all of EASL education and science offerings, especially when living and travelling from outside of Europe.

EASL wants to address this issue by strengthening its partnerships in Science and Education on a global scale. In an effort to expand its international reach, the Best of EASL envisions launching a new educational initiative aimed at delivering the best of its science to clinicians and scientists in key strategic locations from around the world. Pilot events were held in 2015 in Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and South Africa and will be extended to other regions of the world in 2016.



6th International Hepatitis Conference

Tehran, Iran 27-29 May, 2015



Singapore Hepatitis Conference

Singapore 5-6 June, 2015



ALEH/Chilean liver society meeting

Santiago, Chile 8-9 July, 2015



ASSA/SAGES Congress – Durban

South-Africa 7-10 August, 2015

The Best of EASL conferences were a great success for EASL as the scientific content was tailored to markets from a mix of the Post-Graduate Course and the best of The International Liver Congress™ 2015's content. EASL experts had the opportunity to share and connect with local professionals, and organizers acknowledged the personal involvement of EASL representatives. EASL was highly visible and recognized as “The Home of Hepatology”. The final evaluation results of the speakers, content, and format was excellent and all organizers expressed high interest in continuing and expanding collaboration in the future.



ETHICS COMMITTEE

The principle role of the Ethics Committee is to ensure the integrity of the EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines and of the EASL Governing Board.

The EASL Ethics Committee's role is to review and control the professional status of panel members involved in the creation of the EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines to eliminate the potential for real or perceived bias which might undermine the integrity of the guidelines.

The Ethics Committee consists of 5 members who are independent of the Governing Board members. Each year, one member must be nominated and unanimously approved and elected by the Ethics Committee members, and then ratified by the Business Meeting at the International Liver Congress™. He/she performs the role of the Chair. Members serve for a period of three years.

EASL Ethics Committee Chairperson	Italy (Chair)	Prof. Dr. Antonello Pietrangelo
EASL Ethics Committee Member	Spain	Prof. Rafael Bañares
EASL Ethics Committee Member	UK	Prof. Dr. David Jones
EASL Ethics Committee Member	France	Prof. Dominique-Charles Valla
EASL Ethics Committee Member	Finland	Prof. Helena Isoniemi

YOUNG INVESTIGATORS

Mentorship

The Mentorship Programme, launched in 2012, is a means of enhancing scientific exchange and personal developmental relationships in which a more experienced and knowledgeable hepatologist guides a Young Investigator through a crucial stage of their career path.

The Mentorship is a 12-month programme and entails informal face-to-face communication during a sustained period of time between the mentor and the mentee.

The programme is not simply about answering ad-hoc questions or providing occasional help: it is about forging a lasting relationship via continuous learning, dialogue, and challenges.

Mentoring is a process that involves communication and is relationship-based. It is a process enabling the informal transmission of knowledge and a means of support for the mentee that is relevant to work, career, and professional development.

The mentorship application platform is open from October 30 to November 30 each year.



Prof. Michael P. Manns, MD

Director of the Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Endocrinology at the Medical School of Hannover in Germany.

Research interests:

Viral hepatitis, autoimmune liver disease, hepatocellular carcinoma, liver transplantation, regenerative medicine, and cell therapy.



Prof. Dominique-Charles Valla

Professor of Hepatology at Université Paris Diderot and Hôpital Beaujon (APHP, Clichy), Paris, France.

Research interests:

Vascular diseases of the liver in adults



Dr. Jelena Martinov

Serbia



Dr. Georgiana Minzala

Romania

YOUNG INVESTIGATORS

Fellowships

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.

EASL supports up to 20 laureates each year, investing around €500,000 in post-doctorate, entry-level and short-term training. The physician-scientists fellowship programme enables practicing physician-scientists to take leave from their clinical duties for 6-12 months in order to pursue research in a research laboratory.

Every year EASL offers the following fellowship programmes:

2015 Post-Doctorate
€40,000 awarded (up to 3 fellowships)

2015 Entry Level
€30,000 awarded (up to 3 fellowships)

2015 Physician-Scientists
€60,000 awarded



Dr. Maria Paola
Italy



Dr. Paul Manka
Germany



Dr. Charikleia Kranidioti
Greece



Dr. Giusi Marron
Spain



Dr. Valerio Giannelli
Italy



Prof. Chavdar Pavlov
Russia



Dr. Gautam Mehta
UK



Dr. Andrea Telese
Italy



Dr. Richard Parker
UK



Dr. Manuel Rodriguez
Spain

2015 Andrew K. Burroughs Short-Term Training Fellowship

EASL financially supports a total annual grant of €24,000 (12 x €2,000 per month). This amount is divided between the total numbers of successful awardees, according to the length of fellowships requested by the applicants. The maximum length of each fellowship must not exceed 3 months. EASL offers two periods for short-term fellowship applications during the year.



Dr. Svenja Sydor
Germany



Dr. Iris Martinez-Quetglas
Spain



Dr. Tong Hoang
Germany

Testimonials by awardees from previous years

“ What I liked is the variable funding period. ”

“ A 6 months fellowship is easily compatible with the clinical curriculum and can be very useful to finish ongoing projects, to initialize new projects and to complete shorter projects. ”

“ This fellowship gave me the unique opportunity to carry out my PhD research on an excellent project in a top UK University. ”

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Registry Grant

Devoted to the liver and liver disease, 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 International Liver Congress™ in April when awarded projects are announced.

Head of the Consortium	Project Title	Affiliation
Dr. Aurélie Plessier	European Registry for Vascular Disorders of the Liver: The Valdireg Projects	Hopital Beaujon, Clichy, France
Prof. Christoph Schramm	Aid-Livernet Registry – Registry for the European Reference Network in Autoimmune Liver Disease	Department Of Medicine, University Medical Center Hamburg, Germany
Prof. Ellie Barnes	A European Repository of Patients with IgG4 Related Disease	Oxford University Oxford, United Kingdom
Dr. Heinz Zoller	Non-HFE Hemochromatosis Registry	Medical University Innsbruck, Austria
Dr. Quentin Mark Anstee	The European NAFLD Registry	The Institute of Cellular Medicine, The Medical School Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom

EU AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Opening of the Brussels Office

EASL took a big step forward in EU affairs when it opened a Brussels office in September 2015. With its location in the heart of the EU district, the new office facilitates dialogue between EASL and its EU-based partners, policy makers and Commission officials. EASL expanded its team to include two new posts on research and food and alcohol. The Science and Research Policy Officer is responsible for liaising with the Industry and Research Committee in the European Parliament and keeping EASL and its members up-to-date with the latest EU research news and funding opportunities. The Alcohol and Food Policy Officer advises EASL on strategy in this area and advocates for more encompassing EU policies. The EU team also works on viral hepatitis, other key liver diseases, trade and access to medicines.

Friends of the Liver MEP Interest Group

On 27th May 2015, EASL held an event in the European Parliament to re-launch the MEP Friends of the Liver Interest Group. Co-chaired by MEPs Dr. Cristian Silviu Busoi and Dr. Biljana Borzan the event highlighted the importance of the MEP group in light of the high burden of liver disease in Europe. Furthermore, it advocated for evidence-based policy measures that address alcohol- and obesity-related liver conditions. Future meetings will take place on a regular basis. These will serve to raise awareness of liver disease and gather support for liver research and prevention policies in the European Parliament.



EU AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Research Policy

2015 saw the first calls for proposals issued under the new EU research framework, Horizon 2020. The Brussels office was active in tracking these calls and supported three applications from EASL members on NAFLD and HCC. All three projects (EPoS, Carbalive and HEPCAR) were successful in their funding bids. This was a remarkable achievement given the overall success rate of 5-13% in H2020 and testament to the excellent science carried out.

EU officials from DG Research and DG Santé also spoke at The International Liver Congress™ in an EU policy session looking at EU research opportunities and viral hepatitis policy.

The Brussels office also actively followed the discussions on the draft EU regulation on data protection. EASL joined over 100 leading researchers as a co-signatory of a letter published in The Times calling for EP amendments that could have restricted clinical trial research to be overturned. On 16 December 2015, agreement was reached in Trilogue on the Data Protection Regulation with a positive outcome for research. EASL will closely monitor the implementation of the new EU rules.

Alcohol Policy

Alcohol policy continued to be a key focus of EASL's EU work in 2015. Working with other partners, EASL helped secure a European Parliament Resolution on alcohol in April. In June, EASL and almost 20 other health NGOs resigned from the European Alcohol and Health Forum in protest at the lack of action on alcohol harm from the new EU Commission. In November 2015, EASL participated in the 3rd Awareness Week on Alcohol-Related Harm (AWARH), an annual event co-organized with the European Liver Patients Association (ELPA) and several other NGOs. On 17 November, MEP Jytte Guteland hosted a meeting in the European Parliament calling upon the Commission to take a leadership role in addressing alcohol-related harm. The following day, EASL joined other NGOs to meet the new Director General of DG Santé with a view to discussing how they could re-engage with each other in constructive ways. On 20 November, the Luxembourgish Permanent Representation to the European Union hosted a breakfast meeting with Member State health attachés.

EDUCATION

EASL has been a pioneer in providing a full range of electronic educational tools, including The International Liver Congress™ webcasts, the LiverTree™ and iLiver platforms.

LiverTree™

The LiverTree™ offers the unique possibility to our members of creating, with a simple click and a few keywords, their own slide library from the full collections of slides presented at EASL meetings.

2015 saw LiverTree™ come into its own and become a trusted online education resource in the field of hepatology. LiverTree™ had over 22,000 unique visitors – this was an increase of 50% over the two previous years. Also on the rise was downloaded material, with 10,000 pieces of educational content downloaded from the site. However the greatest increase and biggest sign of learner engagement is that over 5,000 hours were spent by learners viewing content, marking a 73% increase over 2014.

LiverTree™ provided in 2015 alone more than 120 hours of webcasts from 5 different EASL meetings. More than 1,160 ePosters, and more than 4,800 indexed slides.

In addition to content the site itself underwent dramatic changes. We listen to our learners and simplified navigation and put countless hours into reprogramming and improving the search engine, making it faster and more robust than ever.



22,000
Unique visitors



22,000
Educational downloads



120 HOURS
of webcasts from 5 EASL meetings



MORE THAN 1,160
ePosters



MORE THAN 4,800
Indexed slides



EDUCATION

iLiver

The iLiver is a free smartphone app containing content that is fully approved by expert independent reviewers and EASL Governing Board representatives.

Once downloaded, it can be used without an internet connection, and is a helpful tool to use at patient bedside; a resource that provides up-to-date clinical recommendations and information in over 26 different areas of liver disease.

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 internal medicine specialists) around the world.

Community Portal

The EASL Community Portal was launched in 2015 as a way of providing hepatologists a platform to communicate and exchange ideas beyond The International Liver Congress™. This tool is meeting the challenge set by EASL in becoming The Home of Hepatology and together with the LiverTree™, EASL now has an online Home of Hepatology. The platform gives the ability for the first time to engage one-on-one with members and attendees, and in the future will give us the ability to bring the global field of hepatology together.

iLIVER

26

LIVER DISEASES



LAUNCHED IN
2012



4 LANGUAGES

Chinese, English, Russian
and Spanish



21,862

iOS DOWNLOADS



11,950

ANDROID DOWNLOADS



INSTANT MEDICAL INFORMATION

Written by experts, reviewed and approved by
EASL Governing Board

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

EASL is active across social media on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter, and produces a News Weekly, as well as a host of other information bulletins targeted precisely to hepatologists interests. 2015 saw a great number of increases on 2014 – which in itself was a success!

 **4,618**
FACEBOOK LIKES

 **3,493**
TWITTER FOLLOWERS

TWITTER VISITS PER MONTH

January	647	July	1,952
February	847	August	1,236
March	1,179	September	2,896
April	6,473	October	2,242
May	2,063	November	2,034
June	2,254	December	1,232

Source	2014	2015	% Change
Easl.eu (pageviews)	448,939	678,027	+51.03%
Easl.eu (sessions)	171,296	224,434	+33%
Ilc-congress.eu (pageviews)	12,147	17,633	+45.2%
Ilc-congress.eu (sessions)	4,728	7,158	+51.4%
Newsletters	c. 4,500/mth – 36%	c 4,500/mth – 41%	+5%
Special newsletters	32,610 – 19.7%	37,745 – 28%	+8.3%
Media Coverage	365	586	+60.5%



Report of the statutory auditor
to the General Meeting of
European Association for the Study of the Liver
Zurich

Report of the statutory auditor on the financial statements

As statutory auditor, we have audited the accompanying financial statements of European Association for the Study of the Liver, which comprise the balance sheet, income statement and notes, for the year ended 31 December 2015.

Board's responsibility

The Board is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of Swiss law and the association's articles of incorporation. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining an internal control system relevant to the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The Board is further responsible for selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Swiss law and Swiss Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers the internal control system relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control system. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015 comply with Swiss law and the association's articles of incorporation.

Other Matter

The annual accounts of European Association for the Study of the Liver for the year ended 31 December 2014 were audited by another auditor. The predecessor auditor issued an unmodified opinion dated 9 April 2015.

PricewaterhouseCoopers SA, avenue Giuseppe-Motta 50, case postale, CH-1211 Genève 2, Switzerland
Téléphone: +41 58 792 91 00, Téléfax: +41 58 792 91 10, www.pwc.ch

PricewaterhouseCoopers SA is a member of the global PricewaterhouseCoopers network of firms, each of which is a separate and independent legal entity.



Report on other legal requirements

We confirm that we meet the legal requirements on licensing according to the Auditor Oversight Act (AOA) and independence (article 69b paragraph 3 CC in connection with article 728 CO) and that there are no circumstances incompatible with our independence.

We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.

PricewaterhouseCoopers SA

Marc Secretan
Audit expert
Auditor in charge

Marcello Stimato
Audit expert

Geneva, 4 April 2016

Enclosure:

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

FINANCE

Balance Sheet

	2015 EUR	2014 EUR
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4'960'127	4'177'616
Accounts Receivables	1'948'643	367'902
Prepaid Expenses	1'042'344	555'628
Total Current Assets	7'951'114	5'101'146
Tenant's guarantee / Deposits	15'000	15'000
Investments securities	7'171'185	8'839'232
Investments associate company	123'590	123'590
Building	5'486'890	6'176'573
Equipment	195'148	114'866
Intangible Assets (iLiver App)	131'549	
Total Non-Current Assets	13'123'362	15'269'261
Total Assets	21'074'476	20'370'407
Mortgage loan	22'427	23'623
Accounts Payable	123'865	7'512
Accruals	1'449'247	949'851
Deferred Revenues	1'794'252	1'610'300
Total Current Liabilities	3'389'791	2'591'286
Mortgage loan	1'806'379	1'830'194
Finance Lease Liabilities	21'948	18'887
Total Non-Current Liabilities	1'828'328	1'849'081
General Funds	15'280'041	14'575'582
Funds for projects	215'911	650'000
Result for the Year	360'405	704'458
Currency translation adjustment Reserve	-	-
Total Reserve Funds	15'856'357	15'930'040
Total Liabilities and Reserve Funds	21'074'476	20'370'407

Income Statement for the year ended

	2015 EUR	2014 EUR
International Liver Congress	7'935'205	3'615'826
Membership	594'668	574'937
Journal of Hepatology	920'637	801'976
UEG support	57'143	57'143
Sponsors - unrestricted funds	754'000	750'000
Sponsors - restricted funds	550'000	-
Net Building Revenue	122'783	107'407
Other revenues	-	287'498
Net Revenues	10'934'436	6'194'787
International Liver Congress	-5'025'771	-831'972
Fellowships and Registry Grants	-600'559	-497'703
Small Conferences (Monothematic / Special Conference)	-479'763	-297'178
School of Hepatology	-173'968	-187'852
Journal of Hepatology	-275'209	-284'570
Personnel	-2'384'837	-1'538'696
Overheads	-252'901	-303'675
Building expenses	-70'446	-59'031
Depreciations	-696'640	-20'964
Consultancy and Audit Fees	-109'748	-280'290
Marketing and Communication	-111'780	-288'450
Booth and Promotion	-97'277	-91'358
Sponsored Meetings	-40'048	-51'496
GB Meetings and Honorarium	-226'824	-241'800
Clinical Practice guidelines (CPG's) and Committees	-29'479	-87'268
EU Advocacy/EU Policy and Public affairs	-320'263	-226'208
Education	-184'199	-114'478
Expenses for specific projects	-378'354	-
Other expenses	-170'569	-
Total Operating Expenses	-11'628'635	-5'402'989
Operating Result	-694'199	791,798

FINANCE

Income Statement for the year ended cont.

	2015 EUR	2014 EUR
Financial Income	224'007	275'019
Financial Expenses	-82'493	-71'524
Unrealized Financial Gain	24'123	398'054
Unrealized Financial Loss on Bonds	-172'245	-30'822
Foreign Exchange Gain	32'219	—
Foreign Exchange Loss	—	-8'067
Financial Result	24'611	562'660
Result before Exceptional Items	-669'588	1'354'458
Exceptional Income	612'864	—
Exceptional Expenses	-16'940	—
Net Result for the year before allocations	-73'664	1'354'458
Allocation to specific funds	—	-650'000
Use of specific funds	434'070	—
Net Result for the year after allocations	360'405	704'458

Funds for Projects

EUR 2015	THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY	SEPCIAL REGISTRY GRANTS	CPG'S TRANSLATIONS	BEST OF EASL PROGRAMME	SPONSORED EVENTS	TOTAL
Funds at 1 Jan 2015	300'000	100'000	150'000	50'000	50'000	650'000
Utilisation of Funds	-234'070	-100,000	—	-50'000	-50'000	434'070
Funds at 31 Dec 2015	65'930	0	150,000	0	0	215'930





WELCOME TO
THE YOUNG
INVESTIGATORS
LOUNGE

EASL Office

Phone: +41 22 807 03 60

Email: easloffice@easloffice.eu

www.easl.eu