



# EASL ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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[www.easl.eu](http://www.easl.eu)



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# INTRODUCTION

Dear colleagues,

These are very exciting times in the field of hepatology and in particular for the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL). EASL was founded 50 years ago as a society to promote and exchange science in the field of liver disease. Still today, this remains the most important task to EASL and the liver community. We are happy to witness exciting data presented at The International Liver Congress™ (ILC) that is also published in our Journal of Hepatology, regarded internationally as the premier Journal in hepatology.

EASL continues to promote research, not only through presentations at our annual congress, but also through an ever increasing number of Sheila Sherlock Fellowships for young investigators, including the Andrew K. Burroughs Short-Term Fellowships, and the Physician Scientist Fellowships, enabling clinicians to take time out of their clinical duties to devote more time to research. In 2014, for the first time ever, EASL funded 3 research projects through a new initiative - the EASL Registry Grant database project - a tremendous success measured by the number of applications received. This concept will continue in 2015 and beyond.

The International Liver Congress™ 2014, in London, attracted a record 10,800 delegates! EASL Special Conferences, Monothematic Conferences, and the EASL Schools of Hepatology are also growing year-on-year. The 2014 HCC Summit in Geneva combined the best of basic science and clinical research in one meeting.

In times of increasing competition for young doctors, EASL is dedicated to attracting the brightest brains to the field of hepatology by creating platforms designed to help those starting their careers. The Young Investigators Forum, Mentorship Programme, and EASL Masterclass are just some examples of the services on offer. EASL aims to provide our young and talented colleagues with the skills and contacts they need to succeed in this highly competitive field of liver disease research.

EASL understands that with shrinking resources and an ageing European population, public health issues are becoming increasingly important. This is why EASL now undertakes considerable efforts to work with the Commission and European Parliament not only to place greater emphasis on liver disease research, but also to draw more attention to the rather neglected field of chronic liver disease.

EASL has established a Public Health Concerted Action Group (CAG) and organises the “Friends of the Liver» Members of Parliament (MEP) group for a better outreach to Brussels with other eminent members of the European Parliament.

EASL has established strong links with our Eastern European members through a variety of initiatives;

- The creation of the Eastern European Concerted Action Group
- The first EASL Schools of Hepatology in Eastern Europe - that took place in November 2014 in Belgrade, and will be followed by a School in Moscow in 2015. The creation of Russian and Chinese versions of the iLiver smart phone app is anticipated for 2015
- A Russian version of the Journal of Hepatology will also be launched in January 2015.

Last but not least, the EASL Governing Board is eagerly working on several new and ground-breaking initiatives to lead Hepatology education and research into the future and I invite you to join EASL and become a part of these exciting developments in a very fast moving field. Together we can move Hepatology into a new direction throughout the world.

With best wishes for a prosperous 2015,

**Prof. Markus Peck-Radosavljevic**  
*Secretary General*



# 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 11 experts (the Secretary General, Vice-Secretary, Treasurer, 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 practice and the latest scientific knowledge on hepatology across the globe.



**Secretary General**

Prof. Markus Peck-Radosavljevic  
*Vienna, Austria*



**Vice-Secretary**

Dr. Laurent Castera  
*Paris, France*



**Treasurer**

Prof. Mauro Bernardi  
*Bologna, Italy*



**Scientific Committee member**

Dr. Alessio Aghemo  
*Milan, Italy*



**Scientific Committee member**

Tom Hemming Karlsen  
*Oslo, Norway*



**Scientific Committee member**

Dr. Helen Louise Reeves  
*Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK*



**Scientific Committee member**

Prof. Cecilia Rodrigues  
*Lisbon, Portugal*



**Scientific Committee member**

Frank Tacke  
*Aachen, Germany*



**Educational Councillor**

Jean-François Dufour  
*Bern, Switzerland*



**Educational Councillor**

Cihan Yurdaydin  
*Ankara, Turkey*



**EU Policy Councillor**

Patrizia Burra  
*Padua, Italy*

## EASL Executive Director's overview

Having successfully established the EASL Office headquarters in Geneva in 2013, this year's mission is to expand our dedicated team in order to have a group of professionals capable of managing a maximum number of activities and events in-house.

In the future, EASL aims to rely less on external parties, and plans to take over the organisation of many of the logistical aspects related to the services and products we offer. The biggest challenge will be to ensure that The International Liver Congress™ 2015 is a huge success and a time to celebrate 50 years of Hepatology.

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 the association for years to come.

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

**Grégoire Pavillon**  
*EASL Executive Director*



# EASL Mission and Vision

## EASL AIMS TO:

- Reduce the prevalence of liver disease worldwide
- Minimize the suffering of patients and prevent liver related deaths
- Promote clinical, basic and translational research
- Foster international scientific exchange
- Advise European health authorities on liver diseases, the provision of clinical services, and the need for research funding
- Raise public awareness of liver diseases and their management

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

## OUR MISSION

**EASL PROVIDES STATE-OF-THE-ART EDUCATION FOR PHYSICIANS AND SCIENTISTS**

**EASL FOSTERS PUBLIC AWARENESS OF LIVER DISEASES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT**

**EASL PROMOTES RESEARCH IN THE SCIENCE OF LIVER DISEASE (HEPATOLOGY)**

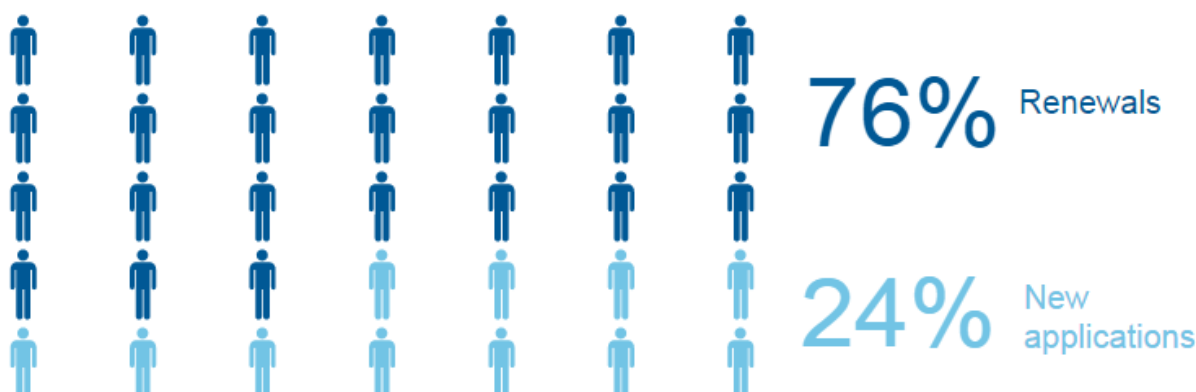
**EASL FACILITATES SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE AND CATALYSES EUROPEAN MULTI-CENTER CONTROLLED TRIALS**

**EASL SUPPORTS YOUNG INVESTIGATORS TO ENSURE THAT THE LIVER REMAINS AT THE FOREFRONT OF RESEARCH**

**EASL ACTS AS AN ADVISOR TO EUROPEAN HEALTH AUTHORITIES IN THE EU**

# EASL Membership

*EASL is a renowned community 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 4,000 members to-date.*



## BENEFITS

EASL members enjoy the following benefits:

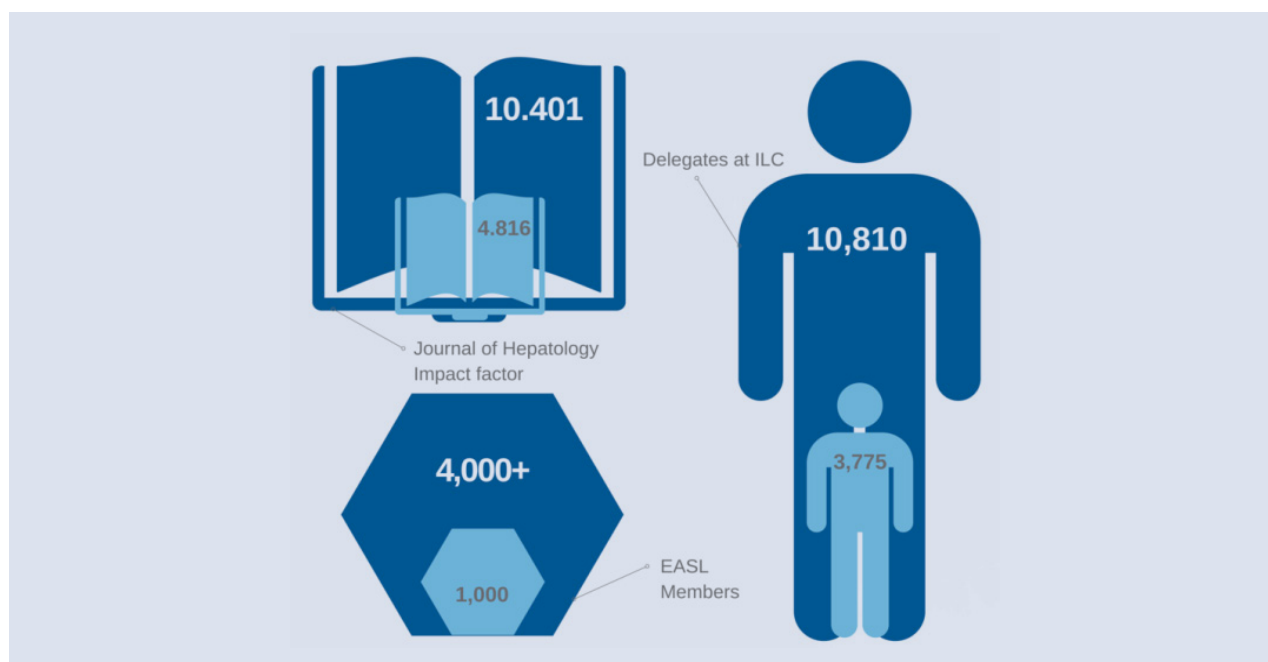
- Online access to the Journal of Hepatology
- Reduced fees to The International Liver Congress™ (ILC) and all EASL meetings
- Free access to the LiverTree™
- Possibility to host fellows as part of the EASL Fellowship programme
- Opportunity to organise EASL conferences
- Possibility to register to the EASL Mentorship programme
- Opportunity to host one of the EASL Schools of Hepatology
- Priority to register 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](http://www.easl.eu/discover/why-join-easl/become-a-member)



## FROM 2004 TO 2014



### MEMBERSHIP - TOP 10 COUNTRIES

**1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**2 UNITED KINGDOM**

**3 GERMANY**

**4 Italy**

**5 Spain**

**6 France**

**7 Switzerland**

**8 Australia**

**9 Netherlands**

**10 Egypt**

# The International Liver Congress™ (ILC)

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

## THE CONGRESS HAS A SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME COMPOSED OF

- 13 Joint Workshops
- 6 Postgraduate Courses
- 5 Basics science Seminars
- 2 Nurses & Associates Forum
- 17 Satellite Symposia
- 1 EU Session
- 4 General Sessions
- 19 Parallel Sessions
- 3 Sonography Courses
- 26 Early Morning Workshop
- 2 State-of-the-art Sessions
- 5 Grand Rounds
- 14 Symposia
- 1 Highlights from the Literature Session
- 1 Business Meeting
- 2 Young Investigator Sessions
- 1 New HCV Guidelines Session



## TOP 10 COUNTRIES FOR DELEGATES

1	USA
2	United Kingdom
3	Italy
4	Germany
5	France
6	Spain
7	China
8	Switzerland
9	Russia
10	Brazil

2014 figures showed a record high;  
Abstracts submitted: 2946 (including  
rejected abstracts: 1433)



**10'810**  
active participants



**124**  
countries

The 2014 Postgraduate Course was devoted to Viral Hepatitis. We are witnessing breath-taking advances in the field of hepatitis C that will finally allow for effective and safe treatment of all hepatitis C patients in the near future. This radical change in hepatitis C management will effectively force societies, clinicians, patient associations, and stakeholders to fight for the same common goal; access to treatment for all.

For hepatitis B, it is time to consolidate our understanding of the disease, its natural history, and management. In years to come, it is likely that renewed interest will be channeled towards hepatitis B, and we may also expect to see important progress in this disease.

The spectrum of viral hepatitis is not confined to hepatitis B and C, and important advances have either been observed, or are hoped for, in the not so distant future with regards to hepatitis D and E. While credit goes to the biopharma industry for better management options in hepatitis B and C, it is our task is to continue to raise awareness of these less frequently encountered hepatitides and to seek ways to cope with their burden.

## ILC 2014 IN LONDON ATTRACTED 10'810 PARTICIPANTS

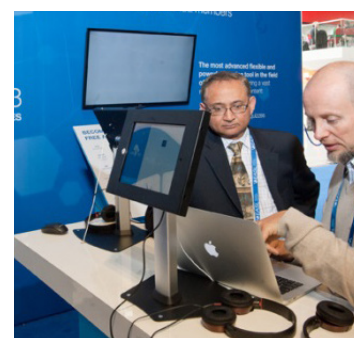


## LiverTree™

After a successful year, the EASL Liver Tree™ continues to grow as a dedicated online hepatology resource and ever-expanding e-learning portal.

This new educational platform centralises and organises thousands of educational materials published by EASL over the past eight years. It offers a wide range of educational content, including webcasts of selected EASL courses and conferences, accredited courses, eSeries, case studies, learning quizzes, video podcasts, documents, congress materials and much more.

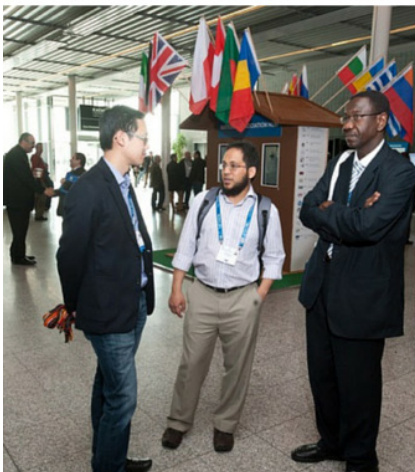
The LiverTree™ is a genuine breakthrough concept in online education that will change the way hepatologists query and retrieve accurate information from a wide-range of EASL lectures.



## 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 2014, the following associations attended to show just how active the Hepatology field is in different locations around the world:

COUNTRY	NAME
Armenia	Armenian Hepatological Forum
Bangladesh	Association for the Study of the Liver, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Bulgaria	Bulgarian Association for the Study of the Liver
France	Association Française pour l'Etude du Foie
Germany	German Association for the Study of the Liver
Greece	Hellenic Association for the Study of the Liver
Italy	Italian Association for the Study of the Liver
Mediterranean Association	Mediterranean Association for the Study of the Liver
Poland	Polish Association for the Study of the Liver
Romania	Romanian Association for the Study of the Liver
Russia	Russian Scientific Liver Society
South Korea	Korean Association for the Study of the Liver
Spain	Spanish Association for the Study of the Liver
Switzerland	Swiss Association for the Study of the Liver
Ukraine	Ukrainian Association for the Study of the Liver Disease
United Kingdom	British Liver Trust



## EVENTS FOR YOUNG INVESTIGATORS (FELLOWS UNDER 35 AND/OR THOSE STILL IN TRAINING)

EASL encourages Young Investigators to get involved and to become active in the field of Hepatology. At The International Liver Congress™ 2014 a dedicated ‘YI lounge’s located within the EASL booth was allocated to Young Investigators.



Attendees could 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 programme, upcoming Schools of Hepatology, and the Journal of Hepatology.

A Young Investigator Seminar held on Friday April 11, 2014 focused on Liver Disease in Pregnancy.

A State-of-the-art lecture introduced the cholestasis – mechanisms and their relevance to pregnancy, and was followed by complementary presentations on hypertension inducing liver disease in pregnancy and on viral hepatitis in pregnancy.

The EASLYI 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™.

## SOCIAL NETWORKING



Networking and exchange of knowledge are optimised at The International Liver Congress™ using cutting edge applications such as Q4U and Poken. Q4U, a sophisticated and focused Q&A platform, was implemented during the 2013 Postgraduate Course, and used again in 2014. 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.



Poken, facilitated networking with peers. Poken is a digital business card and briefcase; it allowed ILC 2014 participants to exchange business cards and collect documents with a simple touch.



# ILC 2014 Facts and Figures

YEAR	VENUE	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
2014	<b>London</b> <i>United Kingdom</i>	<b>10,810</b>
2013	Amsterdam <i>Netherlands</i>	9,212
2012	Barcelona <i>Spain</i>	9,417
2011	Berlin <i>Germany</i>	8,062
2010	Vienna <i>Austria</i>	7,602
2009	Copenhagen <i>Denmark</i>	7,017
2008	Milan <i>Italy</i>	7,480

## ILC 2014 PARTICIPANTS BY COUNTRY

The statistics provided show that EASL attracts more and more people overseas, confirming our position as 'The Home of Hepatology' with an international reach.

COUNTRY	PARTICIPANTS
<b>USA</b>	<b>1,325</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>1,197</b>
<b>Italy</b>	<b>659</b>
Germany	624
France	579
Spain	416
China	408
Switzerland	312
Russia	284
Brazil	284
Egypt	245
Belgium	198
Pakistan	197
Austria	193
Turkey	189
Canada	187
Australia	186
Romania	179
Netherlands	167
Poland	145
Japan	139
Greece	134
Sweden	127
Portugal	126
Argentina	125
India	121
Israel	119
Saudi Arabia	107

# Overview of 2014 Educational Activities

*Beyond its annual meeting, EASL organises a wide range of activities and key educational events in the field of hepatology. Every year, EASL hosts up to 3 Monothematic Conferences, 1 Special Conference, 2 Schools of Hepatology and 1 Masterclass. It also endorses other liver related conferences.*



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 2014, EASL organised two co-sponsored Special Conferences: one dedicated to Hepatitis C and the other on Optimal Management of Hepatitis B Virus Infection.

The Hepatitis C conference was co-organised with AASLD, the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and took place in New York, the United States of America from September 12-13, 2014.

The Special Conference on Optimal Management of Hepatitis B Virus Infection was co-sponsored by APASL, the Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver, and was hosted in Athens, Greece, from September 25-27, 2014.

The German one, on Molecular Pathogenesis and Translational Research in Liver Cancer had to be relocated to Geneva, Switzerland.

## **Primary Biliary Cirrhosis (PBC)**

*May 23-24, 2014, Milan, Italy*

The objectives of this event were to review current finding and address key open questions regarding PBC. The 143 participants came from 37 countries, and the top 10 attending countries were:

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. United States  | 6. Switzerland |
| 2. United Kingdom | 7. Germany     |
| 3. Italy          | 8. Slovakia    |
| 4. Netherlands    | 9. France      |
| 5. Japan          | 10. Turkey     |

## **THE OVERALL SATISFACTION OF THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME OF THIS CONFERENCE WAS EVALUATED BY COURSE ATTENDEES**



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 where interaction between speakers and attendees is highly encouraged. The programme is reviewed and approved by the EASL Educational Councillors and Governing Board.

In 2014, EASL planned two Monothematic Conferences in Germany and in Italy. The Italian one was on primary Biliary Cirrhosis (PBC) in Milan.

 **9.3/10 Excellent**  
Usefulness of this event to my practice

 **8.3/10 Excellent**  
quality of posters

 **9.3/10 Excellent**  
Scientific content of the event

 **9/10 Excellent**  
Quality of presentations

A brand new type of event was initiated in 2014 combining the best of basic science with clinical research.

This event named as the HCC Summit united a basic and clinical audience, covering two main topics: Molecular Pathogenesis and Translational Research in Liver Cancer and Liver Cancer Management.

**THE NEW CONCEPT WAS A SUCCESS AS 653 PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED FROM 54 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.**



**8.5/10 Excellent**

Usefulness of this event to my practice



**8/10 Excellent**

quality of posters



**8.8/10 Excellent**

Scientific content of the event



**8.6/10 Excellent**

Quality of presentations

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 Educational Councillors review all the applications and choose the course candidates primarily based on their dedication to hepatology and their age.

Competition for 30 places is fierce, and priority is given to registered EASL members. Courses are usually held in a medical institute, research center or university.

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.

In 2014, EASL organised the following Schools of Hepatology:

**The EASL Basic School of Hepatology on Epithelial Mesenchymal Interactions in Liver Development, Diseases and Cancer**

January 24-25, 2014, *Milan, Italy*



**5.5/10 Excellent**

Usefulness of this event to my practice



**6.3/10 Excellent**

quality of organisation



**8.2/10 Excellent**

Scientific content of the event



**5.5/10 Excellent**

Quality of presentations



The course focused on mechanisms that regulate the functional interactions between epithelial liver cells, in particular cholangiocytes, hepatic progenitor cells, and mesenchymal and inflammatory cells, such as macrophages.

The histogenesis and cell fate of epithelial and mesenchymal cells during liver repair is an area of current controversy and clarification of definitions and further experimental evidence, as well as a clear understanding of the available experimental models and their limitation is needed. Additionally, the prospects for therapy of chronic liver diseases and liver cancer based on the presented mechanism were discussed, taking into account new biotechnological advances.

- Provide a state-of-the-art, overview of the field, with particular emphasis on development, the spectrum of biliary diseases, liver repair, fibrosis and cancer
- Understand the different models, their relative advantages and limitations
- Highlight novel mechanistic insights
- Delineate future avenues of research on and interventions in biliary diseases
- Boost collaborative efforts

Provide a state-of-the-art, overview of the field, with particular emphasis on development, the spectrum of biliary diseases, liver repair, fibrosis and cancer

**The EASL Clinical School of Hepatology**  
 May 8-9, 2014, *Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

This course offered case discussions with the faculty on Cholestatic Disorders and covered:

- Primary biliary cirrhosis
- Histopathology of cholestatic diseases
- Genetic cholestasis
- Teaching sessions
- Primary sclerosing cholangitis
- Other hepatobiliary pathology
- New drugs and cholangiocarcinoma



**6.4/10 Excellent**

Usefulness of this event to my practice



**4.6/10 Excellent**

quality of organisation



**9.3/10 Excellent**

Scientific content of the event



**7.1/10 Excellent**

Quality of presentations

**The Clinico-Pathological EASL Clinical School of Hepatology on Liver Cirrhosis: A Systemic Disease**  
 November 28-29, 2014, *Belgrade, Serbia*

This course was held in the ‘white city’ described as where the Pannonian plain meets the Balkans. The location was symbolic for the school, whose primary objective was to provide training and education at the interface between the broad area of liver diseases and the peaks of medicine in its liver-related sub-specialties. As comprehensive care for patients with end-stage liver disease challenges professionals not only as hepatologists, but also as internists, it is important to discuss state-of-the-art management of cirrhotic patients reviewed from different perspectives.

In 2015, EASL will host 3 Schools of Hepatology:

**Molecular biology and pathogenesis of hepatitis viruses**  
**EASL Basic School of Hepatology, Course 10**  
 February 5-7, 2015, *Lausanne Switzerland*

**Liver cirrhosis and complications**  
**EASL Clinical School of Hepatology, Course 24**  
 June 5-6, 2015, *Moscow, Russia*

**Management of critically ill cirrhotic patients**  
**EASL Clinical School of Hepatology, Course 25**  
 October 22-23, 2015, *Barcelona, Spain*

Following the success of the 2013 Masterclass held in Bordeaux, France, EASL launched its second Masterclass in 2014. The course was held from December 11-13, in Champéry, Switzerland, and united fifteen faculty members and thirty-five Young Investigators.

The 2-day EASL Masterclass offers a combination of scientific content with training in other areas (i.e. presentation skills presented by a professional coach) offered in a workshop style atmosphere. Participants are given the possibility to give scientific/clinical presentations, and sessions are organised as “pro & con – open discussions.

There are ample networking opportunities for the Young Investigators and this is a unique occasion to meet senior EASL experts, Key Opinion Leaders (KOLs) in the field of Hepatology.

**THIS SECOND EASL MASTERCLASS WAS CONSTRUCTED AROUND 4 HOT TOPICS:**

- HCV – from bench to bedside
- Cirrhosis: a procoagulant VS. a prohemorrhagic condition
- Complications of liver cirrhosis
- Hepatology in the future

**The next EASL Masterclass will take place in Milan, Italy, from December 3-5, 2015**



**5.2/10 Excellent**

Usefulness of this event to my practice



**5.6/10 Excellent**

Scientific content of the event



**8/10 Excellent**

quality of organisation



**4.4/10 Excellent**

Quality of presentations

# EASL 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 establishing an ongoing relationship (continuous learning, dialogue, and challenge).

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.

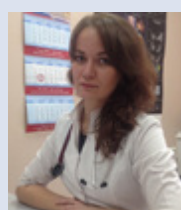
**In 2015, the Mentorship programme will continue with two new mentors:**

Prof. Michael P. Manns  
Prof. Dominique-Charles Valla

## 2014 MENTORS & MENTEES



Mentor Peter Ferenci is a Professor at the Medical University of Vienna in Austria. His special interests focus on chronic viral hepatitis, genetic liver diseases and hepatic encephalopathy.



*Prof. Ferenci is the mentor for:  
**Dr. Natalia Tikhonova***



Mentor Peter LM Jansen is a Professor at the Academic Medical Center of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

His special interests focus on holstatic and Metabolic Liver Disease.



*Prof. Jansen is the mentor for:  
**Dr. Alina Habic***

# Fellowship programmes

## EASL SHEILA SHERLOCK FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMES

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-doctoral, 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:

**POST-DOCTORATE** €40,000 awarded  
(up to 3 fellowships)

**ENTRY-LEVEL** €30,000 awarded  
(up to 3 fellowships)

**PHYSICIAN-SCIENTISTS** €60,000 awarded (1 six month fellowship €20,000 and 1 twelve month fellowship €40,000)

**ANDREW K. BURROUGHS SHORT-TERM TRAINING FELLOWSHIP** EASL financially supports a total yearly grant of €24,000 (12 x €2,000 per month). This amount is divided between the total number 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.

## 2014 POST-DOC RESEARCH



**Dr. Itziar Otano**  
*Spain*



**Dr. Mairene Coto-Llerena**  
*Spain*

## 2014 ENTRY LEVEL RESEARCH



**Dr. Johannie du Plessis**  
*South-Africa*



**Dr. Martina Gambato**  
*Italy*

## 2014 PHYSICIAN SCIENTIST FELLOWSHIP

### 12 MONTH PROGRAMME

### 6 MONTH PROGRAMME



**Dr. William Alazawi**  
*UK*



**Dr. Emmanuel Tsochatzis**  
*Greece*

## EASL Registry Grants



**Dr. Simon Schultze**  
*Switzerland*

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 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.

### 2014 AWARDEES



**Dr. Dinesh Mani Tripathi**  
*India*

Head of the Consortium	Project title	Affiliation
<b>Prof. Joost PH Drenth</b>	Polycystic liver disease (PLD) Registry	Department of gastroenterology and Hepatology, Radboudumc / The Netherlands
<b>Prof. Raoul J. Andrade</b>	Prospective European Drug-Induced Liver Injury Registry (Pro-Euro-DILI Registry)	IBIMA / Malaga University Hospital, University of Malaga / Spain
<b>Prof. Heiner Wedemeyer</b>	Hepatitis Delta International Network	Hannover Medical School / Germany

### 2014 ANDREW K. BURROUGHS SHORT-TERM TRAINING FELLOWSHIP

**Dr. Sara Cecarrelli**  
*Italy*

**Dr. Tom Gevers**  
*The Netherlands*

**Dr. Salvatore Piano**  
*Italy*

**Dr. Sidsel Stoej**  
*Denmark*

# Concerted Action Groups (CAG)

EASL has implemented Concerted Action Groups (CAG) to improve collaboration between basic and clinical scientists from 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 4 CONCERTED ACTION GROUPS TO-DATE:

1. **Basic Science CAG**
2. **Young Investigators CAG**
3. **Public Health CAG**
4. **Eastern Europe Focus Group**

## BASIC SCIENCE CAG

EASL GOVERNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVES  
Cecilia Rogrigues



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.

## YOUNG INVESTIGATORS CAG

EASL GOVERNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVES  
Laurent Castera

GROUP LEADER AND YI REPRESENTATIVE

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 scientist 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 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 iPhone and iPad 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
- Encourage existing members to renew and stay actively involved in EASL activities.



## **PUBLIC HEALTH CAG**

**EASL GOVERNING BOARD  
REPRESENTATIVE**  
Alessio Aghemo



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 ARE TO:**

- 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

## **EASTERN EUROPE FOCUS GROUP**

**EASL GOVERNING BOARD  
REPRESENTATIVE**  
Markus Peck



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 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.

## **EASL HAS IMPLEMENTED CONCERTED ACTION GROUPS (CAG) TO IMPROVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN BASIC AND CLINICAL SCIENTISTS**

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# EASL Educational Tools

## LiverTree™

EASL has continued to make progress in e-Learning by expanding its LiverTree™ library content throughout 2014. Since the launch of the LiverTree™ EASL has seen activity and engagement grow, and in 2014 there were over 800 users per month taking advantage of this unique EASL member benefit from all around the globe.



The LiverTree™ content continues to grow; to-date there are over 1,500 webcasts, 608 learning quizzes, almost 4000 ePosters, and access to the Journal of Hepatology articles now goes back thirty years!

Throughout 2014, retention and engagement also grew attracting up to almost eight return visits per user, indicating that this online resource is a valid source of information for the clinician and researcher alike.



## iLiver app

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.



**The app is available in English and Spanish, with Chinese and Russian versions scheduled for 2015.**



# The Journal of Hepatology

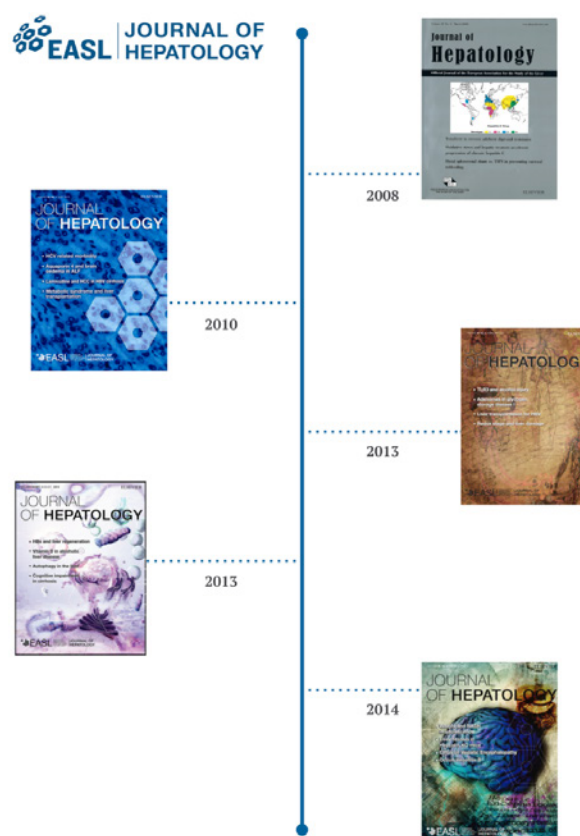
The Journal of Hepatology is the official Journal of EASL. Since its creation in 1985, the Journal has seen an impressive development and readership numbers are ever increasing. Over time, it has developed into one of the leading journals in the field, publishing the newest discoveries in hepatology.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

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

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.



2014 marks the last year of the current Editorial Team successfully lead the Editor-In-Chief, Professor Didier Samuel. At the International Liver Congress™ 2014 in London, Professor Rajiv Jalan was elected as the incoming Editor-in-Chief. The new Editorial Team will officially take over on January 1, 2015.

The Journal website is hosted on a user-friendly state-of-the-art platform which provides maximum visibility. The Journal has also gone social; we are now present on the major social networks such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Google+.

# EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines and Recommendations

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 2014 the AASLD/EASL joint guidelines on Hepatic encephalopathy in chronic liver disease were made available.

## 2015 RELEASES WILL INCLUDE:

- Non-invasive tests for evaluation of liver disease severity and prognosis
- Recommendations on treatment of Hepatitis C

# EASL Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee is an independent working group that does not form part of the EASL Governing Board. The Committee is composed of five members who serve for a period of three years.

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 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.

In addition, the Ethics Committee responds to complaints made by EASL members, governmental authorities or regulatory agencies about the conduct of any Governing Board member and members of any other EASL board or EASL representative. The Ethics Committee also decides on the guidelines related to the review of appointments to the Clinical Practice Guideline panels.

Candidate membership of the panels are firstly proposed by the EASL Governing Board then approved by the Ethics Committee according to the guidelines. Complementary information of the Ethics Committee role can be found on the EASL website: <http://www.easl.eu/discover/what-is-easl/easl-people/easl-ethics-committee>

## ETHICS COMMITTEE MEMBERS, 2014

**Dr. Didier Lebrech**, *France* (Chair)

**Prof. Dr. Vicente Arroyo**, *Spain*

**Prof. Dr. Dave Jones**, *UK* – joined in April 2014

**Prof. Dr. A. Pietrangelo**, *Italy* – joined in April 2014

**Prof. Dr. Tilman Sauerbruch**, *Germany*

# EASL EU and Public Affairs

## WHAT WE DO IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

EASL works at EU level in Brussels and at international level in Geneva to advance liver disease policy. Working in partnership with a range of other stakeholders including Members of the European Parliament, the European Commission and other health organisations our goal is to reduce the burden of liver disease in Europe by advocating for more research funding and effective prevention policies.

## ACTIVITIES IN 2014

In April 2014 EASL organised a side event on liver disease at the EU High Level Ministerial Conference on Chronic Disease in Brussels. EASL speakers and patient representatives addressed an audience of policy makers and other stakeholders on the liver disease burden in the EU and the need to find solutions.

In May, Stephen Hughes, the first Chair of the MEP Friends of the Liver Group, stepped down after almost 30 years as a Member of the European Parliament. Dr Cristian Silviu Busoi, a former member of the group, was re-elected to the Parliament and agreed to become the new Chair of the group.

In November 2014 EASL took part in the second Awareness Week on Alcohol Related Harm (AWARH). EASL Secretary-General, Prof. Markus Peck, took part in a European Parliament hearing, co-chaired by Cristian Busoi and Nessa Childers, MEPs, and attended by the new EU Health Commissioner. Later in the week, Prof. Patrizia Burra, the EASL EU Councillor spoke about alcohol research needs at the EURO CARE conference.



Alongside AWARH, EASL campaigned in the final quarter of 2014 with other partners for a European Parliament Written Resolution calling on the European Commission to renew the EU Alcohol Strategy.

Finally, as part of its work on the strategic business plan, in September 2014 the Governing Board adopted new priorities for advocacy over the period 2015 to 2018.

## THESE ARE:

1. EU science and research policy
2. Viral hepatitis, NAFLD and liver cancer
3. Food and alcohol
4. Access to treatment



In order to support this work, the Governing Board decided to open a Brussels office and recruit staff in 2015.

EASL looks forward to working with its existing and new partners in 2015 to further our mission of beating liver disease.

**EASL CONCLUDED A SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF ADVOCACY WITH THE LONG-AWAITED LAUNCH OF ITS RESEARCH ROADMAP, HEPAMAP, IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN BRUSSELS ON 10 DECEMBER.**

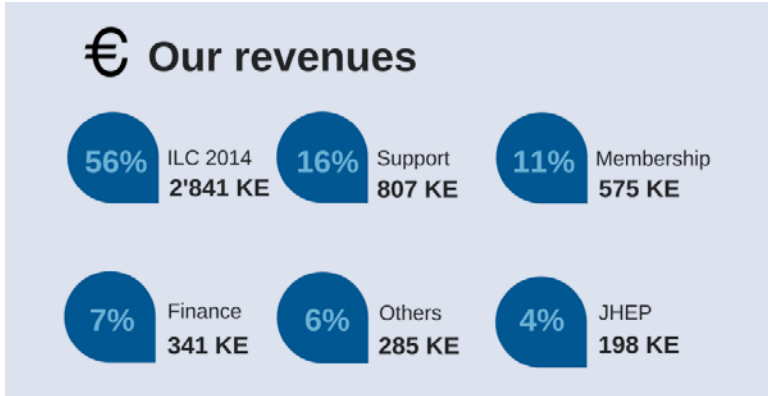
# Communications and outreach

*EASL continues to assimilate social media into its communication strategy, and now connects to the Hepatology community via the EASL Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube. These channels complement the EASL website - [www.easl.eu](http://www.easl.eu) where all information related to the association, its services and events can be found.*

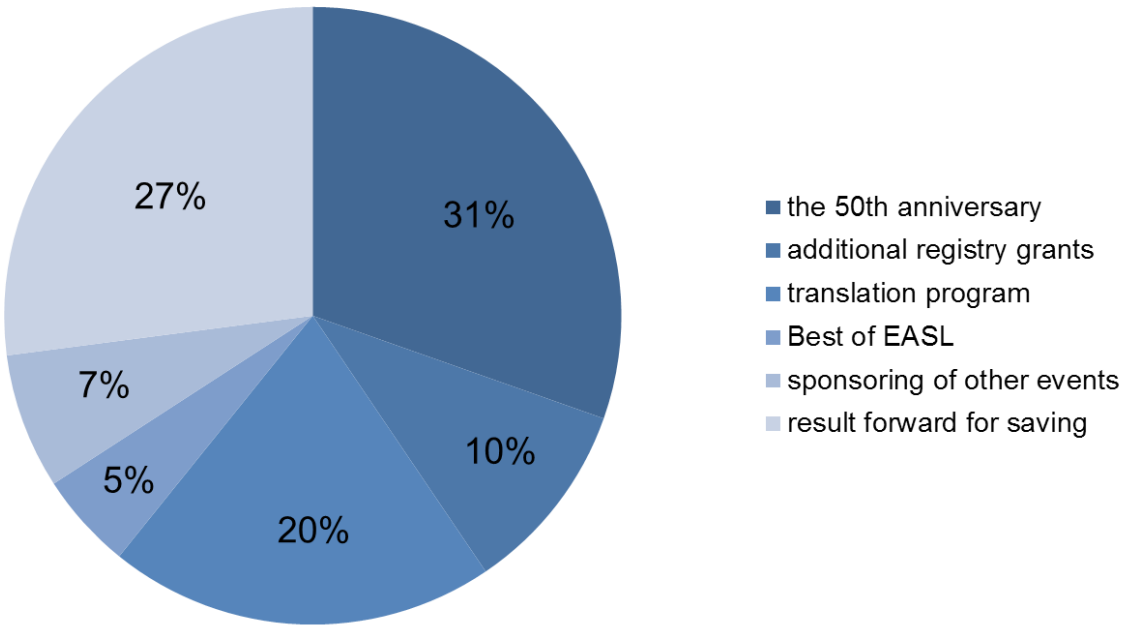


# Financial Report 2014 by the EASL Treasurer

As shown, the main sources of income for 2014 were represented by The International Liver Congress™ revenue (ffi 56%) and the unrestricted support from EASL Premium Sponsors (ffi 16%); EASL memberships accounted for ffi 11%.



## Budget Surplus 2014



# Auditor's Report of the European Association for the Study of the Liver 2014

Balance sheet as of 31st December 2014

	2014	2013
	EUR	EUR
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	6'224	2'755
Working accounts banks	4'186'392	5'007'912
Investment deposit	8'962'821	8'200'829
Accounts receivable & Accrued Assets	842'253	387'152
Withholding tax	1'949	1'949
VAT receivable	79'329	24'710
Computer	0	7'085
Building furnitures	114'865	120'868
Building furnitures	6'176'573	6'176'573
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>20'370'405</b>	<b>19'929'833</b>
<b>Liabilities and shareholders' equity</b>		
Mortgage	1'872'703	1'863'068
Accrued liabilities Expenses	1'026'043	1'286'837
Accrued liabilities Membership	327'241	287'338
Accrued liabilities Journal	0	165'000
Accrued liabilities Sponsors	0	0
Accrued liabilities Congress	1'214'377	1'752'009
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>4'440'364</b>	<b>5'354'251</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Capital contribution	1'842'618	1'842'618
Result brought forward	12'732'964	12'210'222
Result for the period	1'354'459	522'742
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>15'930'041</b>	<b>14'575'582</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>20'370'405</b>	<b>19'929'833</b>

Profit and Loss account for the period from 1st January to 31st December	2014	2013
	EUR	EUR
<b>REVENUES FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S ACTIVITIES</b>		
Congress Revenue	3'615'826	2'218'702
Membership Revenue	574'963	529'713
Journal of Hepatology	801'976	309'419
Support from Compagnies	750'000	998'630
Support from UEGW	57'143	57'143
<b>Total Revenues from the association's activities</b>	<b>5'799'881</b>	<b>4'113'606</b>
<b>Financial Revenues and Costs</b>		
Financial Revenue	275'019	275'466
Financial charges	-71'588	-25'841
Unrealized financial gain	398'054	73'597
Unrealized investment loss	-30'822	-196'256
Building income	107'407	68'090
Exchange difference	-7'176	-11'986
Other income	288'286	174'847
<b>Net financial income</b>	<b>959'179</b>	<b>357'917</b>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>6'759'060</b>	<b>4'471'523</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
EASL Congress & Conferences	1'126'182	542'317
Schools of Hepatology	187'852	122'241
GB Honorarium & GB Secretariat	123'305	125'200
GB Meetings	118'495	118'103
Professional consultatns (Lawyer, accountant, audit,...)	75'064	138'030
Sister Societies Meetings & Promotion	91'358	103'521
Endorsed sponsored Meetings	51'495	52'543
Sponsor and commercial relationship	3'797	0
Concerted Action Groups	12'325	7'472
Business plan	205'226	65'738
Press Agency	0	60'801
Clinical Practice Guidelines	74'942	15'217
EU Policy Activities / EU Public Affairs	226'207	293'191
Fellowships	344'087	422'835
Mentorship	3'594	3'430
EASL Registry Grant	150'022	0
Communication & E-Tools	402'927	154'732
Journal of Hepatology	284'570	306'167
EASL Office	1'864'123	1'160'491
Building charges	59'031	217'918
VAT	0	38'833
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5'404'601</b>	<b>3'948'781</b>
<b>RESULT FOR THE PERIOD</b>	<b>1'354'459</b>	<b>522'742</b>



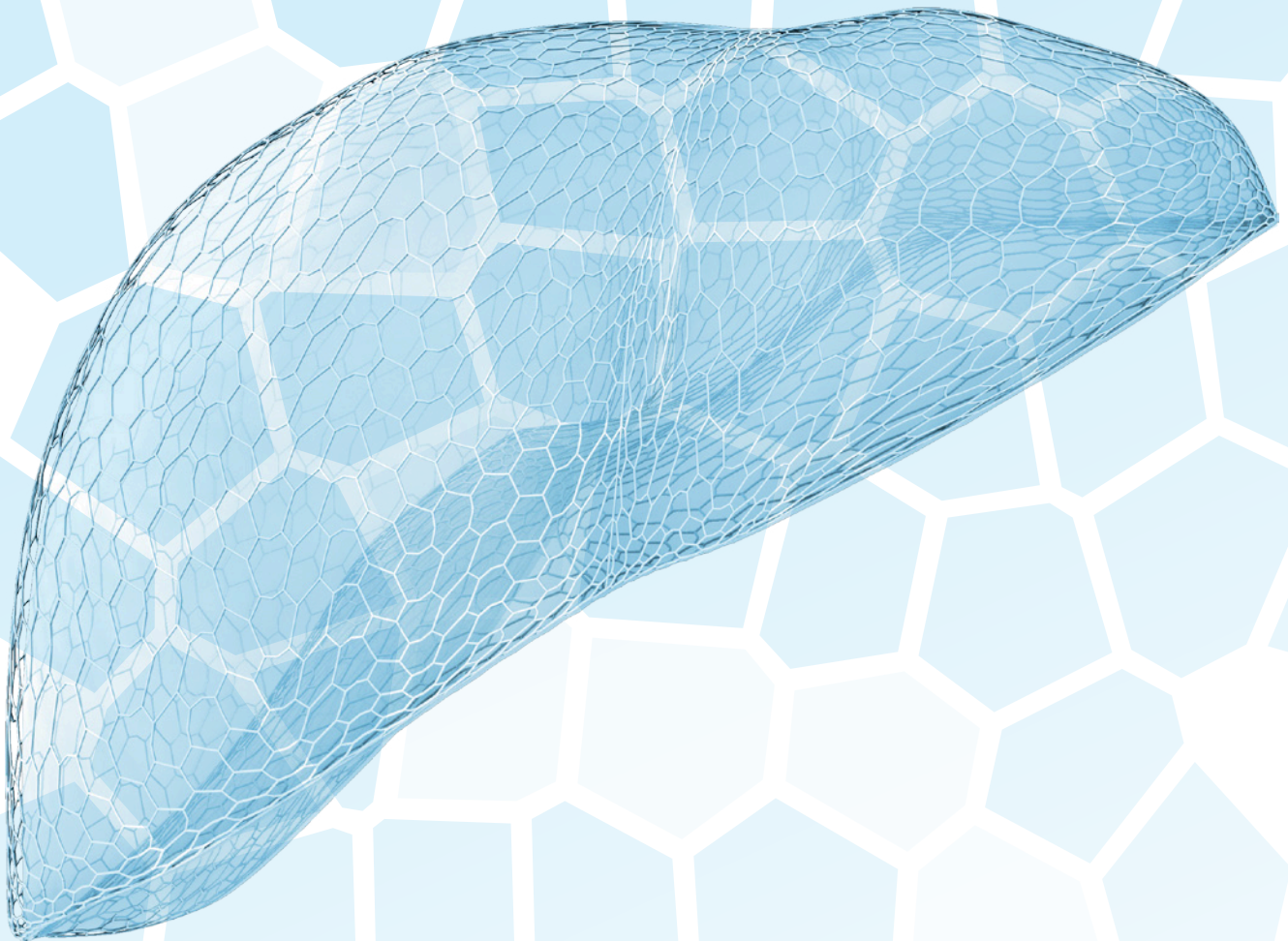
**EASL**

The Home of Hepatology

**THE INTERNATIONAL  
LIVER CONGRESS™**

APRIL 13-17, BARCELONA, SPAIN

**2016**



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