

**EASL**<sup>TM</sup>

The Home of Hepatology

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# **ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the outputs and outcomes achieved by EASL during the year 2017 related to the overall objectives of the EASL Mission and Vision.

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# 1

## NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND VICE-SECRETARY



EASL remains at the forefront of hepatology with its annual meeting, The International Liver Congress™ (ILC). At ILC 2017 in Amsterdam, over 9,000 experts in hepatology, infectious medicine, gastroenterology, surgery and a broad range of other medical specialties, and nurses attended from 124 different countries from all over the globe to listen to the latest liver research. More than 2,500 authors submitted abstracts from their scientific work to the congress, of which approximately 60% was selected following rigorous peer-review (each abstract is reviewed by 4 independent reviewers). The congress also harbours a rich educational programme, covering all areas of liver disease, as well as an

increasing number of interactive sessions to foster academic and clinical advances. Alongside our flagship meeting, the Journal of Hepatology remains at the top tier of journals in gastroenterology, with a steady impact factor around 12.5. The Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) remain, without a doubt, one of the most important communications from of our association. Over the past eight years, EASL has published over 25 CPGs, including four in 2017; The role of endoscopy in primary sclerosing cholangitis, the diagnosis and management of patients with primary biliary cholangitis, the management of hepatitis B virus infection, the management of acute (fulminant) liver failure. However, beside these well-known pillars

of EASL programming, the 2017 calendar was full of other EASL activities, including:

- February 2017 - a basic school in liver immunology, now including an emphasis on hands-on practical training
- February 2017 – the now annual HCC summit, becoming a leading “melting pot” for science and education in liver oncology
- June 2017 - a monothematic conference on cholangiocytes in health and disease: from basic science to novel treatments, a huge success demonstrating the growing relevance of rare liver diseases
- September 2017 – a joint EASL-AASLD meeting on definition, therapeutic advances and clinical endpoints in alcoholic liver disease and alcoholic hepatitis – one of a series of meetings to be run together with AASLD to cover the need for debate and consensus on aspects related to drug development in evolving areas of hepatology
- November 2017 - the first of an annual series of NAFLD summits, to foster one of the major emerging topics in hepatology along the successful model of the HCC summit
- November 2017 - a clinical school of hepatology on controversies in end-stage liver disease, built along the much revised “flipped classroom” model of EASL educational events
- December 2017 – the first EASL-AASLD joint masterclass, established to nurture development and networking amongst emerging leaders in hepatology in both Europe and the USA.

EASL also tries to foster and enhance our sub-communities and aims to involve through endorsement and recommendation to other liver-related meetings. In 2017 a total of 15 events were supported in this way. EASL also sponsored three non-EASL events.

Importantly, EASL will continue to promote research and mobility for young investigators through a wide range of fellowships and mentorship, now including a major enhancement of existing offers. All fellowships were revised throughout 2017 and now include an increased level of funding as well as a stronger affiliation with host institutions who currently oversee the financial management. The three revised individual fellowship programmes on offer are:

- Juan Rodes Ph.D. Studentships
- Sheila Sherlock Post-Graduate Fellowships
- Andrew K. Burroughs Short-Term Fellowships

Successful EU applications in the liver research area has been a major emphasis of EASL and was part of the motivation for EASL establishing a Brussels office in 2015. EASL now offers not only financial support, but also active project engagement as to the communication and dissemination packages inherent to such applications. Furthermore, to foster the monitoring of developments in hepatology and establish base-line natural-history data for a variety of understudied conditions, EASL will continue to grow its registry grants programme, which has become hugely popular with a total of 14 registries funded over the last 4 years.

Despite its growth and success, EASL does not rest on its laurels. The landscape of hepatology is changing, with the HCV field becoming more public health oriented, and major developments toward new drugs in non-alcoholic liver disease, HCC and rare liver disease. EASL wants not only to react to these developments, but to serve as a driver for research, education and development of multidisciplinary health care delivery models in these areas. To accomplish this, EASL will continue to develop its programming, covering these emerging areas in new ways, also accounting for the enhanced digitization of communication and education. The complementary body to EASL, the EASL International Liver Foundation (EILF), chaired by Professor Massimo Colombo, will assist in these developments, covering more complex programmatic areas (e.g. viral hepatitis elimination capacity building, raising public awareness on liver diseases and more complex liver research funding schemes).

EASL continues to strengthen its partnerships on a global scale with other major players, most notably so with sister societies such as AASLD, ALEH and APASL. However, entering into areas related to policy and public health, it is also becoming important for EASL to engage at the national and local level, and an increased outreach in terms of collaborations with national societies and topic-specific consortia. Furthermore, our engagement with governmental agencies (e.g. WHO, CDC, EMA and FDA) becomes important for the substantiation of our efforts. EASL wants to continue this development, ensuring the continued relevance of face-to-face meetings and the ILC in an area of otherwise growing electronic communications and platforms.

EASL aims to give back to the community and our almost 4,500 members as much as possible, and all input and comments are most welcome. Sharing science and best practice is at the centrepiece of the ILC.

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

**Prof. Tom Hemming Karlsen**  
Secretary General, EASL

**Prof. Frank Tacke**  
Vice-Secretary, EASL

# 2 EASL GOVERNANCE

## A. OUR MISSION

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

While the roots of the association were founded in Europe in 1966, EASL continues to engage globally with all stakeholders in the liver field wherever they are based, in the aim to spread knowledge and expertise in best practices and the latest scientific breakthroughs in hepatology.

EASL's mission is to be the home of hepatology so that all who are involved with treating liver disease can realise their full potential to cure and prevent it.

The purpose of the association is to promote communication between European workers

interested in the liver and its disorders. In particular, the association shall:

1. Promote research concerning the liver.
2. Promote education of physicians, scientists and public awareness of liver diseases and their management.
3. Act as an advisor to European and national health authorities concerning liver diseases, provision of clinical services and the need for research funding.
4. Foster European multicentre controlled trials.
5. Facilitate scientific exchange.
6. Facilitate participation of young investigators at its meetings.

## B. GOVERNING BOARD

The EASL Governing Board is composed of 12 members; 11 scientific experts and the Executive Director of EASL. The EASL Governing Board is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in hepatology, liver research and the clinical practice of liver disorders.

The Governing Board has the following duties:

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



**SECRETARY GENERAL**  
PROF. TOM HEMMING KARLSEN  
Oslo, Norway



**VICE-SECRETARY**  
PROF. FRANK TACKE  
Aachen, Germany



**TREASURER**  
PROF. MAURO BERNARDI  
Bologna, Italy



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
GREGOIRE PAVILLON  
Aclens, Switzerland



**EU POLICY COUNCILLOR**  
PROF. HELENA CORTEZ-PINTO  
Lisbon, Portugal



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**  
PROF. ANNALISA BERZIGOTTI  
Bern, Switzerland



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**  
PROF. MARKUS CORNBERG  
Hannover, Germany



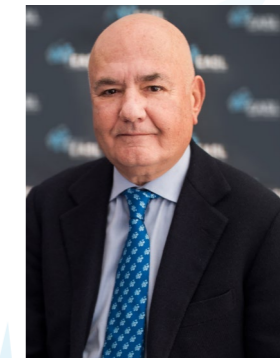
**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**  
DR ALEJANDRO FORNER  
Barcelona, Spain



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**  
PROF. MARCO MARZIANI  
Ancona, Italy



**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**  
PROF. PHILIP N. NEWSOME  
Birmingham, UK



**EDUCATIONAL COUNCILLOR**  
PROF. MASSIMO PINZANI  
London, UK



**EDUCATIONAL COUNCILLOR**  
PROF. FRANCESCO NEGRO  
Geneva, Switzerland



EASL Governing Board, Geneva

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

## C. ETHICS COMMITTEE

The principal role of the Ethics Committee is to support the Governing Board to promote the highest standards of ethics in the field of hepatology and educate members on ethical issues. These tasks are accomplished by proposing and administering conflict of interest policies to the EASL Governing Board, Journal of Hepatology Editors and Editorial Board, the Executive Director as well as members of EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines panels, EASL committees and task forces, consultants, faculty, and others acting on behalf of EASL.

In addition, the Ethics Committee will review the disclosures of financial or non-financial relationships (hereafter referred to as “disclosures”), which potentially lead to conflicts of interest among the candidates for the panels charged with authoring EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines, to eliminate the potential for real or perceived bias which might undermine the integrity of the guidelines.

Furthermore, the Ethics Committee will respond 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 consists of five members who are independent from the Governing Board membership. One member, elected by the Ethics Committee, performs the role of the chair. Members are proposed by the Ethics Committee for approval by the Business Meeting. Each member serves for three years.

The Ethics Committee tables guidelines for avoidance of conflicts of interest by the EASL leadership, assesses eligibility of Clinical Practice Guideline panels and monitors adherence to the code of conduct. Candidate membership of the panels is proposed by the Governing Board.

<b>EASL ETHICS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON</b>	Prof. Geoffrey M. Dusheiko	UK
<b>EASL ETHICS COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	Prof. Rafael Bañares	Spain
	Prof. Helena Isoniemi	Finland
	Prof. Dominique-Charles Valla	France
	Prof. Christian Trautwein	Germany

## D. CONCERTED ACTION GROUPS

The EASL Concerted Action Groups (CAGs) were implemented to improve collaboration between scientists from a range of disciplines sharing common specialist interests.

To date, there are four EASL CAGs and one Focus Group:

<b>BASIC SCIENCE CAG</b>
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH CAG</b>
<b>YOUNG INVESTIGATORS CAG</b>
<b>NURSE CAG</b>
<b>EASTERN EUROPE FOCUS GROUP</b>

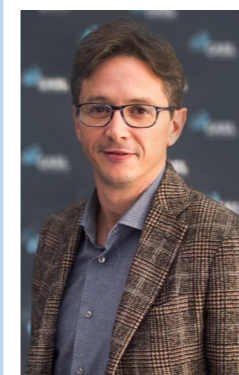
## i. BASIC SCIENCE CAG

The Basic Science CAG acts as an advisory group to the EASL Governing Board. The group is comprised of basic scientists who work in various fields and disciplines that are of interest to the hepatology community.

It aims to:

- Provide advice to the EASL Governing Board on “hot” new developments/topics in basic science
- Help design relevant content for various events such as the Basic Science Seminar during The International Liver Congress™, Basic Science Schools of Hepatology and

- Monothematic Conferences
- Review the programmes for the Basic Science Seminar, Schools of Hepatology and Monothematic Conferences
- Promote interaction between clinical researchers and basic scientists with common interests in different aspects of liver biology and disease
- Make the latest technological developments in molecular analysis accessible to clinical researchers
- Foster interaction between clinical researchers and basic scientists.



### EASL GOVERNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Marco Marzioni Italy

Basic Science Concerted Action Group members:

Matias Avila	Spain
Sabine Colnot	France
Fernando Corrales	Spain
Robert Eferl	Austria
Jose Carlos Fernandez-Checa	Spain
Jane McKeating	United Kingdom
Catherine Postic	France
Cecilia Rodrigues	Portugal
Gisa Tiegs	Germany

## ii. PUBLIC HEALTH CAG

The Public Health 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.

It aims 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 organisation 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.



### EASL GOVERNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Francesco Negro Switzerland

Public Health Concerted Action Group Members:

Alessio Aghemo	Italy
Patrizia Burra	Italy
Massimo Colombo	Italy
Helena Cortez-Pinto	Portugal
Olav Dalgard	Norway
Jeffrey Lazarus	Denmark
Ansgar Lohse	Germany
Nick Sheron	United Kingdom
Marieta Simonova	Bulgaria

### iii. YOUNG INVESTIGATORS CAG

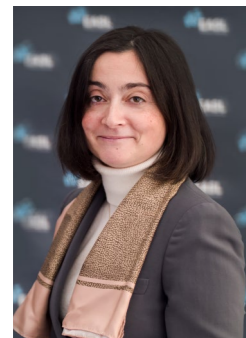
The Young Investigators CAG works on the diverse programmes offered to Young Investigators during The International Liver Congress™, notably the Young Investigator Forum and Young Investigator Seminar.

It aims to:

- Build an active and dynamic community of Young Investigators
- Promote and facilitate discussion and exchange of information both online

and offline

- Host an exclusive social networking event for Young Investigators at The International Liver Congress™
- Provide opportunities to contribute to the development of smartphone and tablet apps
- Encourage other Young Investigators to become EASL members.



#### EASL GOVERNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Annalisa Berzigotti Switzerland

Young Investigators Concerted Action Group Members:

Rodrigo Liberal	United Kingdom
Upkar Gill	United Kingdom
Giacomo Germani	Italy
Femke Heindryckx	Sweden

### iv. NURSE CAG

The Nurse CAG was launched in 2017 and aims to improve communication within the European nurse community and to advise the EASL Governing Board on topics of interest.

The Nurse CAG aims to:

- Work collaboratively on the research and quality agenda
- Develop links with affiliated liver nursing fora, committees, societies across Europe
- Develop programmes, including the Nurses and Associates Forum at The International Liver Congress™

- Work jointly with the EASL Office to have a sustainable Membership programme for nurses
- Collaborate in strengthening liver nursing across Europe with joint funding and links to ongoing medical projects
- Work together to raise and improve the experience of care, and to deliver a quality service to people with liver disease.



#### EASL GOVERNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Annalisa Berzigotti Switzerland

Nurse Concerted Action Group Members:

Michelle Clayton	United Kingdom
Lynda Greenslade	United Kingdom
Nathalie Goutte	France
Kristine Hjort,	Denmark
Kathrin Husi	Switzerland
Neus Llarch	Spain
Markus Reiss	Germany

### v. EASTERN EUROPE FOCUS GROUP

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

The Eastern Europe Focus Group aims to:

- Listen to and understand the needs of scientists and healthcare providers in these countries
- Improve the presence and awareness of EASL in Eastern European 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 GOVERNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Frank Tacke Germany

Eastern Europe Focus Group Members:

Liana Gheorghe	Romania
Goran Jankovic	Serbia
Jerzy Jaroszewicz	Poland
Marina Maevskaya	Russia
Francesco Negro	Switzerland
Alexander Nersesov	Kazakhstan
Marieta Simonova	Bulgaria

The EASL Office, based in Geneva, Switzerland, counts 30 employees. Each team member is dedicated to implementing the global strategy, developed by a very dynamic Governing Board and to ensuring the promotion and visibility of our Association.

Over the course of the past years, the management of all EASL activities has been brought in-house enabling EASL to become a stronger brand and setting very high standards in terms of content and regarding the quantity of the many events and services on offer.

The EASL Office now fully organises The International Liver Congress™ and EASL meetings, engages with members, manages fellowships, mentorship and registry grant programmes, maintains communication

with our sponsors and other corporate partners, and provides support to EU-funded projects. The team is involved in managing collaborative projects, the edition and publication of EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines and the Journal of Hepatology, as well as developing new formats and content for our online educational platform – the LiverTree™.

Our Association also counts 2 employees based in Brussels focused on lobbying and advocacy for liver diseases, notably at the European Commission.

EASL has embraced the arrival of the new digital era and opportunely engages with the liver community via social media. If you haven't yet joined the online discussion on our social media channels, then there's no time like the present to do so!



At EASL we project into the future and look forward to continuing our efforts in 2018 and to providing you with the latest developments by inspiring the hepatology community during The International Liver Congress™ in Paris and other EASL activities throughout the year.

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

Now with over 4,400 members from all over the world, EASL is an influential international organisation. It attracts the foremost hepatology experts as members and has an impressive track record in promoting research in liver disease, supporting wider education, and promoting changes in European liver policy.

EASL gathers those interested in the liver from all over the world.



EASL Membership is valid per calendar year (1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December) and includes:

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

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

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

### 2017 MEMBER STATISTICS

4,400 MEMBERS

#### CATEGORIES

Regular members:	1,865
Corresponding members:	1,408
Trainee members:	864
Nurse members:	18
Emeritus members:	245

New applicants:	1,023
Membership renewals:	3,377

#### TOP 10 COUNTRIES

1. United States of America
2. United Kingdom
3. Germany
4. Italy
5. Spain
6. France
7. The Netherlands
8. Egypt
9. Belgium
10. Australia

#### MAJOR DISCIPLINES

Hepatologists	1,305
Gastroenterologists	560
Hepatologists/ Gastroenterologists	227
Internists	193
Virologists	185
Epidermologists	109
Pathologists	50
Internists/Hepatologists/ Gastroenterologists	46
	31

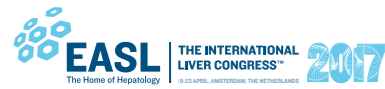
# 5 SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

## a. EVENTS

### i. The International Liver Congress Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 19-23 April 2017

The International Liver Congress™ is the annual EASL meeting and the flagship event in our educational calendar. Every year in April, scientific and medical experts from a broad range of fields including hepatology, gastroenterology, internal medicine, cell biology, transplant surgery, infectious diseases, microbiology and virology, pharmacology, pathology and

radiology, and imaging come together from around the world to learn about the latest in liver research. Specialists share recent data, present studies, and findings, and discuss the hottest topics in liver disease. In 2017, the annual congress attracted 9,011 delegates and 200 media representatives from all over the world making this a truly international networking opportunity.



#### THE CONGRESS SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME WAS COMPOSED OF:

- 2 State of the Art lectures
- 1 Postgraduate Course: A multidisciplinary approach to patients with liver disease
- 1 Basic Science Seminar: Hepatic regenerative medicine
- 1 Postgraduate Course on liver transplant
- 4 General sessions
- 1 Late Breaker session
- 3 Clinical Practice Guidelines sessions
- 21 Parallel sessions
- 22 Early Morning Workshops
- 16 Symposia
- 10 Joint Workshops
- 5 Grand Rounds
- 25 Oral ePoster sessions
- 1 Best Poster summary
- 28 Poster Tours
- 2 EU and EU funded projects sessions
- 2 Public Health sessions on HCV/HBV elimination
- 2 Fellowship and Registry Grant sessions
- 2 Young Investigator sessions
- 1 Nurses & Associates Forum
- 2 Highlights from the Literature sessions
- 4 Hands-on Ultrasound sessions
- 3 Sonography courses
- 1 General Assembly





## THE INTERNATIONAL LIVER CONGRESS™

### 2017 STATISTICS #ILC2017

Delegates:	9,011
Countries represented:	124
Young Investigators:	948
Speakers:	334
Nurses:	124
Abstracts submitted:	2,576

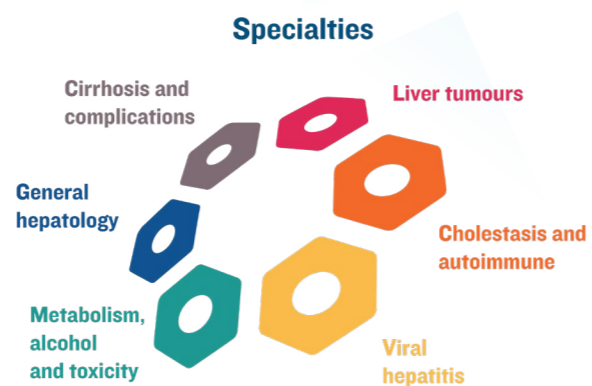
### TOP 10 COUNTRIES

1. United States of America
2. United Kingdom
3. Germany
4. Italy
5. France
6. Spain
7. China
8. The Netherlands
9. Belgium
10. Switzerland

The International Liver Congress™ 2017 scientific programme exceeded expectations by covering a full spectrum of clinical and basic research on liver disease. Interesting new data were discussed and presented in outstanding sessions, as well as during the 15 Satellite Symposia and mini-workshops.

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

An overview of the specialties on offer:



EASL thanks its sponsors and participating companies for their generous support: <http://2017.ilc-congress.eu/exhibition-industry/acknowledgements/>

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

### New in 2017 – The Skills Learning Centre

In the Skills Learning Centre congress delegates had the opportunity to look, learn, ask questions, and test tools and devices used for procedures under the tutelage of experts in the field. This new hands-on activity was presented in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere during which delegates could talk with experts and ask an array of questions related to the practice of interventions in patients with liver disease.

The Skills Learning Centre increased awareness of diagnostic and therapeutic techniques and offered delegates the possibility to examine their own knowledge and skills. Open at specific times during the general opening hours of the Congress, the Skills Learning Centre was divided into three components:

- Non-invasive diagnostic methods
- Invasive methods: evaluation and procedures
- Emerging therapies



### Poster Tours

During the Congress, Key Opinion Leaders, appointed by the EASL Governing Board, toured the paper posters with groups of delegates to discuss interesting data and research findings with the respective presenters.

In 2017, 98 posters were presented over the course of three days throughout 28 tours. These tours were conducted by colour-coded topic relating to specialties.



## Best of ILC debriefs

Another success was the recording and distribution of the “Best of ILC 2017”. During the congress week, experts discussed the latest in their field:

- **Best of Alcoholic and Metabolic Liver Disease** by Prof. Elisabetta Bugianesi and Dr Ramon Bataller
- **Best of Cirrhosis and Complications** by Prof. Emmanuel Tsochatzis and Dr Joan Genesca Ferrer
- **Best of Liver Tumours** by Profs. Bruno Sangro and Peter Schirmacher
- **Best of Viral Hepatitis** by Profs. Heiner Wedemeyer and Fabien Zoulim

- **Best of Autoimmune and Cholestatic Liver Disease** by Prof. Michael Manns and Dr Gideon Hirschfield
- **Best of Nurses and Associates Forum** by Mrs. Kathrin Husi and Pam O’Donoghue.

These extensive summaries of the latest advances were made available for all on the EASL Europe YouTube channel and on the LiverTree™, the EASL educational platform.



## Recognition Awards

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

In 2017, EASL presented three recognition awards to Prof. Giordina Mieli-Vergani, Prof. Gustav Paumgartner, and Prof. Kenjiro Wake for their major scientific contributions in the field of liver research.



## Young Investigators at The International Liver Congress™ 2017

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

EASL also provides bursaries to the authors of the best-accepted abstracts to financially support young fellows to attend The International Liver Congress™.

Two years ago, to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EASL, the Young Investigator Concerted Action Group introduced an annual award specifically dedicated to young fellows. It was decided that every year, the EASL Governing Board and YI-CAG would select YI awardees based on their international liver research achievements to-date. The 2017 YI awards were presented to: Dr Evaggelia Liaskou and Dr Jean-Charles Nault.

The 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. EASL awardees receive a cash prize and are invited to publish a review in the Journal of Hepatology.



## National Associations Village

Every year, EASL offers national associations an opportunity to promote their society, national activities and events during The International Liver Congress™. In 2017, the following associations attended showcasing how active the hepatology field is in different locations around the world:

Armenian Hepatological Forum	AHF
Austrian Society of Gastroenterology & Hepatology	OGGH
Belgian Association for the Study of the Liver	BASL
British Association for the Study of the Liver	BASL
Danish Society of Gastroenterology and Hepatology	DSGH
Association Française pour l'Etude du Foie	AFEF
German Association for the Study of the Liver	GASL
Hellenic Association for the Study of the Liver	HASL
Israel Association for the Study of the Liver	ISASL
Associazione Italiana per lo Studio del Fegato	AISF
Polish Association for the Study of the Liver	PASL
Russian Scientific Liver Society	RSLs
Hepatology Section of the Serbian Medical Association	HSSMA
Slovak Society of Hepatology - member of the Slovak Medical Association	SHS
Asociacion Española para el Estudio del Hgado	AEEH
Swiss Association for the Study of the Liver	SASL
Turkish Association for the Study of the Liver	TASL
Ukrainian Association for the Study of Liver diseases	UASLD

## ii. HCC SUMMIT 2017

Geneva, Switzerland, 02-05 February 2017

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), a malignant tumour of liver parenchymal cells, is a primary malignancy of the liver and occurs predominantly in patients with underlying chronic liver disease and cirrhosis. Currently, it ranks as the third leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide. The threat of HCC is expected to continue to grow in the coming years.

The second EASL HCC Summit, took place in Geneva, Switzerland from 2-5 February 2017. The first EASL HCC Summit, hosted in 2014, was a great success, as EASL was able to effectively reach out to both scientists and clinicians with an interest in liver cancer, and following a similar winning formula, a broad and exciting

scientific programme was devised for 2017; designed to be both informative and stimulating. The basic science programme on 2-3 February was centered around 'The Hallmarks of Cancer', and included talks from eminent scientists in the field of cancer, but with a focus on translational advances most relevant to patients with primary liver cancer. On the 4-5 February, this was immediately followed by a clinical programme, with state of the art talks on the most up to date management of patients with liver cancer. EASL will host the next HCC Summit from 01-03 March 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.

#HCCsummit  
Delegates: 528



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

EASL thanks its generous contributors for their support with the association's various activities.  
<https://events.easl.eu/EventPortal/Information/EventInformation.aspx?EventInformationPageCode=ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS&EventCode=HCC2017>

Listen to Prof Massimo Colombo and Dr Alejandro Forner discuss the outcomes of the HCC summit's clinical part. Find out the latest advances in Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) research by watching Prof Tom Luedde and Dr Helen Reeves discussing the highlights.

On 4 February 2017, World Cancer Day took place at the same time as the EASL HCC Summit. To celebrate this occasion,

EASL joined forces with the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) to raise awareness. EASL created a liver cancer dedicated campaign; hundreds of persons joined the cause by wearing our green bracelets and sending us pictures to spread the word and raise awareness about HCC. Five members of the European Parliament wore the bracelets and the campaign received a round of applause when announced during the HepHIV 2017 conference held in Malta.



### iii. NAFLD SUMMIT 2017

Target-oriented approach to diagnosis and pharmacotherapy of NASH: a dialogue between academia and industry  
Rome, Italy, 09-11 November 2017

Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) is the leading cause of chronic liver disease not only in Western countries but also among developing countries. NAFLD is the most common liver disorder in Western countries. The prevalence in Western countries is estimated to be between 17-46% of the general population and approximately 20% of these individuals are likely to develop progressive liver disease (i.e. Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis) which leads to liver fibrosis and cirrhosis.

As there is a growing need for the identification and development of new therapeutic options for NAFLD, EASL hosted its first NAFLD Summit in Rome, Italy, from 09-11 November 2017 where over 400 scientists, academia, and industry leaders met to discuss emerging therapeutic options and stimulated efforts to address key challenges across the NAFLD spectrum. The Summit covered the basic, translational, and clinical aspects of NAFLD, with a specific focus on novel drug targets and prognostic signature development.

#NAFLDsummit  
Delegates: 402



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EASL thanks its generous contributors for their support with the association's various activities.  
<http://bit.ly/2G8ZAEz>



### iv. CHOLANGIOCYTES IN HEALTH AND DISEASE: FROM BASIC SCIENCE TO NOVEL TREATMENTS

EASL Monothematic Conference  
Oslo, Norway, 09-11 June 2017

Cholangiocytes not only have a barrier function, separating toxic bile from cells and structures in and around the bile ducts, but these cells are metabolically highly active and secrete copious amounts of water, electrolytes and bicarbonate. In addition, bile ducts harbor stem cells that are important for restoration and regeneration of the entire liver. Disturbances of any of these structures and functions may lead to disease manifestations and may underlie cholestatic liver disease.

Immunology and metabolism for long have been antipodes in the cause-and-effect discussion. It becomes more and more clear that immunological and toxic injury are closely related and amplify each other. New thinking is required that covers both fields. Although cholangiocytes reside deep in the liver, functionally these cells are at the cross roads between environment and self. Bacterial products from the gut are absorbed, secreted in bile where they affect cholangiocytes. Recent discoveries have led to insights and a better understanding of the close interaction between cholangiocytes and gut.

The EASL Monothematic Conference on 'Cholangiocytes in health and disease: from basic science to novel treatments' was held from 09-11 June 2017 in Oslo, Norway. The conference addressed major novel findings on the pathophysiology of biliary diseases and bile acid metabolism; implications of the gains in knowledge on the current and future clinical practice.

The conference served as the perfect venue for young scientists and clinicians to present their work and listen to key opinion leaders about what will be important in science and clinics in the years to come. The next EASL Monothematic Conference is entitled 'Striving towards the elimination of HCV infection' and will take place in Berlin, Germany from 02-03 February 2018.

#EASLmono  
Delegates: 212



Listen to the debrief from the EASL Monothematic Conference by Dr. Jesus Banales, Prof. Dr. Peter L. Jansen, Prof. Nicholas F. Larusso, and Dr. Marco Marzioni.

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

EASL thanks its generous contributors for their support with the association's various activities.



## v. DEFINITION, THERAPEUTIC ADVANCES AND CLINICAL ENDPOINTS IN ALCOHOLIC LIVER DISEASE AND ALCOHOLIC HEPATITIS

EASL-AASLD Joint meeting  
London, United Kingdom, 30 Sept – 01 Oct 2017

A joint EASL-AASLD meeting took place in London, UK, from 30 September - 01 October. Around 170 delegates attended sessions in which experts from Europe and the U.S. strove to reach a consensus on how to treat the most prevalent cause of advanced liver disease and liver-related mortality in Western countries, Alcohol-related liver disease (ALD). The high mortality and prevalence of ALD and alcoholic hepatitis indicate a glaring need for therapies for the patient population. During the intensive two-day conference, delegates were invited to listen to presentations that revealed emerging data from clinical, translational, and basic sciences studies in ALD.

Excessive alcohol consumption is the cause of severe liver diseases such as liver cirrhosis, fatty liver, and cancer. Three decades of evidence resulted in determining that price, availability, and promotion are areas where consumption and harm are driven and therefore are the key areas to target for management at the societal level.

Regulatory agencies such as the EMA and FDA contributed to the conference explaining the processes for drug approval. Industry partners were invited to give an overview of their perspectives, plans, and challenges in ALD and AH. It was cited that the complexity of the disease made moving forward with development challenging.

Delegates: 174



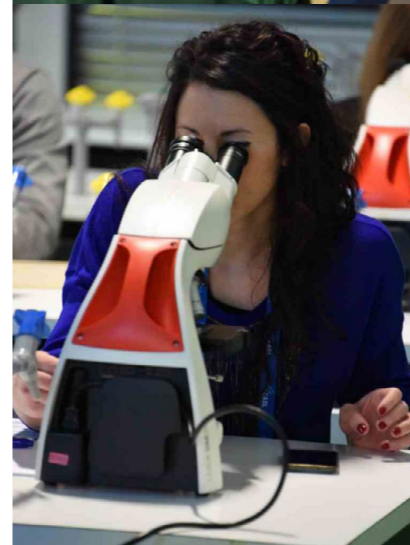
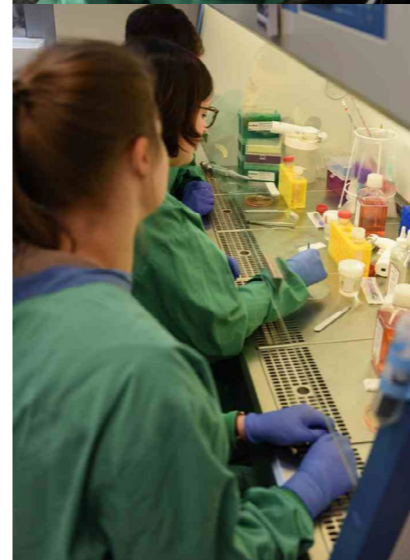
EASL applies for accreditation from the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) for all its educational activities.

EASL thanks its generous contributors for their support with the association's various activities.



Underlying cause	All deaths	Alcohol mentioned	Percent
Alcohol related	1,000	1,000	100.0%
Ischaemic	8079	369	4.6%
Cancer	186476	1794	1.0%
Respiratory	161858	8534	5.3%
Neoplasia	21255	803	3.8%
Digestive	21199	2246	10.6%
External	51222	2880	5.6%
Other	55089	2044	3.7%
Total (n=402)	512916	8062	1.6%

## vi. SCHOOLS AND MASTERCLASS



The EASL Schools of Hepatology contribute to the training of new generations of hepatologists and are a major element of our association. They are designed specifically for young fellows enrolled in hepatology-oriented departments or more experienced clinicians who want to be exposed to the newest trends in hepatology. For selected applicants, EASL covers transportation costs to attend and accommodation during the school.

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

EASL thanks its generous contributors for their support with the association's various activities.

### LIVER IMMUNOLOGY Basic School Aachen, Germany, 16-18 February 2017

The liver is the largest solid organ in the body and has many unique immunological properties though it is classically perceived as a non-immunological organ.

The 'Liver Immunology' Basic School of Hepatology took place in Aachen and the topics covered included;

- liver immunology
- bioinformatics and array analysis
- human and animal cell isolation and sorting
- imaging
- liver models
- microbiome and the gut-liver axis.

Students: 28 Young Investigators

EASL thanks its generous contributors for their support with the association's various activities.

### CONTROVERSIES IN END-STAGE LIVER DISEASE Clinical School Madrid, Spain, 24-25 November 2017

Gastroenterologists and hepatologists are constantly faced with the challenge of making the best evidence-based decision in challenging cases that do not readily lend themselves to an easy answer. The Clinical School of Hepatology 'Controversies in hepatology' was held in Madrid, Spain from 24-25 November 2017 to discuss such problems over the course of two-days. Sessions included;

- Variceal bleeding in cirrhosis
- Prophylaxis and treatment of AVB
- ACLF secondary to alcoholic hepatitis and artificial liver support
- Treatment and follow-up of HCV cirrhosis and HCC recurrence
- Refractory ascites and the role TIPS and portal vein thrombosis and anticoagulation in cirrhosis.

Students were split into four groups of five students and were assigned to course tutors.

Students: 22 Young Investigators

EASL thanks its generous contributors for their support with the association's various activities.

## EASL-AASLD JOINT MASTERCLASS

Paris, France, 14-16 December 2017

The EASL and AASLD Masterclass 2017 provided a unique educational collaboration for clinical scientists from leading academic medical institutions from both sides of the Atlantic. The scientific programme consisted of academic lectures, interactive sessions, individual meetings with tutors, as well as social events. Prior to the Masterclass, participants were assigned to working groups, and each group was led by a mentor and provided a task and guidance to complete a set of tasks. A series of abstracts were presented by Young Investigators on day two which was followed by the leadership skills

workshop aimed at developing participants' leadership and managerial capacities. Case-based discussions were held on viral hepatitis, metabolic and cholestatic, cirrhosis complications, and finally basic science. The final day covered ethics in science and the pros and cons of 'alcohol and transplant', finally 'from non-A, non-B hepatitis to hepatitis C cure'. The two-day Masterclass offered a combination of scientific content with training in other areas presented in a workshop-style atmosphere.

**Students: 23 Young Investigators**

*EASL thanks its generous contributors for their support with the association's various activities.*



EASL AASLD Masterclass 14 - 16 December 2017, Paris, France

## vii. EASL ENDORSED AND SPONSORED EVENTS

Consistent with its educational mission, EASL financially contributes to scientific meetings organized by other organisations and associations. For this purpose, the 2017 EASL provisional budget included a specific item; €30,000 devoted to endorsement and sponsorship. This amount can vary in the future depending on the overall financial resources available. Once fixed, this amount represents the maximal allowance available and cannot be exceeded.

Requests for EASL endorsement and EASL sponsorship can be submitted online throughout the year and are reviewed by the EASL Governing Board during four review sessions in March, June, September and December.

In 2017, 15 events received EASL endorsements and three were sponsored.

Endorsed	Master Class in Liver Disease, 7th edition
Endorsed	ESPGHAN monothematic conference on Progressive Familial Intrahepatic Cholestasis (PFIC)
Endorsed	HepHIV 2017 Conference: HIV and Viral Hepatitis: Challenges of Timely Testing and Care
Endorsed	Stockholm Liver Week
Endorsed	3rd Seminaria hepatologica - Adriatic Liver Forum: Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease
Endorsed	4th Update of Hepatology Course
Endorsed	XXII Annual Russian Congress 'Hepatology Today 2017'
Endorsed	Hepatology Ultrasound Course
Endorsed	2017 UCL Royal Free Hepatology Postgraduate Course
Endorsed	White Nights of Hepatology 2017
Endorsed	4th International HIV/Viral Hepatitis Co-Infection Meeting
Endorsed	2nd Coimbra Liver Transplantation Conference
Endorsed	16th Congress of the European Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ESBRA 2017)
Endorsed	King's Liver Course - hepatology update
Endorsed	III National Hepatology Conference 'Autoimmune liver diseases'
Sponsored	VALDIG Conference: Idiopathic portal hypertension as the common final pathway of vascular liver diseases
Sponsored	World Hepatitis Summit 2017
Sponsored	19th International Symposium on Cells of the Hepatic Sinusoid (ISCHS 2017)

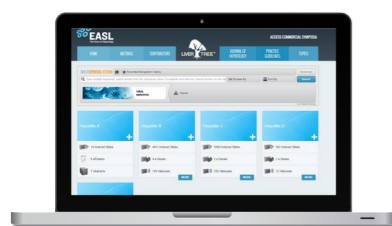
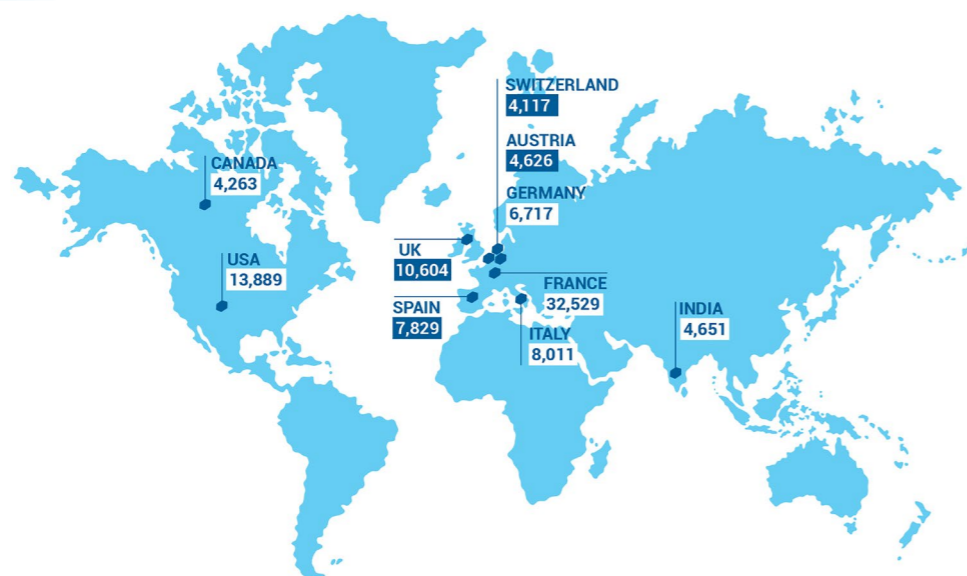
## b. E-LEARNING

### i. LiverTree™

45,571 indexed slides  
8,423 abstracts from 52 EASL events  
6,460 ePosters  
2,365 webcasts  
4,204 users

EASL continues to be at the forefront of hepatology research and pushes boundaries with new and exciting initiatives which provide an ideal platform. The EASL LiverTree™ is the only online medical educational resource designed by hepatologists for hepatologists.

The platform hosts a variety of resources for researchers, students, physicians and nurses including webcasts filmed during EASL hosted meetings, conference debriefs, abstracts, indexed slides, and access to clinical practice guidelines.



## ii. EASL GRAND ROUND SERIES AND CONFERENCE DEBRIEFS

### 7 Grands Rounds

PUBLICATION	TITLE	
February	Idiopathic non-cirrhotic portal hypertension	Clinic Barcelona, Hospital Universitari
April	Acute on Chronic Liver Failure	Padova University Hospital
June	Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis	Hannover Medical School, Germany
August	Coagulation and Cirrhosis	St Mary's Hospital Campus, Imperial College London
August	Overcoming steatosis	INSELSPITAL - Bern University Hospital
August	Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)	University Medical Centre of the Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz
August	Management of viral hepatitis	Fondazione IRCCS Ca'Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico - University of Milan

### 11 Conference Debriefs

PUBLICATION	TITLES
February	EASL HCC Summit 2017 - Clinical Debrief
February	EASL HCC Summit 2017 - Basic Science Debrief
April	Best of Viral Hepatitis from ILC2017
April	Best of Alcoholic and Metabolic Liver Disease from ILC2017
April	Best of Autoimmune and Cholestatic Liver Disease from ILC2017
April	Best of Cirrhosis and Complications from ILC2017
April	Best of Liver Tumours from ILC2017
April	Best of Nurses and Associates Forum from ILC2017
June	Monothematic conference: Cholangiocytes in health and disease
October	Debrief from EASL-AASLD Conference: Alcohol related Liver Disease
November	Debrief from EASL NAFLD Summit 2017

### iii. iLIVER



26 Topics  
4 Languages:  
• Chinese  
• English  
• Russian  
• Spanish  
4,885 downloads in 2017

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

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

### iv. EASL HCV ADVISOR APP

21 April (launch) - 31 December 2017  
6,569 downloads

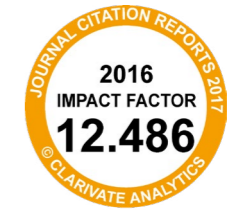
The HCV Advisor app is a tool provided free by EASL to health care professionals treating patients with hepatitis C. The app streamlines the selection of treatment. Based on the trusted EASL guidelines

for treatment of Hepatitis C, clinicians can simply enter the patient and virus information and instantly review the appropriate treatment options available.



## c. PUBLICATIONS

### i. Journal of Hepatology



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 online access to the Journal of

Hepatology. Announced in June 2017, the 2016 Journal of Hepatology impact factor was an exceptional 12.486, the highest the Journal of Hepatology has ever achieved, surpassing the 2014 IF score of 11.336. This marks EASL's commitment to providing the liver community with the most up-to-date work and data of the highest quality.

**This increase in the impact factor by 17% up to 12.486 is unprecedented, and I gratefully acknowledge the huge contribution of the authors who decide to publish their best papers in the Journal, the efforts of the whole Editorial team, the office in Geneva and the EASL Governing Board in getting us to this point.**

*Prof Rajiv Jalan, Editor-in-Chief*

With this impact factor, the official journal of EASL is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the field of 'Hepatology' and 5<sup>th</sup> in 'Gastroenterology and Hepatology' (source: Clarivate Analytics), 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.

The Journal website [www.journal-of-hepatology.eu](http://www.journal-of-hepatology.eu) provides maximum visibility by way of a user-friendly, state of the art hosting platform. The availability of mobile apps means that the Journal can be accessed using smartphones as well as tablets and is compatible with both iOS and Android devices.

**My vision for the Journal 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.**

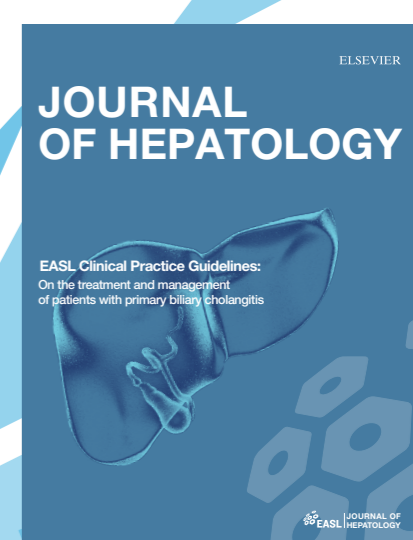
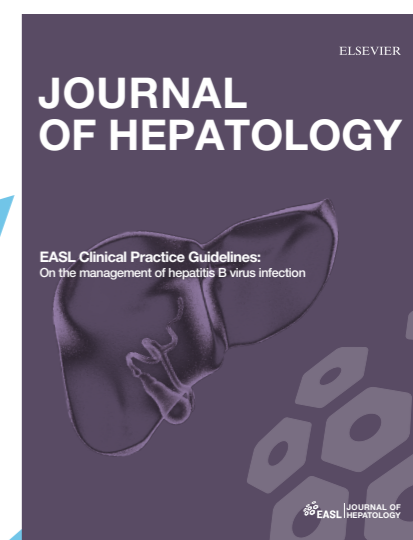
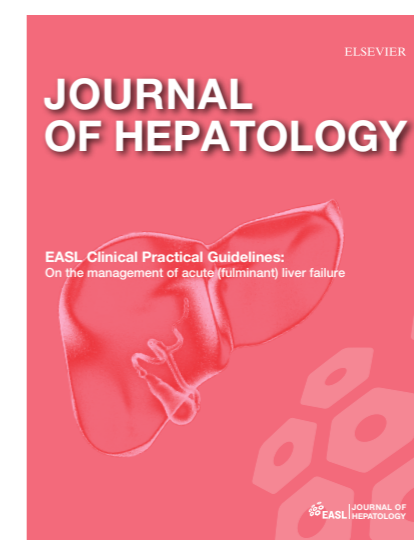
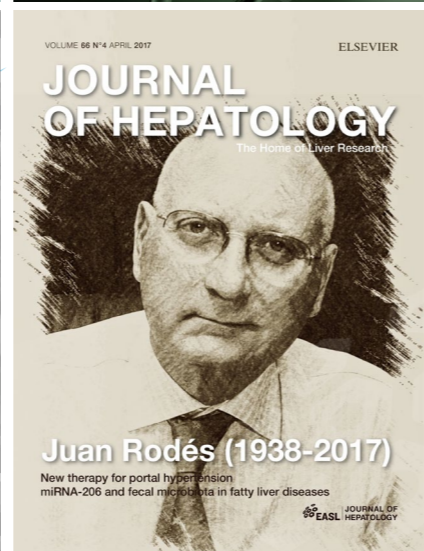
*Prof Rajiv Jalan, Editor-in-Chief*



The first EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) were released in October 2008. CPGs are distributed via the Journal of Hepatology and define the use of diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive modalities, including non-invasive and invasive procedures in the management of patients with various liver diseases. They are intended to assist physicians and other healthcare providers as well as patients and interested individuals in the clinical decision-making process by describing a range of generally accepted approaches for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of specific liver diseases.

In 2017, the Journal of Hepatology published the following EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines:

- Role of endoscopy in primary sclerosing cholangitis: European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE) and European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) Clinical Guideline
- EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines: The diagnosis and management of patients with primary biliary cholangitis
- EASL 2017 Clinical Practice Guidelines on the management of hepatitis B virus infection
- EASL Clinical Practical Guidelines on the management of acute (fulminant) liver failure



# 6 FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

## a. FELLOWSHIPS

Post-Doctorate Fellowship  
€40,000 awarded (up to three fellowships)



**MAARTEN VAN DE KLUNDERT**  
Germany

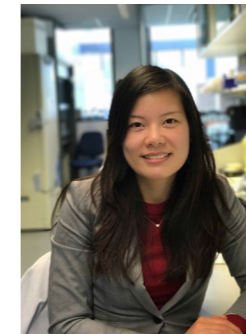


**LORENZO NEVI**  
Italy



Post-Doctorate recipients Lorenzo Nevi and Maarten Van de Klundert receiving their prize at The International Liver Congress™ 2017 with Profs. Howard Thomas, Mauro Bernardi and Dr Barjesh Sharma.

Entry Level Fellowship  
€30,000 awarded (up to three fellowships)



**PUI-YUEN LEE**  
Spain



**NORA CAZZAGON**  
Italy



**DANIAL AFSHARZADEH**  
The Netherlands



Entry Level recipients Pui-Yuen Lee, Nora Cazzagon, Danial Asharzaden, receiving their prize at The International Liver Congress™ 2017 with Profs. Howard Thomas, Mauro Bernardi and Dr Barjesh Sharma.

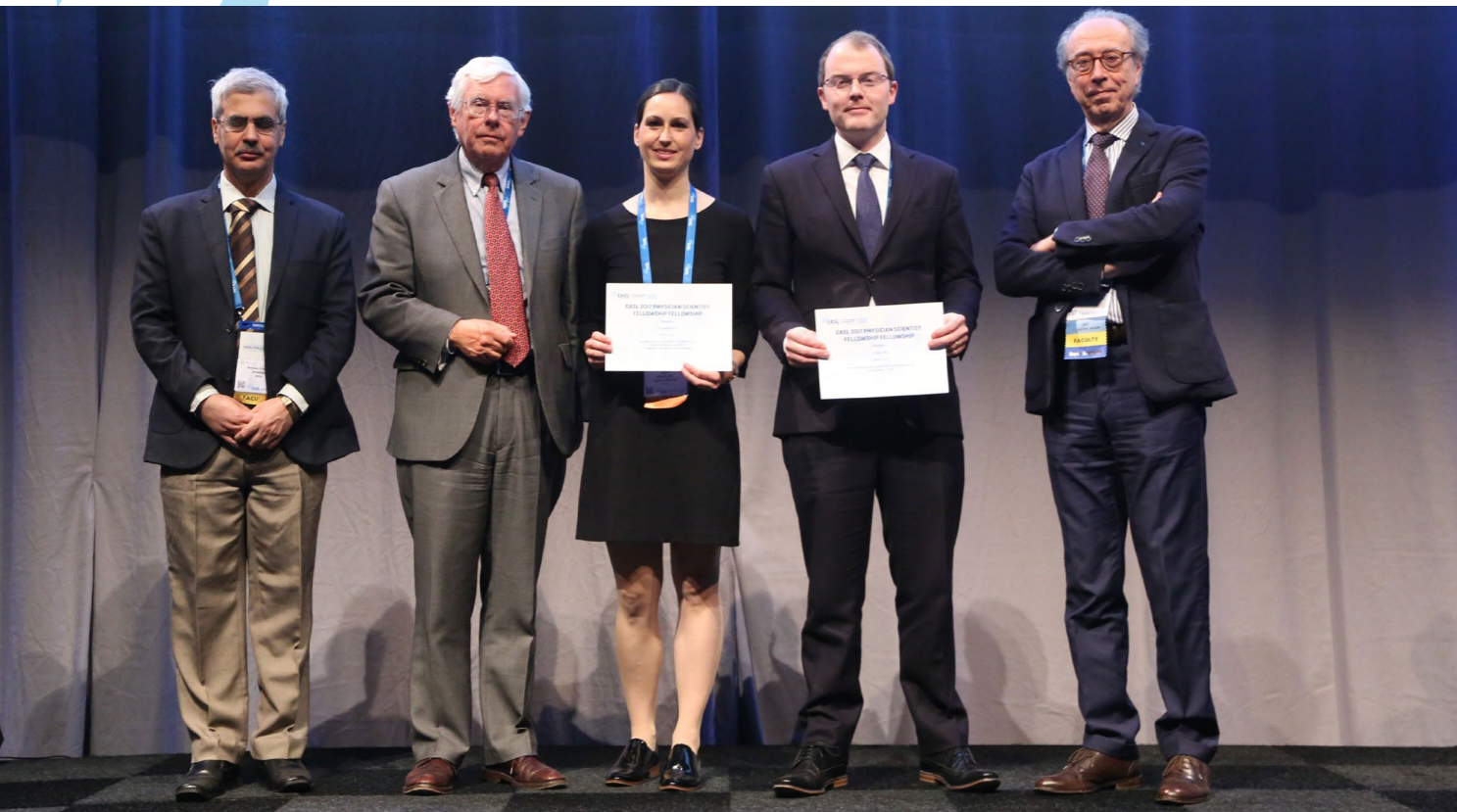
Physician-Scientists Fellowship  
€40,000 awarded



JOHN RYAN  
United Kingdom



KATRIN SCHÖLZEL  
United Kingdom



Drs John Ryan and Katrin Schölzel at The International Liver Congress™ 2017 with Profs. Howard Thomas, Mauro Bernardi and Dr Barjesh Sharma.

Short-Term Training Fellowship Andrew K. Burroughs



MINH HOANG  
Vietnam

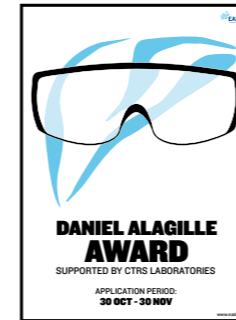


AITOR ESPANZA BAQUER  
Spain

EASL Daniel Alagille Award

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

An annual scientific award of €25,000 is provided to support a research-based project. The EASL Daniel Alagille Award is generously sponsored by CTRS laboratories and applications opened from 30 October – 30 November 2017.



2017 Awardee  
Dr Emma R. Andersson, Sweden  
Department of Biosciences and Nutrition, Karolinska Institutet

*Consequences of missing a Notch in Alagille Syndrome: From basic mechanisms to testing therapies*



Dr Emma Andersson receiving her prize at The International Liver Congress™ 2017 with Profs. Howard Thomas and Mauro Bernardi.

In 2017, EASL enhanced its three current fellowship programmes to better reflect young investigators' needs. The new fellowship programmes include;

- a student research fellowship programme directed at young graduates aiming to achieve a PhD in the field of basic, translational or clinical hepatology
- a short-term fellowship programme, directed at postgraduate investigators who intend to spend a limited amount of time at a foreign institution to accomplish a very focused research project
- a postdoctoral research fellowship programme, targeting the most promising newly qualified postgraduate researchers who wish to expand research fields and start developing their independent research careers.

From 2017 onwards awarded fellows will benefit from:

- Increased funding
- Longer training periods
- Mobility allowance
- Family allowance

## b. MENTORSHIP

The Mentorship Programme, launched in November 2012, was created as a means of enhancing scientific exchange and personal developmental relationships in which a

more experienced and knowledgeable hepatologist would guide a Young Investigator through a crucial stage of their career path.



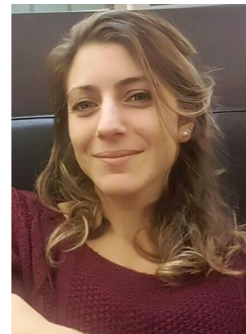
**PROF. MARIO STRAZZABOSCO**  
Italy  
Università di Milano-Bicocca  
& Yale School of Medicine



**DR EMMA R. ANDERSSON**  
Sweden  
Department of Biosciences  
and Nutrition,  
Karolinska Institutet



**PROF. JEAN-FRANCOIS DUFOUR MD**  
Switzerland  
University Clinic Visceral Surgery  
and Medicine



**DR MARIA CHIARA SORBO**  
Italy  
University of Rome,  
Tor Vergata



**PROF. MICHAEL TRAUNER, MD**  
Austria  
Division of Gastroenterology  
and Hepatology,  
Medical University of Vienna



**DR VITOR MAGNO PEREIRA**  
Spain  
Hospital Central do Funchal

## c. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH (REGISTRY GRANT)

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

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

### 2017 Awarded Projects

HEAD OF THE CONSORTIUM	PROJECT TITLE	COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE
Prof. Christian Trautwein	Registry on Alpha 1-Antitrypsin Deficiency-Related Disease	Germany
Prof. Michael Heneghan	European Registry for Liver Disease in Pregnancy	United Kingdom



*Prof. Christian Trautwein receiving the EASL Registry Grant 2017 from Prof. Howard Thomas during The International Liver Congress™ 2017.*

*Prof. Michael Heneghan receiving the EASL Registry Grant 2017 from Prof. Howard Thomas during The International Liver Congress™ 2017.*

**EASL  
REGISTRY  
GRANTS**

**Up to €150,000 to support your  
data collection on liver disease**



## POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

### a. EASL OFFICE BRUSSELS

In 2017, the EU affairs team continued work on the advocacy priorities agreed within EASL. These include research and science policy, alcohol policy and awareness raising on liver diseases.

In research policy, the EU affairs team concentrated mainly on the Framework Programme, the EU's programme for research funding. Throughout 2017, many important developments took place in this area.

To begin with, there was the Interim Evaluation of Horizon 2020, an EU-level initiative designed to take stock of the strengths and weaknesses of the current Framework Programme. We contributed to this process with an EASL response to the Commission consultation on the topic. Furthermore, we worked closely together with the Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe (BioMed Alliance) to convey biomedical researchers' experiences with Horizon 2020 to policymakers. Several of our recommendations for improving Horizon 2020 made it into high-level documents, such as the European Parliament's assessment of the current Framework Programme.

Throughout the past year, preparatory talks regarding Framework Programme 9 (FP9), the successor to Horizon 2020, started taking place at EU-level. Here too, the EU affairs team collaborated with the BioMed Alliance. For example, we initiated work on a position paper, summarizing our main recommendations for FP9. We hope to publicize the BioMed paper in the first quarter of 2018.

In 2017, the EU affairs team also laid the groundwork for an EASL application to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie COFUND scheme under Horizon 2020. If successful, this would enable EASL to set up a Marie Curie fellowship programme with co-financing from the European Commission.

A call for tender for grant writing services was issued in late December. EASL intends to submit the application in September 2019.

In addition to working on research policy we also focused on the prevention of liver disease. We continued to work on our campaign to tighten restrictions on the marketing of alcohol, food and sodas high in fats, salt and sugar in the proposal for a revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD). During the first reading of the proposal in the European Parliament in the first half of 2017 we contacted over 700 MEPs and met with culture attachés from several Member State to propose amendments to strengthen the Commission proposal. MEPs chose to maintain restrictions on alcohol marketing on television and introduced restrictions on advertising on video sharing platforms but the result on marketing for unhealthy food and drinks was less positive. As a result, EASL took part in the Estonian presidency conference on 30 October on unhealthy marketing of alcohol and supported the development of Council conclusions on the topic that were adopted in December 2017 at the Health and Social Affairs Council.

In November, EASL participated in the 5th Awareness Week on Alcohol Related Harm with our partners EURO CARE, ELPA, UEG and several others. The week focused on the theme of alcohol and cancer: [www.awarh.eu](http://www.awarh.eu). An event was held at the European Parliament on 23 November co-hosted by the MEPs Against Cancer and MEP Friends of the Liver groups. On 24 November 2017, the Estonian Permanent Representation to the EU hosted a breakfast on alcohol and cancer for member state Health Attachés. Participants at both events called for stricter marketing regulations on alcohol, better labelling of products and the introduction of minimum unit pricing.

EASL continued to advocate on viral hepatitis throughout 2017.

Incoming Governing Board member, Markus Cornberg, spoke on behalf of EASL at an event held under the Maltese Presidency of the EU on 2 February on HIV and Hepatitis C, sharing a panel with, inter alia, the WHO and the European Centre for Disease Control. On 23 March, EASL members Marieta Simonova and Jerzy Jaroszewicz spoke at an event hosted by the MEP Friends of the Liver group in the European Parliament on the specific challenges of treating HCV infection in central and eastern Europe, the Balkans and the Baltics. In June 2017 EASL was invited to join the revamped Civil Society Forum on HIV, TB and viral hepatitis. The CSF is an informal advisory body to the European Commission on these topics

and members come from across the EU and neighbouring countries. The CSF meets twice year and is chaired by the EU Commission.

Rare diseases were also not neglected. In February 2017, the EU Commission launched 24 European Reference Networks, including one on rare liver diseases.

Finally, work finished at the end of November on the data collection for HEPAHEALTH, an overview of liver disease and its determinants in 35 European countries. The full report will be launched at The International Liver Congress™ in 2018.

### b. EU-FUNDED PROJECTS

In January and November 2017, we were proud to witness the launch of ALIVER and LITMUS, coordinated by Rajiv Jalan (UCL) and Quentin Anstee (Newcastle University), respectively. In addition to providing financial support to both projects during the application phase, EASL is also lending its support to the project

execution. Specifically, we are involved in the dissemination package. The EU affairs team, together with the Communications team, attended the ALIVER (January 2017) and LITMUS (November 2017) kick-off meetings with a view to presenting and discussing EASL's planned dissemination activities.

#### i. ALIVER

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

€15.8 billion per annum. The ALIVER Consortium has developed a novel and innovative liver dialysis machine that will help the liver to naturally regenerate or, where that does not prove possible, to keep patients alive and healthy until a donated liver becomes available. DIALIVE has been demonstrated to be effective in pre-clinical tests. The 24-patient ALIVER study is funded by a €6.4 million EU Horizon 2020 grant 733057, awarded to a consortium of 11 institutions from seven countries in Europe, including Yaqrit Ltd, a spinout company from University College London that is developing the DIALIVE device and IBM Ireland Ltd, which will be applying data analytics to identify new biomarkers that can help to optimise treatment protocols. In July 2017, the first patient in the ALIVER international trial of the DIALIVE system was recruited at the Royal Free Hospital in London.





Liver Investigation: Testing Marker Utility in Steatohepatitis (LITMUS) funded by the European Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking, brings together clinicians and scientists from prominent academic centres across Europe with companies from the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA). The €34 million project is co-ordinated by Newcastle University, working closely with the lead EFPIA partner, Pfizer Ltd. LITMUS will include 47 international research partners based at leading international universities and some of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies. EASL is proud to take part in the LITMUS project and offer dissemination assistance.



## ii. LITMUS

Their common goals are developing, validating and qualifying better biomarkers for testing NAFLD.

Although many people have NAFLD, less than one in 10 will come to harm as a result. The challenge is to identify those people that will be most severely affected and are going to progress to liver cirrhosis or cancer so that appropriate care can be provided earlier. At present this requires a liver biopsy, which can only be done in specialist hospitals, so there is a need for better diagnostic tools.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EASL thanks AbbVie, BMS, Gilead, and MSD for their continuous support. These collaborations are key to reducing the incidence and burden of liver disease, and we look forward to continuing our fruitful partnership to fulfil our joint mission of tackling liver disease and maximizing your presence within the hepatology arena and across other disciplines in 2018.

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

*Zürich*

### *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 2017.

#### ***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 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 2017 comply with Swiss law and the association's articles of incorporation.

*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](http://www.pwc.ch)*

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### **Report on other legal requirements**

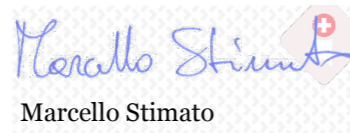
We confirm that we meet the legal requirements on licensing according to the Auditor Oversight Act (AOA) and independence (article 69b paragraph 3 CC in connection with article 728 CO) and that there are no circumstances incompatible with our independence.

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, 7 March 2018

Enclosure:

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

Dear Members,

As the Treasurer of the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), it is an accomplishment to provide you with the Treasurer's Report for the 2017 Accounts.

In 2017, remarkable performances were achieved by our Association, while the Home of Hepatology activated in-depth structural and organizational improvements.

In terms of governance, 2017 has been extremely challenging and several actions have been taken until the end of year, and will be pursued in 2018, in order to meet our members and partners' expectations.

This is the third year that The International Liver Congress™ is fully managed internally, allowing a professional and experienced in-house management of our core event, as well as reinforcing our overall statutory activities.

Over the past 9 years, we were able to constantly secure the assets of the Association, monitoring our budget with prudence, allowing us to constantly renew and improve our Research, Education and Scientific Activities for the benefit of our

members. I would also like to mention our continuous efforts to support smaller conferences throughout the whole year.

In 2017, our total income increased around +20% in a year, mainly due to the repeated success of The International Liver Congress™, stronger support from our Sponsors and The Journal of Hepatology sales. As a consequence of close monitoring of our expenses, our total net result increased about 473%.

In the last 3 years, the EASL accounts have been audited with a positive opinion by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), worldwide recognized professional audit experts. Their work comprises the balance sheet, income statement and notes for the year ended, under the Swiss Code of Obligation, in accordance with Swiss law and our Constitution.

Therefore, I'm pleased to confirm again this year that our Association is in a healthy financial situation and ready to face the extraordinary challenges to come within the liver disease sector.



Prof. Mauro Bernardo  
Treasurer, EASL



# EASL EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE LIVER

## GLOBAL EASL BUDGET IN K€ AS AT 31.12.2017 AND FINAL YEAR-END 2017

BUDGET	2015 FINAL	2016 BUDGET	2016 FINAL	VAR. % FINAL 2016 VS BUDGET 2016		2017 BUDGET	2017 FINAL	VAR. % FINAL 2017 VS BUDGET 2017	
<b>INCOME</b>	5,648	5,497	5,747	+250	+5%	5,760	6,905	+1,145	+20%
• ILC RESULT [PNL]	2,909	2,900	2,786	-114	-4%	2,851	3,895	1,044	37%
<b>INCOME</b>	7,934	7,500	7,579	79	1%	7,695	8,459	764	10%
<b>- EXPENSES (EXCLUDING STAFF COST)</b>	-5,025	-4,600	-4,793	-193	4%	-4,844	-4,564	280	-6%
• GRANTS & SPONSORS REVENUE	811	857	842	-15	-2%	1,053	1,067	14	1%
EDUCATIONAL GRANTS & SPONSORS	750	800	785	-15	-2%	996	997	1	0%
UEG SUPPORT	57	57	57	-	-	57	57	-	-
OTHERS SUPPORT (GMC)	4	-	-	-	-	-	13	13	-
• JOURNAL RESULT [PNL]	712	669	905	236	35%	760	832	72	9%
<b>INCOME</b>	1,013	975	1,219	244	25%	1,148	1,124	-24	-2%
JOURNAL ROYALTIES	561	511	712	201	39%	641	651	10	2%
EDITORIAL OFFICE SUPPORT	412	424	460	36	8%	467	433	-34	-7%
SIGNING B./OTHERS (200KE / 5-v)	40	40	47	7	17%	40	40	-	-
<b>- EXPENSES (excluding Staff cost)</b>	-301	-306	-314	-8	3%	-388	-292	96	-25%
STAFF COSTS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CONSULTANCY / HONORARIUM	-269	-267	-272	-5	2%	-346	-288	58	-17%
OFFICE OVERHEADS / APPS	-32	-39	-42	-3	8%	-42	-4	38	-90%
• MEMBERSHIP REVENUE	593	665	697	32	5%	762	694	-68	-9%
• OTHERS REVENUE (VAT)	52	-	106	106	-				
• FINANCIAL REVENUE	570	406	411	5	1%	334	417	83	25%

BUDGET	2015 FINAL	2016 BUDGET	2016 FINAL	VAR. % FINAL 2016 VS BUDGET 2016		2017 BUDGET	2017 FINAL	VAR. % FINAL 2017 VS BUDGET 2017	
EXPENSES	5,051	5,308	4,868	-441	-8%	5,524	5,553	+29	+1%
• EASL RESEARCH GRANTS	601	664	660	-4	-1%	649	591	-58	-9%
EASL REGISTRY GRANTS	150	150	150	-	-	150	150	-	-
FELLOWSHIPS & MENTORSHIPS	451	514	510	-4	-1%	499	441	-58	-12%
• BUSINESS CHARGES	447	425	470	45	11%	440	455	15	3%
GOVERNANCE (HONORARIUM)	90	90	90	-	-	90	108	18	20%
PROMOTION - SISTER SOCIETIES	122	145	165	20	14%	153	133	-20	-13%
COMMITTEES (BOARD/CAG/CPG...)	31	52	44	-8	-15%	39	75	36	92%
EUROPEAN ADVOCACY & MEETINGS	205	138	171	33	24%	158	139	-19	-12%
• NON-BUSINESS CHARGES	312	364	307	-57	-16%	389	729	340	87%
EDUCATION E-TOOLS & E-LEARNING	86	210	140	-70	-33%	182	186	4	2%
MARKETING & COMMUNICATION	114	61	64	3	5%	75	38	-37	-49%
LEGAL, FINANCE & CONSULTANCY	113	93	103	10	11%	132	505	373	283%
• SHARED SERVICES (OFFICE)	2,903	3,154	3,100	-54	-2%	3,439	3,339	-100	-3%
STAFF COSTS	2,593	2,853	2,770	-83	-3%	3,100	2,963	-137	-4%
ALL OVERHEADS (IT/TRAVELS/MEALS)	240	187	216	29	16%	206	264	58	28%
CRM						-	11	11	-
BUILDING CHARGES	70	114	114	-	-	133	101	-32	-24%
• EASL SMALL CONFERENCES	789	701	330	-371	-53%	607	439	-168	-28%
MONOTHEMATIC CONFERENCES	375	341	212	-129	-38%	367	316	-51	-14%
SPECIAL CONFERENCES (HCC 2017)	103	35	-175	-210	-600%	-63	-119	-56	89%
BASIC SCHOOLS	115	135	95	-40	-30%	90	58	-32	-36%
YI MASTERCLASS	59	65	65	-	-	60	59	-1	-2%
GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS	137	125	134	9	7%	153	125	-28	-18%
NET RESULT	596	189	880	+691	+366%	236	1,352	+1,116	+473%

↑  
RESULT

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RESULT

