

CASL ENewsletter

May 2016 Edition



Donarreiskoffer (Own work)

[CC BY-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>)

A Letter From Your CASL President

Greetings!

Hope you are enjoying the merry merry month of May.

This photo is of Daniel Gabriel Fahrenheit's memorial plaque at his burial site in The Hague. I chose this as the header for the May edition of the CASL newsletter, not just because he was born in the month of May (may 24 1686). Nor because his parents, unbeknownst to me, died

of liver failure from mushroom poisoning - Amanita phalloides induced toxic liver injury. It is instead because the Fahrenheit story has taught me much about how best to initiate new concepts and practices into society. Or not.

Many will remember the 1970s when the Trudeau government (Pierre Elliott) introduced metrification in our country replacing miles for kilometers, gallons for litres and of course the Fahrenheit with Celsius. Yet the process of metric conversion was stalled and today most Canadians use a mish mash of imperial and metric measures. Witness for example Celsius for weather and Fahrenheit for oven temperatures, or the use of inches and feet for house lot measurements with kilometers for distance, or the confusion surrounding millilitres and fluid ounces, etc. etc..

I raise this issue because unlike the Government's incomplete attempt at metric conversion for the Canadian society, CASL must fully ensure the successful education and knowledge translation of the rapidly evolving world of liver disease for our Canadian professional community at large.

This is an amazing time for Hepatology. There has been an explosion of diagnostic and therapeutic discoveries affecting the liver. Yet, at the same time, the burden of liver disease is increasing, now affecting 1 in 4 Canadians. As a result, there are newer and higher demands placed on CASL for additional research and education activity, and for clinical hepatology patient care.

Given these realities, the current CASL tasks, or shall I say the way we do business, must expand so that we can continue to fulfill our mandate to provide national leadership in all aspects of research and medical education and the optimization of patient care as it pertains to the liver. These are formidable responsibilities that will require an increase in our human and financial resources. While we will look towards corporate and private support, I trust we can count on you, our membership, to join in this effort. As with Fahrenheit, we must now upgrade our 'degree' and 'scale' of activity, but we must do so effectively and proficiently.

Warm Regards,
Rick Schreiber MD

Canadian Digestive Diseases Week™ 2017: Mark Your Calendars!

Planning is well underway for the 2017 Canadian Digestive Diseases Week (CDDW), taking place in Banff, Alberta from March 3-6, 2017. CDDW™ is the annual scientific conference of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) and the Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver (CASL), held each winter at a Canadian venue. The core conference program offers both clinical and basic science sessions, including the trademark events noted

below.

This year's liver program will include symposia and small group sessions focused on topics such as:

- *Challenging Autoimmune Hepatitis Cases*
- *Home Nutrition Guide for Cirrhosis Patient*
- *HCV: Clinical Uses of HCV Resistance Testing, DAA Failures, and Treating Decompensated Patients Now or After Transplant*
- *HBV: When To Stop Therapy; Reactivation in the Setting of Immunosuppression, Best Targets for Curative Therapy*
- *PBC/PSC Update*
- *Wilson's Disease Case Based Learning*
- *Policy 101 for the Gastroenterologist/Hepatologist*
- *Liver Disease and Driving Safety*
- *NASH: What's on the Treatment Horizon*
- *A Case Based Approach to Advanced Care Planning and Goals of Care Discussions in Cirrhosis*
- *HCC Small Lesions: Treat or Transplant?*
- *Advanced Stage HCC*
- *Case Based Approach to Managing Pain in Cirrhosis*
- *Non-Invasive Imaging: The Future*
- *Portal Hypertension in Children - Why They Are Different than Adults*
- *Hepatorenal Syndrome - Diagnostic Challenges, and Then What to Do*
- *How to Write Really Good Guidelines*

Upcoming Events

- **April - June 6:** [Abstract Submission, AASLD Boston](#)
- **September 9 - 11:** [ILCA - The International Liver Cancer Association's 10th Annual Conference](#)

Once a month the CASL eNewsletter is issued to all CASL members, as a means of regular communication and to highlight our activities and upcoming events. We welcome your comments or suggestions. Please email them to casl@hepatology.ca

Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver
Suite 307, 10328 - 81 Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T6E 1X2
Phone: (780) 436-0983 ext. 231

Email: CASL@hepatology.ca
Website: www.hepatology.ca