

Canadian Association
for the Study of the Liver



Association Canadienne
pour l'étude du foie

March 2017 CASL e-newsletter

2017 CASL/CLF International Meeting on Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD)

Date: Sep 9 - 11, 2017

Location: Hotel Fort Garry, 222 Broadway, Winnipeg, MB

Program Description:

In parallel with the obesity/diabetes epidemic, the incidence and prevalence of NAFLD continues to rise in Canada and elsewhere. While NAFLD leads to an increasing health care burden, our understanding and the therapeutic options remain limited. It is therefore imperative that the level of knowledge and understanding of this liver disease be increased. This will require a multi-pronged approach to adequately address it from prevention, diagnosis, management, treatment and research perspectives.

[Click here to Register and Book Your Hotel Accommodations!](#)

Educational Needs Assessment

We are looking for your input and ask that you fill out our CASL Educational Programming Needs Assessment Survey. Your opinion is important to us and will impact upcoming CASL programming, including the 2018 Single Topic Conference!

[Click here to fill out the survey](#) and the chance to win a night of accommodation at the 2017 CASL/CLF International Meeting on NAFLD!

The 2017-18 CASL Executive and Governing Board

We would like to introduce our 2017-18 Governing Board Members:

- Rick Schreiber, President
- Eberhard Renner, Past-President
- Marc Bilodeau, President Elect
- Peter Ghali as Treasurer
- Hemant Shah as Education Chair

- Stephen Congly as Membership Chair
- Jordan Feld & Chris Rose as Research Co-Chairs
- Eric Yoshida, CJGH Chair
- Gary Fagan, CLF Representative
- Puneeta Tandon, Jennifer Leonard, Alnoor Ramji, Binita Kamath, Julien Bissonnette, Councillors
- Cheryl Dale, CAHN Representative
- Naglaa Shoukry, CANHepC Representative

Thank you to Kelly Burak and Marilyn Zeman who have completed their terms. Please welcome Stephen Congly as our new Membership Chair and Alnoor Ramji our newest Governing Board Councillor!



CDDW 2017 - Highlights

2017 CLF-CASL Gold Medal Award Recipient:

Congratulations to **Dr. Anna Lok** the recipient of the 2017 CLF-CASL Gold Medal Award.



2017 CASL-CLF Sass Kortsak Recipient:

Congratulations to **Dr. Eve Roberts** who received the CASL-CLF Sass-Korstak Award.

2017 CASL Distinguished Service Award:

Dr. Kevork Peltekian received the CASL Distinguished Service Award for his significant contributions to CASL and to the practice of Hepatology in Canada.



2017 CASL/CLF Clinical Hepatology Fellowship Recipients:

Congratulations to the 2017 CASL Clinical Hepatology Fellowship recipients:

- Morven Cunningham, University of Toronto - Toronto, Ontario
- Beverley Kok, University of Alberta - Edmonton, Alberta
- Benson Thomas, University of Alberta - Edmonton, Alberta
- Jessica Woolfson, Hospital of Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario

Thank you to our industry sponsors for their support of this year's 4 fellowship awardees:

Astellas, Merck, Gilead, BTG, NNS, BMS, Pendopharm



CASL - CAHN Collaboration

Welcome to the new **100** CAHN members who have joined as CASL members and to those who were able to attend the CAHN-CASL Mixer at CDDW. We look forward to strengthening our relationship between our two organizations and to more collaboration going forward!

Choosing Wisely: Hepatology - Update

The Choosing Wisely Hepatology task force has been working diligently to finalize CASL's Top 5 recommendations for Choosing Wisely Canada.

After successful online voting and a live interactive voting session at CDDW 2017 in Banff the task force has submitted final recommendations to Choosing Wisely Canada. Stay tuned for an official announcement on the release date of recommendations and how you can implement choosing wisely principles at your local institution.

Last Chance to Vote for our 2018 Gold Medal Recipient

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2018 CLF/CASL Gold Medal award, to be presented at CDDW 2018 in Toronto! [Click here](#) to access the form online.

The Gold Medal Award recognized outstanding achievements in research and science in hepatology. Past winners have included Dr. Anna Lok (2017), Dr. Morris Sherman (2016), Dr. Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao (2015), and Dr. Jordi Bruix (2014). A full list of previous recipients can be found [here](#).

Hepatology News

Strategies to Eliminate HBV and HCV

In the United States, The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine released a report this week on the elimination of hepatitis B and C as a public health concern. [Click here](#) to view the report.

This follows the WHO global health sector strategy report on viral hepatitis, released last summer and which CASL has supported, which makes recommendations across the areas of information, interventions, service delivery, financing, and research. [Click here](#) to view the report.

Wilson Disease and Penicillamine

CASL Members need to be aware that Curpirmine (D-penicillamine) is once again back-ordered. It was previously on back-order last summer. Different wholesalers suggest that supply will resume in April or May.

There is no reason to believe that Cupirmine is being discontinued in Canada. Interruption in drug supply poses important problems for patients with Wilson disease. Satisfactory outcomes require consistently taking

medication. If Cuprimine is not available, then an alternate treatment must be substituted. This can be zinc salts (50 mg elemental zinc three times daily, away from meals, for adults) or it can be trientine (Syprine). Management at Valeant has offered to mitigate the financial hardship of buying Syprine while Cuprimine is on back order. To obtain Syprine, a physician must order it through the Special Access Programme, SAP. Be certain to put on the application that the indication is the lack of Cuprimine availability for this patient otherwise stable on that drug. It would be worthwhile to keep track of how many patients in Canada are affected by this problem. Please feel free to contact Dr. Eve Roberts if you need help with these arrangements.

Upcoming Dates & Events

- **April, 2017:** Toronto Transplant Hepatology Fellowship Application due for July 2018 start date. Please email txhepatologyfellowship@uhn.ca or call 416-340-4800 ext. 6821 for more information.
 - **April 19 - 23, 2017:** The International Liver Congress 2017. Amsterdam, NL
<http://ilc-congress.eu/>
 - **May 6, 2017:** Ontario Association of Radiologists - CLF Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) Course. Toronto, ON.
<https://oarinfo.ca/education>
 - **August 10 - 12, 2017:** 5th World Congress on Hepatitis and Liver Disease. London, UK
<http://hepatitis.conferenceseries.com/>
 - **Sept 25 - 28, 2017:** HCV 2017 - 24th International Symposium on Hepatitis C Virus and Related Viruses. Cape Cod, MA.
<http://www.hcv2017.org>
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