

Canadian Association  
for the Study of the Liver



Association Canadienne  
pour l'étude du foie

## CASL eNewsletter: June 2016 Edition



### ***Congratulations Eric Yoshida!***

CASL is delighted to announce that on June 14, 2016, Dr. Eric Yoshida, past CASL President and 2016 CASL Distinguished Service Award recipient, was appointed to the Order of British Columbia.

The Order of British Columbia, established in 1989, is the province's highest form of recognition extended to its citizens. The award is bestowed upon those exceptional civic leaders for their extraordinary efforts and remarkable accomplishments towards bettering the lives of their fellow citizens.

KUDOS ERIC!!

[News Release](#)

### ***From the President's Corner.....***

#### **The Road Not Taken**

*I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood and I -  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.  
-Robert Frost*

As I was composing my June message, I thought of this timeless poem by Robert Frost. We are now travelling through remarkable times in

### ***CAG/CASL CDDW 2017 Highlights***

*March 3-6, 2017 - Banff, Alberta*

#### **Postgraduate Course:**

- \*The Decompensated Patient
- \*Updates on Common Diseases

#### **HBV Symposium:**

- \*When to Stop Therapy
- \*Reactivation in the Setting of Immunosuppression
- \*Best Targets for Curative Therapy

Hepatology. On the one hand is the increased burden of liver disease in Canada (affecting 1:4 Canadians), and on the other are the many innovative diagnostic and therapeutic technologies currently or soon to be available in our everyday clinical practice.

These new developments impact CASL's national role and responsibilities towards research, education and the delivery of quality clinical liver care for Canadians. And just like the example of Dr. Eric Yoshida, each of us has a responsibility to ensure the betterment of Liver Health among citizens of all ages in this great country.

As I reflect on Frost's poem, I realize our organization is now standing at the crossroads. We must expand our current activities to address these new needs in education, research and clinical care. This is in accordance with the strategic plan that we laid out two years ago. Yet we need to have adequate resources to support these initiatives. I am speaking about support in our efforts to gain accreditation status with the Royal College, to provide liver CME to health care professionals, to generate regular updated clinical liver health guidelines relevant to the Canadian landscape, to host single topic conferences as a springboard for clinical and basic science research collaboration, to introduce programs like Discover the World of Hepatology to attract trainees to our sub-specialty and ensure future critical mass of liver sub-specialists, and to develop web-based platforms for knowledge translation to health care providers and the Canadian public.

During the next year, CASL through CLF will be soliciting private and corporate support for these new CASL programs and activities. But we also need your support. To this end, the membership at last year's AGM approved a modest increase in our annual membership fee to \$300 per year. In truth, we haven't had a fee increase in CASL membership fees in almost a decade, and the amount now approved is still considerably less than membership fees for other national organizations such as AASLD (US\$375), EASL (€200), or CAG (\$400). Moreover, you will be receiving more bang for your buck: your benefits still include the CJGH and reduced fees to CDDW and IASL meetings, but also included will be access to regular guideline updates and apps, reduced entry to the new CASL annual single topic meetings, new CME opportunities for your city, province or institution, and novel programs directed towards your trainees and medical students. I trust each of you will eagerly and readily support CASL. Yes, we plan to take the more challenging road - and I think this will make all the difference.

Rick Schreiber, MD  
CASL President

### **HCV Symposium:**

- \*Clinical Uses of HCV Resistance
- \*DAA Failures - What to Do and How to Re-Treat
- \*Decompensated Patients: Treat Now or After Transplant?

### **Policy 101 for the Gastroenterologist/Hepatologist:**

- \*Perspective on Drug Funding Initiatives
- \*Incorporating Equity in Health Policy Making
- \*Choosing Wisely Canada for Hepatology
- \*Assessing the Costs of Liver Disease

### **Small Group Sessions:**

- \*Wilson's Disease: Case Based Learning
- \*Liver Disease and Driving Safety
- \*A Case-Based Approach to Advance Care Planning and Goals of Care Discussions in Cirrhosis
- \*NASH - What's on the Treatment Horizon
- \*Advanced Stage HCC - What To Do
- \*A Case-Based Approach to Managing Pain in Cirrhosis
- \*HCC Small Lesions: Treat or Transplant?
- \*How to Write Really Good Guidelines
- \*Teaching Trainees/Others about Viral Hepatitis
- \*Hepatorenal Syndrome - Diagnostic Challenges, and Then What To Do
- \*Non-Invasive Imaging - The Future
- \*Portal Hypertension in Children - Why Are They Different Than Adults?

### **NAFLD: CASL 2017 Single Topic Conference**

CASL is planning a single topic conference on non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) for the fall of 2017 in Winnipeg. Stay tuned for more details!

### **Other Upcoming Events**

#### **[AASLD The Liver Meeting](#)**

November 11-15, Boston, MA

#### **[International Liver Cancer Association 10th Annual Conference](#)**

September 9-11, Vancouver, BC

CASL members can now receive a periodic e-blast containing new articles published in the journal. This is a terrific way to keep up with the most recent papers with easy links to the full manuscripts. Click [here](#) to sign up, or paste the following link into your browser: <http://www.hindawi.com/journals/cjgh/etoc/>

**Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver**

Suite 307, 10328 - 81 Avenue NW, EDMONTON, AB T6E 1X2  
Phone: 780.436.0983 ext. 228 Fax: 780.437.5984 Email: [CASL@hepatology.ca](mailto:CASL@hepatology.ca)  
[www.hepatology.ca](http://www.hepatology.ca)