

Canadian Association  
for the Study of the Liver



Association Canadienne  
pour l'étude du foie

## MAY 2017 CASL e-newsletter

### Register Now for the 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.

#### Help Us Spread the News:

We invite all CASL members to join us for this meeting, and would ask that you distribute this section of our newsletter with notice of this meeting to your colleagues and any other interested parties.

### Speaker and Session Highlights:

- Pathomechanisms leading to NAFLD - overview  
*Brent Neuschwander-Tetri, SLU, St. Louis, MO*
- Genetic polymorphisms predisposing to NAFLD/NASH  
*Anne Daly, Newcastle University, Newcastle, UK*
- NAFLD and nutrition - is it just about calories?  
*Saumya Jayakumar, University of Calgary, AB*
- NAFLD and the gut microbiome  
*Marielena Mouzaki, SickKids, Toronto, ON*
- Cellular Senescence: missing link between HCC and fatty liver disease?  
*Aloysious D. Aravinthan, Nottingham, UK*
- ... and more!

[Click here to view the preliminary program](#)

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

## CASL Visiting Professorship

We are excited to announce our CASL Visiting Professorship!

This award will be presented annually to a member of CASL who is recognized as an outstanding individual and an excellent communicator in the field of Hepatology, with an interest in clinical, basic science or translational liver research.

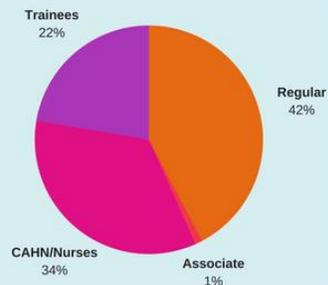
The award is supported by Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver (CASL) and the Canadian Liver Foundation (CLF) through the CASL Education Fund and the CLF Visiting professorship endowment.

Nominations are set to open **June 7th, 2017**. Be sure to check your inbox next week as more information will be sent out to all CASL members.

## WHO ARE OUR CASL MEMBERS?



Our membership is the largest it has ever been! But who makes up our hepatology community? Here is a snapshot!



Almost 1/3 of our members are trainees including fellows, postdocs, residents, graduate students! CASL provides multiple funding opportunities for those looking to get into the field of hepatology.

## WE ARE COAST TO COAST!



## Choosing Wisely Canada Update

Choosing Wisely Canada is a campaign to help clinicians and patients engage in conversations about unnecessary tests and treatments and make smart and effective choices to ensure high-quality care.

CASL has approved our top five recommendations which will be released in more detail on the Choosing Wisely website in June.

### **The Top 5 Recommendations include:**

1. Don't order serum ammonia to diagnose or manage hepatic encephalopathy (HE)
2. Don't routinely transfuse fresh frozen plasma, vitamin K, prothrombin complex concentrate, or platelets to reverse abnormal tests of coagulation in patients with cirrhosis prior to abdominal paracentesis, endoscopic variceal band ligation, or any other minor invasive procedures.
3. Don't order HFE genotyping based on serum ferritin values alone to diagnose hereditary hemochromatosis.
4. Don't perform computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) routinely to monitor benign focal liver lesions (ex. focal nodal hyperplasia, hemangioma).
5. Don't repeat hepatitis C viral load testing in an individual who has established chronic infection, outside of antiviral treatment

## CME Slides Update

In collaboration with Dr. Christopher Rose, Dr. Hemant Shah, Dr. Puneeta Tandon and Dr. Phil Wong, a continuing medical education (CME) slide deck on hepatic encephalopathy will be available through both the Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver and the Canadian Liver Foundation website. These slides illustrate the heavy burden of hepatic encephalopathy on the patient and their caregivers as well as on health care systems. Pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment strategies are also detailed.

## Upcoming Dates & Events

### Canadian Liver Foundation's "Stroll for the Liver":

Please support the Canadian Liver Foundation's "Stroll for Liver" – a family-friendly, community-based walk/run event dedicated to raising funds for liver research and education. This national event is taking place in 11 cities across Canada this summer. We encourage you all to participate and to invite your co-workers, patients, family and friends to join you. Go to [www.liver.ca/stroll-for-liver](http://www.liver.ca/stroll-for-liver) for more information and to register or pledge your support.



### Other upcoming events:

- **August 8 - 9, 2017:** Second World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Viral Hepatitis. Anchorage, AK.

<https://www.wipcvh2017.org/>

- **August 10 - 12, 2017:** 5th World Congress on Hepatitis and Liver Disease. London, UK.  
<http://hepatitis.conferenceseries.com/>
- **Sept 15 - 17, 2017:** International Liver Cancer Association 11th Annual Conference. Seoul, South Korea.  
[www.ilca2017.org/](http://www.ilca2017.org/)
- **Sept 25 - 28, 2017:** HCV 2017 - 24th International Symposium on Hepatitis C Virus and Related Viruses. Cape Cod, MA.  
<http://www.hcv2017.org>

