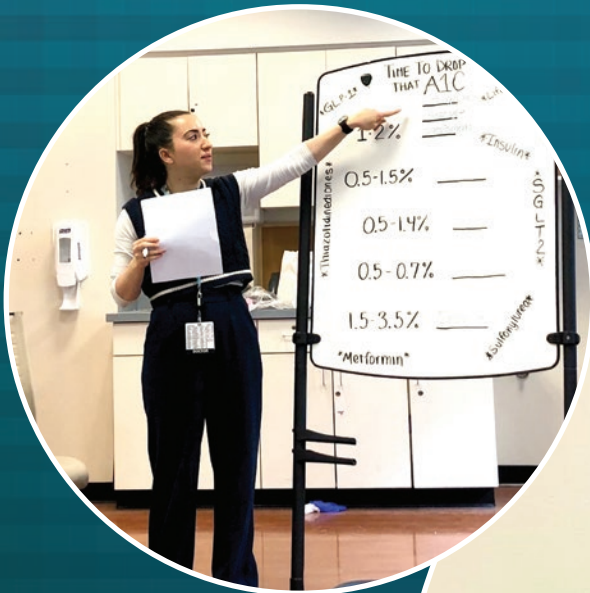


AASLD Foundation 2023 Annual Report



Shengmin Yan, PhD
Pinnacle Research Award
in Liver Diseases, 2023



Julia R. Gips, MD
Emerging Liver Scholar, 2023



Sebastian Niezen, MD, MMSc
Emerging Liver Scholar, 2023



About AASLD Foundation

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) Foundation is leading the way to a brighter, healthier tomorrow for people affected by liver disease. We are the official grantmaking arm of AASLD—the leading organization of scientists and health care professionals committed to preventing and curing liver disease. We are happy to report **we invest in the right people.**

"This support has been a foundation for my career trajectory and academic advancement. With the preliminary data generated from this Award, I obtained my first R01 grant from NIAAA."



—Cholsoo Jang, PhD

Pinnacle Research Award in
Liver Diseases, 2020

Our Impact



View Now

Letter from the 2024 Foundation Chair



AASLD created the Foundation as a separate, stand-alone organization wholly focused on **investing in the next generation of leaders in liver research and care**. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we are able to grant the largest investment in hepatology research, training and career development opportunities than any other medical society in the United States. Put simply, our goal is to fund tomorrow's hepatology heroes today.



The Foundation aims to bridge the gap between liver disease patients and liver care through inspiring the next generation and connecting young investigators to essential training resources that they otherwise would not be able to attain.

We are committed to ensuring frontline health care professionals have the fundamental tools and education they need to **diagnose, treat, and refer liver disease**. Every year, the Foundation provides critical support to remarkable groups of physicians, scientists, researchers, and health care providers through our many funding programs.

Because of our singular focus on grantmaking, the Foundation has succeeded in increasing the annual amount of funding distributed for liver research and training grants by 50% and nearly tripled the number of grantees supported each year.

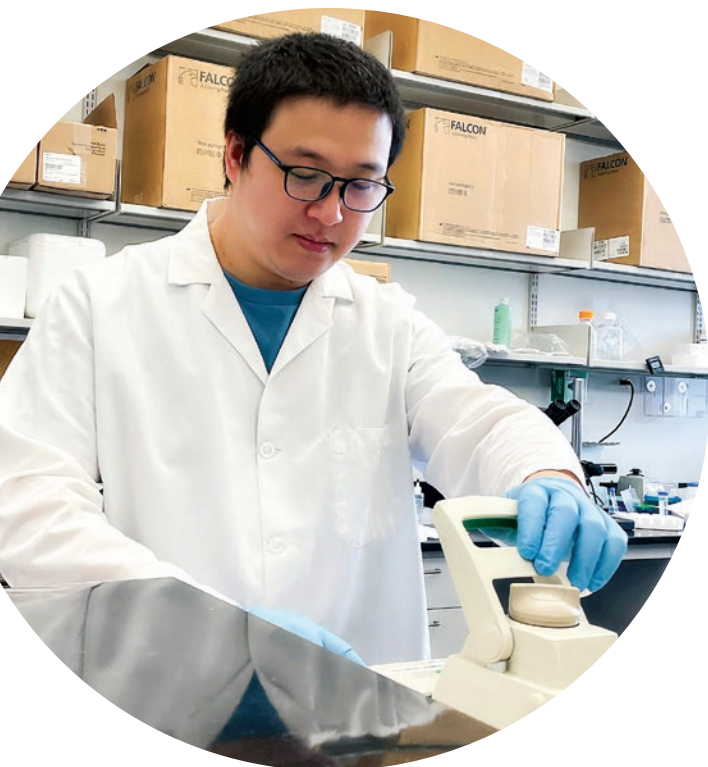
Thank you to all the generous supporters of AASLD Foundation—our donors, AASLD members, the hepatology community, both our Corporate and Industry Supporters. We also saw outstanding support through the launch of Liver Leaders Council (LLC)—a corporate partnership funding program offering industry partners a portfolio of benefits, services, and strategic stakeholder conversations. You are all central to our mission and without your invaluable contribution, we could not spearhead the effort to end liver disease.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kimberly A. Brown'.

Kimberly A. Brown, MD, FAASLD
AASLD Foundation Chair

Our Mission

To invest in innovative hepatology research and in the people who study and treat liver disease.



Hui Han, PhD
Pinnacle Research Award
in Liver Diseases, 2023

Since 2000,
we've awarded



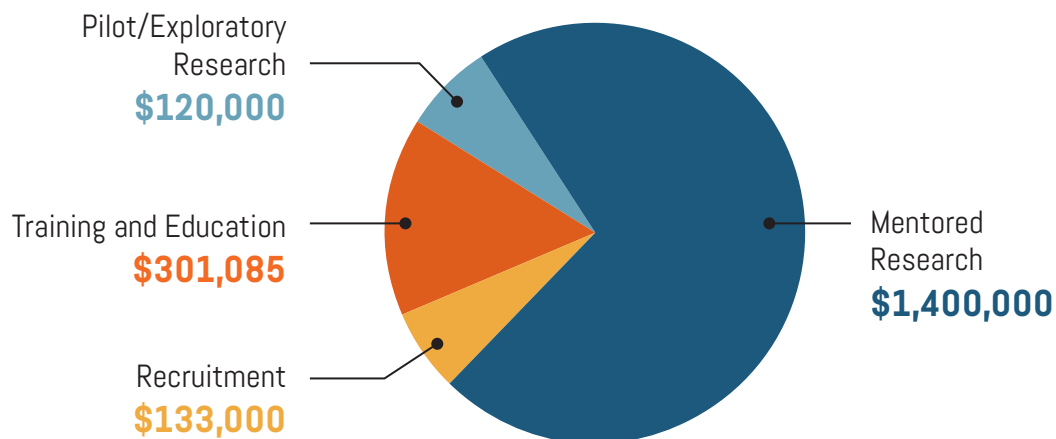
\$60 million
to over **1,900**

investigators
and **clinicians**



Funding the Future of Hepatology

In 2023, the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Foundation provided nearly **\$2,000,000** in funding to **148** talented researchers and early-career professionals.



AASLD Foundation's Funding Priorities

WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE FUND



Training and Access to Care

There are not enough liver specialists to take care of liver patients.



Providing Research Funding

Progress can only be made with research—we need to fund more.



Recruit Researchers

We must attract the brightest physicians and scientists to make new discoveries.



Disseminate Research

To generate ideas and create new collaborations, we must share discoveries with the global research community.

WHO WE FUND

- **Students**
- **Residents**
- **Trainees**
- **Advanced Practice Providers**
- **Early-career investigators**
- **Mid-career investigators**



1 Out of Every 5

Physicians newly certified in transplant hepatology were Alumni of our Emerging Liver Scholar Program

"I was thrilled and honored to be selected for the AASLD Foundation Anna S. Lok Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Award. To receive the support and recognition of my research in alcohol-associated liver disease (ALD) was a dream come true. I will always be grateful to the AASLD Foundation for this pivotal stepping stone in my career."

— **Stephanie Rutledge, MBBCh, BA0, MRCPI**

Anna S. Lok Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Fellow Award, 2022
and Emerging Liver Scholar, 2018



Our Awards Programs Strengthen the Field and Promote Career Development

Stimulating Discovery

Our **Research Awards** offer one to three-year grants which provide investigators with a clear path for funding at each stage of their careers.

Expanding Access to Care

Our **Career Development Awards** answer the demand for trained specialists equipped to treat the complexities of liver disease.

"This award is so important because it encourages and supports the education and professional development of Advanced Practice Providers in the field of Hepatology, which is vital to support the growing needs of patients and bring this specialty to underserved areas."

—Rhonda H. Gusherowski, CRNP
Emerging Liver Advanced Practice Provider Award, 2023



"This was of the best experiences in my life. When I was presenting my poster, I had so much feedback from people all over the world. I had the chance to connect with people who gave me advice for the future. I am very thankful."

—Froylan David Martinez-Sanchez, MD
The Professor Mindie H. Nguyen Award for Outstanding Clinical Research by Early-Career Investigators Abstract Award, 2023



Building Pathways for Hepatology Health Professionals

The **Emerging Liver Scholars (ELS)** program, **Emerging Liver APP (ELAPP)** and **Advanced Transplant Hepatology Awards** provide trainees and APPs with educational and professional development programming to expand the workforce.

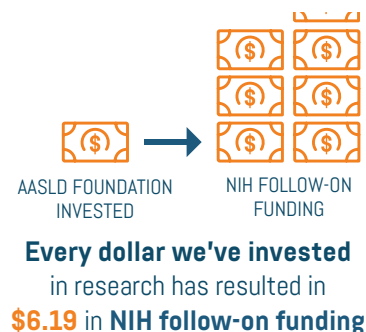
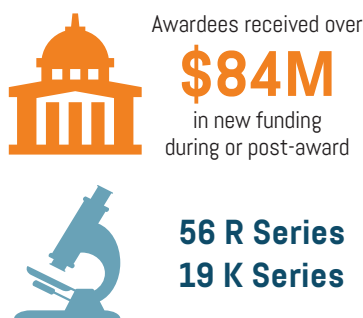
Connecting the Global Research Community

Our **Abstract Travel Awards** program provides funding to support dissemination of high-impact studies at major global scientific meetings and recognize excellence in research undertaken by early-career investigators.

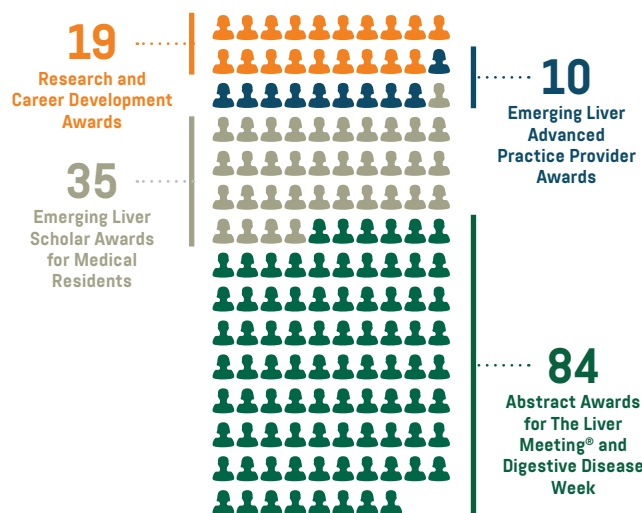
2023 Awardees: By the Numbers

- Since 2000, the cumulative total amount of funding provided by both AASLD and AASLD Foundation is **over \$60 million to over 1900 recipients**.
- In 2023, the Foundation **funded \$2 million in awards aimed at basic, clinical, and translational researchers** from student to mid-career, as well as front-line providers who want to pursue advanced clinical training in hepatology.
- **Half of our awardees** go on to receive federal funding to continue these projects.

Our Funding Impact Completed AASLD Foundation Awards made 2014–2021



- In 2023, we **funded 148 researchers and early-career professionals** who have committed themselves to hepatology.



- **AASLD Foundation-funded researchers are investigating critical areas of liver disease**, such as:

- Adult and Pediatric Liver Cancer
- Alcohol-Associated Liver Disease
- Autoimmune Liver Diseases
- Cirrhosis
- Hepatorenal Syndrome
- MASLD/MASH
- Palliative Care
- Socioeconomic Health Disparities
- Inherited and Genetic Liver Diseases

These studies and the people who are leading them could reduce the impact of liver diseases and improve the lives of patients.

- **Over half of awardees hold leadership roles** in AASLD or another medical association.



98%
90%

of awardees say their award helped them establish their career or research focus.

of awardees say their award helped them secure a new position or promotion.

Highlights from AASLD Foundation-Funded Research



Thomas Cotter, MD, MS

UT Southwestern Medical Center
Clinical, Translational, and Outcomes
Research Award in Liver Diseases

FOCUS AREA:
Alcohol-Associated Liver Diseases

Determining the Influence of Biological and SDOH Factors in Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Prognosis of Alcohol-Associated Liver Disease

We aim to identify specific clinicodemographic, biologic, and social determinants of health factors that influence racial and ethnic disparities in alcohol-associated liver disease (ALD) outcomes. These critical data will inform future interventions to reduce disparities and improve outcomes for patients with ALD.



Tess (Therese) Bittermann, MD

University of Pennsylvania
Perelman School of Medicine
Pilot Research Award in Liver Diseases

FOCUS AREA:
Portal Hypertension and Other
Complications of Cirrhosis

A Pilot Investigation into the Effects of Increased Ambient Heat Exposure on Cirrhosis Outcomes

This research project will determine whether exposure to high air temperatures is linked to an increased risk of major health-related complications, such as hospitalization or death, in patients with cirrhosis. It will also study whether race/ethnicity and other socioeconomic factors make these risks higher or lower.



Hui Han, PhD

University of Illinois at Chicago
Pinnacle Research Award
in Liver Diseases

FOCUS AREA:
MASLD and MASH

Role of Macrophage Derived Osteopontin in Non-alcoholic Steatohepatitis

The impact of this proposal lies in the delineation, of the not previously known, protective role of osteopontin-expressing macrophages in metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease. The results could establish the rationale to treat metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) by increasing osteopontin in macrophages.



DID YOU KNOW?

Foundation funded research is regularly published in high-impact medical journals and peer reviewed publications including *HEPATOLOGY*, *Liver Transplantation*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Cell*, *Nature Communications*, and many more.

**View Research Funded in 2023
and Meet Our Awardees**

CLICK OR SCAN NOW



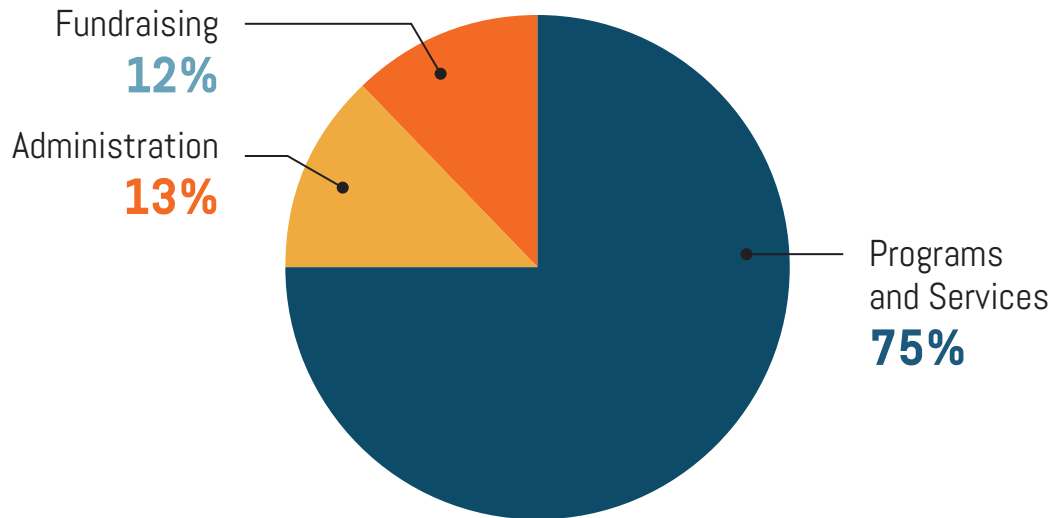
**2023 AASLD Journal Collection of
Foundation-funded Published Research**

CLICK OR VIEW NOW



Financials

AASLD Foundation holds itself to a high level of fiscal responsibility, ranking **amongst the top 1% of charities*** in the nation allowing us to focus on what is most important:



*** Charity Navigator is the nation's largest charity evaluator, providing AASLD Foundation with its highest rating of four stars.**



Moncheri Adebayo, MSN, FNP-BC speaking on "Patient Empowerment and Education to Improve Cirrhosis Outcomes" during the Emerging Liver APP Breakfast at The Liver Meeting 2023.

Thank You to All of Our Generous Supporters of AASLD Foundation

The generosity of our supporters is integral to our mission—our shared commitment to advancing liver disease research and training does not waver. Without the invaluable contributions from AASLD members, the patient community, and our Corporate Supporters, we could not spearhead the effort to end liver disease.

Founding Donors





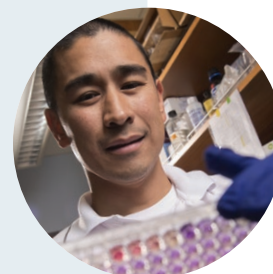
2023 Founding Partners



"This support keeps alive a decades-long dream: to make basic discoveries in the realm of liver metabolism, obesity, and MASLD to improve human health. I am forever grateful for this generous gift by the AASLD Foundation."

— Brian DeBosch, MD, PhD

Pilot Research Award in Liver Diseases, 2020



Thank You, AASLD Foundation Supporters!

Tomorrow's Cures Campaign Donors

Founder's Society (\$2,000,000)

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
Allergan
Gilead Sciences

Innovator (\$1,000,000 – \$1,999,999)

AbbVie

Partner (up to \$499,999)

Astellas
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Echosens
Intercept
The Lalit and Anubha Gupta Family Foundation
Merck
Mill Creek Capital Advisors LLC
Novo Nordisk
Pfizer
PSC Partners Seeking a Cure
Salix
Shionogi
SunTrust

View the full list of donors:



2023 Leadership Giving Challenge Winners

Women's Initiatives Committee
Hepatotoxicity SIG Steering Committee
Practice Metrics Committee



*Congratulations to the members of the
Women's Initiatives Committee—FIRST PLACE!*

**"If you want to make a
difference in the
field, but you
don't know how
to do it, one
very important
step is joining
the Foundation
as a donor—
any donation counts."**



— Juan Pablo Arab, MD

AASLD/LIFER Clinical and Translational
Research Fellowship, 2016

Thank You to AASLD Foundation's 2023 Leadership!

2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The AASLD Foundation Board of Trustees leads the Foundation's strategic direction, oversees all programs and activities, and determines annual grant funding levels to support innovative hepatology research and the people who study and treat liver disease.

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Thank You, AASLD Foundation Committees!

2023 INDIVIDUAL FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Individual Fundraising Committee champions the Foundation's major giving and annual fundraising efforts by promoting a culture of philanthropy within AASLD and the hepatology community.

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The Industry Advancement Committee drives the Foundation's relationships with industry partners who share our commitment to invest in the future of hepatology.

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2023 RESEARCH AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Research Awards Committee is a group of experts from across the hepatology field who evaluate the quality and potential impact of applications for the Foundation's research grant programs through a rigorous peer review process.

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Dean Yimlamai, MD, PhD

Special thanks to the AASLD members who lent their expertise to the review and selection of the Foundation's training and abstract awards in 2023.

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Susan Zapatka, MSN,
APRN, ANC-BC



Thanks to the generous support of our donors,
AASLD Foundation can fund **research**
and **training** for the **next generation of**
hepatology professionals. Thank you!

Clockwise from left: **Riham Soliman, MD**, The Rosalyn and Leo Friend Memorial Travel Award, 2023; **Juan Pablo Arab, MD**, AASLD/LIFER Clinical and Translational Research Fellowship, 2016; **Elvis Eze, MD**, Emerging Liver Scholar, 2023; **Anya I. Mezina, MD, MSc**, Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Fellow Award, 2023; **Ty D. Troutman, PhD**, Pinnacle Research Award in Liver Diseases, 2023.



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1001 N Fairfax St, 4th Fl
Alexandria, VA 22314

aasldfoundation.org



[@AASLDFoundation](https://www.instagram.com/AASLDFoundation)

Learn more about how you can make
an impact, please contact us at
Foundation@aasld.org