

LIVER DIGEST

A weekly update of PLRC happenings

September 24, 2020



PITTSBURGH LIVER RESEARCH CENTER

A partnership of University of Pittsburgh & UPMC

www.livercenter.pitt.edu

*Please acknowledge support from the PLRC (NIH/NIDDK
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In this issue

- [Faculty Highlight](#)
- [Seminar/Meetings Announcements](#)
- [Special Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Funding Opportunities](#)

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

Dr. Samira Kiani published an article in Nature Cell Biology, titled "*Synthetic immunomodulation with a CRISPR super-repressor in vivo.*" The manuscript gained media attention, **including in the Pittwire News outlet.** You can read the full article by **clicking here.**

NEXT VIRTUAL SEMINAR: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th AT 12:00 PM

Our next virtual seminar is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 29 at 12:00 PM.** A Zoom link to access the seminar has been sent out to all members via email. **Dr. Henry Dong**, PLRC member, will be

giving a presentation on his research and the title of the talk will be:
“*FoxO1 in Insulin Resistance and Diabetic Dyslipidemia.*”

If you have any questions, please email Amanda Bytzura at
bytzuraam@upmc.edu.

FINAL SOTA LECTURE SEPTEMBER 29 AT 7:00 AM

The Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition will be hosting their final State-of-the-Art Lecture of the series **on Tuesday, September 29 at 7:00 am**. Dr. Adam Slivka will present, "Evaluation & Management of Nonvariceal UGI & LGI Bleeding."

Please click here for the Microsoft Teams link to join the meeting.

You can also join by dialing [412-447-5295](tel:412-447-5295) and entering the **Conference ID: 992 093 294#**

COMMUNITY LIVER ALLIANCE
**VIRTUAL LIVER CANCER
CONFERENCE**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020 | 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM

REGISTRATION IS FREE

Concurrent Educational Sessions:

Health Care Providers (CME) and Patients/Caregivers Roundtable (Non-CME)

8:00 a.m. Welcome and Overview

Dulabh K Monga, MD and Satdarshan (Paul) Monga, MD
Course Directors
Suzanna Masartis
Executive Director, Community Liver Alliance

8:10 a.m. Keynote 1: The State of Art in Pathogenesis and Diagnosis

Augusto Villanueva, MD, PhD
Liver Cancer Program - Tisch Cancer Institute
Divisions of Liver Diseases/Hematology and Medical Oncology - Department of Medicine
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

9:00 a.m. Risk Factors for HCC and HCC Surveillance

Jaideep Behari, MD, PhD
Transplant Hepatology
UPMC Center for Liver Diseases

9:30 a.m. Role of Surgical Resection and Transplantation in HCC Management

David Geller, MD
Director, UPMC Liver Cancer Center

10:00 a.m. Concurrent Session

Role of Locoregional Therapies in HCC Management
Andrew Klobuka, MD
Department of Radiology, Allegheny Health Network

Patient Roundtable Discussion

Brittany Morocco, MPAS, PA-C
Senior Physician Assistant
UPMC Liver Cancer Center

10:30 a.m. Medical Management of HCC

Dulabh K Monga, MD
Program Director
Hematology Oncology Fellowship
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Allegheny Health Network

11:00 a.m. In Search of New Therapeutic Targets for HCC

Satdarshan (Paul) Monga, MD
Director, Pittsburgh Liver Research Center
UPMC Endowed Chair for Experimental Pathology
University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine

11:30 a.m. Radiation Therapy for HCC

Alexander Kirichenko, MD
System Director, SRS/ SRT Programs
Allegheny Health Network

12:00-12:30 p.m. Lunch Break

12:30-1:00 p.m. Sponsor Exhibit Visits

1:00-1:50 p.m. Keynote 2: State of the Art in Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma: Diagnosis and Treatment

Mitesh Borad, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine Consultant, Div of Hematology/Oncology, Department of Internal Medicine
Consultant, Department of Molecular Medicine
Mayo Clinic

2:00-2:45 p.m. Case Presentations

Moderators: Dr. Mitesh Borad and Dr. Dulabh K Monga
Resectable/Transplantable HCC
Akshata Moghe, MD, PhD
Advanced Fellow/Transplant Hepatology
UPMC Starzl Transplant Services

Non-Resectable Non-Transplantable HCC and Medical and Locoregional Options

Srividya Srinivasamaharaj, MD
Hematology Oncology Fellow
Allegheny Health Network

Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma

Srividya Srinivasamaharaj, MD
Hematology Oncology Fellow
Allegheny Health Network

2:45-3:00 p.m. Case Presentation Q&A

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, VISIT
COMMUNITYLIVERALLIANCE.ORG/LIVER-CANCER-CONFERENCE



SPECIAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The University of Pittsburgh is expanding its successful partnership with Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. and is seeking requests for proposals for funded research projects across a range of categories. Funding can be up to NIH (R01) levels and most projects are expected to be in the range of 18-30 months.

Available categories are as follows:

Liver Disease

- Advanced/late stage liver disease (F3, F4 NASH only), anti-fibrosis drivers
- Hepatocyte rejuvenation, regeneration, replacement
- Primary sclerosing cholangitis
- Rare disease and genetic linked: Wilson's

Translational and Clinical

- Clinically meaningful targets, biomarkers, models, assays, endpoints

- Causal validation of targets, therapeutic modulation that recapitulates human biology
- Patient progression and disease outcome predictions
- Patient identification and stratification strategies

Areas of no interest include

- Metabolic NASH/NAFLD
- Hepatitis

Criteria for Project selection

- Transformative approach, platform, or biology
- Clearly defined proposal with a testable hypothesis
 - Specify activities to be performed in investigator lab vs those by Takeda team
 - Insight and/or expertise in the disease biology
- Availability of *in vitro* and *in vivo* models to robustly test the therapeutic hypothesis

Dr. Alex Goddard will be presenting Takeda's areas of interest on Sept 25th from 3-4pm via Zoom. Please register [here](#)

Short, non-confidential proposals are due October 15th and will be

reviewed by the Innovation Institute prior to submission. The application can be found at the [linked site](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Bytzura at bytzuraam@upmc.edu.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Liver Scholar Award

American Liver Foundation (ALF)

ALF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Award

American Liver Foundation (ALF)

BRAIN Initiative: Pilot resources for brain cell type-specific access and manipulation across vertebrate species (U01

Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

(RFA-MH-20-556)

National Institute of Mental Health

National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health

National Eye Institute

National Institute on Aging

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and
Human Development

National Institute on Drug Abuse

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Application Receipt Date(s): February 11, 2021; October 19, 2021,
by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization.

HEAL Initiative: Non-addictive Analgesic Therapeutics
Development [Small Molecules and Biologics] to Treat Pain
(UG3/UH3 Clinical Trial Optional)

(RFA-NS-21-010)

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health

National Eye Institute

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and
Human Development

National Institute on Drug Abuse

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

Office of Research on Women's Health

Application Receipt Date(s): November 18, 2020, March 24, 2021,

July 14, 2021, October 15, 2021, February 15, 2022, June 15, 2022, by 5:00PM local time of applicant organization. All types of non-AIDS applications allowed for this funding opportunity announcement are due on these dates.



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Our mailing address is:

Pittsburgh Liver Research Center
200 Lothrop St. | Pittsburgh, PA 15261