

LIVER DIGEST

A weekly update of PLRC happenings

March 11, 2021



**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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The Next PLRC Virtual Seminar will be Tuesday, March 16 at 12:00pm

The next PLRC virtual seminar will be held on **Tuesday, March 16 at 12:00 pm via Zoom**. Dr. Ossama Kashlan, current PLRC member and Assistant Professor of Medicine at

The University of Pittsburgh, will be presenting. The title of his talk will be, "***Bile acid effects on renal sodium transport.***"

[Click here for Zoom Info](#)

New Slide Scanner Available for Use - ACTIC

The slide scanner is available beginning March 1,2021 for use for one month's time. All Liver Center Members are invited to participate and use the services it offers. For more information on the slide scanner, **[click here](#)**. The device is currently at CBI's room S207. If you have any questions, please reach out to **[Dr. Donna Stolz](#)**, director ACTIC (**Donna.Stolz@pitt.edu**) and copy Dr. Simon Watkins, director CBI (**Simon.Watkins@pitt.edu**).

Dr. Paul Monga's group publishes a manuscript in The American Journal of Pathology

A study from **Dr. Monga's** group in The American Journal of Pathology identifies simultaneous loss of β - and γ -catenin in a subset of liver samples and support a previously unknown role of β - and γ -catenin in the maintenance of hepatocyte polarity. Other PLRC members who contributed to the study include **Dr. Dipa Pradhan-Sundd**, **Dr. Sungjin Ko**; Director of Enrichment Program **Dr. Kari Nejak-Bowen**; Director and Manager of ACTIC **Dr. Donna Stolz**; Assistant Director and Manager of GSBC **Dr. Silvia Liu**; and Associate Member **Dr. Aaron Bell**.

Pradhan-Sundd T, Liu S, Singh S, Podder M, Ko S, Bell A, Franks J, Huck I, Stolz D, Apte U, Ranganathan S, Nejak-Bowen K, Monga **[SP.Am](#)** J Pathol. 2021 Mar 1:S0002-9440(21)00075-4. doi: 10.1016/j.ajpath.2021.02.008. Online ahead of print. PMID: 33662348

Dr. Edward Prochownik's group publishes manuscripts in JBC and cmgh

Dr. Edward Prochownik's group published a manuscript in Journal of Biological Chemistry entitled, "***Acquired Deficiency of Peroxisomal Dicarboxylic Acid Catabolism is a Metabolic Vulnerability in Hepatoblastoma.***" PLRC member Dr. Eric Goetzman also contributed to the study.

Wang H, Lu J, Chen X, Schwalbe M, Gorka JE, Mandel JA, Wang J, Goetzman ES, Ranganathan S, Dobrowolski SF, Prochownik EV. J Biol Chem. 2021 Jan 12:100283. doi: 10.1016/j.jbc.2021.100283. Online ahead of print. PMID: 33450224

Dr. Edward Prochownik's group also published a manuscript in Cellular and Molecular Gastroenterology and Hepatology entitled, "***Patient-Derived Mutant Forms of NFE2L2/NRF2 Drive Aggressive Murine Hepatoblastomas.***"

Wang H, Lu J, Mandel JA, Zhang W, Schwalbe M, Gorka J, Liu Y, Marburger B, Wang J, Ranganathan S, Prochownik EV. Cell Mol Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2021 Feb 19:S2352-345X(21)00037-0. doi: 10.1016/j.jcmgh.2021.02.004. Online ahead of print. PMID: 33618031

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AASLD Emerging Topic Conference - CHRONIC HEPATITIS B: FROM THE POPULATION TO NEW MOLECULES AND BACK

A comprehensive and in-depth discussion of the most updated treatment strategies as well as data/care gap to prevent and manage the HBV population. A review of the preclinical and clinical frontiers of HBV cure molecules after a state-of-the-art review of novel molecular and immunologic HBV cure markers will be covered along with an assessment of HBV cure's impact on HBV epidemiology and population health. March 12-14.

[Click here for more Information and to Register](#)

Keystone Symposium-Hepatobiliary Cancer: Pathobiology and Translational Advances

Keystone Symposium will be held virtually March 22-24, 2021. Details for prospective attendees concerning Registration, Financial Aid, Abstract Submission, and Current Program are given at **Keysym.us/VKSHepatoCancer21** (indicated in the flyer). #VKSHepatoCancer21

ePoster / SciTalk Submission: March 11, 2021

Financial Aid Application: March 8, 2021

[Please click here for Registration](#)

KEYSTONE SYMPOSIA
eSymposia

Joint with: Fatty Liver Disease and Multi-System Complications

Hepatobiliary Cancers: Pathobiology and Translational Advances

March 22-24, 2021 | 10:00AM EDT | 2:00PM UTC*

*Program is in development and subject to change

SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZERS:

Alphonse E. Sirica, Gregory J. Gores and Lopa Mishra



Register at: keysym.us/VKSHepatoCancer21



Workshop for GSBC users on Next Generation Sequencing

Dr. Silvia Liu, Manager of GSBC will be presenting in part a Next-Generation-Sequencing Workshop hosted by the CRC.

Important links to get more information on the workshop and for registering:

<https://crc.pitt.edu/CRC-Spring-2021-Next-Generation-Sequencing-Workshops>

<https://crc.pitt.edu/crc-spring-2021-ngs-workshop-trainer>

<https://crc.pitt.edu/NGS-Spring-2021-Workshops-Register>

Community Liver Alliance Liver Journal Club

The Community Liver Alliance invites you to join for the 2021 Virtual Liver Journal Club on March 29, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The topic is “**Recent clinical trials on HCC and PBC management.**” Our Liver Journal Club Directors are **David Geller, MD**, liver center member with the UPMC Liver Cancer Center and **Michael Babich, MD** with the AHN Center for Digestive Health and Nutrition. The first Liver Journal Club will feature the following presentations outlined in the agenda below. There will be a 15-minute presentation and 15-minute discussion by faculty, per article. The program will educate hepatologists, gastroenterologists, oncologists, primary care physicians and other health care providers involved in the management of patients with liver disease.

Please register in advance before Friday, March 26th using link **here**. A Zoom link will be sent to registrants

Drug-Induced Liver Injury Meeting (Co-sponsored by AASLD & FDA)

Held virtually **April 20-22, 2021**. The website below contains links for attendee **Registration** and an **Agenda** of planned sessions, speakers and panel discussions, as well as information for the submission of poster abstracts by attendees.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Topics covered:

- Latest developments in the field of hepatotoxicity
- Innovative tools for diagnosis and assessment
- Liver injury in patients with cancer or underlying liver disease
- Drug induced liver injury during the COVID Pandemic.

Janssen Scholars of Oncology Diversity Engagement Program

Janssen Oncology, of Johnson & Johnson will be hosting a **'Virtual Janssen Oncology Day'**, providing a unique opportunity to be exposed to the research and development process within industry and understand the critical skillsets to have a successful industry career.

Highlights include:

- **Formal presentations given by Janssen Oncology scientific and strategic leaders** highlighting the drug development process across Discovery, Clinical Development, Safety/Toxicology, Manufacturing, Translational Research and Data Science/Computational Biology
- **Smaller breakout sessions with Janssen Oncology leaders** to facilitate more in-depth dialogue about what success looks like in industry, transferable skills from academia to industry, etc.

Click for more information and to apply. Apply by March 15.

Lab Manager, part-time - Dr. Kiani and Dr. Ebrahimkhani lab

The laboratories of Dr. Samira Kiani and Dr. Mo Ebrahimkhani at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and Pittsburgh Liver Research Center seek a qualified candidate for a part-time Laboratory Manager. The incumbent will maintain the labs' daily operation and work closely with the PIs. The labs' day-to-day operation includes planning orderings, filing inventories, tracking ongoing orders, perform onboarding training, coordinate lab functions and orderliness, organizing lab to comply with the IACUC, biosafety, and biohazard standards.

For more information, click here

Click here to apply

Post-Doc Position Available - Dr. Duncan Lab

A postdoctoral research position is available in the laboratory of Dr. Andrew Duncan in the Department of Pathology and McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. We are looking for a highly motivated individual to participate in an NIH-funded project related to liver pathobiology. Polyploidy is a defining feature of the liver where polyploid hepatocytes represent half of hepatocytes in humans and as many as 90% in mice. Although polyploid hepatocytes have been recognized for over 100 years, the functional role of these cells is poorly understood. Ongoing projects explore (a) how diploid and polyploid hepatocytes respond to acute injury; (b) the role of cell polarity in regulation of mitotic fidelity; and (c) mechanisms of liver adaptation to chronic injury .

[Click here for more information](#)

Update Information

Please continue to share your relevant accolades (grants, manuscripts, other news) with us, as it relates to PLRC mission, so we can share with all members. Please visit [PLRC website here](#). Contact AJ Singh (singha16@upmd.edu) if you have specific questions or suggestions.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Janice Wiesman Young Investigator Grant Program

Ionis Pharmaceuticals

Clinical Pilot and Feasibility Award

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF)

To see all NIH Grants sorted by week, please visit: [NIH Guide: 2021](#)

For Weeks Ending:

- [March 12](#)
- [March 5](#)

[Click here](#) for all current NIDDK Funding opportunities

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Our mailing address is:

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