

# LIVER DIGEST

A weekly update of PLRC happenings

July 1, 2021



**PITTSBURGH LIVER  
RESEARCH CENTER**

A partnership of University of Pittsburgh & UPMC

[www.livercenter.pitt.edu](http://www.livercenter.pitt.edu)

*Please acknowledge support from the PLRC (NIH/NIDDK  
**P30DK120531**) in your publications and presentations. [\(Click for a  
copy/paste version for manuscript and grant submissions\)](#)*

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](#) for up to date news, and upcoming seminar and event information. Contact AJ Singh ([singha16@upmc.edu](mailto:singha16@upmc.edu)) if you have specific questions or suggestions.

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- Faculty Highlights
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**The Next PLRC Virtual Seminar will be Tuesday, June 29 at 12:00pm**

The next PLRC Virtual Seminar will be a Scientist-Clinician Roundtable on **Tuesday, July 6 at 12:00 pm. Dr. Obaid Shaikh**, Director of Transplant Medicine and Professor in the

Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at the University of Pittsburgh, will be discussing Viral Hepatitis in the Clinic. **Dr. Moses Bility**, Assistant Professor of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology at the University of Pittsburgh, will be discussing Animal Models of Viral Hepatitis.

**Zoom Meeting: <https://pitt.zoom.us/j/94996033342>**

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**PLRC Director, Dr. Paul Monga, along with DDRCC Directors, Drs. Don Rockey, Nicholas Davidson, and Robert Sandler, published a monograph in Gastroenterology**

**Dr. Paul Monga**, Director of the Pittsburgh Liver Research Center and Professor of Pathology and Medicine, and **Dr. Don Rockey**, Director, MUSC DDRCC, **Dr. Nicholas Davidson**, Director, WUSTL DDRCC and **Dr. Robert Sandler**, Director, UNC DDRCC, publish a monograph in Gastroenterology, entitled, "Silvio O. Conte Digestive Disease Research Core Centers – Connecting People, Creating Opportunities, Developing Careers." The article describes and highlights the successes and challenges for DDRCC's. Silvio O. Conte Digestive Research Core Center (DDRCC) program is an initiative funded by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)

**[Click here to read the full article](#)**

Sandler RS, Davidson NO, Monga SP, Rockey DC. Silvio O. Conte Digestive Disease Research Core Centers - Connecting People, Creating Opportunities, Developing Careers. Gastroenterology. 2021 Jun 24:S0016-5085(21)03168-1. doi: 10.1053/j.gastro.2021.06.054. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34175277.

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## **Dr. Alex Soto-Gutierrez and his group published article in Journal of Personalized Medicine**

**Dr. Alex Soto-Gutierrez**, PLRC member and Associate Professor of Pathology, and his group publish a manuscript in Journal of Personalized Medicine, entitled, "Is HSD17B13 Genetic Variant a Protector for Liver Dysfunction? Future Perspective as a Potential Therapeutic Target." **Dr. Alina Ostrowska**, PLRC member and Director of the Human Liver Disease Lab, also contributed to this study.

**Click here to read the full article**

Motomura T, Amirneni S, Diaz-Aragon R, Faccioli LAP, Malizio MR, Coard MC, Kocas-Kilicarslan ZN, Frau C, Haep N, Ostrowska A, Florentino RM, Soto-Gutierrez A. Is HSD17B13 Genetic Variant a Protector for Liver Dysfunction? Future Perspective as a Potential Therapeutic Target. J Pers Med. 2021 Jun 30;11(7):619. doi: 10.3390/jpm11070619. PMID: 34208839.

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## **Dr. Samira Kiani shares her story with SciSub**

Excerpt:

**What would you say to aspiring scientists? "Never give up. Be persistent in what you want to achieve, and believe in yourself. You can make it if I could, because there were a lot of challenges for me being an immigrant without access to a lot of opportunities."**

**Dr. Kiani**, PLRC member and Associate Professor of Pathology, shares her story and the experiences that shaped her into who she is now. **Click here to read the article**

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## Frontiers in Stem Cells in Cancer

FriSC<sup>2</sup> is an annual advanced training course that trains 16 promising trainees from predominantly under-represented communities in sophisticated technologies for clinically relevant discoveries in cancer. The purpose of the training course is to provide comprehensive training in research strategies and state-of-the-art methods on cellular, molecular, and genetic approaches for advancing cancer research. It is a dynamic course that offers a series of daily lectures on merging concepts, followed by discussions and laboratory research over a week period. Our intention is to give trainees the knowledge of 'hands-on' laboratory techniques, career mentoring, and the ethical-legal-societal impact of cancer and stem cell research to greatly enhance their careers in this field. FriSC<sup>2</sup> has been created for promising **graduate students, post-docs, physician-scientists and other scientists**.

**[Click here for the full Agenda](#)**

Please download the applications for the courses at **[www.pdc.magee.edu](http://www.pdc.magee.edu)** or email at **[frontiers@mwri.magee.edu](mailto:frontiers@mwri.magee.edu)** with any questions. **Course tuition will be waived for all applicants.**

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## AASLD Masterclass 2021 for Early Career Investigators

"The **[2021 AASLD/EASL Masterclass](#)**, provides a unique educational collaboration of clinical, basic, and translational scientists from leading academic medical institutions from both sides of the Atlantic. Participants will attend a two-day intensive training session designed for future leaders in academic hepatology. The program will consist of academic lectures, interactive break-out sessions, individual meetings with tutors, abstract presentations and a poster session, and social events to give early-stage investigators (MD, PhD, or MD/PhD, or equivalent) the opportunity to network with world leaders in hepatology. This year's program is hosted by AASLD and will be held in the U.S.A."

**[To Learn more and to apply, Click Here](#)**

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## Post-Doc Positions available

The laboratory of Dr. Mo Ebrahimkhani at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and Pittsburgh Liver Research Center seek qualified candidates for two post-doc positions.

[Click here for more information.](#)

[Ebrahimkhani Lab website](#)

The laboratory of Dr. Samira Kiani at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and Pittsburgh Liver Research Center seek qualified candidates for two post-doc positions.

[Click here for more information.](#)

[Kiani Lab website](#)

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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

Or Click below:

- [July 2](#)
- [June 25](#)

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

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*Acknowledgment of Support Statement:* This work was supported by NIH grant 1P30DK120531-01 to Pittsburgh Liver Research Center (PLRC)

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