

# LIVER DIGEST

A weekly update of PLRC happenings

Week of July 4, 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.

## In this issue

- [PLRC Annual Retreat](#)
- [Faculty Highlights](#)
  - [Dr. Paul Monga and Dr. Ramon Bataller announced as the new Co Editors-In-Chief for Seminars in Liver Disease \(new Impact Factor of 6.115\)](#)
  - [Drs. Alex Soto and Ira Fox co-author manuscript in Hepatology Communications](#)
  - [Dr. Paul Monga and colleagues publish manuscript in Cell Reports](#)
- [Seminars and Meeting Announcements](#)
  - [Frontiers in Stem Cells for Cancer](#)
  - [AASLD Masterclass 2021 for new Investigators](#)
- [Post-Doc Positions Available](#)
- [Funding Opportunities](#)

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### **PLRC Annual Retreat**

The Pittsburgh Liver Research Center will be hosting it's PLRC Annual Retreat this fall at the University Club. We are excited to share that our keynote speaker will be Dr. Sonya MacParland. Dr. MacParland is a Scientist at the Toronto General Research Institute, and

Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto in the Departments of Immunology, and Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology. She is also the Course Director of the UHN/U of T Training Program in Regenerative Medicine. Dr. MacParland has done seminal work in single cell mapping of the human liver with emphasis on immune cells. More information on the retreat will be forthcoming and an RSVP will be sent out via email.

[Click here for more information](#)

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**Dr. Paul Monga and Dr. Ramon Bataller announced as the new Co Editors-In-Chief for Seminars in Liver Disease (new Impact Factor of 6.115)**

PLRC Members, [Dr. Paul Monga](#) and [Dr. Ramon Bataller](#) were announced as the new Co Editors-In-Chief for [Seminars in Liver Disease](#) (new Impact Factor of 6.115). See their new vision for the journal and the new editorial leadership video posted on our website [by clicking here](#).

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**Dr. Alex Soto-Gutierrez and Dr. Ira Fox co-author article in Hepatology Communications**

[Dr. Alex Soto-Gutierrez](#), Director HSLBC and Associate Professor of Pathology, and [Dr. Ira Fox](#), PLRC member and Professor of Surgery, co-author a manuscript in Hepatology communications, entitled, "Hepatocyte Nuclear Factor 4 alpha 2 Messenger RNA Reprograms Liver-Enriched Transcription Factors and Functional Proteins in End-Stage Cirrhotic Human Hepatocytes." PLRC members, [Dr. Alina Ostrowska](#), Director of the Human Liver Disease Lab, and [Dr. Aaron Bell](#), also contributed to this study.

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

Edgar N. Tafaleng, Amitava Mukherjee, Aaron Bell, Kazutoyo Morita, Jorge Guzman-Lepe, Nils Haep, Rodrigo M. Florentino, Ricardo Diaz-Aragon, Carla Frau, Alina Ostrowska, Joshua R. Schultz, Paolo G. V. Martini, Alejandro Soto-Gutierrez, Ira J. Fox

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### **Dr. Paul Monga and colleagues publish an article in Cell Reports**

**Dr. Paul Monga**, PLRC member and Professor of Pathology and Medicine, and his group published a manuscript in Cell Reports, entitled, "Compensatory hepatic adaptation accompanies permanent absence of intrahepatic biliary network due to YAP1 loss in liver progenitors." PLRC members, **Dr. Andrew Feranchak**- Associate Director PLRC, **Dr. Kari Nejak-Bowen**- Director Enrichment Program, **Dr. Takis Benos**- Director GSBC, **Dr. Aatur Singhi**- Director CBRPC, **Dr. Bharat Bhushan**- 2021 P&F Recipient, **Dr. George Michalopoulos**, **Dr. Xiaochao Ma**, **Dr. Simon Watkins**, **Dr. Prithu Sundd**, **Dr. Sungjin Ko**, **Dr. Tirthadipa Pradhan-Sundd**, and **Dr. Aaron Bell**, all contributed to this article.

**UPMC Press release - Missing Bile Ducts Offer Clues to Mechanism of Liver Injury**

**Click here to read the full article**

Molina LM, Zhu J, Li Q, Pradhan-Sundd T, Krutsenko Y, Sayed K, Jenkins N, Vats R, Bhushan B, Ko S, Hu S, Poddar M, Singh S, Tao J, Sundd P, Singhi A, Watkins S, Ma X, Benos PV, Feranchak A, Michalopoulos G, Nejak-Bowen K, Watson A, Bell A, Monga SP. Compensatory hepatic adaptation accompanies permanent absence of intrahepatic biliary network due to YAP1 loss in liver progenitors. Cell Rep. 2021 Jul 6;36(1):109310. doi: 10.1016/j.celrep.2021.109310. PMID: 34233187.

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## Frontiers in Stem Cells in Cancer

FriSC<sup>2</sup> is 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](#)**

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## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

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

Or click below:

- **[July 9](#)**
- **[July 2](#)**

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

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