

# LIVER DIGEST

April 7, 2023

A bi-weekly update of PLRC happenings

## PITTSBURGH LIVER RESEARCH CENTER

A partnership of University of Pittsburgh & UPMC

### In this issue:

#### • PLRC Faculty Highlights

- \* Dr. Jaideep Behari named as Associate Director of PLRC
- \* Dr. Dr. Naudia L. Jonassaint Joins PLRC Internal Advisory Board

#### • PLRC Seminars

- April 18th @ noon Dr. David Wink, 1105 Scaife & Zoom
- April 19th @ 2:00PM Dr. Elke Ober S123 BST & Zoom \*\*Dev. Biol, Seminar\*\*
- April 25th @ noon Dr. Irina Kirpich, S123 BST & Zoom

#### • Announcements

- CLA Program & Events
- Pathology Retreat registration is OPEN! & Abstract submission Deadline April 12th\*\*\*
- AASLD "Liver Meeting" Abstract Portal OPEN!

#### • Funding Opportunities

#### • Want Ads :

- 2 Open positions posted
- 4 Jobseekers CV/resumes posted

Please acknowledge all support from the PLRC in your publications and presentations. Note the grant number and all CORES used. (NIH/NIDDK P30DK120531)

Please continue to share your relevant accolades (grants, publications, awards and other news worthy items) with us, as it relates to the PLRC mission, so we can share with all of our members.

Visit the PLRC website ([www.livercenter.pitt.edu](http://www.livercenter.pitt.edu)) for up-to-date news, and upcoming seminar and event information. Contact Aaron Bell ([bellaaro@pitt.edu](mailto:bellaaro@pitt.edu)) if you have specific questions or suggestions.

### Our mailing address is:

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*The PLRC is proud to announce the appointment of Dr. Jaideep Behari, MD, PhD to the position of Associate Director of the Pittsburgh Liver Research Center.*

### Faculty Highlight

PLRC Associate Director



*Congratulations!*  
Jaideep Behari, MD, PhD

Dr. Behari is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at UPSOM. He is an attending physician on the Hepatology service at UPMC Presbyterian, and a transplant hepatologist at the STI. His clinical and research interests are focused on NAFLD. Dr. Behari founded the UPMC Fatty Liver, Obesity, and Wellness (UPMC FLOW®) Clinic, a multidisciplinary clinic catering to the complex needs of patients with advanced NAFLD, obesity and diabetes mellitus. He is MPI & PI on R01, UH3 and U01 grants. He is also PI on several investigator-initiated, industry-funded studies in NAFLD and has been the site PI of multiple Phase 2 and 3 clinical trials. He currently has an active cross-disciplinary translational research program within three overlapping NAFLD areas: population health management, optimum management of coexisting obesity and NAFLD, and precision therapy for NAFLD. He has over 60 original publications in journals including Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Journal of Hepatology and American Journal of Pathology. Dr Behari also serves as the Director of Translational Research in Hepatology and has collaborations in areas of alcohol-related fatty liver disease, alcohol-associated hepatitis and issues related to liver transplantation. He received PLRC P&F grant in 2019 & received extramural funding in 2020 & 2021.

**Dr Behari is ideally suited to partner with Dr Monga & Dr. Feranchak to provide strong leadership and vision for PLRC in translational liver research and to foster cross-disciplinary collaborations between clinical researchers and basic scientists.**

**Welcome Aboard!**

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## PLRC SEMINARS

- April 18 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm *HYBRID*  
1105 Scaife Hall & via Zoom



**David Wink Jr, PhD.**

Deputy Chief  
Cancer Innovation Laboratory  
National Cancer Institute

**Title: TBD**

- April 19 \*Dev. Biol. Seminar\* *HYBRID*  
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm S123 BST & via Zoom



**Dr. Elke Ober, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Faculty of Health and Medical  
Sciences  
Univ. of Copenhagen , Denmark

**Title: Building an organ: From progenitors to a functional liver architecture**

- April 25 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm *HYBRID*  
S123 BST & via Zoom



**Dr. Irina Kirpich, PhD, MPH**

Associate Professor of  
Medicine  
Department of Microbiology and  
Immunology  
University of Louisville

**TITLE: Alcohol-associated liver disease: role of bioactive lipids and soluble epoxide hydrolases**

## Faculty Highlight

**Dr. Naudia L. Jonassaint, MD, MHS, MBA**  
Joins PLRC Internal Advisory Board



**Dr. Naudia L. Jonassaint, MD, MHS, MBA** , Associate Professor of Medicine, Interim Chief, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, Vice Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Department of Medicine, is a transplant hepatologist and gastroenterologist. Her research interests are focused on exploration of specific biologic markers involved in the development and progression of liver disease in both the pre- and post-transplant populations. Dr. Jonassaint is especially interested in disparities in liver transplant outcomes. Her research also explores why some patients experience rapid fibrosis progression or accelerated graft loss post-transplant.

**Her professional experience and expertise will complement and strengthen the makeup of the PLRC Internal Advisory Board and provide objective counsel to the administration of our center.**

**Welcome Aboard!**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Communityliveralliance.org](https://communityliveralliance.org)



- **2023 Pathology Research Day & Retreat [May 17th 2023](#). Registration is OPEN!**  
**Abstracts Due by [April 12th](#) to Shanning Wan ([shw126@pitt.edu](mailto:shw126@pitt.edu)).**  
**Register at: <https://www.path.pitt.edu/events/departments-pathology-2023-research-day-and-retreat>**
- **AASLD "THE LIVER MEETING" Nov. 10-14, 2023 @ Bostn MA.**  
**Abstracts due by 5/24/23: [Link to Abstract Submission Site](#)**

## WANT ADS

This section is available for PLRC members to communicate wants or needs in your laboratories.

Available positions / Collaboration ideas / Equipment needs

Please send any "wants/needs" to be advertised to Aaron Bell ([bellaaro@pitt.edu](mailto:bellaaro@pitt.edu))

## OPEN POSITIONS:

- **Postdoc/Technician: [Bone cell Differentiation](#) \$45K; PI: Harry Blair: US citizen ONLY! Contact: 412-383-9616 or [hclair@pitt.edu](mailto:hclair@pitt.edu)**
- **Postdoc: engineering immune tolerance by combining mRNA technologies, nanoparticles and epigenetic editing (CRISPR): PI: Dr. Samira Kiani [skiani@pitt.edu](mailto:skiani@pitt.edu) ([more JOB details here](#))**

## JOB SEEKERS:

- **[An ECFMG certified medical graduate](#) from Hyderabad, India, currently working as a research fellow at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN in the department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Artificial Intelligence lab is seeking a 1 yr paid research fellow position starting from June/July 2023 in Gastroenterology at UPMC ([More info and CV available here](#)) or email [bellaaro@pitt.edu](mailto:bellaaro@pitt.edu)**
- **[Research Assistant Professor](#), Pathology Dept, UPMC Hillman Cancer Ctr. With experience in Bioinformatics, proteomics, genomics, molecular biology. [liz45@pitt.edu](mailto:liz45@pitt.edu) [link to CV](#)**
- **[Senior Lab Scientist](#), UPMC Dept of Pediatrics, with broad molecular biology experience and work in liver and breast cancer. [suk85@pitt.edu](mailto:suk85@pitt.edu) [Link to CV](#)**
- **[Research Tech/Assistant/Associate](#): Clinical molecular and microbiology & virology experience Seeking position July 2023. [anneudoh22@gmail.com](mailto:anneudoh22@gmail.com) [Link to Resume](#)**

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**Gilead Research Scholars-Liver Disease program. [Junior Faculty . May 1, 2023](#)**

• To see all NIH Grants sorted by week, please visit: [NIH Guide: 2023](#)

• Or click below:

**Week of: [Apr 07](#)**

**[Mar 31](#)**

**[Mar 24](#)**

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