

LIVER DIGEST

June 23, 2023

A bi-weekly update of PLRC happenings



In this issue:

• PLRC Faculty Highlights

- Drs. Gavin Arteel, Juliane Beier & Abhinav Humar publish in Scientific Reports

• Upcoming Seminars

The seminar Series will be on summer hiatus and resuming in mid-late August. Stay tuned for emails/announcements of impromptu guests speakers during this time.

• Funding Opportunities

• Announcements

- NIDDK-Data Management Webinar
- CLA Program & Events
- FASEB The Cholangiocarcinoma Conference
- AASLD "Liver Meeting"
- ASIP "Annual Meeting" Abstract Portal OPEN! DEADLINE 6/28
- GLI Liver Cancer Webinar 6/27
- PLRC P&F program Opens Soon

• Want Ads :

- Open positions posted
- 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) for up-to-date news, and upcoming seminar and event information. Contact Aaron Bell (bellaaaro@pitt.edu) if you have specific questions or suggestions.

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FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



Dr. Gavin E. Arteel, PhD, PLRC Pilot & Feasibility director, and PLRC colleagues **Juliane I. Beier, PhD** and **Abhinav Humar, MD**, published an article in Scientific Reports entitled,

"The plasma degradome reflects later development of NASH fibrosis after liver transplant".

Li J, Sato T, Hernández-Tejero M, Beier JI, Sayed K, Benos PV, Wilkey DW, Humar A, Merchant ML, Duarte-Rojo A, Arteel GE. [bioRxiv \[Preprint\]. 2023 Feb 1:2023.01.30.526241. doi: 10.1101/2023.01.30.526241. PMID: 36778394; PMCID: PMC9915514.](https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.01.30.526241)

Abstract: Although liver transplantation (LT) is an effective therapy for cirrhosis, the risk of post-LT NASH is alarmingly high and is associated with accelerated progression to fibrosis/cirrhosis, cardiovascular disease and decreased survival. Lack of risk stratification strategies hampers early intervention against development of post-LT NASH fibrosis. The liver undergoes significant remodeling during inflammatory injury. During such remodeling, degraded peptide fragments (i.e., 'degradome') of the ECM and other proteins increase in plasma, making it a useful diagnostic/prognostic tool in chronic liver disease. To investigate whether liver injury caused by post-LT NASH would yield a unique degradome profile that is predictive of severe post-LT NASH fibrosis, a retrospective analysis of 22 biobanked samples from the Starzl Transplantation Institute (12 with post-LT NASH after 5 years and 10 without) was performed. Total plasma peptides were isolated and analyzed by 1D-LC-MS/MS analysis using a Proxeon EASY-nLC 1000 UHPLC and nanoelectrospray ionization into an Orbitrap Elite mass spectrometer. Qualitative and quantitative peptide features data were developed from MSn datasets using PEAKS Studio X (v10). LC-MS/MS yielded ~2700 identifiable peptide features based on the results from Peaks Studio analysis. Several peptides were significantly altered in patients that later developed fibrosis and heatmap analysis of the top 25 most significantly changed peptides, most of which were ECM-derived, clustered the 2 patient groups well. Supervised modeling of the dataset indicated that a fraction of the total peptide signal (~15%) could explain the differences between the groups, indicating a strong potential for representative biomarker selection. A similar degradome profile was observed when the plasma degradome patterns were compared being obesity sensitive (C57Bl6/J) and insensitive (AJ) mouse strains. The plasma degradome profile of post-LT patients yielded stark difference based on later development of post-LT NASH fibrosis. This approach could yield new "fingerprints" that can serve as minimally-invasive biomarkers of negative outcomes post-LT.

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PLRC SEMINARS

- The seminar Series will be on summer hiatus and resuming in mid-late August .
- Stay tuned for emails/announcements of impromptu guests speakers during this time and a “save-the-date” schedule for the fall term seminars.

NOTE: Upon resumption of the seminars in the Fall term, the Format will be Live In-Person talks with minimal Zoom/online options. Everyone is highly encouraged to physically attend and help support our external and internal speakers.

ANNOUNCEMENT

PLRC Pilot & Feasibility Grants

2024 Application Cycle opens SOON!

PLRC Members should encourage qualified senior Post-Docs (ready to transition to independence) and junior faculty to begin to prepare now, watch for the announcements and apply.

Letters of Intent Due: Early-September

Full application Due: Early October

Stay tuned for updates.

More details on the PLRC P & F [Website](#)

****NEW** CLA/PLRC Award**

The Community Liver Alliance and the PLRC joint award will prioritize funding of studies of liver diseases in underserved communities, healthcare disparity, pathogenesis of sexually dimorphic diseases or other topics or candidates with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) focus.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Human Liver Tissue and Hepatocytes Resource-Related Research Project (R24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

[RFA-DK-23-012](#) NIH/NIDDK

The purpose of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is to support a Human Liver Tissue and Hepatocytes Research Resource (HLTHRR) program to enable the continued availability of human liver tissue and hepatocytes to biomedical researchers. The research resource is expected to facilitate the procurement and preservation of human liver tissue and hepatocytes as well as the distribution of these materials to qualified biomedical researchers

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Administrative Supplements for Research on Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM) Populations (Admin Supp Clinical Trial Optional): <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/not-od-22-032.html>

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Research on the Health of Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM) Populations: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/not-md-22-012.html>

Notices of Intent to Publish:

NOT-DK-23-006 Notice of Intent to Publish a funding Opportunity Announcement for A Consortium for Gut-Brain Communication in Parkinson's Disease (U01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

NOT-DK-23-007 Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for A Consortium for Gut-Brain Communication in Parkinson's Disease (U24 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

NOFOs:

[RFA-DK-22-023](#) Ancillary Studies to the NIDDK Inflammatory Bowel Disease Genetics Consortium

(R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) Next Due Date:

November 8, 2023.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

To see all NIH Grants sorted by week, please visit:

[NIH Guide: 2023](#)

Or click below for recent weeks:

Week of: [Jun 9:](#) [Jun 16:](#) [Jun 23:](#)

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

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June 23, 2023



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

Or click below for recent weeks:

Week of: [May 26:](#) [Jun 2:](#) [Jun 9:](#)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [Communityliveralliance.org](#)
DeLIVERing HOPE campaign: Liver Disease Awareness
Fresh-a-Fare Fundraiser @ Jamison lamb Farm in Latrobe



- **NIDDK Data Management & Sharing (DMS) Webinar Series:**

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) is excited to announce the **NIDDK Data Management & Sharing (DMS) Webinar Series**. This multi-part series will provide education and outreach to the NIDDK scientific community about data management and sharing topics. For more info and to register, visit [NIDDK DMS webpage](#).

- * The first webinar (**April 25, 2023, 12-1pm ET**), "Writing a DMS Plan,"
- * The second webinar (**May 31, 2023, 1-2pm ET**), "Finding a Repository for Your Data,"
- * The third webinar (**June 27, 2023, 12-1pm ET**), "Metadata and Data Standards for NIDDK Research Data," will cover the importance and utility of metadata and data standards in maximizing the value of scientific data and how these standards intersect with the NIH DMS policy. Participants will learn about NIDDK DMS resources and tools to help select appropriate metadata and data standards when drafting a DMS Plan. In addition, several NIDDK and NIH projects that have developed and implemented rigorous data and metadata schema will share best practices, lessons learned, and how these efforts have enhanced the quality of the data.

- **FASEB "The Cholangiocarcinoma Conference: Molecular Drivers, Microenvironment & Precision Medicine" August 13-17, 2023 @ Palm Springs, CA ABSTRACTS DUE 6/25/23; LATE BREAKING 7/7/23**
[Meeting Registration & Abstract Submission OPEN NOW!](#) [Meeting AGENDA](#)

- **AASLD "THE LIVER MEETING" Nov. 10-14, 2023 @ Boston, MA.**
Meeting Registration opens Late July Abstract deadline Past Due

- **ASIP "Tissue, Matrix, and Pathobiology: Joint Meeting of ASMB, HCS and ASIP"**
Oct. 22-25, 2023 @ Salt Lake City Utah.
Abstracts due by **6/28/23:** [Abstract Submission Site](#) [Meeting Registration Site](#)

- **Global Liver Institute "Innovating & Advancing Research in Liver Cancers" Webinar**
June 27, 2023 Virtual [Registration link](#) See flier on next page

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GLI WEBINAR

This webinar is designed to define and highlight the ways in which the field of liver cancer is rising to meet the needs and challenges facing those living with liver cancers.

Speakers will focus on lessons learned from other disease states, non-invasive cancer screening options, highlighting current evidence-based research, and elevating patient stories

[Registration LINK](#)



INNOVATING & ADVANCING RESEARCH IN LIVER CANCERS

JUNE 27, 2023 | 1:00 PM EDT

SPEAKERS



Lionel Fonkoua, M.D.
Mayo Clinic



Neehar Parikh, M.D.
University of Michigan Health



Amit Singal, M.D.
UT Southwestern Medical Center



Ahmed Kaseb, M.D.
MD Anderson NCI SPORE



Mark McNiven, Ph.D.
Mayo NCI SPORE



Bruno Sangro, M.D.
Clínica Universidad de Navarra

TOPICS

- **Reducing Disparities in Clinical Research Trials**
Lionel Fonkoua, M.D.
- **Liver Cancers Screening Options and Innovation**
Neehar Parikh, M.D.; Amit Singal, M.D.
- **Liver Cancers Research Updates**
Ahmed Kaseb, M.D.; Mark McNiven, Ph.D.; Bruno Sangro, M.D.

REGISTER



SCAN THE QR CODE, OR VISIT:
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/ LIVER-CANCERS-WEBINAR](https://bit.ly/liver-cancers-webinar)

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)

OPEN POSITIONS:

- **Postdoc/Technician:** [Bone cell Differentiation](#) \$45K; PI: Harry Blair: US citizen ONLY! Contact: 412-383-9616 or hcblair@pitt.edu

JOB SEEKERS:

- **Research Assistant Professor**, Pathology Dept, UPMC Hillman Cancer Ctr. With experience in Bioinformatics, proteomics, genomics, molecular biology. 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 [Link to CV](#)

EQUIPMENT NEEDS:

Liquid Scintillation counter for radioactivity: Automated Film Developer in or around South BST contact Aaron Bell if you have units we can use.