

# LIVER DIGEST

October 27, 2023

A bi-weekly update of PLRC happenings



## In this issue:

### • PLRC Faculty Highlights

- Dr. Alex Soto-Gutierrez, Jai Behari and Lans Taylor publish in Gastro Hep Advances

### • Upcoming Seminars & Meetings

- Oct 31<sup>st</sup> @ 12PM Dr. Andreas Villunger S120 BST
- Nov 7<sup>th</sup> @ 12PM Dr. Samira Kiani S120 BST
- Nov 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30PM PLRC Reception @ AASLD-Boston
- Nov 28<sup>th</sup> @ 12PM Dr. Enis Kostallari S120 BST

### • Funding Opportunities

### • Announcements

- CLA Program & Events
- DDRCC Directors Meeting @ CCHMC Nov 6-7
- AASLD "Liver Meeting" Nov. @ Boston
- PLI/PLRC Reception @ AASLD Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>
- RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS-Photos

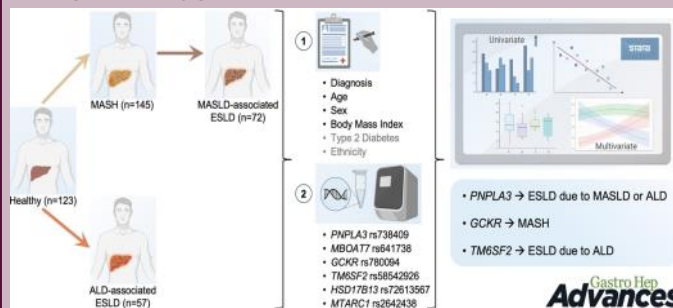
### • Want Ads :

- Open positions/Jobseekers CVs posted

## FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



**Alex Soto-Gutierrez, MD, PhD** director of the HSLBC Core along with co-director **Lans Taylor, PhD** and PLRC associate Director **Jai Behari, MD, PhD**, and a team of other scientists including PLRC members, Rodrigo Florentino, PhD, Alina Ostrowska, PhD, and Lanuza Faccioli, PhD published an article in Gastro Hep Advances entitled, "**Polymorphisms Associated with Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease Influence the Progression of End-Stage Liver Disease**". Open Access Published: October 05, 2023 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gastha.2023.09.011> [PDF file](#)



Chronic liver injury that results in cirrhosis and end-stage liver disease (ESLD) causes more than 1 million deaths annually worldwide. Although the impact of genetic factors on the severity of metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) and alcohol-related liver disease (ALD) has been previously studied, their contribution to the development of ESLD remains largely unexplored.

We genotyped six MASLD-associated polymorphisms in healthy (n=123), metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) (n=145), MASLD-associated ESLD (n=72), and ALD-associated ESLD (n=57) cohorts and performed multinomial logistic regression to determine the combined contribution of genetic, demographic, and clinical factors to the progression of ESLD.

Distinct sets of factors are associated with the progression to ESLD. The *PNPLA3* rs738409:G and *TM6SF2* rs58542926:T alleles, body mass index (BMI), age, and female sex were positively associated with progression from a healthy state to MASH. The *PNPLA3* rs738409:G allele, age, male sex, and having type 2 diabetes mellitus were positively associated, while BMI was negatively associated with progression from MASH to MASLD-associated ESLD. The *PNPLA3* rs738409:G and *GSKR* rs780094:T alleles, age, and male sex were positively associated, while BMI was negatively associated with progression from a healthy state to ALD-associated ESLD. The findings indicate that the *PNPLA3* rs738409:G allele increases susceptibility to ESLD regardless of etiology, the *TM6SF2* rs58542926:T allele increases susceptibility to MASH, and the *GSKR* rs780094:T allele increases susceptibility to ALD-associated ESLD.

**CONCLUSION:** The *PNPLA3*, *TM6SF2*, and *GSKR* minor alleles influence the progression of MASLD- or ALD-associated ESLD. Genotyping for these variants in MASLD and ALD patients can enhance risk assessment, prompting early interventions to prevent ESLD.

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

Please 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, 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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200 Lothrop St. | Pittsburgh, PA 15261



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## PLRC SEMINARS

Oct 31<sup>st</sup> @ 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm in S120 BST



**Andreas Villunger, PhD**  
Professor  
Biocenter, Medical university of Innsbruck  
Division of Developmental Immunology

Seminar Title: **The PIDDosome in Ploidy Control and Beyond**

Nov 7<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm in S120 BST



**Samira Kiani, MD**  
Associate Professor,  
Experimental & Translational Pathology  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

**Interactive Enrichment Seminar for all Faculty**

Seminar Title: **a proposal for conscious and reflective innovation**

Nov 28<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm in S120 BST



**Enis Kostallari, PhD**  
Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and  
Molecular Biology  
Mayo Clinic, Rochester

Seminar Title: **Fibrogenic extracellular vesicles during liver fibrosis amplification**

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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>

### 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.

**NOFO** RFA-DK-25-003 Silvio O. Conte Digestive Diseases Research Core Centers (P30 Clinical Trial Optional) Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives (PEDP), DMS. Etc changes in effect January 2024

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

Or click below for recent weeks:

Week of: [Oct 13:](#) [Oct 20:](#) [Oct 27:](#)

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

## NOTICE!

NIH GRANT SUBMISSION DEADLINES ARE **NOT AFFECTED** BY GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN AS OF NOW.

Please submit by the standard dates.

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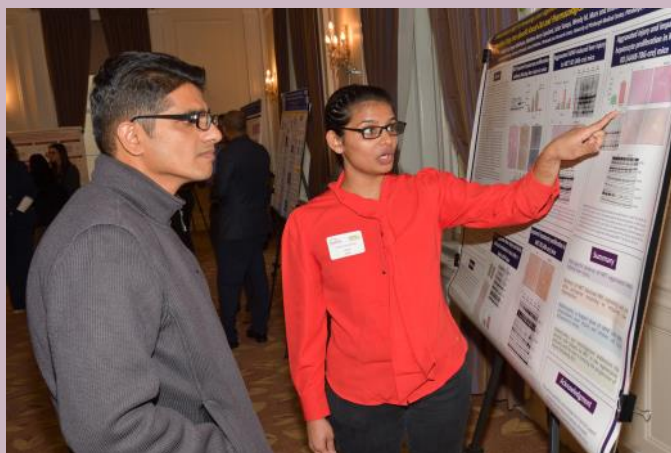
A bi-weekly update of PLRC happenings



## RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS



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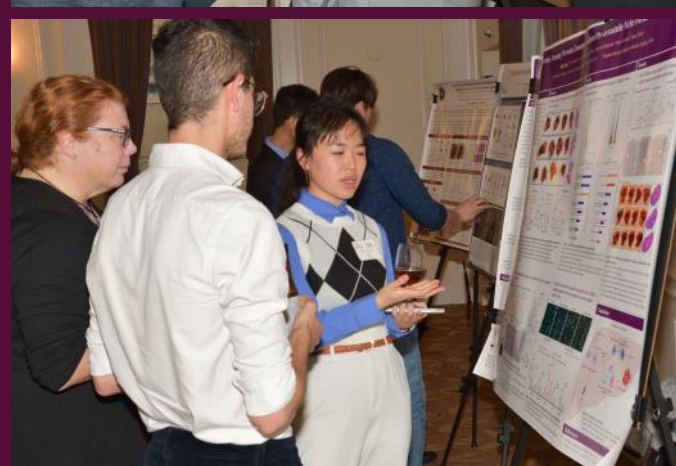
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## RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS (CONT'D)



## 2023 Liver Cancer Conference

“Virtual Experience”

October 28, 2023,

8:15AM—3:00PM, EST

**2023 Liver Cancer Conference**  
**Virtual Experience**  
**OCTOBER 28, 2023**  
8:15 AM - 3:00PM EST  
[WWW.COMMUNITYLIVERALLIANCE.ORG](http://WWW.COMMUNITYLIVERALLIANCE.ORG)  
*Industry partners must have a sponsorship or exhibit to participate.*  
**REGISTRATION IS FREE**

**CO-HOSTED BY**  
Community Liver Alliance  
Pittsburgh Liver Institute  
Allegheny Health Network Cancer Institute

The goal of this course module is to help clinicians and healthcare providers understand the advances in pathogenesis, diagnosis and management of hepatocellular carcinoma and bile duct cancers.

Dulabh K. Monga, MD  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Drexel University School of Medicine  
Allegheny Health Network Cancer Institute

Satdarshan (Paul) Singh Monga, MD, FAASLD  
Professor and Vice Chair of Pathology  
Director, Pittsburgh Liver Institute  
University of Pittsburgh and UPMC

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## 2023 PLRC RETREAT PHOTOS





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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



- [Communityliveralliance.org](https://communityliveralliance.org)  
DeLIVERing HOPE campaign: Liver Disease Awareness
- **2023 Liver Cancer Conference “Virtual Experience” October 28, 2023, 8:15AM—3:00PM, EST**  
“Free Event” [Website link](#) [Register Here](#) (or use QR code on page 2)  
Hosted by **CLA, PLI, AHN, UPMC**
- **AASLD “THE LIVER MEETING” Nov. 10-14, 2023** @ Boston, MA.  
Meeting Registration open Now!
- **Pittsburgh Liver Institute/PLRC Reception @ The AASLD LIVER MEETING** in Boston. **Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm-9:30pm** @ Sheraton Hotel Boston  
**“Save the Date”**
- **DDRCC Annual Director’s Meeting @ Cincinnati Childrens Hospital, Cincinnati Ohio, Nov. 6-7, 2023**

## 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 [hcblair@pitt.edu](mailto:hcblair@pitt.edu)

## **JOB SEEKERS:**