

# 2022

## AASLD Foundation Impact Report



AASLD  
FOUNDATION

KNOWLEDGE  
PRACTICE  
CURE ®

The Foundation is proud to be AASLD's partner. Together we promote liver health, enhance the quality of patient care through research and training, and advance the study and practice of hepatology.

**OUR GOAL** is to increase funding for research and career development opportunities for the next generation of hepatologists.

**OUR MISSION** sums it all up, we “**invest in innovative hepatology research and the people who study and treat liver disease.**”

## OUR PURPOSE

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, **we continue to invest more in hepatology research and training than any other medical society in the United States** through our Research and Career Development Awards programs.

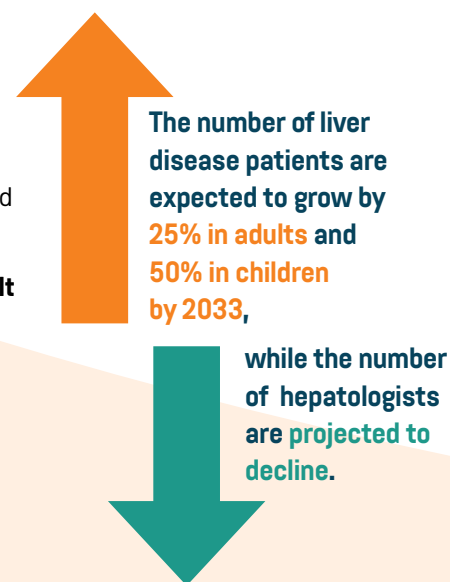
## OUR FOCUS

- We seek to save lives by aggressively pursuing the prevention and ultimate cure of liver disease.
- We aim to inspire the next generation of hepatologists by supporting innovative research and connecting young investigators to essential training resources that they otherwise would not be able to attain.
- We are committed to ensuring frontline health care professionals have the fundamental tools and education they need to diagnose, treat and refer liver disease.

## WHY THE AASLD FOUNDATION IS CRITICAL FOR THE FUTURE

While great strides have been made in liver disease research and care, with aging populations and longer life spans, the demand for liver disease specialists is expected to **increase**.

- Findings from the AASLD 2018 Workforce Study Report identified **8,380,400 adult** and **1,833,000 pediatric liver disease patients**.
- According to the report, the U.S. **population's projected growth to 380 million by 2040** and the aging of the American population is indisputably boosting the demand for hepatology services, as well as contributing to a lack of health care professionals.
- Between 2000 and 2030, the number of people in the U.S. **over the age of 65 is expected to double**.



**How then can we meet this critical demand?**

# FUNDING THE FUTURE OF HEPATOLOGY

## How We Push the Boundaries of What's Possible in the World of Liver Disease

### Our Programs

Each year the Foundation supports a remarkable group of physicians, scientists, researchers and health care providers, at all stages of their careers, through our many funding programs.

The AASLD Foundation Research and Career Development Awards programs:

- Increase access to trained hepatology providers for patients with liver disease
- Provide critical funding for new and innovative liver research
- Encourage early-career investigators new to the field
- Recognize scientific excellence in hepatology research

### Award Categories Strengthen the Field and Promote Career Development

#### Stimulating Discovery

Our **Research Awards** offer one to three-year grants which provide investigators with a clear path for funding at each stage of their careers.

#### Expanding Access to Care

Our **Career Development Awards** answer the demand for trained specialists equipped to treat the complexities of liver disease.

#### Building the Pipeline of Hepatology Health Professionals

The **Emerging Liver Scholars program**, **Emerging Liver APP** and **Advanced Transplant Hepatology awards** provide medical, surgical and pediatric residents with the opportunity to explore hepatology as a career through educational and professional development programming.

#### Connecting the Global Research Community

Our **Abstract Travel Award** program provides funding to support dissemination of high-impact studies at major global scientific meetings and recognize excellence in research undertaken by early-career investigators.

Students

Residents

Trainees

Advanced Practice  
Providers

Early-career  
investigators

Mid-career  
investigators



# 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

In 2022, the Foundation funded **\$1.5 million dollars** in awards aimed at basic, clinical and translational researchers from student to mid-career, as well as front-line providers who want to pursue advanced clinical training in hepatology.

We are very happy to report we invest in the right people:

Every dollar the Foundation has invested in research awards resulted in **\$4.58** in follow-on funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

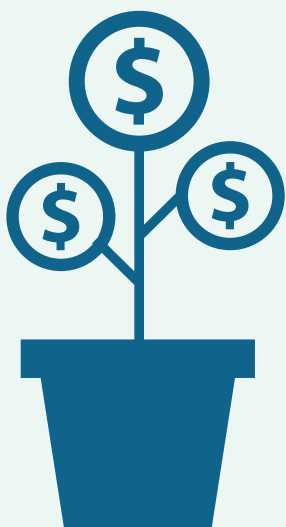


Awardees received **\$22.5 million** in NIH funding in fiscal 2022 alone.

**46%** of our awardees go on to receive federal funding to continue their amazing projects.

## Our Combined Investment

brings the cumulative total amount of funding provided by both AASLD and the Foundation to **over \$57 million dollars granted to over 1,800 recipients since 2000.**



**17** of the 2022 awardees are mentored by previous AASLD Foundation grant recipients.

**OVER HALF** of AASLD Foundation Awardees hold leadership roles in AASLD or another medical association.

**98%** of awardees say their award helped them establish their career or research focus.

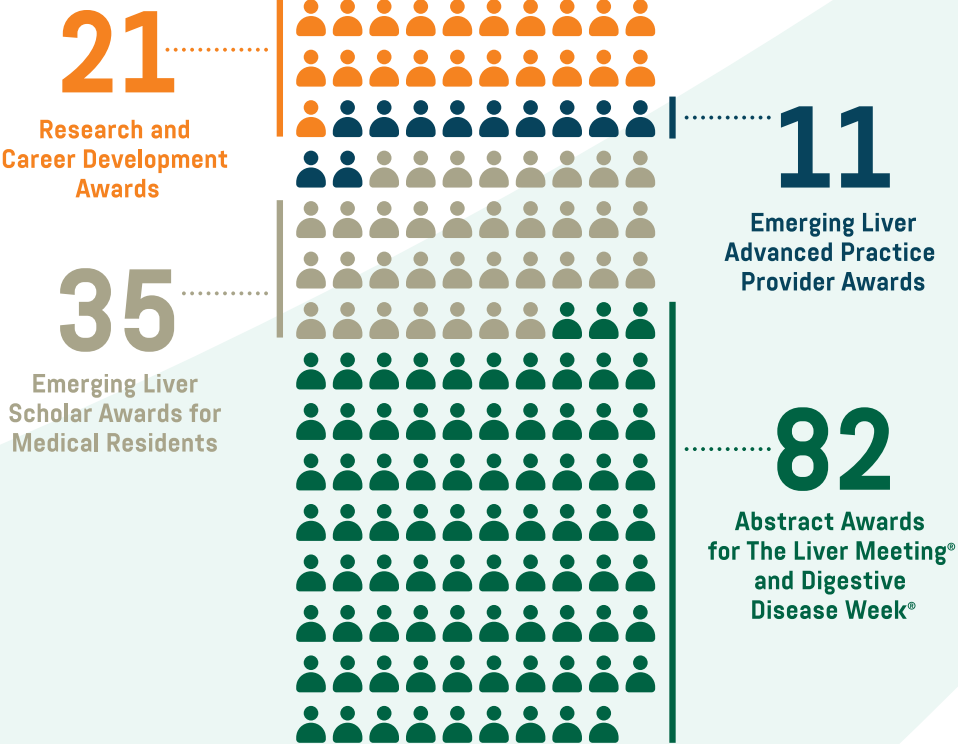
**90%** of awardees say their award helped them secure a new position or promotion.

# AWARDEES

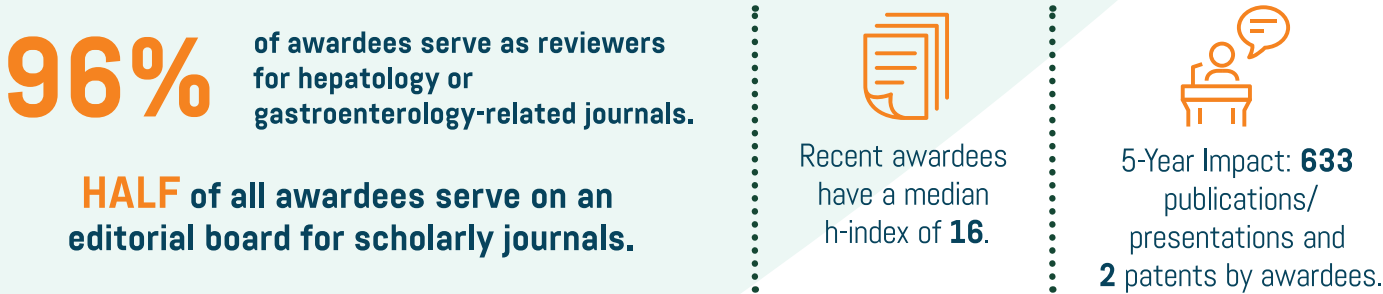
In 2022, we **funded 149 researchers and early-career professionals** who have committed themselves to hepatology.

These AASLD Foundation-funded researchers are investigating critical areas of liver disease, such as:

- Adult and Pediatric Liver Cancer
- Alcoholic Liver Disease
- Autoimmune Liver Diseases
- Cirrhosis
- Hepatorenal Syndrome
- NAFLD/NASH
- Palliative Care
- Socioeconomic Health Disparities
- Inherited and Genetic Liver Diseases



These studies and the people who are leading them are critical to reduce the impact of liver diseases and improve the lives of patients.



Foundation-funded research is regularly **published in high-impact medical journals** and recipients have **presented their Foundation-funded research** at major scientific meetings around the globe.

## Meet Our 2022 Awardees

"The landscape of healthcare is changing, and the AASLD Foundation's endorsement will allow me to further explore the role of informatics-based clinical decision support tools for the improvement of equitable care delivery and access. I am incredibly grateful for the generosity of the AASLD Foundation donors for their support."



**Ashley Spann, MD, MSACI**  
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER  
2022 Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Fellow Award

"Receiving the AASLD Emerging Liver APP Program award is not only an honor but a commitment. The knowledge, mentoring, training, and networking offered is a unique opportunity that helps APPs like me to fulfill their commitment to decrease health disparities by providing quality and innovative health care in the area of hepatology."



**Erika Gonzalez Beltran, MSN, MPH, APRN, FNP-C**  
2022 Emerging Liver Scholar APP



The inaugural class of the Emerging Liver Advanced Practice Provider Program.

"I am deeply appreciative to the AASLD Foundation for its ongoing investment in young investigators studying and treating liver disease. Training and research support through the Clinical, Translational and Outcomes Research Award in Liver Diseases will be instrumental in my pursuit of a career as an independent scientist enhancing patient-centered care in liver disease and liver cancer."



**Andrew Moon, MD, MPH**  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
2022 Clinical, Translational, and Outcomes Research Award in Liver Diseases  
2021 Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Fellow Award



The 2022 class of Emerging Liver Scholars gathers at TLM where they participated in exclusive networking and educational events.

## The Future of Hepatology Starts Here

# THANK YOU!

Thank you to all the generous supporters of the AASLD Foundation. Our shared commitment to advancing liver disease research and training has not wavered. The generosity of our supporters is integral to our mission.

In 2022 we saw a significant increase in the number of donors investing in the mission of the Foundation. Thank you to the **631 AASLD member donors** and **197 Community Donors** — whose support is vital to the Foundation Awards program.

View the full list of 2022 donors at [aasldfoundation.org/gratitude-our-donors](https://aasldfoundation.org/gratitude-our-donors).

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## Thank you to the following organizations who supported Foundation initiatives in 2022.





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