2022
AASLD Foundation Impact Report
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.

The number of liver disease patients are expected to grow by 25% in adults and 50% in children by 2033, while the number of hepatologists are projected to decline.

**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.
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:

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

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.

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.

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.
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.

96% of awardees serve as reviewers for hepatology or gastroenterology-related journals. HALF of all awardees serve on an editorial board for scholarly journals.

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.

5-Year Impact: 633 publications/presentations and 2 patents by awardees.
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

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

“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.”

Andrew Moon, MD, MPH
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
2022 Clinical, Translational, and Outcomes Research Award in Liver Diseases

“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.”

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

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

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AASLD
AbbVie
Gilead
Pfizer