



## **MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING, April 21<sup>st</sup> 2012 The International Liver Congress™ 2012, Barcelona**

### **EASL GOVERNING BOARD**

#### **Secretary General**

**Mark Thursz**, London, UK

#### **Vice-Secretary**

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**George V. Papatheodoridis**, Athens, Greece

**Daniele Prati**, Lecco, Italy

**Tania Roskams**, Leuven, Belgium

#### **Educational Councillors**

**Jean-Francois Dufour**, Bern, Switzerland

**Fabien Zoulim**, Lyon, France

#### **EU Policy Councillor**

**Dominique-Charles Valla**, Paris, France

Chairman of the meeting: Prof. M. Thursz

Minutes taken by: Ms. Emilie Keller

### **Agenda**

1. Approval of the Berlin Business Meeting minutes
2. Report from the Secretary General (M. Thursz)
3. Report from the Policy Councillor (D. Valla)
4. Report from the Educational Councillors (F. Zoulim)
5. Report on Fellowship programmes (D. Prati)
6. Report from the EASL Treasurer (M. Bernardi)
7. Ethics Committee (D. Lebec)
8. Concerted Action Group (Basic Science: M. Avila / Young Investigators: T. Roskams)
9. Editors report from the Journal of Hepatology (D. Samuel)
10. Farewell to leaving Governing Board Members
11. Election of new Governing Board Members

The meeting began with welcome words to all attendees by the EASL Secretary General, Mark Thursz.

**1. Approval of the Berlin Business Meeting minutes**

The minutes were circulated to each EASL member together with the invitation to the Business Meeting ahead of the meeting date. The minutes were approved by the General Assembly.

**2. Report from the Secretary General (M. Thursz)**

**CONGRESS STATISTICS**

The International Liver Congress™ 2012 had reached record attendance with **9415** registered participants versus **8062** in Berlin 2011.

**2012 Abstracts:**

The number of abstracts submitted to the congress has remained stable for the past 3 years.

The abstract submission slightly increased compared to 2011: **2417**

**Accepted abstracts: 1409**

Orals: **137**

Posters: **1272**

**Late-Breaker abstract submission: 104**

**Accepted abstracts: 25**

Orals: **8**

Posters: **17**

2 new sessions were introduced at the ILC 2012:

- Nurses and Associates Forum
- E-Poster Oral Sessions

**MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS**

EASL counts 3146 members to date (2529 renewals and 617 new applications)

**PROFESSIONAL CONGRESS ORGANISER (PCO)**

M. Thursz informed the General Assembly that EASL would be changing PCO. Kenes has its final mandate for the organisation of the congress in 2013.

The EASL Governing Board was advised by an external consulting company 'MMR Consulting'; specialised in non-profit medical and scientific associations, and a bidding process was launched in 2011.

After 2 rounds of extensive interviews with PCO's, CONGREX was selected and considered to have the most comprehensive offer based on EASL specific requirements. They will collaborate with EASL to organise ILC™ 2014.

The other smaller events (Special conferences, Monothematic Conferences and Schools of Hepatology) will be managed in-house by the EASL Office staff as of January 2013.

M. Thursz added that it was a complicated process to terminate the contract with Kenes which has lasted for 3 years. The new PCO contract signed with Congrex is only for a 1 year period so that EASL can be free for any decisions regarding future activities.

JM. Pawlotsky congratulated the EASL Governing Board for the successful and outstanding congress. With regards to the change of PCO, he perceives this as a good and positive step for the future of EASL. With regards to the Scottish venue suggested for 2014, JM. Pawlotsky stated that Glasgow was not an attractive city, not reachable with direct flights and kindly asked the EASL Governing Board to reconsider their decision and to consider other venues to maintain high attendance and the success of future conferences.

M. Thursz thanked JM. Pawlotsky for his comments.

### **EASL GOES GREEN**

M. Thursz informed the assembly that EASL intended to take further “Green” oriented initiatives.

The Governing Board wishes to introduce a new membership format for EASL members. The membership fee would still offer the same benefits to its members, but would no longer include the printed copies of the Journal of Hepatology. An additional annual fee of EUR 50 would be charged, to those who still wished to continue to receive a printed copy of the Journal. In addition to the Journal of Hepatology website, the editorial office team is currently working on the development of a mobile application which will allow all EASL members to have access to the journal through their smartphone and tablet.

J. Bruix asked if this modification would impact the revenue of the journal and impact the profit generated by advertisement placement. M. Thursz replied that these aspects had been taken into account with the Editorial Team and the publisher Elsevier. The ads will still be featured on both the application and the website. There should be no major impact on the revenue.

The General Assembly approved the new EASL Membership format.

In the future, the Governing Board would like to reduce all printing costs related to the congress and therefore, the abstract book will no longer be printed. All publications will be posted on the congress website. Should any of the participants wish to receive an abstract book, there would be a fee of €10-15 for the printing.

### **REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT**

Due to the bad conditions of the financial investment market, EASL currently has ~39% of its assets in cash, which is not recommended and generates no revenue. Therefore, the Governing Board has been investigating the possibility to purchase a building that would host the EASL Office.

The Governing Board believes that the EASL Office would need ~500m<sup>2</sup> within the next 5 years to accommodate all staff. The ideal EASL building would have additional space for rent in order to cover the cost of a potential mortgage and even generate revenue for the association. The current EASL Office is based in the french sector of Switzerland which is why the investigations are focused on this area. Moreover, EASL benefits from very good fiscal conditions in Switzerland.

The General Assembly approved the idea of investing in a building in Switzerland.

### **EASL-ORGANISED EVENTS**

- Special Conference: 1 per year
- Monothematic Conferences: 2-3 per year
- Schools of Hepatology: Clinical (2) and Basic (1)

**EASL-AASLD Special Conference on Therapy of Hepatitis C:  
Clinical application and drug development**

September 14-16, 2012  
Prague, TheCzech Republic

**EASL Monothematic Conference: Vascular Liver Diseases**

June 22-23, 2012  
Tallinn, Estonia

**EASL Monothematic Conference: HIV and the Liver**

December 7-8, 2012  
London, UK

**ISAC – Intersociety Activity Course on Interventions in Liver Disease**

Organised by EASL in cooperation with The European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE)  
and European Society of Gastrointestinal and Abdominal Radiology (ESGAR)

Endorsed by UEGF

June 7-8, 2012  
Paris, France

**EASL Clinical School of Hepatology Course 18: Liver Imaging**

June 7-9, 2012  
Bologna, Italy

**EASL Clinical School of Hepatology Course 19: Liver Transplantation and Acute Liver Failure**

December 14-15, 2012  
London, UK

**EASL CPGs**

**CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES PUBLISHED IN 2012**

- Management of Hepatocellular Carcinoma (EASL-EORTC)
- Management of Alcoholic Liver Disease
- Management of Wilson's Disease
- Management of Chronic Hepatitis B (revised version)

**UPCOMING CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES**

- Management of Hepatitis C Virus Infection (revised version)
- Management of Acute Liver Failure
- Vascular Liver Disease
- Gallstones
- Liver biochemistry tests in the diagnosis and management of liver disease
- EASL-AASLD Guidelines Hepatic Encephalopathy

**EASL NEW INITIATIVES**

**iLiver:** M. Thursz presented the iLiver; a mobile application that was entirely developed by EASL. iLiver is an interactive and dynamic iPad, iPhone and iPod application for professional use that delivers instant medical information and clinical recommendations to medical experts. The application is free of charge and can be downloaded from the apple App Store.

**E-Posters:** EASL had launched the E-Posters in Barcelona. The E-Posters are showcased onsite during the congress on touch screens and will also be available on the EASL members' zone on the EASL website (exactly like the webcasts and e-series).

**EASL Mentorship:** The EASL International Mentorship Programme will be introduced in 2012 and managed in a similar manner to the existing fellowship programmes whereby young investigators (EASL Members) are encouraged to apply.

The EASL Mentorship has been developed to enhance personal developmental relationships in which a more experienced or more knowledgeable hepatologist would help to guide a young investigator through a crucial stage of their career path. The Mentorship would entail informal face-to-face communication during a sustained period of time, between the mentor who is perceived to have greater relevant knowledge in the field of hepatology and the mentee who is perceived to have less experience. The programme is not just about answering ad hoc questions or providing occasional help: it is about establishing an ongoing relationship of learning, dialogue, and challenge. Mentoring is a process that involves communication and is relationship based, it is a process for the informal transmission of knowledge, and the support perceived by the mentee as relevant to work, career, or professional development.

## **EASL STRUCTURE**

M. Thursz presented the EASL Office and current Governing Board structure.

As T. Roskams and D.C Valla have ended their term on the EASL Governing Board, the board is now seeking new members, according to the below criteria:

### **Person Criteria**

- Academic status
- Age

### **Governing Board Criteria**

- Sub-specialty expertise
- Geographical distribution
- Gender

The Governing Board has followed the below process for the appointment of new Governing Board members:

Selection Process:

- Solicit suitable candidate names from National Societies, Eminent Hepatologists and former Governing Board members
- Pre-select according to age and academic status
- Interviews to be done with entire Governing Board present
- Propose suitable candidates at the EASL Business Meeting

The suggested candidate for the replacement of T. Roskams as Scientific Committee Member is Laurent Castera, France and the candidate to replace D.C Valla as EU Policy Councillor is Patrizia Burra, Italy.

## **HONORARY PRESIDENT International Liver Congress™ 2013**

Professor Erik Schruppf, Norway was proposed as Honorary President for the ILC 2013.

This proposal was approved by the General Assembly.

### **3. Report from the EU Policy Councillor (D. Valla)**

D.C Valla presented a summary of the work carried out from April 2011 to date.

The focus areas of EASL over the past years were:

- Research
- Chronic diseases
- Alcohol
- Viral hepatitis
- Cancer

Since the previous congress in Berlin, all of EASL's work at EU level (public affairs) has been brought in-house, with a EASL Office staff person (Margaret Walker, Director of EU Public Affairs) now allocated to this work on a full-time basis. The transition between outsourcing to Burson Marsteller and bringing EU projects in-house has been smooth and well-received.

In order to provide strategic focus to our work in Brussels, EASL decided to concentrate on 5 specific topics and this continues to be the case today. The five focus areas are; research, chronic diseases, alcohol, viral hepatitis and cancer. The work was focused on interacting with all stakeholders involved in these five key areas. At Commission level, EASL has mainly worked with DG SANCO and DG Research (public health/policy and research policy) although there were also interactions with other DGs as required.

#### **RESEARCH**

Research and increasing the funding available to liver disease research continues to be the main focus of the work at EU level. Part of this work includes meeting with Commission officials and provide them with accurate information. The EASL white paper project (Liver Disease Burden in Europe: a review of the available epidemiological data) is a key milestone in our work and will enable EASL to maximise the available data and provide documentation to back up our requests for increased funding. EASL will launch this publication in the autumn of 2012, in Brussels.

EASL continues to provide input to the Commission (DG Research) on different aspects of the work relevant to liver disease research. The EASL position paper on Horizon 2020 and ERA consultations can be found on the EASL website. In 2012 and 2013 EASL aims to provide input to the Commission *before* consultations are open to the public (as per the example of the work being carried out with European Chronic Disease Alliance ECDA).

EASL has provided key FP 7 NCPs with input on the proposed call for 2013. Although informal, it is important to note that this input has been provided in the name of EASL. The upcoming call (as per the most recent draft seen in early February 2012) will provide EASL members with topics suitable for a liver-disease focused application. (EASL members interested in further information regarding the upcoming call, which will be published over the summer, should contact Margaret Walker at the EASL Office).

#### **Advocacy Tools for Research**

- Alliances developed
- European United Gastroenterology (UEGF)
- The Biomedical Alliance
- National Associations
- Publication: *Liver Disease Burden in Europe: A Review of Available Epidemiological Data*

#### **The Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe**

EASL supports the Biomed Alliance's call for a centralised research structure in Europe (the proposed European Council for Health Research) which would ensure expert scientific input on policy from the outset, advance innovative discoveries, simplify funding procedures, encourage participation from more researchers across borders and secure savings.

EASL and UEGF have been working together to support the Alliance in this work and Prof. Michael Manns held the position of the EASL/UEGF representative in the working group. The Alliance's proposal, which has received support from a number of MEPs, is being considered within the context of the current discussions in Parliament regarding Horizon 2020. Horizon 2020 is the Commission's new framework programme which will start in 2014 and will run until 2020.

**EU Funding for Liver-Related Research**  
FP 7 2009-2011

- Liver Disease Total 83.8M€
- Marie Curie Grants 2,2M€

**EU Funding for Liver-Related Research**

2009	FLORINASH	5.7 M€
	FLIP	5.9 M€
2010	HEPACUTE	3.0 M€
	HEPTROMIC	3.0 M€
2011	PROLIFICA	3.0 M€
	MODHEP	11.0 M€

**EASL Support Programme to FP 7 Applications**

- 2006/07 "Gene therapy for liver inherited diseases"- N. Ferry
- 2007 "Liver Autoimmunity Research Group of Europe (LARGE): early pathogenic mechanisms of autoimmune liver diseases"- Bogdanos/D. Vergani
- 2008 "Research in Chronic Liver Failure is Low in Relation to its Clinical Importance (CLIF)"- V Arroyo
- 2009 FLIP "Fatty Liver: Inhibition of Progression"- V. Ratziu
- 2009/2010 "HepaCute - Host and viral factors in acute hepatitis C" – H. Diepolder

**EASL Support Programme to FP 7 Applications**

Applications to 2012 FP7 Calls

Stage I	Stage II
ALIVE	PathCo
HDISC	
PALM	

### **Future objectives for research advocacy**

Once the 2013 call (the last call under the current framework programme FP 7) is published at the end of this summer, work will start at Commission level to put in place the first of the calls under Horizon 2020. EASL will continue to monitor and provide input to ensure that liver disease relevant topics are included and that our members are aware of their options as early in the process as possible. To achieve this, EASL will continue to work directly with the Commission and also at national level with key national contact points.

### **Chronic Diseases**

- Member of the European Chronic Disease Alliance (ECDA) since 2010
- EASL contribution to ECDA input to the Commission's consultation on chronic diseases
- Meetings with John Dalli and other Commission officials

The European Chronic Disease Alliance focuses on chronic diseases with lifestyle related health determinants.

EASL has contributed to the new ECDA document "Optimising the response to the epidemic of chronic diseases: European Chronic Disease Alliance input to the Reflection Process on chronic diseases". This document has been submitted to Commissioner Dalli and others, including the EU Council Working Group on Public Health and the Health Attaches. It is important to note that ECDA submitted input before consultation opened to the public.

EASL is a collaborating partner in an ECDA-led project submitted to DG SANCO on 9<sup>th</sup> March. The project, Economics of Chronic Diseases (EconDA) aims to aid EU Member States to develop, select and implement more cost-effective policies to improve chronic disease prevention and impact upon populations with the highest rates of premature deaths from chronic diseases and reduce health inequalities.

### **Alcohol - Alliances**

- Eurocare
- ELPA
- ECL
- RCP
- UEGF

Over the past years, EASL has forged alliances with different groups working in Brussels. EASL will continue to nurture these alliances and expand its network. At present, EASL works closely with the European Alcohol Policy Alliance (Eurocare), the European Liver Patients Association (ELPA), the European Cancer Leagues (ECL) and the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) in the UK.

UEGF has recently joined the EAHF and we are looking forward to working more closely with them over the coming months.

### **European Alcohol and Health Forum – Commitments**

<b>2010</b>	Monothematic Conference on Alcoholic Liver Disease
<b>2011/12</b>	CPGs on Management of Alcoholic Liver Disease
<b>2012</b>	Review on the Epidemiology of Alcoholic Liver Disease in Europe



As an active member of the European Alcohol and Health Forum (EAHF) since 2009, EASL works with other stakeholders to advocate for a reduction in the level of alcohol-related harm in Europe through information and educational programmes on the effect of harmful drinking. Through earlier detection and better management of patients with alcoholic liver disease, we hope to contribute to the fight against the growing challenges of alcoholic liver disease.

As Forum members, EASL is bound to submit one commitment per year. For 2011/12 EASL's commitment is the publication and dissemination of the Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Management of Alcoholic Liver Disease. For our 2012 Commitment we intend to produce an extended version of the White Paper chapter related to Alcoholic Liver Disease.

In addition to the regular commitments to EAHF and the ongoing dissemination of any materials produced for this, EASL will continue to disseminate its position paper on EU alcohol policy.

#### **Alcohol Achievements**

- MEP Questions on pricing/taxation
- Support for national Government initiatives (e.g. UK Government Alcohol Strategy)
- Work with WHO and the Commission in their alcohol work

#### **Next Objectives**

- Epidemiological data on ALD in Europe
- Funding for research on alcoholic hepatitis
- Funding for research on treatment of alcohol addiction in patients with cirrhosis
- Forge closer links with DG SANCO and DG Research specifically in this field

#### **Viral Hepatitis - Alliances**

- ELPA
- WHA
- Hepatitis B and C Public Policy Association asbl

In addition to the alliances already formed with ELPA and WHA, EASL is also looking to work more closely with EATG (European Aids Treatment Group).

EASL will be participating in a SOTA follow-up meeting – the Conference on Hepatitis B and C in Mediterranean and Balkan Countries 5th-7th December in Nicosia. This meeting will be held under the auspices of the Cyprus Presidency (M. Thursz is a member of the Steering Committee organising the meeting).

#### **Next steps**

- Advocate for improved epidemiological data (ECDC)
- Generate data on cost effectiveness of screening
- Support 'Call for Action' and Call for a Council Conclusion

#### **Liver Cancer**

- Alliance with ELPA
- European Partnership for Action Against Cancer
- Meetings with MEPs against cancer
- Meeting with IARC – have HCC in Cancer Code
- Viral hepatitis screening/case finding

EASL will continue with its attempts to liaise with the International Agency for Research Against Cancer (IARC) with a view to having HCC included in the cancer code.



#### **Obstacles/Difficulties**

- Principle of subsidiarity in health area
- Full competence of member states
- Importance of national association/GB members
- Reluctance for disease/organ specific policies
- Liver disease stigmatized

#### **Developments**

- Patrizia Burra incoming EU Policy Councillor
- Dominique Valla – highlights of the past 5 years, hopes for the future:
- The importance of public health
- The importance of the roadmap
- The importance of embarking a few national societies.
- The importance and difficulties of collaborating with gastroenterology.
- The importance of having a patient association having a broader scope (and funding) than viral hepatitis.
- The importance of having champions at the EP to help de-stigmatize liver disease

H. Wedemeyer thanked D.C Valla for all his work and the tremendous efforts made to have EASL recognized as 'the' expert in liver disease by the politicians and healthcare experts in Brussels.

M. Thursz added that it had been a privilege to work with D.C Valla. Prof. Valla had been a pioneer in his position as EU Policy Councillor and he had highly succeeded all expectations. M Thursz added that it was a pleasure to work with him both at a professional and personal level.

#### **4. Report from the Educational Councillors (F. Zoulim)**

F. Zoulim, EASL Educational Councillor gave an overview of the EASL activities that had taken place over the past year.

#### **EASL ACTIVITIES**

##### **EASL Basic School, Course 6: Cell Biology of the Liver**

Groningen, the Netherlands, February 10-12, 2011

##### **Course Directors:**

Han Moshage, Groningen, The Netherlands

Klaas Nico Faber, Groningen, The Netherlands

Sven van Ijzendoorn, Groningen, The Netherlands

Total number of applicants: 80 applicants from 27 countries

- Europe: 67 applicants
- Other: 13 applicants

##### **EASL Clinical School, Course 16: Hepatocellular Carcinoma**

Jerusalem, June 5-6, 2011

##### **Course Directors:**

Rifaat Safadi, Hadassah Medical Center, Jerusalem

Daniel Shouval, Hadassah Medical Center, Jerusalem

Total number of applicants: 60 applicants from 24 countries

- Europe: 48 applicants
- Other: 12 applicants



**EASL Clinical School, Course 17:  
Portal Hypertension in Liver Disease**  
Venice, Italy, November 25-26, 2011

**Course Directors:**  
Carlo Merkel, Padua, Italy  
Marco Zoli, Bologna, Italy

Total number of applicants: 105 applicants from 34 countries

- Europe: 82 applicants
- Other: 23 applicants

**EASL Basic School, Course 7:  
Hepatocyte Damage & Liver Metabolism**  
Trieste, Italy, February 29 – March 1, 2012

**Course Directors:**  
Gianluca Tell, Udine, Italy  
Caudio Tiribelli, Trieste, Italy

Total number of applicants: 111 applicants from 45 countries

- Europe: 80 applicants
- Other: 31 applicants

**Upcoming schools :**

**Liver Imaging**

June 7-9, 2012

Bologna, Italy

Course organisers

- L. Bolondi, Bologna, Italy
- F. Piscaglia, Bologna, Italy
- J. Ricke, Magdeburg, Germany

**Liver Transplantation and Acute Liver Failure**

December 14-15, 2012

London, UK

Course organisers

- K. Burroughs, London, UK
- J. Wendon, London, UK

**EASL-UEGF collaboration**

Intersociety Activity Course (**ISAC**)

Meeting objective: The current and future management of patients with common as well as rare and complex GI diseases which requires multidisciplinary and multimodality therapeutic approaches.

This educational programme is an innovative course in the field of digestive diseases with a special focus on cross-disciplinary approach It is co-organised by three UEGF founding members.

3 medical association experts from EASL, the European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE) and the European Society of Gastrointestinal and Abdominal Radiology (ESGAR) will present key developments in medical education to course participants.

UEGF Funded programme: € 50,000 contribution

**EASL-ESGE-EGAR  
INTERSOCIETY ACTIVITY COURSE (ISAC)**

Interventions in Liver Disease

June 7-8, 2012 - Paris, France

Course Directors: Laurent Castera  
Didier Samuel

UEGF Liaisons: Lars Aabakken ESGE  
Regina Beets-Tan ESGAR

Location: Hôpital Beaujon, Paris  
Hôpital Paul Brousse, Paris

Target Audience: 40 GI Fellows in training

Format: Interactive lectures for the entire group  
Workshops and hands-on training for two groups with twenty participants each

**WEBCASTING ACTIVITY**

Global Overview of EASL Webcast Library

- Total number of webcasted events: **25**
- Total number of slides webcasted: **23 636**
- Total number of PPT files available in the virtual library: **380**
- Total number of presentations available (web & mobile): **835**
- Total number of interactive quiz questions available: **1947**

**Global Activity Report from all Webcasted Events  
(Web Activity)**

Talks available: 751

From: 2005-10-01 to 2012-03-27

NUMBER OF DISTINCT USERS	10442
NUMBER OF SLIDES VIEWED	1003435
AVERAGE SLIDES VIEWED PER USER	99
NUMBER OF PRESENTATIONS VIEWED	28868
AVERAGE TIME SPENT PER USER (MIN.)	43



**Global Activity Report from all Webcasted Events  
(Activity on Mobile App, TALKS on the GO™)**

Talks available: 751

From: 2005-10-01 to 2012-03-27

NUMBER OF DISTINCT USERS	118
NUMBER OF SLIDES VIEWED	10708
AVERAGE SLIDES VIEWED PER USER	90
NUMBER OF PRESENTATIONS VIEWED	325
AVERAGE TIME SPENT PER USER (MIN.)	45

**Activity Report**

**EASL Special Conference on Liver Transplantation**

Talks available: 31

NUMBER OF DISTINCT USERS	284
NUMBER OF SLIDES VIEWED	17663
AVERAGE SLIDES VIEWED PER USER	69
NUMBER OF PRESENTATIONS VIEWED	608
AVERAGE TIME SPENT PER USER (MIN.)	28

**Activity Report**  
**Monothematic Conference:**  
**Immune Mediated Liver Injury – IMLI**  
Talks available: 26

NUMBER OF DISTINCT USERS	134
NUMBER OF SLIDES VIEWED	11137
AVERAGE SLIDES VIEWED PER USER	95
NUMBER OF PRESENTATIONS VIEWED	229
AVERAGE TIME SPENT PER USER (MIN.)	28

#### 5. Report on Fellowship programmes (D. Prati)

D. Prati presented the below statistics regarding the EASL fellowship programmes.

##### **POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS**

Up to 3 fellows are awarded each year

TERM	1 YEAR
AMOUNT AWARDED	40,000 EUROS
APPLICATION DEADLINE	NOVEMBER 30

##### **ENTRY LEVEL FELLOWSHIPS**

Up to 3 fellows are awarded each year

TERM	1 YEAR
AMOUNT AWARDED	30,000 EUROS
APPLICATION DEADLINE	NOVEMBER 30

##### **PHYSICIAN SCIENTIST FELLOWSHIP – NEW**

One 6 month and one 12 month reseach fellowship are awarded each year

TERM	6 OR 12 MONTHS
AMOUNT AWARDED	6 MONTHS PROGRAMME = 20,000 EUROS 12 MONTHS PROGRAMME = 40,000 EUROS
APPLICATION DEADLINE	JUNE 30

##### **SHORT TERM FELLOWSHIPS**

There are 2 rounds of short-term fellowship applications

TERM	1 TO 3 MONTHS
AMOUNT AWARDED	2,000 EUROS PER MONTH; 24,000 EUROS TOTAL ANNUAL GRANT (DIVIDED AMONG SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS OF BOTH ROUNDS)
APPLICATION DEADLINES	MARCH 15 & SEPTEMBER 15

D. Prati reminded the assembly of the application conditions and rules of the EASL fellowships:

- Applicants must be a registered EASL member
- Applicants must not hold a permanent position
- The hosting institution shall be in a different European country from the home institution
- The hosting institution shall be European
- No more than 1 application per hosting and home department will be considered
- The head of the hosting research unit shall be an EASL member
- No restriction on the applicant's nationality

#### **2012 Post-doctoral fellowships awardees**

**Dr Christine Bernsmeier** – Bern, Switzerland

**Project Title:** *Hepatoadrenal syndrome: Does inflammatory response dysfunction explain poor survival?*

**Hosting Institution:** *Institute of liver studies, King's college hospital London, UK*

**Dr Vasiliki Gkretsi** - Larissa, Greece

**Project Title:** *The role of integrin-proximal protein complexes during hepatocellular carcinoma metastasis*

**Hosting Institution:** *Institute of liver studies, King's college hospital London, UK*

**Dr Marc Oria** - Barcelona, Spain

**Project Title:** *Neurodegeneration in hepatic failure: relationship with nitrogen metabolism and inflammation*

**Hosting Institution:** *UCL-Royal Free Hospital, London, UK*

#### **2012 Entry Level Fellowships Awardees**

**Dr Daniel Smyk** – London, UK

**Project Title:** *The role of vitamin D as an immunomodulator for invariant NKT-mediated regulation in patients with primary biliary cirrhosis*

**Hosting Institution:** *Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy*

#### **2012 Physician-scientist fellowships awardees**

**Dr Johannes Kluwe** – Hamburg, Germany

**Project Title:** *TIMP-1 as a potential link between fibrosis and carcinogenesis in chronic liver disease (6 months)*

**Hosting Institution:** *I. Medical Department, Hamburg-Eppendorf University Medical Center, Hamburg, Germany*

**Dr Charalambos (Harry) Antoniadis** – London, UK

**Project Title:** *The role of monocytes/macrophages in acute liver failure syndromes*

**Hosting Institution:** *Institute of Liver Studies, King's College Hospital, King's College London, London, UK*

### March 2011 Short-term fellowships awardees

**Dr. Lars Bechmann** – Essen, Germany

**Project Title:** *Characterization of Hepatic Fatty Acid Uptake and Insulin Resistance in a Conditional Klf6 Knockout Model*

**Hosting Institution:** *Division of Liver Diseases; Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, USA*

**Dr Laura Belloni** – Rome, Italy

**Project Title:** *Inducible HCV replication in HepaRG cells: a model to study the functional interplay between HCV and STAT2 transcriptom*

**Hosting Institution:** *Laboratoire de physiopathologie moléculaire et nouveaux traitements des hépatites virales, INSERM U871, Lyon, France*

**Dr Ana Lleo** – Rozzano, Italy

**Project Title:** *Innate immune responses in primary biliary cirrhosis*

**Hosting Institution:** *Centre for Liver Research, Institute for Biomedical Research, Medical School, University of Birmingham, UK*

### September 2011 Short-term fellowships awardees

**Dr Marcho Carbone** – Rome, Italy

**Project Title:** *Time-to-event analysis of PBC risk loci in recurrent PBC*

**Hosting Institution:** *Liver Unit, University Hospital of Birmingham, UK*

**Dr Maria Homs** – Barcelona, Spain

**Project Title:** *Study of the molecular techniques for the evaluation of Hepatitis B Virus and Hepatitis Delta Virus infection in mice with human chimeric liver*

**Hosting Institution:** *Zentrum für Innere Medizin I. Medizinische Klinik und Poliklinik Gastroenterologie, Hepatologie, Infektiologie, Tropenmedizin. Universitätsklinikum, Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany*

H. Wedemeyer mentioned that investing such money was important for the future and the outcome of these fellowships was more important than the finances invested. It is essential that Young Investigators realise the importance of this programme.

### **6. Report from the EASL Treasurer (M. Bernardi)**

M. Bernardi, EASL treasurer, thanked Ms Emilie Keller, EASL Chief Operations Officer for her valuable support in managing the EASL accounts.

### 2011 ACCOUNTS

The global results showed that the yearly profit was close to 700,000€ higher than expected in the preliminary budget.

### **GLOBAL RESULTS**

FINAL 2010	BUDGET 2011	RESULTS 2011
<b>INCOME</b>		
€ 4'255'194.11	€ 3'742'143.00	€ 4'394'858.68
<b>GENERAL EXPENSES</b>		
€ 2'845'482.84	€ 3'337'800.00	€ 3'293'932.22
<b>YEARLY PROFIT</b>		
<b>€ 1'409'711.27</b>	<b>€ 404'343.00</b>	<b>€ 1'100'926.46</b>



The income figures showed higher gains on investments than expected, a continuing increase in the membership revenue and a very successful 2011 International Liver Congress in Berlin.

	RESULTS 2010	BUDGET 2011	RESULTS 2011
<b>INCOME</b>			
Realized gains on investments	€ 413'330.22	€ 325'000.00	€ 376'831.68
Membership	€ 322'936.13	€ 350'000.00	€ 417'758.17
ILC revenue	€ 1'760'972.19	€ 1'500'000.00	€ 1'936'924.72
UEGW	€ 57'143.00	€ 57'143.00	€ 57'143.00
Journal of Hepatology	€ 276'576.00	€ 180'000.00	€ 180'000.00
Editorial Office Support	€ 383'000.00	€ 330'000.00	€ 330'000.00
Support from Industry	€ 1'000'000.00	€ 1'000'000.00	€ 1'000'000.00
Other	€ 41'236.57	€ 0.00	€ 96'201.11
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>€ 4'255'194.11</b>	<b>€ 3'742'143.00</b>	<b>€ 4'394'858.68</b>

A detailed explanation was given regarding the expenses. The Treasurer highlighted a below items:

- There were financial losses due to the exchange rate between CHF and EUR.
- EASL conferences were successful and cost effective, thanks to the strong control of the EASL Office on all events' budgets.
- EASL launched 3 Concerted Action Groups that are meeting at least once a year.
- The majority of the iTools expenses were due to the development of iLiver.
- The promotion of EASL at booths during other events was implemented.
- EASL supported 3 Post-Doctoral, 3 Entry-Level and, 7 Short-term fellowships as well as 5 Renewals and 2 new Physician Scientists' fellowships.
- The cost of the Journal of Hepatology had increased significantly, mainly because of the amazing graphic improvements made to the journal.
- The cost of the EASL Office had increased mainly due to the fact that the team had welcomed 2 new staff members in 2011.
- Overall, the 2011 expenses were kept within the budget.

<b>GENERAL EXPENSES</b>			
	<b>RESULTS 2010</b>	<b>BUDGET 2011</b>	<b>RESULTS 2011</b>
Realized Loss	41'636.02	0.00	9'248.07
VAT + Bank fees + Loss on exchange rate	17'914.23	25'000.00	90'293.73
GB meetings + Finance + BMI meetings	87'579.42	95'000.00	120'613.40
Concerted Action Groups meetings			10'538.86
Monothematic Conferences	330'844.32	260'000.00	242'747.20
Special Conference	21'670.66	50'000.00	52'610.31
Schools	117'730.93	135'000.00	118'772.24
Endorsed Meetings	10'666.60	30'000.00	40'021.20
International Activities			6'555.29
Fellowships	392'004.16	534'000.00	466'000.00
IT Tools	48'894.82	225'000.00	170'327.75
EU Policy activities	187'998.10	273'000.00	199'813.53
CPGs	3'539.43	20'000.00	10'157.51
Promotion - Sister Societies	57'622.07	29'000.00	55'441.33
Communication	83'956.17	57'500.00	76'619.65
Fundraising	237.75	15'000.00	0.00
Accountant	23'733.70	30'000.00	23'693.27
Press Agency	75'443.22	75'000.00	56'499.05
Lawyer	43'220.58	35'000.00	45'466.05
Financial Advisor	2'075.80	0.00	0.00
Accounting & Contract Audit	14'457.85	14'000.00	24'318.87
Journal of Hepatology	621'931.65	580'000.00	530'871.28
GB Honorarium	88'351.35	90'000.00	90'100.22
Secretariat	25'000.00	35'000.00	35'000.00
Real Estate Investigation			8'159.76
EASL Office	548'974.01	730'300.00	810'063.65
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>€ 2'845'482.84</b>	<b>€ 3'337'800.00</b>	<b>€ 3'293'932.22</b>

The balance sheet showed total liabilities and equities of over 14,000,000€ on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2011. M. Bernardi mentioned that ~39% of EASL's assets are currently (30.03.12) not invested and do not bring any revenue to EASL. Therefore, as explained by M. Thursz, and approved by the General Assembly, the EASL Governing Board wishes to invest part of this capital in a building for the EASL Office.

<u>Balance sheet as of 31st December</u>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>EUR</b>	<b>EUR</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	4'208	5'539
Working accounts banks	6'405'071	5'233'426
Investment deposit	7'673'207	7'769'101
Accounts receivable	247'978	242'352
Withholding tax	6'777	2'516
VAT receivable	38'305	0
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>14'375'546</b>	<b>13'252'934</b>
<b>Liabilities and shareholders'equity</b>		
Accounts payable	0	5'954
Accrued liabilities Expenses	552'819	588'660
Accrued liabilities Membership	274'811	259'856
Accrued liabilities Journal	165'000	180'000
Accrued liabilities Sponsors	552'482	500'000
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1'545'111</b>	<b>1'534'469</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Capital contribution	1'842'618	1'842'618
Result brought forward	9'875'847	8'534'295
Result for the period	1'111'970	1'341'552
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>12'830'435</b>	<b>11'718'465</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and equity</b>	<b>14'375'546</b>	<b>13'252'934</b>

The 2011 accounts were unanimously approved by the Assembly

### **2012 PROVISIONAL BUDGET:**

The estimated budget for 2012 has been prepared taking into consideration the following information:

- Income
  - The support of the Premium Sponsors is secured for 2012
  - The revenue from UEGW will remain the same
  - The revenue from the ILC should be similar to the previous year
  - The revenue from the membership should continue to increase
  - The revenue from the Journal of Hepatology will increase because printing costs were stabilized and adapted to the current number of EASL members.
  
- Expenses
  - 3 Monothematic conferences will be organised in 2012, instead of 2 in 2011.
  - The EASL Governing Board have decided to contribute to the payment of fellows' overhead expenses in order to take financial strain off the hosting institutions.
  - In 2012, EASL will work on a new iTools' project called the 'Liver Tree' in addition to continued investments in iLiver, the EASL website and other online tools.
  - Due to the great dynamism of the EASL EU Office, the budget of EU activities is increasing.
  - The promotional activities of EASL will continue to develop.

INCOME			GENERAL EXPENSES		
	FINAL 2011	BUDGET 2012		FINAL 2011	BUDGET 2012
Realized gains on investments	376'831.68	331'481.00	Realized Loss	9'248.07	0.00
Membership	417'758.17	415'000.00	VAT + Bank fees + Loss on exchange rate	90'293.73	58'000.00
Congress revenue	1'936'924.72	1'800'000.00	GB meetings + Finance + BMI meetings	120'613.40	86'500.00
UEGW	57'143.00	57'143.00	Concerted Action Groups meetings	10'538.86	30'000.00
Journal of Hepatology	180'000.00	217'712.00	Monothematic Conferences	242'747.20	390'000.00
Editorial Office Support	330'000.00	330'000.00	Special Conference	52'610.31	50'000.00
Support from Industry	1'000'000.00	1'000'000.00	Schools	118'772.24	135'000.00
Other	96'201.11	70'000.00	Endorsed Meetings	40'021.20	40'000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>€ 4'394'858.68</b>	<b>€ 4'221'336.00</b>	International Activities	6'555.29	0.00
			Fellowships	466'000.00	604'800.00
			iTools	170'327.75	190'400.00
			EU Policy activities	199'813.53	328'000.00
			CPGs	10'157.51	28'000.00
			Promotion - Sister Societies	55'441.33	92'200.00
			Communication	76'619.65	89'000.00
			Accountant	23'693.27	30'000.00
			Press Agency	56'499.05	74'000.00
			Lawyer	45'466.05	45'000.00
			Accounting & Contract Audit	24'318.87	4'000.00
			Journal of Hepatology	530'871.28	606'000.00
			GB Honorarium	90'100.22	90'000.00
			Secretariat	35'000.00	35'000.00
			Real Estate Investigation	8'159.76	10'000.00
			EASL Office	810'063.65	865'000.00
			<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>€ 3'293'932.22</b>	<b>€ 3'880'900.00</b>

**2012 BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**

**PROFIT 2012 € 340'436.00**

~63% of the provisional expenses for 2011 will be devoted to:

- Meetings (conference sponsorship, endorsement etc.)
- Fellowships
- i-Tools
- EU Policy activities
- CPGs
- Journal of Hepatology

The estimated budget for 2012 was approved by the Assembly

F. Negro asked the EASL Governing Board to reconsider their wish to invest in real estate considering the current economic crisis and the potential instability of the Swiss real estate market.

M. Bernardi responded that every step of the investment will be carefully analysed and professional expertise will be taken. He thanks F. Negro for his advice and comment.

## **7. Ethics Committee (D. Lebrec)**

D. Lebrec, chair of the EASL Ethics committee presented the group members:

- **Didier Lebrec, Chair**
- **David Adams**
- **Vicente Arroyo**
- **Mario Mondelli**
- **Tilman Sauerbruch**

The Ethics Committee is an independent committee that acts as a reviewer of the Clinical Practice Guidelines' (CPG) panel members to assess specific ethical problems especially in relation to eventual problems of commercial conflict of interest.

So far, the panels of the following CPGs have been approved by the Ethics Committee:

**CPG on Acute Liver Failure**

**CPG on Management of HCV**

**CPG on Gallstones**

## **8. Concerted Action Group (Basic Science: M. Avila / Young Investigators: T. Roskams)**

Firstly, M Avila thanked the EASL Governing Board for his extraordinary experience on the board as a non-physician. It is a rewarding experience both professionally and personally.. M. Avila also thanked the members of the Basic Science CAG

- Fernandez-Checa, Jose Carlos
- Postic, Catherine
- Zitzman, Nicole
- Natoli, Gioacchino
- Bartenschlager, Ralf
- Eferl, Robert

The Basic Science CAG acts as an advisory group. It is formed by basic scientists working in different fields and disciplines that are of interest for hepatology research.

The role of the CAG is to provide advice to the EASL Governing Board on new developments/topics in basic science. The CAG also helps to design the relevant content for the ILC, Basic Science Schools and Monothematic

Conferences. It also reviews the programmes for the Basic Science Seminar, Schools and Monothematics conferences.

Finally, one of the duties of this group is to promote interaction between clinical researchers and basic scientists with common interests in different aspects of liver biology and liver disease.

The Basic Science CAG will meet twice a year (once during the ILC). Throughout the year, members of the Basic Science CAG will be contacted by the Chairman whenever advice on ongoing basic programmes might be required. Appointments will be for three years. Overlap between members of this CAG will be favoured in order to keep records of previous meetings and discussions.

T. Roskams presented the EASL Young Investigator (YI) CAG. The current group members are:

- Vincenzo Cardinale (representative)
- Jutta Lamlé
- Rachel Westbrook
- Gunda Milloning

The group members were elected after a democratic voting process.

- A call for application was sent to the EASL YI registered in the database (616 persons in total)
- 13 applications were received
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> call was sent to all EASL YI to vote for their two favorite candidates
- End of August 2011, the votes were collected
- The group was built as per the number of votes collected

The major goals of the YI-CAG

- Evaluate the needs of young scientists in EASL
- Build an active and dynamic community of YI
- Promote and facilitate discussion and exchange of information
- Host an exclusive social event during the International Liver Congress™ solely for young investigators

## **9. Editors report from the Journal of Hepatology (D. Samuel)**

D. Samuel, Editor in Chief, presented the Co-Editors; C Day and P. Galle, the editorial office and the associate editors. He then presented the achievements and changes throughout the 2011-2012 period:

- The Journal's backlog was reduced to 15-30 days which makes the time from acceptance to publication only 3.5 to 4 months (instead of 8 months as it was in April 2011).
- The JHEP has a new website including new features such as the Editor's Pick, Issue Highlights and Special Section. More features will be developed throughout 2012; podcasts, graphical abstracts and image of the month.
- The JHEP format has improved thanks to the application of a color chart. The readability, presentation and homogeneity of the articles were enhanced.
- A supplement called "Management of Liver Diseases" was published and is available online.
- The Editorial Office launched a cover contest that was very successful with over 150 liver related pictures submitted from all over the world.
- The collaboration with Elsevier has improved since Elsevier centralised its activities in Amsterdam. A new discount on the cost of extra printed pages should be negotiated for 2013. Currently the Editorial Team is also working with Elsevier on the translation of JHEP in Chinese and the development of an app for smartphones and tablets.
- The following changes took place within the Editorial Board: V. Ratzu replaced R. Jalan as Associate Editor and S. Friedman joined D. Adams as Special Section Editor.

D. Samuel presented the evolution trends of the impact factor, article submission by category, JHEP turnaround time, the number of submissions, acceptance rate and top submission countries. Globally the trends are showing that the JHEP has a positive evolution curve.

To conclude, D. Samuel mentioned that the JHEP is definitely a leading journal in the field of hepatology and that the editorial team and editorial office are constantly adapting themselves to its increasing success. The JHEP is now moving forward with Web2.0 and developing new online tools. D. Samuel ended his presentation saying that the JHEP needs the continued support of the European hepatology community.

#### **10. Farewell to leaving Governing Board Members**

Leaving Scientific Committee Members:

M. Thursz expressed, on behalf of the EASL Governing Board, his recognition of dedication and the significant contribution of Tania Roskams, Scientific Committee Member and Dominique Valla, EU Policy Councillor for their involvement and commitment to the EASL Governing Board.

#### **11. Election of new Governing Board Members**

The new candidates proposed by the EASL Governing Board are:

Scientific Committee Member: Laurent Castera (France)

EU Policy Councillor:  
Patrizia Burra (Italy)

The two candidates were asked to leave the room allowing for the vote of the General Assembly.

Their CV's were displayed for the assembly to review.

The candidates were unanimously approved by the assembly.

The meeting ended at 13.30



Prof. Mark Thursz  
EASL Secretary General



Emilie Keller  
EASL Office