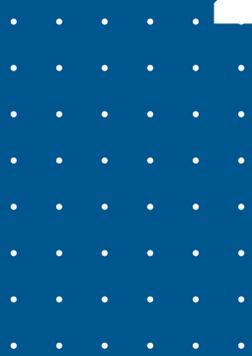


ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Year of the Nurse



Who we are

EASL is a medical association dedicated to pursuing excellence in liver research, clinical practice of liver disorders, and in the provision of best-in-class education for all those interested in hepatology.

While the roots of the association were established in Europe in 1966, EASL now actively engages with all global stakeholders with an interest in the liver to facilitate the spread of knowledge and expertise in hepatology.

Our mission

The mission of the European Association for the Study of the Liver is to be the Home of Hepatology so that everyone involved in treating patients with liver disease can realise their full potential to cure and prevent it.

Our purpose

We promote communication among all professionals, in Europe and beyond, interested in the liver and its disorders, particularly by:

- promoting liver research and facilitating scientific exchange
- fostering research interactions across Europe and beyond
- supporting the next generation of researchers, including Young Investigators, as they develop through involvement in EASL activities
- promoting education of physicians, scientists, allied health professionals, other medical professionals, and patients
- promoting public awareness of liver diseases and their management
- acting as an advisor to European and national health authorities concerning liver diseases, the provision of clinical services, and the need for research funding
- working with patient groups to ensure their perspectives and views are represented in our work

About this Annual Report

The year 2020 was an extraordinary one, causing major disruption to medical associations and society all around the world. Consequently, this report simply cannot be presented in the usual way. We need to tell the story of how EASL and our members coped with the setbacks of the COVID-19 pandemic and what they did. This Annual Report is about the people we are and the people we serve. As reflected by the front cover of this report, we honour those who served on the frontlines, all the healthcare professionals, during this traumatic year.

Cover art credit: With many thanks to Banksy for offering images for public use: <https://pestcontroloffice.com/use.asp>

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MESSAGE FROM OUR SECRETARY GENERAL AND VICE-SECRETARY

Parting words from our Secretary General

2020 was a year like no other and caused unprecedented disruption to society at all levels. Yet “Necessity is the mother of invention”, and EASL rose to the challenge, rolling out complex changes in just days or

weeks, including a fully Digital ILC 2020.

As Secretary General of EASL, I could not have imagined that the final ILC of my leadership term in 2021, would also be held entirely online. Even though we miss the face-to-face interactions, ILC 2021 will

allow the scientific community to present new research and interact, and moreover it has opened up access to participants who might previously not have been able to engage.

Rolling out multiple solutions in 2020, with agility

Becoming increasingly adaptable, EASL orchestrated its digital adjustments with our Geneva-based staff working predominantly from home, as advised by prevailing health guidelines. It was fascinating and inspiring to see how rapidly the hepatology community reacted and found solutions for our members and patients. We stayed fully connected to our sister societies, national associations, and were supported throughout by our valued industry sponsors. While the whole world celebrated the Year of the Nurse, we were proud to interview and showcase liver nurses working in such challenging circumstances.

Digital ILC 2020, our 55th annual meeting, was an exciting and fully immersive three-day event with live broadcasts from the EASL Studio and ample opportunities for delegates to network and connect.

The congress convened almost 7,400 delegates from 114 countries and drew upon 315 faculty from 23 countries. We offered our sought-after “Best of” Slide Decks and launched a brand-new product, “EASL Takeaways”. Our first-ever fully digital press conference generated coverage, reaching 245 million readers from 68 countries.

Other activities we are proud of include: collaborating with the World Health Organization; holding our governance and membership meetings online; rolling out our new educational platform, EASL Campus; launching Ask EASL podcasts drawing on patient engagement; and much more.

We have grown in strength in our policy and public health goals, too, founding our Patient Synergies network with its dedicated web presence, and we also held our first-ever online patient forum. We developed and formalised new ways to work with patient organisations, using patient-centred web resources, for example, and have started preparations to publish our first patient guidelines on NAFLD, which are due out in 2021.

Staying aligned with our sister societies

We stayed in touch with our sister societies, exploring how best to serve the global liver community through these tumultuous times. At Digital ILC 2020, we shared outlooks in panel interviews with the Latin American Association for the Study of the Liver (ALEH), the Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver (APASL), and the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD).

Resilience and solidarity in science, in the face of adversity

Although COVID-19 was a cruel turn of events, with many aftershocks, surviving it has shown us how incredibly strong our community network is, and how resilient and constructive our scientific bonds are. In the face of adversity, we have seen the true colours of our community.

We are thus very grateful to our members and many partners, for their ongoing engagement as we strove to keep engaged and provide topical and supportive services, such as evolving educational content.

Digitalisation catalysing democracy

An unforeseen advantage of digitalisation was the spirit of democracy it triggered. At Digital ILC 2020, and beyond, a democratic, worldwide movement thrived. From the extraordinary buzz on social media, to chats, Q&A, webinars, and opportunities to share, exchange, and learn from one another. Globally, we will carry this democratic ethos forward, into the future. We will hold on to the many positive attributes gained through 2020, yet we also look forward to meeting again in person.

Hepatology-focused progress against the COVID-19 backdrop

EASL responded quickly and thoroughly to how the pandemic affected hepatology and its community of patients, scientists, and healthcare professionals. We explored the impact of COVID-19 on patients with liver conditions, published two Position Papers months apart in *JHEP Reports*, and held accessible podcasts for patients with their involvement. EASL formally endorsed the COVID-Hep Registry, generating the largest-to-date database of the impact of the virus on liver diseases. Resulting recommendations from these many efforts have led to tangible results: the prioritisation of liver patients for vaccination in certain countries.

Rising prestige of EASL's journals

In June 2020, our *Journal of Hepatology* received its highest-ever impact factor of 20.582 for 2019. In line with EASL, the journal reacted very rapidly and published articles describing the effect of SARS-CoV-2 on the liver and how liver pathologies influenced the course of the disease, including one manuscript from the COVID-Hep Registry. With a decade left to hit the WHO goal of eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030, the journal also published a much-awaited update on the Clinical Practice Guidelines, *EASL recommendations on treatment of hepatitis C*. EASL's open-access *JHEP Reports* journal is growing in repute, too.

The Nobel Prize 2020, a model for forward-thinking collaboration

A truly exciting event in the year was the news that the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2020 was awarded jointly to Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton, and Charles M. Rice for their discovery of the hepatitis C virus. The award to this triumvirate is a perfect example of the potential of collaboration and a model for the future: clinicians, basic scientists, and industry – joining forces. EASL intends to draw inspiration from this model going forward.

Honouring the many we lost

Since the arrival of COVID-19, we have suffered many losses. The numbers of infections rocketed as one wave followed the next. We have been saddened by the deaths of countless patients and many of our colleagues on the frontline of healthcare.

Prof. Roger Williams, whose life was devoted to hepatology and was a founding member of EASL, passed away just weeks before he was to receive an EASL Recognition Award at Digital ILC 2020. We will not forget those we lost in 2020, nor their contributions.

Thanking the nimble and hands-on EASL Office team

The many achievements of EASL could not have been carried out without the EASL Office, an agile, dedicated, and skilled team, under the leadership of Ben Hainsworth who joined as Managing Director in 2019. The staff showed amazing adaptability to a new working environment – the home office – and to the numerous twists and turns that the months brought, remaining responsive and engaged throughout. The staff were a major driver of the success of EASL, during this singular time.

Caroline Muller adeptly guided the finance team, Cyriac Couvas was hired to set up and run our IT systems department, Joel Walicki managed the progress of the two journals, Mounia Heddad-Masson steered the education and science department into new digital arenas, Patricia Pochelon managed our complex scientific programmes, Stéphane Dazet led our business developments, Claire Chombeau our events, Wouter Kruijs our evolving relations with members, and our marketing and communications team performed admirably.

Our Governing Board adapted to governance meetings held online, often over several days, showing dedication and diligence throughout. You can read more about their roles and committee contributions in this report.

Forging positive change in policy and public health

On the policy and public health front, we supported the European Beating Cancer Plan launched in early 2021 with key pillars – prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and quality of life – aligning with EASL’s goals. Yet we strive to keep an increasing strong focus on liver cancer, at the EU level. Tackling liver cancer must remain a key goal, worldwide.

Next steps for ILC 2021 and beyond

The evolution of COVID-19 still poses many unresolved questions. EASL aims to move forward, building on lessons learned so far, drawing the best from what we have proven we are capable of. We remain dedicated to our membership and rely on their feedback and guidance, as we foster new bonds, explore new fields, and forge dynamic transitions in our events. As we are holding ILC 2021 fully digitally, implementing these best practices, we will set a new benchmark for quality in international digital events.

We’re offering you the best possible interaction to mitigate what we miss so much – being together in person. We are building on the spirit and strength of democratisation, and leveraging all the best of this digital era, offering a broader global outreach.

While ILC maintains its established, dedicated topic tracks, we are delighted to be adding a dedicated Basic Science track to ILC 2021, intended to attract basic scientists to our congress to showcase and share research. Multidisciplinarity will be a major theme of ILC 2021. Our Basic Science Seminar and Postgraduate Course, respectively, offer delegates updates on

artificial intelligence, “omics”, and big data in liver research; and on lifestyle and the liver.

At ILC 2021, you can enjoy superb digital enhancements pre-, during, and post-congress – a new platform, live broadcasts from the EASL Studio, matchmaking, an appointment-booking tool, a business cards exchange, microsites, and much more.

Looking forward to 2022

While 2021 has brought increased access to vaccination and a better understanding about COVID-19, the pandemic is not yet over. We will continue to thrive, not just survive, through and out of the other side. We will boost our digital

networks, our educational offers, building stronger connections with our members, national and sister societies, and our peers. EASL was founded as a European association and the pandemic has shown the extraordinary solidarity within the science community of Europe. But we are diverse, we value diversity, and we seek to grow in our reach and impact – to grow beyond Europe, to our liver colleagues worldwide.

With these illuminating, challenging, sometimes painful months behind us, having gained much insight, we move towards 2022. We look forward to savouring science together with you at ILC 2022, in person, in London. Like in the good old days.



SECRETARY GENERAL Prof. Philip NEWSOME

Director of the Centre for Liver and Gastrointestinal Research
Professor of Hepatology, University of Birmingham
Hon. Consultant Hepatologist at the Liver Unit Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, UK



VICE-SECRETARY Prof. Thomas BERG

Head of the Division of Hepatology,
Department of Medicine II, Leipzig University Medical Center, Germany



EASL OFFICE

EASL's headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland. The EASL staff of 29 experts in various fields are led by our Managing Director, Ben Hainsworth.

For most of the year, the office has been operating in a work-from-home configuration, and work practices and output have undergone a radical digital transformation. Governance, administration, education, science, events, publishing, and advocacy have all moved online.

Determined reskilling and deliberate shifting of resources have been necessary at every step of the way. As we move into a yet uncertain 2021, our key priorities have remained constant: focus on our constituent bodies and members, operational excellence, diligent

business management, and strategic growth.

Our staff come from 17 different nationalities, speak 16 different languages, seven of them with scientific doctorates.



EASL Office, June 2021

Management & Administration

Managing Director



Ben
HAINSWORTH

HR



Sophie
FUX

Finance



Caroline
MULLER



Jeremy
MARRO



Özcan
SAHIN



Cyriac
COUVAS

IT

Journal of Hepatology



Joel
WALICKI



Duncan
ANDERSON



Pablo
ECHEVERRIA



Jiyeong
ADAMS



Kristina
JAJCEVIC

Education & Science



Mounia
HEDDAD-
MASSON



Laurent
PERRIN



Elinam
GAYI

Scientific Programmes



Patricia
POCHELON



Céline
SANTO



Rocío Daviña
NÚÑEZ

Policy & Public Health



Yoanna
NEDELICHEVA



Morgane
GUEX

Business Development & Events



Stéphane
DAZET



Claire
CHOMBEAU



Laudina
ASOMANING



Alexis
SCHWERY



Montse
VALLS

Association & Community Services



Wouter
KRUJIS



Johnny
AINSWORTH



Adonia
DHANJAL



Géraldine
FANKHAUSER



Estelle
JOBSON



Andrei
ȘTEFĂNESCU

BOOSTING KNOWLEDGE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

JANUARY

- › The World Health Organization (WHO) designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and the Midwife. EASL set out to feature our liver nurses in 2020, especially our **Nurses and Allied Health Professionals Task Force**. We could not have anticipated how much nursing would be in the spotlight, with the COVID-19 pandemic rapidly evolving.



FEBRUARY

- › The WHO headquarters began holding daily media briefings on the novel coronavirus, the first time that daily briefings have been held by the Director-General or Executive Director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme.



MARCH

- › The WHO declared the COVID-19 crisis a pandemic.

BREAKING CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

#COVID19 #Coronavirus



- › EASL postponed **ILC 2020**, scheduled originally as 15–19 April, to 25–28 August 2020, still planning to hold it in London; and the *Journal of Hepatology* called for papers on COVID-19.



- › EASL announced the newly launched **EASL-supported COVID-Hep Registry**, intending to capture how pre-existing liver disease or liver transplantation affects the course of COVID-19.



APRIL

- › EASL and the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) published “**EASL–ESCMID Position Paper: Patients with advanced liver disease and transplant recipients require specific care during COVID-19**”: recommendations for clinicians caring for patients with liver diseases during the pandemic.



EASL-ESCMID Position Paper: Patients with advanced liver disease and transplant recipients require specific care during COVID-19

- › EASL launched **Viewpoints**, a series of testimonies from members of our community the frontline, interviewing nurses, doctors, and researchers.

EASL Viewpoints



EASL Viewpoint

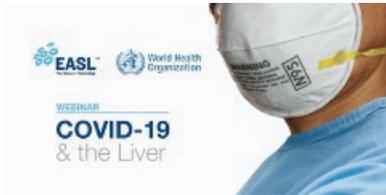
Increased recognition worldwide for our multidimensional and complex roles as nurses will help us preserve our passion for delivering high-quality, person-centred care to people with or at risk of liver disease.

Michelle Clayton, UK Liver nurse educator



MAY

- › EASL announced the transition to our first-ever fully online event, **Digital ILC 2020: 27–29 August 2020**
- › EASL and the WHO held a joint webinar, followed by a press release, on “**COVID-19 & the liver: Reports from the frontline**”, in which virology and hepatology experts compared strategies for coping during the pandemic.



› EASL Campus launched **COVID-19 and the liver webcasts**, a series of webcasts and webinars on:

- Viral markers and the diagnosis of COVID-19
- EASL–WHO COVID-19 and the liver
- Virological aspects of COVID-19
- Viral testing and the immune response to COVID-19



JUNE

› EASL held its first-ever online General Assembly, enabling members to convene to discuss the challenges and accomplishments of our association.



JULY

› First-ever **Ask EASL podcast** was held: Patient-oriented webcast on COVID-19 and the liver, addressing the symptoms, outcomes, risk factors, and treatments of COVID-19 in relation to liver disease.

AUGUST



**THE DIGITAL
INTERNATIONAL
LIVER CONGRESS™**

NEW DATES
27–29 August 2020

www.ilc-congress.eu



- › Dedicated session on COVID-19 and the Liver, together with 14 webcasts on COVID-19, 7 ePosters, 5 web broadcasts, and a key publication.
- › Press release: *“During COVID-19, patients with liver conditions and facing liver transplantation require targeted and sustained support”*, generating global media coverage: 8 media editorials with potential readership of 5,856,247.
- › Six months into the pandemic, we jointly published the **EASL–ESCMID Position Paper**, *“Impact of COVID-19 on the care of patients with liver disease: EASL–ESCMID position paper after 6 months of the pandemic”*, providing guidance for physicians treating patients with chronic liver disease.



EASL–ESCMID Position Paper: a review, six months into the pandemic

BOOSTING KNOWLEDGE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

SEPTEMBER

› In a **multi-society initiative**, EASL, the European Society for Organ Transplantation (ESOT) with the European Liver and Intestine Transplantation Association (ELITA), and the International Liver Transplantation Society (ILTS), launched a survey sent to 470 transplant centres worldwide to explore how transplant centres and services are affected by the pandemic.



OCTOBER

› News published in the *Journal of Hepatology*: an international study led by researchers at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust showed that patients with cirrhosis were at increased risk of dying, as a result of COVID-19.



Patients with cirrhosis at increased risk of death from COVID-19, study finds

NOVEMBER

› As the pandemic persisted, limiting in-person contact, EASL continued to stay in touch with all our stakeholders. We leveraged our first-ever online **EASL Patient Forum**, to stay connected with the patient community.



› As lockdown continued, many remained confined to their homes and the societal impact of the pandemic became increasingly apparent. EASL kept engaged during **Awareness Week on Alcohol-Related Harm (AWARH) 2020**, which served to raise awareness among EU policymakers of the types of harm caused by alcohol. EASL expert, Prof. Nick Sheron contributed to a webinar on Alcohol and COVID-19.



DECEMBER

› To stay engaged with our community right to the end of such a particular year, we held an Extraordinary General Assembly online, on 10 December 2020.



› As 2020 ended, we were looking forward to brighter prospects in 2021, not least developments on protecting and prioritising patients with liver conditions, such as a worldwide rollout of COVID-19 vaccination.





ADVOCACY

together

Please visit
www.east-ill.org

EASL EVENTS 2020

Monothematic meeting, 23–25 January 2020, in Athens, Greece

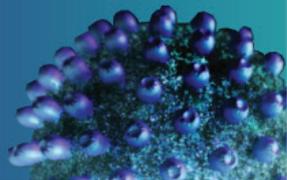
- the first face-to-face EASL event of 2020
- 89 participants from 21 countries



**Translational research
in viral hepatitis:
Addressing the gaps for cure**

23-25 January 2020
Athens, Greece

Scientific Organising Committee
Prof. Darius Moradpour, Switzerland
Prof. Robert Thimme, Germany
Prof. Fabien Zoulim, France



Liver Cancer Summit 2020, 6–8 February 2020, in Prague, Czech Republic

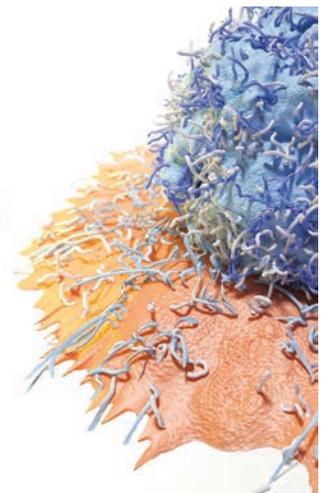
- last major face-to-face EASL event of 2020
- 600+ delegates from 44 countries
- covering multidisciplinary management of patients with hepatocellular carcinoma and cholangiocarcinoma



LIVER CANCER SUMMIT 2020

06-08 February
Prague, Czech Republic

Scientific Organising Committee
Dr. Jesus Banales, *Spain*
Dr. Valerie Paradis, *France*
Dr. Lorenza Rimassa, *Italy*



www.easl.eu

Digital ILC 2020 27-29 August 2020

- originally planned for London in April, the event was pivoted with pandemic-catalysed agility to a digital only offering in late August 2020
- a ground-breaking event for the global hepatology community
- 7,400 delegates from 114 countries

All other EASL events in 2020 were either postponed to 2021 or cancelled.

POSTPONED AND CANCELLED EVENTS

The following events were postponed: three monothematic meetings, four summer Schools, and one Masterclass.

Two Endpoint meetings co-organised with the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) were cancelled, as was the NAFLD Summit 2020.



EASL LEADERSHIP

EASL Governing Board

Our Governing Board meeting in London in March 2020 was to be our last in-person leadership meeting. All further meetings of the Governing Board, Executive Board, and the Scientific, Education, and Policy and Public Health Committees were subsequently held online.

Leadership and office management met more frequently and assured a remarkable degree of diligent governance, business continuity, and service provision to the community. Notable online governance achievements include a General Assembly, an Extraordinary General Assembly, nominations, and elections.

Executive Committee

Secretary General



Prof. Philip
NEWSOME
UK

Vice-Secretary



Prof. Thomas
BERG
Germany

Scientific Committee



Prof. Pierre-Emmanuel
RAUTOU
France

Treasurer



Prof. Francesco
NEGRO
Switzerland

Educational Councillor



Prof. Ulrich
BEUERS
The Netherlands

EU Policy Councillor



Prof. Maria
BUTI
Spain

Scientific Committee



Prof. Pierre-
Emmanuel
RAUTOU
France



Dr Tobias
BÖTTLER
Germany



Prof. Saskia
VAN MIL
The Netherlands



Prof. Maria
REIG
Spain



Prof. Emmanuel
TSOCHATZIS
UK



Prof. Luca
VALENTI
Italy

- nominations and appointments of two new members: Saskia Van Mil and Tobias Böttler
- transformation of ILC 2020 to Digital ILC 2020
- reviewing, commenting on, and developing programmes for conferences and summits
- coordinating the development of Clinical Practice Guidelines
- providing input on the allocations of fellowships and grants

Educational Committee



Prof. Ulrich
BEUERS
The Netherlands



Prof. Andres
CARDENAS
Spain



Prof. Rui
CASTRO
Portugal



Prof. Karine
LACOMBE
France



Prof. Manuela
MERLI
Italy



Prof. Helen
REEVES
UK



Prof. Ulrich
SPENGLER
Germany

- a digital leap triggered massive growth in the use of EASL Campus
- up to 13,111 registered users and 133,082 web visitors
- launch of Digital ILC 2020 Takeaways, event Slide Decks, the EASL Quiz series, and multiple webinars and webcasts

Policy and Public Health Committee



Prof. Maria BUTI
Spain



Prof. Antonio CRAÏI
Italy



Prof. Jeffrey LAZARUS
Spain



Prof. Mojca MATIČIČ
Slovenia



Prof. Nick SHERON
UK



Ms Martine WALMSLEY
UK



Prof. Shira ZELBER-SAGI
Israel

- Joint Statement: prevention at the heart of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan
- two new **EASL Policy Statements** (coexistence of NAFLD and ARLD; drug use and hepatitis C elimination)
- launch of **EASL Patient Synergies**
- collaboration during Awareness Week on Alcohol Related Harm (AWARH)

EASL Patient Synergies

- at the January 2020 EASL Governing Board: launch of **EASL Patient Synergies** a network for European umbrella patient organisations engaged in liver diseases
- nine members, as of June 2021
- first online **EASL Patient Forum** held in November 2020 on **EASL's evidence-based Policy Statements**
- patient engagement in all levels of EASL activity



EU-funded projects



EASL remains the communications and dissemination arm for five major EU-funded projects for diagnosing and combatting liver disease:

- ALIVER
- DECISION
- LITMUS
- LiverScreen
- MICROB-PREDICT

Ethics Committee



Prof. Christian
TRAUTWEIN
Germany



Prof. Jaime
BOSCH
Spain



Prof. Markus
HEIM
Switzerland



Prof. Ariane
MALLAT
France



Dr Guido Heinrich
GERKEN
Germany

- Chair, Prof. Christian Trautwein, re-elected for another three-year term
- yearlong monitoring and management of interests at EASL leadership level
- regular review of [Clinical Practice Guidelines](#) panels
- engagement in BioMed Alliance Europe's Code of Conduct Working Group

EASL's prestigious journals

JOURNAL OF HEPATOLOGY



Prof. Paolo
ANGELI
Italy
Editor-in-Chief



Prof. Patrizia
BURRA
Italy
Deputy Editor



Prof. Vlad
RATZIU
France
Co-editor



Prof. Bruno
SANGRO
Spain
Co-editor



Prof. Frank
TACKE
Germany
Co-editor



Prof. Stefan
ZEUZEM
Germany
Co-editor

- EASL's *Journal of Hepatology* – in June 2020, announcement of our impact factor of 20.582 for 2019

JHEP REPORTS



Prof. Jessica
ZUCMAN-
ROSSI
France
Editor-in-Chief



Prof. Marina
BERENQUER
Spain
Editor



Prof. Sven
FRANCQUE
Belgium
Editor



Prof. Thierry
GUSTOT
Belgium
Editor



Dr Sophie
LOTERSZTAJN
France
Editor

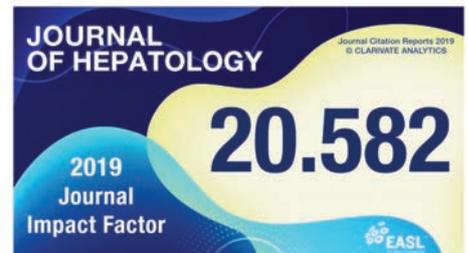
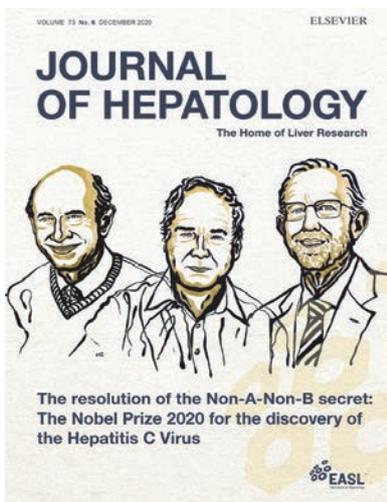


Prof. Robert
SCHWABE
USA
Editor



Prof. Morris
SHERMAN
Canada
Editor

- EASL's *JHEP Reports* – celebrated its 2nd birthday and being accepted for indexing by PubMed Central and Scopus



Nurses and AHPs Task Force



Michelle
CLAYTON
UK



Dr Palle
BAGER
Denmark



Kathryn
JACK
UK



Dr Patrizia
KÜNZLER-HEULE
Switzerland



Neus
LLARCH
Spain



Dr Eva
ROMÁN
Spain



Felicity
WILLIAMS
UK

- two new Task Force members: Kathryn Jack and Eva Román
- dedicated sessions, abstracts and an [EASL Takeaways](#)
- a webinar on sarcopenia on EASL Campus
- participation in [EASL Viewpoints](#)

Young Investigators Task Force



Dr Marta
AFONSO
Portugal



Dr Sabela
LENS
Spain



Dr Epsen
MELUM
Norway



Dr Salvatore
PIANO
Italy



Dr Anna
SABOROWSKI
Germany

- EASL provided ongoing support to the YIs Task Force, to sustain efforts through the pandemic
- dedicated YI Forum at Digital ILC 2020
- two new members added to the Task Force: Dr Anna Saborowski and Dr Marta Afonso
- selection of two recipients of the [Emerging Leader Award](#): Dr Prakash Ramachandran and Prof. Thomas Reiberger

COMMUNITY AND MEMBERSHIP

The pandemic dramatically reduced face-to-face meetings for everybody. It also placed a heavier than usual burden on all healthcare professionals. Taking these factors into consideration, at EASL, we doubled our efforts to maintain engagement with our community. Our membership remains solid, despite the difficult circumstances, and we thank our members for their loyalty and trust.

 **EASL INSIGHT SURVEY**

1,400+
RESPONSES

From both members and the wider community



MyEASL was launched, a new feature on the EASL website, helping us collect valuable data from our users to serve them better:

OCT TO DEC 2020

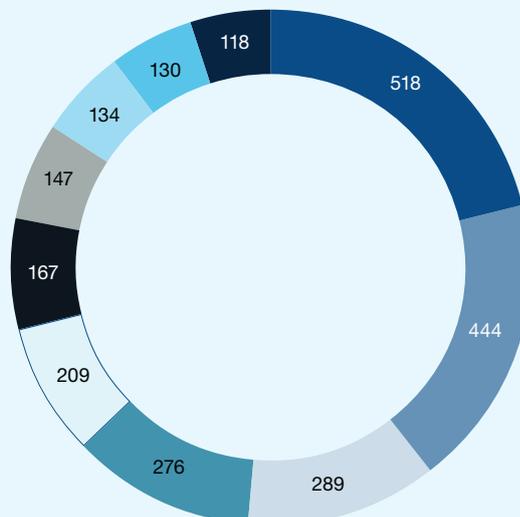
5,000+
MYEASL ACCOUNTS WERE CREATED

 **ONGOING COLLABORATION WITH**

39
NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Top 10 countries of membership

- US
- UK
- Germany
- Italy
- Spain
- France
- Netherlands
- Belgium
- Switzerland
- Egypt



EASL 2019
EASL 2019
EASL COMMUNITY HUB
EASL COMMUNITY HUB



EASL
The home of respiratory

Let's talk SCIENCE
but first, COFFEE

SOCIAL MEDIA
COFFEE



Catering area

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

COVID-19 as a global health crisis highlighted the need for continued research in all areas. Through the year, EASL remained steadfast to the research community. In 2020, €630,000 was awarded in fellowships and grants. In cases where research projects were delayed by the pandemic, we also extended research grants.

Fellowships and research grants

- providing scientists with opportunities through their careers
- fostering the next generation of excellence in hepatology
- for young talent, opportunities to excel, advance, network, and become a key member of the vibrant global hepatology community
- fellowships are for PhD or post-doctoral qualifications, short-term or longer-term goals
- EASL Emerging Leader Award dedicated to young fellows, up to 40

EASL Daniel ALAGILLE Award

The Daniel ALAGILLE Award provides research support for Young Investigators active in the field of paediatric and adult genetic cholestatic disease-causing mechanisms. The Daniel Alagille Award is generously supported by unrestricted grants from Cell Therapies Research & Services (CTRS).



Dr Marion BOUCHECAREILH,
France

PhD Studentship Juan Rodés

This competitive, doctoral fellowship programme is directed at young graduates who want to achieve a PhD degree in the field of basic, translational, or clinical hepatology. The programme is open to candidates living anywhere in the world, wishing to conduct a PhD thesis at a European centre, in a country different to that of their home institution.



Eline Kirsten GEERVLIET,
PhD candidate, The Netherlands



Dr Vincenzo RONCA, Italy

Postgraduate Fellowship Sheila SHERLOCK

This competitive, postgraduate fellowship programme targets the most promising newly qualified postgraduate researchers who wish to expand research fields and start developing their independent research careers.



Dr Manuel JOHANNIS, France



Dr Philipp SCHWABL, Austria

Short-term Training Fellowship Andrew K. BURROUGHS

This programme is directed at postgraduate investigators (basic and clinical investigators) who intend to spend a limited amount of time (three to six months) at a foreign institution to accomplish a very focussed research project. It can be to learn an experimental procedure or methodology or to get in-depth knowledge on a sophisticated, clinical diagnostic procedure not available at the home institution. It is open to candidates from anywhere in the world, planning to do post-doctoral work at a European centre, different to their home institution.



Dr Theresa WIRTZ, Germany



Dr Claudia FUCHS, Austria

EASL Emerging Leader Award

The EASL Emerging Leader Award is a yearly award specifically dedicated to young fellows, up to 40 years of age, who are active members of EASL. Every year, two Young Investigator Awardees are selected, based on their international liver research achievements to date.



Dr Thomas REIBERGER, Austria



Dr Prakash RAMACHANDRAN, UK

Registry grants for scientific research

As a major European association dedicated to pursuing excellence in liver research and to providing education to all those interested in hepatology, EASL promotes research and education through the sharing of research findings in hepatology.

Considering the difficulties faced by researchers in our field, the EASL Governing Board has decided to create the EASL Registry Data Collection Grant to provide funding in support of consortia groups dedicated to data gathering with a specific focus on liver disease.

EASL Registry Grants

Dr Palak TRIVEDI, Checkpoint-inhibitor induced liver injury: The CHILI registry, United Kingdom

Prof. Juan Carlos GARCIA PAGAN, EUROTIPS project: the European Registry of patients treated with TIPS following a standardized, state of the art, pre, peri and post procedural approach, Spain

EASL INTERNATIONAL LIVER FOUNDATION

Placing NAFLD on the public health agenda

In 2020, the EASL International Liver Foundation (EILF) expanded its non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) programme, strengthening existing collaborations and establishing new ones.

In December, EILF and Wilton Park, a leading global think tank – held a three-day dialogue addressing NAFLD from a public health perspective. The event brought together over 50 thought leaders from all over the globe to start the process of developing a NAFLD public health roadmap.

EILF and the Economist Intelligence Unit held a series of 12 workshops, “NAFLD: Sounding the alarm on a global public health challenge”, engaging over 50 regional experts to explore the opportunities and challenges for addressing NAFLD in Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.

EILF expanded the earlier European policy review study globally, collecting data from 102 countries in all regions. The findings, to be published in 2021, will provide critical information that will inform national and global policy responses to NAFLD.

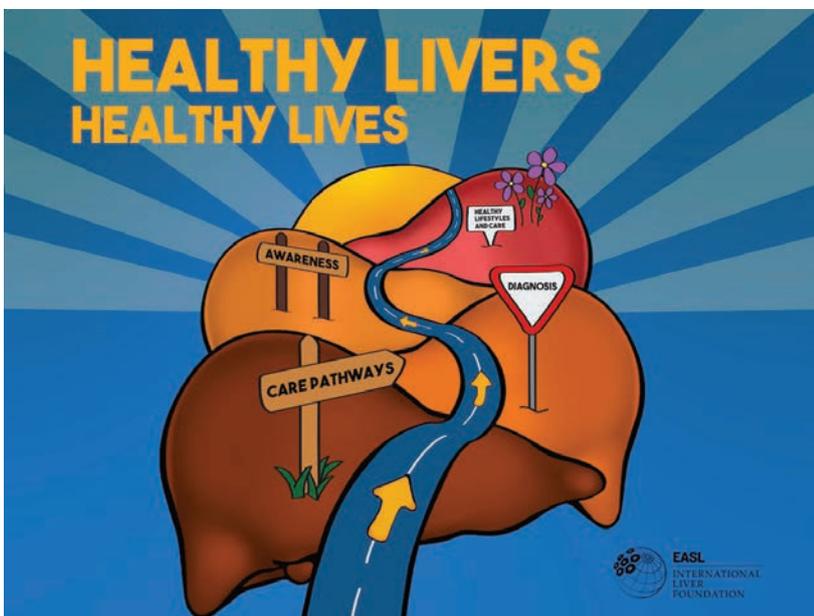
Supporting the Georgia Centre of Excellence in viral hepatitis elimination

In what was a challenging year for healthcare systems, including viral hepatitis services, EILF continued to support the Georgia Centre of Excellence in viral hepatitis elimination working with our partners to support the national programme. We also launched a dedicated website for the Centre of Excellence programme.

Forging a vision for the years ahead: working in tandem with EASL

In 2020, EILF outlined several strategic priorities for the future. The EILF–EASL Fellowships programme now sits at the centre of the Foundation’s plans with EILF taking over management of the programme in January 2021.

The Foundation also updated its governance structure with the formation of a Fundraising Committee. The Committee will support EILF to grow and expand as it strives to fulfil the mission of *improving lives by improving liver health*.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Treasurer's Report

Dear members,

It is my honour to provide you with the Treasurer's Report for the 2020 financial accounts.

That 2020 has been an extraordinary year is a known fact. The disruption of our core business activities brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic has been tremendous and unforeseen, requiring swift adaptations and momentous decisions.

I must introduce this report by acknowledging our Managing Director Ben Hainsworth and the whole EASL Office for their professionalism in providing winning solutions to this unprecedented challenge. Without their unfailing commitment and generous efforts to contain our losses, via both operational savings and prudent use of our reserves, the financial results of the year could have been catastrophic.

Thus, although the 2019 result was positive, 2020 ended with a net operational loss (before exceptional income and expenditure) of €2,625,000. The International Liver Congress™, traditionally the leading financial source of income of our association, had to be converted to a digital event.

This led to a major downturn in terms of revenue, although the final result was better than our initial, cautious expectations. In addition, significant provisions were made for upcoming, IT-related projects in 2021. The current crisis radically accelerated our ongoing digital transformation, and our multiple systems and platforms require further integration.

To absorb the losses, we resorted to both one-off and strategic cuts in our expenses. Significant savings were derived from either cancelling or postponing several face-to-face events to 2021, and by reducing the overall office personnel and consultant costs. Despite the setbacks, we were able to increase our support of the community, and loyal partnerships with healthcare industry held true, allowing us to make significant contributions to research and policy and public health initiatives.

Funding of our non-event-related online educational portfolio remains solid, although less than expected, since sponsors had little time to switch their commitments from physical to online learning.

As was the case in 2019, EASL's 2020 financial accounts were audited by an external audit firm, A. Gautier Société Fiduciaire. Auditors confirmed that EASL's accounts were in good order and properly reflected the financial status of the association.

We adjusted our budget for the coming year 2021, which for the first time in EASL's history was presented for approval to EASL members at an Extraordinary General Assembly in December 2020, i.e. before the year started. For 2021, we foresee partial consolidation of our largely digital operations and plan to break even financially. We are fully confident that the income from online educational activities will grow further in 2021. Revenues from the *Journal of Hepatology* will also increase and ongoing IT improvements will largely be absorbed by provisions from 2020.

All in all, the 2021 budget is a balanced one, which represents a significant achievement. My sincere thanks go again to Ben Hainsworth, Caroline Muller, and the heads of the different office departments for their efforts.



TREASURER
Prof. Francesco NEGRO

Auditor's Report



Report of the statutory auditors
on the limited statutory examination
to the general meeting of

European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), Geneva

As statutory auditors, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, income statement and notes) of European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), Geneva for the year ended 31 December 2020.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Board. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of entity's personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of entity's documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of the operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements and the proposed appropriation of available earnings do not comply with Swiss law and the entity's articles of incorporation.

A. Gautier, Société Fiduciaire SA
Antoine Gautier,
Licensed Audit Expert n° 100651

Geneva, May 12, 2021
AG/lm 100494ROR-20 – 12 ex.

Enclosures : - Financial statements (balance sheet total EUR 16.447.234, income statement, and notes)

2020 financial statements

Balance Sheet, as of 31st December

| | 2020 EUR | 2019 EUR |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | 3,540,844 | 7,576,600 |
| Accounts receivables and other receivables | 849,551 | 656,797 |
| Prepaid expenses and accrued income | 1,941,456 | 1,196,576 |
| Total Current Assets | 6,331,851 | 9,429,973 |
| Financial assets | 5,735,300 | 6,102,694 |
| Tangible fixed assets | 4,380,083 | 4,468,580 |
| Intangible fixed assets | 0 | 1 |
| Total Non-current Assets | 10,115,383 | 10,571,275 |
| Total Assets | 16,447,234 | 20,001,248 |
| Accounts payable | 338,285 | 230,787 |
| Other short-term liabilities | 333,051 | 227,195 |
| Deferred income and accrued expenses | 1,585,090 | 3,209,029 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 2,256,426 | 3,667,011 |
| Mortgage loan | 1,988,136 | 1,989,406 |
| Long-term provisions | 850,213 | 722,631 |
| Total Long-term Liabilities | 2,838,349 | 2,712,037 |
| Unused restricted fund | 141,657 | 183,384 |
| Total Allocated Funds | 141,657 | 183,384 |
| General funds | 13,438,817 | 12,501,285 |
| Net result for the period | (2,228,015) | 937,532 |
| Total Reserve Funds | 11,210,802 | 13,438,817 |
| Total Liabilities and Reserve Funds | 16,447,234 | 20,001,248 |

Income Statement for the year ended

| | 2020 EUR | 2019 EUR |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| International Liver Congress | 2,891,661 | 9,067,242 |
| Membership | 650,278 | 675,924 |
| Journal of Hepatology | 994,110 | 1,154,548 |
| UEG support | - | 97,143 |
| Sponsors – unrestricted funds | 466,444 | 273,486 |
| Sponsors – restricted funds | 1,163,547 | 531,611 |
| Net Building Revenue | 36,507 | 114,214 |
| Small Conferences | 576,065 | 867,204 |
| Other revenues | 43,015 | 16,547 |
| Total Operating income | 6,821,627 | 12,797,919 |
| International Liver Congress | (1,244,093) | (5,110,403) |
| Fellowships and Registry Grants | (879,549) | (780,956) |
| Small Conferences (Monothematic/Special conferences) | (1,127,618) | (964,165) |
| School of Hepatology | - | (104,470) |
| Journal of Hepatology | (464,646) | (463,635) |
| Overheads | (223,000) | (192,616) |
| Legal, Consultancy, and Audit Fees | (684,959) | (405,545) |
| Marketing and Communication | (215,080) | (117,284) |
| Booth and Promotion | (24,772) | (59,866) |
| Sponsored Meetings | (649) | (42,827) |
| GB Meetings and Honorarium | (224,452) | (131,315) |
| Clinical Practice Guidelines and Committees | (12,226) | (31,386) |
| EU Advocacy/Policy and Public Affairs | (273,849) | (157,950) |
| Education and Scientific Activities | (501,474) | (105,880) |
| Other expenses | (11,232) | (170,997) |
| Total Operating expenses before staff cost and depreciation | (5,887,598) | (8,839,295) |
| Personnel | (3,107,966) | (2,753,537) |
| Depreciation | (257,453) | (237,452) |
| Operating result | (2,431,390) | 967,635 |
| Financial income | 115,052 | 601 |
| Financial expenses | (110,259) | (176,610) |
| Unrealised Financial Gain on Bonds | 47,928 | 498,019 |
| Unrealised Financial Loss on Bonds | (115,322) | (36,495) |
| Foreign Exchange Gain | (131,590) | (174,794) |
| Financial result | (194,190) | 110,721 |
| Exceptional income and expenses | 401,944 | (121,303) |
| Net result before changes in funds | (2,223,636) | 957,053 |
| Changes in funds | (4,379) | (19,523) |
| Net result after changes in funds | (2,228,015) | 937,530 |

Notes to the 2020 financial statements

General principles

Accounting principles applied in the preparation of the financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of commercial accounting as set out in the Swiss Code of Obligations (Art. 957 to 963b CO, effective since 1 January 2013). Significant balance sheet items are accounted for as follows:

Accounts receivable

Accounts receivable are amounts due from parties for services performed in the ordinary course of business. If collection is expected in one year or less (or in the normal operating cycle of the business if longer), they are classified as current assets.

These receivables are valued at their nominal values. Credit default risks are accounted for by specific and general allowances. General allowances are recognised for items that have not yet been considered with a specific allowance. The general allowance is based on the assumption that the default risk increases as the debt becomes increasingly overdue.

Recognition of revenue

The main revenue stream of the Association are Membership fees and the International Liver Congress (ILC) income.

Membership fees are recognised in the accounting period in which the fees relate to.

ILC revenue is mainly composed of fees received from participants and sponsors and recognised based on the contract specifications when the following conditions are all met:

- the amounts can be measured reliably,
- it is probable that the Association will receive future economic benefits.

Non-current assets and leases

Property, plant, and equipment are valued at purchase cost, less any depreciation required by generally accepted accounting principles. Depreciation is charged on a straight line basis over the useful life of the fixed asset.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised in the income statement.

The useful lives of assets have been determined as follows:

| Type of assets | Useful life |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Building | 30 years |
| Furniture and Equipment | 10 years |
| Computer & Hardware | 3 years |
| Intangible Assets | 3 years |

Foreign currencies

Items included in the financial statements were measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Association operates ("the functional currency"), which is Euro ("EUR").

Monetary and non-monetary items in Swiss Francs are translated into Euros at the following exchange rates:

| Foreign currency | | Profit and loss statement | Balance sheet |
|------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 2020 | EUR/CHF | 1.0824 | 1.0816 |
| 2019 | EUR/CHF | 1.1276 | 1.0870 |

The exchange rates used for balance sheet items are the rates prevailing on December 31; the exchange rates used for transactions conducted during the course of the year and for items in the profit and loss statement are average rates for the financial year. For reasons of simplification, from 2019 onwards and in accordance with Swiss law, the Financial Statements are reflected in EUR only.

Details, analyses, and explanations to the financial statements

The European Association for the Study of the Liver (“EASL”) is an Association registered in Geneva (2018), previously in Zurich (2017), Switzerland.

The number of full-time equivalents did not exceed 50 on an annual average basis.

Receivables and liabilities

Receivables and liabilities towards direct or indirect participants and management bodies and entities in which there is a direct or indirect participation must in each case be shown separately on the balance sheet or in the notes to the financial statements (art. 959a para. 4 CO). This only applies if these items are not presented in the balance sheet as suggested.

Mortgage schedules

Commitments on the building – Rue Daubin 7:

- n° 10527 of 30.09.2008 for CHF 2,100,000 – First Row
- n° 10527 of 30.09.2008 for CHF 1,500,000 – Second Row
- n° 2013-752 of 030.12.2012 for CHF 200,000 – Third Row

Pension liabilities

On 31 December 2020, it amounted to EUR 134,163 (CHF 145,104)

On 31 December 2019, it amounted to EUR 77,459 (CHF 84,194)

Collateral for third-party liabilities

| | 2020 in EUR | 2019 in EUR |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Guarantee obligations | 69,000 | 79,560 |

Total amount resulting from the dissolution of replacement reserves and the material dissolution of excess hidden reserves

No hidden reserves were released in the year under review.

Significant events occurring after the balance sheet date

None

Significant events occurring during the reporting year

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the year’s result. The main income-generating event had to be converted to a digital event thus resulting in a decreased income of around EUR 6,175K.

Other planned events had to be cancelled or postponed to 2021.

Fees paid and accrued to the auditor

| | 2020 in EUR | 2019 in EUR |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Audit services | 23,023 | 22,533 |

THANKING OUR COMMUNITY



EASL™

The Home of Hepatology

Our leadership and office staff were working hard for the community through 2020, and we will continue to do so. We acknowledge those who lost their lives during the pandemic and express our sincere condolences to their loved ones and peers.

We thank the hundreds of thousands essential and healthcare workers, who served society worldwide.

We are deeply grateful to, and admiring of you, our community, for your dedication to serving

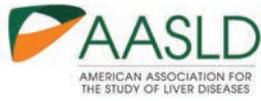
patients, and your commitment to EASL activities. We miss having face-to-face interaction with you and we look forward to those days returning. We remain here for you and we will always be.



ILC 2019, Vienna

In 2020, our membership consisted of approximately 4,500 members, representing 104 countries, and a broad range of professions, from patients and allied healthcare professionals to regular and emeritus members.

Our Partners



Our Sponsors



EASL Office

Home of Hepatology

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Switzerland

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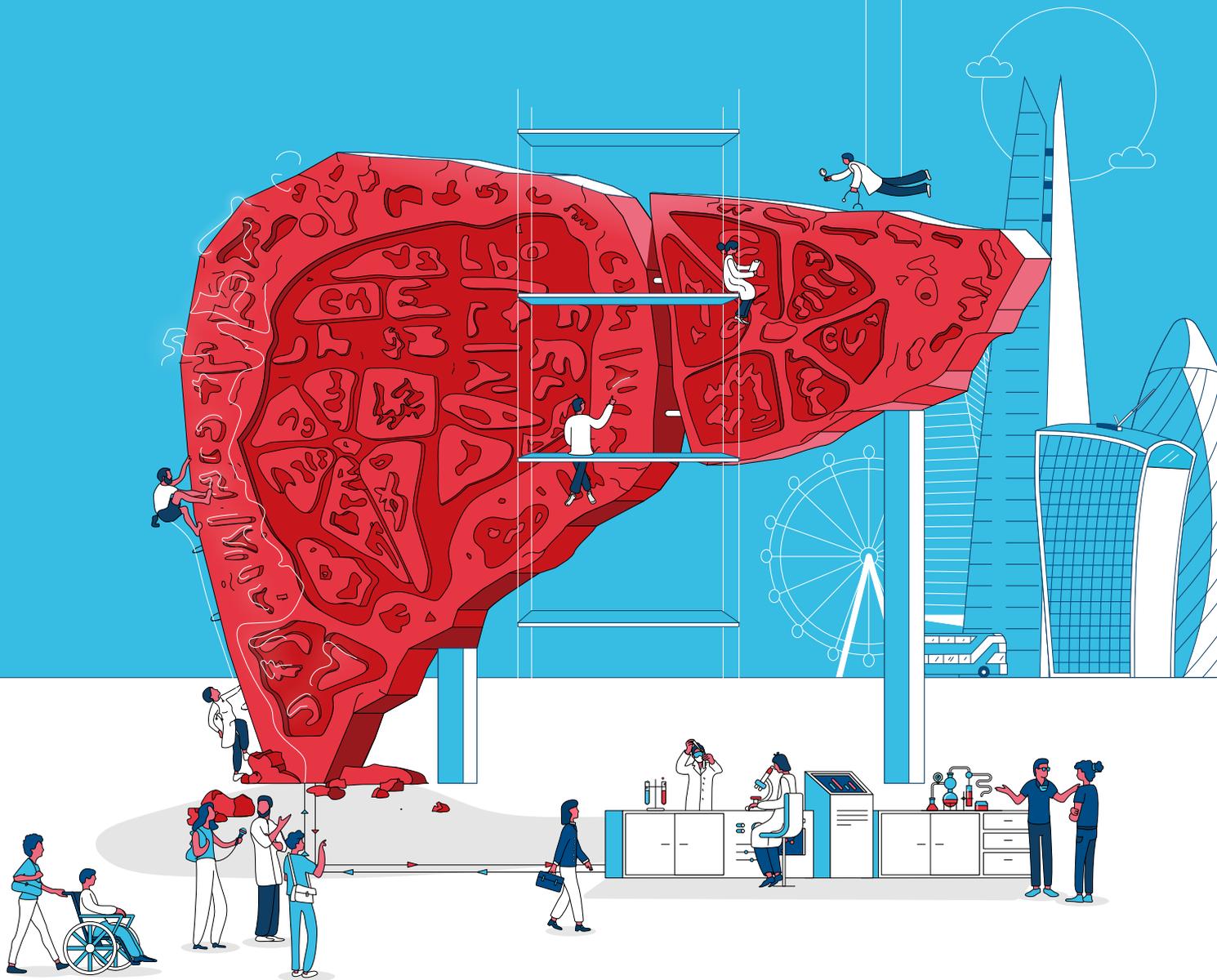
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www.easl.eu

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