

Masterclass 2026

11-13 December

Alexandria, Virginia, USA

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

*Training future leaders
in academic hepatology*



Faculty

AASLD

AASLD Programme Chairs:

Michael R. Lucey
Rotonya M. Carr

EASL

EASL Programme Chairs:

Mattias Mandorfer
Cyrielle Caussy

Programme 11 December

11 December 2026	Session
16:45 - 17:45	Registration/ badge pickup
17:45 - 18:00	Welcome and Overview <i>Review purpose and goals of program, include details on American versus European academic advancement (career paths)</i>
18:00 - 19:30	Attendee Introductions <i>Short bios of participants will be shared before the meeting</i> Round of introduction (45 min): <i>All (Faculty & Young Investigators) will briefly introduce themselves:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Name and institution</i><i>Current position (and career significance)</i><i>Tell us something interesting about yourself: specific talent not professionally related</i> Learn, connect, collaborate, network (45 min) <i>Break into 5 small groups and more in-depth exchange of information (5 YI and 2 Faculty per group)</i> <i>a) Former and/or current research mentor(s)</i> <i>b) Current field of research (examples: large data analytics to study liver transplant outcome, pathogenesis of PBC)</i> <i>c) What brought you into science?</i> <i>d) What brought you here, what do you expect out of this masterclass</i> <i>e) What do you like to do outside of hepatology (other areas of interests and alternative jobs you would consider of interest to you, but also hobbies, sports, interests, etc.)</i> <i>Group to be created by organisers, mix of location /topic/gender /basic, clinical</i>
19:30 - 21:30	Group Dinner

Programme 12 December

12 December	Session
7:00 - 8:00	Breakfast
8:00 - 8:05	Review agenda for the day
8:05 - 8:35	Translational Science: The Microbiome & Me. <i>Notes for biomedical scientists who are in the early stages of their career.</i>
8:35 - 10:25	Group Activity – How to become a Mentor and how to lead a team Introduction (30 min) Group session (60 min): <i>Framework: Attendees will be divided into 5 small groups of basic, translational and clinical researchers based on their topic of interest. There will be 3 faculty per group of trainees (1 EASL and 2 AASLD). Attendees will be asked to discuss their experiences with mentors and their challenges in building and leading a team</i> Plenary (20 min): <i>Per group, 1 or 2 main lessons learned/tips & tricks attendees have picked up and want to share with colleagues</i>
10:25 - 10:45	Break
10:45 - 12:05	Academic and Professional Success <i>This session will cover key aspects of recruiting, training, team building, leadership, and integrating research into clinical practice.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managing Promotion / Negotiating with Your Chief (20 min)• Work-life Balance (20 min)• How to Get a Grant (and Another Grant). (20 min)• Conflict Management (10 min) Q&A: 10 min
12:05 - 13:10	Lunch

13:10 - 13:40

Liver Societies: Mentorship, Support, and Intellectual Curiosity

How to get the most from AASLD:

Michael R. Lucey (15 min)

How to get the most from EASL:

Debbie Shawcross (15 min)

13:40 - 15:40

Hepatology Horizons: Fast-Track Networking for Future Leaders

Objective: Facilitate effective networking and mentorship opportunities between Young Investigators (YIs) and Faculty members. This structured approach aims to maximize the value of the networking session, providing meaningful and focused one-on-one interactions between YIs and Faculty members.

Session Structure:

General Instruction (5 min)

Provide 5 minutes for instructions at the beginning.

Group A (50 min)

First 50 minutes (4 sessions × ~12' each) → Each YI meets with 4 faculty members for ~12' per meeting.

Transition (10 min)

10 min for Group A to leave and Group B to cycle in.

Group B (50 min)

After transition, Group B has 50 minutes (4 sessions × ~12 minutes each) → Each YI meets with 4 faculty members for ~12 minutes per meeting.

Flow:

Group A meets with 4 faculty members, with each meeting lasting around 12 minutes.

After Group A finishes, Group B enters and meets with their 4 assigned faculty members for the same duration.

15:40 -16:00

Break

16:00 - 18:30

Social Activity: Scavenger Hunt in Old Town (Alexandria, Virginia)

18:30 - 19:30

Reception

19:30 - 21:30

Dinner

Programme 13 December

13 December	Session
7:00 - 8:00	Breakfast
8:00 - 8:45	Clinical Keynote: The Aladin's Cave of Big Data <i>Focus: Keynote style lecture with a special guest speaker that's an expert on the subject. We will request the speaker to cover the big picture and how this technology can be used/ incorporated into the work of YIs.</i>
8:45 - 9:05	Publishing Manuscripts: Panel Discussion The Editor's and Reviewer's Perspective <i>Focus: What do editors look for; reasons for failure at initial review/screen; how do editors choose external reviewers; how do editors weigh the reviewers' comments; what's essential for the final decision</i>
9:05 - 9:25	The Author's Perspective <i>Focus: Drafting and preparing manuscript for a high-impact journal; how to choose a journal; how to revise a manuscript; how to write an adequate point-by-point response. Potentially have the faculty interview each other to make an interesting format!</i>
9:25 - 9:45	Publishing Manuscripts: Q & A
9:45 - 10:05	How to Join (or Build) a Network for Science <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AASLD: Rotonya M. Carr (10 min)• EASL: Ana Lleo (10 min)
10:05 - 10:20	Break
10:20 - 10:35	Elevator Pitch: How to do it?
10:35 - 11:35	Group Breakouts: Practicing the Elevator Pitch <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 min pitch, feedback, pitch again• 3 Faculty and 5 Young Investigators per group• Choose 1 winner from each group
11:35 - 12:05	Elevator Pitch Presentations and Voting <i>5 winners from each group present Faculty vote on grand prize winner</i>
12:05 - 12:25	Wrap up and closing remarks
12:25 - 13:30	Lunch and Departure <i>Participation Certificates Distributed</i>