

Masterclass 2026

11-13 December

Alexandria, Virginia, USA

PROGRAMME

*Training future leaders
in academic hepatology*



Faculty

AASLD Faculty

AASLD Programme Chairs:

Michael R. Lucey
Rotonya M. Carr

Speakers:

Laura E. Nagy
Indiana University School of Medicine

Norah Terrault
University of Southern California

Berndt Schnabl
University of California, San Diego

Marina Serper
University of Pennsylvania

Jennifer C. Lai
University of California, San Francisco

Jasmohan S Bjaj
Mayo Clinic

Lorna Dove
Columbia University Medical Center

Suthat Liangpunsakul
Indiana University School of Medicine

EASL Faculty

EASL Programme Chairs:

Mattias Mandorfer
Cyrielle Caussy

Speakers:

Debbie Shawcross
King's College London, UK

Sven Francque
Antwerpen University, Belgium

Ana Lleo
Humanitas University, Milan, Italy

Programme 11 December

11 December 2026	Session	Faculty
16:45 - 17:45	Registration/ badge pickup	AASLD/EASL Staff
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>	AASLD: Michael R. Lucey Rotonya M. Carr EASL: Mattias Mandorfer Cyrielle Caussy
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">• Name and institution• Current position (and career significance)• Tell us something interesting about yourself: specific talent not professionally related 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>	AASLD: Michael R. Lucey Rotonya M. Carr EASL: Mattias Mandorfer Cyrielle Caussy All Faculty
19:30 - 21:30	Group Dinner	

Programme 12 December

12 December	Session	Faculty
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>	Bernd Schnabl
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>	Moderators AASLD: Michael R. Lucey EASL: Mattias Mandorfer All Faculty
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> • Managing Promotion / Negotiating with Your Chief (20 min) • AASLD: Norah Terrault (10 min) • EASL: Sven Francque (10 min) • Work-life Balance (20 min) • AASLD: Jennifer Lai (10 min) • EASL: Cyrielle Caussy (10 min) • How to Get a Grant (and Another Grant). (20 min) • AASLD: Jasmohan S. Bajaj (10 min) • EASL: Ana Lleo, MD (10min) • Conflict Management (10 min) • AASLD: Lorna Dove (10 min) Q&A: 10 min	Moderators AASLD: Rotonya M. Carr EASL: Cyrielle Caussy All Faculty
12:05 - 13:10	Lunch	

13:10 - 13:40	<p>Liver Societies: Mentorship, Support, and Intellectual Curiosity</p> <p>How to get the most from AASLD: <i>Michael R. Lucey (15 min)</i></p> <p>How to get the most from EASL: <i>Debbie Shawcross (15 min)</i></p>	<p>AASLD: Michael R. Lucey EASL: Debbie Shawcross</p>
13:40 - 15:40	<p>Hepatology Horizons: Fast-Track Networking for Future Leaders</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Session Structure:</p> <p>General Instruction (5 min) <i>Provide 5 minutes for instructions at the beginning.</i></p> <p>Group A (50 min) <i>First 50 minutes (4 sessions × ~12' each) → Each YI meets with 4 faculty members for ~12' per meeting.</i></p> <p>Transition (10 min) <i>10 min for Group A to leave and Group B to cycle in.</i></p> <p>Group B (50 min) <i>After transition, Group B has 50 minutes (4 sessions × ~12 minutes each) → Each YI meets with 4 faculty members for ~12 minutes per meeting.</i></p> <p>Flow: <i>Group A meets with 4 faculty members, with each meeting lasting around 12 minutes.</i> <i>After Group A finishes, Group B enters and meets with their 4 assigned faculty members for the same duration.</i></p>	<p>Facilitator: Rotonya M. Carr</p>
15:40 -16:00	Break	
16:00 - 18:30	Social Activity: Scavenger Hunt in Old Town (Alexandria, Virginia)	All Faculty
18:30 - 19:30	Reception	
19:30 - 21:30	Dinner	

Programme 13 December

13 December	Session	Faculty
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>	Marina Serper
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>	AASLD: Laura E. Nagy EASL: Sven Francque
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>	AASLD: Suthat Liangpunsakul EASL: Mattias Mandorfer
9:25 - 9:45	Publishing Manuscripts: Q & A	All Faculty
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)	AASLD: Rotonya M. Carr EASL: Ana Lleo
10:05 - 10:20	Break	
10:20 - 10:35	Elevator Pitch: How to do it?	AASLD: Michael R. Lucey Rotonya M. Carr EASL: Cyrielle Caussy
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	5 Groups
11:35 - 12:05	Elevator Pitch Presentations and Voting <i>5 winners from each group present Faculty vote on grand prize winner</i>	All
12:05 - 12:25	Wrap up and closing remarks	AASLD: Michael R. Lucey Rotonya M. Carr EASL: Mattias Mandorfer Cyrielle Caussy
12:25 - 13:30	Lunch and Departure <i>Participation Certificates Distributed</i>	