

MEET THE FACULTY

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2021 ILTS-SETH CONSENSUS CONFERENCE

Non-hepatic Cancer and Liver Transplantation: Shifting the Paradigm. Dropping the Cancer Stigma.



Sergio A. Acuna, MD, PhD

University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

Dr. Sergio Acuna received his Medical Degree with High Honours in 2009 from the Pontifical Javeriana University in Bogota, Colombia and went on to complete a PhD in Clinical Epidemiology and Health Care Research at the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation and the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto, Canada. He successfully defended his doctoral thesis in 2017 entitled "Malignancy and Solid Organ Transplantation: Evaluating Cancer Mortality, Pretransplant Malignancies, and Cancer Screening" under the supervision of Dr. Nancy Baxter, MD, PhD. His doctoral work led to several publications on the evaluation of pretransplant malignancies and the outcomes of transplant recipients with pre-existing malignancies in remission. Dr. Acuna started his General Surgery residency in 2017 at the University of Toronto and is expected to complete his training in 2022. Dr. Acuna has over 65 publications in peer-reviewed journals, including several publications in the field of transplantation and surgical oncology in journals such as JAMA Oncology, Lancet Gastroenterology and Hepatology, JAMA Surgery, Annals of Surgery, American Journal of Transplantation, Transplantation, and Transplantation Reviews among others.



David Al-Adra, MD, PhD

University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison, USA

Dr. Al-Adra is a transplant and liver cancer surgeon-scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW), where he is involved in the medical and surgical care of patients who require complex oncological operations. His basic science research focuses on the mechanisms of liver cancer development and spread, with a special interest in circulating tumor cells. Dr. Al-Adra is currently attempting to identify novel biomarkers that will enable accurate prognosis and treatment targets for hepatocellular carcinoma. Cancer diagnosis through the identification of circulating tumor cells holds the promise of early detection in at-risk populations. In addition to earlier detection, it is imperative to understand the mechanisms behind cancer progression and spread in order to identify potential therapeutic targets. It is possible to investigate these mechanisms using advanced transcriptomic and epigenomic techniques. Understanding which cancerous cells have the capacity to spread will assist in targeting these cells for destruction in future research. The clinically relevant goal of these experiments is to provide early recognition and treatment options for patients with liver hepatocellular carcinoma and laparoscopic surgery. I have research interests in normothermic machine perfusion, organ preservation techniques and immunosuppression trials, and functional MRI scans for assessment of liver volumetry.



José Manuel Asencio, MD, PhD, FACS

University Hospital Gregorio Marañón, Madrid, Spain

José Manuel Asencio is an Associate Professor of Surgery at Complutense University in Madrid, Surgical Department. He is a liver transplant and oncologic surgeon at Gregorio Marañón University Hospital in Madrid. He obtained his PhD in liver regeneration at Complutense University, and his ongoing research includes liver regeneration, multidisciplinary treatment of pancreatic adenocarcinoma, preoperative liver graft evaluation with indocyanine green test.



Marina Berenguer, MD

Consultant Hepatologist at La Fe University Hospital in Valencia, Spain

Consultant Hepatologist at La Fe University Hospital in Valencia, Spain. President-Elect of the International Liver Transplantation Society in 2019. Research Coordinator within a National Network Research Center in Hepatology, CIBER-EHD". Co-founder in 2016 of the Spanish Group of Women Hepatologists (GEMHEP). Recipient of several awards, including the Medical-Scientific Award from the Liver Transplant Patient Association in 2007, the Professional Career Acknowledgement granted by the Regional Government in 2010 and the Professionalism Award granted by EVAP-Business and Professional Association in 2019.



Prashant Bhangui, MBBS, MS

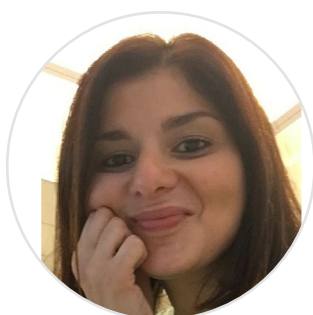
Institute of Liver Transplantation and Regenerative Medicine, Medanta, Gurgaon, India

Dr. Prashant Bhangui, a Gold Medalist in Surgery (MS) from Goa University, India, after gaining experience in Surgical Gastroenterology and Liver Transplantation in New Delhi, India, went ahead to successfully complete a Masters Programme in HPB Surgery and Liver Transplantation at the Henri Bismuth Hepatobiliary Institute in France, during which he worked at Centre Hépatobiliaire - Hôpital Universitaire Paul Brousse; Hôpital Henri Mondor; and CHU de Caen, in France. In recognition of his academic and clinical excellence, he was awarded the Merck KGaA, Germany International Educational Grant for clinical research in the field of colorectal liver metastases (CRLM). He also holds a European Inter-University Diploma in HPB Cancers: Oncosurgical Strategies and has to his credit extensive clinical research in HCC, CRLM, LDLT with key publications in high impact factor journals.

For his academic and clinical excellence in the field of HCC Management, and contribution to the field of Organ Transplantation in India, he was awarded the prestigious K.N. Udupa Memorial Oration 2016 by the Indian Society of Organ Transplantation (ISOT). He was also conferred the "Vanguard Award 2016" by the International Liver Transplant Society (ILTS) for the best published clinical research paper in top peer-reviewed journals during the entire calendar year 2016.

Currently, Dr. Prashant is a Senior Consultant, Hepatobiliary and Liver Transplant Surgeon at Medanta-The Medicity Hospital in Delhi NCR, India; one of the centers with the largest experience in living donor liver transplantation worldwide.

Dr. Prashant has been elected to key positions in International Societies like ILTS [Vanguard Committee Chair, 2018-19, Education and Development Committee member 2020-2023], The Transplantation Society (TTS) [Education Committee Member 2017-2019], member of the INASL (Indian National Association for Study of the Liver) HCC task force. He is also an active member of the ESOT, ELITA, AASLD, ILDLT Study Group, IASGO, ISLS, ISOT, LTSI, Compagnons Hépatobiliaire. He serves on the Reviewer Panel for Hepatology, Journal of Hepatology, Transplantation, Liver Transplantation, Transplant International, World Journal of Surgery, among others.



Sherrie Bhoori, MD

National Cancer Institute of Milan, Milan, Italy

Born a Parsee Zoroastrian in India in 1973, Italy adopted her and her Family and Milan is where she was trained and achieved her medical degree in 1996 and her speciality in Gastroenterology and Hepatology in 2004. After having won several scholarships of the Italian Association against Cancer (AIRC) and focused on Artificial Nutrition in the cancer setting, she soon became active member of professor Vincenzo Mazzaferro's staff, training and specializing in post liver transplantation management, organ allocation and management of hepatocellular carcinoma. Dr Bhoori is co-investigator of several trials focusing on primary liver cancer and enjoys educational activity at all levels.



Itxarone Bilbao, MD

Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain

Itxarone Bilbao is a Consultant Surgeon, Head of Subdivision of Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplant Unit in Vall d'Hebron University Hospital of Barcelona, Spain, since January 2011. She is an Associate Professor in the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) since 2004 with ANECA accreditation.

She obtained her Degree in Medicine and Surgery in 1981 in the Euskal Herriko University (UPV/EHU). She dedicated almost one decade to work in International Cooperation in Cameroun, Africa with Medicus Mundi. Since 1991 she made the Residency in General Surgery and showed special interest in research. She became an active member of the group of research of the Vall d'Hebrón Research Institute (VHIR) Digestive and Liver Diseases since 1992 and a member of the National Research Network in Hepato-Gastroenterology ("Centre for Networked Biomedical Research on Liver and Digestive Diseases", CIBER-eht) since 1997. Her main research interests are immunosuppression and complications after liver transplantation. In most recent years she has been involved in living donation in children, spending some time in the Asan Medical Center with Professor Sung Lee in Seoul Korea.

She is also Vice-President of SETH (Spanish Society of Liver Transplantation) and has an active contribution in the creation of National Consensus Documents on living donation, liver transplantation and hepatocellular carcinoma. She has authored more than 17 book chapters and more than 100 national and international publications in "peer-reviewed journals".



Francisco Javier Bustamante, MD

Cruces University Hospital, Bilbao, Spain

Dr. Javier Bustamante is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of the Basque Country (Spain) and Head of the Hepatology and Liver Transplant Department at the Hospital Universitario Cruces (Basque Country) which holds a very active transplant program (70-75 liver transplants each year). He was board certified in 1994 at the University of the Basque Country; from 1995-1996 Dr. Bustamante completed his training with a clinical fellowship in Transplant Hepatology at the Hospital Clinic of Barcelona, followed by a stage during 1997 at the Liver Oncology Unit of the same hospital.

His current research projects are focused on clinical studies in immunosuppression (minimization; immunosuppression in hepatocellular carcinoma), pretransplant evaluation and translational research in metabolomics and hepatocellular carcinoma.

Dr. Bustamante has published over 20 peer-reviewed manuscripts on the management of liver transplant, immunosuppression and hepatocarcinoma.



Jordi Colmenero, MD, PhD

Hospital Clinic Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

I am a liver transplant hepatologist at Hospital Clinic, Barcelona, research-associate at IDIBAPS and CIBERehd and Ass. Prof. of the University of Barcelona.

My areas of clinical expertise are selection of candidates for liver transplantation, management of the waiting list and post transplant care, and polycystic liver disease and combined liver-kidney transplant as well. My research is focused on the alloimmune response and outcomes after liver transplantation and selection management of candidates. Faculty of the Master on Donation and Transplantation.

Also involved in quality management (Quality Coordinator) and Chair of the Scientific Committee of the Spanish Society of Liver Transplantation.

Striving for improved outcomes, quality, and safety for our patients.



Gonzalo Crespo, MD

Hospital Clinic of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

Born in Valladolid (Spain), in 1979. MD (University of Valladolid, 2003), PhD (University of Barcelona), 2012. Residency in Gastroenterology and Hepatology (Hospital Clínic Barcelona, 2004-2008). Consultant transplant hepatologist at the Liver Unit, Hospital Clinic, IDIBAPS, CIBERehd, University of Barcelona, Spain. Conducted research particularly in post-transplant hepatitis C, and more recently moved towards non-invasive assessment of cellular rejection, outcomes in alcohol-related liver disease and cardiovascular risk in LT recipients. More than 60 manuscripts published in Journal of Hepatology, Hepatology, American Journal of Transplantation, Transplantation or Liver Transplantation.



Laura A Dawson, MD, FRCPC, FASTRO

Princess Margaret Cancer Centre/University Health Network, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

Laura Dawson is a Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Toronto, and a practicing radiation oncologist at the Radiation Medicine Program, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, in Toronto. She is an internationally recognized leader in hepatocellular carcinoma and in oligo-metastases. Her research has primarily focused on implementation of advanced radiation technologies (e.g. stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT), advanced imaging and image guidance) to improve outcomes and to reduce the risk of toxicity in patients with liver cancer. She is the principal investigator of two randomized phase III clinical trials investigating the use of radiation therapy in hepatocellular carcinoma (RTOG1112 and CCTG HE1), and she is the radiation oncology lead of a local trial investigating immunotherapy combined with SBRT for hepatocellular carcinoma patients. Dr. Dawson has published over 200 scientific papers and has mentored over 50 students from around the world. She has received numerous awards for her teaching, research and impact in oncology. She is also presently serving as the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) President.



Olivier Detry, MD, PhD

University of Liège, Liège, Belgium

Pr Olivier Detry has been assistant Professor of Surgery at the University of Liege, Belgium, and “Chef de Clinique” in the Department of Abdominal Surgery & Transplantation of the CHU Liege, Belgium. He is particularly involved in the liver surgery and transplant programs. He is past president of the Belgian Transplantation Society, past member of the Eurotransplant Liver Intestine Allocation Committee (ELIAC), and actual secretary of the Belgian Liver Intestine Allocation Committee (Be-LIAC).



Beatriz Dominguez-Gil MD, PhD

National Transplant Organization, Madrid, Spain

Beatriz Domínguez-Gil is a medical doctor, PhD in internal medicine, and specialised in Nephrology. She joined the National Transplant Organisation in November 2006 and became its Director General in May 2017.

ONT is acknowledged worldwide for the development of the Spanish Model on Organ Donation and Transplantation, leading Spain to extraordinary levels of deceased donation and transplantation. ONT undertakes a number of programmes nationally, aiming at increasing the availability of human organs, tissues and cells, ensuring high quality and safety standards, and promoting best practices in the field. ONT has a robust programme for international cooperation through different organisations and bilateral agreements established with several countries.

Beatriz Domínguez-Gil is immediate past chair of the Committee of Transplantation of the Council of Europe (CD-P-TO), president of the Iberoamerican Network/Council on Organ Donation and transplantation (RCIDT in its Spanish acronym) and member of the World Health Organization Task Force to promote ethical practices in the donation and transplantation of organs, tissues and cells. Beatriz Domínguez-Gil is past chair of the European Donation and Transplant Coordination Organization (EDTCO), past councillor of The Transplantation Society (TTS) and member of its Ethics Committee, and past chair of the Declaration of Istanbul Custodian Group on Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism. She has more than 120 publications in scientific journals and book chapters.



François Durand, MD, PhD

University Paris VII, Paris, France

Dr. François Durand is head of the Hepatology Department & Liver Intensive Care Unit of Hospital Beaujon, Clichy and Professor of Hepatology at University of Paris, France. His main topics in research and teaching have been liver transplantation, complications of end-stage cirrhosis (especially in the field of intensive care) and acute liver failure. Dr. François Durand is cited in 339 publications in peer review journals in Hepatology, Gastroenterology Transplantation and Intensive Care Medicine with an author h-index of 65 (source, Scopus) and 12592 citations. He has been involved in many multicenter clinical trials in the fields of immunosuppression, management of complications of cirrhosis and viral hepatitis. He has been invited speaker for academic meetings on behalf of the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease (AASLD), the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), the International Liver Transplant Society (ILTS) and the European Society of Transplantation (ESOT), among others. Dr François Durand has been Associate Editor of the Journal of Hepatology. He is currently Deputy Editor of Transplantation, member of the council of the ILTS and secretary of the International Club of Ascites. He and his colleagues have already conducted several studies and written review articles published in high-quality journals on impaired renal function in cirrhosis.



Mikel Gastaca, MD

Cruces University Hospital, Bilbao, Spain

Dr. Gastaca graduated from the Basque Country University in Bilbao in 1988 and completed his residency in general surgery at Cruces University Hospital in Bilbao in 1993. He joined the General Surgery Department at Galdakao Hospital (1994-1998) where he was in charge of the HPB surgery unit. He returned to the Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplantation Unit at Cruces University Hospital in 1998 where he currently works as senior consultant and surgical director of liver laparoscopic surgery. In this position, he has participated in more than 1500 liver transplantations and performed more than 150 laparoscopic surgeries. He is also Associate Professor of Surgery at the Basque Country University. He has been visiting clinician in different national and international centers including: University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (1992), Hospital Clinic in Barcelona (2003) and Asan Hospital in Seoul (2014). He gained the European Board of Transplantation Surgery in 2010.

Dr. Gastaca has a long-standing interest in outcomes after liver transplantation including: the use of extended criteria donors, biliary complications and immunosuppression. This is reflected in involvement in multiple clinical trials directed at defining optimal immunosuppression after liver transplantation. Currently, he is also interested in controlled DCD donors maintained with normothermic regional perfusion.

He is the current secretary of the board of the Spanish Liver Transplant Society and of the HPB surgery committee of the Spanish Surgeons Association. He has been (co)-author of multiple original articles and abstracts relating to clinical and surgical aspects of liver transplantation.



Mark Ghobrial, MD, PhD, FRCS

Houston Methodist Hospital, Houston, USA

Dr. Ghobrial is a Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College, Director of Sherrie and Alan Conover Center for Liver Disease and Transplantation and Immunobiology Research Center, Houston Methodist, Houston, Texas. He holds the Sherrie and Alan Conover Endowed Chair for Excellence in Liver Transplantation. He obtained his MD from Cairo University and PhD from the University of Texas. His medical training was completed at Massachusetts General Hospital, University of Texas and UCLA.

He is the recipient of multiple awards and honors and was elected to the Fellowship of The Royal College of Surgeons-Edinburgh and the American Surgical Association. As a researcher, he is the recipient of multiple grants and has held NIH sponsored awards in transplant immunology and clinical sciences. He has authored numerous articles, chapters and has lectured widely, both nationally and internationally, on topics related to liver disease and transplantation.

Dr. Ghobrial has served on numerous committees and held multiple advisory and leadership roles in UNOS, AST, American Society of Transplantations (ASTS), International Liver Transplant Society (ILTS) and TRIO. In the ASTS, he served as Councilor-at-Large on the Board of Directors. In the ILTS, he served as Councilor on the Board of Directors and Chair of the investment committee. He is currently the Treasurer of the ILTS.



Julie Heimbach, MD

Mayo Clinic, Rochester, USA

Julie K. Heimbach, M.D., is a Professor of Surgery and Chair of the Division of Transplantation Surgery at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. She is currently on the council of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, and recently served a member of the Governing Board of the AASLD and as chair of the Liver and Intestinal Transplant Committee of UNOS. She also serves as associate editor of AJT and Journal of Hepatology. Her interests are in liver transplantation in the setting of malignancy, particularly hilar cholangiocarcinoma, as well as the management of obesity in liver transplantation and living donor transplantation.



Francisco Hernández-Oliveros, MD, PhD

University Hospital La Paz, Madrid, Spain

Francisco Hernández, PhD, MD, is clinical chief of Pediatric Transplantation at Hospital La Paz (Madrid), and director of the research lab in transplantation at the institute of research IdiPAZ.

He is also member of the executive operational committee of the European Reference Network ERN-TRANSPLANTCHILD. Graduated in the University of Granada in 1997, he completed his residency in Hospital La Paz, and awarded two fellowships in Cincinnati Children's Hospital (Oh) and Jackson Memorial Hospital (Miami, FL). He received his PhD at UAM (Madrid), and got the Board in Pediatric Surgery and the Board in Transplantation from the UEMS.

He and his group has worked for more than 10 years in the field of pediatric transplant research, they are best known for their work on intestinal transplantation, specifically for the development of new experimental models and their strong commitment for translational research. He has authored or co-authored more than 150 articles and books chapters, most of them in the field of transplantation. His research projects have been funded by the ISCIII, IdiPAZ, Fundación Mutua Madrileña, Fundación Mapfre, Fundación Mutual Médica, the patient association for children with parenteral nutrition and Intestinal Failure (NUPA).

His clinical practice includes pediatric liver transplantation, intestinal transplantation, hepatobiliary surgery and minimal invasive surgery. He was also in charge of residents training for seven years and is currently the responsible for quality and safety of the pediatric surgery service. His work has appeared in mayor national media including El País, El Mundo, La Razón, TVE, A3 media, Telecinco, and many other media outlets.



José Ignacio Herrero, MD

University Clinic of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain

Education: Graduate in Medicine in University of Navarra (Pamplona, Spain) in 1988.

Specialist in Internal Medicine in University Clinic of Navarra (1989 to 1993).

Staff member of the Liver Unit of the University Clinic of Navarra since 1994.

Brief formative visits to:

- Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, UK (1989)
- University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, USA (1990)
- University of Michigan Medical Center (Ann Arbor), USA (1992)
- Northwestern University Medical Center (Chicago), USA (2013)

Current positions:

- Consultant. Liver Unit, University Clinic of Navarra

Doctor responsible for the liver transplant program, University Clinic of Navarra

- Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine, University Clinic of Navarra

Areas of clinical activity & research:

- Advanced chronic liver disease.
- Hepatocellular carcinoma
- Liver transplantation. Main areas of interest within this field: hepatocellular carcinoma, post-transplant complications (including de novo malignancies), immunosuppression toxicity and operational tolerance.



Taizo Hibi, MD, PhD, FACS

Kumamoto University Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Kumamoto, Japan

Dr. Taizo Hibi is the Professor and Chairman of the Department of Transplantation and Pediatric Surgery, Kumamoto University Graduate School of Medical Sciences. He graduated from Keio University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan in 1998. He completed his surgical residency and fellowships at National Cancer Center Hospital, Tokyo, Japan (surgical oncology and hepato-pancreato-biliary surgery), Keio University School of Medicine (hepato-pancreato-biliary surgery and living donor liver transplantation), and University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, Florida, U.S. (abdominal organ transplantation). He received his PhD from Keio University School of Medicine in 2010.

Dr. Hibi has extensive experience both in abdominal organ transplant surgery and surgical oncology, particularly in the hepatobiliary and pancreatic field. He and his colleagues have established the concept of "Transplant Oncology," a fusion of transplantation medicine and oncology, for the eradication of cancer. The four pillars of transplant oncology are: (1) evolution of multidisciplinary cancer treatment; (2) extension of the limits of conventional cancer surgery by applying transplant

techniques; and (3) elucidation of self and non-self recognition by linking tumor and transplant immunology; and (4) exploration of disease mechanism by cancer immunogenomics.

Dr. Hibi has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles. He is an associate editor of the Journal of Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic Sciences and Surgery Today. He serves as a member of the editorial board of Surgery. He is a member of the Membership and Communications Committee of International Liver Transplantation Society. He is a councilor of Intestinal Rehabilitation and Transplant Association, Japanese Society of Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic Surgery, Japanese Liver Transplantation Society, and Japan Intestinal Rehabilitation and Transplant Association, and a founding member of the International Laparoscopic Liver Society.



Milind Javle, MD

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, USA

Dr. Milind Javle is an oncologist in Houston, Texas and is affiliated with University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. His expertise is in pancreatic and biliary tract cancers and molecular targeted therapies. He is a graduate of Grant Medical College, India and did his residency and fellowship at SUNY Buffalo and Roswell Park Cancer Institute, NY. He has led several clinical trials for these cancers and leads the International Cholangiocarcinoma Research Network. He is the Vice President of the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation Clinical Advisory Board and is a Chair of the US NCI Task Force for Hepatobiliary Cancers and Chair of Southwest Oncology Hepatobiliary Committee. He has authored over 200 papers in these cancers and leads the Biliary Cancer group at MD Anderson.



Dong-Hwan Jung, MD, PhD

Asan Medical Center, University of Ulsan College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea

I finished PhD's Course, Graduate School of Medicine, ULSAN University, Korea.

I finished medical residency in surgery, University of ULSAN, ASAN MEDICAL CENTER, Seoul, KOREA.

I finished my clinical fellowship in hepatobiliary surgery and liver transplantation, University of ULSAN, ASAN MEDICAL CENTER, Seoul, KOREA.

I have worked in Asan Medical Center as faculty, Department of Surgery, Division of hepatobiliary surgery and liver transplantation since 2008.

Now, I work in Asan Medical Center, School of Medicine, Ulsan University as professor, Department of Surgery, Division of hepatobiliary surgery and liver transplantation.

The major focus of my work is on liver transplantation and that I have addressed this field in multiple roles over the years as surgeon. I have more than 15 years' experience performing hepatobiliary surgery and liver transplantation. I have authored or co-authored more than 200 publications on the hepatobiliary and liver transplantation.

My research interests are liver transplantation, living donor hepatectomy, post-transplantation patient care, liver cancer, and minimally invasive liver surgery, including laparoscopic hepatectomy. I underwent more than 1000 cases of live donor hepatectomy as operator and more than 2500 cases of LDLT recipient operation as operator or assistant.



Mureo Kasahara, MD

National Center for Child Health and Development, Tokyo, Japan

Dr. Mureo Kasahara started his professional career in HPB and transplant surgery at Kyoto University School of Medicine from 1996. He also served as a fellow at the Liver Transplant Surgery Service in King's College Hospital in London, UK in 2002. He is now the Head of Transplant Center, Vice Chairman in the internationally renowned National Center for Child Health and Development in Tokyo, Japan. Since 1996, he has performed the largest number of living related pediatric liver transplants (1500 cases) for children from all over the world. First in human clinical study of regenerative medicine, ES cell derived hepatocyte transplantation for congenital metabolic liver disease, has achieved under his supervision in 2020 at National Center for Child Health and Development.



Pål-Dag Line, MD, PhD

Rikshospitalet, Oslo, Norway

Pål-Dag Line studied preclinical medicine in Germany, 1981-83 and graduated as an MD from the University of Oslo in 1987. He obtained his PhD from the University of Oslo in 1996. He is board-certified in general surgery, vascular surgery and transplant surgery and is senior consultant surgeon within the fields of abdominal transplantation (liver, kidney, pancreas), HPB surgery and vascular surgery. Since 2004 he has been director at the Department of Transplantation Medicine, Oslo University Hospital, and is professor of surgery at the Institute for Clinical Medicine at the University of Oslo. He has a particular clinical and scientific experience and interest within the fields of liver transplantation, advanced HPB surgery, abdominal vascular disease and liver transplantation for malignancy. His research group at Oslo University Hospital has pioneered the concept of liver transplantation for non-resectable liver metastases from colorectal cancer and published numerous papers on this topic. He has been the Norwegian board member of the Scandinavian organ procurement organisation Scandiatransplant, and is a member of international societies like TTS, ILTS, ESOT, IHPBA, European Surgical Association and The International Surgical Group.



Kerstin Moench, MD

Westpfalz-Hospital, Kaiserslautern, Germany

Kerstin Moench has been working as a donor coordinator at the German Organ Procurement Organisation DSO for nearly 20 years until 2019. As staff position for Serious Adverse Events and Reactions, she was involved in the implementation of the German vigilance system for organ transplantation. From 2009-2018, she was a delegated member of the Working Group for the elaboration of the „Guide to the quality and safety of organs for transplantation“ of the Council of Europe. Here, she was working group coordinator of the chapter „Risk of transmission of neoplastic diseases“ to which she keeps contributing to. In the WHO/CNT Project Notifylibrary, she is co-chair of the malignancy working group. She is now working as a transplant coordinator at Westpfalz-Hospital/Transplant Center in Kaiserslautern, Germany.



Paolo Muiesan, MD

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, UK

Paolo Muiesan worked in the two largest European liver transplant centres: King's College Hospital, where he also trained, and Queen Elizabeth and Birmingham Children's Hospitals where he was promoted Professor of HPB Surgery and transplantation.

During his training, he visited the transplant units of the University of Nebraska Medical Centre and at the University of Western Ontario in 1996 and at the Kyoto University Transplant Centre in 1998. He also visited Asan Medical centre in Seoul (Korea) in 2007 and 2009.

Whilst in King's he was instrumental in starting the first liver transplant program from donors after circulatory death in the UK in 2002. This practice currently constitutes almost 30% of all liver transplants in the UK, and it has been crucial for the development of new techniques of liver perfusion/preservation including normothermic regional perfusion with ECMO technology and normothermic/hypothermic machine perfusion ex-situ. These are among his areas of clinical interest, which also include living donor, domino and auxiliary liver transplantation.

He organised seven International Meetings on Transplantation from Donors after Circulatory Death. He contributes to education in transplantation as Educational Committee member and as faculty to courses organised by the European Society of Organ Transplantation (ESOT). He served as Associate Editor for Liver Transplantation and Transplant International, as an editorial member of Liver International and is Editor in Chief of Transplantology.

He is in part of the Executive Committee of the Section of Transplantation of UEMS. Paolo Muiesan served as Chair of the European Liver & Intestine Transplant Association (ELITA) and as member of the Council of ESOT. He is currently a council member of International Liver Transplantation Society (ILTS) and past chair of the paediatric committee of ILTS.

He is author and co-author of 14 book chapters and 270 papers.



Sonia Pascual, MD

HGU Alicante, Alicante, Spain

She is responsible of Hepatocellular Carcinoma area and is the Medical Coordinator of the Liver Transplant Unit. As hepatologist, Dr. Pascual has authored or co-authored more than a 60 scientific paper and serves as a reviewer of several medical journals. She is a member of several national and international medical societies and serves in the Scientific Committee of the Spanish Society of Liver Transplant. She has been director of several doctoral theses and has participated in studies, clinical trials, and research grants in the field of liver disease, especially in Hepatocellular Carcinoma.



Henrik Petrowsky, MD, FACS

University Hospital Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

Dr. Henrik Petrowsky is Professor of Surgery and Vice Chair of the Department of Surgery and Transplantation at the University of Zürich, Switzerland. He serves as Program Director of the HPB Surgery and Liver Transplant Fellowship at the Swiss HPB and Transplant Center Zurich. Dr. Petrowsky is heading the Liver and Pancreas Tumor Center, which is embedded in the Comprehensive Cancer Center Zurich at the University Hospital Zurich. His current practice consists of liver transplantation and HPB surgery. His research interests have mirrored his clinical work, mainly focusing on translational and outcome research in liver transplantation and hepatobiliary surgery. Dr. Petrowsky received his medical degree from the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany. He spent a two-year research fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York and completed his training in general surgery and hepatobiliary surgery at The University Hospital in Zurich, Switzerland. In 2009, he completed the Multi-Organ Transplant Fellowship at the University of California Los Angeles and joined the faculty of University of California Los Angeles as Assistant Professor of Surgery-in-Residence and liver transplant attending.



David James Pinato, MD, PhD

Imperial College London, London, UK

Dr. David J. Pinato is a Clinician Scientist and Consultant Medical Oncologist supported by the Wellcome Trust Strategic Fund (IPPRF scheme) working within the Department of Surgery and Cancer at Imperial College, London. David leads a translational research program focusing on the early clinical implementation of novel experimental anticancer therapies to the clinic, with particular emphasis on anti-cancer immunotherapy. He has led the inception of a portfolio of first-in-class studies of immune checkpoint inhibitors in liver cancer, which has represented David's focus of research since graduation with highest honours at the University of Piemonte Orientale "A. Avogadro" in Novara, Italy. David's research efforts on biomarker discovery were recognized with the prestigious Merit Award from the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) three times in 2016, 2017, 2019 as well as a fourth Merit Award jointly awarded by ASCO and by the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) in 2019. In 2019 David was awarded the prestigious ASCO Global Oncology Young Investigator Award in recognition of his research on HIV-associated hepatocellular cancer.



José Antonio Pons, MD, PhD

Virgen de la Arrixaca University Hospital, Murcia Spain

- Professor of Medicine (Gastroenterology and Hepatology), University of Murcia, Spain
- Section Chief of Hepatology, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, University Hospital V. Arrixaca, Murcia, Spain.
- President of the Spanish Liver Transplantation Society



Jesús Quintero, MD

Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain

Medical Coordinator of the Pediatric Hepatology and Liver Transplant Unit of Vall d'Hebron University Hospital; Dr. Quintero obtained the certificates of Medicine and Pediatrics at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), and University Hospital Vall d'Hebron, Barcelona. He has completed the Master in Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition dedicating his professional career to pediatric liver transplantation. He works in the Pediatric Hepatology and Liver Transplant Unit since 2008 and is responsible for the unit since 2014. He is Professor of the Master of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition of UAB, Professor of the Master of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition of University of Barcelona and Master in Donation and Transplantation of University of Barcelona. Dr. Quintero is part of the Digestive and Liver Diseases Group of VHIR. In the last five years, he has been involved in more than 30 research projects (23 of them as principal investigator). His research is mainly focused in hepatic rare disease, being especially active in the development of advanced therapies in the field of inborn errors of metabolism (cell therapy, gene therapy, gene editing and enzyme replacement). He is responsible for the ERN of Rare-Liver of the Vall d'Hebron University Hospital as well as participates in the ERN TransplantChild, the Council Advisor for Lysosomal Diseases of CATSALUT and the Advisory Council for Living Donor Liver Transplantation of OCATT. Since 2016, he is the coordinator of the Working Group of Pediatric Hepatology of the Spanish Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology Hepatology and Nutrition being also part of the Board of the Society. Dr. Quintero participates actively in many international working groups in the field of pediatric liver transplantation and rare diseases as Graft Injury Group, The Global Alagille Alliance or NAPPED group.



Mohamed Rela, MS, FRCS, DSc

Dr. Rela Institute and Medical Center, Chennai, India

Prof Mohamed Rela is a liver transplant surgeon with over 25 years of experience in the field. He has been a consultant surgeon and Professor of Liver surgery at King's College hospital, London since 1993 and has been working in India since 2009.

He now runs the busiest liver transplantation program in South India, performing over 250 liver transplants each year.

Prof. Rela has authored over 450 peer-reviewed publications and a number of book chapters including a chapter in the latest edition of Gray's Anatomy.

The annual Master Class in Liver Disease series started by Dr. Rela in 2011 is one of the most popular academic events in South Asia, regularly attended by over 1000 delegates from across the world.

Dr. Rela is the next President-Elect of the ILTS.



John Roberts, MD

UCSF, San Francisco, USA

Dr. John Roberts has devoted his career to the UCSF Transplant Service, one of the largest and most highly regarded programs of its kind in the country, encompassing kidney, liver and pancreas transplants.

Roberts joined UCSF Medical Center in 1988. He has won numerous awards and National Institutes of Health grants for his research. He has produced over 300 papers on topics including allograft rejection, immunogenicity, immunosuppression and others. Roberts, who speaks nationally on transplant issues, is past president of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) and the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS) as well as a member of many professional and honorary organizations.

As a professor of surgery, Roberts teaches medical students and postgraduates and supervises the training of surgical residents. He earned a medical degree at the University of California, San Diego and completed a surgical residency at the University of Washington in Seattle. He also served as a postdoctoral fellow in transplantation at the University of Minnesota's Department of Surgery.



Manuel Rodriguez-Perálvarez, MD, PhD

Reina Sofia University Hospital, Córdoba, Spain

I obtained my medical degree at the University of Córdoba (2000-2006) and became a registrar in Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the Reina Sofia University Hospital in 2007. In 2009, I attained a master's degree in Research Methodology and statistics at the University of Córdoba (Spain), and finally got my PhD degree in 2011. Afterwards, I moved to London to work as a Clinical & Research Fellow of Hepatology and Liver Transplantation at the Royal Free Hospital, London (UK), under Prof. Andrew K. Burroughs' mentorship (2011-2012). From July 2012, I hold a Consultant Hepatology position at the Reina Sofia University Hospital (Córdoba, Spain). I am an associate clinical researcher at the Instituto Maimónides of Biomedical Research of Córdoba (IMIBIC) and at the Centre for Networked Biomedical Research on Liver and Digestive Diseases (CIBERehd). I have acted as a member of the scientific board of the Spanish association for the study of the liver (AEEH) and the Spanish Liver Transplant Society (SETH). I have received several research awards, including the prestigious Sheila Sherlock Physician Scientist Fellowship awarded by the European Association for the study of the Liver (EASL). My research is focused on the impact of immunosuppression in short and long term outcomes after liver transplantation with 64 scientific publications in international peer-reviewed journals (42 of them positioned in first decile/quartile), and more than 80 abstracts presented at national and international congresses.



Marieke Van Rosmalen, MD

Eurotransplant International Foundation, Leiden, The Netherlands

My name is Marieke de Rosner- van Rosmalen.

I am a Donor Health Care physician at Eurotransplant located in Leiden, the Netherlands. Donor Health Care is an official Dutch specialization for medical doctors working in social health care in the field of donation, allocation and transplantation of blood, tissue, cells and organs.

As Donor Health Care physician at Eurotransplant, I am responsible for allocation duties as medical doctor on call for organs reported within the Eurotransplant area and for the development of allocation guidelines in the field of liver and intestine transplantation.



Magdalena Salcedo, MD, PhD

Gregorio Marañón General University Hospital, Madrid, Spain

Magdalena Salcedo is the head of the Hepatology department in the Liver Transplant Unit at Gregorio Marañón Hospital, Madrid.

Dr. Salcedo obtained her medical degree at the Complutense University of Madrid, specializing in Digestive System Medicine in 1993, she got her PhD degree in 1997. She attained a Master's Degree in Research Methodology and Statistics in Health Sciences at Autonomous University of Barcelona (2011-2012), a degree in Hospital Management (OBS Business School and Universidad de Barcelona, 2017-18) and holds the Honorific BOARD in hepatology of the liver transplantation (ESOT-European Society of Solid Organ Transplantation, 2014).

She's associated professor of Medicine at Complutense University of Madrid since 2016.

Dr. Salcedo has developed her care work in advanced hepatology and liver transplantation, in the Gastroenterology Department at Gregorio Marañón Hospital since 1989, and she developed a stay at the Liver Institute King's College Hospital in 2016. Her areas of clinical expertise are selection of candidates for liver transplantation, management of waiting list and post-transplant care.

Her main area of clinical research is focused on liver transplantation and immunology related problems, as well as the prediction of early graft malfunction using non-invasive tests.

She has been the principal investigator of numerous clinical trials related to liver transplantation, she's the author or co-author of more than 100 indexed articles, and of more than 150 abstracts in international conferences. She has participated in several competitive research projects in the field of liver transplantation, as a collaborating researcher. She's the manager of the quality management of the Liver Transplantation Program (Quality Coordinator) in the H.G.U. Gregorio Marañón.

She has been a member of the scientific committee of the SETH (Spanish Society of Liver Transplantation (2014-2016). Now, she's member of the Board of Directors of the Madrid Transplant Society, and the Spanish Liver Transplantation Society (SETH).



Gonzalo Sapisochin, MD

UHN - Toronto General Hospital, Toronto, Canada

Dr. Gonzalo Sapisochin is Staff Surgeon at The Toronto General Hospital, UHN. Dr. Sapisochin received his Medical Diploma in 2005 from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain and went on to complete his General Surgery residency training in 2011 at the University Hospital of Vall d'Hebron in Barcelona where he successfully defended his Doctoral Thesis, "Optimization of Liver Transplantation for Hepatocellular Carcinoma", to receive his PhD from the Autonomous University of Barcelona. He went on to complete his Clinical Fellowship in Abdominal Transplant & HPB Surgical Oncology with the University of Toronto and was subsequently recruited in a position at the Toronto General Hospital as Staff Surgeon with the Multi-Organ Transplant Program and the Division of General Surgery. He began his new job and tenure as Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto on January 1, 2016. Dr. Sapisochin's main research interest is the "interface" between liver transplantation and cancer. He has been one of the drivers of the concept of Transplant Oncology and chaired in 2019 the ILTS Consensus Conference in this topic. He has focused his research in the management of hepatocellular carcinoma, cholangiocarcinoma and colorectal liver metastases. He has published more than 85 original manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals such as Journal of Hepatology, Hepatology or Annals of Surgery.



Nazia Selzner, MD, PhD

The University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

Dr. Nazia Selzner is a Transplant Hepatologist and Medical Director of Live Donor Liver Transplantation in the Multi-Organ Transplant Program, University Health Network, and Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto. Dr. Nazia Selzner is a Scientist at the Institute for Medical Science (IMS) as well as at the Toronto General Research Institute (TGRI). Dr. Selzner graduated from Medical School at the University of Paris VII, France and completed her Gastroenterology training in 1998. She completed her PhD in 2003 at the University of Paris VII, France, after four years of research fellowship at Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC and at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. Her basic research interest is on the mechanism of ischemia/reperfusion injury of the liver. She is co-director of Toronto Organ perfusion Laboratories. Her clinical research is focused on the outcome of living donor liver transplantation and access to liver transplantation.



Marco Senzolo, MD

University Hospital of Padua, Padua, Italy

He formerly worked as consultant in Gastroenterology and Hepatology at University-Hospital of Padua, Italy. His main field is clinical activity and expertise is the medical, endoscopic and radiological management of portal hypertensive complications in cirrhosis and vascular liver diseases.

After graduating from the University of Padua in 1999, he specialized in Gastroenterology and obtained a PhD in Hepatology during a fellowship at the Hepatology and Liver Transplantation Unit at Royal Free Hospital in London.

He has served in many national and international expert committees such as Italian Association for the Study of the Liver, Vascular Liver Disease Group, Coagulation in Liver Disease group, EASL special interests groups.

He therefore participated in many guidelines revision committees and several expert committees including the expert committee for diagnosis and classification portal hypertension, abnormal of coagulation in liver disease and vascular liver diseases.

His main research areas are coagulation in liver diseases, complications of cirrhosis and portal hypertension and vascular liver diseases.

He is author of over 190 peer-reviewed publications and 10 book chapters.



Paolo de Simone, MD

University of Pisa Medical School Hospital, Pisa, Italy

Associate Professor in Surgery
University of Pisa
Pisa, Italy

Director
Hepatobiliary surgery and liver transplant Unit
University of Pisa Medical School Hospital
Pisa, Italy

Coordinator
Tuscany regional liver transplant program
Tuscany, Italy

Medical degree from La Sapienza University of Rome in 1992, summa cum laude
General surgery residency diploma in 1997, La Sapienza University of Rome, summa cum laude
PhD in surgical sciences in 2004, L'Aquila University, summa cum laude

Director of the
Master course for transplant nurse coordinators

Participation to 45 research programs

Speaker/moderator in 194 congresses/seminars/webinars

Publications:
192 full papers in indexed journals
H-index 36

Peer reviewer for:

- American Journal of Transplantation
- Liver Transplantation
- Transplant International
- Journal of Hepatology
- Clinical Transplantation
- Annals of Transplantation
- World Journal of Surgery
- World Journal of Gastroenterology

Current research area:

- Immunosuppression in liver transplantation
- Transplantation for hepatocellular carcinoma
- Transplantation for cholangiocarcinoma
- Transplantation for liver colorectal metastases
- DCD organ procurement and transplantation

President of
The Italian Society for Safety and Quality in Transplantation



Parissa Tabrizian, MD, MSc

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, USA

Parissa Tabrizian, MD, MSc, FACS is a board-certified surgeon who specializes in hepatobiliary and liver transplantation at the Recanati/Miller Transplantation Institute. Dr. Tabrizian earned her medical degree at the University of Vienna medical school and completed her general surgery residency at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. She completed fellowships in surgical oncology and multiorgan transplant surgery at Mount Sinai Hospital.

In 2015, Dr. Tabrizian obtained a master's degree in clinical research from the Icahn School of Medicine, New York.

Dr. Tabrizian performs a wide range of both open and advanced laparoscopic procedures. Her research interests include hepatocellular carcinoma (liver cancer), cholangiocarcinoma (bile duct cancer), and liver transplantation.



María Trapero, MD, PhD

Autonomous University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain

Specialities: Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Transplant Medicine

María Trapero-Marugán MD, PhD is a Hepatologist Consultant and Assistant Teacher at the Hospital Universitario Puerta de Hierro, Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain.

Her clinical activity and research efforts focus on liver autoimmune diseases, chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis, and liver transplantation. She has also been a fellow in liver transplantation Unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, UK. She has been certified as a European Specialist on Transplant Medicine by U.E.M.S. She also worked at Hospital Universitario La Princesa, and Biomedical Research Foundation La Princesa, Madrid as Liver Consultant, the same venue where she was a medical resident, chief resident, and research staff.



María Trinidad Serrano, MD, PhD

Lozano Blesa University Hospital Clinic, Zaragoza, Spain

Head of the Hepatology and Liver Transplant Unit at the University Hospital Lozano Blesa in Zaragoza and Assistant Professor at Department of the University of Zaragoza.

Graduated in Medicine from the University of Navarra in 1989 and PhD in Medicine from the University of Zaragoza in 1994.

Fellowship in Digestive Diseases at the University Hospital Lozano Blesa in Zaragoza and Fellowship in Liver Transplantation at Clinic of Barcelona.

Postdoctoral stays in the Department of Anthropogenetics at the Free University of Amsterdam (1994), in the Liver Transplant Unit at King's College London (2003-2004) and in the Department of Pathology at the University of Pittsburgh (2012).

Member of the scientific committee of the Spanish Association for the Study of the Liver (AEEH) from 2010-2013 and of the Scientific Committee of the Spanish Society for Liver Transplantation (SETH) from 2014 to 2017. Member of the External Scientific Committee of the Aragon Biobank from 2014 to 2019.

Member of the Organogenesis Editorial Committee since September 2012.

Scientific Coordinator of the HCV Strategic Plan in Aragon, Spain. Honorary Board in Transplant Medicine, UEMS Division of Transplantation (December 2015).

Numerous research projects funded by public and private agencies in the field of liver diseases, liver transplantation and hepatocellular carcinoma.



Carmen Vinaixa, MD

La Fe University Hospital, Valencia, Spain

Dr. Carmen Vinaixa graduated in the faculty of Medicine at Valencia University, Spain, in 2006. She obtained her specialization in Gastroenterology and Hepatology at La Fe University Hospital in 2011. During this training period, she developed a particular interest in the field of liver transplantation. She completed her training at the Centre Hépatobiliaire, Paul Brousse Hospital, Villejuif, France. She obtained the Diploma in Transplant Medicine of the European Board of Transplant Medicine in 2015. Her fields of interest are liver transplantation, viral hepatitis and, particularly, HIV/HCV coinfecting patients. She actively participated in national and international congresses with oral and poster presentations (ILTS, EASL, ESOT, AASLD, AEEH, TTS) and has several publications in peer-reviewed journals. She is a reviewer of indexed journals (Transplantation, Transplant International).



Christopher Watson, MD, PhD

University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom

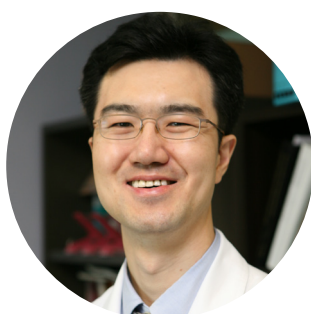
Chris Watson is Professor of Transplantation in Cambridge undertaking liver, kidney and pancreas transplants. His main research interests are in donor transmitted disease and liver preservation. He is a co-author of the Council of Europe Guide on the Safety of Organs for Transplantation with particular responsibility for the chapter on the "Risk of Transmission of Donor Cancer", and co-chair of the UK's Donor Organ Risk Assessment subcommittee of SaBTO.



Kymberly Watt, MD

Mayo Clinic, Rochester, USA

Dr. Kymberly Watt is the current Medical Director of Liver Transplantation at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, Professor of Medicine and clinician in a very busy hepatology practice and liver transplant program. Her clinical research interests center around long-term outcomes after liver transplantation as well as NASH both in the transplant and non-transplant patients. Her main focus is in helping prolong survival after transplant with attention to obesity, as well as metabolic, cardiovascular and malignant complications after transplant.



Dok-Hyun Yoon, MD

Asan Medical Center, University of Ulsan College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea

Dok-Hyun Yoon is an associate professor at the Department of Oncology, Asan Medical Center, and University of Ulsan College of Medicine. He is a hematologic oncologist and has published more than 180 research articles for peer-reviewed journals. Currently he is a secretary of the Korean lymphoma study group, CISL and Korean Multiple Myeloma Working Party. His dedication to his profession was recognized by several academic societies including ESMO, ACOS and Korean Cancer Study Group.