COMMUNITY SEMINAR: CENTER-LA COUNTY COLLABORATION

ON MARCH 21, 2014, the Southern California Research Center for ALPD and Cirrhosis co-hosted the community seminar titled “Dangerous Effects of Alcohol: What You and Your Clients Must Know” in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) Division. The seminar was attended by social workers, therapists, counselors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals who work with substance abuse patients, including those at very high risk for alcoholic liver and pancreatic diseases (ALPD), the major leading causes of alcohol-associated medical mortality and morbidity in the County.

More than 3000 healthcare workers in LA county are dedicated to serving patients suffering from drug and alcohol addiction. Despite new clinical and basic science research into ALPD during the past several decades, continuing current education and training of providers who help improve prevention and treatment at the level of community clinics are lacking. Since 2006, the Center has been forefront of addressing this critical educational gap with a unique approach of bringing the center and invited investigators to directly engage with healthcare workers on the risk factors and clinical aspects of alcohol addiction and ALPD, as well as the importance of alcoholism screening, prevention, and treatment.

For the 2014 session, faculty from USC, Medical University of South Carolina, UCLA, and Cedars-Sinai volunteered their time to give lectures on the hazardous effects of alcohol on the liver and the pancreas, as well as treatment options through pharmacotherapy and other means. The presentations also covered viral hepatitis, liver cancer, and epidemiology of alcohol and related diseases.

To further address the needs of LA County and its unique patient-provider demographic, the center offered English-Spanish bilingual handouts for further dissemination of alcohol education from the level of direct providers to the patients, for use during clinics to show patients the effects of alcohol.

CONGRATULATIONS!


Dr. French is an eminent researcher in the field of liver pathology and alcoholic liver disease. He currently serves as the Chief of the Division of Anatomic Pathology at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. He has an illustrious career, previously serving as the Department Chair at the University of Ottawa, Harbor General Hospital, and the Martinez VA Medical Center.

Dr. French is also a distinguished professor of pathology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and has received numerous honors for his contributions to pathology, including seven “Best Teacher” awards from senior pathology residents at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and the Distinguished Teaching Award from Harbor-UCLA’s Clinical Faculty in the Department of Medicine. Dr. French is also the recipient of the 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Los Angeles Society of Pathology for his invaluable contribution to the field of pathology.

Dr. Charles Halsted, a long time friend and research collaborator, praised Dr. French as “an invaluable colleague during shared research into the pathogenesis of alcoholic liver disease in different animal models.” On a personal level, he noted that Dr. French, “possessed one of the sharpest scientific minds, [is] a raconteur of many academic and other experiences, and always a pleasure to interact with.”

The ASIP Gold-Headed Cane award recognizes Dr. French’s lifetime commitment and dedication to the scholarship, training, and leadership in the field of pathology. Congratulations, Dr. Samuel French!
COMMUNITY SEMINAR: CENTER-LA COUNTY COLLABORATION

[CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE]

of excessive drinking on the liver and pancreas.

The Q&A session revealed that, beyond just treatment options, many counselors were interested in active engagement in community and social efforts including placing more restrictions on alcohol venues in Los Angeles County. This was considered especially important in light of the prevalence of underage and illegal access to alcohol by youths. Providers raised challenging questions regarding the issues they faced in clinic in dealing with patients, such as getting patients to adhere to lifestyle behavioral changes when drinking issues resulted from social circumstances. These questions encouraged discussion among the attendees, who suggested personal tips and other ways to encourage patients to reduce drinking.

Attendees commented on easy to understand presentations, great usability of the bilingual handouts, and clinical knowledge gains. Preliminary results from the assessment analysis of 73 participants who participated in the survey showed that there was a notable 21% increase in knowledge from baseline. This increase was noted for everyone regardless of highest degree earned. The paired t-test between the post-test and pre-test knowledge scores shows a statistically significant difference p<.0001 (which indicates a significant knowledge change/increase due to the seminar/training). Stata 12 was used to conducting the analysis on the 2014 community seminar data.

The consensus of the providers who attended the lectures was that there was a need to have regular training for healthcare professionals attending to patients who are being treated for alcoholism and substance abuse disorders. The SAPC department, who collaborated with the center to host the community seminar, suggested establishing regular curriculum for training. Faculty members also noted how much they learned from the audience in return and how that would impact their future research, as they were now aware of what was happening at clinic levels.

The productive post-lecture discourse between providers and the researchers emphasized the importance of developing better patient interactive skills for effective treatment and better understanding of the social cues which leads to alcoholism. This development is something that the Center hopes to achieve with its upcoming project with Virtual Reality (VR) technology treatments, to be utilized as advanced methods of developing skill-based treatment in substance control for both patients and providers.

Under the guidance of Dr. Thomas Valente, the Center has hosted educational community seminars since 2006. This year marked the 6th iteration of the community seminar series. Future topics such as how the affordable care act may affect alcoholism prevention, HIV interaction with substance abuse, and culturally appropriate methods of treatment for minority patients, are to be addressed in future lectures for a more comprehensive overview of the sociocultural structures surrounding alcoholism and substance abuse. The Center will continue to develope unique community-based program via collaboration with the local government to better serve the needs of patients and providers.

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Special Thanks to Anupreet Sidhu and Dr. Thomas Valente for the analysis.

8TH ISALPD/C

THE CENTER was a co-sponsor of the 8th International Symposium for Alcoholic Liver and Pancreatic Diseases and Cirrhosis with the theme of “Alcohol, Infection, and Cancer” in New Delhi, India on November 15-17, 2013. Under the leadership and organization of Professor Shiv Kumar Sarin, the symposium turned out to be a success. It was one of the most attended symposia for this annual tradition supported by National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), with total number of attendees exceeding 450 people represented by 7 nations.

The reception began with local government dignitaries disseminating of the importance of ALPD research in the host nation. The scientific program was packed with leading-edge presentations, and the pre-conference symposium and parallel workshops added another dimension placing the special emphasis on HCV, research methodology, macrophage biology, and liver cancer.

Most notable was the strategically implemented bridging of basic science with clinical science related to ALPD and cirrhosis, showcased by “Clinical Case Scenario” or “Debate” sessions led by clinicians following basic science presentations.

This symposium provided an outstanding forum for exchanging the newest and cutting-edge research discoveries on both clinical problems and basic molecular mechanisms relating to viral hepatitis, alcohol, cancer and pancreatitis. Congratulation to Professor Sarin, his colleagues, and staff at the ILBS for a most successful organization and implementation of the 8th ISALPD/C.

This symposium was in part supported by the NIAAA grant R13 AA02069.
SPOTLIGHT ON BERND SCHNABL
BERND SCHNABL, M.D. is an Assistant Professor in Gastroenterology at UCSD School of Medicine. Trained as physician scientist in the field of gastroenterology and hepatology, he is combining his expertise in clinical medicine with basic science in the field of chronic liver diseases. He completed a clinical fellowship in Gastroenterology at Columbia University in New York City. Since he has been appointed to the UCSD faculty in 2008, the major focus of his laboratory is to investigate changes in the intestinal microbiome and link these changes to liver disease. Within this primary focus he mainly investigates changes in the intestinal microbiome and the host mucosal immune system occurring during early stages of liver disease.

In addition, a very important part of his laboratory is a translational aspect to identify targets for therapy and to generate interventions that are able to prevent or treat liver disease. He has successfully shown that alterations in the microbiome can either occur as quantitative (bacterial overgrowth) or qualitative (dysbiosis) changes in several preclinical models of liver disease. He also demonstrated the importance of intestinal inflammation in the onset of microbial translocation and liver disease progression. Having established this innovative new research, he published his results in Nature, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS), Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Journal of Hepatology in recent years.

Dr. Schnabl is Associate Editor for Digestive Diseases and Sciences, which is the oldest continuously published gastroenterology journal in North America. He is a member of three distinguished medical societies and on the Editorial Board for four liver journals. Throughout his career, he has been honored with a number of awards and distinctions. These include a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Award from the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG), a Schering-Plough Unrestricted Educational Award from the European Foundation for the Study of Liver Diseases (EASL) and an American Gastroenterological Association (AGA)/Astra Zeneca Fellowship - Faculty Transition Award (FFTA). He successfully obtained a pilot project grant from the Southern California Research Center for ALPD and Cirrhosis (2009–2010) and a research grant from ABMRF/The Foundation for Alcohol Research (2011–2013).

Dr. Schnabl is currently principal investigator on 3 NIH funded grants. He received a Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award (K08) by the NIDDK in 2009. He was also awarded a R01 entitled “Microbiome and intestinal innate immune response in alcoholic liver disease” from the NIAAA in 2011. In addition, he received a U01 grant “Microbiome as therapeutic target in alcoholic hepatitis” from the NIAAA for 5 years.

In his spare time he very much enjoys his family and running.

For a full listing of publications, lab members and research activities of the Schnabl lab, please visit his lab website: http://gastro.ucsd.edu/schnabl-lab.

RSA/ISBRA 2014 SATELLITE MEETING ON “METABOLIC REPROGRAMMING”
THE CENTER hosted a satellite symposium at the 37th Annual Research Society on Alcoholism (RSA) Scientific Meeting and 17th Congress of International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA) in Bellevue, Washington on June 22, 2014.

This satellite symposium, titled “Metabolic Reprogramming and Cell Fate Regulation in Alcohol-Associated Diseases,” assembled speakers in an evolving area of science covering three organs (liver, brain, and lung) commonly afflicted by alcohol abuse to stimulate cross-sectional discussions on the molecular mechanisms linking metabolic shifts, cellular phenotypic alterations, and the genesis of different pathologic spectra (organelle stress, steatosis, cell death, inflammation, fibrosis, and oncogenesis).

Invited speakers encompassed both NIAAA/NIH intramural and extramural scientists and represented nine institutions, including three NIAAA national alcohol centers and one international alcohol center: George Kunos (NIAAA), Yedy Israel (Univ of Chile), Fulton Crews (UNC), Steven Dooley (Heidelberg Univ), Li Wang (Univ Utah), Akiko Eguchi (UC San Diego), Takei Yoshiyuki (Mie University Graduate School of Medicine), Mark Czaja (Albert Einstein), Sam Zakhari (NIAAA), Keigo Machida (USC), Pal Pacher (NIAAA), Lou Ann Brown (Emory), Michael Wheeler (East Carolina Univ), Jun Xu (USC).

A final “meeting of the minds” led by Dr. Ali Keshavarzian and Dr. Kusum Kharbanda generated great discussion among researchers in the audience.

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THE LEE SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2014

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS SELECTED for the Lee Summer Student Fellowship Program 2014!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Mentor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dinesh Kumar</td>
<td>Tumor-initiating cells fuses with kupffer cells, leading to metastatic colonization in alcoholic liver cancer</td>
<td>Keigo Machida</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvir Bains</td>
<td>Discovery of Mol-1 Inhibitors Using computation and biophysical methods for targeting pancreatic cancer</td>
<td>Steve Pandol</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samantha Nguyen</td>
<td>Inducing functional hepatic differentiation to grand state human pluripotent stem cells for alcoholic liver disease</td>
<td>Toshio Miki</td>
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<td>Purnima Gurung</td>
<td>Hepatitis C Virus Hijacks Hepatocytic metabolic Function for Efficient Viral Replication</td>
<td>Takeshi Saito</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noell Cho</td>
<td>Alcohol deydrogenases (ADH) regulation of hepatitis C virus (HCV) replication</td>
<td>Takeshi Saito</td>
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<td>Ho (Peter) Leung</td>
<td>JNK-mitochondria interactions during TNF signaling and Alcoholic Liver Disease</td>
<td>Derick Han</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orr Shauly</td>
<td>Effect of ethanol on hyaluronic acid synthesis in pancreatic stellate cells</td>
<td>Richard Waldron</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janna Tarasova</td>
<td>Gut microbiome changes in mice during onset of alcoholic liver disease</td>
<td>Karsten Zengler &amp; Bernd Schnabl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anish Parekh</td>
<td>Predictive indicators for locoregional recurrence and distant metastasis following surgical resection of pancreatic cancer</td>
<td>Heinz-Josef Lenz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirandeep Bains</td>
<td>Role of TET-mediated DNA Demethylation in alcoholic steatohepatitis</td>
<td>Douglas Feldman</td>
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NEW GRANTS BY CENTER MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investigator</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Grant Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<td>FRENCH, SAMUEL W.</td>
<td>ACTIVE</td>
<td>5U01AA021896-02</td>
<td>ALCOHOLIC HEPATITIS PATHOGENESIS AS DETERMINED FROM HUMAN LIVER TISSUE ANALYSIS</td>
<td>01/10/13 - 12/31/17</td>
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<td>KISELEVA, TATIANA / GAO, BIN / KARIN MICHAEL, TSUKAMOTO, HIDE</td>
<td>ACTIVE</td>
<td>5U01AA022614-02</td>
<td>THE ROLE OF IL-17 IN ALCOHOLIC LIVER DISEASE AND CANCER</td>
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<td>PANDOL, STEPHEN J.</td>
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<td>5PO1CA182300-02</td>
<td>ALCOHOL ABUSE AND METABOLIC SYNDROME PROMOTE DESMOPLASIA OF PANCREATIC CANCER (Leader Project 4, P01 PI Est G)</td>
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<td>SCHNABL, BERND G / BRENNER, DAVID A.</td>
<td>ACTIVE</td>
<td>1U01AA021850-01</td>
<td>MICROBIOME AS THERAPEUTIC TARGET IN ALCOHOLIC HEPATITIS</td>
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<td>TSUKAMOTO, HIDE</td>
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<td>MOLECULAR MECHANISMS OF STELLATE CELL ACTIVATION IN LIVER FIBROSIS</td>
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<td>1RO1AA021751-01A</td>
<td>THE DYNAMICS AND MECHANISMS OF AUTOPHAGY IN ETHANOL - INDUCED LIVER PATHOGENESIS</td>
<td>08/15/13 - 07/31/18</td>
<td>$49,500</td>
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9TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ALPD & CIRRHOsis

Cellular Metabolism in Alcohol-induced Pancreatic and Liver Diseases

**Date:** November 22–23, 2014  
**Venue:** Szeged, Hungary

**Deadline for Applications:** September 15, 2014

For more information about the travel awards or the ISALPD/C, please visit: [http://www.alpd2014.hu/index.php](http://www.alpd2014.hu/index.php)