The Role of Liver Societies in the Global Viral Hepatitis Response

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Role of Liver Societies in the Global Viral Hepatitis Response

- AASLD, along with other Liver Societies, can play an important role in promoting WHO goals globally
  - Advocate for funding – NGOs, industry
  - Provide consultation to WHO, local government – develop policies
  - Collaborate with local government, medical societies, communities – implement policies
  - Train physicians and other healthcare providers – empower, capacity building, provide quality care
  - Conduct research – HBV cure, HCV vaccine, local data, implementation science, comparative effectiveness
Please join us tomorrow Nov 2 (Thu) at 8.00 AM in Matisse
Joint session of 4 regional liver societies
“Liver Societies’ Role Towards Viral Hepatitis Elimination”
Nov 2 Regional Liver Society Meeting Agenda

- **Prevention - Mother to child transmission of HBV**
  - Strategies to increase HBV vaccine coverage (in particular birth dose coverage)
  - Communicate with OB providers on need for antiviral therapy in highly viremic HBsAg+ mothers

- **Improve diagnosis**
  - Raise awareness – Education, public campaign
  - Decrease stigma – Education, public policies
  - Facilitate screening of high risk populations – Integrate into routine care

- **Improve linkage to care**
  - Reach out to vulnerable populations and persons living in rural areas
  - Address language and cultural barriers
  - Decrease / remove financial barriers
  - Educate on consequences of chronic HBV/HCV and benefits of treatment

- **Improve access to antiviral treatment**
  - Decrease costs of medications and provide safety net
  - Increase trained providers/treaters
AASLD is a global society

- 45% of 10,000 The Liver Meeting participants from outside N America
- 23% of 5500 AASLD members are international

Our mission – To advance and disseminate the science and practice of hepatology, and to promote liver health and quality patient care
Reaching the WHO 2030 Goals in the USA

- AASLD will play a pivotal role in implementing the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicines Roadmap to meet the WHO goals for Viral Hepatitis Elimination in the USA
  - AASLD will collaborate with CDC, Health and Human Services, professional and patient societies to coordinate achieving these goals
  - Key roles of AASLD will include:
    - Advocacy
    - Education
    - Capacity Building
    - Research
AASLD Advocacy Efforts

Annual Liver Capitol Hill Day
• Meet with US Senate and Congress
• Advocate for funding to support
  • National Institutes of Health (NIH) – research
  • Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – prevention, screening, data collection and analysis.
  • Increase access to medications – cost control

National Academies Report - A National Strategy for the Elimination of Hepatitis B and C
• Phase 1 – Elimination of HBV and HCV is Feasible
• Phase 2 – Recommendations on implementation
AASLD Education Materials

- AASLD and other Liver Societies have a large portfolio of educational materials that can be used as is or adapted to the needs in countries and regions. AASLD educational materials include
  - Fundamentals of Liver Disease* for primary care providers: slides + video
    - HBV, HCV, Abnormal liver tests, Cirrhosis, NAFLD/NASH
  - Liver Learning# – videos or slides from presentations at meetings
  - Evidenced-based Practice Guidelines*
    - HBV – 2015, additional update in 2018
    - HCV guidance online – updated 3-4 times each year, more than 1 M users since 2014
    - HCC – 2017, additional update in 2018
  - Journals
    - Hepatology, Liver Transplantation – discounted subscriptions to low income countries
    - Hepatology Communications – open access
    - Clinical Liver Disease* - short review articles, text, videos, and slides

*Online, free to all, access via www.aasld.org #Free to all 12 months after program
Selected education materials translated into Spanish
AASLD Capacity Building

• Training
  • Funding for training of hepatology fellows, physician assistants and nurse practitioners – salary support for ~12/year

• Career development
  • Career development workshop at The Liver Meeting
  • Academic skills workshop with AGA, Masterclass with EASL

• Mentoring
  • Fellow of AASLD to Trainees and Early Career Hepatologists, open to international members, virtual meetings

• Attracting new blood to the field
  • Emerging liver scholars program for residents to attend The Liver Meeting
  • Ambassadors program for residents to reach out to students
Education and Capacity Building – AASLD’s Global Efforts

• Young investigators’ research methodology workshops
  • Didactic and interactive sessions at regional meetings
  • Sponsor faculty and provide travel awards to young investigators
  • APASL (Asia Pacific) since 2004
  • ALEH (Latin America) since 2016
  • AMH (Mexico) since 2017

• Endorsement/Joint Programming at other countries’ national meetings
  • China, India, Turkey, Greece, Saudi Arabia, Canada….

• Travel awards for young investigators to attend The Liver Meeting 2017
  • 114 awards, 6 dedicated to those from low or middle income countries
Liver Societies can help develop Care and Treatment Programs

- Help governments to develop training programs / curriculum to diagnose and treat chronic HBV and HCV and their sequelae: cirrhosis and HCC, tailored to local needs and resources
- Develop model clinics to treat chronic HBV and HCV in accordance with WHO and Regional Guidelines, integrate cirrhosis care and HCC surveillance into chronic hepatitis management
- Advise local governments and medical communities to conduct research to assess disease burden, epidemiology, and effectiveness of screening and treatment programs
- Lobby NGO, industry and local governments for financial, IT, and logistical support
Research – Additional Tools Needed to Achieve Complete Elimination of HBV and HCV

Research needs
• Cure for HBV
• Vaccine to prevent HCV
• Implementation models – for effective prevention, screening, linkage to care, and treatment in different settings with varying resources

AASLD’s roles
• Advocate for research funding
• Disseminate research findings
• Provide funding to support conduct of research and research training
• Provide platform for exchange of ideas, knowledge, and know how
Consultation and Collaboration To Achieve WHO 2020 and 2030 Goals of Eliminating HBV and HCV

- Liver societies will work with each other and with:
  - WHO, CDCs
  - Local governments
  - NGOs, industries
  - Regional and local medical communities, patient advocacy groups: PAHO, UNITAID, World Hepatitis Alliance...