

PARK CITY, UTAH • JANUARY 9-11, 2020



NASH-TAG

CONFERENCE

2020

Future Leaders in NAFLD Program

Sponsored by Intercept



Veeral Ajmera, MD, MAS

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Medical Director of Liver Transplantation
Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
University of California, San Diego
La Jolla, California



Alina M. Allen, MD

Gastroenterologist
Liver Transplant Program
Mayo Clinic
Boston, Massachusetts



Michelle T. Long, MD, MSc

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Boston University School of Medicine
Boston, Massachusetts



Eduardo Vilar-Gómez, MD, PhD

Assistant Research Professor of Medicine
Indiana University School of Medicine
Indianapolis, Indiana

Veeral Ajmera, MD, MAS

Dr. Veeral Ajmera is Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the University of California, San Diego. He is a board-certified transplant hepatologist and cares for patients with acute and chronic liver disease. Dr. Ajmera completed Internal Medicine residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital at Harvard University and Gastroenterology and Transplant Hepatology fellowships at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). At UCSF he also completed a Master's Degree Program in Clinical Research.

Dr. Ajmera is a current member of the UCSD NAFLD Research Unit where he collaborates with a multidisciplinary team of experts on research in non-invasive biomarkers and patient factors associated with disease severity and prognosis. He is a recipient of an American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) Clinical and Translational Research Award and an NIDDK K23 Career Development Award for his work on the non-invasive assessment of patients with NAFLD. He is a co-investigator for adult hepatology for the NIDDK-sponsored NASH Clinical Research Network. Dr. Ajmera serves on the Education Committee of the AASLD and is a member of the AASLD NAFLD Significant Interest Group.



Alina M. Allen, MD

I am passionate about studying nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). My career goal is to optimize means for NAFLD diagnosis, monitoring and treatment, as well as management of the associated complications. My research program focuses on developing noninvasive biomarkers of NAFLD and understanding the natural history of the disease in the US population.



Michelle T. Long, MD, MSc

I am an early career physician scientist primarily interested in patient-oriented research investigating fibrosis and inflammation in patients with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). My clinical and research interests center on the relationship between NAFLD and cardiovascular disease. My research is primarily based at the Framingham Heart Study where I am the PI of a study evaluating the prevalence and risk factors for liver fat and fibrosis. I am investigating the clinical and genetic correlates of hepatic steatosis and fibrosis as measured by transient elastography. I have expertise in epidemiology, visceral fat, liver imaging including computed tomography, ultrasound, and transient elastography. I am additionally interested in novel therapeutics for NAFLD and Non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) and run the clinical trials for the BMC Fatty Liver Clinic.



Eduardo Vilar-Gómez, MD, PhD

Eduardo Vilar-Gómez is currently Assistant Professor in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the Indiana University School of Medicine (USA). He has research interests in the epidemiology of NAFLD and cirrhosis and in developing predictive clinical models for fibrosis assessment and clinical outcomes for patients with chronic liver disease. His research has led to pivotal advances in the clinical care of NAFLD patients in the areas of lifestyle intervention and disease monitoring. Dr. Vilar-Gomez was trained in medicine in Havana, Cuba, where he rose to become the lead Hepatology researcher in the country, being Chief of the Department of Hepatology (2009-2013) and Director of Research (2007-2013) at the Cuban National Institute of Gastroenterology. Due to his passion and commitment to research, Dr Vilar-Gomez made the difficult decision to relocate internationally to the Unit for the Clinical Management of Digestive Diseases, Virgen del Rocio University Hospital (Seville, Spain, 2014-2017) to work with Prof Romero-Gomez where he developed clinical trial experience and gained a Masters of Science in Hepatology. In 2017, he moved to the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (Indiana University) to work with Prof. Naga Chalasani (lead author of the American Gastroenterology Association management guidelines for NAFLD). He has published 64 peer-reviewed papers, reviews and editorials in leading general medical and specialty journals including *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *BMJ Open*, *Gastroenterology*, *Hepatology* and *Journal of Hepatology* and has written 8 book chapters. He has >1500 career citations and has had >100 abstracts accepted to national and international scientific meetings. He has published landmark first-author papers regarding the impact of lifestyle management on liver histology in NAFLD (610 citations) and the natural history of NAFLD (82 citations) and chronic hepatitis C (76 citations).

