

ACUTE LIVER FAILURE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (ALF SIG): ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

This annual report covers the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019.

Membership

The BASL Committee appointed an initial SIG Lead to serve for one year, Professor William Bernal, Professor of Liver Critical Care, Kings College Hospital. An election for the position of SIG lead will be held in 2019-20.

At the time of writing this report, there are 56 individuals included in the member database. 47 (84%) are BASL members and 9 (16%) are non-members.

Meetings

Two meetings of the SIG were held during 2018-19:

- 22 January 2019, Birmingham, 10 participants
- 18 July 2019, London, 13 participants.

Key achievements

Thanks to the enthusiastic engagement of the members of the ALF SIG, work is well advanced on a number of streams:

- The first national survey of the aetiology and outcome of ALF in the UK has been undertaken to determine disease burden, feasibility of intervention trials and the performance of selection criteria for emergency liver transplantation.
- A national study of ALF using data-linkage techniques is under development to characterise the long-term outcomes of the condition.
- Registries of the use of therapeutic plasma exchange and intra-cranial pressure monitoring have been completed and are now being analysed.
- Plans for intervention trials of fluid therapies, hemofiltration and nutritional support developed by members have been presented to the SIG, and are being refined in anticipation of SIG approval and ethical application.
- Point-of-Care Ammonia Analysers and related consumables have been secured from the manufacturers, to enable standardisation of ammonia measurement across all UK liver transplant centres, a pre-requisite for future observational and interventional studies.

Further information

Please visit the SIG webpage at <https://www.basl.org.uk/index.cfm/content/page/cid/36>.