



Press release

NAFLD Special Interest Group launched

Liver health is a barometer for a healthy lifestyle. With rising rates of obesity and type 2 diabetes, next decade would see an exponential increase in the burden of Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD). An emerging 'silent epidemic' is perpetuated by the fact that routine liver enzymes pick up only 1 in 4 with liver scarring and 1 in 10 with cirrhosis.

BASL, the British Association for the Study of the Liver, has launched a Special Interest Group for NAFLD. This group of clinicians, academics, scientists, patients and industry professionals is linked to the Metabolic area of the Hepatology Clinical Research Network. The Special Interest Group will focus on promoting and facilitating collaborative research, disseminating innovations, sharing best practices and representing BASL in its interactions with other national or international organizations in areas related to NAFLD.

The NAFLD Special Interest Group already has over 70 members, bringing together clinicians, researchers, nurses and pharmacists with an interest in NAFLD. It is led by Professor Guruprasad Aithal, who is Professor of Hepatology at the University of Nottingham, and Gastrointestinal and Liver Disorder Theme lead of NIHR Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre; he is also the President Elect of BASL.

The NAFLD Special Interest Group will hold its inaugural meeting on 11 January 2019 at the Post Graduate Education Centre, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Nottingham. Professor Aithal said "NAFLD is relatively a new condition described first in 1980 with only 2 decades of serious research behind it. We are looking at innovative approaches, new tests and treatments to turn the tide on this growing problem."

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Notes to Editors

- BASL, the British Association for the Study of the Liver, is the National Association for hepatology. The Association is dedicated to advancing knowledge and understanding of the biology and pathology of the liver for the optimal care of patients. BASL is a multi-disciplinary society, with over 1,000 members from clinical medicine, clinical and basic research and allied professions.
- BASL has established a number of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to promote and encourage collaborative research and clinical trials in liver disease. These groups are supported by the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG) and are aligned to the seven topic areas recognised by the Hepatology Clinical Research Network of the National Institute for Health Research.
- Find us online at <https://www.basl.org.uk/> or [@BASLedu](#) .
- For more information, contact

Professor Guruprasad Aithal
Nottingham Digestive Diseases Centre
Guru.Aithal@nottingham.uk
+44 (0)115 746 5124

Samantha Jones
BASL Secretariat
Samantha@basl.org.uk
+ 44 (0)1543 442154