

GRANT FUNDING MADE POSSIBLE FROM YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

More than \$295,000 of the funds raised by the Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center is currently being used by investigators from the Liver Center to support important research projects. These are projects that are likely to lead to future NIH funding and involve research in the areas of viral hepatitis, liver cancer, iron metabolism, fatty liver and quality of life issues. This exciting research involves the collaboration between many different laboratories and researchers within the Liver Center.

Below is a list of the nine principal investigators from Saint Louis University who received grant funding from the Liver Center and their awards:

1. John Tavis, Ph.D. – Molecular Microbiology and Immunology \$34,880
2. Yie-Hwa Chang, Ph.D.- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology \$46,000
3. Paul Hayashi, M.D. – Gastroenterology and Hepatology \$14,750
4. Sarah L. George, M.D. – Infectious Disease \$33,410
5. Bruce Bacon, M.D. – Gastroenterology and Hepatology \$60,000
6. Alex Befeler, M.D. – Gastroenterology and Hepatology \$27,700
7. Robert Fleming, M.D. – Pediatrics \$10,000
8. Elizabeth Brunt, M.D. – Pathology \$2,400
9. Brent Tetri, M.D.—Gastroenterology and Hepatology \$65,000

LIVER CENTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saint Louis University Liver Center Investigators to Study Effectiveness of Protease Inhibitor in Fighting Hepatitis C – New protease inhibitors are showing promise for the nearly 50% of patients who remain unresponsive to the standard drug regimen to treat hepatitis C. Dr. Bruce Bacon has received a new contract from Schering-Plough for a study of an investigational protease inhibitor in patients with hepatitis C and Dr. Adrian Di Bisceglie will be conducting a study of an investigational protease inhibitor for Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

Results of Clinical Trial of First HCV Vaccine – Dr. Adrian Di Bisceglie recently presented the results of a clinical trial of the first hepatitis C virus (HCV) vaccine to be tested in humans in the United States. He

described the results obtained using a candidate vaccine manufactured by Chiron in normal healthy volunteers. The study was funded by the NIH and was done in collaboration with the Saint Louis University Vaccine Center and the results were presented at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases in San Francisco. The candidate vaccine was given to 48 volunteers. All of the subjects developed antibodies to HCV, suggesting that the vaccine may be useful in offering protection against HCV infection. Only minimal side effects were noted with the vaccine, such as pain and redness at the site of injection. Future studies of this promising vaccine will test it together with

various adjuvants. Beyond this, the vaccine may be tested in field trials to see whether it prevents hepatitis C and may also be tested to see whether it might help in the treatment of hepatitis C.

Grant Awarded – Jeffery H. Teckman, M.D., Director, Div. of Gastroenterology of the Dept. of Pediatrics at Saint Louis University School of Medicine, received a new grant from the National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive and Kidney Diseases for the project titled, "Therapy for alpha 1 antitrypsin deficiency liver diseases." This grant totals \$1,102,500 for the time period 9/30/05 to 6/30/10.

LIVER CENTER SPECIALISTS CO-EDIT NEW TEXTBOOK

Two Saint Louis University School of Medicine faculty members have teamed up for a new edition of a textbook widely considered to be the leading clinical reference on hepatology.

Bruce R. Bacon, M.D., director of the division of gastroenterology at Saint Louis University School of Medicine, and Adrian M. Di Bisceglie, M.D., chief of hepatology at Saint Louis University School of Medicine, are two of the four editors of the

second edition of "Comprehensive Clinical Hepatology," published in 2006 by Elsevier Mosby. The first edition was published in 2000 by Churchill Livingstone. The new edition incorporates the most recent advances in hepatology, including those in non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (SH) and viral hepatitis. Additionally, the textbook comes with a bonus CD-ROM that contains all of the color illustrations from the book, which can be downloaded into

PowerPoint for presentations. Sections of the book include normal structure and function, evaluation, signs and symptoms, treatment techniques, diseases and disorders, considerations in special populations and transplantation hepatology. Several of the chapters in this book were written or co-authored by prominent members of the Saint Louis University Liver Center; B. Kirke Bieman, MD, Elizabeth M. Brunt, MD, Bruce A. Luxon, MD, PhD,

and Brent A. Neuschwander-Tetri, MD. John G. O'Grady, M.D., consultant hepatologist at the Institute of Liver Studies at King's College Hospital in London and John R. Lake, M.D., director of the liver transplantation program at University of Minnesota Medical School, co-edited the book with Bacon and Di Bisceglie.

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WWW.FRIENDSOFTHESLULIVERCENTER.ORG



What's on the Calendar?

Friends of The Saint Louis University Liver Center
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Phone: 314-576-3078
Fax: 314-576-3654
Email: losiecki@sbcglobal.net

Saint Louis University Liver Center
3635 Vista at Grand
St. Louis, MO 63110-0250
Phone: 314-577-8764
Fax: 314-577-8125
Website: http://livercenter.slu.edu

CAR DONATIONS

Do you have a car you would like to donate? The Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center can now accept vehicle donations. For more details, please call the Friends office, or John Thornton at Brentwood Volvo to arrange a time to drop off your vehicle 314-644-9501. Brentwood Volvo is located at: 7700 Manchester Road, St. Louis, MO 63143.



Presentation of check from "Friends" to SLU Liver Center during half time festivities at Billiken's Game on March 1, 2006

The Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center
14323 South Outer 40, Suite 200M
Chesterfield, MO 63017



Friends and Liver Center News

DR. BRUCE R. BACON INTRODUCES THE "FRIENDS"

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Denim & Diamonds, 2006
Will be held
Friday & Saturday,
September 29-30, 2006
For sponsorship opportunities or reservations, please call
314-576-3078

In the winter of 2002, a group of grateful patients and civic-minded individuals held a dinner meeting to begin the process of building an organization dedicated to raising awareness and money and supporting research in liver disease at the Saint Louis University Liver Center. This group held several meetings and began the planning process for a fundraising event that was called Denim and Diamonds, a two-night affair featuring entertainment at the Pageant Theater on Friday night followed by a black-tie dinner with silent auction, a featured speaker and dancing to the music of the Ralph Butler Band on Saturday night at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Along the way, this group became more organized and formally incorporated as a

not-for-profit charitable 501C3 organization with a licensing agreement with Saint Louis University and became the "Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center." The Friends group matured as an organization, had office space donated to it at 14323 S. Outer Forty Road, Suite 200M, St. Louis, MO 63017, and in 2005 hired a Director of Pro-



Dr. Bruce R. Bacon
James F. King, MD Professor of Internal Medicine and Director, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

grams and Development. Denim and Diamonds 2 and 3 were held in 2004 and 2005, and altogether the Friends organization has raised over \$1.1 million to support research and education at the Saint Louis University Liver Center. Plans are currently underway for Denim and Diamonds 2006 and other fundraising events are being developed. The first President of the Friends Board of Directors is Robin Ude, Ph.D. Many thousands of hours of volunteer work have gone into the success of the Friends organization, and the Liver Center physicians and investigators are grateful for the support that has been provided. In future issues of the Newsletter, members of the Board of Directors will be highlighted.

DENIM & DIAMONDS, 2005

Denim & Diamonds 2005 proved to be a very successful fundraiser, grossing more than \$600,000! The weekend included a benefit concert at the Pageant Theatre on Friday night featuring a performance by Willie Nelson & Family. Opening for Willie was the very talented Javier Mendoza. They played to a sold out crowd. The Spears Foundation premiered a Hepatitis C Awareness PSA during the concert, which is now being aired nationwide! For more information on the Julia Spears Foundation, visit their website at www.helpwithhepc.com.

a wonderful silent auction during which the premiere of the Banyon Communications documentary "Epidemic of Discovery"



(from left) Julia Spears, Amy Nelson, Anthony Herrera, Sarah Bacon, Morgan Fairchild, Dr. Bruce R. Bacon, Connie Nelson, & Jackie Martling

premiered, and a lovely dinner and awards ceremony. Honorary Chair, Mr. Shaun Hayes, President and CEO of National City Bank, Midwest gave a very heartwarming address and then everyone danced the night away to the music of the Ralph Butler Band.

Our sincere gratitude to all volunteers and celebrities, individual and corporate sponsors, and in-kind sponsors for making the event such a success! We would like to acknowledge and extend a special thank you to the following top level sponsors:

Diamond—Schering Plough
Platinum—Roche & National City Bank

Gold—Saint Louis University Hospital, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Dula Foundation

Silver—Sue Barlett, Option Care, Fujisawa Healthcare and Gilead



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT



Jim Shelton
2005 Volunteer Award Recipient

Jim Shelton discovered he had Hepatitis C from a routine blood test; it was probably contracted in Viet Nam where Jim served as an Army medical corpsman. And although treatment was not successful, Jim, while still very ill, began volunteering with the Friends organization during our first Denim &

Diamonds event in 2002. Too ill to attend the function, Jim has done everything from hauling office furniture, doing mailings, recruiting auction items and donations to setting up our office computer network. Thanks to a liver transplant, Jim is now back at work and still volunteering every chance he gets. We

cannot thank him enough for all he has done to help make the Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center organization such a success. Jim received the **2005 Volunteer Award** at the Denim & Diamonds event in September, 2005.

Jim, you're the best!

**HB1358 SB972 SB1015
POLITICAL PROGRESS**

Kathie Bryson has been working with State Representatives Jim Lembke & Chuck Portwood and State Senator Harry Kennedy in her campaign to increase the awareness of Hepatitis C and to get testing for health care workers. To date, Kathie and her champions from the state capitol have realized a legislative victory: House Bill 1358 and Senate Bill 972 have passed declaring that from hereon, May

10th will be "Hepatitis C Awareness Day" in the state of Missouri. Senate Bill 1015 is for screening health care workers and first responders and is currently being filed in the House of Representatives. In March, Julia Spears, of the Spears Foundation and Kathie Bryson went to Washington to support the federal Hepatitis C Epidemic Control and Prevention Act (S.B.521 & H.R.1290).

You can help! Contact your state and local legislators. Kathie's goal is to promote awareness, education, tolerance, understanding of Hep C, and remove the negative stigma of HCV that affects us all. Kathie's mission is a quote from Robert Frost "But I have promises to keep... and miles to go before I sleep" We thank Kathie for her dedication to this mission!

*"But I have
promises to keep...
and miles to go before
I sleep"
Robert Frost*



State Representative Jim Lembke
and Kathie Bryson

**HOW CAN YOU HELP
THE FRIENDS OF THE SLU LIVER CENTER?
BECOME A SPONSOR! BECOME A VOLUNTEER!**

Whether you are interested in becoming a sponsor or you want to answer phones, stuff envelopes or be a leader and serve on a planning committee, we have volunteer opportunities throughout the year. You may volunteer as an individual or bring your community service group. Please complete and fax this form to 314-576-3654 or mail to the Friends office. A representative will contact you soon.

Yes, I am interested in learning more about sponsorship opportunities! Please contact me with more information.

Yes, I am interested in volunteering! Please contact me with more information.

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Address _____ Cell Phone _____ Email _____

City, State, Zip _____ Best way to reach you _____

Times you are available to volunteer: _____

Thank You!

**The Busch Family Mansion at Grant's Farm
May 6, 2006**



Richard & Jackie Neustaedter,
Adolphus Busch
& Trudy Busch



Singer, Songwriters
Don Poythress &
Wynn Varble

A good time was had by all our guests on the lawn of the Busch Family mansion at Grants Farm. The evening began with cocktails and gourmet food, followed by live entertainment from singer, songwriters Don Poythress and Wynn Varble. Both artists have written hits for artists such as Willie Nelson, Sheryl Crow, Bonnie Raitt, Tim McGraw and Garth Brooks to name just a few. The live auction raised nearly \$20,000 for liver research at the Saint Louis University Liver Center! Guests had the opportunity to tour the Busch Family mansion and have their photo taken with one of the famous Busch Clydedales! Special Thanks to our sponsors Option Care, Schering-Plough, Roche, Gilead and Axcan Pharmaceuticals, our guests and the volunteers that helped make the evening another successful event for the Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center! If you would like to be on the invitation list for the Busch Family mansion event in 2007, please email losiecki@sbcglobal.net or call the office at 314-576-3078 with your mailing information. We look forward to you joining us in 2007!



Vic Turvey, Board Director
Friends of the SLULC



DENIM & DIAMONDS, 2006

Welcome to our 2006 Denim & Diamonds Honorary Chairs, Dr. Frank and Katie O'Donnell! Dr. O'Donnell, a former Professor and Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine, founded the O'Donnell Eye Institute and is the Founder and Managing Partner of The Hopkins Capital Group, LLC, a leading healthcare investment/business development company. He is the recipient of the 2000 Jules Stein Award from Retinitis Pigmentosa International and he serves as a Trustee at Saint Louis University. Mrs. O'Donnell is a mother of three young children and an active philanthropist. In addition, she is on the Board of Directors for Urban K-

Life, a ministry devoted to nurturing minority students in public high schools within the city of St. Louis. We are very pleased that Dr. and Mrs. O'Donnell are joining our event this year to help continue our mission to bring awareness to the public about liver disease and to raise money for the important research done at the Saint Louis University Liver Center. Tradition continues as the Denim & Diamonds 2006 weekend will kick off with a concert at the Pageant Theatre on Friday evening, September 29th. The following evening, September 30th, the Diamonds Ball will be held at the Ritz Carlton in Clayton. This event will feature both a silent auction and a live auction where such

items such as a hybrid Toyota Camry, auto-graphed guitars by Willie Nelson and George Jones, Vail Colorado vacation package, big screen TV, Bose surround sound system, a custom built electric guitar, diamond necklaces, and more will be showcased. Music will be provided for your dancing pleasure by the fabulous Ralph Butler Band.



**HOW CAN YOU HELP WITH
DENIM & DIAMONDS 2006?
BECOME A SPONSOR! BECOME A VOLUNTEER!**

We have many sponsorship opportunities for the Denim & Diamonds Weekend 2006. From a program ad to a \$100,000 Diamond Evening Sponsor, there is a sponsorship level for you!! Do you have a group of employees available to volunteer Friday or Saturday evening? Please complete and fax this form to 314-576-3654 or mail to the Friends office. A representative will contact you soon.

Yes, I am interested in learning more about Denim & Diamonds sponsorship opportunities! Please contact me with more information.

Yes, I am interested in volunteering for the Denim & Diamonds Weekend! Please contact me with more information.

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Address _____ Cell Phone _____ Email _____

City, State, Zip _____ Best way to reach you _____

Best method to contact is: email phone call (circle one) Best times to reach you are: _____

Thank You!

ONGOING CLINICAL STUDIES AT THE LIVER CENTER

For information regarding clinical research studies, please call: The GI & Hepatology Clinical Research Unit at (314)-977-9400

**Hepatitis C
Protocol: TPL**

The purpose of this study is to see if a study medication is safe and effective in the treatment of thrombocytopenia (low platelet count) in patients with hepatitis C.

Sponsor: GlaxoSmithKline

PI: Bruce R. Bacon, M.D.

Protocol: HCV/NASH

To determine if decreasing the amount of NASH or fatty liver disease in overweight HCV patients results in improved overall sustained virologic response to standard treatment.

Sponsor: The Geneva Foundation

PI: Brent A. Tetri, M.D.

Protocol: Antifibrotic

To describe the safety and efficacy of two doses of the study medication in chronic hepatitis C subjects with Genotype 1 infection, who have failed prior anti-HCV therapy, in improving immunohistochemical markers of fibrogenesis over the course of the study as compared with placebo-treated subjects.

Sponsor: GlaxoSmithKline

PI: Bruce R. Bacon, M.D.

Protocol: 004

To compare the proportion of the subjects in each treatment group who achieve an early virologic response in serum HCV RNA after 12 complete weeks of treatment compared to baseline (week 1 pre-dose) and to compare the proportion of the subjects in each treatment group who achieve a sustained virologic response, defined as continued clearance of virus for 6 months post end of treatment.

Sponsor: Coley Pharmaceutical Group

PI: Bruce R. Bacon, M.D.

Protocol: Vaccine

This is a study of a new investigational vaccine for chronic HCV infection. This study will help to learn: 1) about the safety of the vaccine in chronic HCV patients, and 2) how the body's defense (immune system) responds to the vaccine.

Sponsor: NIH

PI: Adrian M. Di Bisceglie, M.D.

Protocol: VT 003

This is a study to determine the safety and anti-HCV activity of a study medication at three dose levels for 28 days in HCV infected patients.

Sponsor: VGX Pharmaceuticals

PI: Bruce R. Bacon, M.D.

Protocol: Prove 1

To evaluate the antiviral activity and perform an assessment of sustained virologic response rates of the study medication when administered in combination with pegylated interferon alfa with and without ribavirin in HCV infected patients.

Sponsor: Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc

PI: Adrian M. Di Bisceglie, M.D.

Hepatitis B

Protocol: HBV 103

To compare the efficacy of tenofovir DF versus adefovir dipivoxil for the treatment of HBeAg positive chronic hepatitis B.

Sponsor: Gilead Sciences

PI: Adrian M. Di Bisceglie, M.D.

Protocol: Idenix

This is a study of treatment with the study medication or lamivudine in adult patients with HBeAg-positive or HBeAg-negative chronic hepatitis B and compensated liver disease.

Sponsor: Idenix Pharmaceuticals, Inc

PI: Adrian M. Di Bisceglie, M.D.

Post Liver Transplant

Protocol: Sirolimus

This is a research study of an experimental drug, with potential to prevent acute rejection of a transplanted liver and to preserve renal function when medication is changed from cyclosporine or tacrolimus to the study medication.

Sponsor: Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

PI: Alex S. Befeler, M.D.

Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC)

Protocol: PSC

This study will assess the effect of high dose ursodeoxycholic acid in patients with primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC).

Sponsor: NIH

PI: Alex S. Befeler, M.D.

Fatty Liver - NASH/NAFLD

Protocol: PIVENS

Overall goal: To evaluate whether 96 weeks of treatment with either pioglitazone or vitamin E lowers NASH activity as determined from hepatic histology in nondiabetic adults with NASH (nonalcoholic steatohepatitis) compared to treatment with placebo.

Sponsor: NIH

PI: Brent A. Tetri, M.D.

Protocol: TONIC

To determine whether 96 weeks of treatment with either metformin or vitamin E leads to sustained reduction in serum ALT in nondiabetic children with NAFLD compared to treatment with placebo.

Sponsor: NIH

PI: Brent A. Tetri, M.D.

Protocol: Database

To investigate the etiology, natural history, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) as defined by steatosis, steatohepatitis, and/or fibrosis, to develop a specimen bank comprising liver tissue, serum, plasma, and DNA obtained from NAFL patients, and to provide a resource for clinical trials and ancillary studies of the pathogenesis, natural history, and treatment of NAFLD.

Sponsor: NIH

PI: Brent A. Tetri, M.D.

Liver Cancer

Protocol: HCC

To evaluate safety, efficacy, PRO, and population PK of sorafenib versus placebo in patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma.

Sponsor: Bayer Pharmaceuticals

PI: Alex S. Befeler, M.D.

Protocol: EDRN

A study examining the validation of several serum markers for the early detection of hepatocellular carcinoma and to determine whether demographic or etiology of underlying liver disease alter the expression of these markers.

Sponsor: NIH

PI: Alex S. Befeler, M.D.