

Friends & SLU Liver Center

Dr. Bruce R. Bacon Receives AASLD Distinguished Service Award

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Bruce R. Bacon, M.D., professor of internal medicine in the division of gastroenterology and hepatology at Saint Louis University, received the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) Distinguished Service Award at the 61st annual meeting of the AASLD. This is an honor given to an individual for his or her ongoing service to those with liver disease.

Bacon holds the James F. King, M.D., endowed chair in gastroenterology at SLU and served as the director of the division of gastroenterology and hepatology at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine from June 15, 1990 to June 1, 2010.

"The AASLD's distinguished service award is a fitting honor for Bruce, who has dedicated his life to helping patients," said Adrian M. Di Bisceglie, M.D., chair of internal medicine at SLU. "Through patient care, basic and clinical research and medical and public education, few have done more to advance the field of hepatology." A leader in the field, Bacon served as an advisor and grants reviewer for the National Institutes of Health, president of the AASLD, chairman of the gastroenterology board

and the transplant hepatology board for the American Board of Internal Medicine and, most recently, a member of the Digestive Diseases Research Council. He has also been an associate editor for major medical journals, including *Gastroenterology* and the *American Journal of Gastroenterology* and is a regular reviewer for prestigious medical journals such as *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

Bacon was named a National Institutes of Health Research fellow, receiving a postdoctoral research fellowship from the American Liver Foundation and an NIH New Investigator Research Award among other achievements. He also helped to establish the Missouri chapter of the American Liver Foundation and received their Outstanding Chapter Leadership award and was chairman of the Patient and Professional Education Committee for that organization.

Among Bacon's biggest achievements is his contribution to the discovery of the HFE gene, the gene associated with hereditary hemochromatosis, a disorder that interferes with the body's ability to absorb iron. He received the Marcel Simon Award for best research in hemochromatosis by a young investigator for his studies on the mechanism of iron toxicity given by the Biolron Society. In 2000, he helped to found the Saint Louis University Liver Center, which has earned an international reputation for patient care, basic and clinical research and medical and public education.

His supporters formed an organization to help him at Saint Louis University. Among this group are a few who stand out for their contributions to this worthwhile cause - Joan Lipic, Julia Spears, Sue Barlett, Jeff Reinberg, and of course, his patient Naomi Judd who continues to support the Friend's organization with her power as a country star to help the foundation exceed expectations in funding research for the SLU Liver Center. The Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center has now raised about \$2 million to support research at SLU.



(from left) Adrian Di Bisceglie, M.D., Bruce R. Bacon, M.D. and Arun Sanyal, M.D.

Join us at Shoot for a Cure!

Strathalbyn Farms Club
Saturday, May 21, 2011

Horseback Riding 3:00-5:30 p.m.

Shotgun Sports 3:00-5:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Bonfire & Wagon Rides to follow

**For Reservations or to help with event planning,
please call 314-576-3078**



Strathalbyn Farm Club

Strathalbyn Farms Club is located on 120 pristine acres in the Weldon Spring area of St. Charles County.

The Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center raise money to support the research efforts of the SLU Liver Center for the treatment and cure of liver diseases, and to promote understanding and awareness of liver disease.

Volunteer of the Year!

Born in St. Louis, MO. and raised in Wright City, Lisa is the daughter of restaurant owners Lola and Eddie Baseel of Big Boy's Restaurant in Wright City. Lisa owns a successful restaurant and catering business, "Lisa's Texas BBQ and Catering" on Long Road in Chesterfield, Mo. and has traveled around the world three times seeing most every country.

Lisa has been involved with the Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center since 2003, when she was reunited with a Friends Board Member, Robin Ude. Robin shared her personal story of her husband Steve's death from Liver Disease and her role in the Friends organization. Lisa, an old friend of Steve's, offered her help by donating money, time, energy and her catering services whenever needed. Lisa is always quick to offer her help, be it food for a meeting or catering services for an auction item.

Lisa appreciates all that has come back to her from her involvement with the Friends of the SLU Liver Center.



Lisa Baseel
Lisa's Texas BBQ & Catering

Naomi Judd Award Winner!

This year, the Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center wish to honor Dr. William Sly with the Naomi Judd Award. Dr. Sly is a Saint Louis University Biochemist for whom the genetic disease "Sly Syndrome" was named. He has been at Saint Louis University for over 30 years and was Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Saint Louis University until stepping down from that position last year. He still remains an active basic investigator.

Dr. Sly is known for investigating causes and treatments of numerous inherited genetic disorders that affect the liver and was instrumental in understanding a variety of aspects about the pathophysiology of the genetic abnormality identified in hemochromatosis. We wish him the best of luck and congratulate him and honor his service to understanding genetic diseases and their effect in the liver.



William Sly, M.D.
Saint Louis University Liver Center

SLU Internal Medicine Poised for Growth, says Department Chair

Adrian Di Bisceglie, M.D. Named Inaugural Holder of Badeeh A. and Christine V. Bander Chair

Receiving a standing ovation as he took the floor, Adrian Di Bisceglie, M.D. was invested as the inaugural holder of the Badeeh A. and Christine V. Bander Chair in Internal Medicine on Tuesday, Aug. 31. Di Bisceglie was named chair of the department of internal medicine at Saint Louis University School of Medicine in May of 2009.

The endowed chair, Di Bisceglie says, will allow him to recruit faculty and support research, strengthening the efforts of the department. "Thanks to visionary new leadership at the School of Medicine under Dr. Phil Alderson as well as additional resources provided by this endowed chair and Saint Louis University, the department is well positioned for growth," Di Bisceglie said.

"With a long tradition of excellence, the department of internal medicine is celebrating its centennial in 2011, commemorating 100 years of teaching and doing research at Saint Louis University. In the last 20 years, we've had a series of strong leaders, including outstanding division directors like Bruce Bacon in hepatology, John Morley in geriatrics, and Robert Belshe in infectious diseases.

"Our division directors have created very strong programs. Now we must allow them to expand." Di Bisceglie is thankful for the opportunity provided by the endowed chair. "I'm very grateful for this gift from the Bander family. Gifts like this one allow us to recruit excellent people, encouraging the department to grow."

Together with his wife Patricia, benefactor Steven Bander, M.D., who is an adjunct faculty member in nephrology at SLU, created the endowed chair as a way to support SLU's growing national and international reputation. At the ceremony, he spoke about his parents, whom he honored by naming the chair after them.

"My parents stressed constantly the need for education and to do what's right by yourself and others," Bander said at the ceremony. "They are very simple rules that I think have allowed me to achieve some of my success."

Di Bisceglie was selected in May of last year to lead the department of internal medicine, which includes the divisions of cardiology; endocrinology; gastroenterology and hepatology; general internal medicine; geriatric medicine; hematology and medical oncology; immunobiology; infectious diseases and immunology; nephrology; pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine; and rheumatology.

Di Bisceglie came to Saint Louis University in 1994 as a professor of internal medicine. Previously, he had been chief of the hepatitis studies and liver diseases sections of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, which is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

An internationally recognized expert in the field of liver disease, Di Bisceglie's research interests include the treatment and natural history of viral hepatitis and the link between chronic hepatitis and hepatocellular carcinoma. He has served on many international and national committees, including those from the National Institutes of Health and Food and Drug Administration, and on many editorial boards for medical journals. He is an ad hoc grant reviewer for the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Merit Review Board and several sections of the NIH.

"I think that the most important thing is that this is not about me," Di Bisceglie said at the ceremony. "It's about this gift to Saint Louis University and to the department of internal medicine.

"The purpose of this gift is to secure the future of the leadership of the department of internal medicine. So it's not just a gift for now in 2010 but it's a gift that will keep on giving to the University for years to come."

Established in 1836, Saint Louis University School of Medicine has the distinction of awarding the first medical degree west of the Mississippi River. The school educates physicians and biomedical scientists, conducts medical research, and provides health care on a local, national and international level. Research at the school seeks new cures and treatments in five key areas: cancer, liver disease, heart/lung disease, aging and brain disease, and infectious disease.



Adrian Di Bisceglie, M.D. Phil Alderson, M.D., and Steven Bander M.D.
Saint Louis University Liver Center



**We had a lot of fun
With Friends in 2010!**



Wish List 2010



Just in time for the HOLIDAYS!

Present this coupon when making a purchase at MSG Jewelers and **MSG Jewelers will donate 10% of the proceeds** to the Friends of the SLU Liver Center!

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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 want to answer phones, stuff envelopes or be a leader and serve on a planning committee, we have volunteer opportunities available. You may volunteer as an individual or bring a group of friends. Please complete and fax this form to 314-576-3654 or mail to the Friends office. A representative will contact you.

☐ 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: _____

The Friends Fall Celebrations!

Wildwood BBQ Bash



The Wildwood BBQ Bash held on September 25-26th was quite a festival for the 174 BBQ competitors and crowd of over 15,000 taste testers! This year, Friends volunteers from Scott Air Force Base, the SLU Liver Center, The St. Louis Rams Cheerleaders and other loyal Friends volunteers came out to help staff soda booths and sell raffle tickets which helped to raise nearly \$3,000!

Special Thanks to all our volunteers and St. Louis Home Fires who donated Weber Grills and other great BBQ items for the raffle!



Lucky Duckie Raffle Raises Money for Liver Disease



The second annual Liver River Lucky Ducky Derby was held October 1st to raise money for the Saint Louis University Liver Center.

Participants bought raffle tickets and individual ducks were marked with ticket numbers. The ducks raced down the stream in front of the Doisy Research Building and winners received a variety of prizes, with \$300 as the top prize. The race raised almost \$1,436 with all proceeds staying at the Saint Louis University Liver Center to help promote education and research in liver diseases.



The derby was organized by Carol Stengel and Mary Ann Barrale who work in SLU's gastroenterology and hepatology division as a way to contribute to the life-changing work that happens every day in their department. "There are so many people who aren't even aware they have liver disease," said Stengel. "I hope that through the Liver Center's efforts we can get the word out that screenings are available and important for those at risk."



Denim & Diamonds at Meadowbrook Country Club

The Friends were "sparkling" at the 8th annual Denim & Diamonds event held October 9th at Meadowbrook Country Club. Prior to dinner, the 220 guests in attendance enjoyed the presentation by actor, writer, and cancer survivor Anthony Herrera, this year's Inspirational Speaker. There was an exceptional selection of auction items, with trips to Cabo and Rome as well as great sports packages from the St. Louis Cardinals and the Blues - there was something for everyone thanks to our wonderful list of corporate community sponsors. The Friends organization raised just over \$261,000 to benefit the Saint Louis University Liver Center.



Any Way the Wind Blows Green Event at Alberici Headquarters

The Friends of the SLU Liver Center's "Any Way the Wind Blows" Green Event held in October at Alberici Headquarters was a phenomenal success! Natalie and John Alberici, Event Hosts and Robin Ude, Corporate Chair helped the Friends exceed the anticipated guest list with over 150 registered and walk up guests, plus over 10 sponsors in attendance. The green community was supportive with sponsorship as well as providing in-kind donations for raffle items and guest goodie bags! St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley, John Alberici and Dr. Bruce R. Bacon thanked guests for their participation. The event helped create awareness of how to bring green home while educating guests how the "green" raised (over \$14,000) makes a difference to research and public education of liver disease through the Saint Louis University Liver Center.



Spice in Curry Could Prevent Liver Disease

Early SLU Research Explores Curative Power of Curcumin

Curcumin, a chemical that gives curry its zing, holds promise in preventing or treating liver damage from an advanced form of a condition known as fatty liver disease, new Saint Louis University research suggests.

Curcumin is contained in turmeric, a plant used by the Chinese to make traditional medicines for thousands of years. SLU's recent study highlights its potential in countering an increasingly common kind of fatty liver disease called non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH). Linked to obesity and weight gain, NASH affects 3 to 4 percent of U.S. adults and can lead to a type of liver damage called liver fibrosis and possibly cirrhosis, liver cancer and death.

"My laboratory studies the molecular mechanism of liver fibrosis and is searching for natural ways to prevent and treat this liver damage," said Anping Chen, Ph.D., corresponding author and director of research in the pathology department of Saint Louis University.

"While research in an animal model and human clinical trials are needed, our study suggests that curcumin may be an effective therapy to treat and prevent liver fibrosis, which is associated with non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH)."

High levels of blood leptin, glucose and insulin are commonly found in human patients with obesity and type 2 diabetes, which might contribute to NASH-associated liver fibrosis.

Chen's most recent work tested the effect of curcumin on the role of high levels of leptin in causing liver fibrosis in vitro, or in a controlled lab setting.

"Leptin plays a critical role in the development of liver fibrosis," he said.

High levels of leptin activate hepatic stellate cells, which are the cells that cause overproduction of the collagen protein, a major feature of liver fibrosis. The researchers found that among other activities, curcumin eliminated the effects of leptin on activating hepatic stellate cells, which short-circuited the development of liver damage.

The findings were published in the [September issue of Endocrinology](#).



Anping Chen, Ph.D.

***Interested in participating in a clinical trial at the Saint Louis University Liver Center?
Contact Judy Thompson, Mgr., GI and Hepatology Clinical Research Unit at 314-977-9400***

John Tavis Selected for Prestigious Research Advisory Panel

Molecular Virologist to Serve on American Cancer Society Council on Extramural Grants

John Tavis, Ph.D., professor of molecular microbiology and immunology at Saint Louis University School of Medicine, will assume a four-year appointment to the American Cancer Society's Council on Extramural Grants in 2011. The council evaluates grant applications that have been reviewed for scientific merit and determines which will receive funding. It also advises the leadership of the American Cancer Society on emerging research policy issues.

A basic scientist, Tavis conducts research on hepatitis B and C viruses, which are responsible for 75 percent of all liver cancers.

"My first research grant came from the American Cancer Society, when I was a brand new assistant professor here," Tavis said. "With this appointment, I've come full circle with the American Cancer Society."

Tavis has served as a member and chair of an American Cancer Society peer review committee, which evaluates grant applications for scientific merit. He is an American Cancer Society community ambassador, explaining the organization's research programs to constituents.

In addition, Tavis is a member of Saint Louis University Cancer Center's internal advisory board and has been a member of the Cancer Center since its inception.

"Dr. Tavis is an international leader in understanding how hepatitis B and C viruses cause liver disease and liver cancer. He is one of an outstanding group of scientists at Saint Louis University and the Saint Louis University Cancer Center who are studying liver disease and cancer," said William Wold, Ph.D., chair of molecular microbiology and immunology at Saint Louis University.

"Through his appointment to the American Society's Council on Extramural Grants, Dr. Tavis will be able to promote the funding of the best new scientific discoveries and thereby improve efforts to prevent and treat liver disease and liver cancer."

The council includes 25 senior scientists and three stakeholders who oversee the American Cancer Society's \$104.1 million budget for extramural research and health professional training grants. It includes representatives of all areas of research and training – from basic science to applied, population-based studies, and health professional training for primary care and public health physicians, oncology nurses and oncology social workers.



John Tavis, Ph.D.

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

Free Screenings

Free Screenings For Hepatitis C

M-F 9:00 am—4:00 p.m.

at Special Design Health Care

61 Doctors Park

Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Phone 1-866-936-1999 for more information

Special Thanks to the **Spears Foundation and Volunteers** which have made these free screenings available to the public.



The Friends now accept vehicle donations. Please call 314-576-3078 for details.

What's on the Calendar?

December 4, 2010

The Best of the AASLD, Chase Park Plaza Hotel
Call 314-977-7401 for more information or email cme@slu.edu

January, 19 2011

Friends of the SLU Liver Center, Annual Meeting

May is national Hepatitis Awareness Month

May 21, 2011

Strathalbyn Farms Shooting/Riding Event, St. Charles, MO
Call 314-576-3078 for reservations

To learn more about Friends events and/or volunteer opportunities, please visit us online at www.friendsoftheslulc.org

More than 40 liver disease clinical research trials are currently being conducted in the Clinical Studies Units at Saint Louis University. If you are interested in information about these research studies, visit the Liver Center website at <http://livercenter.slu.edu> or call 314-977-9400.



Did you know you can support research while shopping for your holiday gatherings?

Schnucks will make a contribution to the Friends every time you shop if you have a Schnucks eScrip card

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HOW DO YOU GET ONE?

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and learn how to get your friends, family and co-workers signed up!

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