

SLU LIVER CENTER SEED GRANT AWARDS

Since inception, the Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center have provided funding to support innovative research. Over \$1.2 million in initial start-up or seed grants has been directed to the following grant awardees. Many of these initial grants have assisted investigators in procuring substantially larger external research grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other agencies or organizations resulting in over \$20 million in external funding.

Congratulations to the awardees for their accomplishments and advancements in science and medicine!

	Liver Center Grant Recipients		Research Project & Program Awards
2005	John Tavis, PhD	Molecular Microbiology & Immunology	Investigating the variation in NTP use by the HCV polymerase and response to therapy
	Yie-Hwa Chang, PhD	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	The study of serum biomarker candidates identified for early detection of liver cancer confirmed by western blot analysis
	Mark Schnitzler, PhD & Fashia Kanwal, MD	Center for Outcomes Research & Division of Gastroenterology/Hepatology	Identified 26,000 patients with laboratory evidence of chronic Hepatitis C. Findings reported in grant application to National Institutes of Health in 2008
	Sarah L. George, MD	Infectious Diseases	Conducted the first human trials in North American of a Hepatitis C vaccine-this study focused on how long after vaccination people retain immunity to Hep C.
	Bruce Bacon, MD & Robert Britton, PhD	Gastroenterology/Hepatology	Study of new information about molecular mechanisms by which iron regulates hepatic hepcidin expression
	Alex Befeler, MD & Kathleen Wyrwich, PhD	Gastroenterology/Hepatology & Research Methodology	“When a Cure Isn’t Possible” - post publication exploration of quality of life of patients with incurable liver cancer to improve clinical decisions
	Robert Fleming, MD	Pediatric Neonatology	Identification of proteins which interact with intracellular domain of transferrin receptor 2 to determine the regulation of iron by the liver
	Elizabeth Brunt	Pathology	Evaluate histologic lesions as potential precursor of hepatocellular carcinoma
2006	Brent A. Tetri, MD	Gastroenterology/Hepatology	Development of new model of fatty liver disease based upon consumption of fast-food diet
2007	Jeffery Teckman, MD	Pediatric Gastroenterology/Hepatology	Study how genetic diseases can trigger liver cancer, especially related to liver disease, alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency, and how genetic risk factors can be related to the development of liver cancer in patients with Hep C.

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2007 (cont.)	Cindy Cai, MD, PhD	Gastroenterology/Hepatology	Examination of molecular mechanisms underlying the dysregulation of insulin-mediated hepatic metabolism in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NASH)
2008	Brent A. Tetri, MD	Gastroenterology/Hepatology & Research Methodology	Trans fat laboratory research project/bridge funding
	Cindy Cai, MD, PhD	Gastroenterology/Hepatology	Funding for the purchase of laboratory supplies
2009	Kiyoko Oshima, MD	Pathology	Funding for scanner to develop liver biopsy data
2010		GI & Hepatology Clinical Research Unit	Purchase of medical equipment and supplies for conducting clinical research
2011	Jeffrey Teckman, MD	Pediatric Gastroenterology/Hepatology - SLULC Seed Grant	Therapeutic Mechanisms of nor-Ursodeoxycholic Acid
	Robert Fleming, MD	Neonatology - SLULC Seed Grant	Role of HFE in modulating the effort of non-transferrin-bound-iron hepcidin expression
	Adrian Di Bisceglie, MD	GI/Hepatology	Funding for Hepatitis B initiative for the Asian community
	Ratna Ray, PhD	Pathology - SLULC Seed Grant	Investigating Hepatitis C virus infection of primary human hepatocytes and micro RNA modulation
	Brent Tetri, MD	GI/Hepatology - SLULC Seed Grant	Exploring the pathogenesis of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH)
	David Wang, PhD	GI/Hepatology - SLULC Seed Grant	Determining the role of SHP in regulating biliary cholesterol secretion
	Mark Schnitzler, PhD	Center for Outcomes Research - SLULC Seed Grant	Developing a Database to support outcomes research and cost-effectiveness evaluation in liver transplantation.
		Liver Center Research Labs	Funding for lab supplies and medical equipment
2012	Xiaofeng Fan, MD, PhD & Ratna Ray, PhD	GI/Hepatology & Pathology - SLULC Seed Grant	The study of cell culture system for Hepatitis C Virus Genotype 1a
	Anping Chen, PhD	Pathology - SLULC Seed Grant	Investigating molecular mechanisms of curcumin in eliminating the inhibitory effects of AGE's on regulating gene expression of AGE-R1 in HSCs
	John Tavis, PhD	Molecular Microbiology & Immunology - SLULC Seed Grant	Improvement of Hepatitis B virus RNSshE assays in support of novel antiviral drug development
2013	Mark Schnitzler, PhD	Center for Outcomes Research - SLULC Seed Grant	Defining value in liver transplantation: Rational, Evidence-based identification of Centers of Excellence

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2014	Adam Gehring, PhD	Molecular Microbiology & Immunology - SLULC Seed Grant	Study of immunological profile of the normal human liver
	Mustafa Nazzal, MD	Center for Abdominal Transplant Surgery - SLULC Seed Grant	The impact of different types of liver targeted therapies for hepatocellular carcinoma on post liver transplant recurrence and mortality
	Xiaofeng Fan, MD, PhD	Gastroenterology/Hepatology - SLULC Seed Grant	Investigating liquid biopsy in hepatocellular carcinoma
2015	Ranjit Ray, PhD	Infectious Diseases & Immunology - SLULC Seed Grant	Enhancement of Hepatitis C virus envelope glycoprotein vaccine response by regulating T-helper cell function
	Dorota Skowrya, PhD	Biochemistry & Molecular Biology - SLULC Seed Grant	Study of the proteasome load tolerance in alpha 1 antitrypsin deficiency
	Ajay Jain, MD	Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition - SLULC Seed Grant	The role of glucagon like peptides (GLPs) in total parenteral nutrition
		GI & Hepatology Clinical Research Unit	Purchase of equipment & supplies
2016	John Tavis, PhD	Molecular Microbiology & Immunology - SLULC Seed Grant	Defining the HBV & RNA stem loop as a novel anti-HBV drug target
	Mustafa Nazzal, MD	Center for Abdominal Transplant Surgery - SLULC Seed Grant	Participating in a national study investigating post orthotopic liver transplant immunosuppression regimens and post-transplant hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence
	Brent A. Tetri, MD	Gastroenterology/Hepatology	Investigating the role of RGD-binding integrins in NASH and NASH fibrosis
	Ratna Ray, PhD	Pathology - SLULC Seed Grant	Establishment of PDX models in liver cancer patients
	Keith Pereira, MD	Interventional Radiology - SLULC Seed Grant	A single center, non-randomized study to evaluate the role of left gastric artery embolization, to promote short-term weight loss in obese patients
		GI & Hepatology Clinical Research Unit	Purchase of equipment & supplies
2017	Brent A. Tetri, MD	GI & Hepatology Clinical Research Unit	Purchase of equipment & supplies
2018	Ajay Jain, MD	Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition	Role of environmental toxicants in modulating disease severity in children with NAFLD

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2018 (cont.)	Jeff Teckman, MD	Pediatric Gastroenterology & Hepatology	Funds to match an NIH supplement from the Childhood Liver Disease Research Network (ChilDReN) will be used for functional studies of genetic hits in the Teckman lab
	Minh-Tri Nguyen, MD	SLU Center for Abdominal Transplant Surgery	Regulatory T cell in liver regeneration
	Mustafa Nazzal, MD	SLU Center for Abdominal Transplant Surgery	Human Model for Ischemia Reperfusion Injury in Steotic and Aged Livers Using Liver Normothermic Perfusion Pump
	Brent A. Tetri, MD	Gastroenterology/Hepatology	Identifying key lipotoxic lipids in NASH
	John Tavis, PhD	Molecular Microbiology & Immunology	Summer Research Fellowship-CK
	Ajay Jain, MD	Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition	Summer Research Fellowship-JF
	Jeffery Teckman, MD	Pediatric Gastroenterology/Hepatology	Summer Research Fellowship-MS
	Xiaofeng Fan, MD, PhD	Gastroenterology/Hepatology	A Blood-based Method to Determine Hepatitis B Virus Integration
	Robert Fleming, MD	Pediatric Neonatology	Regulation of liver hepcidin by transferrin iron occupancy
	Anutosh Chakraborty, PhD	Pharmacology & Physiology	Determine functions of novel proteins that link ER-stress to NAFLD