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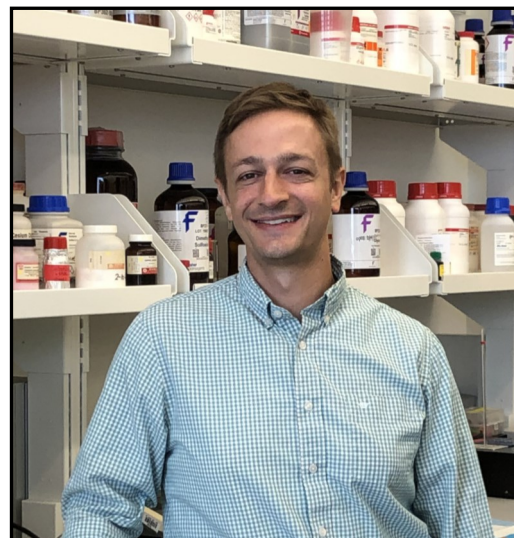
Welcome to New Liver Center Member!

We are excited to welcome and introduce the newest member of the Saint Louis University Liver Center. We look forward to his research contributions impacting the medical care of patients with liver disease.

Dr. Kyle McCommis, PhD joined the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Saint Louis University as an Assistant Professor on May 1, 2019. Prior to joining SLU, Dr. McCommis was a Postdoctoral Research Scholar and Instructor in the Department of Medicine at Washington University. He earned his PhD from the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine in 2013.

Dr. McCommis's research interests focus on the role of mitochondrial metabolism in both the pathogenesis and treatment of disease. His studies primarily involve two diseases related to metabolic syndrome: heart failure, or nonalcoholic fatty liver disease and steatohepatitis (NAFLD/NASH). His laboratory will address research questions with a mixture of molecular biology, cell culture and isolated primary cell models, in vivo physiology in mouse models, and when possible, translation with human disease samples. "Without a doubt, the SLU Liver Center played a role in attracting me to SLU. I look forward to collaborations and thought provoking discussions with this fantastic group of hepatology clinicians and researchers."

Dr. McCommis and his wife, Brenda, are both native St. Louisans. They have three children James (7), Roger (5), and Caroline (<1), and two dachshunds. Kyle enjoys anything outdoors: fishing, hunting, hiking, and watching his kids play sports.



Kyle McCommis, PhD
Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Save The Date!

17th annual DIAMONDS GALA
Saturday, October 26, 2019
Chase Park Plaza



We invite you to join us for the Diamonds Gala on Saturday, October 26th at the Chase Park Plaza. We are excited to announce the return of emcee Rene Knott, KSDK Today in St. Louis.

The Diamonds evening begins with a general reception followed by dinner, presentation of awards, and a live auction. *Sponsorships are still available. To join us at the Diamonds Gala:*

P. 314-576-3078 or www.friendsofthelulc.org/events/diamonds-gala
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SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY LIVER CENTER RESEARCHER RECEIVES GRANT FROM NIH



Ajay Jain, MD

**Associate Professor of Pediatrics in GI & Hepatology
SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital &
Saint Louis University Liver Center Researcher**

A Saint Louis University School of Medicine researcher has received a grant to study the role of gut microbiota in pediatric patients whose injuries prevent them from receiving their nutrition by eating.

Ajay Jain, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics and gastroenterology and hepatology, received \$227,250 from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases of the National Institutes of Health to study the role of gut microbiota in mediating total parenteral nutrition (TPN) associated injury.

TPN, more commonly known as intravenous feeding, is used when a person's digestive system doesn't function normally. This happens in patients with gut injury, bowel surgery, trauma, inflammatory bowel disease, as well as in babies with congenital gut problems. A solution containing carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, vitamins, minerals and other nutrients essential for normal nutrition is given intravenously.

More than 30,000 patients in the United States are permanently dependent on TPN and thousands more require it for varying durations to survive. Patients on TPN can suffer side effects which include severe and progressive gut and liver injury. Such injury can lead to significant morbidity and mortality, but the mechanisms for such remain largely unknown.

"Thus, evaluating the causes for these side effects and developing preventative as well as curative strategies remains a major research focus," Jain said. "There has been intense research in this area throughout the world and while several ideas have been proposed we wanted to 'think outside the box.'"

Emerging data, Jain said, including results from his previous studies, suggest that there may be an alteration in gut derived signals in those who rely on TPN to survive. "While they may seem tiny, the gut microbes remain a formidable player in health and disease," Jain said. "At close to 100 trillion microorganisms carried by each of us, the microbial gene pool is on the order of a 100-fold of any individual's genome making us 99 percent bacterial and 1 percent human. In fact, Jain said, his data shows a significant increase in the pro-inflammatory Bacteroidetes phylum and a decrease in the Firmicutes phylum with TPN in comparison to a control group who receive regular enteral nutrition.

"We believe that the altered gut microbiota during TPN may play a prominent role in such injury."

Jain's study will look at how transferring fecal microbiota from healthy controls to those on TPN can restore the altered gut microbiota and mitigate TPN-associated liver and gut injury. "Our focus is to develop novel strategies to ameliorate such TPN-associated complications," Jain said. "This study could provide critical data to advance our scientific knowledge, greatly help patient populations and provide insights into mechanistic pathways during liver injury and Intestinal rehabilitation."

Jain is a SLUCare pediatric hepatologist and gastroenterologist and the medical director of the pediatric liver transplant program at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital.



CURE LIVER DISEASE NOW!

SLU's ADRIAN DI BISCEGLIE NAMED FELLOW OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE ST. LOUIS

Saint Louis University physician and researcher Adrian Di Bisceglie, M.D., has been named a fellow of the Academy of Science St. Louis for his work as a physician, researcher and leader in the field of hepatology, especially his work in furthering the nation's prevention and treatment of viral hepatitis.

Di Bisceglie, who is professor of internal medicine at SLU and a SLUCare physician, will be honored with other local scientists at the Academy's 25th annual Outstanding St. Louis Scientists Awards dinner on Thursday, April 4, at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The Fellows Award recognizes distinguished individuals for outstanding achievements in science.

Di Bisceglie's research has focused on hepatitis B and hepatitis C viral infections, which can cause fibrosis and cirrhosis, as well as other complications that may lead to liver cancer and death.

From discovery of the hepatitis C virus in 1989 to the advent of new drugs that can cure the illness, Di Bisceglie has been a driving force in the remarkable progress that has been made in treating viral hepatitis.

In South Africa, Di Bisceglie was a member of the first team to use recombinant alpha interferon to treat hepatitis B. At the NIH, he helped develop alpha interferon as a therapy for chronic hepatitis C. Di Bisceglie was the first to test ribavirin as a therapy for chronic hepatitis C.

Di Bisceglie joined SLU in 1994, where he serves as co-director of the Saint Louis University Liver Center and the Badeeh A. & Catherine V. Bander Endowed Chair in Internal Medicine. From 2006 to 2017, he served as chairman of the department of internal medicine.

At SLU, Di Bisceglie led clinical trials and authored research that made significant contributions to the new viral hepatitis treatment options now available to patients. Of particular note is his leadership of the landmark NIH-funded HALT-C clinical trial. In 1999, he was named chairman of the steering committee of this nationwide study that began, for the first time, to make real strides in understanding the nature of the hepatitis C virus.

In 2014, Di Bisceglie served as president of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases. That year, he also was honored at the White House where the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Office of National AIDS Policy recognized his contributions to fighting liver disease at a ceremony to commemorate World Hepatitis Day. Di Bisceglie has served as an advisor to the NIH, FDA and CDC. He has been an ad hoc grant reviewer for several granting agencies including the NIDDK, the NIAID, the NIAA, and the AACGG.

Currently, Di Bisceglie is the site principal investigator for the Hepatitis B Research Network, an NIH-funded network studying the natural history and treatment of chronic hepatitis B infection, and he serves as either principal investigator or co-investigator on an additional seven NIH or foundation awards. He also has been a co-developer with Xiofeng Fan, Ph.D., associate research professor of internal medicine at SLU, on six patents.

The Academy of Science St. Louis aims to focus the region's attention upon individuals, institutions and corporations known worldwide for their scientific contributions to research, industry and quality of life. When considering nominees for awards, special consideration is given to those with a record of excellence in communicating with the public, mentoring colleagues or leadership in the field of science or industry.

Saint Louis University School of Medicine: 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 diseases.



Adrian Di Bisceglie, MD
Professor of Internal Medicine
Saint Louis University Liver Center

DR. JEFFREY TECKMAN RECEIVES INAUGURAL ENDOWMENT

Thanks to your generous donor support, the SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Foundation is able to honor and support several physicians with endowed professorships. These professorships allow for more time spent with patients, more time for research into new cures, and more time for developing other SSM Health Cardinal Glennon and SLU physicians. The latest to be honored is internationally renowned gastroenterologist Jeffrey Teckman, MD, who was named the inaugural James and Patricia Monteleone Endowed Professor in Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

Jeffrey Teckman, MD, wants to "engineer cures." In his sight is a potential treatment for Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency that within the next five to ten years could potentially block liver damage and the need for a liver transplant in children with this genetic disorder that affects about 1 in 3,000 babies.



**Jeffrey Teckman, MD (right)
with Patricia & James Monteleone**

Dr. Teckman has been researching Alpha-1 for more than 25 years. The disorder is the most common genetic cause of liver disease in children and can also affect adults. It also causes lung disease in adults. There's currently no cure, but Dr. Teckman has been the leading researcher into the disease and how it progresses in children. Already, three drugs tested in his lab over the past 20 years have progressed to worldwide clinical trials.

"It's a goal and I'm optimistic that as we continue to obtain funding for research and find patients to participate in clinical trials, we'll find an answer to how we can stop liver damage in these patients," he says.

Dr. Teckman, a SLUCare physician, leads SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital's Division of Gastroenterology and Hematology. He joined the hospital and faculty of Saint Louis University School of Medicine in 2005, at a time when the medical school identified liver diseases as one of five core research programs. Under Dr. Teckman's leadership, faculty and staff have more than doubled, research funding within the division has tripled, and SSM Health Cardinal Glennon now is the site of regionally and nationally respected programs for the treatment of pediatric liver diseases, nutrition and motility disorders, inflammatory bowel disease, Hepatitis B and C, and Alpha-1.

"We were the only group in the region to be involved in the latest pediatric clinical trials for Hepatitis C and we've cured several children of this particular disease," Dr. Teckman says. "We want to continue those efforts as well as expand research of nutrition-related diseases. We also have begun investigations into the mechanisms driving appetite and that lead to obesity, which is a true epidemic in this country."

Dr. Teckman focused on medicine after earning undergraduate degrees in chemistry and zoology. He graduated from Washington University School of Medicine and rapidly found kinship in the field of pediatrics and, specifically, gastroenterology. While in fellowship at Washington University, he conducted early research into the biochemical mechanisms of Alpha-1. It has been a primary focus of his research ever since, along with fatty liver disease. He has been on the faculty of Saint Louis University School of Medicine and SSM Health Cardinal Glennon for the past 13 years.

His endowed professorship is named in honor of pediatrician James Monteleone, MD, and his wife, Patricia Monteleone, MD, MBA, MHA, pediatrician and former dean of Saint Louis University School of Medicine. Dr. Teckman says he's humbled that the Foundation recognized him with an endowed professorship that honors two highly dedicated physicians. "One of my main drivers is that I want to make a difference," he says. "This generous recognition by the Foundation makes me more dedicated to use this gift wisely to continue my research, help our patients and teach the next generation of gastroenterologists."

Congratulations Dr. Teckman!

11TH ANNUAL SHOOT FOR A CURE AT STRATHALBYN FARMS CLUB



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

It was a fun time June 1st at our **11th annual Shoot for a Cure**. You could not ask for a more beautiful location or better fried chicken than we had that day.

With 13 corporate and individual teams, we raised over \$47,000 for the Saint Louis University Liver Center. It was wonderful to welcome back our returning sponsors and to welcome new participants-beginner and experienced shooters! We enjoyed collecting scorecards as teams came in and seeing the reactions to everyone's scores! Awards were presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams, and high score male/female and youth.

The Friends thank our Sponsors, Participants and Volunteers who came out to support the Friends mission to raise funds to support the research efforts of the Saint Louis University Liver Center for the treatment and cure of liver diseases and to promote understanding and awareness of liver disease. Shoot for a Cure has raised \$601,985 for research over the last 11 years!

Shoot for a Cure is a clay target shooting event held at the private Strathalbyn Farms Club located on 140 pristine acres in the Weldon Spring area of St. Charles County. The event consists of a continental breakfast, a 14 station-100 shot course, lunch and auction. We will soon be announcing the 2020 Shoot for a Cure date.

Visit our website for info/updates:
www.friendsoftheslulc.org.



High Gun Youth-Weston Perini (second from right with dad Vic and brother Nathan) & High Gun Female - Rochelle Henderson, PhD, Friends of the SLULC - Chairperson



How Can You Help Friends of SLULC?

Be a Sponsor - Be a Donor - Be a Volunteer

Whether you are interested in becoming a sponsor or want to answer phones, stuff envelopes or 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 soon!

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

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Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center

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Brent Tetri, MD

Dr. Brent Tetri named Associate Chair for Clinical Studies

In February 2019, Dr. Brent Tetri, Professor of Internal Medicine, Hepatologist and SLU Liver Center Member, stepped down as Division Director in Gastroenterology and Hepatology and assumed the role of **Associate Chair for Clinical Trials for the Department of Internal Medicine**.

In this role, Dr. Tetri will maintain his clinical practice and will also have the opportunity to work closely with others in the department to sustain and promote clinical research. He looks forward to having more time to pursue his passions in research and career development of our fellows and junior faculty.



Jeffrey Teckman, MD

Dr. Jeffrey Teckman has been appointed Interim Chair of the Department of Pediatrics

Dr. Teckman attended Miami University in Ohio and received his MD from Washington University. He completed pediatric residency and a fellowship in Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition at St. Louis Children's Hospital and Washington University.

In 2005 he joined Saint Louis University as Director of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Hepatology. In the years since, he has more than doubled these clinical services, expanded key areas such as inflammatory bowel disease care and short bowel syndrome, and instituted a pediatric GI fellowship training program. He has also served as Associate Chair of Pediatrics for Research, Co-Chair of Strategic Planning for Pediatrics, and as an elected faculty representative to the SLUCare Board.

Dr. Teckman is still active in clinical care and research with 25 years of continuous extramural grant funding.

What's on the Calendar?



October 26, 2019

Diamonds Gala, the Chase Park Plaza, St. Louis, MO

November 8-12, 2019

AASLD—The Liver Meeting, Boston, MA

For information on Friends events:

p: 314-576-3078

www.friendsoftheslulc.org

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