



EDITORS

Leisa Duff
Executive Director
Friends of the Saint Louis
University Liver Center
lduff@friendsofthelulc.org

Lou Ann Biermann, RN, MSN
Administrative Manager,
The Saint Louis University
Liver Center
liverctr@slu.edu

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Friends & SLULC news

Special Thanks to Dr. Bruce Bacon & Dr. Adrian Di Bisceglie

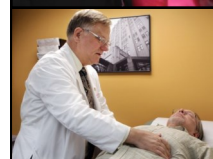
Dr. Adrian Di Bisceglie came to the SLU Liver Center in the mid 1990's from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) where he served as the Chief of the Liver Disease section and led research in Hepatitis C and other forms of liver disease. Dr. Di Bisceglie was involved in the very beginning stages of finding a cure for Hepatitis C right through to the very final stages that virtually cures everyone. He is a worldwide expert and recognized in the field of Hepatocellular Carcinoma.

In regards to academics, Dr. Di Bisceglie is known for his rigorous approach to patient care and teaching. The residents and fellows at the Liver Center love working with Dr. Di Bisceglie because he is so very thoughtful and rigorous.

Dr. Di Bisceglie also served on the national level as the President of the American Assoc. for the Study of Liver Disease (AASLD) and at SLU he was the Chairman of the Dept. of Internal Medicine for over 10 years and served very well in that capacity. Dr. Di Bisceglie has recently cut back from all clinical responsibilities to spend more time on research projects. The Liver Center looks forward to a continued relationship with Dr. Di Bisceglie.

For those who may not know, Dr. Bruce Bacon retired from the SLU Liver Center this past March. Dr. Bacon came to Saint Louis University in 1990 and he and Dr. Di Bisceglie together founded the Liver Center in the 1990's to understand how to treat Hepatitis C. Dr. Bacon came to SLU with a strong history in clinical and basic research, NIH funding, and national leadership. Dr. Bacon also served as President of the AASLD. He led the search for the gene that causes hemochromatosis and iron overload in the liver and was also instrumental in launching the studies to understand it's effect on the liver. He treated and cured Naomi Judd of Hepatitis C in the very early stages of treatment of Hepatitis C which led to Naomi's very generous contributions to help launch the SLU Liver Center.

Dr. Bacon remains active in teaching and mentoring and the Liver Center continues to look forward to seeing Dr. Bacon in that role.



18th Annual Diamonds Virtual Gala "SUPPORTING SUPERHEROES"

It was a Diamonds like no other as we shifted gears and navigated to the new 2020 horizon of virtual event planning/fundraising. Guests tuned in from the comfort of their couch or favorite chair "virtually" for the 18th Annual Diamonds Gala "SUPPORTING SUPERHEROES" presentation Saturday, October 17, 2020!

The Virtual Gala was similar to past in-person Diamonds Galas - Rene Knott, NewsChannel 5, served as the Emcee and Auctioneer, opening remarks were given by Rochelle Henderson, Chair of the Board. Lou Ann Biermann, Manager of the SLU Liver Center gave an introduction to the SLU Liver Center and what Friends funding has supported in research and the purchase of lab equipment and supplies. There were presentations from researchers in the areas of Basic Research-Dr. Kyle McCommis and Dr. John Tavis, Clinical Studies-Dr. Brent Tetri and a highlight of the new SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital. Special Guest Naomi Judd had two cameo appearances and was one of the original celebrities to kick off the first Diamonds Gala in 2003. The 2020 Naomi Judd award was presented to Dr. Mustafa Nazzal, Transplant Surgeon, for excellence in research. Dr. Brent Tetri, shared a touching tribute to Dr. Bruce Bacon and Dr. Adrian Di Bisceglie for their years of service and many contributions in the study of liver disease.

Special Thanks to all Sponsors and Donors for their financial contributions and to the St. Louis business community for donating auction items to help raise funds to support research!

The "Diamonds Gala" is Friends of SLU Liver Center's annual and major fundraiser, which supports the research efforts of the world-renowned Saint Louis University Liver Center for the treatment and cure of liver diseases, and promotes understanding and awareness of liver disease. All money raised stays in the St. Louis area to perform life-saving research which helps patients with liver disease nationwide.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. MUSTAFA NAZZAL 2020 NAOMI JUDD AWARD RECIPIENT



Mustafa Nazzal, MD

Dr. Mustafa Nazzal is an Associate Professor of Surgery. He was recruited to Saint Louis University in 2014 after finishing his training at the Cleveland Clinic.

His clinical interest is in liver transplantation in patients with portal vein thrombosis, adult and pediatric liver transplantation and management of liver cancers and hepatitis C. Dr. Nazzal has pioneered multiple research projects advancing treatment modalities for liver cancer. He is also involved in several other clinical trials, including leading single center trials as Principal Investigator.

Dr. Nazzal has been an invited speaker at national and international conferences. He serves as a mentor to trainees and also serves as a member on several national organizations advancing liver disease.

Over the past year, Dr. Nazzal with support from Friends of the SLU Liver Center, has been developing modalities to increase utilization of donated livers thus helping one of our most precious population segment, new born babies, and in turn also helping the entire field of transplant medicine.

Dr. Nazzal has participated in numerous research projects, and he's one of the Saint Louis University Liver Center Superheroes in mitigating liver disease. Dr. Nazzal is truly a compassionate physician, an excellent teacher, and a great colleague and friend to many. In addition to all these accolades and in his free time, Dr. Nazzal received a master's in legal studies.

It is for these reasons and more that it is our honor to present the 2020 Naomi Judd Award to Dr. Mustafa Nazzal.

Congratulations Dr. Nazzal!

Did you know...

Your AMAZON purchases can help support research at the Saint Louis University Liver Center?

It's true – you shop and Amazon gives .5% of eligible purchases (no fees or extra costs) to a charity - It's easy!

Just follow these simple steps:

- 1-log in to AmazonSmile at: <https://smile.amazon.com/>
- 2-sign in with your Amazon user name and password.
- 3-then enter the Friends as your charity-here's how we're listed:

Friends of the St Louis University Liver Center

You will only be asked to enter charity info on your first login.

Done - You can start shopping!

Be sure to use the SMILEAMAZON link each time you shop and donations will start to add up from everyone's purchases!

Your holiday shopping will help raise much needed funding for essential research at the SLU Liver Center!

You will be putting a SMILE on many faces with your support!

THANK YOU!



Leave a Legacy

Donations come in all shapes and sizes.

Supporting the Friends through a financial commitment can be one of the most impactful ways to help CURE liver disease.

Many treatments that benefit today's patients are the result of life-saving research that was funded by others who included liver research in their estate plans.

You can help shape the future and leave your mark on tomorrow by making a provision for Friends in your will or trust. Through your will or trust you can leave:

- * *A specific amount or a percentage of your estate*
- * *All/part of what remains in your estate after all other bequests are made*
- * *A conditional gift if beneficiaries do not outlive you.*

Please consider naming Friends as a beneficiary in an insurance or retirement account, or donating stocks.

**Learn more about connecting your legacy:
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November, 2020

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Dear Friends

As this year comes to a close, we want to give thanks and reflect on the things made possible through your generosity. We deeply appreciate the support from our Board, Sponsors, Individual Donors and our Volunteers. We are grateful to those who came out to support our Spring Fundraiser, Shoot for a Cure, and to those that joined us "Virtually" for the 18th annual Diamonds Gala and online auction. These events promoted understanding and awareness of liver disease while raising much needed funds for liver research during this very challenging year.

The impact of charitable contributions are *measurable* and we'd like to share a few things which have been supported by our generous contributions to Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center:

- Since 2005, a total of **47 Liver Center Seed grants totaling \$1,459,000** have been awarded to Liver Center members through a Request for Applications process. These directed research grants were established to provide bridge or seed grant funding to investigators while they work toward developing their projects, gathering preliminary data allowing them to submit external grant applications and publish their results. These seed grants generated externally funded NIH and foundation sponsored grant awards totaling over \$24 million which represents more than a **17.6 fold, return on investment**.
- Over \$153,232 was used for the purchase of supplies and equipment in support of clinical trials research and for basic science laboratories of the Liver Center investigators.
- Six Summer Research Fellowships were awarded, totaling \$24,500

These things are not possible without community support, and donations at every level! Your support is critical in continuing cutting edge research.

We are thankful to our physicians, clinical staff, and investigators at Saint Louis University Liver Center and to you, our donors/sponsors/volunteers, for your financial support and volunteer involvement as we look ahead to opportunities for new discoveries and treatments for patients.

We ask you to please consider making an end of the year tax deductible contribution to Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center. You may contribute online at www.friendsoftheslulc.org/make-a-donation.

We look forward to your reply and we wish you a Healthy and Happy Holiday Season!

Sincerely,

Brent Tetri, M.D.
Director, Saint Louis University Liver Center
Associate Chairman for Clinical Studies
Professor of Internal Medicine
Saint Louis University School of Medicine

Rochelle Henderson, PhD
Chair, Board of Directors
Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center

Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization, Tax ID # 30-0232645

14323 South Outer 40, Suite 200M Chesterfield, MO 63017 (314) 576-3078 www.friendsoftheslulc.org



1st Place Team
Kyle Donahue, David Butz,
David Helms, David Braswell



2nd Place Team
Dr. John Tavis, Dr. Maureen Donlin , Ken Potter
(not pictured- Vic Turvey, Dr. Brent Tetri)



3rd Place Team
Mark Johnson, Neal Feazel , Jimmy Moore
(not pictured: Vic Perini)



Carol Amos



August 15, 2020
CONGRATULATIONS!
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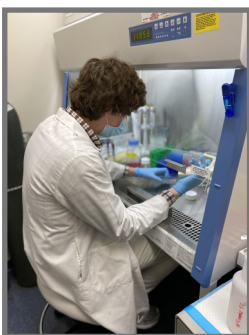
Tom Ruck

Dr. John Tavis, a virologist/researcher at the Saint Louis University Liver Center, thanked guests for their participation and shared how important their donations are and the difference they make to finding cures and furthering research of liver disease. Dr. Tavis also expressed gratitude for the Friends support, which has made huge impact for his lab and research of Hepatitis B.

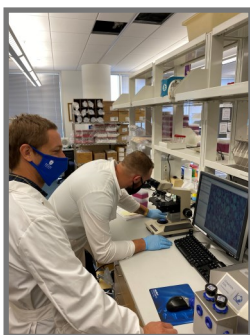


Dr. John Tavis

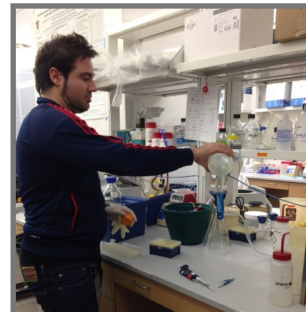
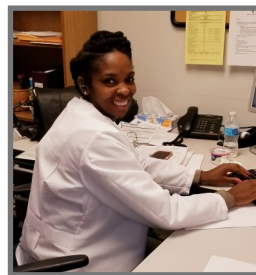
The Diamonds Gala presentation gave a glimpse inside Clinical Studies and Basic Science labs at Saint Louis University Liver Center



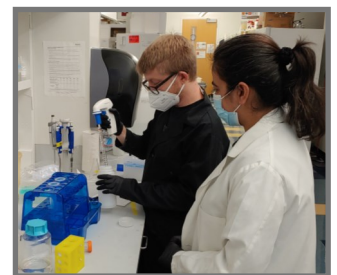
Dr. Kyle McCommis Lab, Basic Science



Dr. Brent Tetri & Clinical Studies



Dr. John Tavis Lab, Basic Science



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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.

Special Thanks to **CENTENE** *Charitable Foundation*

for their support
of research for
NASH and Transplant!

*We greatly appreciate
Centene's support!*



SAVE THE DATES!
Shoot for a Cure, June 19, 2021
Diamonds Gala, October 16, 2021



SPECIAL THANKS TO

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Dr. & Mrs. Brent Tetri

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**We're
planning a
new
Friends
event**

Stay Tuned!



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www.friendsoftheslulc.org



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Saint Louis University Liver Center Seed Research Grant Program

SLU Liver Center Research Seed Grants support novel research aims of their investigators. Seed grants are expected to yield data that the applicant will use as the basis for an extramural grant application.

These directed research grants were established to provide funding to Liver Center investigators while they work toward developing their projects, gathering preliminary data allowing them to submit NIH grant applications and publish their results. Since 2005, 47 grants have been awarded totaling \$1,459,000 and additionally \$153,232 of research equipment and laboratory supplies were purchased and six Summer Research Fellowships have been awarded totaling \$24,500.

These seed grant funds generated NIH, VA and foundation awards totaling over \$24 million.

*We are proud to share the Return on Investment (ROI) for all Saint Louis University Liver Center Seed grants awarded since 2005 is **17.6**.*

The 2020 Saint Louis University Seed Grants were awarded to the following SLU Liver Center investigators:

Ratna Ray, PhD – Pathology - SLULC Seed Grant - Targeting combination therapy in newly developed HCC patient-derived xenograft model (proof-of-concept study)

Kyle McCommis, PhD – Biochemistry and Molecular Biology – SLULC Seed Grant
Exploration of the involvement of MBOAT7 in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) liver injury

Ajay Jain, MD and Chelsea Hutchinson, MD – Departments of Pediatrics & Surgery - SLULC Seed Grant
Recirculating enteral feeds to mitigate liver and gut injury in bowel syndrome

2020 Summer Research Fellowships were awarded to:

Mustafa Nazzal, MD – Transplant Surgery
*2020 Summer Research Fellowship for **Johan Van Nispen***

Kyle McCommis, PhD – Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
*2020 Summer Research Fellowship for **Martin Sharpe***

Congratulations



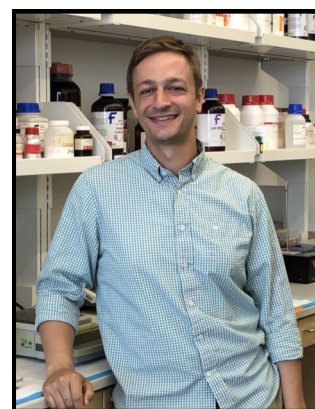
Ratna Ray, PhD



Mustafa Nazzal, MD



Ajay Jain, MD and Chelsea Hutchinson, MD



Kyle McCommis, PhD



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Visit ssmhealth.com/future to learn more.

Friends of the Saint Louis University Liver Center

Leisa Duff, Executive Director
14323 So. Outer 40, Suite 200M
Chesterfield, MO 63017
Phone 314-576-3078 Fax 314-576-3654
Website: <http://friendsoftheslulc.org>

Saint Louis University Liver Center

1223 S. Grand Blvd.
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What's Coming Up?

- *Shoot for a Cure, Strathalbyn Farms Club, Weldon Spring, MO - June, 2021
- *Diamonds Gala - October, 2021
- *AASLD - The Liver Meeting - November, 2021
- *Best of AASLD - December 2, 2021

For information on Friends events:

p: 314-576-3078

www.friendsoftheslulc.org



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SSMHealth

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