

Friends & SLULC news

Special Thanks Lou Ann Biermann!

Saint Louis University Liver Center Manager, Lou Ann Biermann, RN, MSN, is retiring from Saint Louis University on December 31, 2021. Lou Ann began her career in nursing at SLU from 1979-1990 and was very pleased to be recruited back in 2002 to help develop the Saint Louis University Liver Center of Excellence. SLU is home to Lou Ann and she has enjoyed the work and the people there for so many years. Lou Ann states, "I am grateful for all that I've learned and am proud to have been a member of a very dedicated and talented team of professionals. It has truly been an honor."

Lou Ann was recognized at this year's Diamonds gala for her years of service at Saint Louis University. Lou Ann thanked the members of the Liver Center for allowing her to work closely with them over the years and for trusting her to carry forward the mission of the SLU Liver Center "Thank you again for your friendship and support over these past 20 years"

*The Friends of Saint Louis University Liver Center wish
Lou Ann health and happiness with adventures that lie ahead!*



**Brent Tetri, M.D. w/ Lou Ann
at the Diamonds Gala**

A new manager has been named to take Lou Ann Biermann's position starting October 18, 2021. The new Liver Center Manager is Myron Minner, MBA, RHIA. Myron was recruited within the walls of SLU where he worked in the university's Clinical Trials Office (CTO). He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Health Information Management, minored in Theology from Saint Louis University, and received an MBA from Lindenwood University. He has more than 15 years of experience in the field of health care and 7 years in clinical research. The SLU Liver Center and Friends of the SLU Liver Center look forward to working with Myron and welcome him warmly.



Welcome Myron Minner!

Back to the Ballroom at the 19th annual Diamonds Gala!

Guests were welcomed "Back to the Ballroom" for the 19th Annual Diamonds Gala on Saturday, October 16, 2021 at the Chase Park Plaza!

Rene Knott, NewsChannel 5, served as the Emcee and Auctioneer and opening remarks were given by Rochelle Henderson, Chair of the Friends Board. The 2021 Naomi Judd award was presented to Dr. Danielle Carpenter, for continued support of research at the SLU Liver Center. Lou Ann Biermann presented the Clinical Studies Staff with a special recognition for Excellence in Clinical Research for keeping clinical studies research on track as they navigated the COVID pandemic. Don Eggleston, author, was the presenting speaker and gave a moving presentation on "Mercy in Chaos".



Rene Knott

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 of liver disease through a live auction and raffle items! Over \$278,000 was raised to support the Seed Grant program and other needs of the SLU Liver Center.

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.



EDITORS

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

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Naomi Judd Award Recipient & Clinical Studies Recognition	2
End of Year letter	3
Fun with Friends in 2020	4
Sponsor/Donor Thanks	5
SLU Researcher Receives \$1.9M NIH Grant	6
SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital	7
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	8



Don Eggleston

CONGRATULATIONS TO DANIELLE CARPENTER, MD 2021 NAOMI JUDD AWARD RECIPIENT



Danielle Carpenter, MD

Dr. Carpenter joined the faculty in the Department of Pathology at SLU in 2017 as an Associate Professor. She completed her undergraduate studies at Saint Louis University where she then stayed for medical school, graduating in 2007. She completed residency training in anatomic and clinical pathology at Barnes Jewish Hospital/Washington University in St. Louis, followed by fellowship in Surgical Pathology, and finally Liver and Gastrointestinal Pathology (under the tutelage of Dr. Elizabeth Brunt). Dr. Carpenter then joined the faculty at Washington University in St. Louis with a clinical practice in general surgical pathology and subspecialty liver and gastrointestinal pathology, and research interests in pulmonary, pancreatic, and hepatic pathology.

In Dr. Carpenter's clinical work at SLU, she is the head liver and gastrointestinal pathologist for the Department of Pathology and Director of Autopsy services. She collaborates with clinicians and researchers alike on campus and beyond and is an active member of the NASH Clinical Research Network Pathology Committee. Dr. Carpenter is also committed to education of the next generation of doctors, serving as Director of the Liver/GI selective pathology fellowship and Associate Director of the pathology residency program.

On the personal side, Dr. Carpenter is devoted to her family and parish community in South County. Outside of work, she and her husband Jeff keep busy with their children—one newly minted teenager and one soon-to-be licensed driver.

Congratulations Dr. Carpenter!

CLINICAL STUDIES STAFF RECOGNITION EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL RESEARCH

One of the main objectives of the Saint Louis University Liver Center is to apply new technologies discovered by basic science and clinical research to the medical care of patients with liver disease.

While basic and clinical research are equally important, we took the opportunity at our recent Diamonds gala to recognize the staff members of the liver center who work very hard to successfully conduct liver disease clinical trials.

Expertise in the field of liver disease research by the renowned SLU Liver Center physician investigators, is the catalyst which attracts pharmaceutical industries to desire that Saint Louis University participate in their clinical trials. Because of this, it's important to note that the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology alone, does over 1/3 of all clinical trials that are conducted at Saint Louis University.



L to R: Lujain Jaza, Taffy Cole, Chelsea Stanfield, Kari Gaskill, Elizabeth Hoffman, Jan Freebersyser, Susan Torretta

Conducting these trials in a safe and efficient manner is critical to their success. Maintaining the integrity of clinical trials and the safety of enrolled patients is paramount and there isn't a better team of individuals to do this than the clinical trial research staff in the GI and Hepatology Clinical Trial Units at SLU. We recognized these individuals at the Diamonds Gala for their "Excellence in Clinical Research" and thanked them for all they do.

***Congratulations to the
Clinical Studies Staff!***



November, 2021

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 three fundraising events, Shoot for a Cure, Swing for a Cure, and the 19th annual Diamonds Gala. These events promoted understanding and awareness of liver disease while raising much needed funds for liver research. We appreciate everyone helping to keep the Liver Center Seed Grant program funded which supports research to find ways to prevent and cure liver disease.

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, over \$5.3 million has been raised for research at the Saint Louis University Liver Center which has supported **50 Liver Center Seed grants** 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 have generated over \$29 million in external funding, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other agencies, enabling the continuation of vital research by Saint Louis University Liver Center investigators. The seed grant funding program has produced a current Return on Investment of 17.5. Many of these research studies are now part of national and international research programs to find cures and treatments to liver diseases.*
- *Over **\$169,992** 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.*
- *Eight Summer Research Fellowships have been awarded, totaling **\$28,000**.*

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

Officers

Rochelle Henderson, PhD
Chair
Paul Azzara, Secretary

Board of Directors

Tim Eggleston
Jeff Gambaro
Adam Hutton
Mark Johnson
Kathleen Morris, RN

Ex Officio Members

Bruce R. Bacon, MD
Lou Ann Biermann, RN,
MSN
Brent Tetri, MD

Medical & Scientific Advisory Council

Bruce R. Bacon, MD
Alex S. Befeler, MD
Lou Ann Biermann, RN,
MSN
John E. Tavis, PhD
Brent A. Tetri, MD
Jeffrey H. Teckman, MD
Henry B. Randall, MD

Young Friends

Tim Eggleston
Katie Fakonas
Leslie Hodges
Annie McDermott
Maura McNamara
Joe Reinberg
Jennifer Sanwald
Jess Zvanut

Executive Director

Leisa Duff

Development Assistant

Laurie Mallon



1st Place—David Helms Team



2nd Place—Moore Computing Team



3rd Place—Trane Team



June 19, 2021



**Paul Azzara, Rochelle Henderson
Friends Board Members**



October 16, 2021



Vic Turvey & SLU Liver Center Team



Cadeau Team



Maureen Donlin, PhD



**SSM Health
Saint Louis University Hospital Guests**



August 19, 2021



Midland Optical Team



**Melanie Moss, Dawn Sheik,
Catherine Delmore**



Bill & Nancy Bourgeois



Dr. & Mrs. Ravi Nayak



Ude Team



Top Team, Flight #1-Commercial Bank



SLU Liver Center and SSM Health Diamonds Guests



SLU Internal Medicine Team



**Top Team, Flight #2-Henderson Team
receives prizes from Friends BOD Members,
Adam Hutton and Lou Ann Biermann**

SPECIAL THANKS TO 2021 CORPORATE SPONSORS!



Shotgun Salute to: Practice Area Sponsor



Friends Sponsors



Mr. & Mrs. Karl Reinlein



Team Sponsors

Evernorth

William Ford

David Helms - GM Law, PC

IP Symphony

RBF Wealth Advisors-Mark Johnson

RBF Wealth Advisors-Burk/Ward

Rosenblum Goldenhersh, PC

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.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS! Tournament Sponsor



SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Friends Team Sponsors

Anonymous Donor

Biermann Eye Health

Cadeau / Vince Klein

Commercial Bank

Community, A Walgreens Pharmacy

Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Gambaro

Rochelle Henderson

JP Morgan / Brett Siegfried

Midland Optical

Saint Louis University

Internal Medicine

Saint Louis University

Office of Medical School Development

SLUCare Physician Group

SSM Health

Saint Louis University Hospital

Stifel / Charlie Galli

Team "Bill"ikens

Robin Ude

Beverage Cart & Driving Range Sponsors

Commercial Bank

Saint Louis University

Liver Center Investigators

SLUCare Physician Group

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.



For a complete Thank You to Sponsors, Donors and In-kind Donors, visit the Friends website, event page:

www.friendsoftheslulc.org



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

GOLD SPONSORS

AbbVie

Intercept Pharmaceuticals

SSM Health

Saint Louis University Hospital

SILVER SPONSORS

Bausch Foundation

CIGNA

Emerson

Gilead

POLYPAY

BRONZE SPONSORS

Alberici Foundation

Antios Therapeutics

Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals

Dicerna

Dowd Bennett, LLP

Enanta Pharmaceuticals

Madrigal Pharmaceuticals

NGM Biopharmaceuticals

Renaissance Financial

SLUCare Center for Abdominal Transplantation

FRIENDS OF THE
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY LIVER CENTER

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, April 30, 2022
Swing for a Cure, June 13, 2022

Saint Louis University Researcher Awarded \$1.9M NIH Grant to Study Short Bowel Syndrome

Ajay Jain, M.D., professor of pediatrics, pharmacology, and physiology, received \$1,893,750 from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases of the National Institutes of Health. Bowel resection, a surgical procedure in which a diseased part of the intestine is removed, leads to SBS. Patients with SBS cannot maintain nutrition through regular feeding due to insufficient intestines. Such patients, in the absence of food, require intravenous nutrition via a process called Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN), Jain said. There are tens of thousands of patients worldwide permanently dependent on TPN for their survival. These include adults, children, and newborn babies. Despite being on a lifesaving TPN therapy, SBS patients suffer from potentially fatal liver and gut injury with many patients requiring a multi-visceral transplant. Thus, this is a major research focus in gastroenterology and hepatology, Jain said. He further states that results from their novel studies highlight that altered gut-derived signals play a major role in driving injury mechanisms in SBS. "If we could restore these signaling pathways, then we could bring a paradigm change in the management and care of these patients," Jain said.

This NIH grant will evaluate the impact of novel molecules that he has been working on in preclinical models, to test their efficacy in mitigating the multisystem injury in SBS. He will also explore new signaling pathways that would open a new area of therapeutic targeting. As part of this funding, Jain will also use organoids, a highly specialized technique where organs are grown in the lab for further validation and to gain mechanistic insights. "We believe that we are on the verge of creating sustainable options for our sickest patients with SBS with our translational research and such could prove transformative not only as a treatment but advance science in unlocking the mysteries of the gut to systemic signaling, with far-reaching consequences," Jain said.

An internationally recognized expert, Jain has received national and international awards for his work. This year, Jain was awarded the Gerard Odell Prize for Excellence in Liver by the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition. He was also recently awarded the international Stanley Dudrick Award from the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition.

The prestigious \$1.9 million grant builds on previous research Jain has conducted. Jain has also received grant funding from the National Institutes of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology Hepatology and Nutrition; the American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition Rhoads Research Foundation; the American Liver Foundation; Mid-America Transplant Foundation and industry partners. Additionally, seed funding through SLU's Liver Center and President's Research Fund allowed Jain to conduct early proof-of-concept studies.

Jain serves as the director of the M.D./Ph.D. program for SLU's School of Medicine. He is also a professor of pediatrics in the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology Hepatology and Nutrition in the SLU School of Medicine. He is a SLUCare pediatric hepatologist and gastroenterologist, the associate division chief of pediatric gastroenterology and the medical director of the pediatric liver transplant program at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital.



Ajay Jain, M.D.

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: infectious disease, liver disease, cancer, heart/lung disease, and aging and brain disorders.

SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital

A leading academic medical center, with a Level I Pediatric Trauma Center and Level IV NICU, SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital is a not-for-profit hospital staffed by the SLUCare Physician Group of Saint Louis University School of Medicine providing pediatric care to communities throughout Illinois, Missouri and beyond. At SSM Health Cardinal Glennon, we care for children and offer services beyond that support the overall well-being of our patients. We are committed not only to healing children today, but finding new ways to help them stay healthy in the future. SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital has been designated a Magnet® Hospital by ANCC.

Article by Bridges O'Neil, Communications Specialist, Saint Louis University

The future of medicine is **INSPIRING.**

Now Open: SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital

A new day has dawned in health care. Rooted in people and inspired by the future, our beautiful new hospital ushers in a modern standard for community and healing. Today is a bright day for all of us.



Floor-to-ceiling windows
Electronic smartboards
Meditation gardens
State-of-the-art technology


SSMHealth.
Saint Louis University Hospital

 **SLUCare**[®]
Physician Group

Visit [ssmhealth.com/Future](https://www.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.
St. Louis, MO 63104
Phone: 314-577-8764
Fax: 314-577-8125
Website: <http://livercenter.slu.edu>

Friends Board of Directors

Mrs. Rochelle Henderson, *Chairperson*
Mr. Paul Azzara, *Secretary*
Mr. Tim Eggleston
Mr. Jeffrey Gambaro
Mr. Adam Hutton
Mr. Mark Johnson
Mrs. Kathleen Morris

Ex Officio Members

Dr. Bruce R. Bacon
Ms. Lou Ann Biermann
Dr. Brent Tetri

Friends Staff

Leisa Duff, Executive Director
Laurie Mallon, Development Assistant

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

BE PART OF OUR TEAM:

314-576-3078

GENEROUS
GIVING
AWARENESS
SERVICES
HELPING
CHARITY
ALTRUISTIC
LIFE
VOLUNTEER
TIME
DONATIONS



JOIN US!

What's Coming Up?

- *Best of AASLD - December 4, 2021
- *Shoot for a Cure, Strathalbyn Farms Club, Weldon Spring, MO - April 30, 2022
- *Swing for a Cure - June 13, 2022
- *Diamonds Gala - Soon to be announced
- *AASLD - The Liver Meeting - Soon to be announced

For information on Friends events:

p: 314-576-3078

www.friendsoftheslulc.org



Special Thanks to newsletter Sponsor



SSMHealth

Saint Louis University Hospital