

# VOICES OFLIVER DISEASE



American Liver Foundation | Annual Report 2015



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the American Liver Foundation's 2015 annual report. This small volume documents a year of progress in challenging liver disease's position as one of the top 12 leading causes of death for Americans ages 25 to 64. This past year, we raised our voices every day.

In 2015, the American Liver Foundation launched our federal Advocacy Day in Washington, DC, a new annual initiative that will give us a greater voice on Capitol Hill. On behalf of 30 million Americans living with liver disease, our staff joined by members of our National Patient Advisory Committee (NPAC) made the case for increased allocations for liver research and a more pro-active public health response for testing and treatment for liver disease.

Our media-trained and well-informed NPAC members are at the heart of the Foundation's awareness raising activities. By courageously and generously sharing their stories, these men and women put a human face on liver disease, and give voice to the needs and concerns of liver patients everywhere.

Until very recently, the liver was rarely featured in the news outside of celebrity illnesses related to liver failure or hepatitis C. This is changing and for the better, and ALF's persistence and presence has played an important role in this transition. In 2015, rarely did a week go by without a mention of liver wellness or liver disease in the mainstream media as our aggressive communications strategy leveraged media opportunities like Veterans Day, Liver Awareness Month and local events to drive coverage.

We have shown that with the Foundation behind them, individuals navigating the rocky road of liver disease diagnosis and families learning how to care for their relatives become their own best advocates. We're providing information and services that build a broad support network. In addition to our national Helpline and extensive library of free print material, in 2015, ALF's digital impact expanded significantly. Our website activity surged to over 2 million visits. Nearly 100,000 people became followers of ALF's Facebook page and tens of thousands more are now following us via Twitter and on platforms like Instagram.

Our impact in the area of treatment and advocacy efforts to find a cure for liver disease continues to grow. The American Liver Foundation's research grant program galvanizes the medical community by funding scientific advancement, and our regional divisions bring local doctors and medical professionals together to share best treatment practices. More needs to be done. There is no doubt that liver disease research is underfunded in proportion to its medical impact on the American public, and we will continue to promote research and advocacy for greater funding.

This vitally important work could not be accomplished without the exciting events that ALF sponsors across the country that fund our mission, such as our signature event, the unique culinary experience, Flavors, and the Liver Life Walk. These fundraising events are also powerful awareness activities that engage the attention of millions.

In the pages that follow, you will meet some of the exceptional people who are part of our cause, bringing their energy, knowledge, resources, fresh thinking and commitment to our common purpose. They are the voices of liver disease, and like you, they are bringing us closer to a world free of liver disease.

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Thomas F. Nealon III National Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer



## **About the American Liver Foundation**

Founded in 1976, the American Liver Foundation (ALF) is the nation's largest patient advocacy organization for people living with liver disease. ALF reaches more than 2 million people each year with health information, education and support services via its national office, 16 regional U.S. divisions and an active online presence. Recognized as a trusted voice for liver disease patients, ALF also operates a national toll-free helpline, educates patients, policy makers and the public, and provides grants to early-career researchers to help find a cure for all liver diseases.

## **Board of Directors**

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"It has been a privilege to tell my story of overcoming liver disease on Capitol Hill. Let us all raise our voices and inspire others to action."

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The Give a Chip Campaign is our way of educating the public about liver disease while providing a way for folks to support research.

## **Jim Goldberg** Founder, Give a Chip Campaign

When I started my company, Deep River Snacks, I had two goals: make a living to support my family, and find a way to contribute to my community. Giving back has always been part of our ethos, and we started to put messaging about nonprofit causes that were important to our employees on our packages about 10 years ago.

But in 2010, when my son Meyer was 6, we found out that our little guy was seriously ill. He had been having nosebleeds, a tender tummy and other symptoms. For months, we kept taking him to doctors for a whole battery of tests. I was in an airport about to fly home when my wife called and told me the diagnosis. Meyer had an autoimmune liver disease.

I had no understanding of liver disease. I had no clue what it meant, and some days I feel like it's still sinking in. Slowly, I educated myself on it, with a lot of support from ALF.

And I realized it was time to get serious about what I could do personally to tell the story of liver disease, raise funds and figure out how to save our kid.



So we started the Give A Chip Campaign to donate a portion of our sales to ALF and to reach more people with information about liver disease.

Some people just get a bad

hand in life, and as a human being you need to be there to help out. You have to 'give a chip.' I love it when I get emails from people all over the country who read our packaging and reach out. Some are facing the same medical challenge. Recently, I heard from a father whose son has the same disease as Meyer. This man's other son was able to be a liver transplant donor. It was incredibly moving.

Meyer just loves dragons, so he has his own ALF Walk team called Meyer's Dragons. They turn out every year to help raise money. Friends, family, colleagues, neighbors. They all walk.

It makes such a difference to know that you are not alone, so we do all we can to work with ALF to raise our voices and be there for others. At the end of the day, you have to try to give more than you get.



Chef Mel (middle), Arizona Chef of the Year, has been a part of Flavors of Phoenix for 12 years.

## **Meliton "Mel" Mecinas**

#### Flavors of Phoenix Chef

I have made my home in Arizona for almost 20 years, and I believe that we all need to contribute to the health of our community. That is why I am so honored each year to be part of the annual Flavors event to raise money for the American Liver Foundation. If my skills as a chef can help attract people to this cause, then I say count me in!

Liver disease is a silent killer in the Hispanic community especially, so we all need to work together to bring attention to this and contribute the resources that will make better treatments available. Just recently a chef who is a dear friend of mine was cured of Hep C, and it makes me so happy to know that my participation in Flavors all these years may have helped make a difference in his health.

I don't raise my voice, but I raise my spatula at Flavors of Phoenix to help defeat liver disease.



The concept for Flavors, the American Liver Foundation's signature fundraising event, was developed in Phoenix 25 years ago and continues to thrive there as part of the region's fabulous culinary scene. In 2015, 36 leading chefs were invited to participate in Flavors of Phoenix and the event attracted more than 425 guests to experience a memorable evening of gourmet dining. Flavors events, which often include an inspiring speaker who is facing the challenges of liver disease, are hosted by ALF in 22 cities and raised nearly \$3 million in 2015 to fund the research, education and advocacy efforts of the American Liver Foundation.





Stuart Connelly at Mt. Shasta.

## *The ALF Liver Life Challenge is a celebration of my commitment to a world free of liver disease.*

## **Stuart Connelly** Liver Life Champion

Around the time of my 26th birthday in April 2015, I was diagnosed with primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC). Not the kind of birthday gift I had in mind.

PSC is a little known autoimmune disease that affects the bile ducts both outside and inside the liver. It causes scar tissue to build up and prevents the liver from functioning properly. Currently, there is no cure and no treatment. PSC patients usually face liver disease and transplant issues within a 10-year time frame from diagnosis.

Nothing prepares anyone for this. After a few trips to the ER, which led to a great gastroenterologist, I found a fantastic hepatologist who is involved directly in PSC research. Then I joined the San Francisco Bay Area division of the American Liver Foundation, and within weeks of my diagnosis, I signed up to climb Mt. Shasta, the second largest volcano in America.

When I started, I was weeks behind the other climbers in doing practice hikes, physical training and recruiting donors to sponsor my ALF Liver Life Climb. But that didn't stop me. I reconnected with my inner Boy Scout and trained in the short time I had to be able to handle a two-day climb carrying a 40-pound pack.

The many lessons I have learned throughout life have taught me to think clearly, stay positive and take action when faced with adversity. For me, part of that action has been raising my voice by being part of the ALF Liver Life Climb.

I know my efforts increased PSC awareness and provided research funds for the American Liver Foundation. I am proud to serve as the Liver Life Champion for the 2016 climb team so that together we can move forward toward our goal of a world without liver disease. I will continue to work with ALF for this cause so that others like myself will hopefully have a treatment and a cure someday soon.



The Liver Life Challenge brings together teams from across the country each year to participate in endurance events. By engaging friends and families in the cause, these committed athletes climb mountains and run marathons to raise millions of dollars that enable ALF to support liver disease research and promote programs.

## **Alonzo Younger**

Liver Life Walker

In mid 2014, I discovered I had liver disease. By January 2015, my liver had deteriorated to the point where I was put on the transplant waiting list, and my health continued to decline. By the grace of God, on the morning of May 16th, I was given a liver from a young donor who had unfortunately lost his life. Through the generosity and awareness of his family, my life was spared.

Each day that passes for me now is an incredible blessing, and if there is anything that I can do to help someone else have a future without liver disease, then sign me up! So now I'm not only walking, but running and talking to people about the seriousness of liver disease, the need for organ donation and the lack of information in the general public about this issue because many, many lives can be saved with increased awareness.





More than a walk, the LIVER LIFE WALK unites communities in the fight against liver disease. In 2015, 1,149 walk teams took to the streets and trails coast-to-coast to bring much needed awareness to the needs of millions of Americans who are battling more than 100 different types of liver disease. Their energy and enthusiasm raised crucial funds for life-saving research, education, support and advocacy.



I'm raising my voice to help my peers learn healthy liver habits at a time when they are making many lifestyle choices.

> Linda Siam, ALF intern and Teens to Twenties curriculum presenter at Temple University

## Ivory Allison

Teens to Twenties Outreach Curriculum Executive Director of the ALF Mid-Atlantic Division

When I joined ALF's Mid-Atlantic Division, it was to help manage their big events like the Liver Life Walk. Event management was my background, and to be honest, I didn't know that much about liver disease. Working with ALF has been an incredible eye-opener. I have learned so much and really came to realize how much work we have to continue to do to raise awareness.

ALF has strong outreach and education programs targeting school-age children, as well as adults, but I saw an opportunity to reach out to high school and college-age kids. The Teens to Twenties outreach curriculum that we put together builds on ALF's current programs and emphasizes prevention.

Tattoos and piercing are a fashion craze. You can't blame a teen for wanting to look cool, but many young people have absolutely no idea that they could be infected with Hep C from dirty ink at the tattoo studio.

Acetaminophen is often the go-to over-the counter medication for symptoms of a bad cold

or flu. And also the most commonly misused OTC drug. As young people start to take charge of their own health, they need to be aware of the dangers of easy mistakes, like taking too large a dose or simultaneously using more than one medication that contains acetaminophen.

Binge drinking is a serious problem on college campuses. In addition to the immediate risks from partying too hard, excess alcohol consumption can have long-term health consequences that college students might not be thinking about. And drinking is often part of the equation that can lead to infection with sexually-transmitted diseases like hepatitis B. The Teens to Twenties curriculum explains the impact of alcohol and Hep B on the liver as well as prevention tactics like Hep B vaccination.

Young people need solid information to make the right choices, and I am so proud that this new curriculum is now in use across the country.

### **Carolyn Evans** PBC Patient & Volunteer Counselor

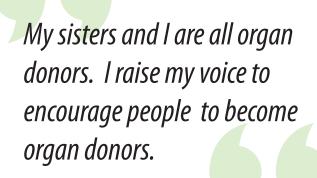
I have lived with primary biliary cholangitis (PBC) since 1992 when I was 32. I was a young mother. I had two kids, my dad had recently died, and I had a bad cold that would just not clear up. I was so exhausted. Ultimately I was diagnosed with PBC. In 2006, I received a living donor transplant and have just celebrated my 10th year post transplant!

I feel that I have learned a lot that can help others, especially the newly diagnosed and their family members. ALF provides so much support to people living with liver disease and valuable forums for patient education, so I have been an active volunteer with ALF for over two years. In January, as part of its series of patient education webinars, I joined Dr. Cynthia Levy, a nationally-known hepatologist, to give people an opportunity online to ask the medical and personal questions that are keeping them awake at night. It was amazing. Hundreds of people logged on to hear what I had to say, and it was my honor to share my experiences with them. Through ALF, I also meet with other PBC patients one-on-one to talk about living with the disease. For example, when I was first diagnosed, I was told that I would not be able to have another child. I didn't feel my family was complete yet, and I didn't want to accept that. I was able to find doctors who could guide me to a healthy pregnancy, and today I have a wonderful son who has been healthy for more than 21 years. So when I met with a woman who had been diagnosed with PBC and had also been told she would never be able to have children – I was able to give her renewed hope. I shared ALF resources about managing PBC, treatment protocols and child bearing information and encouraged her to explore the options for pregnancy with her doctor.

With education and support, PBC patients can have a full life. I tell people, don't live in the past and don't fear the future. Take your life one day at a time and enjoy every minute of it.

My goal is to give others living with PBC practical and supportive advice about how to prevent the disease from limiting their lives.





Juli Scarfo, Phil Scarfo's daughter

### **Philip Scarfo** ALF National Director of Education & Training

HERE IS SO MUCH

Working for ALF these past 10 years has been a mission for me. I had nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) which causes liver damage. I've had a transplant, and every time I am able to offer someone hope, I feel so good.

A lot of my day consists of taking calls on the ALF HELPLINE and training new employees and volunteers who we send out to represent ALF and provide patient education. I can give them a very personal perspective.

Weight has been a problem for me my whole life. As a teen I was diagnosed with Type 1, juvenile diabetes. By 21, I was well on my way to major medical problems. The terminology for NASH, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, wasn't really in use when I was diagnosed at 25 with liver disease almost 40 years ago. Now NASH has become so prevalent.

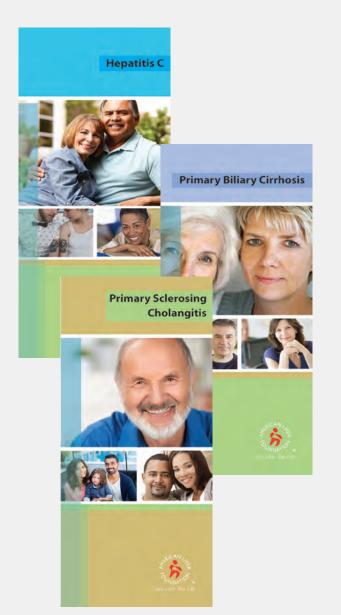
I waited 5 years for a liver transplant, and finally had the surgery 15 years ago when I was in my early

fifties. Recovery after the transplant wasn't easy, but it was worth the struggle, and I consider myself lucky. Without it, I would not have been here to see my three daughters grow up and graduate from college.

So many people who call in every single day need practical and educational information. The team who answer the HELPLINE are not clinicians, but we help people to understand better what their doctor is telling them, give them helpful resources and help them get into a better state of mind.

We refer people to the informative educational materials that ALF has produced, and we talk to them about how they can be proactive about adjusting their lifestyle to live a healthy life.

All my daughters have genetic factors that could lead to NASH, and like me, my daughter Juli has always had weight issues. I am so proud of the steps she has taken to radically change her lifestyle to manage her diet and exercise. She is an inspiration.





Your Liver. Your Life.

The American Liver Foundation provides education and support services at the national level and at the local level through our active divisions across the country. The programs are tailored for people of all ages, whether they are living with liver disease or are at-risk.

For individuals who have liver disease or a family member who is struggling with these medical challenges, ALF reaches out with support and information through webinars, web-based educational materials and online support groups. The national Helpline, 1-800-G0-LIVER, is a heavily used one-on-one resource and offers real-time interpretation services in 20 languages.

ALF's educational curriculums for local use include the Liver Wellness program, which is presented in community settings such as libraries, hospitals, civic organizations, as well as corporate employee wellness sessions, and Love Your Liver, an age-appropriate program for elementary, middle school and high school students that focuses on liver health, risk factors and prevention. The new Teens to Twenties curriculum addresses maturing young adults.

To support these programs, ALF produces widely-distributed educational materials on 31 liver topics that are available to the public at no cost and have been translated into Spanish, Chinese and Russian.





If a person has reason to believe they have Hep C, there should be funding available to pay for testing. We have to raise our voices to make that policy.

## **Bob Rice** Veteran, Counselor and Advocate

Frankly, I don't know how I got Hep C. I'm a veteran, and statistically we have high rates of Hep C. Maybe I got it during my service in the military. Maybe I got it from bad behavior when I was younger. I figure it doesn't matter how, it matters that I found out, got treated and got cured.

I consider myself a miracle. I had a liver transplant and then I had treatment so the Hep C virus wouldn't attack my new liver. Fortunately, my insurance company covered the cost of the medication. I've been very lucky and that's why I do what I do now. I head to Capitol Hill in DC for ALF Advocacy Day each year and speak up. We need to work together to remove the obstacles to testing and treatment.

There is a cure for Hep C now, but many health insurers are denying access to this new treatment because it is so costly. They require that the person be diagnosed with late stage cirrhosis before they will approve treatment coverage. I don't believe insurance companies should have the right to deny access to the cure until the person gets sicker first. And it's not smart financially. The pills are very expensive, but the alternative is sky-high medical bills as your health deteriorates.

I work as a counselor at a halfway house for guys who had drug and alcohol addictions. I bring in people who do testing and education for the guys. I try to point them in the right direction. Of the 95 men in the group, 65% have Hep C that we know of. They should be getting treatment now so they don't expose other people to the virus.

There was one young man that we set up with a primary care doc who set him up with treatment. He went through the program, stayed clean, got treatment and was cured. That meant a lot to me. Everyone deserves the chance for treatment and a better life.



## Working Together for Change

In addition to hosting an annual advocacy day on Capitol Hill and awareness days at the state level, the American Liver Foundation teams up with other national nonprofits advocating to increase research, treatment options and support for people with liver disease.

ALF also maintains a National Patient Advisory Committee, a group of media-trained advocates who have been impacted by liver disease (HCV, PBC, NASH, NAFLD, and more.). These committed volunteers are integral to our change efforts. They demonstrate that, by raising our voices together, we all have an even greater impact.

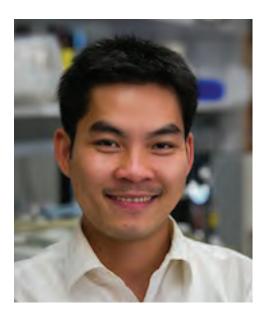






#### **Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty** U.S. House of Representatives, Connecticut 5th District

Because of new medications, for the first time, we have the opportunity to cure more than 90 percent of patients infected with hepatitis C and offer people a better quality of life while undergoing treatment. I'm standing with ALF to increase awareness and participation in organ donation. There needs to be a greater focus on awareness and public education campaigns that will improve knowledge about organ transplantation and make it easier for people to become donors.



## **Dr. Doan Dao** Recipient, ALF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

I have worked in the area of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection from basic research to clinical science and patient care as well as outreach/advocacy programs for more than 9 years. I have family members who are infected with Hep B, and liver disease is epidemic is my home country of Vietnam and highly prevalent in the Asian American community here. So this is personal for me.

But honestly, when I moved to the U.S. from Vietnam when I was 18, I had no idea about the dimensions of this public health crisis. When I decided to become a doctor, I took two years off from medical school to do research and became increasingly aware of the complexity of liver disease, as well as the unmet needs for treatment and support in America and in Southeast Asia.

As a scientist, I am extremely engaged by the complexity of the disease itself, and very grateful for the Fellowship support that I received from ALF to continue my research into Hep B. We need better ways to conduct animal research on mice, and I am part of a large group of scientists around the world who are tackling these barriers at the

genetic level, so that we can make faster progress in understanding the disease and developing treatment.

Part of the problem is that liver disease research is underfunded, given how many people suffer with it and how deadly it can be. Because the disease progresses more slowly than something like a heart attack, the threat of the disease doesn't seem as imminent. That is a mistaken perception that must be reversed.

Scientific progress is essential but so is building awareness and community. At the local level in Texas, at the national level here, and in my home country of Vietnam I am trying to bring people together to raise awareness and provide more of a medical and community infrastructure for disease education and support. I believe the liver disease community needs to be increasingly vocal to advocate for policy changes and funding. ALF is a tremendous inspiration, and I am committed to raise my voice with ALF.

## **Funding Research to Change the Future**

Research is integral to the work of the American Liver Foundation and is essential to finding new ways to prevent, treat and cure liver disease. Supporting early-career scientists is critical to this effort. In fiscal year 2015, ALF provided \$275,000.

#### **Liver Scholar Award**

#### Debanjan Dhar, PhD

University of California, San Diego The Mechanistic Role of CD44 in the Initiation and Progression of Fibrosis and HCC Mentor: Michael Karin, PhD

#### **Postdoctoral Research Awards Fellowships**

#### Silvia Affò, PhD

John M. Vierling, MD Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Columbia University Fate tracing of portal fibroblasts in biliary fibrosis and cholangiocarcinoma Mentor: Robert F. Schwabe, MD

#### Soumik BasuRay, PhD

Alexander M. White, III Memorial Postdoctoral Research Fellowship University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center *Role of PNPLA3 in Fatty Liver Disease* Mentor: Helen H. Hobbs, MD

#### Maude Boisvert, PhD

Hepatitis Fund for the Cure Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Centre de Recherche du Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal Dynamics of CD4 T Cell Responses/Viral Evolution During Multiple Episodes of HCV Infection Mentor: Naglaa H. Shoukry, PhD

#### Petra Hirsova, PhD

Roger L. Jenkins, MD Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Mayo Clinic Role of Extracellular Vesicles in Pathogenesis of Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis Mentor: Gregory J. Gores, MD

#### Yue Li, PhD

Irwin M. Arias, MD Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Brigham and Women's Hospital Tissue-Specific Subcellular Localization of Thioesterase Superfamily Member 1 in the Pathogenesis of Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease Mentor: David E. Cohen, MD, PhD

#### Macarena A. Lolas, MD, PhD

American Society of Transplantation Postdoctoral Research Fellowship University of California, San Francisco The Role of 3D Cellular Interactions in Promoting Functional Hepatic Organoid Formation from Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells Mentor: Tammy T. Chang, MD, PhD

#### Jessica L. Maiers, PhD

Hans Popper Memorial Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Mayo Clinic *TANGO1 Regulates Collagen Secretion and Fibrogenesis* Mentor: Vijay H. Shah, MD

#### Ashley M. Mohr, PhD

Charles Trey, MD Memorial Postdoctoral Research Fellowship University of Nebraska Medical Center FGFR4: Regulation of miR-93 and Characterization of a Novel FGFR4 Fragment Mentor: Justin L. Mott, MD, PhD

#### Alejandro Torres-Hernández, MD

Thomas F. Nealon, III Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Honoring Zachary Rue New York University School of Medicine *GM-CSF Regulation of Liver Fibrosis* Mentor: George Miller, MD

#### Jun Xu, PhD

Herman Lopata Memorial Hepatitis Postdoctoral Research Fellowship University of California, San Diego *The Roles of Fibrocytes During Hepatitis Induced Fibrogenesis* Mentor: Tatiana Kisseleva, MD, PhD



## **Michele Carver**

National Patient Advisory Committee member and media spokesperson

When I was diagnosed with hepatitis C in 2010, I thought how could this happen to me? I knew something was wrong when I was tired all the time. I usually run and I go to the gym, but all I wanted to do every day after work was come home and go to bed. Then when blood work revealed Hep C, I was shocked, afraid and embarrassed by the stigma of this disease.

I don't know how I contracted the virus, although I suspect a blood transfusion that I had years ago. My family was very supportive and encouraged me to find a really good doctor. He wanted to put me on medication but it cost \$1,000 a pill. No kidding. That was way out of reach for me, but I wanted to live and see my kids grow up and get married. Fortunately, my doctor was able to include me in a research study that delivered the medication to my home. I had treatment for 24 months, and now I am 100% free of the virus.

I am proud to be a part of the ALF National Patient Advisory Committee so that I can raise my voice to speak out about the need to make this life-saving medication available to people with Hep C. I want to tell the world, you should get tested, don't be afraid, there is a cure.





## Leveraging Media Reach

The American Liver Foundation has established itself as a resource for journalists covering a wide array of stories about liver disease—from health policy to drug development. This year media including the Washington Post, CNN, CBS News, ESPN, NPR, and Reuters have turned to the ALF to provide information and insights regarding liver health and liver disease.

We have taken positions and spoken out about issues key to the liver community and the patients we serve, such as equal access to hepatitis C medications for patients who rely on Medicaid and the need for greater parity in livers available for transplant nationwide.

ALF has also been proactive about using opportunities like

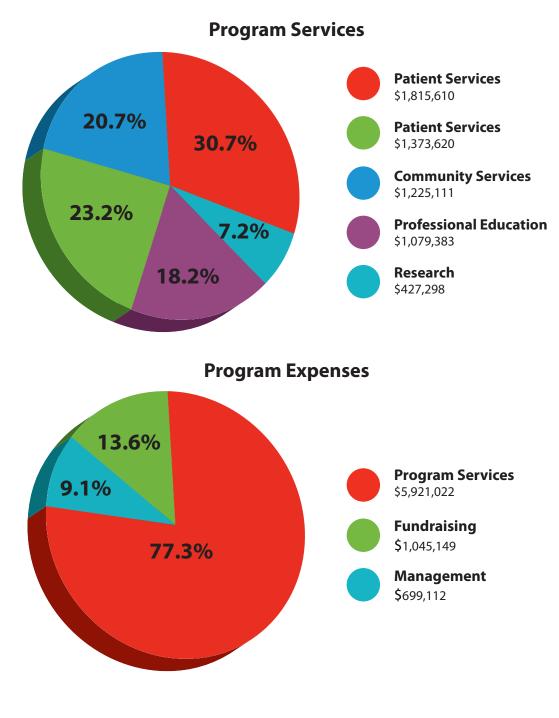
Liver Cancer Awareness Month and Veterans Day to line up interviews for our leadership, doctors and patient advocates, so their powerful voices can raise awareness through national and local media.

Raising our voice through media across the country, we reached almost 20 million viewers and listeners of local news on TV and radio stations like these:

WCBC-AM Washington, DC WTMJ-TV Milwaukee KUSI-TV San Diego WOWK-TV Charleston KTVD Denver WINT-AM Cleveland KYMA-TV Yuma WOCA-AM Orlando WFSB-TV Hartford WYRQ-FM Minneapolis KASA-TV Albuquerque KRIV-TV Houston

## **Where Your Money Goes**

With your support, the American Liver Foundation can continue to educate the public about liver health and wellness, provide assistance to families and caregivers, and work to find better treatments and cures.



Please help us continue this vital work by giving to the American Liver Foundation at

#### LiverFoundation.org/Donate

#### **Balance Sheet**

Assets	2015	2014
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$668,425	\$1,176,018
Investments	2,519,312	2,495,580
Contributions Receivable	593,227	244,684
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	242,936	234,567
Property and Equipment, Net	132,851	346,916
Total Assets	\$4,156,751	\$4,497,765
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities:		
Accrued Expenses	\$229,184	\$253,419
Payroll & Related liabilities	284,780	250,765
Funds Held on Behalf of Others	829,312	859,702
Awards and Grants Payable	206,250	150,000
Deferred Rent Payable	208,126	218,889
Loan Payable	-	553,295
Total Liabilities	1,757,652	2,286,070
Net Assets Surplus/(Deficit)		
Unrestricted	(283,235)	(142,748)
Temporarily Restricted	1,690,299	1,362,408
Permanently Restricted	992,035	992,035
Total Net Assets	2,399,099	2,211,695
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$4,156,751	\$4,497,765

#### **Statement of Activities**

Public Support & Revenues	2015	2014
Contributions	\$2,575,492	\$2,483,904
Investment Income, Net	13,750	158,246
Other	10,762	1,523
Gain on sale of property	183,049	-
Special Events, Net of Direct Expenses	5,069,634	5,579,833
Total Public Support & Revenues	7,852,687	8,223,506
Program Services		
Public Education	1,815,610	1,543,042
Research	427,298	315,018
Professional Education	1,079,383	934,718
Patient Services	1,373,620	1,303,987
Community Services	1,225,111	1,345,437
Total Program Services	5,921,022	5,442,202
Supporting Services		
Management & General	699,112	548,494
Fundraising	1,045,149	1,180,223
Total Support Services	1,744,261	1,728,717
Total Cost of Program & Supporting Services	7,665,283	7,170,919
Change in Net Assets	187,404	1,052,587
Net Assets, beginning of year	2,211,695	1,159,108
Net Assets, end of year	\$2,399,099	\$2,211,695

## **National Medical Advisory Committee**

#### **Co-Chairs**

Nancy Reau, MD Rush University Medical Center

Hillel Tobias, MD, PhD NYU Langone Medical Center

#### Members

**Ghassan Abou-Alfa, MD** Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

Talal Adhami, MD Cleveland Clinic

**Jasmohan Bajaj, MD** Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine

**Christopher Bowlus, MD** UC Davis Health System

**Douglas Dieterich, MD** Mount Sinai Hospital

**Joshua Friedman, MD** The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania

John Goff, MD University of Colorado School of Medicine

**Robert W. Herring, MD** The University of Tennessee – Methodist

**F. Blaine Hollinger, MD** Baylor College of Medicine **Kris Kowdley, MD** University of Washington in Seattle

Mauricio Lisker-Melman, MD Washington University School of Medicine

**Rohit Loomba, MD, MHSc** University of California at San Diego

Andrew J. Muir, MD Duke University Medical Center

John Polio, MD<sup>+</sup> Connecticut Gastroenterology Associates, P.C.

Adnan Said, MD University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

**Rohit Satoskar, MD** Georgetown University Medical Center Transplant Institute

**Coleman Smith, MD** University of Minnesota Medical Center

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Allan Doerr, ALF Board Member and parent of a child with liver disease

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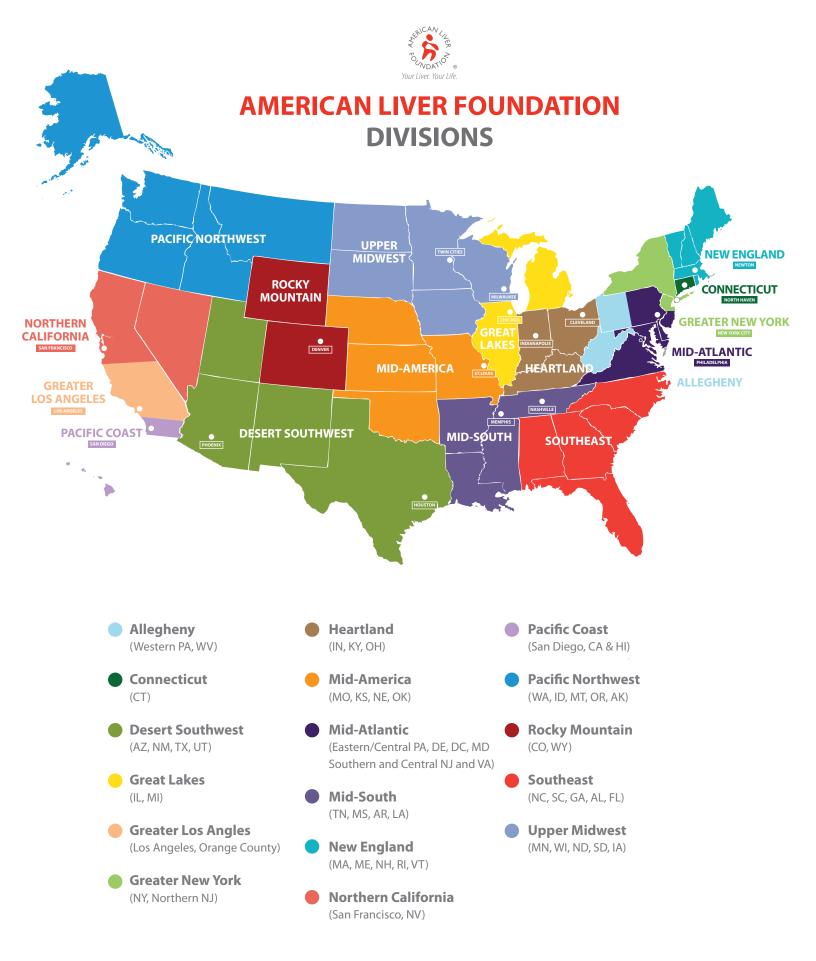
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## **2015 Division Highlights**

All year long, across the country, ALF's local divisions are active in their region to raise awareness, provide support and education to people living with liver disease and their families, and to fund the mission so we can continue and expand this work. Following are highlights of their many accomplishments this year.

January. Volunteers from ALF's **Greater Los Angeles** and **Northern California Divisions** joined other West Coast residents in San Francisco for a two-day training to become members of our National Patient Advisory Committee.

**February.** The **Great Lakes Division** held its 12th annual Academic Debates, a CME accredited educational program for the medical community of the Great Lakes region. The purpose of this program is to address controversial issues pertaining to liver disease treatment, current and best practices, and new research in hepatology. The Academic Debates are attended annually by more than 150 medical professionals.

**March.** The **New England Division** partnered with the Wachusett Area Rotary Club to raise awareness about the high rates of hepatitis C (HCV) among Baby Boomers, making presentations to members at local Rotary Clubs about the impact of the disease and the importance of getting tested.

**April.** The **Mid-South Division** held its annual Spring liver symposium, focused on exploring community approaches to the detection and treatment of viral hepatitis. A Fall symposium provided updates on nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) and nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH).

The **Greater New York Division** held its first Liver Rebirthday of the year on Long Island to bring together those who have had a liver transplant and their families to celebrate the gift of life and to learn more about liver transplantation from leading specialists.

**May.** May is National Hepatitis Awareness Month and ALF took action across the nation. Our **Desert Southwest Division** partnered with local organizations to coordinate HCV testing days in **Houston** and **Phoenix**. ALF divisions also coordinated similar events in **Philadelphia**, **New York** and **New England**. Also this month, our **Mid-Atlantic Division** focused on autoimmune hepatitis (AIH) and teamed up with Einstein Hospital to offer educational programming to those living with AIH.

June. The **New England Division** held its monthly educational series for patients, collaborating with Lahey Hospital and Medical Center to offer a program that focused on transplantation and living donor transplants.

**July.** ALF held its first Flavors of Miami event, bringing together some of Miami's top chefs, business leaders, individuals living with liver disease and health care professionals to raise money and awareness for research and patient services.

**August.** The **Mid America Division** continued its viral hepatitis education program with the Jefferson County Health Department, producing one of its four annual testing events.

**September.** The **Heartland Division** hosted its tenth annual Liver Matters conference, attracting nearly 100 medical professionals from Ohio for nine educational sessions on liver cancer and the future perspectives in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) management.

The **Pacific Coast Division** hosted an educational conference for patients, providers and caregivers.

**October.** ALF's **Northern California Division** hosted a Liver Cancer Lecture Program for patients and their families with Dr. Jennifer Guy, MD – the Medical Director of the Liver Cancer Program at California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC).

The **Connecticut Division** helped launch a new "Passport Program" on organ donation awareness using a health fair format with volunteers from the Yale New Haven Hospital transplant program, organ procurement organizations, Donate Life Connecticut and ALF staffing exhibit tables to provide information.

**November.** Our **Great Lakes Division** partnered with the Veterans Administration (VA) to hold a HCV testing and education day for a high-risk veteran population.

**December.** ALF's **Upper Midwest Division**, which offers educational programs for medical professionals throughout the year, brought together 100 local professionals for a post AASLD Liver Meeting program to learn about key findings that had been presented at the national conference.

**Rocky Mountain Division** Board Member, Carleen McGuffy, and her family continued to raise awareness about liver disease. Throughout 2015, her husband and son climbed mountains throughout Colorado and outside the state. They brought a banner up to the top of each mountain, which garnered successful television and newspaper coverage, and inspired us all to do even more in 2016.





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