



# Updates from Liver Forum and IOM Initiative

## Paris NASH Symposium

Institute Pasteur

Veronica Miller, PhD

School of Public Health, UC Berkeley

July 1, 2016



# Disclosures

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development and health policy*

Over the last two years, the Forum has received unrestricted educational or research contributions from:

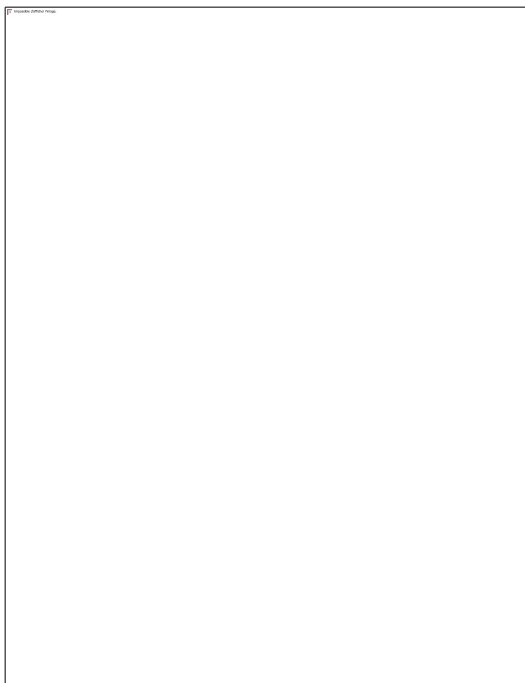
Abbot; Abbvie; Achillion; Akarna Therapeutics; Alere; Astellas; Astra-Zeneca; Biogen; BioRAD; Boehringer Ingelheim; Bristol-Myers Squib; Cell Medica; Chimerix; Cocystal Pharma, Inc.; Covance; DDL Diagnostics; DeuteRx; DiaPharma; DS Biopharma; Echosens; Exalenz; Fibrogen; Fractyl; Galectin Therapeutics; Genentech; Genfit; Gilead Sciences; GlaxoSmithKline; ICON; Illumina; Immuron; Intercept; Ironwood Pharmaceuticals; Janssen; Kaiser Permanente; LabCorp; Lilly; Madrigal Pharmaceuticals; Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals; MediciNova; Medivir; Merck Laboratories; Microbiotix; Monogram; Mylan; NGM Biopharmaceuticals; Nimbus Therapeutics; Nitto Denko Technical Corp; Novartis; Novo Nordisk Inc.; Nusirt; Orasure; OWL Metabolomics; Pacific Biosciences; Perspectum Diagnostics; Pfizer; PPD Inc.; Presidio; Qiagen; Quest; Quintiles; Raptor Pharmaceuticals; Resonance Health; Roche Molecular Systems; Roivant Sciences; RuiYi; Salix (Valeant); SeraCare; Schinazi Family Foundation; Shire; Somalogic; Takeda; Tobira; ViiV Healthcare; VLVBio; Zafgen and Zealand Pharma.



# Full Disclosure

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Happy Canada Day!



# Improving the Health of the Public

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- **Drug Development(what):**
  - Process of bringing a new pharmaceutical drug to the market once a lead compound has been identified through the process of drug discovery
- **Regulatory Science (how):**
  - Science of developing new tools, standards and approaches to assess the safety, efficacy, quality and performance of all FDA regulated products
- **Public Health Goal (why):**
  - Maximizing benefit of treatment while decreasing safety risk



# Path to Improved Access to Drugs and Diagnostics

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1. Discover and develop diagnostics and therapeutics (R&D)
2. Develop regulatory path, review and approve diagnostics and therapeutics
3. Bring to Market
4. Implement
  - Screening, diagnosis, treatment
  - Treatment guidelines
  - Reimbursements



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# From Yesterday

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- NASH
  - We don't know how to find it
  - We don't know how to define it
  - We can't diagnose it
  - We don't have an indication for treatment
- We don't even know how to name it
- BUT –
  - We know it's an unmanageably huge public health problem for children, adolescents and adults across the world



# NASH Challenge to Industry

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- Development of new therapeutics in absence of
  - Realistic and pragmatic regulatory path
  - Validated and accepted biomarkers
    - Diagnostic, prognostic, predictive and surrogate endpoint
  - Precise definitions of disease stages/progression
- Requires co-evolution of diagnostics and therapeutics





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# Challenge to Regulators

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- Develop regulatory guidance in an area where none existed
- Safeguard the health of the public while fostering innovation



# Challenge to NASH Community

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- Likely need for combination treatment
  - When is it safe to combine?
- Long-term follow up vs. placebo
  - Ethics? Feasibility?
- Research in pediatrics
  - When is it appropriate to test new drugs in children and adolescents?

*Open*

## Accelerated Access to Innovative Medicines for Patients in Need

LG Baird<sup>1</sup>, R Banken<sup>2</sup>, H-G Eichler<sup>3</sup>, FB Kristensen<sup>4</sup>, DK Lee<sup>5</sup>, JCW Lim<sup>6</sup>, R Lim<sup>5</sup>, C Longson<sup>7</sup>, E Pezalla<sup>8</sup>, T Salmonson<sup>9</sup>, D Samaha<sup>2</sup>, S Tunis<sup>10</sup>, J Woodcock<sup>11</sup> and G Hirsch<sup>1</sup>

- Current “siloes” system increases development cost, time and risk
- Inefficient use of accelerated access programs
- FDASIA Legislation (2012): apply principles more broadly
- Increased cross-jurisdictional and cross-functional interaction
- Increased engagement of all stakeholders



## THE KEYSTONE NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE ON ESTABLISHMENT OF STUDIES TO OPTIMIZE MEDICAL MANAGEMENT OF HIV INFECTION

FINAL REPORT

AUGUST 2, 1996

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** Significant government and private sector efforts in basic and applied research have led to an explosion of *new scientific knowledge that could transform the battle against HIV infection*. There are new insights into the pathogenesis of HIV infection, greatly improved monitoring tools, and increasingly effective antiretroviral therapies that more profoundly suppress the epidemic the opportunity may exist to transform the disease from a relentlessly progressive disease to a condition, reduce transmissibility of the virus, and prevent the virus from replicating itself. In order to take advantage of this

CP → SN

TECHNOLOG

### Groups Unite on New AIDS Drug Therapies

By MICHAEL WALDHOLE

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Representatives from 40 public and private organizations have forged an unprecedented alliance to press for answers to the many vexing questions surrounding the new combination-drug therapies that are showing early yet profound success against the virus that causes AIDS.

The coalition will help organize research to determine which of the new drug "cocktails" work best, when should therapy be initiated, and what steps can be taken to avoid the development of widespread drug resistance that could devastate the new therapies' effectiveness.

"The new treatments have a degree of complexity not faced before in AIDS," said Linda DiSlerath, a Merck & Co. official who is a member of the organization. She added that the group will try to "facilitate and coordinate" numerous clinical trials in the next few years.

The coalition includes officials from the White House and several government-health agencies, several pharmaceutical companies, research-medical centers, private and government health insurers, and patient-advocacy groups. The representatives came together earlier this year after Vice President Al Gore held an initial meeting with many of the participating organizations.

"This is precisely the kind of dialogue patient-treatment advocates have been asking for years," said David Barr of the Gay Men's Health Crisis, New York. "One thing that's been very frustrating to us over the years is the lack of coordination

and conversation among

Under the auspices of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, a Colorado nonprofit organization, officials met privately in Denver on Friday, the first day of the President Gore and announced partnership, to be called the Forum for Collaborative HIV Research.

In recent months, several drugs that combining several drugs can suppress HIV more potently than any one drug. The new drugs, called protease inhibitors, have been available since 1995. But already there is evidence that using older drugs, such

### Y & HEALTH

skipping the regimen can allow the virus to re-emerge, perhaps in a form that is resistant to all existing medicines.

Moreover, doctors and patients are confused as to how best to combine the medicines. Constance Benson, a research physician at Rush Medical College, Chicago, said she and her colleagues are uncertain because the new drugs were approved quickly, following only limited safety and effectiveness trials.

"We need a more rational way to answer the questions our patients ask us," Dr. Benson said. "They want to know when to go on the therapy, how long they need to take the drugs, which drugs to start with, when can they stop."

Initially, the Forum will encourage several large-scale drug trials to test which of various treatment strategies works best.

One already under development will involve several thousand patients and last three to five years. "[The trials] will require an enormous amount of financial resources, the cooperation of many drug companies" and many medical centers and other groups, such as Veterans Administration hospitals, health-maintenance organizations, and state and federal-government insurers, such as Medicaid, Dr. Benson said.

### Nordson's New Facility in India

WESTLAKE, Ohio—Nordson Corp. said it established a facility in India, Nordson India Pvt. Ltd., to market materials-applications technologies, increasing the company's world-wide direct operations to 31.

### Dimension X Inc.

Microsoft Corp. has agreed to license three-dimensional graphics technology from a little-known San Francisco start-up, Dimension X Inc., a closely held company with 35 employees, said Microsoft will use its software technology in future versions of Internet Explorer, Microsoft's software for browsing the Internet's multimedia World Wide Web. The start-up's products include Liquid Reality, a tool for creating and viewing Web sites that have a 3-D appearance. Microsoft said it will use Dimension X software based on industry specifications called VRML 2.0, and combine it with a technology called ActiveX that Microsoft is promoting as a standard way to create moving images inside a Web page. Terms weren't disclosed.



# Accelerating Access to Better and Safer Drugs for All

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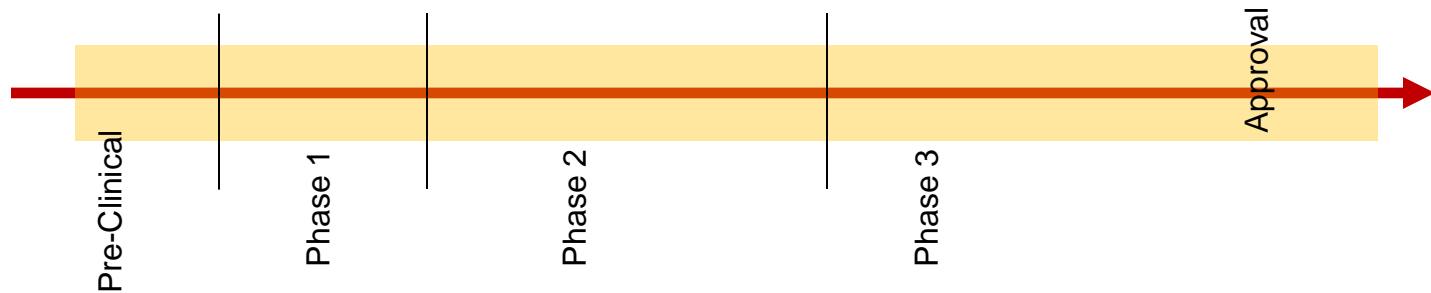
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- **Forum Model:**
  - Stakeholder collaborative model
    - ◉ Process of dialogue and deliberation
    - ◉ Government, industry, academia, community
    - ◉ HIV
    - ◉ HCV, CMV/transplant recipients, HBV
  - Identify gaps and barriers
    - ◉ Recommend consensus, solutions, fund/engage in new research path



# Clinical research & post-marketing commitments

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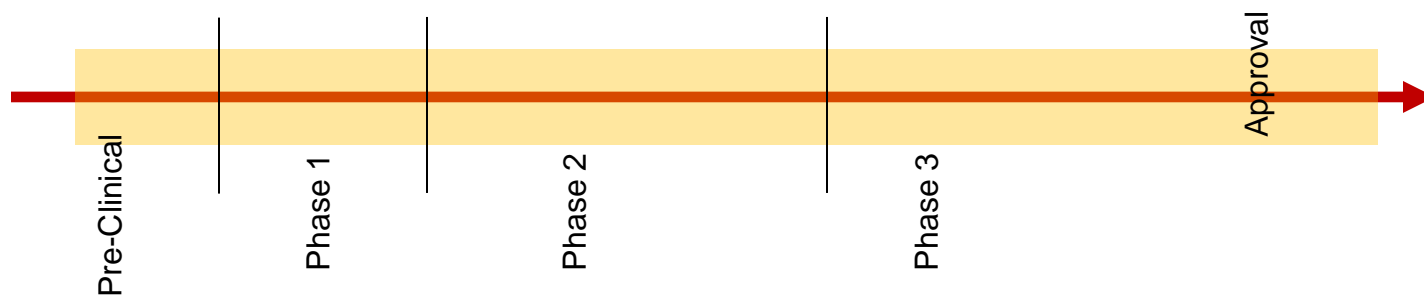


- **Expected costs and time to registration?**
  - Uncertainty regarding acceptability of study designs
  - Interagency discordance on trial designs & acceptable endpoints
  - Post-marketing safety requirements
  - Inefficient investigator and patient recruitment



# Regulatory Process

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- **Sponsor ↔ Agency**
  - Single sponsor
  - Single agency
  - Confidential proceedings
- **Advantages of Forum model**
  - Involvement of *all* concerned stakeholders
  - Cross-Atlantic regulatory perspectives
  - Cross-Atlantic academic and patient/community perspective



# Organizational Model

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- Informal yet structured
  - Allow organic growth
  - Lack of bureaucracy
- “Non-player ecosystem orchestrator”
- “Multi-stakeholder partnerships that enables adaptive management”
- Experts participate as individual experts, not officially representing their respective organizations
- Not for attribution





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# Key Characteristics

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- “Information Democracy”
- Non-competitive, safe environment
- Independent
- Co-ownership
- Synergy vs. duplication
- Transparency



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# Impact on Drug Development

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- **Increase**
  - Clarity
  - Efficiency
  - Collaboration
  - Innovation
- **Decrease**
  - Uncertainty
  - Redundancy
  - Development time
  - Risk



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# Win-Win

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- Accelerate drug development not by lowering standards of evidence, but by increasing efficiency through collaboration



# The Liver Forum: Facilitating Drug Development For NASH

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- Independent and neutral venue for evolving consensus on drug development and regulatory issues
  - *Increase* clarity, efficiency, innovation
  - *Decrease* uncertainty, redundancy, time, risk
- Safe space
- Collaboration
- Win-Win

## **One table:**

- Regulators
  - FDA
  - EMA
- Academic
  - US
  - Europe
- Societies
  - AASLD
  - EASL
- Industry
  - Pharma, biotech, diagnostic
- Patients



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# NASH Drug Development

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- Phase 2b trials
  - 2014: 4
  - 2016: >50



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# Precipitating Event

**HEPATOLOGY**

Official Journal of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases



## SPECIAL ARTICLE

### **Challenges and Opportunities in Drug and Biomarker Development for Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis: Findings and Recommendations From an American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases–U.S. Food and Drug Administration Joint Workshop**

Arun J. Sanyal,<sup>1</sup> Scott L. Friedman,<sup>2</sup> Arthur J. McCullough,<sup>3</sup> and Lara Dimick-Santos<sup>4</sup>

- Need for ongoing dialogue and interaction
- One-off efforts raise issues but do not resolve them
- Apply HIV Forum model



# Liver Forum Timeline

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2013:

AASLD-FDA joint workshop

Recruit AASLD and EASL leadership

Q4 2013/Q1 2014

Recruit FDA and EMA participation

Q4 2013/Q1 2014

Develop concept note

Q1 2014

Establish Steering Committee

Q1/Q2 2014

LF1: AASLD/ Boston, 2014

LF2: EASL/Vienna, 2015

LF3: AASLD/San Francisco, 2015

LF4: EASL/Barcelona, 2016

LF5: Boston, 2016



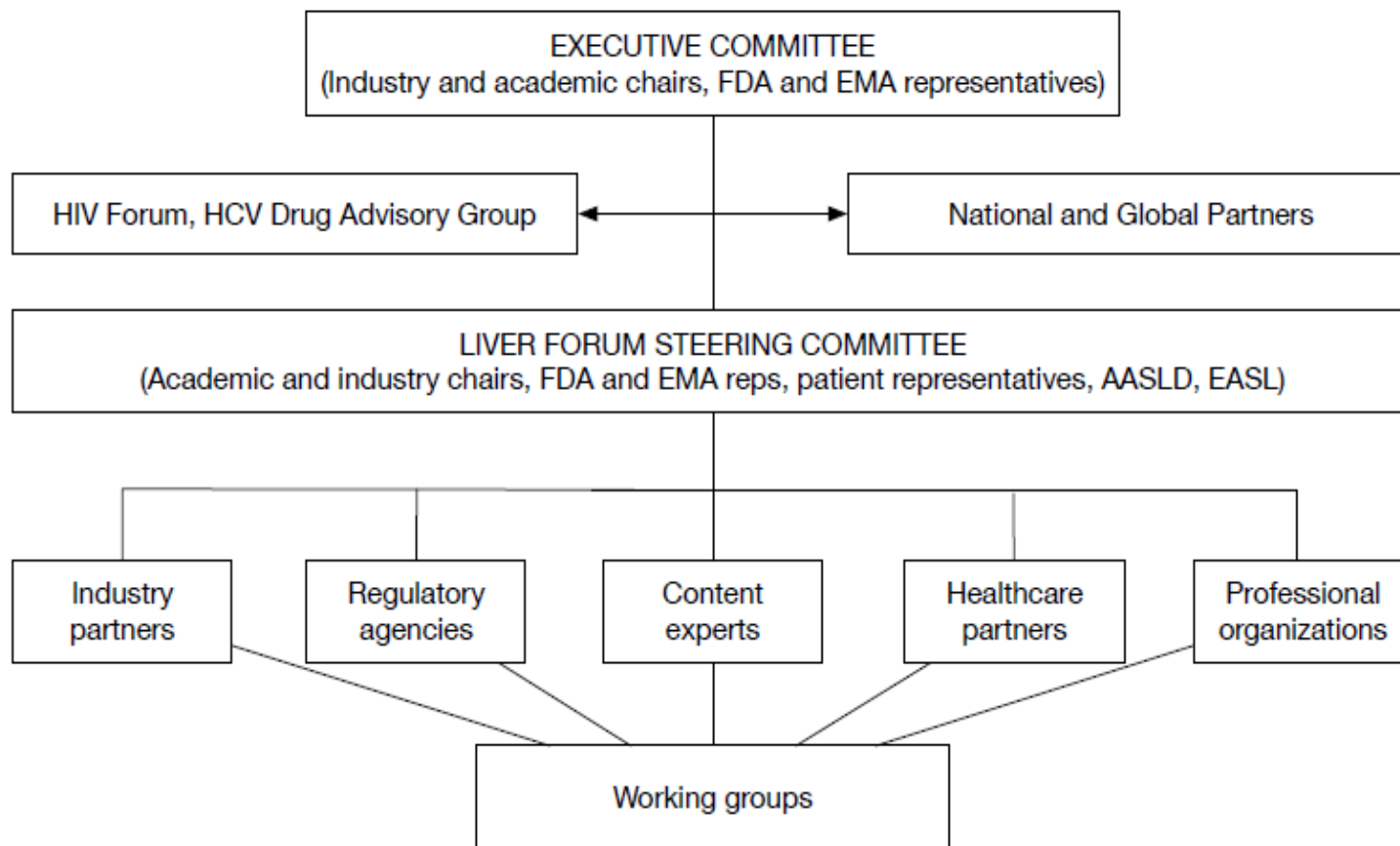
# Liver Forum Steering Committee

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- Co-chairs
  - Gary Burgess, *Conatus*
  - Arun Sanyal, *VCU*
- FDA
  - Lara Dimick, *CDER/DGIEP*
  - Ruby Mehta, *CDER/DGIEP*
  - Chris Leptak, *CDER/OND*
- EMA
  - Elmer Schabel, *BfArM*
- Carol Brosgart, *UCSF*
- Laurent Castera, *Hôpital Beaujon*
- Stephen Harrison, *Brooke Army Med Center*
- Tom Karlsen, *Norway/EASL*
- Scott Friedman, *Mount Sinai*
- Joel Lavine, *Columbia*
- Veronica Miller, *HIV Forum*
- Massimo Pinzani, *UCL*
- Detlef Schuppan, *Mainz Uni Med Center/BIDMC*
- Helena Brett-Smith, *BMS*
- David Shapiro, *Intercept*
- Donna Cryer, *Global Liver Institute/Patient Rep*
- William Baldyga, *Patient Rep*



## STRUCTURE OF THE LIVER FORUM





# Strategy

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- Collaborative dialogue and deliberation on urgent gaps
- Share leadership among academic and industry experts
- Build trust
- Allow consensus to evolve
  - Always science based
  - Don't force it if the science does not back it
  - Identify knowledge gaps and mechanisms to address these gaps
- Build more trust
- Tackle more challenging issues



# Initial Key Questions

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- Which patients are most at risk for progression?
  - Early stages (NAFL)
  - Later stages (NASH, NASH + Cirrhosis)
- Which patients are most likely to respond to an intervention?
- How do we identify them?
  - Adults
  - Adolescents, pediatrics
- How do we know when the intervention has worked?



# Pragmatic Goals

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- Work towards acceptance of biomarkers for
  - Defining disease stage
    - Diagnostic and prognostic
    - Patient selection; inclusion/exclusion criteria
  - Intervention
    - Predictive, pharmacodynamic and endpoint surrogate markers
- Facilitate the establishment of a natural history cohort
  - Placebo arm data, other data sources



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# Urgent/Immediate Gaps

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- Address through dialogue and deliberation:
  - Lack of consensus on disease definition
  - Lack of standardization of baseline parameters



# Working Groups

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- Disease definitions
  - Across NAFLD and fibrotic progressions
- Standardization of baseline data
- Challenges in pediatric drug development
  
- Biomarker validation
- Placebo-armed based natural history cohort



# Outcomes

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- Recruitment of key US and European players
- Cross-talk between regulatory agencies
  - “informal harmonization”
- Key recommendations
  - Standardized assessment of baseline parameters
  - Disease/stage definitions
  - Recommendations for pediatric development programs



# Outputs (Q1-Q2-2016)

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## 3 Consensus manuscripts

- Disease definitions suitable for RCT's/regulatory context
  - Living document
    - Start with currently available data
    - Integrate new non-invasive dx as data becomes available
- Recommendations for standardized baseline assessments
  - Facilitate cross-study comparisons
  - Natural history cohort
- Pediatric perspective/special issues in drug development
  - Set stage for pediatric drug development





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# Opportunities to be Tapped

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- Innovation in clinical trial design
- Innovation in data analytics
- Translation of model to
  - Alcoholic steatohepatitis
  - DILI in context of underlying liver disease



# Path to Improved Public Health

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1. Discover and develop diagnostics and therapeutics (R&D)
2. Develop regulatory path, review and approve diagnostics and therapeutics
3. Market
4. **Implement: POLICY MAKERS**
  - Screening, diagnosis, treatment
  - Treatment guidelines
  - Reimbursements



# NASH: Invisibility

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- Individual
  - Symptom free until too late
  - Lack of awareness
- Population level
  - Surveillance
  - Natural history data
    - ◉ Adults
    - ◉ Children
    - ◉ Transition from childhood-adolescence-adulthood



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# Invisibility

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- **Clinical**
  - No mandate for screening
    - “be vigilant”
  - Lack of diagnosis
    - Liver biopsy dependent



# Invisibility

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- Public Health
  - Focus on obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular
  - Focus (and success!) on viral hepatitis
  - Lack of awareness of the role of the liver
  - Natural history, surveillance
  - No practice guidance to screen for NAFLD or NASH



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# Invisibility

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- **Societal**
  - Stigma
  - “Life Style”



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# Invisibility

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- Policy Level
  - Lacking leadership at federal level
  - Education
  - Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/liver/index.htm>

## Liver Cancer



*Cancer* is a disease in which cells in the body grow out of control. When cancer starts in the liver, it is called *liver cancer*. Each year in the United States, about 20,000 men and 8,000 women get liver cancer, and about 16,000 men and 7,000 women die from the disease. The percentage of Americans who get liver cancer has been rising slowly for several decades.

**To lower your risk for liver cancer, get vaccinated against Hepatitis B, get tested for Hepatitis C, and avoid drinking too much alcohol.**





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# Invisibility

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- **Governmental**
  - Who “owns” the liver?
    - Viral hepatitis?
    - Chronic diseases?
    - Cancer?



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# IOM Study

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- Awareness
- Policy
- Education
- Prevention
- Treatment



# IOM: HCV + HBV

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## HEPATITIS AND LIVER CANCER

### A National Strategy for Prevention and Control of Hepatitis B and C

Heather M. Colvin and Abigail E. Mitchell, *Editors*

Committee on the Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis Infections

Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

### **COMBATING THE SILENT EPIDEMIC of VIRAL HEPATITIS**

**Action Plan for the  
Prevention, Care & Treatment  
of Viral Hepatitis**



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# Last Word

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- All the innovation in the world will not benefit patients if the will to implement (screen, diagnose, treat, and reimburse) is lacking



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