

3rd EALA Symposium

&

2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

June 13-14, 2026 | Conrad Seoul, Korea



3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

June 13-14, 2026 | Conrad Seoul, Korea



3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

June 13-14, 2026 | Conrad Seoul, Korea



Young-Suk Lim

President
The Korean Association for
the Study of the Liver (KASL)

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 3rd EALA Symposium and the 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp, to be held from June 13 (Sat) to 14 (Sun), 2026, in Seoul, Korea.

Following the successful 1st EALA Symposium in Kumamoto and the 2nd in Taipei, we are deeply honored to host this third gathering in Seoul. This year's meeting will be held in conjunction with The Liver Week 2026, a multidisciplinary annual meeting jointly organized by Korea's four major liver societies. We believe that this collaboration will provide a broader and more dynamic platform for academic exchange.

EALA represents a meaningful academic alliance among three Asian countries. While we share strong expertise in major liver diseases, each country also brings distinct clinical experiences and research perspectives shaped by different epidemiologic and healthcare environments. This balance of shared strengths and complementary differences creates valuable opportunities for mutual learning and collaborative advancement in both research and clinical practice.

More importantly, EALA serves as a vital bridge between distinguished senior mentors and promising rising young investigators. Through structured mentorship, thoughtful scientific exchange, and open dialogue, we seek not only to advance research but also to cultivate the next generation of leaders in hepatology.

Beyond academic excellence, EALA has fostered enduring collegial relationships and strengthened professional friendships across borders. We sincerely hope that this symposium will further reinforce these bonds while creating new opportunities for collaboration and mutual growth.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to Seoul for inspiring scientific discussion, mentorship, and meaningful interaction.

Sincerely,



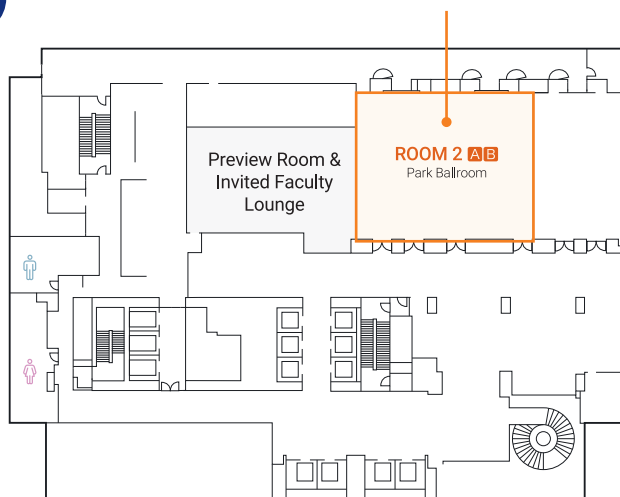
GENERAL INFORMATION

FLOOR PLAN

REGISTRATION

5F

MAIN ROOM June 13, 2026



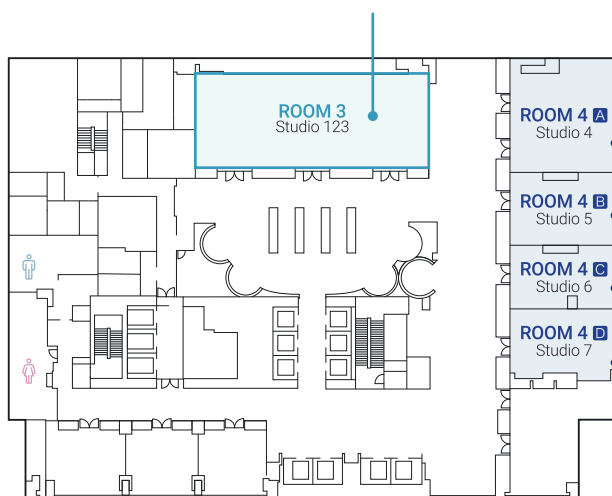
- **June 13, 2026**
Lobby (3F): 07:00-16:40
- **June 14, 2026**
Lobby (6F): 07:00-16:40

6F

MAIN ROOM June 14, 2026

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION 1-4

June 13-14, 2026



MASLD

HCC

VIRAL
HEPATITIS

CIRRHOSIS

SHUTTLE BUS SCHEDULE

June 12 (Fri.)		June 13 (Sat.)		June 14 (Sun.)	
GLAD	➡ Conrad	GLAD	➡ Conrad	GLAD	➡ Conrad
07:30	07:40	07:30	07:40	07:00	07:10
08:30	08:40	08:30	08:40		



PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

	DAY 1: June 13, 2026 (SAT)	DAY 2: June 14, 2026 (SUN)
08:00		07:10-08:00 Breakfast Symposium 
09:00		ROOM 3 6F Invited Lectures
		08:00-08:30 EALA Collaborative Research: Networking to Translating Ideas
		08:30-09:00 Generative AI and LLMs in Hepatology: Literature, Research, and Publication
		09:00-09:30 Designing and Conducting Your First Multinational, Multicenter IIT
		09:30-09:40 Break, Connections, and Change Rooms
10:00		09:40-10:40 Small Group Discussion 2: 2026 EALA Young Investigators
		ROOM 4A 6F MASLD
		ROOM 4B 6F HCC
		ROOM 4C 6F Viral Hepatitis
		ROOM 4D 6F Cirrhosis
		10:40-10:50 Break, Connections, and Change Rooms
11:00		ROOM 3 6F Small Group Final Presentation of Projects
		10:50-11:50
12:00		11:50-12:00 Wrap-up and Closing Remarks
		12:00-13:00 Luncheon Symposium (EALA Business Meeting) 
13:00		3rd EALA Symposium
		ROOM 3 6F Opening Remarks
		13:10-14:10 SESSION 1 Building the EALA Consensus
		14:10-14:30 Break
		14:30-15:30 SESSION 2 Outstanding Research from EALA: MASLD
		15:30-16:30 SESSION 3 Outstanding Research from EALA: HCC
14:00	2nd Rising Star Bootcamp ROOM 2AB 5F 14:00-14:40 Welcome Remarks & Introduction of the New 2026 EALA Young Investigators	16:30-16:40 Closing Remarks
15:00	14:40-16:00 Presentation of Group Research Results from 2025 EALA	
16:00	16:00-16:20 Break and Connections	
	16:20-17:50 Small Group Discussion 1: 2026 EALA Young Investigators	
17:00	ROOM 4A 6F MASLD	
	ROOM 4B 6F HCC	
	ROOM 4C 6F Viral Hepatitis	
	ROOM 4D 6F Cirrhosis	
18:00	17:50-18:00 Wrap-up and Orientation	
	18:30- Welcome Dinner, VVertigo (9F)	



Rising Star Bootcamp

DAY 1 June 13, 2026 (SAT)

	Welcome Remarks	Young-Suk Lim (Univ. of Ulsan, Korea)
14:00 - 14:40	Introduction of the New 2026 EALA Young Investigators	Sung Won Lee (The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea)
Presentation of Group Research Results from EALA 2025		
14:40 - 16:00	Moderators Tatsuya Kanto (Japan Institute for Health Security, Japan), Do Young Kim (Yonsei Univ., Korea), Tung-Hung Su (National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan)	
Group 1 MASLD		
14:40 - 15:00	BMI-Based Subclassification of Steatotic Liver Disease with Increased Alcohol Intake	Norihiro Imai (Nagoya Univ., Japan)
Group 2 HCC		
15:00 - 15:20	A Preliminary Real-World Cohort Analysis of Atezolizumab/Bevacizumab versus Durvalumab/ Tremelimumab as First-Line Therapy in Unresectable HCC: The East Asia Liver Alliance Study	Soon Kyu Lee (The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea)
Group 3 Viral Hepatitis		
15:20 - 15:40	Development of HCC Prediction Models after SVR in Non-Cirrhotic Patients: East-Asia Liver Alliance Viral Collaboration	Kazuya Okushin (The Univ. of Tokyo, Japan)
Group 4 Cirrhosis		
15:40 - 16:00	Implementation Gap in Sarcopenia Assessment and Management in Cirrhosis: An East Asia Liver Alliance Survey	Soon Sun Kim (Ajou Univ., Korea)
16:00 - 16:20	Group Photo / Break and Connections	



June 13, 2026 (SAT) **DAY 1****16:20 - 17:50 Small Group Discussion 1 for 2026 Young Investigators****Group 1 MASLD**

ROOM 4A

Mentors W. Ray Kim (AASLD), Seung Up Kim (KASL), Takumi Kawaguchi (JSH)**YI** Sung Won Chung (Univ. of Ulsan, Korea), Dong Yun Kim (Yonsei Univ., Korea), Tsubasa Tsutsumi (Kurume Univ., Japan), Masaaki Mino (Japan Institute for Health Security, Japan), Chia-Hung Tai (Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan), Chun-Ming Hong (National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan)**Group 2 HCC**

ROOM 4B

Mentors Ju Dong Yang (AASLD), Chung-Feng Huang (TASL)**YI** Heechul Nam (The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea), Myung Ji Goh (Sungkyunkwan Univ., Korea), Hiroki Inada (Kumamoto Univ., Japan), Masayuki Ueno (Kurashiki Central Hospital, Japan), Wei Teng (Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan), Pei-Chang Lee (Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taiwan)**Group 3 Viral Hepatitis**

ROOM 4C

Mentors Jeong Won Jang (KASL), Tatsuya Kanto (JSH), Wen-Juei Jeng (TASL)**YI** Hee Sun Cho (The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea), Sung Hwan Yoo (Yonsei Univ., Korea), Yeowool Kang (Dong-A Univ., Korea), Kazuhiro Murai (The Univ. of Osaka, Japan), Yu-Ping Chang (National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan), Yi-Chung Hsieh (Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan)**Group 4 Cirrhosis**

ROOM 4D

Mentors Willscott Naugler (AASLD), Sang Gyune Kim (KASL)**YI** Seul Ki Han (Yonsei Univ. Wonju, Korea), Se Young Jang (Kyungpook National Univ., Korea), Moonhyung Lee (Kyung Hee Univ., Korea), Shinya Yokoyama (Nagoya Univ., Japan), Masaaki Hirata (Kyoto Univ., Japan), Shu-Chi Wang (Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan)**17:50 - 18:00** Wrap-up for Day 1 and Orientation for Day 2 *Sung Won Lee (The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea)***18:30 -** Welcome Dinner, VVertigo (9F)

DAY 2 June 14, 2026 (SUN)

07:10-08:00 Breakfast Symposium



08:00 - 09:30 Invited Lecture

08:00 - 08:30	EALA Collaborative Research from Networking to Translating Ideas	Moderator: Ming-Lung Yu (Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan) Speaker: Takumi Kawaguchi (Kurume Univ., Japan)
08:30 - 09:00	Generative AI and LLMs in Hepatology: Literature, Research, and Publication	Moderator: Jung-Hwan Yoon (Seoul National Univ., Korea) Speaker: Tung-Hung Su (National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan)
09:00 - 09:30	Designing and Conducting Your First Multinational, Multicenter IIT	Moderator: Tetsuo Takehara (The Univ. of Osaka, Japan) Speaker: Won-Mook Choi (Univ. of Ulsan, Korea)
09:30 - 09:40	Break, Connections, and Change Rooms	

09:40 - 10:40 Small Group Discussion 2 for 2026 Young Investigators

Group 1 MASLD		
ROOM 4A	Mentors	W. Ray Kim (AASLD), Seung Up Kim (KASL), Takumi Kawaguchi (JSH)
	YI	Sung Won Chung (Univ. of Ulsan, Korea), Dong Yun Kim (Yonsei Univ., Korea), Tsubasa Tsutsumi (Kurume Univ., Japan), Masaaki Mino (Japan Institute for Health Security, Japan), Chia-Hung Tai (Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan), Chun-Ming Hong (National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan)
Group 2 HCC		
ROOM 4B	Mentors	Ju Dong Yang (AASLD), Chung-Feng Huang (TASL)
	YI	Heechul Nam (The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea), Myung Ji Goh (Sungkyunkwan Univ., Korea), Hiroki Inada (Kumamoto Univ., Japan), Masayuki Ueno (Kurashiki Central Hospital, Japan), Wei Teng (Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan), Pei-Chang Lee (Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taiwan)
Group 3 Viral Hepatitis		
ROOM 4C	Mentors	Jeong Won Jang (KASL), Tatsuya Kanto (JSH), Wen-Juei Jeng (TASL)
	YI	Hee Sun Cho (The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea), Sung Hwan Yoo (Yonsei Univ., Korea), Yeewool Kang (Dong-A Univ., Korea), Kazuhiro Murai (The Univ. of Osaka, Japan), Yu-Ping Chang (National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan), Yi-Chung Hsieh (Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan)
Group 4 Cirrhosis		
ROOM 4D	Mentors	Willcott Naugler (AASLD), Sang Gyune Kim (KASL)
	YI	Seul Ki Han (Yonsei Univ. Wonju, Korea), Se Young Jang (Kyungpook National Univ., Korea), Moonhyung Lee (Kyung Hee Univ., Korea), Shinya Yokoyama (Nagoya Univ., Japan), Masaaki Hirata (Kyoto Univ., Japan), Shu-Chi Wang (Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan)



June 14, 2026 (SUN) **DAY 2**

10:40 - 10:50 Break, Connections, and Change Rooms

10:50 - 11:50 Small Group Final Presentation of Projects

Moderator: Sung Won Lee (The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea)

10:50 - 11:05	Group 1 MASLD	2026 YI
11:05 - 11:20	Group 2 HCC	2026 YI
11:20 - 11:35	Group 3 Viral Hepatitis	2026 YI
11:35 - 11:50	Group 4 Cirrhosis	2026 YI

11:50 - 12:00 Wrap-up for Day 2 and Closing Remarks, Group Photo *Young-Suk Lim (Univ. of Ulsan, Korea)*

12:00 - Luncheon Symposium (EALA Business Meeting)



EALA SYMPOSIUM

DAY 2 June 14, 2026 (SUN)

13:00 - 13:10 Opening *Young-Suk Lim (KASL), Tetsuo Takehara (JSH), Ming-Lung Yu (TASL)*

13:10 - 14:10 SESSION 1. Building the EALA Consensus

Young-Suk Lim (Univ. of Ulsan, Korea), Ming-Lung Yu (Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan)

13:10 - 13:30 Chronic Hepatitis B *In Hee Kim (Jeonbuk National Univ., Korea)*

13:30 - 13:50 Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines for MASLD 2026 *Norio Akuta (Toranomon Hospital, Japan)*

13:50 - 14:10 Surveillance of HCC: Current Status and Future Directions in Taiwan *Sheng-Nan Lu (Jen Ai Hospital, Taiwan)*

14:10 - 14:30 Break, Group Photos

14:30 - 15:30 SESSION 2. Outstanding Research from EALA: MASLD

Tetsuo Takehara (The Univ. of Osaka, Japan), Chung-Feng Huang (Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan)

14:30 - 14:50 Sex-Specific Cardiometabolic Risk Factors and Histological Predictors of MASLD Outcomes: Evidence from Japanese Multicenter Cohorts *Tsubasa Tsutsumi (Kurume Univ., Japan)*

14:50 - 15:10 Emerging Trends and Multifaceted Risk Interactions of Metabolic Dysfunction Associated Steatotic Liver Diseases: Perspectives from Taiwan Cohorts *Ming-Lun Yeh (Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan)*

15:10 - 15:30 Efficacy and Safety of Time-Restricted Eating in MASLD *Joo Hyun Oh (CHA Univ., Korea)*

15:30 - 16:30 SESSION 3. Outstanding Research from EALA: HCC

Si Hyun Bae (The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea), Tatsuya Kanto (Japan Institute for Health Security, Japan)

15:30 - 15:50 Bystander CD8+ T Cells in Hepatocellular Carcinoma *Chun-Yen Lin (Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan)*

15:50 - 16:10 Developing and Validating a Risk Prediction Model in HCC Patients on Atezolizumab-Bevacizumab *Heechul Nam (The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea)*

16:10 - 16:30 Biomarker Discovery of Combination Immunotherapy for HCC *Takahiro Kodama (The Univ. of Osaka, Japan)*

16:30 - 16:40 Closing Remarks *Ji Hoon Kim (Korea Univ., Korea)*



Presenters_2025 Young Investigator

Topic	Name	Affiliations	E-mail
BMI-Based Subclassification of Steatotic Liver Disease with Increased Alcohol Intake	Norihiro Imai	Nagoya Univ., Japan	norihiro.imai@gmail.com
A Preliminary Real-World Cohort Analysis of Atezolizumab/Bevacizumab versus Durvalumab/Tremelimumab as First-Line Therapy in Unresectable HCC: The East Asia Liver Alliance Study	Soon Kyu Lee	The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea	blackiqq@gmail.com
Development of HCC Prediction Models after SVR in Non-Cirrhotic Patients: East-Asia Liver Alliance Viral Collaboration	Kazuya Okushin	The Univ. of Tokyo, Japan	kazuyaoxin@gmail.com
Implementation Gap in Sarcopenia Assessment and Management in Cirrhosis: An East Asia Liver Alliance Survey	Soon Sun Kim	Ajou Univ., Korea	cocorico99@gmail.com

Speakers

Topic	Name	Affiliations	E-mail
EALA Collaborative Research from Networking to Translating Ideas	Takumi Kawaguchi	Kurume Univ., Japan	takumi@med.kurume-u.ac.jp
Generative AI and LLMs in Hepatology: Literature, Research, and Publication	Tung-Hung Su	National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan	tunghungsu@ntu.edu.tw
Designing and Conducting Your First Multinational, Multicenter IIT	Won-Mook Choi	Univ. of Ulsan, Korea	dr.choi85@gmail.com

Moderators

Name	Affiliations	E-mail
Tatsuya Kanto	Japan Institute for Health Security, Japan	kanto.t@jihs.go.jp
Do Young Kim	Yonsei Univ., Korea	dyk1025@yuhs.ac
Tung-Hung Su	National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan	tunghungsu@ntu.edu.tw
Ming-Lung Yu	Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan	fish6069@gmail.com
Jung-Hwan Yoon	Seoul National Univ., Korea	yoonyh@snu.ac.kr
Tetsuo Takehara	The Univ. of Osaka, Japan	takehara@gh.med.osaka-u.ac.jp
Sung Won Lee	The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea	swleehepa@gmail.com

Rising Star Bootcamp

2026 Young Investigator Group

MASLD	HCC	Viral Hepatitis	Cirrhosis
Mentors			
W. Ray Kim	Ju Dong Yang	Jeong Won Jang	Willscott Naugler
Seung Up Kim	Chung-Feng Huang	Tatsuya Kanto	Sang Gyune Kim
Takumi Kawaguchi		Wen-Juei Jeng	
Young Investigator			
Tsubasa Tsutsumi	Hiroki Inada	Kazuhiro Murai	Shinya Yokoyama
Masaaki Mino	Masayuki Ueno	Yu-Ping Chang	Masaaki Hirata
Chia-Hung Tai	Wei Teng	Yi-Chung Hsieh	Shu-Chi Wang
Chun-Ming Hong	Pei-Chang Lee	Hee Sun Cho	Seul Ki Han
Sung Won Chung	Heechul Nam	Sung Hwan Yoo	Se Young Jang
Dong Yun Kim	Myung Ji Goh	Yeowool Kang	Moonhyung Lee



Mentors for 2026 Young Investigator

	Name	Affiliations	Category	E-mail
KASL_1	Seung Up Kim	Yonsei Univ., Korea	MASLD	ksukorea@yuhs.ac
KASL_2	Jeong Won Jang	The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea	Viral Hepatitis	garden@catholic.ac.kr
KASL_3	Sang Gyune Kim	Soonchunhyang Univ., Korea	Cirrhosis	mcnulty@schmc.ac.kr
JSH_1	Takumi Kawaguchi	Kurume Univ., Japan	MASLD	takumi@med.kurume-u.ac.jp
JSH_2	Tatsuya Kanto	Japan Institute for Health Security, Japan	Viral Hepatitis	kanto.t@jihs.go.jp
TASL_1	Chung-Feng Huang	Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan	HCC	fengcheerup@gmail.com
TASL_2	Wen-Juei Jeng	Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan	Viral Hepatitis	rachel.jeng@gmail.com
AASLD_1	W. Ray Kim	Mayo Clinic, USA	MASLD	Kim.Ray@mayo.edu
AASLD_2	Ju Dong Yang	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, USA	HCC	JuDong.Yang@cshs.org
AASLD_3	Willscott Naugler	Oregon Health & Science Univ., USA	Cirrhosis	nauglers@ohsu.edu

2026 Young Investigator from Korea

Name	Affiliations	Category	E-mail
Sung Won Chung	Univ. of Ulsan, Korea	MASLD	swchn@hanmail.net
Dong Yun Kim	Yonsei Univ., Korea	MASLD	jlky@yuhs.ac
Heechul Nam	The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea	HCC	hcnam128@catholic.ac.kr
Myung Ji Goh	Sungkyunkwan Univ., Korea	HCC	myungji.goh@samsung.com
Hee Sun Cho	The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea	Viral Hepatitis	jhs-cho@hanmail.net
Sung Hwan Yoo	Yonsei Univ., Korea	Viral Hepatitis	oscar0125@yuhs.ac
Yeowool Kang	Dong-A Univ., Korea	Viral Hepatitis	ywkang8756@dau.ac.kr
Seul Ki Han	Yonsei Univ. Wonju, Korea	Cirrhosis	lolhsk@naver.com
Se Young Jang	Kyungpook National Univ., Korea	Cirrhosis	magnolia1103@naver.com
Moonhyung Lee	Kyung Hee Univ., Korea	Cirrhosis	drmoon_0101@naver.com

Rising Star Bootcamp

2026 Young Investigator from Japan

Name	Affiliations	Category	E-mail
Tsubasa Tsutsumi	Kurume Univ., Japan	MASLD	tsutsumi_tsubasa@med.kurume-u.ac.jp
Masaaki Mino	Japan Institute for Health Security, Japan	MASLD	masaaki.mino25@gmail.com
Hiroki Inada	Kumamoto Univ., Japan	HCC	hi.inada0627@gmail.com
Masayuki Ueno	Kurashiki Central Hospital, Japan	HCC	mu13951@kchnet.or.jp
Kazuhiro Murai	The Univ. of Osaka, Japan	Viral Hepatitis	k.murai@gh.med.osaka-u.ac.jp
Shinya Yokoyama	Nagoya Univ., Japan	Cirrhosis	yokoyama.shinya.w3@f.mail.nagoya-u.ac.jp
Masaaki Hirata	Kyoto Univ., Japan	Cirrhosis	mhirata6341@kuhp.kyoto-u.ac.jp

2026 Young Investigator from Taiwan

Name	Affiliations	Category	E-mail
Chia-Hung Tai	Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan	MASLD	jennifertai112@gmail.com
Chun-Ming Hong	National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan	MASLD	tan81982@hotmail.com
Wei Teng	Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan	HCC	b101090023@gmail.com
Pei-Chang Lee	Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taiwan	HCC	tympanum3688@gmail.com
Yu-Ping Chang	National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan	Viral Hepatitis	melsachangchang@gmail.com
Yi-Chung Hsieh	Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan	Viral Hepatitis	cutebuw@yahoo.com.tw
Shu-Chi Wang	Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan	Cirrhosis	shuchiwang@gmail.com



Speakers

Topic	Name	Affiliations	E-mail
Chronic Hepatitis B	In Hee Kim	Jeonbuk National Univ., Korea	ihkimmd@jbnu.ac.kr
Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines for MASLD 2026	Norio Akuta	Toranomon Hospital, Japan	norioakuta@toranomon.gr.jp
Surveillance of HCC: Current Status and Future Directions in Taiwan	Sheng-Nan Lu	Jen Ai Hospital, Taiwan	juten@ms17.hinet.net
Sex-Specific Cardiometabolic Risk Factors and Histological Predictors of MASLD Outcomes: Evidence from Japanese Multicenter Cohorts	Tsubasa Tsutsumi	Kurume Univ., Japan	tsutsumi_tsubasa@med.kurume-u.ac.jp
Emerging Trends and Multifaceted Risk Interactions of Metabolic Dysfunction Associated Steatotic Liver Diseases: Perspectives from Taiwan Cohorts	Ming-Lun Yeh	Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan	minglunyeh@gmail.com
Efficacy and Safety of Time-Restricted Eating in MASLD	Joo Hyun Oh	CHA Univ., Korea	ojh8856@gmail.com
Bystander CD8 ⁺ T Cells in Hepatocellular Carcinoma	Chun-Yen Lin	Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan	chunyenlin@gmail.com
Developing and Validating a Risk Prediction Model in HCC Patients on Atezolizumab-Bevacizumab	Heechul Nam	The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea	hcnam128@catholic.ac.kr
Biomarker Discovery of Combination Immunotherapy for HCC	Takahiro Kodama	The Univ. of Osaka, Japan	t-kodama@gh.med.osaka-u.ac.jp

Moderators

Name	Affiliations	E-mail
Young-Suk Lim	Univ. of Ulsan, Korea	limys@amc.seoul.kr
Ming-Lung Yu	Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan	fish6069@gmail.com
Tetsuo Takehara	The Univ. of Osaka, Japan	takehara@gh.med.osaka-u.ac.jp
Chung-Feng Huang	Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan	fengcheerup@gmail.com
Si Hyun Bae	The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea	baesh@catholic.ac.kr
Tatsuya Kanto	Japan Institute for Health Security, Japan	kanto.t@jihs.go.jp

Rising Star Bootcamp

DAY 1 June 13, 2026 (SAT)

Presentation of Group Research Results from EALA 2025

Moderators: Tatsuya Kanto (<i>Japan Institute for Health Security, Japan</i>)	20
Do Young Kim (<i>Yonsei Univ., Korea</i>)	21
Tung-Hung Su (<i>National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan</i>)	22

Group 1. MASLD

BMI-Based Subclassification of Steatotic Liver Disease with Increased Alcohol Intake	Norihiro Imai (<i>Nagoya Univ., Japan</i>)	24
--	---	----

Group 2. HCC

A Preliminary Real-World Cohort Analysis of Atezolizumab/Bevacizumab versus Durvalumab/Tremelimumab as First-Line Therapy in Unresectable HCC: The East Asia Liver Alliance Study	Soon Kyu Lee (<i>The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea</i>)	28
---	---	----

Group 3. Viral Hepatitis

Development of HCC Prediction Models after SVR in Non-Cirrhotic Patients: East-Asia Liver Alliance Viral Collaboration	Kazuya Okushin (<i>The Univ. of Tokyo, Japan</i>)	32
--	--	----

Group 4. Cirrhosis

Implementation Gap in Sarcopenia Assessment and Management in Cirrhosis: An East Asia Liver Alliance Survey	Soon Sun Kim (<i>Ajou Univ., Korea</i>)	36
---	--	----

Small Group Discussion 1 for 2026 Young Investigators

Group 1. MASLD

Mentors	W. Ray Kim (<i>AASLD</i>)	40
	Seung Up Kim (<i>KASL</i>)	41
	Takumi Kawaguchi (<i>JSH</i>)	42
YI	Sung Won Chung (<i>Univ. of Ulsan, Korea</i>)	43
	Dong Yun Kim (<i>Yonsei Univ., Korea</i>)	44
	Tsubasa Tsutsumi (<i>Kurume Univ., Japan</i>)	45
	Masaaki Mino (<i>Japan Institute for Health Security, Japan</i>)	46
	Chia-Hung Tai (<i>Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan</i>)	47
	Chun-Ming Hong (<i>National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan</i>)	48

Group 2. HCC

Mentors	Ju Dong Yang (<i>AASLD</i>)	49
	Chung-Feng Huang (<i>TASL</i>)	50
YI	Heechul Nam (<i>The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea</i>)	51
	Myung Ji Goh (<i>Sungkyunkwan Univ., Korea</i>)	52
	Hiroki Inada (<i>Kumamoto Univ., Japan</i>)	53
	Masayuki Ueno (<i>Kurashiki Central Hospital, Japan</i>)	54
	Wei Teng (<i>Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan</i>)	55
	Pei-Chang Lee (<i>Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taiwan</i>)	56



Group 3. Viral Hepatitis

Mentors	Jeong Won Jang (<i>KASL</i>)	57
	Tatsuya Kanto (<i>JSH</i>)	58
	Wen-Juei Jeng (<i>TASL</i>)	59
YI	Hee Sun Cho (<i>The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea</i>)	60
	Sung Hwan Yoo (<i>Yonsei Univ., Korea</i>)	61
	Yeowool Kang (<i>Dong-A Univ., Korea</i>)	62
	Kazuhiro Murai (<i>The Univ. of Osaka, Japan</i>)	63
	Yu-Ping Chang (<i>National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan</i>)	64
	Yi-Chung Hsieh (<i>Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan</i>)	65

Group 4. Cirrhosis

Mentors	Willscott Naugler (<i>AASLD</i>)	66
	Sang Gyune Kim (<i>KASL</i>)	67
YI	Seul Ki Han (<i>Yonsei Univ. Wonju, Korea</i>)	68
	Se Young Jang (<i>Kyungpook National Univ., Korea</i>)	69
	Moonhyung Lee (<i>Kyung Hee Univ., Korea</i>)	70
	Shinya Yokoyama (<i>Nagoya Univ., Japan</i>)	71
	Masaaki Hirata (<i>Kyoto Univ., Japan</i>)	72
	Shu-Chi Wang (<i>Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan</i>)	73

DAY 2 June 14, 2026 (SUN)**Invited Lecture**

Moderators: Ming-Lung Yu (<i>Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan</i>)	76
Jung-Hwan Yoon (<i>Seoul National Univ., Korea</i>)	80
Tetsuo Takehara (<i>The Univ. of Osaka, Japan</i>)	83

EALA Collaborative Research from Networking to Translating Ideas	Takumi Kawaguchi (<i>Kurume Univ., Japan</i>)	77
---	---	----

Generative AI and LLMs in Hepatology: Literature, Research, and Publication	Tung-Hung Su (<i>National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan</i>)	81
--	---	----

Designing and Conducting Your First Multinational, Multicenter IIT	Won-Mook Choi (<i>Univ. of Ulsan, Korea</i>)	84
---	--	----

Small Group Final Presentation of Projects

Moderators: Sung Won Lee (*The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea*)

EALA SYMPOSIUM

DAY 2 June 14, 2026 (SUN)**SESSION 1. Building the EALA Consensus**

Moderators: Young-Suk Lim (<i>Univ. of Ulsan, Korea</i>)	94
Ming-Lung Yu (<i>Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan</i>)	95

Chronic Hepatitis B	In Hee Kim (<i>Jeonbuk National Univ., Korea</i>)	96
---------------------	--	----

Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines for MASLD 2026	Norio Akuta (<i>Toranomon Hospital, Japan</i>)	100
--	---	-----

Surveillance of HCC: Current Status and Future Directions in Taiwan	Sheng-Nan Lu (<i>Jen Ai Hospital, Taiwan</i>)	102
---	--	-----

SESSION 2. Outstanding Research from EALA: MASLD

Moderators: Tetsuo Takehara (<i>The Univ. of Osaka, Japan</i>)	106
Chung-Feng Huang (<i>Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan</i>)	107

Sex-Specific Cardiometabolic Risk Factors and Histological Predictors of MASLD Outcomes: Evidence from Japanese Multicenter Cohorts	Tsubasa Tsutsumi (<i>Kurume Univ., Japan</i>)	108
---	--	-----

Emerging Trends and Multifaceted Risk Interactions of Metabolic Dysfunction Associated Steatotic Liver Diseases: Perspectives from Taiwan Cohorts	Ming-Lun Yeh (<i>Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan</i>)	112
---	--	-----

Efficacy and Safety of Time-Restricted Eating in MASLD	Joo Hyun Oh (<i>CHA Univ., Korea</i>)	114
--	--	-----

SESSION 3. Outstanding Research from EALA: HCC

Moderators: Si Hyun Bae (<i>The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea</i>)	118
Tatsuya Kanto (<i>Japan Institute for Health Security, Japan</i>)	119

Bystander CD8 ⁺ T Cells in Hepatocellular Carcinoma	Chun-Yen Lin (<i>Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan</i>)	120
--	---	-----

Developing and Validating a Risk Prediction Model in HCC Patients on Atezolizumab–Bevacizumab	Heechul Nam (<i>The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea</i>)	124
---	--	-----

Biomarker Discovery of Combination Immunotherapy for HCC	Takahiro Kodama (<i>The Univ. of Osaka, Japan</i>)	128
--	---	-----



3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

Rising Star Bootcamp

Saturday, June 13, 2026 [14:40 - 16:00]

Presentation of Group Research Results from EALA 2025

Moderators _____

Tatsuya Kanto (Japan Institute for Health Security, Japan)

Do Young Kim (Yonsei Univ., Korea)

Tung-Hung Su (National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan)

DAY 1
June 13, 2026 (SAT)





Moderator

Tatsuya Kanto

Japan Institute for Health Security, Japan

Tatsuya Kanto is a researcher and hepatologist/physician with expertise in immunology in liver diseases. He earned a PhD at Osaka University and worked as a research associate in dendritic cell biology at the University of Pittsburgh, USA, from 1998 to 2001. He worked as an Associate Professor at Osaka University from 2003 to 2013 and moved to the National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM). His current position is Director General at the Research Center for Hepatitis and Immunology, Japan Institute for Health Security (JIHS).

He has been working with the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare to promote the Hepatitis Action Plan in Japan. His field of interest is the exploration of the pathogenesis of liver disease to develop immune-based therapies against viral hepatitis, liver cirrhosis, and cancer. He has published more than 260 papers and invited review articles in peer-reviewed journals, such as Hepatology, Journal of Hepatology, Immunity, Journal of Immunology, and Gastroenterology.

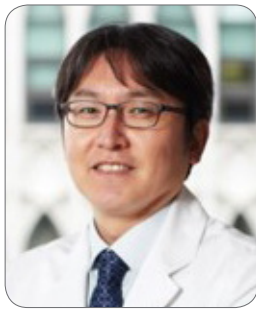
RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Immunopathogenesis of viral hepatitis, MASLD/MASH, and liver cancer
- Development of immune modulators for the treatment of chronic HBV infection
- Establishment of a therapeutic strategy for congestive liver disease, such as FALD
- Promotion of hepatitis countermeasures in Japan

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Yamazoe T, Kanto T, et al. Genomic and transcriptomic profiling of hepatocellular carcinoma in patients with Fontan-associated liver disease. Hepatology 2026; in press.
2. Takahama S, Tomiyama T, Yoshio S, Nagatsuka Y, Murakami H, Nogimori T, Kochi M, Ochiai S, Kimura H, Fukushima A, Kanto T, Yamamoto T. Preclinical assessment of oral TLR7 agonist SA-5 in a nonhuman primate model. JCI Insight 2025 Nov 11:e196809. doi: 10.1172/jci.insight.196809. PMID: 41217828
3. Mino M, Kakazu E, Kanto T. Precision strategy for hepatocellular carcinoma surveillance after hepatitis C cure: Debates across guidelines. Gut Liver. 2025 Sep 15;19(5):651-664
4. Kakazu E, Mino M, Kanto T. Role of amino acids in the regulation of hepatic gluconeogenesis and lipogenesis in metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease. Clin Mol Hepatol. 2025 Apr 16. doi: 10.3350/cmh.2025.0048. Online ahead of print.
5. Mori T, Yoshio S, Kakazu E, Kanto T. Active role of the immune system in metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease. Gastroenterol Rep (Oxf). 2024 Oct 15;12:goae089. doi: 10.1093/gastro/goae089. eCollection 2024.PMID: 39411101





Moderator

Do Young Kim

Yonsei Univ., Korea

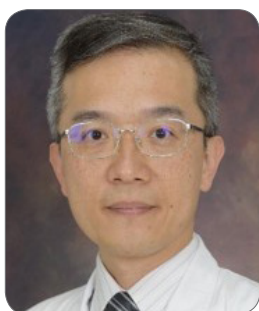
Do Young Kim is now a professor of Internal Medicine at Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea, and a hepatologist in the Severance Hospital where he has been a faculty member since 2007. He graduated Yonsei University at 1996, and completed training course in Severance Hospital from 1996 to 2001. He studied proteomics and microRNA in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center as a research associate between 2011 and 2012.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- HCC
- Hepatitis C

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Cho KJ, ..., Kim DY. [Corresponding author] YAP/TAZ suppress drug penetration into hepatocellular carcinoma via stromal activation. *Hepatology* 2021;74:2605-2621.
2. Kim BH, ..., Kim DY. [Corresponding author] Expert consensus on the management of adverse events in patients receiving lenvatinib for hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol* [Epub ahead of print].
3. Baatarxuu O, Lee JS, Amarsanaa J, ..., Kim DY. [Corresponding author] Efficacy and safety of ledipasvir/sofosbuvir in 5,028 Mongolian patients infected with genotype 1 hepatitis C virus: A multicenter study. *Clin Mol Hepatol* 2021;27:125-135.
4. Kim Y-Y, An C, Kim DY, et al. [Corresponding author] Failure of hepatocellular carcinoma surveillance: inadequate echogenic window and macronodular parenchyma as potential culprits. *Ultrasonography* 2019;25:390-399.
5. Lim TS, Rhee H, Kim GM, ..., Kim DY. [Corresponding author] Alpha-fetoprotein, des-gamma-carboxy prothrombin, and modified RECIST response as predictors of survival after transarterial radioembolization for hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Vasc Interv Radiol* 2019;30:1194-1200.
6. Chon YE, Kim DY. [Corresponding author] Predictors of failure to detect early hepatocellular carcinoma in patients with chronic hepatitis B who received regular surveillance. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2018;47:1201-1212.
7. Song JE, Jung KS, Kim DY, et al. [Corresponding author] Transarterial radioembolization versus concurrent chemoradiation therapy for locally advanced hepatocellular carcinoma: A propensity score matching analysis. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2017;99:396-406.
8. Kim DY, Kim HJ, Han KH, et al. Real-life experience of sorafenib treatment for hepatocellular carcinoma in Korea: From GIDEON data. *Cancer Res Treat* 2016;48:1243-1252.
9. Kim DY, Bark BJ, Kim YH, et al. Radioembolization with Yttrium-90 resin microspheres in hepatocellular carcinoma: A multi-center prospective study. *Am J Clin Oncol* 2015;38:495-501.



Moderator

Tung-Hung Su

National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan

Dr. Tung-Hung Su earned his M.D. degree from the National Taiwan University College of Medicine in 2001 and his Ph.D. from the Graduate Institute of Clinical Medicine at the same university in 2015. He has been an attending physician specializing in Hepatology and a Clinical Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at National Taiwan University Hospital since 2024. From 2017 to 2019, he was a visiting scholar at Stanford University. Dr. Su's research focuses on translational studies on liver fibrosis treatment, viral hepatitis B management, cirrhosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma, including disease prediction and outcome research using large-scale electronic medical records. Additionally, he applies artificial intelligence models to the study of liver diseases. He has published several research papers in these fields.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Hepatitis B and MASLD
- HCC surveillance
- AI applications in hepatology

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Su TH, Wu CH, Kao JH. Artificial intelligence in precision medicine in hepatology. J Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2021 Mar;36(3):569-580
2. Huang SC, Su TH, Tseng TC, Chen CL, Hsu SJ, Liao SH, Hong CM, Liu CH, Lan TY, Yang HC, Liu CJ, Chen PJ, Kao JH. Distinct effects of hepatic steatosis and metabolic dysfunction on the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma in chronic hepatitis B. Hepatol Int. 2023 Oct;17(5):1139-1149.
3. Huang SC, Su TH, Tseng TC, Hsu SJ, Hong CM, Lan TY, Liu CH, Yang HC, Liu CJ, Kao JH. All-cause and cause-specific mortality in patients with chronic hepatitis B and concurrent steatotic liver disease. J Hepatol. 2025 Jul;83(1):43-51
4. Chang KC, Su TH, Wu CK, Huang SC, Tseng TC, Hong CM, Hsu SJ, Liu CH, Yang HC, Liu CJ, Kao JH. Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease is associated with increased risks of heart failure. Eur J Heart Fail. 2025 Mar;27(3):512-520
5. Su TH, Yang SS, Lee MH, Kao WY, Huang SC, Chen FF, Poon FS, Tsai LW, Chen YT, Lin C, Wang W, Kim WR, Kao JH. High SAFE scores predict hepatocellular carcinoma in viral and non-viral hepatitis and metabolic dysfunction associated steatotic liver disease. Clin Mol Hepatol. 2025 Jul;31(3):796-809





3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

June 13-14, 2026 | Conrad Seoul, Korea





Speaker

Norihiro Imai

Nagoya Univ., Japan

After obtaining his medical license in 2005, he worked as a gastroenterologist specializing in liver diseases. From 2009 to 2012, he served as a clinician at Toranomon Hospital, a leading center for liver diseases in Japan, where he contributed to clinical research on transcatheter arterial chemoembolization for hepatocellular carcinoma. This experience sparked his interest in the pathogenesis of metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease. To pursue this research direction, he enrolled in the doctoral program at Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine in 2012, where he acquired fundamental skills in bioscience research. In 2017, he began postdoctoral training at Weill Cornell Medical College to further expand his research expertise. After returning to Japan in 2020, he has been dedicated to translational research aimed at elucidating the pathophysiology of steatotic liver disease.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Interventional Treatment of Hepatocellular Carcinoma
Pathophysiology of Steatotic Liver Disease

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Imai N, Ohsaki Y, Cheng J, Kawecka H, Zhang J, Mizuno F, Tanaka T, Yokoyama S, Yamamoto K, Ito T, Ishizu Y, Honda T, Ishikawa T, Woźniak M, Wake H, Kawashima H. Pathological significance of intranuclear structures in liver biopsy samples. *Hepatol Res*. 2025 Jul;55(7):1065-1074.
2. Imai N, Yamamoto T, Mizuno K, Yokoyama S, Yamamoto K, Ito T, Ishizu Y, Kuzuya T, Honda T, Ishikawa T, Kawashima H. A Proposal for a Simple Subclassification of Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Systemic Treatment. *Cancers (Basel)*. 2024 Nov 12;16(22):3797
3. Imai N, Ohsaki Y, Cheng J, Zhang J, Mizuno F, Tanaka T, Yokoyama S, Yamamoto K, Ito T, Ishizu Y, Honda T, Ishigami M, Wake H, Kawashima H. Distinct features of two lipid droplets types in cell nuclei from patients with liver diseases. *Sci Rep*. 2023 Apr 26;13(1):6851.
4. Imai N, Nicholls HT, Alves-Bezerra M, Li Y, Ivanova AA, Ortlund EA, Cohen DE. Up-regulation of thioesterase superfamily member 2 in skeletal muscle promotes hepatic steatosis and insulin resistance in mice. *Hepatology*. 2022 Jan;75(1):154-169.
5. Imai N, Cohen DE. Trimming the Fat: Acetyl-CoA Carboxylase Inhibition for the Management of NAFLD. *Hepatology*. 2018 Dec;68(6):2062-2065.



Group 1. MASLD

BMI-Based Subclassification of Steatotic Liver Disease with Increased Alcohol Intake

Norihiro Imai¹, Han Ah Lee², Young-Sun Lee³, Shang-Chin Huang⁴, Kai-Chi Chang⁴, Shih-Chieh Chien⁵, Shun-Ichi Wakabayashi⁶, Takefumi Kimura⁶, Nobuharu Tamaki⁷, Seung Up Kim⁸, Sang Gyune Kim⁹, Dae Won Jun¹⁰, Soo Young Park¹¹, Tung-Hung Su¹², Jia-Horng Kao¹², W. Ray Kim¹³, Takumi Kawaguchi¹⁴, Jee-Fu Huang¹⁵, Ming-Lung Yu¹⁵, Young-Suk Lim¹⁶, and Tetsuo Takehara¹⁷

¹Nagoya University, Japan; ²Chung-Ang University College of Medicine, Korea; ³Korea University College of Medicine, Korea; ⁴National Taiwan University Hospital, Taiwan; ⁵National Cheng Kung University Hospital, Taiwan; ⁶Shinshu University, Japan; ⁷Musashino Red Cross Hospital, Japan; ⁸Yonsei University College of Medicine, Korea; ⁹Soonchunhyang University Bucheon Hospital, Korea; ¹⁰Hanyang University College of Medicine, Korea; ¹¹Kyungpook National University, Korea; ¹²National Taiwan University Hospital, Taiwan; ¹³Mayo Clinic, USA; ¹⁴Kurume University, Japan; ¹⁵Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital, Taiwan; ¹⁶University of Ulsan College of Medicine, Korea; ¹⁷Kansai Rosai Hospital, Japan

Background: Body mass index (BMI), in particular lean is a fundamental clinical parameter in steatotic liver disease (SLD). However, metabolic dysfunction–associated steatotic liver disease with increased alcohol intake (MetALD) and alcohol-associated liver disease (ALD) are currently subclassified primarily based on alcohol consumption. This study aimed to investigate the clinical characteristics of MetALD and ALD, focusing on the lean phenotype.

Methods: We analyzed three independent cohorts: a Japanese health checkup-based MetALD cohort (N=108,494), a Korean multicenter hospital-based MetALD cohort (V-LINK, N=35,087), and a Taiwanese hospital-based ALD cohort (N=1,352). Patients with MetALD and ALD were subclassified by BMI as lean (BMI<23 kg/m²) or non-lean (BMI≥23 kg/m²).

Results:

(1) In the Japanese health checkup-based cohort, the cumulative incidence of liver-related events (LRE) was significantly higher in lean MetALD than in non-lean MetALD (5-year incidence: 0.18% vs. 0.09%, respectively, P=0.011). Notably, no significant difference was observed in the cumulative incidence of 3-point major adverse cardiovascular events between the two groups (5-year incidence: 0.4% vs. 0.5%, respectively, P=0.39).

(2) In the Korean multicenter hospital-based cohort, the cumulative incidence of LRE was also significantly higher in lean MetALD than in non-lean MetALD (5-year incidence: 21% vs. 7%, respectively, $P < 0.001$). Moreover, multivariable analysis adjusting for age and sex revealed that lean status is an independent risk factor for LRE (hazard ratio 2.75, $P < 0.001$).

(3) In the Taiwanese hospital-based ALD cohort, with a median follow-up duration of 6.9 years and 501 deaths, lean patients with ALD had a worse prognosis after multivariable adjustment for age, sex, cirrhosis, alanine aminotransferase level, diabetes mellitus, and other metabolic comorbidities (hazard ratio 1.45, $P < 0.001$).

Conclusions: This study provides robust evidence from three independent East Asian cohorts that BMI-based subclassification identifies clinically meaningful differences in outcomes among patients with MetALD and ALD.





3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

June 13-14, 2026 | Conrad Seoul, Korea





Speaker

Soon Kyu Lee

The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea

Prof. Soon Kyu Lee is an associate professor in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the Catholic University of Korea. He is actively conducting both basic and clinical research related to transplantation, autoimmune liver disease, hepatocellular carcinoma, metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease, and gut microbiome.

Prof. Soon Kyu Lee graduated from the Catholic University of Korea, College of Medicine with his medical degree in 2011 and completed his internship and residency at the Department of Internal Medicine at The Catholic University of Korea, receiving his Ph.D. in Internal Medicine in 2022.

Prof. Soon Kyu Lee has been taking a number of roles in the Korean Association for the Study of the Liver, the Korean Society of Gastroenterology and the Korean Liver Transplantation Society.

He received Young Investigator Award, 2023 APPLE & 2023 APASL STC and Awarded the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Award, selected for the Top 50 Outstanding Outcomes in the Academic and Research Support Program by the Ministry of Education (2023).

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Liver Transplantation, Hepatocellular Carcinoma, Autoimmune Liver Disease, Metabolic Dysfunction-associated Steatotic Liver Disease, Gut Microbiome, Immunology

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Lee SK et al. Landscape of T-cell Exhaustion Heterogeneity and HBV Integration in Virus-related HCC Revealed by Whole Exome, Transcriptome, and Single-Cell Sequencing, JHEP reports (2025) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhepr.2025.101518>
2. Lee SK et al. Peripheral Blood Inflammatory Score Using a Cytokine Multiplex Assay Predicts Clinical Outcomes in Patients Treated with Atezolizumab-Bevacizumab for Unresectable HCC Frontiers in Immunology (2025) 10.3389/fimmu.2025.1578422
3. Lee SK et al. Optimal tacrolimus levels for reducing CKD risk and the impact of inpatient variability on CKD and ESRD development following liver transplantation, Clinical and Molecular Hepatology (2025) 31(1):131-146
4. Lee SK[#], JH Kwon[#] et al. Subset of Child-Pugh Score 7 Shows Comparable Survival Outcomes to Child-Pugh Score 6 in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Patients Treated with Atezolizumab and Bevacizumab, Clinical Cancer Research (2025), <https://doi.org/10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-25-0495> ([#]Correspondence)
5. Lee SK et al. The Critical Role of Regulatory T Cells in Immune Tolerance and Rejection Following Liver Transplantation: Interactions With the Gut Microbiome, Transplantation (2025) May 1;109(5):784-793



Group 2. HCC

A Preliminary Real-World Cohort Analysis of Atezolizumab/Bevacizumab versus Durvalumab/Tremelimumab as First-Line Therapy in Unresectable HCC: The East Asia Liver Alliance Study

Soon Kyu Lee^{1*}, Tomoaki Yoh^{2*}, Hung-Wei Wang^{3*}, Yeonjung Ha^{4*}, Keisuke Koroki^{5*}, Jeong Won Jang¹,
Pei-Chang Lee⁶, Masayuki Ueno², Atsushi Takai², Sadahisa Ogasawara⁵, Dong Yun Kim⁷, Etsuro Hatano^{2#},
Do Young Kim^{7#}, Yi-Hsiang Huang^{6#}

¹The Catholic University of Korea; ²Kyoto University Hospital; ³China Medical University Hospital;
⁴CHA University; ⁵Chiba University Hospital; ⁶Taipei Veterans General Hospital; ⁷Yonsei University

*SKL, TY, H-WW, YH, and KK contributed equally to this study.

#Corresponding authors. EH, DYK and Y-HH contributed equally to this study.

Background/Aim: Based on the promising results of the IMbrave150 and HIMALAYA trials, atezolizumab plus bevacizumab (Atezo/Bev) and durvalumab plus tremelimumab (Durva/Treme) have become preferred first-line systemic treatment options for unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). However, real-world comparative data on treatment outcomes between these two regimens remain limited. This preliminary multicenter cohort analysis aimed to compare the clinical outcomes of Atezo/Bev and Durva/Treme as first-line therapy for unresectable HCC.

Methods: We retrospectively enrolled 715 patients with unresectable HCC who received Atezo/Bev (n=616) or Durva/Treme (n=99) as first-line systemic therapy between January 2022 and December 2025 at seven tertiary university hospitals across three countries. Additional data from 12 institutions in Japan, one additional Durva/Treme cohort in Korea, and one additional Atezo/Bev cohort in Taiwan are planned to be incorporated in future analyses. The primary outcome was overall survival (OS), defined as the time from treatment initiation to death from any cause. Survival curves were estimated using the Kaplan–Meier method, and survival differences between treatment groups were assessed using the log-rank test. To minimize treatment selection bias and compare survival outcomes between the two regimens, propensity score matching (PSM) using a 2:1 nearest-neighbor method, inverse probability of treatment weighting (IPTW), and target trial emulation (TTE) were additionally performed.

Results: The mean age was 66 years, and 65% of patients were male, with a significantly higher proportion of males in the Durva/Treme group than in the Atezo/Bev group (83.5% vs. 62.0%, $P<0.001$). Approximately 70% of patients had viral-related HCC. Child-Pugh class A liver function was more frequent in the Atezo/Bev group (90.5% vs. 80.4%, $P=0.006$). In the entire cohort, there were no significant differences in OS or progression-free survival (PFS) between the two treatment groups. Similar findings were observed after PSM and TTE analyses. In the IPTW analysis, PFS was significantly better in the Atezo/Bev group ($P=0.039$), whereas OS did not differ significantly. In subgroup analyses according to etiology, ALBI grade, and Child-Pugh class, no significant differences in outcomes were observed between the two treatments. Although the objective response rate was similar between groups, the disease control rate was significantly higher in the Atezo/Bev group than in the Durva/Treme group (63.6% vs. 46.9%, $P=0.003$). The surgical conversion rate was also comparable between the two groups (3.6% vs. 2.1%, $P=0.761$). Regarding safety, the Durva/Treme group had a significantly higher overall adverse event (AE) rate than the Atezo/Bev group (36.1% vs. 17.9%, $P<0.001$), particularly immune-related AEs (36.1% vs. 10.4%, $P<0.001$). In contrast, VEGF-related AEs, such as proteinuria, hypertension, and gastrointestinal bleeding, were significantly more frequent in the Atezo/Bev group (7.1% vs. 0.0%, $P=0.002$).

Conclusion: In this preliminary multinational real-world cohort, no clear difference in OS was detected between Atezo/Bev and Durva/Treme after multiple adjustment approaches, although residual confounding and incomplete covariate capture remain important limitations. The regimens showed distinct toxicity patterns, with more immune-related adverse events in the Durva/Treme group and more VEGF-related adverse events in the Atezo/Bev group. Further analyses with expanded multinational enrollment are warranted to validate these preliminary findings and identify optimal patient subgroups for each treatment.

Keywords: Atezolizumab, Bevacizumab, Durvalumab, Tremelimumab, Hepatocellular carcinoma





3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

June 13-14, 2026 | Conrad Seoul, Korea





Speaker

Kazuya Okushin

The Univ. of Tokyo, Japan

Kazuya Okushin, M.D., Ph.D. graduated from Nagoya University School of Medicine in Japan in 2008.

He completed his residency in internal medicine at Toranomon Hospital and a clinical fellowship in gastroenterology and hepatology at JR Tokyo General Hospital.

He received his Ph.D. in medicine from the Graduate School of Medicine, The University of Tokyo in 2016.

Since 2017, he has been a faculty member of The University of Tokyo.

He is working as a hepatologist in the Department of Gastroenterology and also serves as a member of the infection control team for The University of Tokyo hospital.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Dr. Okushin's research focuses on the epidemiology and pathogenesis of a wide range of liver diseases, including viral hepatitis, steatotic liver disease, cirrhosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma.

He has conducted epidemiological surveys using national data to clarify the real-world burden of acute viral hepatitis and contribute to viral hepatitis elimination efforts in Japan. He has also been involved in the development and analysis of a nationwide registry for primary liver cancer and decompensated cirrhosis.

He has extensive experience in real-world data analyses using large-scale healthcare databases, including Japanese claims databases (DPC and MDV) and international electronic health record networks such as TriNetX.

He also conducts basic research on the pathogenesis of steatotic liver disease, with a particular focus on the bile acid metabolism. His previous work demonstrated that hepatic expression of bile salt export pump, a major bile acid transporter in the liver, was inversely correlated with histological disease progression in MASLD. He has also been involved in experimental studies using BSEP knockout mice.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Ikeuchi K, Saito M, Okushin K (corresponding author), et al. Incidence of Hepatitis B Virus Reactivation in Patients Treated with Immunosuppressive and Chemotherapeutic Agents. Aliment Pharmacol Ther. In press.
2. Okushin K, et al. Real-world trends in acute viral hepatitis in Japan: A nationwide questionnaire-based survey. Hepatology Research 2025, 55(3), 301-308.
3. Okushin K, et al. Ursodeoxycholic acid for coronavirus disease 2019 prevention. J Intern Med. 2024, 295(1), 106-109.
4. Okushin K, et al. Current status of primary liver cancer and decompensated cirrhosis in Japan: launch of a nationwide registry for advanced liver diseases (REAL). J Gastroenterol. 2022, 57(8), 587-597.
5. Okushin K, et al. The intrahepatic expression levels of bile acid transporters are inversely correlated with the histological progression of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. J Gastroenterol. 2016, 51(8), 808-18.



Group 3. Viral Hepatitis

Development of HCC Prediction Models after SVR in Non-Cirrhotic Patients: East-Asia Liver Alliance Viral Collaboration

Kazuya Okushin

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) remains an important clinical issue even after sustained virological response (SVR) is achieved with direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) in patients with chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection. Current international guidelines consistently recommend long-term HCC surveillance for patients with cirrhosis or advanced fibrosis; however, the optimal surveillance strategy for non-cirrhotic patients after SVR remains unclear. Although several studies have proposed risk stratification models for HCC development after SVR, many were limited by relatively small sample sizes, short follow-up periods, and insufficient external validation across different Asian populations.^{1,2}

To address this unmet need, we are planning an international retrospective cohort study involving Korea, Taiwan, and Japan to develop and externally validate predictive models for de novo HCC development in non-cirrhotic patients after DAA-induced SVR. This multinational collaboration will enable assessment of model generalizability across different healthcare systems, clinical practices, and patient backgrounds.

We adopted a unique collaborative framework designed to promote both scientific fairness and strong friendships among young investigators. First, we strengthened mutual relationships through repeated web-based meetings and in-person reunions during international conferences such as AASLD and EASL. Second, we carefully harmonized key study components, including the definition of cirrhosis, eligibility criteria, candidate predictive variables, and study outcomes. Finally, rather than creating a single unified model, each country independently develops its own prediction model, followed by reciprocal external validation in the other two countries. Through this fair and mutually respectful approach, we aim to identify robust and generalizable models for HCC surveillance after SVR across East Asian populations while fostering long-term academic collaboration and friendship among EALA investigators.

In the EALA 2026, we will present the three models from Korea, Taiwan, and Japan. The Korean team

uses a nationwide SVR cohort and is developing an AI-based prediction model. The Taiwan team developed a Cox regression-based predictive model for HCC occurrence in a single-center cohort and successfully validated it in two other Taiwanese hospitals. The SFA score effectively identifies high-risk individuals aged <65 years, while pretherapy AFP ≥ 6 ng/mL stratifies risk in those ≥ 65 years. The Japanese team established a special inter-university collaborative cohort integrating data from The University of Osaka and The University of Tokyo specifically for this international project.

We believe that this collaborative project will contribute to more individualized HCC surveillance strategies after SVR, particularly in East Asian countries. Furthermore, beyond scientific achievements, we also believe this collaboration makes a Sustained and Vibrant Relationship (SVR) among the young investigators in the EALA.

References

1. Lin H, Cheuk-Fung Yip T, Lee HW, et al. AI-Safe-C score: Assessing liver-related event risks in patients without cirrhosis after successful direct-acting antiviral treatment. *J Hepatol*. 2025; 82: 456-63.
2. Tahata Y, Sakamori R, Yamada R, et al. Risk of hepatocellular carcinoma after sustained virologic response in hepatitis C virus patients without advanced liver fibrosis. *Hepatol Res*. 2022; 52: 824-32.





3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

June 13-14, 2026 | Conrad Seoul, Korea





Speaker

Soon Sun Kim

Ajou Univ., Korea

Soon Sun Kim is a Professor at the Department of Gastroenterology, Ajou University School of Medicine, a position she has held since March 2025. Previously, she served at the same institution as Associate Professor (2020–2025), Assistant Professor (2016–2020), Clinical Assistant Professor (2012–2016), and Clinical Fellow (2010–2012).

She completed her residency and internship in Internal Medicine at Ajou University Hospital. Prof. Kim earned her Ph.D. in Medicine from Ajou University School of Medicine in 2013 and also received her Master's degree and Doctor of Medicine from the same institution.

In addition, she has served as the Insurance Director of the KLCA since 2024 and as the Insurance Director of the KASL since 2026.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Hepatocellular Carcinoma
- Biomarkers
- Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD)
- Microbiome

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Kim SS, et al. Bacteroides eggerthii ameliorates MASLD through host-microbe signaling and highlights 2-hydroxyisocaproate as a potential effector. Clin Mol Hepatol. 2026;32(1):239-257.
2. Kim SS, Lee J, Ahn SB, et al. Clinical Course and Prognosis of Long-Term Survivors of Hepatocellular Carcinoma. Aliment Pharmacol Ther. 2025;61(8):1333-1342.
3. Son JA, Weon JH, Baek GO, Ahn HR, Choi JY, Yoon MG, et al. Circulating small extracellular vesicle-derived splicing factor 3b subunit 4 as a non-invasive diagnostic biomarker of early hepatocellular carcinoma. J Exp Clin Cancer Res. 2023;42:288.
4. Kim SS, Lee JY, Park SJ, Choi HJ. Early detection of hepatocellular carcinoma via liquid biopsy: Panel of small extracellular vesicle-derived long noncoding RNAs identified as markers. Mol Oncol. 2021;15:2715-2731.
5. Ahn HR, Baek GO, Yoon MG, et al. Hypomethylation-mediated upregulation of the WASF2 promoter region correlates with poor clinical outcomes in hepatocellular carcinoma. J Exp Clin Cancer Res. 2022;41(1):158.



Group 4. Cirrhosis

Implementation Gap in Sarcopenia Assessment and Management in Cirrhosis: An East Asia Liver Alliance Survey

Soon Sun Kim¹, Takao Miwa^{2,3}, Yu-Ju Wei^{4,5,6}, Yun-Cheng Hsieh^{7,8}, Tyng-Yuan Jang^{4,5}, Shinji Unome², Yuki Tahata⁹, Eiji Kakazu¹⁰, Hayato Hikita⁹, Seung Up Kim¹¹, Hyun Jung Chung¹², Chung-Feng Huang^{4,5}, Masahito Shimizu², Takumi Kawaguchi¹³, Tetsuo Takehara⁹, Yoon Jun Kim¹⁴, Ming-Lung Yu^{4,5}, Tatsuya Kanto¹⁰, Kuei-Chuan Lee^{7,8}, Moon Young Kim¹²: East Asia Liver Alliance Liver Cirrhosis Consortium

¹Department of Gastroenterology, Ajou University School of Medicine, Suwon, Korea; ²Department of Gastroenterology/Internal Medicine, Graduate School of Medicine, Gifu University, Gifu, Japan; ³Department of Medicine, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA, USA; ⁴Hepatobiliary Division, Department of Internal Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital, Kaohsiung Medical University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan; ⁵Faculty of Internal Medicine, School of Medicine, College of Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan; ⁶Institute of Biomedical Sciences, National Sun Yat-sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan; ⁷Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Department of Medicine, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan; ⁸School of Medicine, College of Medicine, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taipei, Taiwan; ⁹Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Graduate School of Medicine, The University of Osaka, Osaka, Japan; ¹⁰Department of Liver Diseases, The Research Center for Hepatitis and Immunology, National Institute of Global Health and Medicine, Japan Institute for Health Security, Ichikawa, Japan; ¹¹Department of Internal Medicine, Severance Hospital, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea; ¹²Department of Internal Medicine, Yonsei University Wonju College of Medicine, Wonju, Korea; ¹³Division of Gastroenterology, Department of Medicine, Kurume University School of Medicine, Kurume, Japan; ¹⁴Department of Internal Medicine and Liver Research Institute, Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea

Background: Sarcopenia is increasingly recognized as a major complication in patients with cirrhosis. However, real-world practices regarding sarcopenia assessment and management in East Asia remain unclear. This study aimed to elucidate the current status, barriers, and future perspectives of sarcopenia management in East Asia.

Methods: A questionnaire-based cross-sectional study was conducted among physicians involved in liver cirrhosis management in Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. The primary aim was to evaluate real-world practices for sarcopenia assessment and treatment. Factors associated with implementation of sarcopenia assessment were analyzed using multivariable logistic regression analysis. The survey also investigated barriers and future strategies to improve sarcopenia management.

Results: Among 300 physicians surveyed, 99.3% recognized sarcopenia as a significant problem,

and 98.0% agreed that sarcopenia should be assessed. However, 28.7% reported that they did not assess sarcopenia in routine clinical practice. Computed tomography and handgrip strength were the most commonly used modalities for evaluating muscle mass and function, respectively. Multivariable analysis identified regional differences and institutional factors as significant determinants of sarcopenia assessment. Among physicians who assessed sarcopenia, the main reasons for testing included associations with poor quality of life, poor prognosis, and liver decompensation. Only approximately half of physicians who assessed sarcopenia reported actively treating it. Common interventions included branched-chain amino acids, dietary modification, and resistance training. Among physicians who did not assess sarcopenia, the major barriers included the need for difficult and expensive tests requiring specialized equipment and trained personnel, lack of standardized diagnostic criteria, and increased clinical workload. Proposed strategies to increase sarcopenia assessment included development of simple screening tools, insurance coverage, multidisciplinary team-based approaches, and further evidence demonstrating clinical significance and treatment efficacy.

Conclusions: Physicians across East Asia widely recognize sarcopenia as an important complication in cirrhosis. Nevertheless, substantial gaps remain between recognition and implementation of sarcopenia assessment and treatment in routine clinical practice. Institutional factors and regional differences significantly influence implementation of sarcopenia assessment. Simplified assessment tools, multidisciplinary collaboration, and stronger evidence supporting clinical benefits may help improve sarcopenia management in East Asia.



3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

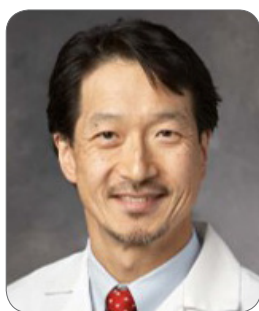
Rising Star Bootcamp

Saturday, June 13, 2026 [16:20 - 17:50]

Small Group Discussion 1 for 2026 Young Investigators

DAY 1 June 13, 2026 (SAT)





Mentor

W. Ray Kim

AASLD

Group 1. MASLD

Dr. Kim earned his medical diploma at Seoul National University.

After moving to the US, he received his GI and hepatology training at Mayo Clinic Minnesota, where he rose through the ranks to be a Professor of Medicine. In 2013, he moved to Stanford University to lead the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. In 2024, he returned to Mayo Clinic to found and direct the Center for Policy and Outcomes Research in Transplant (CPORT) and continue his research and mentorship.

He has served on the boards of the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease (AASLD) and AASLD Foundation, culminating as President of the society in 2024.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Dr. Kim's research interest has been in prognostication in chronic liver disease. His research accomplishments include development of the Model for End Stage Liver Disease (MELD) and the Steatosis-Associated Fibrosis Estimator (SAFE) score.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. W. Ray Kim, Ajitha Mannalithara, Vivek Charu, Nakia Chung, Allison Kwong, Paul Y. Kwo, Natalie J. Torok, Steven M. Asch, Sun H. Kim. Optimal Population Screening Strategies for Liver Fibrosis Associated With Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease. American Journal of Gastroenterology. 2025 October. DOI:10.14309/ajg.0000000000003268
2. Sripongpun P, Kim WR, Mannalithara A, Charu V, Vidovszky A, Asch S, Desai M, Kim SH, Kwong AJ. The steatosis-associated fibrosis estimator (SAFE) score: A tool to detect low-risk NAFLD in primary care. Hepatology. 2023 Jan 1;77(1):256-267. PMID: 3613815.
3. Kim WR, Mannalithara A, Heimbach JK, Kamath PS, Asrani SK, Biggins SW, Wood NL, Gentry SE, Kwong AJ. MELD 3.0: The Model for End-Stage Liver Disease Updated for the Modern Era. Gastroenterology. 2021 Dec;161(6):1887-1895.e4. PMID: 34608337.
4. Kim WR, Biggins SW, Kremers WK, Wiesner RH, Kamath PS, Benson JT, Edwards E, Therneau TM. Hyponatremia and mortality among patients on the liver-transplant waiting list. N Engl J Med. 2008 Sep 4;359(10):1018-26. PMID: 184374557.
5. Kamath PS, Wiesner RH, Malinchoc M, Kremers W, Therneau TM, Kosberg CL, D'Amico G, Dickson ER, Kim WR. A model to predict survival in patients with end-stage liver disease. Hepatology. 2001 Feb;33(2):464-70. PMID: 11172350.





Mentor

Seung Up Kim

KASL

Group 1. MASLD

Prof. Seung Up Kim is a member of Korean Association of the Study of the Liver and Korean Liver Cancer Study Group. He has more than 300 SCI(E) original, peer reviewed publications as primary or corresponding author. He acted as an Editor-in-Chief of Clinical and Molecular Hepatology from 2019 to 2023 and impact factor increased from 4 to 14. He also acts as an Associate Editor of Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, an Editorial Board of Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology, and an Academic Editor of PLoS One, Clinical and Translational Hepatology, and International Journal of Molecular Science. He is an invited referee for more than 20 SCI(E) journals including Lancet Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Journal of Hepatology, Gut, etc.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

His major research interests include metabolic associated steatotic liver disease, sarcopenia, viral hepatitis, liver fibrosis, liver cirrhosis, and liver cancer.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Vibration-Controlled Transient Elastography Scores to Predict Liver-Related Events in Steatotic Liver Disease. Lin H, Lee HW, Yip TC, Tsochatzis E, Petta S, Bugianesi E, Yoneda M, Zheng MH, Hagström H, Boursier J, Calleja JL, Goh GB, Chan WK, Gallego-Durán R, Sanyal AJ, de Lédinghen V, Newsome PN, Fan JG, Castéra L, Lai M, Harrison SA, Fournier-Poizat C, Wong GL, Pennisi G, Armandi A, Nakajima A, Liu WY, Shang Y, de Saint-Loup M, Llop E, Teh KK, Lara-Romero C, Asgharpour A, Mahgoub S, Chan MS, Canivet CM, Romero-Gomez M, Kim SU, Wong VW; VCTE-Prognosis Study Group. JAMA. 2024 Apr 16;331(15):1287-1297. doi: 10.1001/jama.2024.1447.
2. Prognostic performance of the two-step clinical care pathway in metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease. Yip TC, Lee HW, Lin H, Tsochatzis E, Petta S, Bugianesi E, Yoneda M, Zheng MH, Hagström H, Boursier J, Calleja JL, Goh GB, Chan WK, Gallego-Durán R, Sanyal AJ, de Lédinghen V, Newsome PN, Fan JG, Castéra L, Lai M, Fournier-Poizat C, Wong GL, Pennisi G, Armandi A, Nakajima A, Liu WY, Shang Y, de Saint-Loup M, Llop E, Teh KK, Lara-Romero C, Asgharpour A, Mahgoub S, Chan MS, Canivet CM, Romero-Gomez M, Kim SU, Wong VW. J Hepatol. 2025 Jan 23;S0168-8278(25)00021-2. doi: 10.1016/j.jhep.2025.01.014.
3. AI-Safe-C score: Assessing liver-related event risks in patients without cirrhosis after successful direct-acting antiviral treatment. Lin H, Cheuk-Fung Yip T, Lee HW, Meng X, Che-To Lai J, Ahn SH, Pang W, Lai-Hung Wong G, Zeng L, Wai-Sun Wong V, de Lédinghen V, Kim SU. J Hepatol. 2025 Mar;82(3):456-463. doi: 10.1016/j.jhep.2024.09.020.
4. PAGE-B incorporating moderate HBV DNA levels predicts risk of HCC among patients entering into HBeAg-positive chronic hepatitis B. Chun HS, Papatheodoridis GV, Lee M, Lee HA, Kim YH, Kim SH, Oh YS, Park SJ, Kim J, Lee HA, Kim HY, Kim TH, Yoon EL, Jun DW, Ahn SH, Sypsa V, Yurdaydin C, Lampertico P, Calleja JL, Janssen H, Dalekos GN, Goulis J, Berg T, Buti M, Kim SU, Kim YJJ. Hepatol. 2024 Jan;80(1):20-30. doi: 10.1016/j.jhep.2023.09.011.
5. Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease and risk of cardiovascular disease. Lee HH, Lee HA, Kim EJ, Kim HY, Kim HC, Ahn SH, Lee H, Kim SU. Gut. 2024 Feb 23;73(3):533-540. doi: 10.1136/gutjnl-2023-331003.



Mentor

Takumi Kawaguchi

JSH

Group 1. MASLD

Education/Employment History

1995, MD. Degree from Kurume University School of Medicine, Japan.
 1999, Ph.D. Degree in Kurume University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan.
 2000, Research Fellow, University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center, Texas, USA.
 2012, Assistant Prof. Div. of Gastroenterology, Dept. of Medicine, Kurume Univ. School of Medicine, Japan.
 2022, Professor and Chairman, Div. of Gastroenterology, Dept. of Medicine, Kurume Univ. School of Med.

Committee/Member

1. The Japan Society of Hepatology, International Committee Member
2. Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines for MASLD 2026, Committee Member
3. Clinical and Molecular Hepatology, Editorial Board Member
4. The Global MASH Council, Member

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Medication for MASLD
 Exercise Therapy for MASLD

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Tsutsumi T, Tang NSY, Ng CH, Kawaguchi T et al. Comparative efficacy of phase 2-3 therapies for non-cirrhotic metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis: An updated network meta-analysis. Med. 2026 in press.
2. Younossi ZM, de Avila L, Kawaguchi T, et al. Predictors of fibrosis, clinical events, and mortality in MASLD: Data from the Global-MASLD study. Hepatology. 2026 in press.
3. Lim RY, Koh B, Ng CH, Kulkarni AV, Kawaguchi T, et al. Hepatocellular Carcinoma Surveillance and Survival in a Contemporary Asia-Pacific Cohort. JAMA Netw Open. 2025;8:e2520294.
4. Tsutsumi T, Nakano D, Kawaguchi M, Takahashi H, Kawaguchi T. Similar respiratory function including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease between non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease. Clin Mol Hepatol. 2024;30:266-268.
5. Nakano M, Kawaguchi M, Kawaguchi T. Almost identical values of various non-invasive indexes for hepatic fibrosis and steatosis between NAFLD and MASLD in Asia. J Hepatol. 2024;80:e155-e157.





YI

Group 1. MASLD

Sung Won Chung

Univ. of Ulsan, Korea

Prof. Sung Won Chung is an Assistant Professor of the Department of Internal Medicine, Ulsan University College of Medicine. Prof. Chung graduated from Seoul National University College of Medicine with his medical degree in 2014 and completed his internship and residency at the Department of Internal Medicine at Seoul National University Hospital.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Prof. Sung Won Chung is interested in MASLD and HCC

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. SW Chung, JS Kim, W-M Choi, J Choi, D Lee, JH Shim, Y-S Lim, HC Lee and KM Kim, Synergistic Effects of Transarterial Chemoembolization and Lenvatinib on HIF-1a Ubiquitination and Prognosis Improvement in Hepatocellular Carcinoma. Clinical Cancer Research.2025; accepted.
2. SW Chung, HJ Um, W-M Choi, J Choi, D Lee, JH Shim, KM Kim, Y-S Lim, HC Lee, Tenofovir is Associated with a Better Prognosis Than Entecavir for Hepatitis B Virus-Related Hepatocellular Carcinoma. Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology. 2025; 23(2):300-309
3. SW Chung, H-S Moon, H Shin, H Han, S Park, HJ Cho, MK Park, S-H Won, YB Lee, EJ Cho, SJ Yu, DK Kim, J-H Yoon, J-H Lee, YJ Kim, Inhibition of sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 and liverrelated complications in individuals with diabetes: A Mendelian randomization and population-based cohort study. Hepatology. 2024. Doi:10.1097/HEP.0000000000000837. Online ahead of print
4. D Jeon, HR Cha, SW Chung, J Choi, D Lee, JH Shim, KM Kim, Y-S Lim, HC Lee, SW Lee, W-M Choi. Association between statin use and the prognosis of hepatocellular carcinoma after resection: A nationwide cohort study. eClinicalMed. 2023;65:102300.doi:10.1016/j.eclinm.2023.102300
5. Lee DH, SW Chung, J-H Lee, HY Kim, GE Chung, M-S Kim, BR Yang, JY Nam, YB Lee, YJ Kim, J-H Yoon. Associations of Chronic Hepatitis B Infection and Antiviral Treatment with the Development of the Extrahepatic Malignancies: A Nationwide Cohort Study. J Clin Oncol. 2022 Oct;40(29): 3394– 3405.doi:10.1200/JCO.21.01285



YI

Group 1. MASLD

Dong Yun Kim

Yonsei Univ., Korea

Dr. Kim received his M.D. from Yonsei University Wonju College of Medicine in February 2013. He subsequently completed an internship (2013–2014) and a residency in Internal Medicine (2014–2018) at Severance Hospital, Seoul. He pursued doctoral training in the Integrated M.S./Ph.D. Program at the Department of Pharmacology, Yonsei University Graduate School of Medicine, receiving his Ph.D. in August 2022. He then undertook a postdoctoral fellowship at the Biochemical Science Institute, Severance Hospital (2022–2023), followed by a clinical fellowship at the Institute of Gastroenterology, Severance Hospital (2023–2025). Since March 2025, he has served as a Clinical Professor at the Institute of Gastroenterology, Severance Hospital.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

His research focuses on metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), spanning clinical, translational, and basic experimental work. Particular interests include genetic determinants of liver disease progression, non-invasive assessment of steatosis and fibrosis, systemic therapy outcomes in HCC, and multi-omic approaches to precision hepatology.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Kim DY, Rhee HJ, Kim BK. Predictors of Discordance Between Controlled Attenuation Parameter and Magnetic Resonance-Proton Density Fat Fraction in Hepatic Steatosis, Clinical and Translational Gastroenterology 2026 Apr 17.
2. Kim DY, Lee JL, Park JY, Integration of PNPLA3 and TM6SF2 genotypes provides incremental improvement in advanced fibrosis prediction among MASLD patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus JHEP Reports 2025 Dec 17;8(2):101713
3. Nam H, Kim DY, Kim DY, Lee SW, Jang JW. Development and Validation of a Risk Prediction Model for Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma Receiving Atezolizumab-Bevacizumab. Hepatology 2026 May 1;83(5):1098-1110
4. Chon YE, Kim DY, Chon HJ, Kim DY. Sorafenib vs. Lenvatinib in advanced hepatocellular carcinoma after atezolizumab/bevacizumab failure: A real-world study. Clin Mol Hepatol. 2024 Jul;30(3):345-359.
5. Kim DY, Park JY, Gee HY. Lactobacillus plantarum ameliorates NASH-related inflammation by upregulating L-arginine production. Exp Mol Med. 2023 Nov;55(11):2332-2345.





YI

Group 1. MASLD

Tsubasa Tsutsumi

Kurume Univ., Japan

Tsubasa Tsutsumi, M.D., Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Gastroenterology, Department of Internal Medicine, Kurume University School of Medicine, Japan. He received his M.D. from Kurume University School of Medicine in 2009 and completed his Ph.D. in hepatology at the same institution in 2023. After clinical training in gastroenterology and hepatology in Japan, he worked at the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare from 2017 to 2020, contributing to national projects related to end-of-life care and cancer screening. He served as Scientific Staff in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Department of Medicine, University of Chicago, from April 2024 to March 2026, and resumed full-time duties at Kurume University in April 2026. His academic work focuses on metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease, clinical epidemiology, non-invasive risk stratification, systematic reviews and meta-analyses, and international collaborative research in liver disease. He has received several early-career awards, including the 2023 AASLD Foundation Professor Mindie H. Nguyen Award, the 2024 APASL/AASLD Trainee Workshop Award, the 2025 EASL SLD Summit Young Investigator Full Bursary Award, and the 39th Japanese Society of Gastroenterology Encouragement Award.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis
- Clinical epidemiology and population-based cohort research in liver disease
- Non-invasive risk stratification for liver fibrosis, treatment eligibility, and extrahepatic outcomes
- Therapeutic evaluation, systematic reviews, and network meta-analyses in metabolic liver disease
- Inter-organ crosstalk between liver disease and cardiovascular, renal, pulmonary, and metabolic outcomes

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Comparative efficacy of phase 2-3 therapies for non-cirrhotic metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis: An updated network meta-analysis. *Med.* 2026 Mar; in press. doi:10.1016/j.medj.2026.101077. PMID:41946364.
2. Aspirin use and Mediterranean diet adherence as factors associated with overall mortality in patients with MASLD in NHANES. *Hepatol Res.* 2025 Nov; in press. doi:10.1111/hepr.70075. PMID:41319245.
3. Low HDL cholesterol levels in women and hypertriglyceridemia in men: predictors of MASLD onset in individuals without steatosis. *J Gastroenterol.* 2025 Jul;60:891-904.
4. Hepatic inflammation and fibrosis are profiles related to mid-term mortality in biopsy-proven MASLD: A multicenter study in Japan. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther.* 2024;59:1559-1570.



YI

Group 1. MASLD

Masaaki Mino

Japan Institute for Health Security, Japan

Dr. Mino is a committed physician and researcher with a unique background, having transitioned from agricultural sciences to medicine, driven by a deep passion for advancing the field of hepatology. His work focuses on metabolic processes, such as amino acid metabolism, the TCA cycle, and mitochondrial function, in liver diseases including metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease and cirrhosis.

Since 2021, he has pursued research alongside clinical practice under the guidance of Professor Tatsuya Kanto.

Latest Education & Professional Experience

- March 2026: PhD, Department of Gastroenterology, Graduate School of Medicine, Hiroshima University, Japan
- April 2024-Present: Physician, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, National Kohnodai Medical Center, Japan Institute for Health Security, Japan

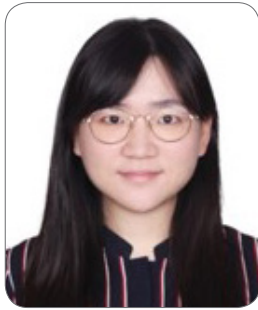
RESEARCH INTERESTS

MASLD, Amino acids, Mitochondria, Metabolic liver diseases, Immunometabolism

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Mino M, Mori N, Oka S, et al., Biopsy-Proven Reversal of F4 Cirrhosis in Classic Hepatic Glycogen Storage Disease Type IV: A 42-Year Follow-Up Without Transplantation. *Hepatol Res.* 2026;56(4):629-634.
2. Mino M, Kakazu E, Kanto T, et al., Hepatitis C Virus Clearance Is Associated With the Improvement of the Branched-Chain Amino Acid to Tyrosine Ratio (BTR) of Patients With Mild-To-Advanced Fibrosis. *Liver Internal Commu*, 2025;6: e70025.
3. Mino M, Kakazu E, Kanto T, et al., Comprehensive analysis of peripheral blood free amino acids in MASLD: the impact of glycine-serine-threonine metabolism. *Amino Acids.* 2024 24;57(1):3.
4. Mino M, Kakazu E, Kanto T, et al., Differences in branched-chain amino acid to tyrosine ratio (BTR) among etiologies of chronic liver disease progression compared to healthy adults. *J Gastroenterol.* 2024;59(6):483-49.
5. Mino M, Kakazu E, Kanto T, et al., Effects of sodium glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitors and pioglitazone on FIB-4 index in metabolic-associated fatty liver disease. *Hepatol Res.* 2023;53(7):618-628.





YI

Group 1. MASLD

Chia-Hung Tai

Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan

Dr. Tai is an attending physician in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Linkou Medical Center, Taiwan. She received her MD degree from Kaohsiung Medical University and completed her residency and fellowship training at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital.

Her research focuses on fatty liver disease and noninvasive liver assessment using ultrasound, elastography, and deep learning applications. Her current interests include AI-assisted diagnostic imaging and improving the accuracy and generalizability of ultrasound-based liver evaluation.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Hepatology
- Noninvasive assessment of liver fibrosis and steatosis
- Artificial intelligence in diagnostic ultrasound

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Tai J, Hsu TH, Chen CJ, Chang ML, Lin C, Huang SF, Lu L, Harrison AP, Tai DI. Clinical Validation of a Deep Learning-Based 2D Ultrasound Steatosis Algorithm: Cutoff Transferability, Scanner Generalizability, and Comparison with FibroScan. *Diagnostics (Basel)*. 2026;16(2):267.
2. Chang ML, Tai J, Cheng JS, Chen WT, Yang SS, Chiu CH, Chien RN. Factors associated with treatment responses to pioglitazone in patients with steatotic liver disease: A 3-year prospective cohort study. *Diabetes Obes Metab*. 2024;26(7):2969-2978.
3. Tai J, Hsu CW, Chen WT, Yang SS, Chiu CH, Chien RN, Chang ML. Association of liver fibrosis with extrahepatic cancer in steatotic liver disease patients with PNPLA3 I148M GG genotype. *Cancer Sci*. 2024;115(2):564-574.
4. Harrison AP, Li B, Hsu TH, Chen CJ, Yu WT, Tai J, Lu L, Tai DI. Steatosis Quantification on Ultrasound Images by a Deep Learning Algorithm on Patients Undergoing Weight Changes. *Diagnostics (Basel)*. 2023;13(20):3225.
5. Tai J, Harrison AP, Chen HM, Hsu CY, Hsu TH, Chen CJ, Jeng WJ, Chang ML, Lu L, Tai DI. Acoustic radiation force impulse predicts long-term outcomes in a large-scale cohort: High liver cancer, low comorbidity in hepatitis B virus. *World J Gastroenterol*. 2023;29(14):2188-2201.



YI

Group 1. MASLD

Chun-Ming Hong

National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan

Education

2001-2008 M.D., College of Medicine, National Taiwan University
2016-2018 M.M.S., Graduate School of Clinical Medicine, National Taiwan University

Professional Experience

2007 Clerkship, USC+LAC Hospital, Los Angeles, U.S.A.
2007-2008 Internship, National Taiwan University Hospital
2009 Medical volunteer, the Solomon Islands
2010-2013 Residency, Department of Internal medicine, National Taiwan University Hospital
2013-2015 Fellowship, Department of Gastroenterology, National Taiwan University Hospital
2015-2017 Attending Physician, Division of Hospital Medicine, Department of Traumatology, National Taiwan University Hospital
2017-Present Attending Physician, Division of Hospital Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, National Taiwan University Hospital
2021-Present Instructor, School of Pharmacy, National Taiwan University
2020-2023 Adjunct Lecturer, College of Medicine, National Taiwan University
2023-Present Clinical Lecturer, College of Medicine, National Taiwan University

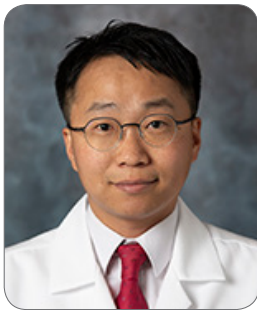
RESEARCH INTERESTS

His research focused on viral hepatitis and mostly hepatitis C in the early days. In recent years his research focuses more on alcohol-associated liver disease and MASLD.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Chang KC, Su TH, Wu CK, Huang SC, Tseng TC, Hong CM, Hsu SJ, Liu CH, Yang HC, Liu CJ, Kao JH. Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease is associated with increased risks of heart failure. *Eur J Heart Fail*. 2025 Mar;27(3):512-520. doi: 10.1002/ehf.3567. Epub 2025 Jan 8. PMID: 39777761.
2. Huang SC, Su TH, Tseng TC, Hsu SJ, Hong CM, Lan TY, Liu CH, Yang HC, Liu CJ, Kao JH. All-cause and cause-specific mortality in patients with chronic hepatitis B and concurrent steatotic liver disease. *J Hepatol*. 2025 Jul;83(1):43-51. doi: 10.1016/j.jhep.2024.12.009. Epub 2024 Dec 14. PMID: 39675434.
3. Hong CM, Su TH, Hsu SJ, Tseng TC, Liu CH, Yang HC, Kao JH, Chen PJ, Cheng PN, Hung CH, Peng CY, Chen CH, Lin CY, Kuo HT, Lin HC, Huang YH, Chen CY, Lin CL, Tsai PC, Zeng YS, Dai CY, Chuang WL, Huang JF, Huang CF, Yeh ML, Yu ML, Liu CJ. Addition of neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio to Pre-DAA FIB-4 does not increase prediction value for de novo liver complications in hepatitis C. *J Formos Med Assoc*. 2025 Dec;124(12):1149-1156. doi: 10.1016/j.jfma.2024.10.024. Epub 2024 Nov 2. PMID: 39488497.
4. Hong CM, Lin YY, Liu CJ, Lai YY, Yeh SH, Yang HC, Kao JH, Hsu SJ, Huang YH, Yang SS, Kuo HT, Cheng PN, Yu ML, Chen PJ. Drug Resistance Profile and Clinical Features for Hepatitis C Patients Experiencing DAA Failure in Taiwan. *Viruses*. 2021 Nov 17;13(11):2294. doi: 10.3390/v13112294. PMID: 34835100; PMCID: PMC8621340.
5. Hong CM, Liu CH, Su TH, Yang HC, Chen PJ, Chen YW, Kao JH, Liu CJ. Real-world effectiveness of direct-acting antiviral agents for chronic hepatitis C in Taiwan: Real-world data. *J Microbiol Immunol Infect*. 2020 Aug;53(4):569-577. doi: 10.1016/j.jmii.2018.09.005. Epub 2018 Sep 26. PMID: 30316726.





Mentor

Ju Dong Yang

AASLD

Group 2. HCC

1999.03-2005.02	Medical School - Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine, Seoul, Korea
2009.03-2011.05	Research Fellowship - Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
2009.09-2011.05	Master's degree in clinical and translational research - Clinical and Translational Science Activities, Mayo Graduate School
2011.06-2014.05	Residency - Internal Medicine, University of Arkansas For Medical Science, Little Rock, AR
2014.07-2017.12	Gastroenterology Fellowship, T32 Grant - Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
2018.01-2018.12	Transplant Hepatology Fellowship - Transplant Hepatology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
2023.01-Present	Associate Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Cedars-Sinai

RESEARCH INTERESTS

The Yang Lab is dedicated to advancing the early detection and risk stratification of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) through the discovery and validation of circulating biomarkers, including circulating tumor cells and extracellular vesicles. By integrating these insights with predictive modeling and molecular profiling, the lab develops precision therapies tailored to individual patients and optimizes treatment responses. Leveraging population-based data, the Yang Lab also addresses global disparities in liver cancer care, guiding more equitable and effective clinical strategies.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Antibiotic Use Linked to Worse Outcomes in Patients With Gastrointestinal and Liver Cancer on Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors: A Meta-Analysis. Rezaee-Zavareh MS, Karimi-Sari H, Parhizkar Roudsari P, Khattab O, Attia AM, Danpanichkul P, Hwang SY, Liu JS, Yalda T, Chen PJ, Gong J, Ferrone CR, Rich NE, Parikh ND, Pinato DJ, Singal AG, Yang JD. Am J Gastroenterol. 2026 Feb 12. doi: 10.14309/ajg.0000000000003956. Online ahead of print. PMID: 41677135.
2. Gastrointestinal cancer statistics in 2022 and projection to 2050: GLOBOCAN estimates across 185 countries. Danpanichkul P, Pang Y, Tothnarungroj P, Dejvajara D, Kim D, Saokhieo P, Suparan K, Muthiah MD, Duangsonk K, Bernal DO, Lui RN, Wijarnpreecha K, Abou-Alfa GK, Wallace MB, Roberts LR, Singal AG, Yang JD. Cancer. 2026 Jan 1;132(1):e70245. doi: 10.1002/cncr.70245.
3. Impact of pre-transplant immune checkpoint inhibitor use on post-transplant outcomes in HCC: A systematic review and individual patient data meta-analysis. Rezaee-Zavareh MS, Yeo YH, Wang T, Guo Z, Tabrizian P, Ward SC, Barakat F, Hassanein TI, Dave S, Ajmera V, Bhooori S, Mazzaferro V, Chascsa DMH, Liu MC, Aby ES, Lake JR, Sogbe M, Sangro B, Abdelrahim M, Esmail A, Schmiderer A, Chouik Y, Rudolph M, Sohal D, Giudicelli H, Allaire M, Akce M, Guadagno J, Tow CY, Massoumi H, De Simone P, Kang E, Gartrell RD, Martinez M, Paz-Fumagalli R, Toskich BB, Tran NH, Solino GA, Poltronieri Pacheco DM, Kalman RS, Agopian VG, Mehta N, Parikh ND, Singal AG, Yang JD. J Hepatol. 2025 Jan;82(1):107.



Mentor

Chung-Feng Huang

TASL

Group 2. HCC

Chung-Feng Huang graduated from the College of Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University in 2002. Afterwards he got M.S. in Institute of Medical Science, College of Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University in 2009, and got his PhD. degree in Graduate Institute of Clinical Medicine, College of Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University in 2016.

He completed his clinical training in the Department of Internal Medicine and Hepatology at the Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital in 2007. He is now the Professor of Kaohsiung Medical University and the Director of Hepatobiliary Division of Department of Internal Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical Hospital. He also serves as the Secretary General of Taiwan Association for the Study of the Liver 2026-2028.

His research focuses on liver disease including viral hepatitis, steatotic liver disease and hepatocellular carcinoma. He serves as the Associate Editor of Advances in Digestive Medicine, and Editorial Board of the World Journal of Gastroenterology, Journal of Translational Gastroenterology and Journal of Clinical and Translational Gastroenterology and the reviewer for SCI journals including Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Liver International, Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Hepatology International, Clinical and Molecular Hepatology, etc.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

HCV, HCC, MASLD

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Yu ML*, Huang CF*, Wei YJ, Lin WY, Lin YH, Hsu PY, Hsu CT, Liu TW, Lee JJ, Niu SW, Huang JC, Hung TS, Yeh ML, Huang CI, Liang PC, Hsien MY, Chen SC, Huang JF, Chang JM, Chiu YW, Dai CY, Hwang SJ, Chuang WL*; FORMOSA-LIKE investigators. 2021. Establishment of an outreach, grouping healthcare system to achieve microelimination of HCV for uremic patients in haemodialysis centres (ERASE-C). Gut. 2021 Dec;70(12):2349-2358.
2. Huang CF, Tseng KC, Cheng PN, Hung CH, Lo CC, Peng CY, Bair MJ, Yeh ML, Chen CH, Lee PL, Lin CY, Kuo HT, Chen CT, Yang CC, Huang JF, Tai CM, Hu JT, Lin CL, Su WW, Tsai WL, Huang YH, Cheng CY, Lin CL, Wang CC, Yang SS, Mo LR, Chen GY, Chang CC, Wang SJ, Huang CS, Hsieh TY, Lin CW, Lee TH, Chong LW, Huang CW, Chang SN, Tsai MC, Hsu SJ, Kao JH, Liu CJ, Liu CH, Lin HC, Lee MH, Tsai PC, Dai CY, Chuang WL, Chen CY, Yu ML*. 2022. Impact of sofosbuvir-based direct-acting antivirals on renal function in chronic hepatitis C patients with impaired renal function: a large cohort study from the nationwide HCV Registry Program (TACR). Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2022 May;20(5):1151-1162.e6.
3. Huang CF, Dai CY, Lin YH, Wang CW, Jang TY, Liang PC, Lin TC, Tsai PC, Wei YJ, Yeh ML, Hsieh MY, Huang CK, Huang JF*, Chuang WL, Yu ML. 2024. Dynamic change of MASLD in chronic hepatitis C patients after viral eradication: A nationwide registry study in Taiwan. Clin Mol Hepatol. 2024 Oct;30(4):883-894.
4. Huang CF, Yeh ML, Dai CY, Huang JF, Chuang WL, Yu ML Chronic Hepatitis C Related Steatotic Liver Disease Is More Than "Miscellaneous Steatotic Liver Disease". Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2024 Oct;22(10):2137-2139.e2.
5. Huang CF, Heo J, Chien RN, Baek YH, Kao JH, Kim JH, Chang TT, Byun KS, Chen JJ, Jeong SH, Hu TH, Kim YS, Peng CY, Tak WY, Wang HY, Yoon SK, Sheen IS, Youn-Jae Lee, Hsu YC, Yim HJ, Tsai PC, Yeh ML, Ahn SH, Dai CY, Paik SW, Huang JF, Kim YJ, Chuang WL, Lim YS*, Yu ML*. 2025. Long-Term Hepatic and Extrahepatic Outcomes of Chronic Hepatitis C Patients After Sofosbuvir-Based Treatment (LONGHEAD Study). Infect Dis Ther. 2025 May;14(5):1089-1101.





YI

Group 2. HCC

Heechul Nam

The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea

Prof. Heechul Nam is an Associate Professor of Internal Medicine at The Catholic University of Korea, where he also received his medical degree and completed his residency.

Currently, he serves on the Guideline and External Affairs Committees of KASL, and is an editorial board member for the Journal of Liver Cancer.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

HCC, HBV

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Nam H, Kim DY, Kim DY, Kim JH, Kim CW, et al. Development and validation of a risk prediction model for patients with hepatocellular carcinoma receiving atezolizumab-bevacizumab. *Hepatology*. 2026 May 1;83(5):1098-1110.
2. Nam H, Sung PS, Lee SW, Song DS, Kwon JH, Jang JW, et al. Incorporating ALBI Grade with Geriatric Nutritional Risk Index Enhances Hepatocellular Carcinoma Risk Stratification. *Liver Cancer* 2024;1-18.
3. Nam H, Lee J, Han JW, Lee SK, Yang H, Lee HL, et al. Analysis of Immune-Related Adverse Events of Atezolizumab and Bevacizumab in Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma: A Multicentre Cohort Study. *Liver Cancer* 2024;13:413-425.
4. Nam H, Lee SW, Kwon JH, Lee HL, Yoo SH, Kim HY, et al. Prediction of Hepatocellular Carcinoma by On-Therapy Response of Noninvasive Fibrosis Markers in Chronic Hepatitis B. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2021;116:1657-1666.
5. Nam H, Lim JH, Kim TW, Kim EN, Oum SJ, Bae SH, et al. Extracellular Superoxide Dismutase Attenuates Hepatic Oxidative Stress in Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease through the Adenosine Monophosphate-Activated Protein Kinase Activation. *Antioxidants (Basel)* 2023;12.



YI

Group 2. HCC

Myung Ji Goh

Sungkyunkwan Univ., Korea

Currently serving as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Samsung Medical Center, Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine. Academic background includes undergraduate training in Life Sciences at Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH), followed by MD and PhD degrees at Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine. Clinical training was completed at Samsung Medical Center, including residency in Internal Medicine and a three-year fellowship in Gastroenterology and Hepatology, consisting of two years of clinical practice and one year of dedicated research training. This was followed by three years as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the same division.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Clinical Management of HCC: Optimization of treatment strategies using real-world data and clinical outcomes research.
- Translational Research in Immunotherapy-Treated HCC: Investigation of the tumor microenvironment through multi-omics integration.
- Biomarker Discovery: Identification and clinical evaluation of predictive biomarkers, including ctDNA kinetics and protein-based scoring systems, for therapeutic monitoring and prognostic assessment.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Lim J, Goh MJ, Song BG, et al. Unraveling the immune-activated tumor microenvironment correlated with clinical response to atezolizumab plus bevacizumab in advanced HCC. JHEP Reports. 2025;7(4):101304.
2. Kim A, Goh MJ, Song BG, et al. Assessing the validity of the AASLD surgical treatment algorithm in patients with early-stage hepatocellular carcinoma. Gut and Liver. 2025;19(2):265-274. doi:10.5009/gnl240214.
3. Goh MJ, Park HC, Yu JI, et al. Impact of intrahepatic external beam radiotherapy in advanced hepatocellular carcinoma patients treated with tyrosine kinase inhibitors. Liver Cancer. 2023;12(5):467-478.
4. Goh MJ, Kang W, Jeong WK, et al. Prognostic significance of cachexia index in patients with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma treated with systemic chemotherapy. Scientific Reports. 2022;12:7647. 5.
5. Goh MJ, Oh JH, Park Y, et al. Efficacy and safety of lenvatinib therapy for unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma in a real-world practice in Korea. Liver Cancer. 2021;10(1):52-62.





YI

Group 2. HCC

Hiroki Inada

Kumamoto Univ., Japan

After entering the Graduate School of Kyushu University in 2016, he conducted research on liver regeneration and direct reprogramming under the supervision of Atsushi Suzuki. He reported that FOXA3, HNF1A, and HNF6 directly induce human liver progenitor cells from vascular endothelial cells, published in Nature Communications. Since 2021, he has been engaged in translational research on human chemically induced liver progenitor cells (hCLiPs) at Kumamoto University in collaboration with Takahiro Ochiya.

His recent work includes contributing to the advancement of cancer genomic medicine for biliary tract cancer and elucidating immune evasion mechanisms in TP53-mutant intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma using spatial transcriptomics. In addition, he demonstrated the efficacy of rifaximin for covert hepatic encephalopathy in a randomized controlled trial, and this work was published in Alimentary Pharmacology & Therapeutics. From July 2025, he spent approximately one year as a visiting researcher at University of Pittsburgh, where he investigated the roles of hepatic Wnt/ β -catenin signaling in liver zonation and metabolic homeostasis.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Liver Regeneration, Liver Cirrhosis, Liver Cancer, Liver Stem Cell Biology

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Inada H et al. Rifaximin Improves Cognitive Performance and Reduces Cirrhosis-Related Adverse Events in Covert Hepatic Encephalopathy: A Randomized Controlled Trial. Aliment Pharmacol Ther. 2026 May 6.
2. Inada H et al. TP53 mutation predicts resistance to immune checkpoint inhibitor-based therapy in intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma. J Gastroenterol. 2026 Mar;61(3):325-333.
3. Inada H et al. Serum alpha-fetoprotein/hepatocyte growth factor ratio as a novel biomarker predicting the prognosis of acute alcoholic hepatitis. Hepatol Res. 2025 Jun;55(6):922-931.
4. Inada H et al. Clinical utility of a comprehensive genomic profiling test for patient with advanced biliary tract cancer. Int J Clin Oncol. 2024 Dec;29(12):1908-1915.
5. Inada H et al. Direct reprogramming of human umbilical vein- and peripheral blood-derived endothelial cells into hepatic progenitor cells. Nat Commun. 2020;11(1):5292.



YI

Group 2. HCC

Masayuki Ueno

Kurashiki Central Hospital, Japan

Dr. Ueno received his medical degree from Kyoto University in March 2013. After completing his residency training at Kurashiki Central Hospital from April 2013 to March 2015, he worked there as a Gastroenterology physician until March 2021. He then entered the graduate program at Kyoto University and completed his PhD in March 2025.

His clinical and research interests include hepatology, gastroenterology, and clinical oncology, with a particular focus on hepatocellular carcinoma.

In Japan, he is board-certified as a hepatology specialist and a medical oncology specialist. He is also involved in the Japanese Society of Hepatology as a member of the working group on drug-induced liver injury and the autoimmune hepatitis subcommittee.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Systemic therapy for hepatocellular carcinoma
- Locoregional therapy for hepatocellular carcinoma
- Drug-induced liver injury (including irAE)

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Atezolizumab Plus Bevacizumab Versus Lenvatinib as First-Line Treatment for Unresectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma Stratified by the CRAFTY Score: An International Multicenter Study. Liver Cancer (accepted for publication).
2. Lenvatinib Versus Atezolizumab Plus Bevacizumab as First-Line Treatment for Advanced Hepatocellular Carcinoma With a CRAFTY Score of 2: A Multi-Center Retrospective Study. Hepatol Res. 2026 Jan;56(1):100-110.
3. Acquisition Process and Clinical Relevance of dMMR-Associated Mutational Signatures in Hepatocellular Carcinoma. Liver Int. 2025 Jul;45(7):e70197.
4. CRAFTY score as a predictive marker for refractoriness to atezolizumab plus bevacizumab therapy in hepatocellular carcinoma: a multicenter retrospective study. J Gastroenterol. 2024 Dec;59(12):1107-1118.
5. Real-world efficacy of antibiotic prophylaxis for upper gastrointestinal bleeding in cirrhotic patients in Japan. J Gastroenterol. 2023 Aug;58(8):766-777.





YI

Wei Teng

Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan

Group 2. HCC

Dr. Teng received his MD degree from Taipei Medical University, school of medicine in 2008. He completed his postgraduate training course at the Department of Internal Medicine (2009-2012), Fellowship at the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Linkou Medical Center (2012-2014) and has been an Attending Physician in the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology since 2014. He received his PhD degree in 2022 from the Graduate School of Institute of Clinical Medicine, National Yang-Ming Chiao-Tung University. Over the past 10 years, Dr. Teng has focused his scientific interests on topics related to viral hepatitis, including HBV for those patients in the gray zone of current HBV treatment guidelines, the outcome of post-DAA therapy for HCV patients, liver cirrhosis, and acute liver failure. He is dedicated to the field of hepatology and is specialized in the management and treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma. He has also participated in several global clinical trials, including phases 1, 2, and 3 of HCC treatment. He is the first author of the drafting of HCC treatment guidelines of the Taiwan Liver Cancer Association in 2024 and 2025. He is also a member of Taiwan Association for the Study of Liver (TASL), European Association of Study of Liver (EASL) and American Association of the Study of Liver Disease (AASLD).

RESEARCH INTERESTS

His research interest focused on the immunology study of tumor microenvironment and tried to find out the pivotal biomarkers predicting the outcome for HCC patients receiving immunotherapy.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Liang YJ, Teng W, Chen CL, Sun CP, Teng RD, Huang YH, Liang KH, Chen YW, Lin CC, Su CW, Tao MH, Wu JC*. Clinical implications on HBV preS/S mutations and the effects of preS2 deletion on mitochondria, liver fibrosis, and cancer development. *Hepatology*. 2021 Aug;74(2):641-655. doi: 10.1002/hep.31789
2. Teng W, Chang TT, Yang HI, Peng CY, Su CW, Su TH, Hu TH, Yu ML, Yang HC, Wu JC*. Risk scores to predict HCC and the benefits of antiviral therapy for CHB patients in gray zone of treatment guideline. *Hepatology International* 2021 Nov 6. doi: 10.1007/s12072-021-10263-x
3. Teng W#, Wang HW#, Lin SM*. Management Consensus Guidelines for Hepatocellular Carcinoma: 2023 Update on Surveillance, Diagnosis, Systemic Treatment, and Posttreatment Monitoring by the Taiwan Liver Cancer Association and the Gastroenterological Society of Taiwan. *Liver Cancer*. 2024 Feb 12;13(5):468-486. doi: 10.1159/000537686 (Co-first author)
4. Lee IC#, Wang WH#, Teng W#, Lin JT#, Chen CH, Lai HC, Lee TY, Chang CW, Hung CH, Dai CY, Hung YP, Shen YC, Su CW, Ho MC, Lee WC, Chau GY, Ting CT, Liang PC, Liu CA, Chang PY, Chen KY, Lin SM, Chen LT, Huang YH#. Taiwan Liver Cancer Association Management Consensus Guidelines for Intermediate Stage Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *Clin Mol Hepatol*. 2025 Oct;31(4):1213-1232. doi: 10.3350/cmh.2025.0724. (co-first author)
5. Teng W, Chang TT, Su CW, Xu JH, Hsu CC, Chang YC, Liu WC, Chiou YW, Chang YC, Liang YJ*, Wu JC*. The impact of single-nucleotide variants of Hepatitis B virus and antiviral on liver cancer in gray zone patients. *Journal of Biomedical Science* 2025 Dec 1;32(1):101. doi: 10.1186/s12929-025-01195-x



YI

Group 2. HCC

Pei-Chang Lee

Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taiwan

Dr. Pei-Chang Lee is an Attending Physician at Taipei Veterans General Hospital and an Associate Professor at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan. He holds an M.D. in Medicine and a Ph.D. in Pharmacology, and completed a visiting research appointment at Imperial College London (2024–2025). Dr. Lee specializes in clinical hepatology and liver cancer immunotherapy. His research focuses on liver cancer immunotherapy, gut microbiota, metabolic signatures, clinical nutrition, and biomarkers. Honored to be invited as a member of the HCC Young Investigator group, he is enthusiastic about sharing insights on tumor immunology and exploring collaborative pathways at the 3rd EALA Symposium and 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Liver cancer; Immunotherapy; Gut microbiota and metabolites; Clinical Nutrition; Biomarkers.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Lee PC, YH Huang, DJ Pinato, et al. Determinants of long-term survival from atezolizumab plus bevacizumab in unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma. *Eur J Cancer*. 2026 Apr 16;240:116749.
2. Lee PC, Huang YH, et al. Distinct gut microbiota but common metabolomic signatures between viral and MASLD HCC contribute to outcomes of combination immunotherapy. *Hepatology*. 2025 Jun 30. doi: 10.1097/HEP.0000000000001446. Online ahead of print..
3. Lee PC, Huang YH, et al. Serum fibrosis marker M2BPGi-based novel score predicts survival of unresectable HCC undergoing immunotherapy. *JHEP Rep*. 2025 Jun 26;7(9):101491.
4. Lee PC, Wu CJ, Huang YH, et al. Gut microbiota and metabolites associate with outcomes of immune checkpoint inhibitor-treated unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Immunother Cancer*. 2022 Jun; 10(6):e004779.
5. Lee PC, Lee KC, MC Hou, et al. Sarcopenia-related gut microbial changes are associated with the risk of complications in people with cirrhosis. *JHEP Rep*. 2022 Oct 29;5(1):100619.





Mentor

Jeong Won Jang

KASL

Group 3. Viral Hepatitis

Dr. Jang is a Professor of Internal Medicine at The Catholic University of Korea. He received his medical degree from The Catholic University of Korea, and completed his Internal Medicine Residency and Hepatology/Gastroenterology Fellowship at Seoul St. Mary's Hospital in Seoul. He has been a faculty member of The Catholic University of Korea since 2005, and has been working at affiliated hospitals, Incheon St. Mary's Hospital (2005-2012) and Seoul St. Mary's Hospital (2013 ~ present). Between 2014 and 2015, he has worked as a Visiting Scientist at Center for Basic Research in Digestive Diseases, Mayo Clinic, Minnesota, USA.

Dr. Jang is currently a board member of The Korean Liver Cancer Study Group and has served as a board member of the Korean Association for the Study of Liver Diseases. He has authored and co-authored over 150 articles and two books, and is the editorial board member of four international liver journals.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- (1) HBV direct oncogenic potential and integration into the host genome
- (2) Genomic alterations and biomarker discovery in liver diseases and hepatocarcinogenesis
- (3) Optimized patient management and risk stratification in chronic liver diseases

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Nam H, Kim DY, .., Jang JW. Development and validation of a risk prediction model for patients with hepatocellular carcinoma receiving atezolizumab-bevacizumab. *Hepatology* 2026;83:1098-1110. (Corresponding Author)
2. Han JW, Lee SK, Kwon JH, Jang JW. A Machine Learning Algorithm Facilitates Prognosis Prediction and Treatment Selection for Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer Stage C Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *Clin Cancer Res* 2024;30:2812-2821. (Corresponding Author)
3. Yang H, Bae SH, Nam H., .., Jang JW. A risk prediction model for hepatocellular carcinoma after hepatitis B surface antigen seroclearance. *J Hepatol* 2022;77:632-641. (Corresponding Author)
4. Jang JW, Kim JS, Kim HS, et al. Persistence of intrahepatic hepatitis B virus DNA integration in patients developing hepatocellular carcinoma after hepatitis B surface antigen seroclearance. *Clin Mol Hepatol* 2021;27:207-218.
5. Lee SW, Kwon JH, .., Jang JW. Comparison of tenofovir and entecavir on the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma and mortality in treatment-naïve patients with chronic hepatitis B in Korea: a large-scale, propensity score analysis. *Gut* 2020;69:1301-1308. (Corresponding Author)



Mentor

Group 3. Viral Hepatitis

Tatsuya Kanto

JSH

Tatsuya Kanto is a researcher and hepatologist/physician with expertise in immunology in liver diseases. He earned a PhD at Osaka University and worked as a research associate in dendritic cell biology at the University of Pittsburgh, USA, from 1998 to 2001. He worked as an Associate Professor at Osaka University from 2003 to 2013 and moved to the National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM). His current position is Director General at the Research Center for Hepatitis and Immunology, Japan Institute for Health Security (JIHS).

He has been working with the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare to promote the Hepatitis Action Plan in Japan. His field of interest is the exploration of the pathogenesis of liver disease to develop immune-based therapies against viral hepatitis, liver cirrhosis, and cancer. He has published more than 260 papers and invited review articles in peer-reviewed journals, such as Hepatology, Journal of Hepatology, Immunity, Journal of Immunology, and Gastroenterology.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Immunopathogenesis of viral hepatitis, MASLD/MASH, and liver cancer
- Development of immune modulators for the treatment of chronic HBV infection
- Establishment of a therapeutic strategy for congestive liver disease, such as FALD
- Promotion of hepatitis countermeasures in Japan

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Yamazoe T, Kanto T, et al. Genomic and transcriptomic profiling of hepatocellular carcinoma in patients with Fontan-associated liver disease. *Hepatology* 2026; in press.
2. Takahama S, Tomiyama T, Yoshio S, Nagatsuka Y, Murakami H, Nogimori T, Kochi M, Ochiai S, Kimura H, Fukushima A, Kanto T, Yamamoto T. Preclinical assessment of oral TLR7 agonist SA-5 in a nonhuman primate model. *JCI Insight* 2025 Nov 11:e196809. doi: 10.1172/jci.insight.196809. PMID: 41217828
3. Mino M, Kakazu E, Kanto T. Precision strategy for hepatocellular carcinoma surveillance after hepatitis C cure: Debates across guidelines. *Gut Liver*. 2025 Sep 15;19(5):651-664
4. Kakazu E, Mino M, Kanto T. Role of amino acids in the regulation of hepatic gluconeogenesis and lipogenesis in metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease. *Clin Mol Hepatol*. 2025 Apr 16. doi: 10.3350/cmh.2025.0048. Online ahead of print.
5. Mori T, Yoshio S, Kakazu E, Kanto T. Active role of the immune system in metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease. *Gastroenterol Rep (Oxf)*. 2024 Oct 15;12:goae089. doi: 10.1093/gastro/goae089. eCollection 2024. PMID: 39411101





Mentor

Wen-Juei Jeng

TASL

Group 3. Viral Hepatitis

Dr. Rachel Wen-Juei Jeng received her M.D. from National Yang-Ming University, Taiwan (2005) and her Ph.D. from the Institute of Clinical Medicine, National Yang-Ming University (2022). She completed her Internal Medicine residency and Gastroenterology & Hepatology fellowship at Linkou Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, and has served there as an attending physician since 2010.

She is Professor of Medicine at Chang Gung University and Chang Gung Memorial Hospital (Linkou), and Deputy Director of the Clinical Trial Center. She serves as Editorial Board member of Hepatology communication, and Associate Editor of the Journal of Hepatology (2024–present), and is Deputy Secretary-General of the Taiwan Association for the Study of the Liver (TASL), with responsibility for EALA liaison and finance. She is a Steering Committee member of the international RETRACT-B Study on nucleos(t)ide analogue cessation in chronic hepatitis B, a member of the Emerging Scholars Scientific and Medical Advisory Board (eSMAB) of the Blumberg Hepatitis B Foundation. She was elected a Fellow of the AASLD in 2025.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Chronic hepatitis B – Finite Nucleos(T)ide Analogue Therapy and Functional Cure; HBV Immunology, Including Bystander T Cell and HBV-Specific T-Cell Responses, Virus-Host Interaction.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Jeng WJ, Yip TCF, Lok AS. Hepatitis B infection. JAMA. 2026 (accepted).
2. Jeng WJ, Papatheodoridis GV, Lok AS. Hepatitis B. Lancet. 2023 Mar 25;401(10381):1039–1052.
3. Jeng WJ, Chien RN, Chen YC, Lin CL, Wu CY, Liu YC, et al. Hepatocellular carcinoma reduced, HBsAg loss increased, and survival improved after finite therapy in hepatitis B patients with cirrhosis. Hepatology. 2024 Mar;79(3):690–703.
4. Jeng WJ, Lok AS. Should treatment indications for chronic hepatitis B be expanded? Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2021 Oct;19(10):2006–2014.
5. Jeng WJ^{*}, Liaw YF. Finite antiviral therapy in chronic hepatitis B patients with cirrhosis. Semin Liver Dis. 2021 Aug;41(3):349–357. (*Corresponding author)



YI

Group 3. Viral Hepatitis

Hee Sun Cho

The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea

With a background in molecular cell biology as an undergraduate, I became interested in hepatology during my final year of residency training, particularly in chronic hepatitis B and the progression of chronic liver disease. The complexity of viral biology and its lifelong clinical impact felt challenging, but captivating.

Currently, as a clinical assistant professor at a tertiary academic medical center, I care for a broad spectrum of liver diseases. As an early-career hepatologist, I am broadly interested in liver disease research, ranging from prognostic assessment in cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma to real-world outcomes in MASLD and chronic hepatitis B, including ongoing work on surgical risk stratification in cirrhosis and real-world data analysis of GLP-1 agonist in MASLD. Although my research interests continue to develop, I remain particularly motivated by clinically meaningful research that can be translated into more refined clinical decision-making and improved patient outcomes.

I joined this bootcamp not only to deepen my research perspective, but also to learn how experienced clinician-scientists navigate the balance between clinical practice and impactful research.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Clinical and translational research in chronic hepatitis B, particularly viral mutations and quasispecies associated with disease progression and treatment outcomes
- Curative strategies beyond functional cure in chronic hepatitis B
- Real-world clinical outcomes and therapeutic response in MASLD

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Cho, H. S., & Lee, S. K. (2026). Liver Transplantation Following Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Therapy: What Do We Need to Know from Clinical and Immunological Perspective? *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 27(6), 2680. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms27062680>
2. Cho HS, Lee SK, Han JW, Kwon JH, Nam SW, Lee J, Yang K, Sung PS, Jang JW, Yoon SK and Choi JY (2025) Peripheral blood inflammatory score using a cytokine multiplex assay predicts clinical outcomes in patients treated with atezolizumab-bevacizumab for unresectable HCC. *Front. Immunol.* 16:1578422. doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2025.1578422





YI

Group 3. Viral Hepatitis

Sung Hwan Yoo

Yonsei Univ., Korea

Prof. Sung Hwan Yoo is an assistant professor of the Department of internal medicine, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Gangnam Severance Hospital.

Prof. Yoo graduated from Yonsei University College of Medicine with his medical degree in 2014 and completed his internship and residency at the Department of Internal medicine at Gangnam Severance Hospital, receiving his diploma in Internal medicine 2020.

Since 2023, Prof. Yoo has been taking a number of roles, including a regular member of the Korean Association of the Study of the Liver, the Korea Liver Cancer Association. Since 2024, Prof. Yoo has been a roles as an member of Viral Hepatitis Research Group. Since March 2026, he has been serving as a member of the Academic Committee of the MASLD Research Group and the Clinical Ultrasound Society.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

1. Prognostic analysis of hepatitis B virus using HBcrAg
2. Early diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinoma using liquid biopsy

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Song W, Yoo SH, Jang J, Baik SJ, Lee BK, Lee HW, Park JS, Association between Sarcopenic Obesity Status and Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease and Fibrosis. Gut Liver. 2023 Jan 15;17(1):130-138. doi: 10.5009/gnl220041. Epub 2022 Dec 6.
2. Hwang SY, Yoo SH et al. Baseline and on-treatment HBcrAg levels as predictors of HBeAg seroconversion in chronic hepatitis B patients treated with antivirals. J Viral Hepat. 2023 Jan;30(1):39-45. doi: 10.1111/jvh.13765. Epub 2022 Nov 11.
3. Yoo SH, Nahm JH, Lee WK, Lee HW, Chang HY, Lee JI. Loss of Krüppel-like factor-10 facilitates the development of chemical-induced liver cancer in mice Mol Med. 2023 Nov 9;29(1):156. doi: 10.1186/s10020-023-00751-1.
4. Yoo SH, Park JY, Lee HS, Lee HW, Lee JI. Risk of dementia in the elderly with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease: A nested case-control study in the Republic of Korea. Ann Acad Med Singap. 2023 Nov 29;52(11):570-579. doi: 10.47102/annals-acadmedsg.202379.
5. Yoo SH, Nahm JH, Chang HY et al. Macrotrabecular-Massive Subtype Is Associated with a High Risk of the Recurrence of Hepatocellular Carcinoma J Clin Med. 2026 Jan 8;15(2):502.doi: 10.3390/jcm15020502.



YI

Group 3. Viral Hepatitis

Yeowool Kang

Dong-A Univ., Korea

2006.03-2011.02 Konkuk University, Department of Specialization Chemistry, Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.)
 2011.03-2015.02 Dong-A University Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Master of Medicine (M.D.)
 2021.03-2023.02 Dong-A University Graduate School, Department of Medicine, Doctor of Medicine (Ph.D.)

Dr. Kang graduated from Dong-A University College of Medicine and completed her internship and residency at the Department of Gastroenterology & Hepatology at Dong-A university Hospital.
 Since 2022, Dr. Kang has been taking a role in member of the Korean Association of the Study of the Liver.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Viral Hepatitis
 Metabolic-dysfunction associated steatotic liver disease
 Hepatocellular carcinoma

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Kang YW, Son M, Lee JY, Moon SY, Koh M. Subtype-specific associations of steatotic liver disease with gastric and esophageal cancers: a nationwide cohort study. *Gastric Cancer*. 2026 Mar;29(2):365-375. doi: 10.1007/s10120-025-01711-w. Epub 2026 Jan 13. PMID: 41528661.
2. Kang YW, Joo K, Moon SY, Baek YH, Son M. Association between nonalcoholic fatty liver disease scores and chronic periodontitis: A retrospective cohort study. *J Periodontol*. 2025 May;96(5):490-498. doi: 10.1002/JPER.24-0171. Epub 2024 Jul 7. PMID: 38971999.
3. Kang YW, Baek YH, Moon SY. Sequential Diagnostic Approach Using FIB-4 and ELF for Predicting Advanced Fibrosis in Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease. *Diagnostics (Basel)*. 2024 Nov 11;14(22):2517. doi: 10.3390/diagnostics14222517. PMID: 39594183; PMCID: PMC11592410.
4. Kang YW, Baek YH, Lee SW, Park SJ, Yoon JS, Yoon KT, Hong Y, Heo NY, Seo KI, Lee SS, Cho HC, Shin JW. Real-world Effectiveness and Safety of Direct-acting Antiviral Agents in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C Genotype 2 Infection: Korean Multi-center Study. *J Korean Med Sci*. 2021 May;36(21):e142. <https://doi.org/10.3346/jkms.2021.36.e142>





YI

Group 3. Viral Hepatitis

Kazuhiro Murai

The Univ. of Osaka, Japan

Education

2003-2009 MD, The University of Osaka - Osaka, Japan
 2015-2020 PhD, The University of Osaka, Graduate School of Medicine - Osaka, Japan
 Residency 2008-2009; Resident, Osaka General Medical Center, Osaka, Japan

Work experience

2009-2014 Resident, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Osaka Kosei-nenkin Hospital, Osaka, Japan
 2014-2021 Clinical Fellow, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, The University of Osaka, Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka, Japan
 2021-2022 Specially Appointed Assistant Professor, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, The University of Osaka, Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka, Japan
 2023-2026 Specially Appointed Assistant Professor, Oncology Center, The University of Osaka Hospital, Osaka, Japan
 2026-Present Assistant Professor, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, The University of Osaka, Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka, Japan

Dr. Murai has been engaged in both basic and clinical research on hepatitis B virus (HBV). His basic research has focused on viral interactions and antiviral strategies, including suppression of HBV replication via activation of the RIG-I-like helicase pathway during HBV/HCV co-infection, and gene-editing approaches targeting HBV covalently closed circular DNA (cccDNA) using CRISPR/Cas9.

In clinical research, he demonstrated that the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) persists in patients with chronic hepatitis B receiving long-term nucleos(t)ide analogue therapy and identified GDF15 as a potential predictive biomarker for HCC development. Participation in EALA will provide an invaluable opportunity to broaden his perspective and foster international collaboration, which will further advance his research in viral hepatitis and chronic liver diseases.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

His research interests focus on hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatocarcinogenesis. He aims to elucidate mechanisms of HBV persistence, particularly regulation of covalently closed circular DNA (cccDNA) and host antiviral responses. He is also interested in identifying predictive biomarkers for disease progression in chronic hepatitis B through translational research and international collaboration.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Murai K, et al. The Risk of Developing Hepatocellular Carcinoma Persists in Chronic Hepatitis B Patients Even 1After the Long-Term Administration of Nucleos(t)ide Analogs. Hepatol Res. 2025.
2. Sometani E*, Hikita H, Murai K* (*:co-first author), et al. High serum growth differentiation factor 15 is a risk factor for the occurrence of hepatocellular carcinoma in chronic hepatitis B patients treated with nucleos(t)ide analogs. Hepatol Res. 2025.
3. Murai K, et al. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on hepatocellular carcinoma diagnosis and treatment in Japan: A multicenter collaborative observational study. Hepatol Res. 2024.
4. Murai K, et al. Inhibition of nonhomologous end joining-mediated DNA repair enhances anti-HBV CRISPR therapy. Hepatol Commun. 2022.
5. Murai K, et al. Hepatitis C virus infection suppresses hepatitis B virus replication via the RIG-I-like helicase pathway. Sci Rep. 2020.



YI

Group 3. Viral Hepatitis

Yu-Ping Chang

National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan

Dr. Yu-Ping Chang is a gastroenterologist and hepatologist at National Taiwan University Hospital, Hsin-Chu Branch (Biomedical Park Hospital). She completed her internal medicine residency and subspecialty training in gastroenterology and hepatology at National Taiwan University Hospital, where she also served as chief resident and received awards for clinical excellence.

Dr. Chang's clinical and research interests focus on chronic liver diseases, particularly hepatitis C in the era of direct-acting antivirals, as well as metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Her work centers on long-term outcomes after HCV cure, with an emphasis on metabolic risk factors, fibrosis dynamics, and individualized HCC risk stratification.

Her recent multicenter study, published in *Gut*, demonstrated that advanced hepatic steatosis and glycemic abnormalities, rather than overall cardiometabolic burden, are key determinants of HCC risk after viral eradication. These findings highlight the need for more personalized surveillance strategies in the post-SVR population.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Chronic liver disease, particularly post-HCV cure outcomes, MASLD, and hepatocellular carcinoma risk, aiming to improve risk stratification and develop personalized surveillance strategies.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Chang YP, Chen YC, Cheng PN, Fang YJ, Chen CY, Kao WY, Lin CL, Yang SS, Shih YL, Peng CY, Lee FJ, Tsai MC, Huang SC, Su TH, Tseng TC, Liu CJ, Chen PJ, Kao JH, Liu CH: Steatosis grade and cardiometabolic burden as determinants of hepatocellular carcinoma risk after hepatitis C cure in patients with metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease. *Gut*. 2026 Jan 20;gutjnl-2025-337275.
2. Chang YP, Lee JY, Chen CY, Kao WY, Lin CL, Yang SS, Shih YL, Peng CY, Lee FJ, Tsai MC, Huang SC, Su TH, Tseng TC, Liu CJ, Chen PJ, Kao JH, Liu CH: Risk of Incident Type 2 Diabetes and Prediabetes in Patients With Direct Acting Antiviral-Induced Cure of Hepatitis C Virus Infection; *Alimentary Pharmacology & Therapeutics*. 2025 May;61(9):1508-1518.
3. Chang YP, Liu CH, Huang CB, Lee JY, Liu CJ, Su TH, Huang SC, Tseng TC, Chen PJ, Kao JH: Serum Mac-2 binding protein glycosylation isomer dynamics in patients achieving sustained virologic response for hepatitis C virus; *Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*. 2024 Nov;39(11):2439-2446.
4. Liu CH, Chang YP, Fang YJ, Cheng PN, Chen CY, Kao WY, Lin CL, Yang SS, Shih YL, Peng CY, Tsai MC, Huang SC, Su TH, Tseng TC, Liu CJ, Chen PJ, Kao JH: Dynamic change of metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease in patients with hepatitis C virus infection after achieving sustained virologic response with direct-acting antivirals; *Journal of Gastroenterology*. 2024 Jul;59(7):609-620.
5. Chang YP, Huang CB, Su TH, Liu CJ, Tseng TC, Huang SC, Chen PJ, Kao JH, Liu CH: Comparison of diagnostic performance among Abbott RealTime HCV Genotyping II, Abbott HCV Genotype plus RUO, and Roche Cobas HCV Genotyping assays for hepatitis C virus genotyping; *Journal of Medical Virology*. 2024 May;96(5):e29686.





YI

Group 3. Viral Hepatitis

Yi-Chung Hsieh

Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan

Education Background

2000/09-2007/06 College of Medicine, Chang Gung University, Taoyuan, Taiwan
2019/09-2025/08 Institute of Clinical Medicine, National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taipei, Taiwan

Professional Experience

2008/08-2011/06 Resident, Department of Internal Medicine, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Linkou branch, Taoyuan, Taiwan
2011/07-2013/07 Fellowship, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Linkou Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taoyuan, Taiwan
2013/08-2019/06 Attending Physician, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Linkou Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taoyuan, Taiwan
2019/07-current Assistant Professor, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Linkou Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taoyuan, Taiwan
2025/08-current Assistant Professor, School of Medicine, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Viral Hepatitis, Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease/MASLD, Liver Cirrhosis, Hepatocellular Carcinoma, Liver Tumor Ablation

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Hsieh YC, Pan MH, Jeng WJ, et al. Serum HBcrAg and HCC in a Taiwanese population seronegative for HBsAg and anti-HCV. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2023;21:1303–1313.e11.
2. Wu HC, Jeng WJ, Pan MH, Hsieh YC, et al. HCC incidence in a community-based Taiwanese population without chronic HBV/HCV infection. JHEP Rep. 2021;4:100410.
3. Hsieh YC, Lin CL, Hung CH, et al. Real-world experience of elbasvir/grazoprevir in Taiwan. J Viral Hepat. 2020;27:505–513.
4. Hsieh YC, Limquiao JL, Lin CC, et al. RFA after artificial ascites/pleural effusion for HCC in high-risk locations. Abdom Radiol (NY). 2019;44:1141–1151.
5. Hsieh YC, Jeng WJ, Huang CH, et al. Hepatic decompensation during paritaprevir/ritonavir/ombitasvir/dasabuvir therapy. PLoS One. 2018;13:e0202777.



Mentor

Willscott Naugler

AASLD

Group 4. Cirrhosis

Dr. Naugler finished an Internal Medicine residency at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), followed by a year as a Chief Resident in the program. Following this he completed a Gastroenterology & Hepatology Fellowship at the University of California, San Diego, where he studied liver regeneration and hepatocarcinogenesis in the laboratory of Michael Karin. After fellowship, Dr. Naugler took a faculty position at OHSU, and in 2011 began leading both the liver transplant and multidisciplinary liver tumor programs. He has been continually involved in liver transplant administration through the US Organ Procurement & Transplantation Network (OPTN), participating in the crafting of the current OPTN policies regarding allocation, including equity between patients with liver tumors as compared to liver failure.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Liver Regeneration, Liver Transplantation, Outcomes in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Management

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Lhewa D, Green EW, Naugler WE. Multidisciplinary Team Management of Hepatocellular Carcinoma Is Standard of Care. Clin Liver Dis 2020;24:771-787.
2. Naugler WE, Orloff SL. Sex Does Matter in Liver Allocation-Time to Address Existing Sex-Based Disparities. JAMA Surg 2020;155:e201130.
3. L. L. Wong, H. P. Truong, T. Seto, L. Lacar, W. E. Naugler, Marked Decrease in Urgent Listing for Liver Transplantation Over Time: Evolution of Characteristics and Outcomes of Status-1 Liver Transplantation. Transplantation 102, e18-e25 (2018)
4. B. Schlansky, W. E. Naugler, S. L. Orloff, C. K. Enestvedt, Higher Mortality and Survival Benefit in Obese Patients Awaiting Liver Transplantation. Transplantation 100, 2648-2655 (2016)
5. B. D. Tarlow, C. Pelz, W. E. Naugler, L. Wakefield, E. M. Wilson, M. J. Finegold, M. Grompe, Bipotential adult liver progenitors are derived from chronically injured mature hepatocytes. Cell stem cell 15, 605-618 (2014).PMC4254170
6. B. Schlansky, Y. Chen, D. L. Scott, D. Austin, W. E. Naugler, Waiting time predicts survival after liver transplantation for hepatocellular carcinoma: a cohort study using the United Network for Organ Sharing registry. Liver Transpl 20, 1045-1056 (2014)
7. W. E. Naugler, Bile Acid flux is necessary for normal liver regeneration. PloS one 9, e97426 (2014).PMC4026228
8. W. E. Naugler, T. Sakurai, S. Kim, S. Maeda, K. Kim, A. M. Elsharkawy, M. Karin, Gender disparity in liver cancer due to sex differences in MyD88-dependent IL-6 production. Science 317, 121-124 (2007)





Mentor

Sang Gyune Kim

KASL

Group 4. Cirrhosis

Dr. Sang Gyune Kim is a Professor of Internal Medicine and hepatologist at Soonchunhyang University College of Medicine in the Republic of Korea. He graduated from Soonchunhyang university college of medicine and completed his internship and residency at the department of Internal medicine at Soonchunhyang university hospital, receiving his diploma in Soonchunhyang university bucheon hospital.

He serves as a director of health insurance affairs at Korean liver cancer association, secretary general at KASL steatotic liver disease study group, director of academic affairs at KASL liver cirrhosis study group, Executive director of academic affairs and director of planning affairs at Korean association of clinical ultrasound.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

His clinical and academic work focuses on metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), liver cirrhosis and portal hypertension, and non-invasive assessment of liver fibrosis.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Kim SG, et al. Lower incidence of hepatocellular carcinoma with tenofovir alafenamide in chronic hepatitis B: Evidence from a large-scale cohort. JHEP Reports. 2025;7:101268.
2. Kim SG, et al. Nationwide analysis of renal outcomes in chronic hepatitis B patients treated with Tenofovir Alafenamide versus Entecavir. Scientific Reports. 2025;15:33872.
3. Kim SG, et al. Safety of tenofovir alafenamide in the context of hyperlipidemia and cardiovascular diseases: A nationwide analysis. Hepatology International. 2025;19:959-967.
4. Kim SG, et al. Comparative risk of osteoporosis and fractures in chronic hepatitis B patients: Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate versus entecavir in a Korean nationwide cohort. JHEP Reports. 2025;7:101489.
5. Kim SG, et al. Comparative renal safety of besifovir dipivoxil maleate and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate in chronic hepatitis B patients: Insights from a nationwide cohort study. Journal of Korean Medical Science. 2025;40:e284.
6. Kim SG, et al. Machine learning-based prediction of hepatocellular carcinoma risk in steatotic liver disease: A nationwide cohort study. PLoS One. 2026;21:e0349593.
7. Kim SG, et al. Current trends and impact of liver biopsy on survival in hepatocellular carcinoma: A Korean multicenter analysis. Diagnostics. 2025;15:818.
8. Kim SG, et al. Non-invasive jaundice screening using machine learning analysis of sclera and urine images. Journal of Clinical Medicine. 2025;14:3125.
9. Kim SG, et al. Diagnostic performance of microvascular flow imaging for noninvasive assessment of liver fibrosis in chronic liver disease. PLoS One. 2025;20:e0322102.
10. Kim SG, et al. Listening to the spleen: A 100 Hz pulse toward a non-invasive way in assessing portal hypertension. Hepatobiliary Surgery and Nutrition. 2025;14:658-661.



YI

Seul Ki Han

Yonsei Univ. Wonju, Korea

Group 4. Cirrhosis

Dr. Han is a gastroenterologist and hepatologist at Yonsei University Wonju College of Medicine. Her clinical practice includes a high volume of abdominal ultrasonography, including contrast-enhanced ultrasound (CEUS), as well as diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy (upper/lower endoscopy and variceal bleeding control). She actively manages critically ill patients with advanced liver disease, including acute-on-chronic liver failure, in a setting where alcohol-related liver disease is a major etiology.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Her research focuses on portal hypertension, with estimation and prediction using NIT with clinical data. She is particularly interested in applying these models to predict clinical outcomes. In parallel, she conducts mechanistic studies using animal models and cell-based experiments to better understand liver injury and inflammation. She is particularly interested in translating these findings into clinical applications, as well as exploring stem cell-based therapies for advanced liver disease.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. The crosstalk between gut microbiota and microbiota-derived metabolites in hepatocellular carcinoma, Critical Reviews in Microbiology (2025)
2. Protein and Macronutrient Metabolism in Liver Cirrhosis: About Sarcopenia, Nutrients (2025)
3. Transplantation of Autologous Bone Marrow-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells for the Treatment of Decompensated Liver Cirrhosis: A Real-World Evidence Study in a Population-Based , Gut and liver (2025)
4. Effectiveness of the ALT/AST ratio for predicting insulin resistance in a Korean population: A large-scale, cross-sectional cohort study, Plos One (2024)
5. Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease: Definition and subtypes, Clinical and molecular hepatology (2022)
6. Outcome of intermittent thoracentesis versus pigtail catheter drainage for hepatic hydrothorax, Journal of Clinical Medicine (2022)





YI

Group 4. Cirrhosis

Se Young Jang

Kyungpook National Univ., Korea

Dr. Jang is a hepatologist and physician-researcher currently serving as Professor in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Kyungpook National University Hospital.

She received her M.D., M.S. in Medicine, and Ph.D. in Medicine from Kyungpook National University School of Medicine.

After graduating from Kyungpook National University School of Medicine, she completed her residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship training in Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Kyungpook National University Hospital, where she has continued her clinical and academic career.

Since 2016, she has continuously led nationally funded individual basic research projects as principal investigator, supported by the National Research Foundation of Korea. Her earlier research focused primarily on hepatocellular carcinoma, including biomarker discovery and validation, as well as studies of the tumor microenvironment. Her clinical research has also extended to steatotic liver disease and liver fibrosis, particularly through the evaluation of noninvasive biomarkers and the development of diagnostic algorithms for advanced fibrosis. In parallel, she has conducted basic experimental studies using knockout mouse models to investigate oxidative stress and metabolic liver injury. Currently, through the Mid-Career Researcher Program, she is studying sex differences in liver disease progression, with a focus on metabolic liver disease, oxidative stress, and antioxidant mechanisms.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Liver fibrosis; Liver cirrhosis; Noninvasive biomarkers; Public healthcare database research; population-based clinical research; Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease; Oxidative stress; Antioxidant mechanisms; Sex-based differences in liver disease progression

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Cystathionine γ -Lyase Protects Against Choline-Deficient High-Fat Diet-Induced Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease Through the Cysteine–Glutathione Axis in Mice. *Antioxidants & Redox Signaling*. 2026. (Co-corresponding author)
2. Recurrent fexuprazan-induced liver injury following unintentional re-exposure. *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*. 2025. (Corresponding author)
3. Aspartate aminotransferase-to-platelet ratio index outperforms Fibrosis-4 in 2,843 Korean patients with metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease. *Hepatology Research*. 2025. (First author)
4. Temporal trends and long-term outcomes of radiofrequency ablation for hepatocellular carcinoma within the Milan criteria. *Scientific Reports*. 2024. (First author)
5. Proposal of a Novel Serological Algorithm Combining FIB-4 and Serum M2BPGi for Advanced Fibrosis in Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease. *Gut and Liver*. 2024. (Co-corresponding author)



YI

Group 4. Cirrhosis

Moonhyung Lee

Kyung Hee Univ., Korea

Dr. Lee is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Kyung Hee University Hospital at Gangdong, Seoul, Republic of Korea. Her clinical practice focuses on the management of chronic liver diseases, including cirrhosis, hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), and portal hypertension.

Her research primarily centers on hepatocellular carcinoma, with a focus on optimizing systemic and locoregional treatment strategies and improving clinical outcomes. She is also interested in metabolic dysfunction–associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), particularly in identifying modifiable risk factors and disease progression. In addition, she conducts real-world data–based research to enhance clinical decision-making and optimize patient outcomes in hepatology.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC): systemic therapy and treatment outcomes
- Metabolic dysfunction–associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) and risk factors
- Real-world data and clinical outcomes research in hepatology

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Navigating the Therapeutic Pathway and Optimal First-Line Systemic Therapy for Hepatocellular Carcinoma in the Era of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors / *Medicina* / 2025.
2. Smoking and Risk of Fatty Liver Disease: A Meta-Analysis of Cohort Studies / *Gastroenterology Insights* / 2025.
3. Risk of Lower Gastrointestinal Bleeding in Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drug (NSAID) and Proton Pump Inhibitor Users Compared with NSAID-Only Users / *Gut and Liver* / 2025.
4. Acute Gastropathy Associated with Bowel Preparation for Colonoscopy / *Korean Journal of Gastroenterology* / 2024.
5. Efficacy of Transarterial Chemoembolization (TACE) for Early-Stage Hepatocellular Carcinoma / *Medicina* / 2023.





YI

Shinya Yokoyama

Nagoya Univ., Japan

Group 4. Cirrhosis

Dr. Shinya Yokoyama received his medical degree from Hokkaido University, Faculty of Medicine in 2008. He completed his initial clinical residency at Tonan Hospital, Hokkaido, followed by a position as an internist at Toyota Kosei Hospital, Aichi, and then as a gastroenterologist at Ogaki Municipal Hospital, Gifu. He subsequently moved to Nagoya University Hospital in 2017 and completed his Ph.D. course in Integrated Medicine at Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine in 2020.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Clinical practice and research on the management of complications associated with liver cirrhosis, with a particular focus on portal hypertension in pediatric liver diseases
- Epidemiological research on metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) and its extrahepatic complications using population-based health screening data

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Impact of alcohol consumption and muscle mass on bone mineral density in metabolic dysfunction and alcohol-associated liver disease (MetALD) and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD). Clin Nutr ESPEN. 2025;69:145-153.
2. Predicting early rebleeding and mortality after endoscopic hemostasis of esophagogastric varices: Diagnostic performance of aspartate aminotransferase-to-platelet ratio index and model for end-stage liver disease-Na score. J Hepatobiliary Pancreat Sci. 2024;31(11):830-839.
3. Risk factors for decreased bone mineral density in patients with metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease: A cross-sectional study at a health examination center. Clin Nutr. 2024;43(6):1425-1432.
4. A new criterion including the aspartate aminotransferase-to-platelet ratio index and liver and spleen stiffness to rule out varices needing treatment in children with biliary atresia: Modification of the Baveno VII criteria. Hepatol Res. 2024;54(4):347-357.
5. Absence of large portal collateral vessels is associated with spontaneous improvement of cirrhotic portal vein thrombosis. Hepatol Res. 2022;52(2):199-209.



YI

Group 4. Cirrhosis

Masaaki Hirata

Kyoto Univ., Japan

Education

2007-2013 M.D., Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

2019-2023 Ph.D. of Medicine, Division of Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic Surgery and Transplantation, Department of Surgery, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

2024-2025 Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine at University of California, Los Angeles, USA

Licenses

2013-Pres. Medical License (Japan)

2020-Pres. Board Certified Surgeon, Japan Surgical Society (renewed 2025)

2021-Pres. Board Certified Surgeon in Gastroenterology, The Japanese Society of Gastroenterological Surgery

Clinical Residencies:

2013-2015 Resident, Hyogo Prefectural General Medical Center, Hyogo, Japan

2015-2018 Resident of General Surgery, Department of Gastroenterological Surgery, Hyogo Prefectural General Medical Center, Hyogo, Japan

2018-2019 Clinical Fellow of General Surgery, Department of Gastroenterological Surgery, Hyogo Prefectural General Medical Center, Hyogo, Japan

2023-2024 Clinical Fellow, Division of Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic Surgery and Transplantation, Department of Surgery, Kyoto University, Japan

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Liver transplantation, Transplant immunology, HLA compatibility, HLA epitope, Rodent model of Liver Transplantation (Microsurgery), Vascular biology

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Yao S, Hirata M, Ito T, Aoki H, Uozumi R, Okumura S, Yuki M, Hatano E. Selective splenectomy centered on graft-to-spleen volume ratio is a practical option in living donor liver transplantation to prevent early allograft dysfunction: A prospective validation study. *Liver Transpl.* 2026 Feb 1;32(2):231-242. doi: 10.1097/LVT.0000000000000678. Epub 2025 Jul 9. PMID: 40632644.
2. Hirata M, Tsukita K, Shindo T, Yagi S, Ito T, Tanaka S, Fujimoto R, Kayawake H, Nakamura K, Fujiyama N, Saito M, Yurugi K, Hishida R, Kato A, Kawaguchi A, Habuchi T, Kobayashi T, Date H, Hatano E. Cross-organ hierarchy of HLA molecular mismatches in donor-specific antibody development in solid organ transplantations. *Cell Rep Med.* 2025 Jun 17;6(6):102153. doi: 10.1016/j.xcrm.2025.102153. Epub 2025 May 30. PMID: 40449481; PMCID: PMC12208338.
3. Hirata M, Yagi S, Ito T, Masano Y, Miyachi Y, Yao S, Sonoda M, Masuda S, Haga H, Hatano E. Impact of very early introduction of everolimus on liver regeneration after partial liver transplantation in rats. *J Hepatobiliary Pancreat Sci.* 2023 Jul;30(7):882-892. doi: 10.1002/jhbp.1310. Epub 2023 Feb 17. PMID: 36707057.
4. Hirata M, Yagi S, Ito T, Masano Y, Okumura S, Yao S, Miyachi Y, Aoki H, Katano K, Hatano E. Stepwise approach for acquisition of microsurgical skills through rat orthotopic liver transplantation experiments. *Eur Surg Res.* 2022 Nov 15. doi: 10.1159/000528092. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36380647.
5. Hirata M, Yagi S, Shindo T, Yoshizawa A, Kiguchi G, Kaneshiro M, Yurugi K, Miyachi Y, Iwamura S, Yao S, Uemoto S. Donor-dominant one-way matching of human leukocyte antigen-A/B/DR alleles predicts graft-versus-host disease following living donor liver transplantation. *Hepatol Res.* 2021 Jan;51(1):135-148. doi: 10.1111/hepr.13579. Epub 2020 Oct 20. PMID: 33034106.





YI

Shu-Chi Wang

Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan

Group 4. Cirrhosis

Dr. Shu-Chi Wang is a Professor in the Department of Medical Laboratory Science and Biotechnology at Kaohsiung Medical University, Taiwan. She received her Ph.D. from the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Environmental Sciences at National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan. She has extensive international research experience, including visiting research at New York University School of Medicine and postdoctoral training in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, USA, where she further developed her expertise in cell biology research. She also conducted Duke University and Stanford University, strengthening her international academic network and collaborative research experience. Through these international appointments, Dr. Wang has built a strong foundation in interdisciplinary cancer research and has continued to promote academic collaboration between Taiwan and overseas research institutions.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Dr. Shu-Chi Wang's research interests focus on translational cancer biology, liver disease-associated hepatocarcinogenesis, and multi-omics approaches to disease mechanism discovery. Her work integrates molecular biology, clinical data, and bioinformatics to investigate hepatitis C virus-associated hepatocellular carcinoma, including cancer recurrence, antiviral treatment response, steatosis-related risk, and molecular predictors of disease progression. She is particularly interested in extracellular vesicle-derived non-coding RNAs, obesity- and metabolism-related genetic factors in fatty liver disease, and the interaction between chronic liver injury, metabolic dysregulation, and hepatocellular carcinoma development. In addition, her research extends to tumor microenvironment studies, including microglia-astrocytoma interactions and chemotactic signaling, using multi-omics profiling to identify clinically relevant biomarkers and therapeutic targets.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Ciniso Sylvester Shabangu, Wen-Hsiu Su, Chia-Yang Li, Ming-Lung Yu, Chia-Yen Dai, Jee-Fu Huang, Wan-Long Chuang, Shu-Chi Wang*. Systematic Integration of Molecular and Clinical Approaches in HCV-Induced Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *Journal of Translational Medicine*. 2024 Mar 12;22(1):268.
2. Shu-Chi Wang#, Chia-Yang Li, Wen-Tsan Chang, Wei-Chung Cheng, Chia-Hung Yen, Wen-Yu Tu, Zu-Yau Lin, Ching-Chih Lin, Ming-Lun Yeh, Chung-Feng Huang, Jee-Fu Huang, Chia-Yen Dai, Wan-Long Chuang, Yao-Li Chen, Ming-Lung Yu. (2021, May). Exosome-derived differentiation antagonizing non-protein coding RNA with risk of HCV-related hepatocellular carcinoma recurrence. *Liver International*, 41(5):956-968.
3. Saptarshi Bhattacharyya, Ming-Lung Yu, Phumelele Yvonne Siphepho, Jee-Fu Huang, Chia-Yen Dai, Wan-Long Chuang, Shu-Chi Wang*. Retrospective Analysis of Steatosis Effect on Antiviral Response and Hepatocellular Carcinoma Risk in Chronic Hepatitis C. *Antiviral Research*. 2025 Aug;240:106203.
4. Yen-Yu Chen, Chi-Sheng Chen, Jee-Fu Huang, Wen-Hsiu Su, Chia-Yang Li, Wei-Shiun Chen, En-Sheng Lin, Wan-Long Chuang, Ming-Lung Yu, Shu-Chi Wang*. The obesity-related mutation gene on nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. *Human Genetics*. 2025 Jan;144(1):1-14.
5. Hsin-Tung Chien, Chia-Yang Li, Wen-Hsiu Su, Kun-Che Chang, Chi-Sheng Chen, Yi-Ting Liu, Chih-Yi Chen, Chia-Yen Dai, Shu-Chi Wang*. Multi-omics profiling of chemotactic characteristics of brain microglia and astrocytoma. *Life Sciences*. 2023 Oct 1;330:121855.

3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

Rising Star Bootcamp

Sunday, June 14, 2026 [08:00 - 09:30]

Invited Lecture

Moderators _____

Ming-Lung Yu (Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan)

Jung-Hwan Yoon (Seoul National Univ., Korea)

Tetsuo Takehara (The Univ. of Osaka, Japan)

DAY 2 June 14, 2026 (SUN)





Moderator

Ming-Lung Yu

Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan

Ming-Lung Yu graduated with a Ph.D. from the Institute of Medical Science, College of Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan. He is now the President of Kaohsiung Medical University(KMU) and a chair professor at the College of Medicine, KMU, Taiwan. He is also an adjunct chair professor at National Sun Yat-sen University(NSYSU). From 2022 to 2024, he was the dean of the College of Medicine, Center of Excellence for Metabolic Associated Fatty Liver Diseases and Senior Vice President of National Sun Yat-sen University(NSYSU), Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

Prof. Yu, a board-certified internist and gastroenterologist, currently teaches at the KMU and the Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital as a visiting staff member. Professor Yu's research interests in the epidemiology and natural history of viral hepatitis have led him to publish more than 500 scientific original and review articles. He also holds various editorial roles, including the Distinguished Reviewer of JAMA Internal Medicine, the Consulting Editor of Clinical and Molecular Hepatology, the Associate Editor of the World Journal of Gastroenterology and a member of the editorial board of Hepatology, Kaohsiung Journal of Medical Science, and the Journal of Infectious Diseases. He was a Visiting Professor at the Liver Center, Division of Gastroenterology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA. He has served as the Senior Vice President at KMU, Superintendent at Kaohsiung Municipal Ta-Tung Hospital and the Vice President at Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital, all in Taiwan. Taken collectively, based on his achievements and contributions to HCV research, he is invited as a critical member of APASL and TASL HCV guidelines, policy-makers, and consulting experts on the Prevention of HBV, HCV of Health Promotion Administration, Ministry of Health and Welfare in Taiwan.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Epidemiology, mechanism, translational medicine of metabolic abnormal fatty liver and new drug development
- Molecular epidemiology of hepatitis C virus infection in Taiwan
- Host epigenetic/genetic studies in chronic hepatitis C patients
- Personalized therapy of patients with acute and chronic hepatitis C
- Pathogenesis and treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma
- Molecular/epigenetic/genetic studies of hepatocellular carcinoma
- The effect of mass hepatitis B virus vaccination in Taiwan
- Treatment of chronic hepatitis B patients

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. 2023-Metformin reduces hepatocellular carcinoma incidence after successful antiviral therapy in patients with diabetes and chronic hepatitis C in Taiwan.
2. 2022-Towards a safe hospital_ hepatitis C in-hospital micro-elimination program (HCV-HELP study)
3. 2020-Establishment of an outreach, grouping healthcare system to achieve microelimination of HCV for uremic patients in haemodialysis centres (ERASE-C)
4. 2020-Hepatitis B-related outcomes following direct-acting antiviral therapy in Taiwanese patients with chronic HBV/HCV co-infection
5. 2020-Extrahepatic Malignancy Among Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C After Antiviral Therapy: A Real-World Nationwide Study on Taiwanese Chronic Hepatitis C Cohort (T-COACH)





Speaker

Takumi Kawaguchi

Kurume Univ., Japan

Education/Employment History

1995, MD. Degree from Kurume University School of Medicine, Japan.
 1999, Ph.D. Degree in Kurume University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan.
 2000, Research Fellow, University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center, Texas, USA.
 2012, Assistant Prof. Div. of Gastroenterology, Dept. of Medicine, Kurume Univ. School of Medicine, Japan.
 2022, Professor and Chairman, Div. of Gastroenterology, Dept. of Medicine, Kurume Univ. School of Med.

Committee/Member

- The Japan Society of Hepatology, International Committee Member
- Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines for MASLD 2026, Committee Member
- Clinical and Molecular Hepatology, Editorial Board Member
- The Global MASH Council, Member

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Medication for MASLD
- Exercise Therapy for MASL

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Tsutsumi T, Tang NSY, Ng CH, Kawaguchi T et al. Comparative efficacy of phase 2-3 therapies for non-cirrhotic metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis: An updated network meta-analysis. Med. 2026 in press.
2. Younossi ZM, de Avila L, Kawaguchi T, et al. Predictors of fibrosis, clinical events, and mortality in MASLD: Data from the Global-MASLD study. Hepatology. 2026 in press.
3. Lim RY, Koh B, Ng CH, Kulkarni AV, Kawaguchi T, et al. Hepatocellular Carcinoma Surveillance and Survival in a Contemporary Asia-Pacific Cohort. JAMA Netw Open. 2025;8:e2520294.
4. Tsutsumi T, Nakano D, Kawaguchi M, Takahashi H, Kawaguchi T. Similar respiratory function including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease between non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease. Clin Mol Hepatol. 2024;30:266-268.
5. Nakano M, Kawaguchi M, Kawaguchi T. Almost identical values of various non-invasive indexes for hepatic fibrosis and steatosis between NAFLD and MASLD in Asia. J Hepatol. 2024;80:e155-e157.

EALA Collaborative Research from Networking to Translating Ideas

Takumi Kawaguchi

Background and Objective

The East Asia Liver Alliance (EALA) Rising Star Bootcamp is a platform for outstanding young doctors from three countries to build professional networks and develop into future leaders. Executing an international collaborative study is a crucial first step toward global leadership. However, translating a conceptual research plan into an actual multilateral study involves numerous practical barriers. This lecture outlines key strategies for initiating and completing investigator-initiated international collaborative studies.

Lessons from Last Year's EALA Bootcamp

In this presentation, I present on the one-year progress of the MASLD group from last year's EALA Bootcamp in Taiwan, where I mentored alongside Prof. Jee-Fu Huang and Prof. Ray Kim. The group formulated a research plan on "Non-obese MetALD." Despite winning the Best Presentation Award, the actual study initiation faced several months of stagnation due to disparities in healthcare environments across the participating countries. I will share how we overcame these challenges and present the following key points for multilateral collaborative research:

Selection of Asia-Specific Themes: Selecting themes characteristic of regional specificities and clinical practices in Asia is highly preferable. Focusing on unmet needs unique to Asia is paramount to enhancing academic value and maintaining members' intrinsic motivation. It is effective to design themes that either deeply investigate common clinical issues or compare and analyze pathophysiological and healthcare "differences" among the three countries.

Short-, Medium-, and Long-Term Goals: While researchers may initially formulate highly ambitious plans, it is advisable to stratify these into short-, medium-, and long-term goals. As a short-term goal, the team should begin with readily accessible existing data or easily obtainable data (such as anonymized questionnaire surveys) to rapidly materialize an initial study. This approach generates momentum, realistically paving the way for a step-by-step progression toward establishing and completing the medium- and long-term research plans.



Align Clinical Concepts, Not Variables: Due to variations in available data across countries, perfectly aligning exact laboratory parameters across all institutions is not always possible. However, by aligning the clinical concepts and analytical directions, it is entirely feasible to evaluate the macroscopic differences among the three countries.

Authorship: Preemptively resolving potential conflicts requires explicitly establishing the evaluation criteria and rules for determining authorship order and corresponding authorship on the very first day of the project.

Flexible IRB Strategies: Transferring raw data to other countries often presents significant regulatory hurdles. Therefore, seeking independent IRB approval within each country should be considered.

Key Points for the Group Work

Participants will be divided into four specialized groups: "MASLD," "HCC," "Viral Hepatitis," and "Liver Cirrhosis," to draft international collaborative research proposals. The following roles are recommended for the group work:

Moderator: Manages the timeline and elicits balanced input from all members.

Scribe: Visualizes ideas in real-time and creates presentation slides concurrently.

Discussants (All members): Members should openly and actively share the real-world clinical realities of their respective countries and discuss the primary data they can readily provide.

Presenter: Delivers the study design of international collaborative research.

Furthermore, to ensure close collaboration and continuity, exchanging SNS contact information is strongly encouraged. We also strongly recommend finalizing the date for the next online meeting before returning to your home countries.

Future Directives and Conclusions

It is highly desirable for each group to conduct regular web meetings. During these interactions, quick response is essential. The ultimate success of your international projects will depend heavily on the team discipline and practical strategies discussed today. Additionally, I strongly recommend plans for "face-to-face meetings" during major international conferences, such as the AASLD or EASL. I am confident that the next generation of global leaders will emerge from this workshop.



Moderator

Jung-Hwan Yoon

Seoul National Univ., Korea

Professor Jung-Hwan Yoon graduated from Seoul National University College of Medicine. He conducted basic research at Mayo Clinic from 2001 to 2003 as a research fellow. He has been a Professor of Internal Medicine at Seoul National University Hospital since 2008 and has played a leading role in clinical practice, education, and research in hepatology. In addition, he has been serving as the Chairman of the Korean Association for the Study of the Liver since 2026. Professor Yoon has published more than 250 international peer-reviewed articles and contributed to numerous hepatology textbooks.

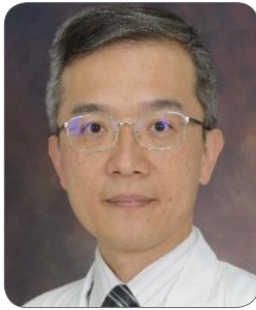
RESEARCH INTERESTS

Professor Yoon's research encompasses both basic and clinical hepatology, with a primary focus on HCC and chronic liver diseases. His work has addressed the molecular mechanisms underlying hepatocarcinogenesis, including apoptosis signaling pathways and tumor microenvironmental factors such as hypoxia. He has also contributed to the development of novel anti-cancer agents and targeted therapies, as well as strategies to enhance the efficacy of adjuvant immunotherapy for preventing tumor recurrence. His research has explored hepatic fibrogenesis and the modulation of stellate cell activation, alongside efforts to identify biomarkers and prognostic factors in HCC. He remains actively involved in clinical studies aimed at improving therapeutic outcomes in patients with liver diseases.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Sangro B, Kudo M, Erinjeri JP, Qin S, Ren Z, Chan SL, Arai Y, Heo J, Mai A, Escobar J, Lopez Chuken YA, Yoon JH, Tak WY, Breder VV, Suttichaimongkol T, Bouattour M, Lin SM, Peron JM, Nguyen QT, Yan L, Chiu CF, Santos FA, Veluvolu A, Thungappa SC, Matos M, Żotkiewicz M, Udoye SI, Kurland JF, Cohen GJ, Lencioni R; EMERALD-1 Investigators. Durvalumab with or without bevacizumab with transarterial chemoembolisation in hepatocellular carcinoma (EMERALD-1): a multiregional, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 study. *Lancet*. 2025;405:216-232.
2. Kim SC, Kim DW, Cho EJ, Lee JY, Kim J, Kwon C, Kim-Ha J, Hong SK, Choi Y, Yi NJ, Lee KW, Suh KS, Kim W, Kim W, Kim H, Kim YJ, Yoon JH, Yu SJ, Kim YJ. A circulating cell-free DNA methylation signature for the detection of hepatocellular carcinoma. *Mol Cancer*. 2023;22:164.
3. Gane EJ, Kim W, Lim TH, Tangkijvanich P, Yoon JH, Sievert W, Sukeepaisarnjaroen W, Thompson AJ, Pavlovic V, Surujbally B, Wat C, Brown BD, Achneck HE, Yuen MF. First-in-human randomized study of RNAi therapeutic RG6346 for chronic hepatitis B virus infection. *J Hepatol*. 2023;79:1139-1149.
4. Lee JH, Lee JH, Lim YS, Yeon JE, Song TJ, Yu SJ, Gwak GY, Kim KM, Kim YJ, Lee JW, Yoon JH. Adjuvant immunotherapy with autologous cytokine-induced killer cells for hepatocellular carcinoma. *Gastroenterology*. 2015;148:1383-91.e6.
5. Yoon JH, Higuchi H, Werneburg NW, Kaufmann SH, Gores GJ. Bile acids induce cyclooxygenase-2 expression via the epidermal growth factor receptor in a human cholangiocarcinoma cell line. *Gastroenterology*. 2002;122:985-93.





Speaker

Tung-Hung Su

National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan

Dr. Tung-Hung Su earned his M.D. degree from the National Taiwan University College of Medicine in 2001 and his Ph.D. from the Graduate Institute of Clinical Medicine at the same university in 2015. He has been an attending physician specializing in Hepatology and a Clinical Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at National Taiwan University Hospital since 2024. From 2017 to 2019, he was a visiting scholar at Stanford University. Dr. Su's research focuses on translational studies on liver fibrosis treatment, viral hepatitis B management, cirrhosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma, including disease prediction and outcome research using large-scale electronic medical records. Additionally, he applies artificial intelligence models to the study of liver diseases. He has published several research papers in these fields.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Hepatitis B and MASLD
- HCC surveillance
- AI applications in hepatology

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Su TH, Wu CH, Kao JH. Artificial intelligence in precision medicine in hepatology. J Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2021 Mar;36(3):569-580
2. Huang SC, Su TH, Tseng TC, Chen CL, Hsu SJ, Liao SH, Hong CM, Liu CH, Lan TY, Yang HC, Liu CJ, Chen PJ, Kao JH. Distinct effects of hepatic steatosis and metabolic dysfunction on the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma in chronic hepatitis B. Hepatol Int. 2023 Oct;17(5):1139-1149.
3. Huang SC, Su TH, Tseng TC, Hsu SJ, Hong CM, Lan TY, Liu CH, Yang HC, Liu CJ, Kao JH. All-cause and cause-specific mortality in patients with chronic hepatitis B and concurrent steatotic liver disease. J Hepatol. 2025 Jul;83(1):43-51
4. Chang KC, Su TH, Wu CK, Huang SC, Tseng TC, Hong CM, Hsu SJ, Liu CH, Yang HC, Liu CJ, Kao JH. Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease is associated with increased risks of heart failure. Eur J Heart Fail. 2025 Mar;27(3):512-520
5. Su TH, Yang SS, Lee MH, Kao WY, Huang SC, Chen FF, Poon FS, Tsai LW, Chen YT, Lin C, Wang W, Kim WR, Kao JH. High SAFE scores predict hepatocellular carcinoma in viral and non-viral hepatitis and metabolic dysfunction associated steatotic liver disease. Clin Mol Hepatol. 2025 Jul;31(3):796-809

Generative AI and LLMs in Hepatology: Literature, Research, and Publication

Tung-Hung Su

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Large Language Models (LLMs) are rapidly transforming medical science and clinical workflows. Tools like ChatGPT, Gemini, NotebookLM, Claude, and specialized platforms such as OpenEvidence are now accessible to clinicians, offering powerful ways to manage information. For young hepatologists, these models can significantly accelerate academic productivity if used correctly.

In the early stages of research, LLMs can serve as effective brainstorming partners to refine research questions, suggest statistical analysis methods, or even help draft code for medical databases. When conducting literature reviews, AI can quickly summarize large volumes of data. However, researchers need to verify AI-generated summaries, judge the original sources, and select the best and correct scientific evidence.

Moving into the publication phase, AI can suggest suitable journals and help with complex formatting requirements. Notably, generative AI can now assist in creating graphical abstracts. By converting complex text summaries or study designs into structured layouts using specialized design tools.

Despite these benefits, academic integrity remains crucial. This presentation will discuss critical cautions, including the risks of AI "hallucinations", data privacy issues when handling patient information, and the current ethical guidelines for AI use in medical publishing. Ultimately, young investigators will learn how to use generative AI as a safe, efficient, and transparent tool to enhance their hepatology research from concept to publication.





Moderator

Tetsuo Takehara

The Univ. of Osaka, Japan

Tetsuo Takehara received his M.D. and Ph.D. from Osaka University. After a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Gastrointestinal Unit of Massachusetts General Hospital, he returned to Osaka University, becoming Associate Professor and later Professor of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. He also served as Director of Osaka University Hospital (2021–2023) and is currently Director General of Kansai Rosai Hospital.

He has led major basic and clinical research in hepatitis, cirrhosis, and liver cancer, publishing over 500 papers in leading international journals. His honors include the 2017 Oda Award of the Japan Society of Hepatology (JSH) and 2022 Scientific Research Award of the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology (JSGE). He has chaired annual meetings of JSH (2020, 2025), JSGE (2021), and the Japanese Society of Internal Medicine (2025). Since 2018, he has served as Director General of JSH.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Hepatitis, Cirrhosis, Liver Cancer

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Activation of the Integrin α V-YAP-CTGF Axis in Liver Sinusoidal Endothelial Cells Promotes Liver Fibrogenesis, Leading to Portal Hypertension and Liver Carcinogenesis in Congestive Hepatopathy. *Gastroenterology*. 2026 May;170(5):1000-1016.
2. Long-term changes in hepatic reserve and prognosis after direct-acting antiviral treatment in patients with hepatitis C virus-related decompensated cirrhosis: a five-year follow-up study of a Japanese phase 3 trial. *J Gastroenterol*. 2026 Mar;61(3):302-313.
3. Intrahepatic Exhausted Antiviral Immunity in an Immunocompetent Mouse Model of Chronic Hepatitis B. *Cell Mol Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2025;19(1):101412.
4. Efficacy and safety of the siRNA JNJ-73763989 and the capsid assembly modulator JNJ-56136379 (bersacapavir) with nucleos(t)ide analogues for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B virus infection (REEF-1): a multicentre, double-blind, active-controlled, randomised, phase 2b trial. *Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2023 Sep;8(9):790-802.
5. Hepatic Stellate Cells in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Promote Tumor Growth Via Growth Differentiation Factor 15 Production. *Gastroenterology*. 2021 Apr;160(5):1741-1754.e16.



Speaker

Won-Mook Choi

Univ. of Ulsan, Korea

Prof. Won-Mook Choi is an Assistant Professor of the Department of Gastroenterology, Asan Medical Center.

Prof. Choi graduated from Seoul National University College of Medicine with his medical degree in 2010 and graduated from KAIST with his PhD degree in 2019. He completed his internship and residency at the Department of Internal Medicine at Seoul National University Hospital in 2015 and completed his fellowship at the Department of Gastroenterology at Asan Medical Center in 2021.

Since 2022, Prof. Choi has held several roles in academic societies, and currently serves as Treasurer of the Korean Association for the Study of the Liver, Secretary of the Hepatitis B Clinical Practice Guidelines Revision Committee, Member of the Publication Committee of the Korean Liver Cancer Association, and Member of the Planning Committee of the Korean Association of Internal Medicine.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Chronic Hepatitis B; Hepatocellular Carcinoma; Portal Hypertension

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Heo S, Yang J, Park J, Hui RW, Song BG, Song IH, Yoon YI, Cheung TT, Chung SW, Choi J, Lee D, Shim JH, Kim KM, Lim YS, Lee HC, Seto WK, Lee JH, Choi WM (corresponding). Association Between Viral Replication Activity and Postoperative Recurrence of HBV-Related Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther*. 2025 May;61(10):1680-1691.
2. Chung SW, Kim JS, Choi WM (co-corresponding), Choi J, Lee D, Shim JH, Lim YS, Lee HC, Kim KM. Synergistic Effects of Transarterial Chemoembolization and Lenvatinib on HIF-1 α Ubiquitination and Prognosis Improvement in Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2025 Feb 24. doi: 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-24-1228.
3. Chung SW, Um HJ, Choi WM (corresponding), Choi J, Lee D, Shim JH, Kim KM, Lim YS, Lee HC. Tenofovir is associated with a better prognosis than entecavir for hepatitis B virus-related hepatocellular carcinoma. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2025 Feb;23(2):300-309.e9.
4. Choi WM, Kim GA, Choi J, Choi GH, Lee YB, Sinn DH, Lim YS. Non-linear association of baseline viral load with on-treatment hepatocellular carcinoma risk in chronic hepatitis B. *Gut*. 2024 Mar 7;73(4):649-658.
5. Choi WM, Kim HH, Kim MH, Cinar R, Yi HS, Eun HS, Kim SH, Choi YJ, Lee YS, Kim SY, Seo W, Lee JH, Shim YR, Kim YE, Yang K, Ryu T, Hwang JH, Lee CH, Choi HS, Gao B, Kim W, Kim SK, Kunos G, Jeong WI. Glutamate Signaling in Hepatic Stellate Cells Drives Alcoholic Steatosis. *Cell Metab*. 2019 Nov 5;30(5):877-889.e7.



Designing and Conducting Your First Multinational, Multicenter IIT

Won-Mook Choi

Multinational, multicenter investigator-initiated trials (IITs) provide the highest level of clinical evidence and offer a unique opportunity to translate research questions arising from East Asian clinical practice into guideline-shifting and policy-relevant data. Yet for a first-time principal investigator, the gap between a strong research idea and an operational multinational study is considerable, spanning regulatory heterogeneity, funding architecture, data management, and on-the-ground site coordination across borders.

This lecture distills practical lessons from the ATTENTION trial (NCT03753074; Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol 2025;10:295–305), an 8-year, open-label, randomized controlled IIT comparing tenofovir alafenamide with observation in 780 chronic hepatitis B patients within the HBV DNA "grey zone," conducted across 22 sites in Korea (n=10) and Taiwan (n=12). Built on a decade of preceding observational work demonstrating a non-linear association between baseline HBV DNA and HCC risk, the trial moved a robust observational signal into a definitive randomized framework, and recently reported a 79% reduction in serious liver-related events with early antiviral therapy (HR 0.21; p=0.027).

Using ATTENTION as a worked example, the talk will walk through the anatomy of launching a first multinational IIT: refining the research question against the FINER criteria; powering a clinical-endpoint trial when event rates are low; assembling a layered funding portfolio (patient donations, institutional seed grants, government funding, and in-kind industry support); navigating divergent regulatory and reimbursement pathways across two countries; selecting and migrating electronic data capture platforms (external EDC → iCReaT); and designing a hybrid onsite/remote monitoring model that proved decisive during COVID-19. Common pitfalls — protocol amendments, investigational product logistics across borders, site-level CRC turnover, and cross-border data-ownership and authorship agreements — will be addressed with concrete workarounds drawn from real correspondence and contracts.

Learning Objectives

1. Frame a research question and primary endpoint suitable for a multinational hepatology IIT.
2. Build and diversify funding for a long-term, clinical-endpoint randomized trial.
3. Operationalize cross-border site management, monitoring, and data flow with a partner ARO.
4. Anticipate the regulatory, reimbursement, and authorship issues unique to multinational IITs in East Asia.



3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

Rising Star Bootcamp

Sunday, June 14, 2026 [09:40 - 10:40]

Small Group Discussion 2 for 2026 Young Investigators

DAY 2 June 14, 2026 (SUN)



09:40-10:40	Small Group Discussion 2 for 2026 Young Investigators
09:40-10:40	Group 1. MASLD Mentors W. Ray Kim (AASLD), Seung Up Kim (KASL), Takumi Kawaguchi (JSH) YI Sung Won Chung (Univ. of Ulsan, Korea) Dong Yun Kim (Yonsei Univ., Korea), Tsubasa Tsutsumi (Kurume Univ., Japan) Masaaki Mino (Japan Institute for Health Security, Japan) Chia-Hung Tai (Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan) Chun-Ming Hong (National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan)
	Group 2. HCC Mentors Ju Dong Yang (AASLD), Chung-Feng Huang (TASL) YI Heechul Nam (The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea) Myung Ji Goh (Sungkyunkwan Univ., Korea) Hiroki Inada (Kumamoto Univ., Japan) Masayuki Ueno (Kurashiki Central Hospital, Japan) Wei Teng (Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan) Pei-Chang Lee (Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taiwan)
	Group 3. Viral Hepatitis Mentors Jeong Won Jang (KASL), Tatsuya Kanto (JSH), Wen-Juei Jeng (TASL) YI Hee Sun Cho (The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea) Sung Hwan Yoo (Yonsei Univ., Korea) Yeowool Kang (Dong-A Univ., Korea) Kazuhiro Murai (The Univ. of Osaka, Japan) Yu-Ping Chang (National Taiwan Univ., Taiwan) Yi-Chung Hsieh (Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan)
	Group 4. Cirrhosis Mentors Willscott Naugler (AASLD), Sang Gyune Kim (KASL) YI Seul Ki Han (Yonsei Univ. Wonju, Korea) Se Young Jang (Kyungpook National Univ., Korea) Moonhyung Lee (Kyung Hee Univ., Korea) Shinya Yokoyama (Nagoya Univ., Japan) Masaaki Hirata (Kyoto Univ., Japan) Shu-Chi Wang (Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan)



MEMO



3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

Rising Star Bootcamp

Sunday, June 14, 2026 [10:50 - 11:50]

Small Group Final Presentation of Projects

Moderator _____

Sung Won Lee (The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea)

DAY 2 June 14, 2026 (SUN)



MEMO

Dotted lines for writing.



3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

EALA SYMPOSIUM

Sunday, June 14, 2026 [13:10 - 14:10]

SESSION 1. Building the EALA Consensus

Moderators _____

Young-Suk Lim (Univ. of Ulsan, Korea)

Ming-Lung Yu (Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan)

DAY 2 June 14, 2026 (SUN)





Moderator

Young-Suk Lim

Univ. of Ulsan, Korea

Professor Young-Suk Lim currently serves as President of the Korean Association for the Study of the Liver for the 2026–2027 term. He is Dean of the University of Ulsan College of Medicine and Professor in the Department of Gastroenterology at Asan Medical Center.

Prof. Lim received his MD from Seoul National University College of Medicine in 1992 and earned his PhD from the same institution in 2002. In 2008, he completed the Clinical Research Training Program at Mayo Clinic.

He has received numerous honors, including the First Leading Research Achievement Award from KASL in 2023. He was commended by the Korean Ministry of Health and Welfare on three occasions (2017, 2020, and 2022). In 2018, he was named Professor of the Year at the University of Ulsan and received the Academic Achievement Award from the Alumni Association of Internal Medicine at Seoul National University Hospital.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Prof. Lim's principal research interests focus on Hepatitis B and the prevention of Hepatocellular Carcinoma. His work has been published in leading international medical journals, including The Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology, Annals of Internal Medicine, JAMA Oncology, Gastroenterology, Journal of Hepatology, Gut, and Hepatology.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Lim YS, Yu ML, Choi J, Chen CY, Choi WM, Kang W, et al. Early Antiviral Treatment with Tenofovir Alafenamide to Prevent Serious Clinical Adverse Events in Chronic Hepatitis B Patients with High Viremia: Interim Results from the ATTENTION Randomised Controlled Trial. *Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2025 Apr;10(4):295-305. PMID: 39914435.
2. Kim GA, Lim YS, Han S, Choi GH, Choi WM, Choi J, et al. Viral Load-Based Prediction of Hepatocellular Carcinoma Risk in Noncirrhotic Patients with Chronic Hepatitis B: A Multinational Study for the Development and External Validation of a New Prognostic Model. *Ann Intern Med* 2024;177:1308-1318. PMID: 39284185, DOI: 10.7326/M24-0384.
3. Choi WM, Kim GA, Choi J, Choi GH, Lee YB, Sinn DH, Lim YS, et al. Non-linear association of baseline viral load with on-treatment hepatocellular carcinoma risk in chronic hepatitis B. *Gut*. 2023;73(4):649-65. PMID: 37813567.
4. Choi J, Kim HJ, Lee J, Cho S, Ko MJ, Lim YS. Risk of Hepatocellular Carcinoma Among Patients with Chronic Hepatitis B Treated with Entecavir vs Tenofovir: A Nationwide Cohort Study. *JAMA Oncology*. 2019 Jan 1;5(1):30-36. PMID: 30267080.
5. Yoon SM, Ryoo BY, Lee SJ, Kim JH, Shin JH, An JH, Lee HC, Lim YS. Efficacy and Safety of Transarterial Chemoembolization Plus External Beam Radiotherapy vs Sorafenib in Hepatocellular Carcinoma With Macroscopic Vascular Invasion: A Randomized Clinical Trial. *JAMA Oncology* 2018 May 1;4(5):661-669. PMID: 29543938.
6. Kim SY, An J, Lim YS, Han S, Lee JY, Byun JH, Won HJ, Lee SJ, Lee HC, Lee YS. MRI With Liver-Specific Contrast for Surveillance of Patients With Cirrhosis at High Risk of Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *JAMA Oncology*. 2017 Apr 1;3(4):456-463. PMID: 27657493.





Moderator

Ming-Lung Yu

Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan

Ming-Lung Yu graduated with a Ph.D. from the Institute of Medical Science, College of Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan. He is now the President of Kaohsiung Medical University(KMU) and a chair professor at the College of Medicine, KMU, Taiwan. He is also an adjunct chair professor at National Sun Yat-sen University(NSYSU). From 2022 to 2024, he was the dean of the College of Medicine, Center of Excellence for Metabolic Associated Fatty Liver Diseases and Senior Vice President of National Sun Yat-sen University(NSYSU), Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

Prof. Yu, a board-certified internist and gastroenterologist, currently teaches at the KMU and the Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital as a visiting staff member. Professor Yu's research interests in the epidemiology and natural history of viral hepatitis have led him to publish more than 500 scientific original and review articles. He also holds various editorial roles, including the Distinguished Reviewer of JAMA Internal Medicine, the Consulting Editor of Clinical and Molecular Hepatology, the Associate Editor of the World Journal of Gastroenterology and a member of the editorial board of Hepatology, Kaohsiung Journal of Medical Science, and the Journal of Infectious Diseases. He was a Visiting Professor at the Liver Center, Division of Gastroenterology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA. He has served as the Senior Vice President at KMU, Superintendent at Kaohsiung Municipal Ta-Tung Hospital and the Vice President at Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital, all in Taiwan. Taken collectively, based on his achievements and contributions to HCV research, he is invited as a critical member of APASL and TASL HCV guidelines, policy-makers, and consulting experts on the Prevention of HBV, HCV of Health Promotion Administration, Ministry of Health and Welfare in Taiwan.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Epidemiology, mechanism, translational medicine of metabolic abnormal fatty liver and new drug development
- Molecular epidemiology of hepatitis C virus infection in Taiwan
- Host epigenetic/genetic studies in chronic hepatitis C patients
- Personalized therapy of patients with acute and chronic hepatitis C
- Pathogenesis and treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma
- Molecular/epigenetic/genetic studies of hepatocellular carcinoma
- The effect of mass hepatitis B virus vaccination in Taiwan
- Treatment of chronic hepatitis B patients

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. 2023-Metformin reduces hepatocellular carcinoma incidence after successful antiviral therapy in patients with diabetes and chronic hepatitis C in Taiwan.
2. 2022-Towards a safe hospital_ hepatitis C in-hospital micro-elimination program (HCV-HELP study)
3. 2020-Establishment of an outreach, grouping healthcare system to achieve microelimination of HCV for uremic patients in haemodialysis centres (ERASE-C)
4. 2020-Hepatitis B-related outcomes following direct-acting antiviral therapy in Taiwanese patients with chronic HBV/HCV co-infection
5. 2020-Extrahepatic Malignancy Among Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C After Antiviral Therapy: A Real-World Nationwide Study on Taiwanese Chronic Hepatitis C Cohort (T-COACH)



Speaker

In Hee Kim

Jeonbuk National Univ., Korea

Prof. In Hee Kim is a Professor of the Department of Internal Medicine, Jeonbuk National University College of Medicine and is currently holding a position of Chief of the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Jeonbuk National University Hospital simultaneously.

Prof. Kim graduated from Jeonbuk National University College of Medicine with his medical degree in 1995 and completed his internship and residency at the Department of Internal Medicine at Jeonbuk National University Hospital, receiving his diploma in Internal Medicine in 2001.

Prof. Kim has been taking a number of roles, including Chairman of the Jeonbuk Branch of Korean Association for the Study of the Liver (2019-2022), Director of the Committee of Healthcare Policy (2024-2025) of the Korean Association for the Study of the Liver, and Chairman of the Committee for 2026 KASL clinical practice guidelines for management of chronic hepatitis B.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Viral hepatitis, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, hepatitis E
- Cirrhosis, Portal hypertension, Alcoholic liver disease, Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease
- Hepatocellular carcinoma
- Healthcare policy

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Core indicators related to the elimination of hepatitis B and C virus infection in South Korea: A nationwide study. Clin Mol Hepatol 2023;29:779-793.
2. Efficacy and safety of sofosbuvir-velpatasvir and sofosbuvir-velpatasvir-voxilaprevir for hepatitis C in Korea: a Phase 3b study. Korean J Intern Med 2023;38:504-513.
3. Etiology and clinical characteristics of acute viral hepatitis in South Korea during 2020–2021: a prospective multicenter study. Scientific Reports 2023;13:14271.
4. CAGE-B and SAGE-B models better predict the hepatitis B virus-related hepatocellular carcinoma after 5-year entecavir treatment than PAGE-B. J Dig Dis. 2023;24:113–121.
5. Direct-Acting Antiviral Therapy and Risk of Hepatocellular Carcinoma Recurrence in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C. Gut Liver. 2021 May 15;15(3):327-328.



Chronic Hepatitis B

In Hee Kim

Globally in 2024, an estimated 1.1 million people died from hepatitis B virus (HBV)-related cirrhosis and liver cancer, a 17% increase compared with 2015. Worldwide in 2024, there were an estimated 240 million people living with a chronic HBV infection, equivalent to 2.9% of the global population. Of them, less than 5% were on treatment, although an estimated 50% are eligible based on the latest (2024) World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.

Despite a decline in overall prevalence to below 3% in South Korea, chronic hepatitis B (CHB) remains a significant public health burden, affecting approximately 1.2 million individuals, particularly in the 40–60 age group. Chronic hepatitis B (CHB) is a major risk factor for the occurrence of liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in Korea and a liver-related mortality rate of 18.9 per 100,000—far exceeding the WHO target of 4.0. Although safe and effective oral antiviral therapies for CHB are available and have been shown to prevent HCC and reduce mortality with long-term treatment, the treatment rate among all hepatitis B patients in Korea remains low at 22.2%.

The existing hepatitis B guidelines limit the treatment target to the immunoactive phase with elevated ALT based on the immunological natural history classification. Recently, international guidelines from organizations such as the WHO, EASL, and AASLD have been updated to expand the treatment criteria for chronic hepatitis B. However, there are still limitations as the guidelines continue to base treatment decisions on ALT levels or maintain unclear criteria.

The Korean Association for the Study of the Liver (KASL) conducted a comprehensive revision of the 2022 clinical practice guidelines. KASL guideline moves beyond an ALT-centered framework for assessing liver injury in the treatment of CHB and introduces a new classification system based on HBV DNA levels. This update incorporates the latest evidence regarding the natural history of CHB, the risk of HCC in the 'grey zone' (indeterminate phase), and the long-term efficacy of antiviral therapies. The revised guidelines redefine the natural history classification of CHB by prioritizing viral load over conventional immunological stages, which often fail to reflect the full clinical spectrum of disease progression. Key updates include:

1. Natural history of CHB based on viral load

KASL guideline classifies the natural history into four phases based on HBV DNA levels: 1) high

viremic phase ($>8 \log_{10}$ IU/mL), 2) HBeAg-positive moderate viremic phase (2,000 IU/mL– $8 \log_{10}$ IU/mL), 3) low viremic phase ($<2,000$ IU/mL), and 4) HBeAg-negative moderate viremic phase (2000 IU/mL– $8 \log_{10}$ IU/mL). Risk of HCC is the highest in the moderate viremic phase.

2. Simplified treatment strategies for CHB

KASL guideline integrates the new natural history classification with treatment initiation criteria to streamline clinical decision-making. In patients with high viremia (serum HBV DNA $>8 \log_{10}$ IU/mL), antiviral therapy should be considered in those older than 30 years, those with elevated liver enzymes, or those with significant liver fibrosis. In the absence of these risk factors for disease progression or HCC, close monitoring is recommended. In patients with moderate viremia (serum HBV DNA $\geq 2,000$ IU/mL and $\leq 8 \log_{10}$ IU/mL), antiviral therapy is recommended, as they are at high risk for liver disease progression and HCC. In patients with low viremia (serum HBV DNA $<2,000$ IU/mL), cirrhosis should be assessed, and if absent, patients should be monitored without antiviral therapy while alternative causes of liver disease are evaluated in the presence of ALT elevation.

The KASL guideline provide updated, evidence-based recommendations designed to simplify treatment pathways and expand clinical indications. By widening the scope of antiviral therapy to include patients in the indeterminate phase who remain at risk for HCC and liver cirrhosis, it aims to reduce CHB-related mortality and HCC incidence. Furthermore, this will serve as a crucial strategy for achieving the goal of eliminating hepatitis B.

References

1. Global hepatitis report 2026. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2026. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.
2. Core indicators related to the elimination of hepatitis B and C virus infection in South Korea: A nationwide study. Lee CH et al. Clin Mol Hepatol 2023 Jul;29(3):779-793.
3. Global health sector strategies on, respectively, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, 2022–2030. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022 (<https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1451670/retrieve>, accessed 20 May 2023).
4. Guidelines for the prevention, diagnosis, care and treatment for people with chronic hepatitis B infection. WHO March 2024.
5. EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines on the management of hepatitis B virus infection. European Association for the Study of the Liver. J Hepatol 2025;83:502-583.
6. AASLD/IDSA Practice Guideline on treatment of chronic hepatitis B. Ghany MG, Pan CQ, Lok AS, Feld JJ, Lim JK, Wang SH, et al. Hepatology 2025.





3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

June 13-14, 2026 | Conrad Seoul, Korea





Speaker

Norio Akuta

Toranomon Hospital, Japan

Educational Background

2004 Department of Gastroenterology, Gifu University School of Medicine, Japan (Ph.D).
1995 Gifu University School of Medicine, Japan (M.D.).

Research Experience

2000-Present Researcher, Okinaka Memorial Institute for Medical Research, Tokyo, Japan.

Educational Work Experience

2023-Present Visiting Associate Professor, 2015-2022 Visiting Lecturer, Department of Gastroenterology, Fujita Health University, Aichi, Japan.

Work Experience

2000-Present Department of Hepatology, Toranomon Hospital, Tokyo, Japan.
1995-1999 Department of Internal Medicine, Toranomon Hospital, Tokyo, Japan.

Qualification

Director, Supervisor, Specialist, The Japan Society of Hepatology (JSH).
Foundation Council Member, Supervisor, Specialist, The Japanese Society of Gastroenterology (JSGE).
Specialist (Japan Gastroenterological Endoscopy Society, The Japanese Society of Internal Medicine).
Chairperson (Joint Committee of JSGE-JSH, Evidence-based Clinical Practical Guidelines for MASLD).

RESEARCH INTERESTS

MASLD, Viral Hepatitis B / C, Liver Cancer, Epigenetic and Genetic Research, Liquid Biopsy

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Akuta N, et al. Evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) 2026. *Hepato Res* 2026 in press.
2. Akuta N, et al. Evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) 2026. *J Gastroenterol* 2026 in press.
3. Akuta N, et al. Complicated relationships of amino acid substitution in hepatitis C virus core region and IL28B genotype influencing hepatocarcinogenesis. *Hepatology* 2012;56:2134-41.
4. Akuta N, et al. Amino acid substitution in hepatitis C virus core region and genetic variation near the interleukin 28B gene predict viral response to telaprevir with peginterferon and ribavirin. *Hepatology* 2010;52:421-9.
5. Akuta N, et al. Amino acid substitutions in the hepatitis C virus core region are the important predictor of hepatocarcinogenesis. *Hepatology* 2007;46:1357-64.



Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines for MASLD 2026

Norio Akuta

Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) has emerged as the most prevalent chronic liver disease worldwide, with an increasing number of patients progressing to cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Early identification of individuals at high risk for advanced fibrosis is essential for preventing liver-related events and improving long-term outcomes. “Evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for MASLD 2026” summarizes current evidence and provides practical recommendations for the diagnosis, risk stratification, and management of MASLD in clinical practice. These recommendations were developed through systematic evaluation of the literature and expert consensus. Diagnostic approaches, including noninvasive fibrosis assessment tools, imaging, biochemical testing, and indications for referral to gastroenterology/hepatology specialists, were reviewed. Advanced fibrosis is the major determinant of liver-related morbidity and mortality in MASLD. The Fibrosis-4 (FIB-4) index is a widely accessible and reliable first-line noninvasive tool for fibrosis risk stratification. Patients with elevated FIB-4 values or clinical features suggestive of progressive liver injury should undergo secondary assessment with elastography and be referred to a specialist when appropriate. Liver biopsy is not routinely required for the diagnosis of MASLD but remains essential for establishing a definitive diagnosis of at-risk metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH), assessing inflammatory activity, resolving discrepancies between noninvasive tests, and differentiating MASLD from other chronic liver diseases. Lifestyle modification remains the foundation of management, with pharmacological therapy considered for patients with a high likelihood of at-risk MASH. MASLD represents a heterogeneous disease spectrum in which advanced fibrosis is the key prognostic factor. These guideline recommendations aim to standardize clinical practice and support evidence-based management of MASLD in Japan.



Speaker

Sheng-Nan Lu

Jen Ai Hospital, Taiwan

Dr. Lu graduated from Kaohsiung Medical University (KMU) in 1984 and subsequently completed a two-year Master of Public Health (MPH) program at National Taiwan University. He then received comprehensive training in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology at KMU Hospital, becoming an attending physician in 1990. He was awarded his PhD by KMU in 1992. In 1997, Dr. Lu joined Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital (CGMH). He later served as Vice Superintendent at Chiayi CGMH (2017–2020) and Kaohsiung CGMH (2020–2023), before retiring in 2024. Dr. Lu has published more than 500 articles in the fields of clinical medicine and epidemiology, with a focus on hepatology. He has been included in Stanford University's list of the world's top 2% of scientists for both single-year impact (2024) and career-long impact (2024, 2025). Dr. Lu is currently a consultant physician at Jen-Ai Hospital in Dali, Taichung, and continues to provide clinical services at three branches (Kaohsiung, Chiayi, and Tatung) of the Chang Gung Medical Foundation. He is a council member of the Taiwan Association for the Study of the Liver (TASL), an advisor to the Asian Society of Tumor Ablation (ASTA), an advisor to the Chiayi County Government, and a member of the Committee for Liver Cancer and Hepatitis Prevention and Control under Taiwan's Ministry of Health and Welfare.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Hepatocellular Carcinoma, Hepatitis, Interventional Ultrasonography, Epidemiology

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Kee KM, Chen CH, Hu JT, Huang YH, Wang TE, Chau GY, Chen KH, Chen YL, Lin CC, Hung CF, Huang SF, Liu TW, Ku HY, Huang BS, Wang YP, Tseng HP, Chiang CJ, Lu SN*. Secular Trends of Clinical Characteristics and Survival of Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Taiwan from 2011 to 2019. *Viruses*. 2022;15: 126.
2. Kee KM, Chen CH, Liu TW, Huang YH, Hu JT, Chau GY, Chen KH, Chiang CJ, Lin CC, Hung CF, Wang TE, Huang SF, Ku HY, Huang BS, Chang HJ, Tseng HP, Lu SN*. Secular trends and survival impact of high proportion of curative treatments for hepatocellular carcinoma in Taiwan, 2011-2019. *Ann Hepatol*. 2025; 30: 101943.
3. Yang CY, Lin CY, Wang JH, Lin CY*, Chien RN*, Lu SN*. Significant Decline in HCV-Related Mortality From Liver Cirrhosis and Chronic Liver Disease (2015-2022): A Sentinel Center Study. *Liver Int*. 2025; 45:e70388. :
4. Lu SN, Wang JH, Chen CJ*. Changing epidemiology of hepatitis C virus infection and liver disease mortality in Taiwan. *J Formos Med Assoc*. 2025: S0929-6646 (25) 00580-7. (Review)
5. Pan KC, Huang HL, Lu SN*, Chang TS. Prognostic determinants and treatment strategies associated with long-term survival in early-stage Hepatocellular carcinoma: a retrospective cohort study. *J Hepatocellular Carcinoma*. 2025: 12 2893-2905.



Surveillance of HCC: Current Status and Future Directions in Taiwan

Sheng-Nan Lu

Key considerations for prioritizing national disease screening include public health impact, early detection survival benefits, identifiable high-risk cohorts, validated diagnostic tools, and feasible implementation strategies. In Taiwan, structured prevention initiatives have steadily reduced the burden of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC); it currently ranks fifth in cancer incidence and second in cancer mortality. Early-stage diagnosis correlates strongly with superior clinical outcomes, with national median survivals of 9.9 years for BCLC stage 0 and 6.6 years for stage A. Under current guidelines, the National Health Insurance (NHI) program reimburses biannual surveillance using upper abdominal ultrasonography and alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) for high-risk populations, while PIVKA-II reimbursement remains restricted to patients with cirrhosis or those undergoing curative treatment.

Epidemiologically, three-quarters of Taiwan's HCC cases have been driven by chronic Hepatitis B (HBV) and/or Hepatitis C (HCV) infection (viral-HCC). A national screening program launched in 2011 and expanded in 2020 offers lifetime HBsAg and anti-HCV screening to all citizens born before 1986—the cohort preceding universal HBV vaccination. To date, over 60% of eligible individuals have been screened, with data integrated into the centralized NHI Cloud database, serving both individual clinical management and national public health surveillance. However, a critical clinical gap remains: one-third of HCC patients are still diagnosed with advanced-stage disease. Optimizing the linkage-to-care pipeline to ensure screening-positive individuals are consistently enrolled in long-term surveillance is a key unmet need.

The remaining 25% of the HCC cohort presents with non-viral etiologies, primarily driven by hereditary metabolic liver diseases, resolved chronic HBV infection (HBsAg seroclearance), alcoholic liver disease (ALD), and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD). While most hereditary conditions are clinically managed early, identifying other non-viral risks is challenging. Age-related HBsAg seroclearance occurs at an annual rate of 1–2%; while this reduces carcinogenesis risk, underlying hepatic fibrosis persists as an oncogenic driver. Because anti-HBc testing lacks specificity for risk stratification in highly endemic regions, identifying these patients relies heavily on medical history. Furthermore, hazardous alcohol consumption is under-evaluated,

tracked via only a single question in the national Adult Health Service (AHS). The AHS provides free periodic health examinations categorized by age-group: once every 5 years for residents aged 30–39, once every 3 years for those aged 40–64, and annually for individuals aged 65 or older. The protocol includes lifestyle questionnaires, anthropometric measurements, urinalysis, and a comprehensive blood panel consisting of renal function (creatinine, eGFR), liver function (AST, ALT), a full lipid profile (triglycerides, total cholesterol, LDL, HDL), fasting blood sugar, and uric acid. While this panel effectively identifies residents with metabolic dysfunction, it notably excludes a platelet count. In MASLD patients, quantifying advanced fibrosis is paramount to risk-stratifying for HCC. Without platelet counts, validated non-invasive biomarkers like the FIB-4 index and AST-to-Platelet Ratio Index (APRI) cannot be calculated in primary care.

In conclusion, while the primary etiologies of HCC vary among Korea, Japan, and Taiwan, these regions share comparable, top-tier standards of hepatology care. Cross-regional exchange of surveillance paradigms will be instrumental in refining national policies and establishing more comprehensive screening frameworks.



3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

EALA SYMPOSIUM

Sunday, June 14, 2026 [14:30 - 15:30]

SESSION 2. Outstanding Research from EALA: MASLD

Moderators _____

Tetsuo Takehara (The Univ. of Osaka, Japan)

Chung-Feng Huang (Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan)

DAY 2 June 14, 2026 (SUN)





Moderator

Tetsuo Takehara

The Univ. of Osaka, Japan

Tetsuo Takehara received his M.D. and Ph.D. from Osaka University. After a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Gastrointestinal Unit of Massachusetts General Hospital, he returned to Osaka University, becoming Associate Professor and later Professor of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. He also served as Director of Osaka University Hospital (2021–2023) and is currently Director General of Kansai Rosai Hospital.

He has led major basic and clinical research in hepatitis, cirrhosis, and liver cancer, publishing over 500 papers in leading international journals. His honors include the 2017 Oda Award of the Japan Society of Hepatology (JSH) and 2022 Scientific Research Award of the Japanese Society of Gastroenterology (JSGE). He has chaired annual meetings of JSH (2020, 2025), JSGE (2021), and the Japanese Society of Internal Medicine (2025). Since 2018, he has served as Director General of JSH.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Hepatitis, Cirrhosis, Liver Cancer

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Activation of the Integrin α V-YAP-CTGF Axis in Liver Sinusoidal Endothelial Cells Promotes Liver Fibrogenesis, Leading to Portal Hypertension and Liver Carcinogenesis in Congestive Hepatopathy. *Gastroenterology*. 2026 May;170(5):1000-1016.
2. Long-term changes in hepatic reserve and prognosis after direct-acting antiviral treatment in patients with hepatitis C virus-related decompensated cirrhosis: a five-year follow-up study of a Japanese phase 3 trial. *J Gastroenterol*. 2026 Mar;61(3):302-313.
3. Intrahepatic Exhausted Antiviral Immunity in an Immunocompetent Mouse Model of Chronic Hepatitis B. *Cell Mol Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2025;19(1):101412.
4. Efficacy and safety of the siRNA JNJ-73763989 and the capsid assembly modulator JNJ-56136379 (bersacapavir) with nucleos(t)ide analogues for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B virus infection (REEF-1): a multicentre, double-blind, active-controlled, randomised, phase 2b trial. *Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2023 Sep;8(9):790-802.
5. Hepatic Stellate Cells in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Promote Tumor Growth Via Growth Differentiation Factor 15 Production. *Gastroenterology*. 2021 Apr;160(5):1741-1754.e16.





Moderator

Chung-Feng Huang

Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan

Chung-Feng Huang graduated from the College of Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University in 2002. Afterwards he got M.S. in Institute of Medical Science, College of Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University in 2009, and got his PhD. degree in Graduate Institute of Clinical Medicine, College of Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University in 2016.

He completed his clinical training in the Department of Internal Medicine and Hepatology at the Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital in 2007. He is now the Professor of Kaohsiung Medical University and the Director of Hepatobiliary Division of Department of Internal Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical Hospital. He also serves as the Secretary General of Taiwan Association for the Study of the Liver 2026-2028.

His research focuses on liver disease including viral hepatitis, steatotic liver disease and hepatocellular carcinoma. He serves as the Associate Editor of *Advances in Digestive Medicine*, and Editorial Board of the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*, *Journal of Translational Gastroenterology* and *Journal of Clinical and Translational Gastroenterology* and the reviewer for SCI journals including *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, *Liver International*, *Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, *Hepatology International*, *Clinical and Molecular Hepatology*, etc.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

HCV, HCC, MASLD

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Yu ML*, Huang CF*, Wei YJ, Lin WY, Lin YH, Hsu PY, Hsu CT, Liu TW, Lee JJ, Niu SW, Huang JC, Hung TS, Yeh ML, Huang CI, Liang PC, Hsien MY, Chen SC, Huang JF, Chang JM, Chiu YW, Dai CY, Hwang SJ, Chuang WL*; FORMOSA-LIKE investigators. 2021. Establishment of an outreach, grouping healthcare system to achieve microelimination of HCV for uremic patients in haemodialysis centres (ERASE-C). *Gut*. 2021 Dec;70(12):2349-2358.
2. Huang CF, Tseng KC, Cheng PN, Hung CH, Lo CC, Peng CY, Bair MJ, Yeh ML, Chen CH, Lee PL, Lin CY, Kuo HT, Chen CT, Yang CC, Huang JF, Tai CM, Hu JT, Lin CL, Su WW, Tsai WL, Huang YH, Cheng CY, Lin CL, Wang CC, Yang SS, Mo LR, Chen GY, Chang CC, Wang SJ, Huang CS, Hsieh TY, Lin CW, Lee TH, Chong LW, Huang CW, Chang SN, Tsai MC, Hsu SJ, Kao JH, Liu CJ, Liu CH, Lin HC, Lee MH, Tsai PC, Dai CY, Chuang WL, Chen CY, Yu ML*. 2022. Impact of sofosbuvir-based direct-acting antivirals on renal function in chronic hepatitis C patients with impaired renal function: a large cohort study from the nationwide HCV Registry Program (TACR). *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2022 May;20(5):1151-1162.e6.
3. Huang CF, Dai CY, Lin YH, Wang CW, Jang TY, Liang PC, Lin TC, Tsai PC, Wei YJ, Yeh ML, Hsieh MY, Huang CK, Huang JF*, Chuang WL, Yu ML. 2024. Dynamic change of MASLD in chronic hepatitis C patients after viral eradication: A nationwide registry study in Taiwan. *Clin Mol Hepatol*. 2024 Oct;30(4):883-894.
4. Huang CF, Yeh ML, Dai CY, Huang JF, Chuang WL, Yu ML Chronic Hepatitis C Related Steatotic Liver Disease Is More Than "Miscellaneous Steatotic Liver Disease". *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2024 Oct;22(10):2137-2139.e2.
5. Huang CF, Heo J, Chien RN, Baek YH, Kao JH, Kim JH, Chang TT, Byun KS, Chen JJ, Jeong SH, Hu TH, Kim YS, Peng CY, Tak WY, Wang HY, Yoon SK, Sheen IS, Youn-Jae Lee, Hsu YC, Yim HJ, Tsai PC, Yeh ML, Ahn SH, Dai CY, Paik SW, Huang JF, Kim YJ, Chuang WL, Lim YS*, Yu ML*. 2025. Long-Term Hepatic and Extrahepatic Outcomes of Chronic Hepatitis C Patients After Sofosbuvir-Based Treatment (LONGHEAD Study). *Infect Dis Ther*. 2025 May;14(5):1089-1101.



Speaker

Tsubasa Tsutsumi

Kurume Univ., Japan

Tsubasa Tsutsumi, M.D., Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Gastroenterology, Department of Internal Medicine, Kurume University School of Medicine, Japan. He received his M.D. from Kurume University School of Medicine in 2009 and completed his Ph.D. in hepatology at the same institution in 2023. After clinical training in gastroenterology and hepatology in Japan, he worked at the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare from 2017 to 2020, contributing to national projects related to end-of-life care and cancer screening. He served as Scientific Staff in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Department of Medicine, University of Chicago, from April 2024 to March 2026, and resumed full-time duties at Kurume University in April 2026. His academic work focuses on metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease, clinical epidemiology, non-invasive risk stratification, systematic reviews and meta-analyses, and international collaborative research in liver disease. He has received several early-career awards, including the 2023 AASLD Foundation Professor Mindie H. Nguyen Award, the 2024 APASL/AASLD Trainee Workshop Award, the 2025 EASL SLD Summit Young Investigator Full Bursary Award, and the 39th Japanese Society of Gastroenterology Encouragement Award.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis
- Clinical epidemiology and population-based cohort research in liver disease
- Non-invasive risk stratification for liver fibrosis, treatment eligibility, and extrahepatic outcomes
- Therapeutic evaluation, systematic reviews, and network meta-analyses in metabolic liver disease
- Inter-organ crosstalk between liver disease and cardiovascular, renal, pulmonary, and metabolic outcomes

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Comparative efficacy of phase 2-3 therapies for non-cirrhotic metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis: An updated network meta-analysis. Med. 2026 Mar; in press. doi:10.1016/j.medj.2026.101077. PMID:41946364.
2. Aspirin use and Mediterranean diet adherence as factors associated with overall mortality in patients with MASLD in NHANES. Hepatol Res. 2025 Nov; in press. doi:10.1111/hepr.70075. PMID:41319245.
3. Low HDL cholesterol levels in women and hypertriglyceridemia in men: predictors of MASLD onset in individuals without steatosis. J Gastroenterol. 2025 Jul;60:891-904.
4. Hepatic inflammation and fibrosis are profiles related to mid-term mortality in biopsy-proven MASLD: A multicenter study in Japan. Aliment Pharmacol Ther. 2024;59:1559-1570.



Sex-Specific Cardiometabolic Risk Factors and Histological Predictors of MASLD Outcomes: Evidence from Japanese Multicenter Cohorts

Tsubasa Tsutsumi

Background

Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) is common worldwide and is increasing with obesity and type 2 diabetes. Evidence from Western cohorts may not directly apply to Asian patients. Asian populations develop metabolic risk at lower body mass index (BMI), and the balance between liver-related and cardiovascular outcomes may differ by region. The five cardiometabolic risk factors (CMRFs) used in the MASLD definition, obesity, glucose intolerance, hypertension, hypertriglyceridemia, and low HDL cholesterol, may also carry different risks by sex and body size. Sex-stratified longitudinal data from Asian cohorts remain limited. The prognostic weight of individual histological lesions in biopsy-proven Asian MASLD also remains insufficiently defined. We addressed these questions using two Japanese multicenter cohorts. The MIRACLE-J registry was used to identify sex-specific CMRFs associated with incident MASLD. The CLIONE-Asia database was used to assess histological predictors of mid-term mortality in biopsy-proven MASLD.

Study 1: Sex-Specific CMRFs and Incident MASLD

MIRACLE-J included 410,061 individuals who underwent health checkups at 13 centers in Japan between April 2014 and March 2018. After excluding participants with baseline steatotic liver disease, viral hepatitis, excessive alcohol intake, or insufficient follow-up, 29,176 individuals without steatosis were analyzed. During 65,657 person-years of follow-up, 2,578 participants developed MASLD. The incidence rate was 39.3 per 1,000 person-years.

Participants were grouped as obese men, non-obese men, obese women, and non-obese women. Obesity was defined using BMI ≥ 23 kg/m² or Asian waist circumference thresholds. Cox regression and partial correlation analyses were used to estimate independent associations for each CMRF within each subgroup.

- MASLD incidence was highest in obese men, followed by obese women, non-obese men, and non-obese women.

- In men, hypertriglyceridemia was the strongest independent predictor: HR 2.27 (95% CI 1.64-3.14) in non-obese men and HR 1.50 (95% CI 1.21-1.86) in obese men.
- In women, low HDL cholesterol was the dominant predictor: HR 1.91 (95% CI 1.19-3.07) in non-obese women and HR 1.44 (95% CI 1.17-1.77) in obese women.

The clinical message is specific. Non-obese adults with dyslipidemia should not be treated as low risk only because BMI is below the obese range. Hypertriglyceridemia in men and low HDL cholesterol in women identified higher-risk groups before overt obesity became the main clinical feature.

Study 2: Histological Predictors of Mortality in Biopsy-Proven MASLD

CLIONE-Asia included 1,349 patients with biopsy-proven MASLD from 15 Japanese hepatology centers. Follow-up covered 8,010 person-years, with a median of 4.2 years and a maximum of 21.7 years. Liver histology was centrally assessed by an experienced pathologist blinded to clinical data. Steatosis, inflammation, and ballooning were scored using the NAFLD activity score, and fibrosis was staged using the Brunt/Kleiner system.

- Liver-related events were the most frequent cause of death (40.0%), followed by extrahepatic malignancies (26.7%). Cardiovascular events accounted for 8.9%.
- Grade 2/3 lobular inflammation was independently associated with mid-term mortality in logistic regression: OR 2.22 (95% CI 1.23-4.04).
- Decision-tree analysis selected hepatic inflammation as the first mortality classifier, followed by ballooning and fibrosis. The subgroup with grade 2/3 inflammation, grade 1/2 ballooning, and stage 3/4 fibrosis had an 8.3% mortality rate.
- Random forest analysis ranked fibrosis stage first (relative importance 0.361) and inflammation grade second (0.233).

These data place fibrosis and inflammation at the center of risk assessment in Japanese biopsy-proven MASLD. Fibrosis remained the leading histological variable in machine-learning ranking. Lobular inflammation also contributed to mid-term mortality and was the first split in decision-tree analysis. The low proportion of cardiovascular deaths contrasts with many Western MASLD cohorts and supports region-specific validation of outcome models.

Implications for East Asia-Pacific Collaboration

These two studies identify several areas for collaborative validation in East Asia. First, sex-specific lipid profiles warrant validation as early predictors of MASLD in Korean, Taiwanese, and other regional cohorts. Second, lean and non-obese MASLD may require separate analysis, because BMI alone may not capture all metabolically high-risk individuals. Third, biopsy and non-invasive



biomarker studies could examine whether inflammation adds prognostic information beyond fibrosis in Asian patients. Fourth, future MASLD trials in East Asia may benefit from prespecified sex-stratified analyses and endpoints that account for regional patterns of liver-related, cardiovascular, and malignancy-related outcomes.

EALA provides a useful setting for this work. Ongoing collaborative registries, including lean MASLD projects such as NOMASS-EALA, can test whether the Japanese patterns observed in MIRACLE-J and CLIONE-Asia are reproducible across East Asia. The purpose is calibration rather than reclassification. Collaborative cohorts can clarify which risk factors, histological lesions, and outcomes need adjustment before Western-derived models are applied to Asian patients.

Selected References

1. Tsutsumi T, Kawaguchi T, Fujii H, et al. Low HDL cholesterol levels in women and hypertriglyceridemia in men: predictors of MASLD onset in individuals without steatosis. *J Gastroenterol.* 2025;60:891-904.
2. Tsutsumi T, Kawaguchi T, Fujii H, et al. Hepatic inflammation and fibrosis are profiles related to mid-term mortality in biopsy-proven MASLD: A multicenter study in Japan. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther.* 2024;59:1559-1570.
3. Rinella ME, Lazarus JV, Ratziu V, et al. A multisociety Delphi consensus statement on new fatty liver disease nomenclature. *J Hepatol.* 2023;79:1542-1556.
4. Fujii H, Suzuki Y, Sawada K, et al. Prevalence and associated metabolic factors of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease in the general population from 2014 to 2018 in Japan: a large-scale multicenter retrospective study. *Hepatol Res.* 2023;53:1059-1072.



Speaker

Ming-Lun Yeh

Kaohsiung Medical Univ., Taiwan

Dr. Ming-Lun Yeh is currently Professor of School of Medicine, College of Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University, and director of Health Management Center, Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital. He graduated from the School of Medicine, Kaohsiung Medical University in 2002 and received his internal medicine/gastroenterology training at Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital. He had been the Attending Physician of the Hepatology Division, Kaohsiung Medical University Hospital since 2009. He received his Ph. D. degree from Graduate Institute of Medical Science, Kaohsiung Medical University in 2019. He had been a research fellow at David E. Cohen's Lab., Department of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College, Cornell University from December 2019 to June 2021. He had authored or co-authored over 300 articles in international peer-reviewed journals. He had ever been awarded as Outstanding Paper Award of Taiwan Liver Research Foundation in 2016, Young Investigator Award in the APASL STC 2016 in Kaohsiung, Presentation Award in the APASL annual meeting 2018 in New Delhi, Dr. Tu Tsungming Outstanding Young Paper Award of Kaohsiung Journal of Medical Sciences in 2020, Outstanding Paper Award of Taiwan Association for the Study of the Liver in 2020, Research Award – Liver of TDDW in 2023.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Viral Hepatitis B/C, MASLD/MASH, and Hepatocellular Carcinoma

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Yeh ML, Dai CY, Huang CF, Huang SF, Tsai PC, Hsu PY, Huang CI, Wei YJ, Liang PC, Bair MJ, Lee MH, Lin ZY, Huang JF*, Yu ML*, Chuang WL. The efficacy of multi-disciplinary lifestyle modifications in Taiwanese nonalcoholic steatohepatitis patients. *Kaohsiung J Med Sci*. 2024 Jun;40(6):575-582. PMID: 38623906.
2. Lee KI, Liang PC, Hsu PY, Jang TY, Wei YJ, Huang CI, Hsieh MY, Lin ZY, Yeh ML*, Huang CF, Huang JF, Dai CY, Chuang WL, Yu ML. Unawareness of hepatitis B infection and lack of surveillance are associated with severity of hepatocellular carcinoma. *Kaohsiung J Med Sci*. 2023 Nov;39(11):1145-1154. PMID: 37658712.
3. Yeh ML, Yu ML*. From nonalcoholic steatohepatitis, metabolic dysfunction-associated fatty liver disease, to steatotic liver disease: Updates of nomenclature and impact on clinical trials. *Clin Mol Hepatol*. 2023 Oct;29(4):969-972. PMID: 37718552.
4. Yeh ML, Hung CH, Tseng KC, Lai HC, Chen CY, Kuo HT, Wang JH, Chen JJ, Lee PL, Chien RN, Yang CC, Lo GH, Tai CM, Lin CW, Kao JH, Liu CH, Yan SL, Bair MJ, Lin CY, Su WW, Chu CH, Chen CJ, Tung SY, Lo CC, Cheng PN, Chiu YC, Wang CC, Cheng JS, Tsai WL, Lin HC, Huang YH, Huang CF, Huang JF, Dai CY, Chuang WL, Tsai PC, Peng CY, Liu CJ*, Yu ML*. Long-term outcome of liver complications in patients with chronic HBV/HCV co-infection after antiviral therapy: a real-world nationwide study on Taiwanese Chronic Hepatitis C Cohort (T-COACH). *Hepatol Int*. 2021 Oct; 15(5):1109-1121.
5. Yeh ML, Huang CF, Huang CI, Holmes JA, Hsieh MH, Tsai YS, Liang PC, Tsai PC, Hsieh MY, Lin ZY, Chen SC, Huang JF, Dai CY, Chuang WL, Chung RT, Yu ML*. Hepatitis B-related outcomes following direct-acting antiviral therapy in Taiwanese patients with chronic HBV/HCV co-infection. *J Hepatol*. 2020 Jul; 73(1):62-71.



Emerging Trends and Multifaceted Risk Interactions of Metabolic Dysfunction Associated Steatotic Liver Diseases: Perspectives from Taiwan Cohorts

Ming-Lun Yeh

Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) is a rapidly escalating global health concern. We investigated temporal trends in MASLD prevalence, the impact of cardiometabolic risk factors (CMRFs), and the interplay of hormonal, genetic, and environmental drivers within the Taiwanese population. Data from two nationwide cohorts, the MJ Health Checkup and Taiwan Biobank, were analyzed. Steatotic liver disease (SLD) was identified via abdominal ultrasound or validated serum panels. The study assessed longitudinal shifts from 2001 to 2021 and examined specific risk modulators, including menopausal status and gene-environment interactions. The overall prevalence of SLD and MASLD was 36.8% and 35.5%, respectively. Between 2001 and 2021, MASLD prevalence rose by 20.9%, driven primarily by a surge in overweight (the most prevalent CMRF in younger groups) and prediabetes/diabetes (prevalent in older groups). Notably, MASLD rates increased in individuals under 50 while stabilizing or declining in older groups after 2010. Hormonal analysis revealed that postmenopausal status significantly increased the risk of incident MASLD and advanced fibrosis (elevated FIB-4). This risk was not uniform but concentrated in women exhibiting adiposity, hypertension, or dyslipidemia; long-term hormone therapy showed no significant protective effect. Further investigation into MASLD phenotypes revealed distinct gene-environment interactions. Lean MASLD was more strongly influenced by PNPLA3 and GCKR variants. Obese MASLD correlated more significantly with NO2 and CO exposure. Ozone exposure synergistic with TM6SF2 variants significantly increased MASLD risk. In conclusion, MASLD prevalence in Taiwan has increased markedly over two decades, particularly among younger populations. The disease burden is shaped by a complex interplay of metabolic phenotypes, hormonal shifts in women, and distinct gene-environmental drivers for lean versus obese individuals. These findings necessitate targeted public health strategies and phenotype-specific screenings to mitigate the growing burden of chronic liver disease.



Speaker

Joo Hyun Oh

CHA Univ., Korea

Education

- 2008-2014 M.D., College of Medicine, Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea
2017-2019 M.S., School of Medicine, Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea
2019-2023 Ph.D., School of Medicine, Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea

Professional Experience

- 2014-2015 Internship, Samsung Medical Center, Seoul, Korea
2015-2019 Residency in Internal Medicine, Samsung Medical Center, Seoul, Korea
2019-2021 Clinical Fellow, Samsung Medical Center, Seoul, Korea
2021-2025 Assistant Professor, Nowon Eulji Medical Center, Eulji University, Seoul, Korea
2025-Present Assistant Professor, CHA Bundang Medical Center, CHA University, Seongnam, Korea

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD)
- Hepatocellular carcinoma: surveillance, prognosis, and systemic therapy
- Non-invasive assessment of liver fibrosis and steatosis
- Chronic viral hepatitis, alcoholic liver disease, and liver cirrhosis

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Oh JH, Yoon EL, Park H, et al. Efficacy and safety of time-restricted eating in metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease. *J Hepatol* 2025;83:1256-1265.
2. Oh JH, Ahn SB, Cho S, et al. Diagnostic performance of non-invasive tests in patients with MetALD in a health check-up cohort. *J Hepatol* 2024;81:772-780.



Efficacy and Safety of Time-Restricted Eating in MASLD

Joo Hyun Oh

Background

Calorie restriction (CR)-induced weight loss remains the cornerstone of management for metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), but sustained adherence is challenging.¹ Time-restricted eating (TRE) may improve insulin sensitivity, circadian rhythms, and body composition beyond weight loss.^{2,3} Prior trials of TRE in MASLD were limited by small samples, low retention, and inadequate monitoring of physical activity and sleep,⁴ leaving the comparative efficacy of TRE versus CR unresolved.

Methods

We conducted a 16-week, open-label, randomised controlled trial (NCT05579158) in 337 adults with overweight or obesity (BMI ≥ 23 kg/m²) MASLD. Participants were randomised 1:1:1 to standard of care (SOC), CR, or TRE. All arms received a target energy deficit of ≥ 500 kcal/day; CR and TRE additionally received intensive dietitian support, mobile-app-based meal logging, and wearable monitoring. TRE participants followed a 16:8 regimen (default eating window 12:00–20:00). The primary endpoint was percentage change in hepatic steatosis on magnetic resonance imaging-proton density fat fraction (MRI-PDFF). Pre-specified primary comparisons (TRE vs. SOC and TRE vs. CR) were tested by ANCOVA. Secondary endpoints included changes in body weight and composition, MR elastography, cardiometabolic markers, aminotransferases, and sleep quality.

Results

Of 333 participants in the full analysis set (mean age 44 years, 61% male, mean MRI-PDFF 14.8%), hepatic fat decreased by -23.7% in TRE versus $+0.7\%$ in SOC ($p < 0.001$), with no significant difference between TRE and CR (-24.7% ; $p > 0.999$). The proportion achieving $\geq 30\%$ reduction in hepatic fat was 49.5% (TRE), 47.7% (CR), and 16.8% (SOC). Body weight, waist circumference, body fat mass, and visceral fat decreased significantly in TRE versus SOC, with no difference versus CR. Liver stiffness, glucose homeostasis, lipid profiles, and sleep quality were similar across groups. No differential responses were observed by early versus late TRE or by MASLD-risk SNPs. No serious

adverse events occurred. Approximately two-thirds of participants achieving $\geq 5\%$ weight loss experienced rebound by 6 months, and preservation of skeletal muscle index was the strongest protective factor.

Conclusion and Clinical Implications

This is the largest randomised trial to date comparing TRE, CR, and SOC in MASLD using MRI-PDFF and MR elastography. TRE reduced hepatic steatosis and improved cardiometabolic parameters compared with SOC, but did not provide benefit beyond conventional CR. The findings align with a randomized trial in adults with obesity demonstrating that adding a TRE protocol to caloric restriction did not produce additional weight loss compared with caloric restriction alone.⁵ TRE offers a flexible alternative that requires no major change in the composition of meals and may be more readily integrated into traditional Asian dietary patterns. Long-term studies with structured post-intervention support and muscle-preserving strategies are warranted.

References

1. Vilar-Gomez E, Martinez-Perez Y, Calzadilla-Bertot L, et al. Weight Loss Through Lifestyle Modification Significantly Reduces Features of Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis. *Gastroenterology*. 2015;149(2):367-378.e365; quiz e314-365.
2. Marjot T, Tomlinson JW, Hodson L, Ray DW. Timing of energy intake and the therapeutic potential of intermittent fasting and time-restricted eating in NAFLD. *Gut*. 2023;72(8):1607-1619.
3. Liu L, Chen W, Wu D, Hu F. Metabolic Efficacy of Time-Restricted Eating in Adults: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab*. 2022;107(12):3428-3441.
4. Wei X, Lin B, Huang Y, et al. Effects of Time-Restricted Eating on Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease: The TREATY-FLD Randomized Clinical Trial. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2023;6(3):e233513.
5. Liu D, Huang Y, Huang C, et al. Calorie Restriction with or without Time-Restricted Eating in Weight Loss. *N Engl J Med*. 2022;386(16):1495-1504.



3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

EALA SYMPOSIUM

Sunday, June 14, 2026 [15:30 - 16:30]

SESSION 3. Outstanding Research from EALA: HCC

Moderators _____

Si Hyun Bae (The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea)

Tatsuya Kanto (Japan Institute for Health Security, Japan)

DAY 2 June 14, 2026 (SUN)





Moderator

Si Hyun Bae

The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea

Education

1994-2000 Ph.D. Graduate School, The Catholic University of Korea
1984-1990 M.D. The Catholic University of Korea, College of Medicine

Hospital Career:

2002-2004 Research Fellow, Pathology, Immunology and Laboratory Medicine, College of Medicine, University of Florida, USA
2010-2018 Professor, Seoul St. Mary's Hospital, The Catholic University
2019-Present Professor, Eunpyeong St. Mary's Hospital, The Catholic University
2023-Present President, Eunpyeong St. Mary's Hospital, The Catholic University

Academic Activities

2020-2022 Secretary General, APASL2022 Seoul, Local Committee
2021-2023 President, Korean Association for the Study of the Liver (KASL)
2022-2023 President, APASL STC 2023 Busan, Local Committee

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Hepatocellular carcinoma treatment
- Immune-Related Therapeutic Mechanisms for Controlling Liver Fibrosis
- Development of Biomarkers to Predict Liver Disease Therapeutic Efficacy
- miRNA-Based Stem Cells Related to Liver Disease

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Lee J, Yang H, Yang K, Han JW, Sung PS, Jang JW, Bae SH. [Corresponding author] Low Tumor Burden Predicts Benefit from Transarterial Treatment in Hepatocellular Carcinoma with Extrahepatic Metastasis: A Nationwide Cohort Study. *Liver Cancer*. 2026 Mar 3. doi: 10.1159/000551158. Online ahead of print.
2. Cha JH, Park NR, Cho SW, Nam H, Yang H, Jung ES, Jang JW, Choi JY, Yoon SK, Sung PS, Bae SH. [Corresponding author] Chitinase 1: a novel therapeutic target in metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis. *Front Immunol*. 2024 Sep 23;15:1444100.
3. Yang K, Kim S, Yang H, Wang SM, Jeong B, Lim HK, Bae SH. [Corresponding author] The prognostic impact of psychiatric intervention on alcohol-associated liver disease: The UK Biobank cohort study. *Clin Mol Hepatol*. 2024 Oct;30(4):929-942.
4. Lee J, Jung JH, Choi SJ, Ha B, Yang H, Sung PS, Bae SH, Yu JA. [Corresponding author] Impact of Korean Military Service on the Prevalence of Steatotic Liver Disease: A Longitudinal Study of Pre-enlistment and In-Service Health Check-Ups. *Gut Liver*. 2024 Sep 15;18(5):888-896.
5. Lee J, Kim CM, Cha JH, Park JY, Yu YS, Wang HJ, Sung PS, Jung ES, Bae SH. [Corresponding author] Multiplexed Digital Spatial Protein Profiling Reveals Distinct Phenotypes of Mononuclear Phagocytes in Livers with Advanced Fibrosis. *Cells*. 2022;26;11(21):3387





Moderator

Tatsuya Kanto

Japan Institute for Health Security, Japan

Tatsuya Kanto is a researcher and hepatologist/physician with expertise in immunology in liver diseases. He earned a PhD at Osaka University and worked as a research associate in dendritic cell biology at the University of Pittsburgh, USA, from 1998 to 2001. He worked as an Associate Professor at Osaka University from 2003 to 2013 and moved to the National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM). His current position is Director General at the Research Center for Hepatitis and Immunology, Japan Institute for Health Security (JIHS).

He has been working with the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare to promote the Hepatitis Action Plan in Japan. His field of interest is the exploration of the pathogenesis of liver disease to develop immune-based therapies against viral hepatitis, liver cirrhosis, and cancer. He has published more than 260 papers and invited review articles in peer-reviewed journals, such as *Hepatology*, *Journal of Hepatology*, *Immunity*, *Journal of Immunology*, and *Gastroenterology*.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Immunopathogenesis of viral hepatitis, MASLD/MASH, and liver cancer
- Development of immune modulators for the treatment of chronic HBV infection
- Establishment of a therapeutic strategy for congestive liver disease, such as FALD
- Promotion of hepatitis countermeasures in Japan

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Yamazoe T, Kanto T, et al. Genomic and transcriptomic profiling of hepatocellular carcinoma in patients with Fontan-associated liver disease. *Hepatology* 2026; in press.
2. Takahama S, Tomiyama T, Yoshio S, Nagatsuka Y, Murakami H, Nogimori T, Kochi M, Ochiai S, Kimura H, Fukushima A, Kanto T, Yamamoto T. Preclinical assessment of oral TLR7 agonist SA-5 in a nonhuman primate model. *JCI Insight* 2025 Nov 11:e196809. doi: 10.1172/jci.insight.196809. PMID: 41217828
3. Mino M, Kakazu E, Kanto T. Precision strategy for hepatocellular carcinoma surveillance after hepatitis C cure: Debates across guidelines. *Gut Liver*. 2025 Sep 15;19(5):651-664
4. Kakazu E, Mino M, Kanto T. Role of amino acids in the regulation of hepatic gluconeogenesis and lipogenesis in metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease. *Clin Mol Hepatol*. 2025 Apr 16. doi: 10.3350/cmh.2025.0048. Online ahead of print.
5. Mori T, Yoshio S, Kakazu E, Kanto T. Active role of the immune system in metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease. *Gastroenterol Rep (Oxf)*. 2024 Oct 15;12:goae089. doi: 10.1093/gastro/goae089. eCollection 2024. PMID: 39411101



Speaker

Chun-Yen Lin

Chang Gung Univ., Taiwan

Prof. Chun-Yen Lin is currently Dean and Professor at the College of Medicine, Chang Gung University, and Visiting Professor in the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Linkou Medical Center, Taiwan. He also serves as Executive Director of the Gastroenterology Society of Taiwan and the Taiwan Liver Cancer Association. He received his M.D. from Taipei Medical University, completed his specialty training at Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, and was awarded a D.Phil. in Immunology from the University of Oxford. His research focuses on the immunological and clinical aspects of chronic hepatitis and liver cancer, with nearly 200 publications in journals including Nature Immunology, Cancer Research, Clinical Cancer Research, Journal of Immunology, Journal of Hepatology, Hepatology, American Journal of Gastroenterology and so on.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Basic Studies: Immune mechanisms in murine model of hepatoma
- Translational Studies: Immune regulation in chronic viral hepatitis, liver cirrhosis, liver failure and cancer
- Clinical studies: Disease characteristics and treatment responses for chronic hepatitis C, and hepatoma.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Huang CH, Ku WT, Mahalingam J, Wu CH, Wu TH, Fan JH, Su CW, Lin PT, Peng CW, Teng W, Jeng WJ, Chen WT, Lin CC, Lin SM, Sheen IS, Lin YC, Lin CY^{*}. Tumor-migrating peripheral Foxp3-high regulatory T cells drive poor prognosis in hepatocellular carcinoma. *Hepatology*. 2025. (corresponding author)
2. Huang CH, Fan JH, Jeng WR, Chang ST, Yang CK, Teng W, Tsung-Han Wu TH, Hsieh YC, Chen WT, Chen YC, Sheen IS, Lin YC, Lin CY^{*}. Innate-like bystander-activated CD38+HLA-DR+CD8+T cells play a pathogenic role in patients with chronic hepatitis C. *Hepatology*. 2022. doi: 10.1002/hep.32349. (corresponding author)
3. Chang LY, Lin YC, Mahalingam J, Huang CT, Chen TW, Kang CW, Peng WM, Chu YY, Chiang JM, Dutta A, Day YJ, Chen TC, Yeh CT, Lin CY^{*}. Tumor-derived chemokine CCL5 enhances TGF- mediated killing of CD8+ T cells in colon cancer by T regulatory cells. *Cancer Research*. 2012; 72: 1092-1102. (corresponding author)
4. Lin CY, Tsai IF, Ho YP, Huang CT, Lin CJ, Tseng SC, Lin WP, Chen WT, Sheen IS^{*}. Endotoxemia Contributes to the Immune Paralysis in Patients with Liver Cirrhosis. *J Hepatol*. 2007;46(5)816-826.
5. Lin CY, Graca L, Cobbolt SP, Waldmann H^{*}. Dominant transplantation tolerance impairs CD8+T cell function but not expansion. *Nature Immunology* 2002; 3(12): 1208-1213



Bystander CD8⁺ T Cells in Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Chun-Yen Lin

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) remains characterized by high recurrence after curative therapy, and its immune landscape is often interpreted mainly through antigen-specific CD8⁺ T cells. This lecture highlights a complementary population: bystander-activated CD8⁺ T cells, memory T cells triggered by IL-12, IL-15, IL-18 and type I interferons without cognate TCR engagement. In viral liver disease, these cells acquire NK-like receptors, produce IFN- γ and granzyme B, and mediate TCR-independent cytotoxicity, linking immune activation with hepatocyte injury and fibrosis. In HCC, bystander CD8⁺ T cells add another layer to the tumor microenvironment. HBV-HCC studies have identified recruited bystander epitope-specific CD8⁺ T cells, and our integrated CITE-seq, TCR repertoire and spatial analyses define CD38⁺HLA-DR⁺ CD8⁺ T cells as a cytokine-driven, polyclonal, bystander-like compartment spanning blood, non-tumor liver and tumor. Unlike classical tumor-antigen-specific programs, this CD38⁺HLA-DR⁺ program displays NK-like cytotoxicity yet associates with tumor aggressiveness and poorer recurrence-free outcomes. The central message is that not all activated CD8⁺ T cells are beneficial: bystander CD8⁺ T cells may be friends, foes or redirectable therapeutic targets depending on cytokine tone and tissue context.

Selected References

1. EASL Clinical Practice Guidelines: management of hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Hepatol*. 2018;69:182–236.
2. Kim T-S, Shin E-C. The activation of bystander CD8⁺ T cells and their roles in viral infection. *Exp Mol Med*. 2019;51:1–9.
3. Lee H, Jeong S, Shin E-C. Significance of bystander T cell activation in microbial infection. *Nat Immunol*. 2022;23:13–22.
4. Kim J, et al. Innate-like cytotoxic function of bystander-activated CD8⁺ T cells in acute hepatitis A. *Immunity*. 2018;48:161–173.e5.
5. Huang C-H, et al.; Lin C-Y. Innate-like bystander-activated CD38⁺HLA-DR⁺ CD8⁺ T cells in chronic hepatitis C. *Hepatology*. 2022;76:803–818.
6. Nkongolo S, et al.; Gehring AJ. Longitudinal liver sampling in chronic hepatitis B reveals hepatotoxic

- CD8⁺ T cells. *J Clin Invest*. 2023;133:e158903.
7. Cheng Y, et al.; Newell EW. Non-terminally exhausted tumor-resident memory HBV-specific T cell responses correlate with relapse-free survival in HCC. *Immunity*. 2021;54:1825–1840.e7.
 8. Ku W-T, Huang C-H, Wu C-H, et al.; Lin C-Y. Cytokine-driven CD38⁺HLA-DR⁺ bystander CD8⁺ T cells define an adverse, targetable immune state in HCC. Manuscript under review, 2026.





3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

June 13-14, 2026 | Conrad Seoul, Korea





Speaker

Heechul Nam

The Catholic Univ. of Korea, Korea

Prof. Heechul Nam is an Associate Professor of Internal Medicine at The Catholic University of Korea, where he also received his medical degree and completed his residency.

Currently, he serves on the Guideline and External Affairs Committees of KASL, and is an editorial board member for the Journal of Liver Cancer.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

HCC, HBV

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Nam H, Kim DY, Kim DY, Kim JH, Kim CW, et al. Development and validation of a risk prediction model for patients with hepatocellular carcinoma receiving atezolizumab-bevacizumab. *Hepatology*. 2026 May 1;83(5):1098-1110.
2. Nam H, Sung PS, Lee SW, Song DS, Kwon JH, Jang JW, et al. Incorporating ALBI Grade with Geriatric Nutritional Risk Index Enhances Hepatocellular Carcinoma Risk Stratification. *Liver Cancer* 2024;1-18.
3. Nam H, Lee J, Han JW, Lee SK, Yang H, Lee HL, et al. Analysis of Immune-Related Adverse Events of Atezolizumab and Bevacizumab in Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma: A Multicentre Cohort Study. *Liver Cancer* 2024;13:413-425.
4. Nam H, Lee SW, Kwon JH, Lee HL, Yoo SH, Kim HY, et al. Prediction of Hepatocellular Carcinoma by On-Therapy Response of Noninvasive Fibrosis Markers in Chronic Hepatitis B. *Am J Gastroenterol* 2021;116:1657-1666.
5. Nam H, Lim JH, Kim TW, Kim EN, Oum SJ, Bae SH, et al. Extracellular Superoxide Dismutase Attenuates Hepatic Oxidative Stress in Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease through the Adenosine Monophosphate-Activated Protein Kinase Activation. *Antioxidants (Basel)* 2023;12.



Developing and Validating a Risk Prediction Model in HCC Patients on Atezolizumab–Bevacizumab

Heechul Nam

Background

Atezolizumab plus bevacizumab (AB) has become one of the standard first-line therapies for advanced hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Despite its proven survival benefit, individual patient outcomes remain heterogeneous, and reliable prognostic biomarkers are still lacking. The CRAFT score, although widely cited, has notable limitations: it incorporates only two parameters (CRP and AFP), omits liver function entirely, and was developed from a heterogeneous cohort in which AB-treated patients accounted for only 40%, with the majority receiving immunotherapy as second-line or beyond. These gaps highlight the need for a comprehensive, AB-specific prognostic model.

Methods

We conducted a retrospective, multicenter inception cohort study of 661 consecutive patients with unresectable HCC who received first-line AB between September 2020 and July 2024. The derivation cohort (n=456) was drawn from seven hospitals of the Catholic University of Korea, and the external validation cohort (n=205) from Severance Hospital. Eligible patients were aged ≥ 18 years, had ECOG ≤ 2 , BCLC stage B or C, and Child–Pugh class A or B. The primary endpoint was overall survival (OS).

Key Results

Baseline characteristics were comparable between the two cohorts. The median follow-up was approximately 23 months and the median OS was around 12 months in both cohorts.

Using restricted cubic spline analysis followed by multivariable Cox regression, we identified five independent predictors of OS:

- C-reactive protein ≥ 1.0 mg/dL
- Albumin < 3.5 g/dL
- PIVKA-II ≥ 1500 mAU/mL
- Total bilirubin ≥ 1.0 mg/dL
- Macrovascular invasion

These were combined into a weighted scoring system, the CRAPT-M model (range 0–25), stratifying patients into three risk groups: low (≤ 4), intermediate (5–12), and high (≥ 13).

The model showed clear separation of survival curves across risk groups in both cohorts ($p < 0.001$). Time-dependent AUROC values were 0.785, 0.737, and 0.742 at 12, 24, and 36 months in the derivation cohort, and 0.730, 0.703, and 0.727 in the validation cohort — significantly higher than CRAFTY at most time points.

Calibration plots demonstrated good agreement between predicted and observed survival. In a head-to-head comparison with the recently published CABLE score in the pooled cohort, CRAPT-M achieved numerically higher AUROCs at 1, 2, and 3 years.

Discussion

CRAPT-M integrates three biologically meaningful domains: inflammation (CRP, which also reflects anti-drug antibody formation against atezolizumab), liver functional reserve (albumin and bilirubin), and tumor biology (macrovascular invasion and PIVKA-II, which is mechanistically linked to VEGF-mediated angiogenesis). The strengths of this study include a large multicenter inception cohort, a homogeneous first-line AB population, and meticulous outcome tracking (<5% uncertain outcomes).

Conclusion

CRAPT-M is a novel, externally validated prognostic model with improved predictive accuracy for advanced HCC patients receiving first-line atezolizumab–bevacizumab. It may support more personalized clinical decision-making. This work has been published in *Hepatology* 83(5), 1098–1110, May 2026.





3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

June 13-14, 2026 | Conrad Seoul, Korea





Speaker

Takahiro Kodama

The Univ. of Osaka, Japan

Prof. Kodama is a physician-scientist specializing in hepatology, gastroenterology, and oncology. He obtained his M.D. from Osaka University in 2002 and completed his Ph.D. in the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the same institution in 2011. Following a postdoctoral fellowship at the Houston Methodist Research Institute in Texas (2012-2016), he returned to Osaka University, where he currently serves as a Professor and Chairman at the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. He is an editorial board member of Hepatology and serve as an associate editor of Scientific Reports, Frontiers in Oncology, and Annals of Hepatology. He is a councilor of JSH and JCA. He is an expert panelist of the Pan-Asia Adapted ESMO HCC Guidelines.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

His research focuses on liver cancer biology, cancer immunotherapy, and biomarker development. He has published over 160 peer-reviewed papers, including first or senior author publications in J Clin Invest, Hepatology, Gastroenterology, J Hepatology, Clin Cancer Res, J Immunother Cancer, and PNAS. He holds seven patents related to diagnostic biomarkers and therapeutic stratification methods in cancer. He integrates genomic technologies, advanced animal models, and clinical cohorts to drive precision medicine in liver diseases and cancer. His work has contributed to understanding immune resistance in HCC and developing biomarker-guided therapeutic strategies.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

1. Sato Y, Kodama T^{*,#}, Maesaka K, Kai M, Murai K, Tahata Y, Saito Y, Nakabori T, Ohkawa K, Tanaka S, Sakamori R, Miyazaki M, Furuta K, Ishida H, Matsumoto K, Tawara S, Yakushijin T, Nozaki Y, Hosui A, Nishio A, Tatsumi N, Kakita N, Yoo C, Fukai M, Taketomi A, Hikita H, Tatsumi T, Takehara T. Carbonic anhydrase 9 as a circulating biomarker and therapeutic target in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma treated with atezolizumab plus bevacizumab. *J Immunother Cancer*. 2026 Apr 9;14(4):e013384. doi: 10.1136/jitc-2025-013384. PMID: 41956541. ([#]:Corresponding author, ^{*}:equally first author)
2. Nishio A, Kodama T^{*,#}, Daiku K, Maesaka K, Tanaka S, Nozaki Y, Kurahashi T, Matsumoto K, Nawa T, Tawara S, Tokuda Y, Nakabori T, Sakamori R, Ohkawa K, Miyazaki M, Yamamoto S, Shigeno S, Myojin Y, Tahata Y, Hikita H, Takehara T. Systemic immune profiling uncovers divergent mechanisms and predictive biomarkers of response to combination immunotherapies in hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Immunother Cancer*. 2026 Mar 30;14(3):e013648. doi: 10.1136/jitc-2025-013648. PMID: 41912268; PMCID: PMC13052652. ([#]:Corresponding author, ^{*}:equally first author).
3. Yamamoto S, Kodama T^{*,#}, Kuwano A, Maesaka K, Yoshida-Hashidate T, Shindou H, Takeda H, Shirai K, Myojin Y, Murai K, Makino Y, Tahata Y, Saito Y, Hosui A, Nozaki Y, Nakabori T, Ohkawa K, Tanaka S, Nishio A, Miyazaki M, Hikita H, Motomura K, Lujambio A, Takeuchi A, Eguchi H, Takehara T. NRF2-COX2-PGE2 axis drives immune cold tumors and predicts resistance to combination immunotherapy in hepatocellular carcinoma. *Hepatology*. 2026 Jan 15. doi: 10.1097/HEP.0000000000001677. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41538242. ([#]:Corresponding author, ^{*}:equally first author)
4. Murai H^{*}, Kodama T^{*}, Maesaka K, Tange S, Motooka D, Suzuki Y, Shigematsu Y, Inamura K, Mise Y, Saiura A, Ono Y, Takahashi Y, Kawasaki Y, Iino S, Kobayashi S, Idogawa M, Tokino T, Hashidate-Yoshida T, Shindou H, Miyazaki M, Imai Y, Tanaka S, Mita E, Ohkawa K, Hikita H, Sakamori R, Tatsumi T, Eguchi H, Morii E, Tatsumi T, Takehara T. Multiomics identifies the link between intratumor steatosis and the exhausted tumor immune microenvironment in hepatocellular carcinoma. *Hepatology* 2023 Jan 1;77(1):77-91. doi: 10.1002/hep.32573. Epub 2022 Jun 17. PMID: 35567547 (^{*} These authors contributed equally)
5. Myojin Y^{*}, Kodama T^{*}, Maesaka K, Motooka D, Sato Y, Tanaka S, Abe Y, Ohkawa K, Mita E, Hayashi Y, Hikita H, Sakamori R, Tatsumi T, Taguchi A, Eguchi H, Takehara T. ST6GAL1 is a Novel Serum Biomarker for Lenvatinib-susceptible FGF19-driven Hepatocellular Carcinoma. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2021 Feb 15;27(4):1150-1161. doi: 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-20-3382. Epub 2020 Dec 7. (^{*}These authors contributed equally)



Biomarker Discovery of Combination Immunotherapy for HCC

Takahiro Kodama

Immunotherapy has reshaped the treatment paradigm for hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC); nevertheless, both primary and acquired resistance remain significant clinical obstacles. This highlights the urgent need for robust biomarkers capable of capturing the complexity of tumor–immune interactions. Our research has focused on integrative biomarker discovery by leveraging clinical cohorts, multi-omics analyses, and functional validation approaches.

We have shown that tumor-intrinsic activation of the NRF2 pathway—often associated with p62 accumulation in non-viral HCC—drives the formation of an immune-excluded tumor microenvironment via the COX2–PGE2 axis, thereby limiting lymphocyte infiltration and conferring resistance to immune checkpoint inhibitor–based therapies. In parallel, we have identified circulating biomarkers such as Carbonic Anhydrase IX (CA9), which reflects hypoxic and angiogenic signaling, as non-invasive predictors of response to anti–PD-L1 plus anti–VEGF therapy.

More recently, systemic immune profiling using single-cell RNA sequencing of peripheral blood has uncovered regimen-specific mechanisms underlying therapeutic responses. These include monocyte–NK cell cytotoxic interactions in anti–PD-L1 plus anti–VEGF therapy, and monocyte–T cell inflammatory networks accompanied by increased TCR repertoire diversity in anti–PD-L1 plus anti–CTLA-4 therapy. Notably, baseline immune features—such as naïve CD4⁺ T cells, PRKCH⁺ NK cells, dendritic cell subsets, and TCR diversity—emerge as predictive biomarkers of treatment efficacy.

Collectively, our findings support a multi-layered biomarker framework that integrates tumor-intrinsic pathways, systemic immune dynamics, and circulating factors. This comprehensive approach enables more precise patient stratification and provides a strong rationale for tailoring immunotherapeutic strategies in HCC.



3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

in Conjunction with The Liver Week 2026

June 13-14, 2026 | Conrad Seoul, Korea



3rd EALA Symposium & 2nd Rising Star Bootcamp

Printed on June 10, 2026

Published on June 13, 2026

Publisher: Young-Suk Lim

Editor in Chief: Sung Won Lee

Published by The Korean Association for the Study of the Liver

Room A1210, 53 Mapo-daero(MapoTrapalace, Dowha-dong),
Mapo-gu, Seoul, Korea

t +82-2-703-0051

e kasl@kams.or.kr

h <https://kasl.org>

Printed by HB&I

#1707, Hanshin Building, 12, Mapo-daero, Mapo-gu,
Seoul, Korea

t +82-2-373-1005

e secretariat@hbni.co.kr

NOW REIMBURSED

STRIDE* IS NOW REIMBURSED FOR FIRST-LINE TREATMENT OF HCC⁴

STRIDE* with 1 in 5 patients alive at 5 years¹⁻³
LONG-LASTING SURVIVAL

**ELEVATING SURVIVAL DURABLE OS BENEFIT
BUILT ON HIMALAYA¹**



IMFINZI®
durvalumab
Injection for Intravenous Use 50 mg/mL

임핀지® 주 (더발루맙) 제품설명서
보다 자세한 사항은
제품설명서 전문을 참고하시기 바랍니다.



IMJUDO®
tremelimumab-actl
Injection for Intravenous Use 20 mg/mL

이무도® 주 (트레멜리무맙) 제품설명서
보다 자세한 사항은
제품설명서 전문을 참고하시기 바랍니다.

[Study design] In this global, open-label, phase 3 trial, the majority of the patients we enrolled with unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma and no previous systemic treatment were randomly assigned to receive one of two regimens: Tremelimumab(300 mg, one dose) plus Durvalumab(1,500 mg every 4 weeks; STRIDE) or sorafenib(400 mg twice daily). The primary objective was overall survival for STRIDE versus sorafenib.

*제1주기(제1일에 이무도® (트레멜리무맙) 300 mg과 임핀지® (더발루맙) 1,500 mg을 병용투여하고, 이후 임핀지® (더발루맙) 1,500 mg 단독요법을 4주 간격으로 투여.

References 1. Rimassa L, et al. Five-year overall survival update from the HIMALAYA study of tremelimumab plus durvalumab in unresectable HCC. J Hepatol. 2025 Oct;83(4):899-908. 2. IMFINZI 국내 허가정보 [개정년월일 2026-02-05]. 3. IMJUDO 국내 허가정보 [개정년월일 2024-12-03] 4. 건강보험심사평가원 공고 제2026-50호. 암환자에게 처방·투여하는 약제에 대한 요양급여의 적용기준 및 방법에 관한 세부사항 (시행일: 2026년 3월 1일).

AstraZeneca

한국아스트라제네카 서울 강남구 영동대로 517 아셈타워 2층
전화: (02)2188-0800 팩스: (02)2188-0852

TOTALITY OF DATA

Tecentriq® + Bevacizumab (Avastin®),
an IO + Anti-VEGF Combination Therapy in HCC



티센트릭®+베바시주맙(아바스틴®)은

mOS 19.2 개월 VS 13.4 개월
(HR=0.66, 95% CI, 0.52-0.85, descriptive $p<0.001$)

mPFS 6.9 개월 VS 4.3 개월
(HR=0.65, 95% CI, 0.53-0.81, descriptive $p<0.001$)

ORR 30% VS 11%
(Difference 18%, 95% CI, 11-26, $p<0.0001$)

대조군 대비 임상적 우월성을 보였습니다.²

FAST. STRONG. AND PRACTICAL

IMbrave150¹ A n open-label, phase III study systemic treatment-naïve, unresectable HCC patients randomized 2:1 to receive 1,200 mg atezolizumab plus 15 mg/kg bevacizumab intravenously for every 3 weeks (n=336) or 400 mg sorafenib orally twice daily (n=165). Co-primary endpoints were OS and PFS. Treatment-related grade 3/4 adverse events occurred in 143 (43%) of 329 patients with atezolizumab plus bevacizumab and 72 (46%) of 156 patients with sorafenib.

References 1. Finn et al. Atezolizumab plus Bevacizumab in Unresectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma. N Engl J Med 2020;382:1894-905. May 14, 2020.

2. AL Cheng, et al. Updated efficacy and safety data from IMbrave150: atezolizumab plus bevacizumab vs. sorafenib for unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma. J Hepatol. 2022;76:862-873.

HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; **IO**, immuno-oncology; **ORR**, overall response rate; **OS**, overall survival; **PFS**, progression-free survival; **VEGF**, vascular endothelial growth factor. **m**, median **HR**, Hazard Ratio **CI**, Confidence Interval

보다 자세한 제품정보 문의 및 제품 관련 부작용 보고는 (주)한국로슈 (02-3451-3600) 로 연락 주시기 바랍니다 * 티센트릭과 아바스틴의 최신 제품정보는 QR code 를 스캔하여 확인하실 수 있습니다.



절제 불가능한 또는
전이성 간세포암
1차 치료제
국내 허가^{1,*}

EXTEND THE POSSIBILITIES

OPDIVO® + YERVOY®

절제 불가능한 또는 전이성 간세포암 1차 치료에서

OPDIVO® + YERVOY® 병용 요법은
mOS 23.7개월, ORR 36%, mDOR 34.3개월을 달성하여
간세포암 환자들에게 장기 생존 기회를 제공합니다.^{1,2}

OPDIVO® + YERVOY®는 LEN/SOR 대비 mOS를 유의하게 연장하였습니다. (23.7개월 vs 20.6개월, HR (95% CI): 0.79 (0.65, 0.96), P=0.018)

OPDIVO® + YERVOY®는 LEN/SOR 대비 ORR이 유의하게 높았습니다. (36% vs 13%, P<0.0001)

OPDIVO® + YERVOY®의 mDOR은 34.3개월로 LEN/SOR 대비 2배 이상 높았습니다. (mDOR; OPDIVO® + YERVOY® (n=121) 34.3개월 vs LEN/SOR (n=44) 12.9개월)

[Safety Information^{1,2}] 이 약의 성분에 과민증 기왕력이 있는 환자에게는 투여해서는 안 됩니다. 또한, 자가 면역 질환이 있거나 만성적 또는 재발성 자가 면역 질환의 기왕력이 있는 환자에게는 신중히 투여해야 합니다. 절제 불가능한 또는 전이성 간세포암 환자를 대상으로 한 임상시험(CheckMate 9DW)에서, 이 약과 이필리무맙 병용 요법 투여군의 경우 중대한 이상사례가 환자의 57%에서 발생했으며, 3.6%(12명)의 환자에서 치명적인 이상사례가 발생하였습니다. 이상 사례로 인한 투여 중단은 24%에서 발생했고, 가장 흔하게(환자의 20% 이상에서 보고) 발생한 이상사례는 발진, 소양증, 피로, 설사였습니다.

* OPDIVO®는 절제 불가능한 또는 전이성 간세포암의 1차 치료제로서 이필리무맙과의 병용 요법으로 허가되었습니다. YERVOY®로는 해당 적응증에 허가된 바가 없습니다.

mOS, median overall survival; ORR, overall response rate; mDOR, median duration of response; HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval; LEN, lenvatinib; SOR, sorafenib; RECIST, response evaluation criteria in solid tumors; BICR, blinded independent central review.

[CheckMate 9DW Study Design] CheckMate 9DW는 이전에 전신 치료 경험에 없는 unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma 성인 환자를 대상으로 한 open-label, randomised, phase 3 임상 연구입니다. 총 668명의 환자를 1:1 비율로 OPDIVO®+YERVOY® 병용 요법(N=335) 또는 연구자 선택에 따라 LEN/SOR 단독요법(N=333)에 무작위 배정하였습니다. 환자들은 OPDIVO® 1mg/kg+ YERVOY® 3mg/kg을 약 30분간 IV infusion으로 3주 간격으로 4회 투여한 후, OPDIVO® 480mg을 약 30분간 IV infusion으로 4주 간격으로 투여 받거나 연구자의 선택에 따라 LEN(하루 180) 또는 SOR(하루 280) 경구 투여 받았습니다. 본 연구의 1차 평가변수(primary endpoint)는 Overall Survival (OS)이었으며, 주요 2차 평가변수(secondary endpoints)는 RECIST v1.1 기준 BICR 평가에 따른 Objective Response Rate (ORR) 및 Duration of Response (DOR) 등이었습니다. 본 중간 분석에서 전체 생존(OS)에 대한 통계적 유의성의 기준은 P≤0.0257이었으며, ORR에 대한 통계적 유의성 기준은 P≤0.025였습니다.

REFERENCES

1. OPDIVO® 허가사항, 식품의약품안전처 2. Yau T et al. CheckMate 9DW investigators. Nivolumab plus ipilimumab versus lenvatinib or sorafenib as first-line treatment for unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma (CheckMate 9DW): an open-label, randomised, phase 3 trial. Lancet. 2025 May;405(10492):1851-1864.

전체 제품설명서는 QR코드로 확인 가능합니다!



Bristol Myers Squibb™

한국BMS제약 | 서울시 강남구 테헤란로 504 4층 1빌딩 12층
TEL: 02-3404-1300 FAX: 02-3404-1330 bms.com/kr

ONO 한국오노약품공업주식회사
ONO PHARMA KOREA CO., LTD.

한국오노약품공업주식회사 | 서울시 강남구 테헤란로 134 포스코 타워 역삼 19층
TEL: 02-928-8423 kr.ono-pharma.com

OPDIVO®
(nivolumab)



**HCV-FREE*
IN JUST 8 WEEKS.**

Not a real patient.

**Quickly[†] deliver cure[‡] with 8-week MAVIRET
so your patients[§] can move forward free from HCV.**

*Free from HCV with cure. [†]For GT 1–6 treatment-naïve, non-cirrhotic and compensated-cirrhotic patients, 8-week MAVIRET versus 12-week MAVIRET.

[‡]Cure=sustained virologic response (SVR12), defined as HCV RNA less than the lower limit of quantification at 12 weeks after the end of treatment.

[§]GT 1–6 treatment-naïve, non-cirrhotic and compensated-cirrhotic patients. MAVIRET is not indicated in decompensated cirrhosis.

MAVIRET is contraindicated in patients with moderate or severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh B or C).¹

MAVIRET is indicated for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in adult and adolescent patients over 12 years of age.¹



References 1, MAVIRET® Product information (Revised from 17th Jan 2025).

[Product name] Maviret® Tab. [Ingredients and quantity] Glecaprevir 100.0mg, pibrentasvir 40.0mg

[Importer/Distributor] AbbVie Korea, 6th floor, Samtan Building, 421, Yeongdong-daero, Gangnam-gu, Seoul, Korea, Tel: 02) 3429-9300, www.abbvie.co.kr

※ For the latest and full product information, please refer to the QR code or product information.

※ To report adverse events and apply for damage relief: Korea Institute of Drug Safety & Risk Management (1644-6223 or 14-3330, www.drugsafe.or.kr)

KR-MAVI-240023 / Mar 2024

abbvie



DIAGNOSTICS FOR ONCOLOGY

PIVKA-II & AFP: HCC Biomarkers