

# The Global Think-tank on Steatotic Liver Disease

Tuesday 26 May 2026 | 12.00-21.00 | Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB)

## Agenda

09.00-12.00

**Closed-Door Research Meetings (Invitation Only)**

12.00-13.00

**Networking Lunch for all Attendees** (*Registration is open from 11.00*)

13.00-14.00

### Opening Remarks

- ❖ **Jeffrey Lazarus**, Professor, CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy, NY, USA. Research Professor, Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), Spain. Director, Global Think-tank on Steatotic Liver Disease
- ❖ **Jörn Schattenberg**, Professor, Director. Department of Internal Medicine. Saarland University Medical Centre, Germany, Co-director, Global Think-tank on Steatotic Liver Disease
- ❖ **Naim Alkhouri**, Hepatologist, Chief Medical Officer, Summit Clinical Research. Director of the SLD Programme, Clinical Research Institute of Ohio, USA, Co-director, Global Think-tank on Steatotic Liver Disease
- ❖ **Didac Mauricio**, Department of Endocrinology & Nutrition, Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Spain. Local Chair, Global Think-tank on Steatotic Liver Disease.

### Keynote Addresses

- ❖ **Professor Mohamed Hassany**, Leading the World Health Assembly resolution on Steatotic Liver Disease. Assistant Minister of Health for Projects and Public Health Initiatives. Arab Republic of Egypt
- ❖ **Vesna Kerstin Petric**, Former Chair of the WHO Executive Board. Head of the Office for Cooperation with WHO, Ministry of Health. Republic of Slovenia
- ❖ **Jonathan Cylus**, Senior Health Economist, WHO Barcelona Office for Health Systems Financing. Head of London Hubs, European Observatory on Health Systems & Policies, London School of Economics, UK

14.00-15.00

### Session 1 - Diagnostic Innovations and Models of Care for Steatotic Liver Disease

Moderated by: **Jacqui Thornton**, Health journalist, UK

#### Speakers

- **Nicola Pugliese**, Hepatologist, Humanitas Research Hospital, Milan, Italy. & Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
- **Cyrielle Caussy**, Professor of Nutrition, endocrinologist diabetologist, Lyon 1 University, Lyon South Hospital, Lyon Hepatology Institute, France

#### Panellists

- **Naim Alkhouri**, Hepatologist, Chief Academic Officer, Summit Clinical Research. Director of the SLD Programme, Clinical Research Institute of Ohio, USA
- **Frederik Iredahl**, General Practitioner, Linköping University and Region Östergötland, Sweden
- **Silvana Pannain**, Associate Professor of Endocrinology Diabetes and Metabolism, University of Chicago / Obesity Medicine Director, Center for Weight and Metabolic Health, USA

*This session will examine gaps in the continuum of care for steatotic liver disease and explore how novel technologies, including non-invasive and point-of-care screening/case finding tools, and integrated care models can improve early detection, access, and long-term management. It will highlight multidisciplinary and community-based approaches and assess barriers related to adoption of new technologies, digital literacy, and the social determinants of health.*

15.00-15.30

**Networking Coffee Break**

**15:30-16:30**

**Interactive Insights: Dynamic Open Space Session for Cutting-Edge Solutions**  
6 focused conversations | 12 expert facilitators | Location: The Deck Terrace

**Facilitators:**

- **Meena Bansal**, Chief, Division of Liver Diseases, Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai, USA
- **Ken Cusi**, Endocrinologist, The University of Florida, USA
- **Kristina Curtis**, Applied Behaviour Change, University College London, UK
- **Hannes Hagström**, Hepatologist, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
- **Scott Isaacs**, Endocrinologist, American Association of Clinical Endocrinology, USA
- **Priya Jaisinghani**, Endocrinologist, NYU Langone Health, USA
- **Sonal Kumar**, Hepatologist, Weill Cornell Medicine, USA
- **Melina Manolas**, Endocrinologist & Assistant Professor, Weill Cornell Medicine, USA
- **Maru Rinella**, Gastroenterologist, Northwestern University Medical School/Northwestern Memorial Hospital, USA
- **Jörn Schattenberg**, Professor of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Endocrinology, Saarland University Medical Centre, Homburg, Germany

**Output moderator:** Michael Betel, President and Founder, Fatty Liver Alliance, Canada

**16:30-17:30**

**Session 2 - Policy Readiness to Confront the Steatotic Liver Disease Public Health Threat**

Moderated by: **Jacqui Thornton**, Health journalist, UK

**Speakers**

- **Jeffrey Lazarus**, Professor, CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy, NY, USA. Research Professor, Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), Spain
- **Luis Antonio Diaz**, Researcher, MASLD Research Center, Univ of California San Diego, USA

**Panellists**

- **Nikos Dedes**, Patient representative, Greece
- **Kushala Abeysekera**, Hepatologist, Bristol Royal Infirmary / Consultant Senior Lecturer in Liver Disease Epidemiology, University of Bristol, UK
- **Gema Frühbeck**, Endocrinologist, Obesity Area, Dept. of Endocrinology & Nutrition, CIBEROBN, University of Navarra Clinic, IdiSNA; Spain

*This session will explore opportunities for health systems and policy reform to integrate liver care into broader non-communicable disease strategies and research priorities to support more equitable and sustainable care. This session will assess policy readiness to arrest the rising tide of steatotic liver disease and to meet the increasing demand for treatment and care, including in national policies, clinical guidelines, and strategic frameworks. It will further address the inclusion of SLD in liver-specific, healthy lifestyle and NCD policies, as well as policies on key comorbid conditions such as diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease.*

**17.30-18:30**

**Session 3 - Where MetALD and ARLD Meet in Metabolic Care**

Moderated by: **Jacqui Thornton**, Health journalist, UK

**Speakers:**

- **Elisa Pose**, Hepatologist, Liver Unit, Hospital Clínic of Barcelona, IDIBAPS, Spain
- **Mark Thursz**, Professor of Hepatology, Imperial College London, UK

**Panellists:**

- **Patrizia Carrieri**, Director, Calipso research team, INSERM, Aix-Marseille University, IRD, SESSTIM, Economic & Social Sciences of Health & Medical Information Processing, France
- **Paul Brennan**, Hepatologist, University of Dundee, Scotland, UK
- **Michael Ninburg**, Executive Director Emeritus, Hepatitis Education Project, USA

*In this session we examine the social and economic roots, stigma, and implications for the prevention and treatment of MetALD and ARLD. We further investigate systemic issues such as under-screening, knowledge gaps, and limited use of non-invasive diagnostic tools, such as PEth (phosphatidylethanol), EtG (ethyl glucuronide), EtS (ethyl sulfate), and AUDIT-C (Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test-Concise).*

**18.30-19.00**

**Closing Keynote Address**

Moderated by: **Jacqui Thornton**, Health journalist, UK

- ❖ **Ana Maria Cebrián Cuenca**, Family Doctor, Executive Board, Primary Care Diabetes Europe; Past Chair, Convenor Non-communicable Diseases of WONCA. Spain
- ❖ **Ferdinant Sonyuy**, Executive Director, Health Economist, Africa NCD Network (ANN). Cameroon

**Closing Remarks**

- ❖ **Jeffrey Lazarus**, Professor, CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy, NY, USA. Research Professor, Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), Spain.

**19.00-21.00**

**Evening Networking Reception on the Deck Terrace**

*Connect, collaborate and amplify the conversation within the liver and metabolic health community; a stone's throw from the Mediterranean sea.*

**To view website:**

[The Global Think-tank on Steatotic Liver Disease](#)