

July 2007

Dear Friends of AASLD,

We invite you to take a moment and reflect on your involvement with AASLD and the impact made in the investigation and treatment of liver disease in the U.S. and worldwide. Our 2006 Annual Report is enclosed.

Each year, AASLD sponsors three to five Single Topic Conferences in clinical research, basic research, hepatitis, pediatric hepatology, and beginning in 2006, endpoints in clinical trials. Five conferences were held in 2006. The new endpoints conference was developed to allow participants from various disciplines to reach a consensus on guidelines for hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) clinical trials. The AASLD Governing Board has designated \$4,250,000 to support the association's Single Topic Conferences on an on-going basis.

More than 7,000 professionals from across the country and around the world attended The Liver Meeting® 2006. To meet the increasing education needs of mid-level professionals, AASLD offered, for the first time, nursing CE credits for four courses. Posters, audio, and PowerPoint® presentations of the scientific sessions were captured and made accessible online, free-of-charge, via the AASLD Web site. By doing so, AASLD broadened its educational focus and made the science available to attendees long after they had returned home, as well as to those who were unable to attend and did not have access to the information.

In 2006, AASLD was honored to receive nearly \$3.4 million in support of AASLD's research awards and education programs from individuals and corporations. We gratefully acknowledge them (pages 18 and 19) for sharing AASLD's vision to prevent and cure liver diseases and for investing in the scientific discovery in hepatology that ultimately improves the care of patients with liver disease. Congratulations to our 2006 award recipients featured on pages 4 - 9 who will be conducting research in areas ranging from non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, acute liver failure, and liver transplantation for hepatocellular carcinoma to hepatitis C.

AASLD took a monumental step in 2006 by purchasing a 22,500 square foot office condominium at 1001 North Fairfax Street in Alexandria, Virginia. This acquisition accommodates AASLD's staff, provides additional space to lease, and permits the growth necessary to provide increased services and programs that will impact the science and practice of hepatology.

Two practice guidelines were finalized for publication in 2006, and development began on three others. These guidelines assist healthcare providers in patient care decisions with the intention of improving clinical outcomes. In addition, AASLD continues to work closely with the NIH in identifying collaborations that enhance the work of both organizations to promote hepatobiliary research and manage the full spectrum of patients with liver diseases.

You have helped make our achievements in 2006 possible, and as you reflect on the past year, we hope you'll take pride in knowing what we've accomplished together.

Thank you.



Gregory J. Gores
President