

Liver Information
For Everyone



Fall 2006

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Local News:

Home Town Girl Helps a Worthy Cause

When most people think of Patricia Wells, they think of her award-winning cook books, her restaurant reviews, or her world-class cooking classes in Paris and Provence, France. But people have recently seen a new side of Patricia as she ran the ING New York City Marathon in order to raise funds for the American Liver Foundation.



Patricia Wells

“It’s impossible to enjoy good food without good health, and I believe passionately in pursuing both,” said Ms. Wells. “The work of the ALF is crucial in educating people about liver disease and wellness. I’m thrilled to be able to do this to support them.”

A native of Wisconsin, Patricia now lives in France where she reviews restaurants for The International Herald Tribune, writes her cookbooks, and offers cooking classes for those yearning to know more about the secrets of the Provencal kitchen. But she has never lost her love for her family home, which is why she will be participating in the Flavors of Milwaukee gala taking place on April 29, 2007 at the Wisconsin Club.

“I’m excited to join with the Wisconsin chapter of the ALF to help promote their great work,” said Ms. Wells. “And to do this while enjoying the food of Milwaukee’s top chefs is a real treat.”

Patricia Wells is in the US on a tour in support of her latest cookbook, “Vegetable Harvest,” which is due to be released in April.



Your Liver. Your Life.

Letter from the executive director

A Happy and Healthy New Year to you from the Wisconsin Chapter of ALF!

2007 promises to be an exciting year for the Wisconsin Chapter. From the anticipation of the Flavors' events to the expanded education/support schedule, the Wisconsin Chapter is already kicking off a year that holds promise of expanding the knowledge of liver disease to everyone.

In this edition of LIFE, we make it easy for you to know what is scheduled (as of this newsletter) "at a glance" for 2007 with our tear out calendar. (pg. 7). We hope that you will be able to join us for the many events, programs, and support groups that we offer.

We would like to continue to grow and to do that, we need your help. We are asking all those who have been touched by liver disease to contact their local TV, radio or newspaper to ask them to run more stories on Liver disease. Liver diseases, such as fatty liver disease, hepatitis C, and liver cancer are on the rise and our fight is just beginning. We need to let the public know that wellness, education, and prevention is needed, not only for their heart and lungs, but also for their livers. Help us educate them.

The growth of the Wisconsin Chapter is due to its supporters and volunteers who give their time and funds to help us support those in the liver community.

Thank you!

Dee Ann Girard
Executive Director
Wisconsin Chapter

If you would like to learn about the volunteer opportunities at the Wisconsin Chapter, contact the chapter office.

Diet Seen to Affect Liver Cancer Risk: Study

NEW YORK, Jan 3 (Reuters Life!) - Certain foods, including milk and fruit, appear to reduce the likelihood of developing liver cancer, according to Italian researchers.

Their study, Dr. Renato Talamini told Reuters Health, "indicated that diet has a relevant role in the risk of this cancer. As for other types of cancer, particularly fruits and vegetables seem to confer a protective effect."

Talamini, at the National Tumor Institute in Aviano, and colleagues studied 185 patients with liver cancer and a comparison group of 412 "controls" without cancer. The results are reported in the International Journal of Cancer.

The participants' responses to dietary questionnaires showed that as intake of various foods went up, the risk of liver cancer went down. After accounting for other factors that could affect the risk, the team found that high intakes of milk and yoghurt reduced the chances of developing liver cancer by 78 percent.

High consumption of white meat lowered the risk by 56 percent, and with high intake of fruit, it went down by 52 percent. Vegetables, too, apparently had a protective effect, but this didn't reach significance from a statistical standpoint.

The researchers saw that the findings held good for patients with hepatitis B and hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection.

Talamini advised that, to ward off liver cancer, one should "adopt a correct diet, rich in fruits and vegetables." Also important, he added, "is limiting consumption of alcohol beverages and avoiding HCV infection by practicing safe sex and eliminating needle sharing."

The information contained in this newsletter is provided for information only. This information does not constitute medical advice and should not be relied upon as such. The American Liver Foundation (ALF) does not engage in the practice of medicine. ALF, under no circumstances, recommends particular treatments for specific intervals and in all cases recommends that you consult your physician before pursuing any course of treatment.

What is Your ALT?

Liver disease is rapidly becoming one of America's most critical healthcare problems. Some thirty million Americans have some form of liver disease. Unfortunately, liver disease is difficult to diagnose early because the liver rarely exhibits any symptoms until a disease is well advanced.

In order to improve the early diagnosis of liver disease, the American Liver Foundation recently joined with The American Association for the Study of Liver Disease to focus America's attention to the ALT score as an important marker of a person's liver health and liver disease.

ALT is an abbreviation for an enzyme - alanine aminotransferase - that liver cells make and normally release into the blood. Physicians caring for patients with liver disease have long been aware that

measurements of liver enzyme activities are critical in the diagnosis and assessment of liver disease.

There is always some level of ALT in the blood, but an abnormally high ALT level indicates liver injury. ALT measurement is inexpensive and easy to do, and it can detect otherwise unapparent liver disease, such as asymptomatic viral hepatitis and fatty liver. The ALT number is an important front-line indication of liver disease.

AASLD is concerned that abnormal ALT activity is often ignored or minimized by practitioners as most patients are asymptomatic, and minor elevations are often construed to be clinically insignificant. The ALT has been regarded as the most reliable and sensitive marker of liver disease. "The ALT measure being

proposed is not new but, if adopted by all primary care physicians, could lead to earlier diagnosis and treatment of liver. The ALT can do for liver disease what the cholesterol test did for heart disease," said John Vierling, the President of AASLD.

The primary goals of this new initiative are to raise public awareness of ALT and to drive the adoption of ALT as one of the measurements in the Health Plan and Employer Data Information Set, a set of performance measurements developed and maintained by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. Adoption of the ALT into the HEDIS standard will improve the liver health of the American people. Be sure to focus on liver health and ask your health care provider about your ALT score.

A New Weapon in the Fight Against Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is a major health problem in our country. Hepatitis B is spread by contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person and can be transmitted from mother to child during birth. Most are short-term infections, but about 5% of adults who become infected develop chronic hepatitis B. In the long run, hepatitis B can lead to cirrhosis, liver failure and liver cancer. This highly infectious disease is spreading rapidly, so it is always exciting to hear of new treatments that will help those suffering from hepatitis B.

The Food and Drug Administration has recently approved Tyzeka (telbivudine), developed by Idenix Pharmaceuticals, for the treatment of adults with chronic hepatitis B. Designed to be taken once a day, the Tyzeka pill has been shown to rapidly and profoundly suppress the hepatitis B virus in patients.

Approximately 1.4 million people in the United States are living with chronic hepatitis B. Some 80,000 new cases of hepatitis B are reported in the U.S. each year. The virus is 100 times more infectious than the AIDS virus and affects Asian-Americans more than any other ethnic group. It is estimated that 1 in 10 Asian-Americans may be suffering from hepatitis B.

"We always welcome any new drug that helps fight hepatitis B," said Dr. James Boyer, chair of the board of directors of the American Liver Foundation. "Developments of new drugs and treatments only show the crucial need for continuing research into liver disease. It is our hope that with continued work that we can relieve the suffering of the millions of people afflicted with this disease."

Ten Ways to Start Fundraising for the Wisconsin Liver Walk June 16, 2007

1. Register now with no Registration Fee!
A Registration fee of \$15.00 will be accessed after June 1, 2007
2. Set a fund-raising goal
3. Form a TEAM of family, friends and co-workers
4. Call the chapter office to secure your Boston Store Community Day Coupon Books to use a walk fund-raiser (*all monies turned in from the sell of the Boston Store promotion will go towards your walk total!*)
5. Start a letter (or email) writing campaign! Tell your everyone why your walking for liver disease
6. Ask 10 friends to sponsor you \$10 to reach an easy \$100 level (*most walkers for the WI Walk raises over \$120 per person!*)
7. Think Spring! Have a car wash with proceeds going toward your walk team!
8. Ask the chapter office for more ideas on how to fund-raise
9. Register at Active.com and create a fund-raising page
10. Remember why you are fund-raising! Dollars raised help the Wisconsin Chapter to fulfill its mission of promoting liver health and disease prevention here in the state.

National News:

High Tylenol doses linked to liver woes

By Carla K. Johnson, Associated Press Writer, Wed Jul 5

Healthy adults taking maximum doses of Tylenol for two weeks had abnormal liver test results in a small study, researchers found, raising concerns that even recommended amounts of the popular painkiller might lead to liver damage.

In the study, 106 participants took four grams of Tylenol — equivalent to eight extra-strength Tylenol tablets — each day for two weeks. Some took Tylenol alone and some took it with an opioid painkiller. Dummy pills were given to 39 others.

There were no alarming liver test results among the people who took the placebos. But nearly 40 percent of people in all the other groups had abnormal test results that would signal liver damage, according to the study that appears in Wednesday's *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"I would urge the public not to exceed four grams a day. This is a drug that has a rather narrow safety window," said a study co-author, Dr. Neil Kaplowitz of the University of Southern California.

Heavy drinkers should take no more than two grams daily, Kaplowitz said.

Another co-author, Dr. Paul Watkins of the University of North Carolina, said he's less worried than Kaplowitz, noting that acetaminophen, the active ingredient in Tylenol, has been used for 50 years and has a good safety record.

The maker of Tylenol, McNeil Consumer & Specialty Pharmaceuticals, said its own research found much lower rates of abnormal liver results. The company's studies tracked high-dose users over longer periods than did the new study.

"It doesn't lead to liver disease and it usually resolves as patients continue to take acetaminophen," said Dr. Edwin Kuffner, senior director of medical affairs at McNeil.

The researchers had been hired by the drug company Purdue Pharma LP, maker of the prescription painkiller OxyContin, to find out why abnormal liver tests were showing up in people testing a combination drug containing the acetaminophen and the opiate hydrocodone.

Purdue Pharma stopped its hydrocodone study early because of the abnormal liver tests. Researchers Watkins and Kaplowitz thought they would find the culprit in hydrocodone's interaction with acetaminophen.

"Our jaws dropped when we got the data," Watkins said. "It doesn't have anything to do with the opiate. It's good ol', garden-variety acetaminophen."

Acetaminophen is more popular than aspirin or ibuprofen. Each week, one in five U.S. adults uses it for pain or fever, a 2002 survey found.

Acetaminophen is included in numerous over-the-counter and prescription medications, making overdose possible as people unwittingly combine drugs. Overdoses of acetaminophen are the leading cause of acute liver failure.

"A week doesn't go by when I don't have to talk to someone about how much they're taking," said Kathleen Besinque of the USC School of Pharmacy.

Watkins said people considering switching painkillers should know that others have their own side effects, such as internal bleeding and stomach irritation. New research under way at the University of North Carolina may determine if acetaminophen's effect on the liver continues for long-term, high-dose users, or if the body adapts, Watkins said.

Cholesterol Drugs Fight Hepatitis C

Statin Drug Lescol May Add Punch to Hepatitis C Treatment Cocktail

By Daniel DeNoon, WebMD Medical News, July 7, 2006

Cholesterol-lowering statin drugs — especially Lescol — fight hepatitis C virus, Japanese researchers report.

Except for Pravachol, which seems to have no effect on hepatitis C, other statins also have some antihepatitis C activity. But in a new lab test designed to measure the drugs' ability to fight hepatitis C, Lescol was the most potent.

Moreover, the test-tube studies show Lescol boosts the effect of alpha interferon, the mainstay of hepatitis C treatment. That's important, since the current combination of long-acting interferon plus ribavirin does not cure some 45% of people infected with the liver-damaging virus.

Masanori Ikeda and colleagues of Okayama University report the findings in the July issue of the journal *Hepatology*.

"We clearly demonstrated that combination treatment of alpha interferon and [Lescol] was an overwhelmingly more effective treatment, compared with [our] previous results for the combination treatment of alpha interferon with ribavirin," Ikeda and colleagues conclude.

The researchers tested the drugs only in a cell-culture system -- not in people or animals.

Also, the concentration of Lescol they found to be effective is about 10 times higher than the concentration seen in the blood of people taking daily 40-milligram doses of the drug (Lescol doses as high as 80 milligrams per day are used to lower cholesterol).

This means that by itself, Lescol would not have much effect on hepatitis C. The good news is that the Lescol/alpha interferon combination cut replication of hepatitis C virus 97% more than alpha interferon by itself.

"We proposed that therapy combining [Lescol] with alpha interferon may be effective for the treatment of patients with chronic hepatitis C," Ikeda and colleagues write. They suggest a triple combination of Lescol, alpha interferon, and ribavirin would be even more effective.

However, there may be a downside to using statins to treat hepatitis C. This is, after all, a liver disease. And statins can damage the liver.

In the future, the researchers speculate, it may be possible to develop statin-like drugs that are even more potent against hepatitis C.

Organ & Tissue Donation

Wisconsin Coalition on Donation
 RTI Donor Services—
 Allograft Resources Division
 American Heart Association
 American Liver Foundation Wisconsin Chapter
 American Lung Association
 Blood Center of Southeastern Wisconsin
 Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin
 LifeSource Blood Services
 Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation—TranSource
 National Kidney Foundation of Wisconsin
 Paul Oldam, Transplant Recipient,
 Member At-Large
 University of Wisconsin
 Organ Procurement Organization
 Wisconsin Department of Transportation
 Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services
 Wisconsin Donor Network
 Wisconsin Tissue Bank

Why is organ, tissue and eye donation so important?

Thousands of Wisconsin families are among those waiting for a transplant for a loved one to stay alive. Seventeen people in this country die every day because not enough organs are available. Organ and tissue donation saves lives. One donor can save or improve the lives of more than fifty people. Donated corneas restore vision for the blind. Donated bone and connective tissue help repair defects, promote faster healing and save limbs. Donated skin saves lives of those with severe burns and repairs functional and cosmetic problems for many others.

What organs and tissues can be transplanted?

Donated kidneys, hearts, lungs, livers, pancreases, and intestines can be transplanted. Corneas, bone, heart valves, connective tissue, and skin are among the tissues that can be transplanted. More than 20,000 organ transplants, 46,000 eye transplants and 750,000 tissue transplants are performed each year in the United States.

Is there a conflict between saving a person's life and donation?

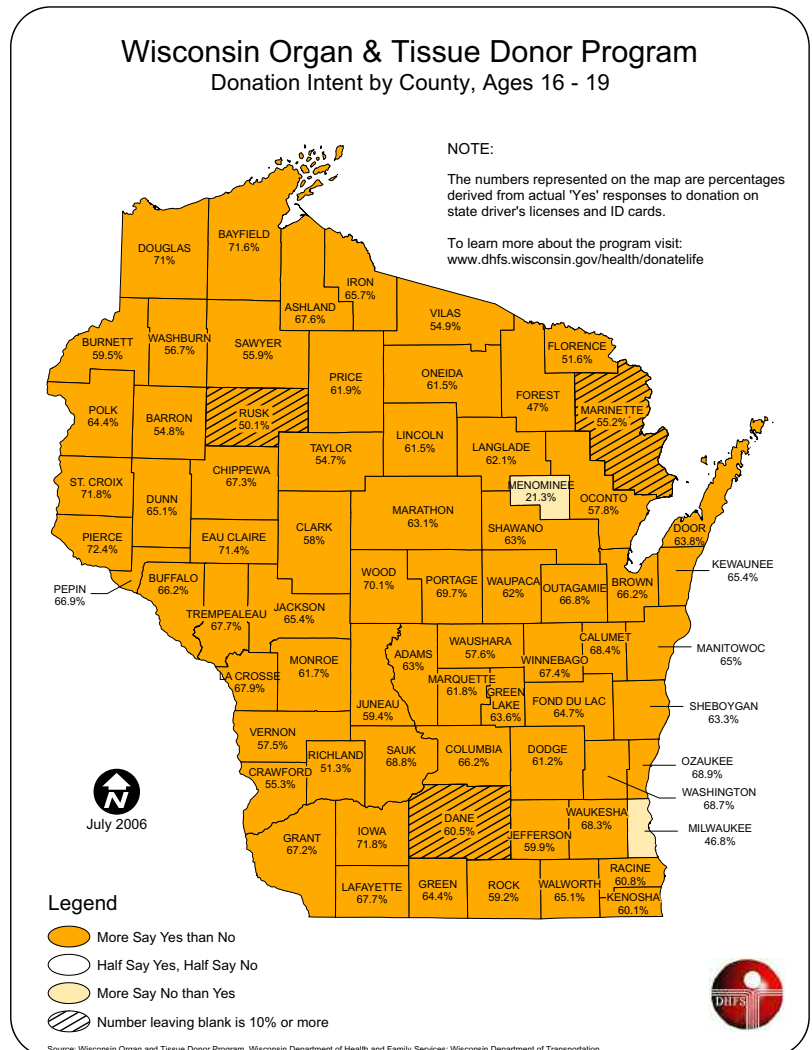
No. Physicians and nurses do everything possible to save a patient's life. Only after they determine that further efforts would be futile does a transplant team become involved.

Is organ, tissue and eye donation difficult on the donating family?

Donation may provide immediate and long-term consolation, especially in light of sudden, unexpected circumstances. The family members of the donor often feel encouraged that something good has come out of something tragic.

May I become a donor if I have had cancer?

Yes, it may be possible to be a donor if you have had cancer. At the time of donation medical professionals will assess if your organs and tissues are suitable for transplantation.



What is the age limit for organ, tissue and eye donation?

People of all ages—from infants to seniors—may become donors. Donor suitability is determined by considering an individual's general health. Again, medical professionals will evaluate whether an individual's organs and tissues can be transplanted.

What is the cost to the donor family?

There is no cost to the family. Transplant recipients and their health insurance pay all costs related to donation. The donor's family pays only for the medical care provided before death and funeral expenses.

Will donation affect the appearance of the donor?

Great care is taken to preserve the donor's appearance through the delicate surgical procedures that occur during organ and tissue recovery. Funeral directors work to restore the body for viewing and visitation.

Does my religion allow donation?

Most major religions in the U.S. support donation as a gift of life to fellow human beings.

What steps do I take to be a donor?

Sign your driver's license and discuss your decision with your family.
For more information: www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/health/donatelife/

It's Community Day!



Saturday, March 3, 2007

You can purchase Community Day Packets for \$5.00 each containing coupons to use on most merchandise purchases throughout Boston Store. This community event will help American Liver Foundation Wisconsin Chapter to provide research, education and advocacy for those affected by hepatitis and other liver-related disease. 100% of dollars raised will go to ALF. There is no minimum of coupon packets to purchase.

Each \$5.00 packet includes **one \$10.00 coupon** good on almost any purchase and six additional coupons, each good for 20% off almost any merchandise purchase at any Boston Store locations. Also included is a coupon good for \$30.00 off women's and men's shoes only to Community Day coupon packet holders!

To purchase packets, please fill out form below and mail to ALF Wisconsin Chapter office.

Deadline to purchase Community Day packets is **February 28, 2007**. If you are interested after deadline date, please contact the office for availability at 414-961-4936.

Volunteers needed to help sell coupon books at the Bayshore Boston Store!
Call Samantha at the chapter office for dates and times. 414-961-4936

Yes, I would like to purchase Community Day Packets to help American Liver Foundation Wisconsin Chapter

help fight to educate the public on this devastating health crises that affects our society today and to provide research on hepatitis and liver-related disease. 100% of dollars raised will go to ALF and your gift is Tax Deductible.

_____ **Quantity of Community Day Packets** (no minimum) \$5.00 each packet *Add \$1.00 for Shipping & Handling

\$ _____ **Check Payable to ALF**

Shipping Address:

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

**** Mail Check to: American Liver Foundation, 4927 N. Lydell Avenue, Glendale, WI 53217.**

Support Groups

General Liver Disease Support Group

Meeting Dates

January 25th
April 26th
July 26th
October 25th

This Group brings together those touched by any liver disease for support and education. Family or support person encouraged to attend.

Call chapter office at 414-961-4936 or email us at infowi@liverfoundation.org to sign up or find out more information.

Location Brookfield Sheraton

Children's Liver Disease Support Group

Meeting Dates

January 15th
April 16th
July 16th
October 15th

The goal of the Children's Support group is to help bring parents and loved ones together to share their experiences and find support.

Child participation encouraged (including siblings).

Call the chapter office at 414-961-4936 or email us at infowi@liverfoundation.org to sign up or to find out more information.

Living Well Series

It's for people who have had a transplant or who are awaiting transplant. It's for family members or friends who care.

Each session offers information and tips to help anyone feel healthier. Come to one or come to all the sessions!

Meeting Dates

January 22nd
February 22nd
March 19th
April 4th
May 24th

For more information call the National Kidney Foundation 262-821-0705 ext. 10 and request a Living Well pamphlet.

Racine Hepatitis Support Group

When: Every third Wednesday of each month

Call Arlene at 262-681-8370 for more information

University of Madison Transplant Support Group

When: Third Sunday of each month @ 1:30 p.m. Call 1-608-262-2122 for more information

St. Luke's Hospital, Milwaukee – Transplant Support Group

Where: St. Luke's Medical Center

When: Third Tuesday of the Month @ 6:30 p.m.

Call Gail Kuhn @ 414-649-6125 for more information

Madison Hepatitis Support Group

Where: University Hospital and Clinics Room H6/215

When: Second & Fourth Thursdays @ 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Call Annette Tealey @ 608-263-1142



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	30	31				



2007 Year At a Glance

American Liver Foundation Wisconsin Chapter

January

10th Think – B in the Hmong Community Program
15th Children's Liver Disease Support Group
17th Hepatitis Task Force Meeting
20th Health-fair at Pentair Corporation
22nd Living Well Series
25th General Liver Disease Support Group
30th Wisconsin Board of Directors Meeting

February

8th Madison Hepatitis Support Group
14th Love your Liver on Valentines!
18th Flavors of Madison
18th University Transplant Support Group
19th Chapter office closed
20th St. Luke's Transplant Support Group
21st Racine Hepatitis Support Group
22nd Madison Hepatitis Support Group
22nd Living Well Series

March

8th Madison Hepatitis Support Group
15th Racine Hepatitis Support Group
18th University Transplant Support Group
19th Living Well Series
20th St. Luke's Transplant Support Group
22nd Madison Hepatitis Support Group
22nd Lions Eye Bank of WI Gift of Sight Gift of Life Luncheon
27th Wisconsin Chapter Board of Directors Meeting

April

Donor Awareness Month

4th Living Well Series
13th Madison Hepatitis Support Group
15th University Transplant Support Group
16th Children's Liver Disease Support Group
18th Racine Hepatitis Support Group

April (continued)

19th St. Luke's Transplant Support Group
26th General Liver Disease Support Group - Milwaukee
26th Madison Hepatitis Support Group
29th Flavors of Milwaukee

May

Hepatitis Awareness Month

10th Madison Hepatitis Task Force
15th St. Luke's Transplant Support Group
16th Racine Hepatitis Task Force
20th University Transplant Support Group
24th Madison Hepatitis Task Force
24th Living Well Series
28th Chapter office closed
29th Wisconsin Chapter Board of Directors Meeting

June

7th Lions Eye Bank of WI - 2nd Annual Golf Outing
14th Madison Hepatitis Support Group
16th Wisconsin Liver Walk
20th Racine Hepatitis Support Group
21st St. Luke's Transplant Support Group
28th Madison Hepatitis Support Group

July

4th Chapter office closed
12th Madison Hepatitis Support Group
15th University Transplant Support Group
16th Children's Liver Disease Support Group "Fun at the Zoo"
17th St. Luke's Transplant Support Group
18th Racine Hepatitis Support Group
26th Madison Hepatitis Support Group
26th General Liver Disease Support Group - Milwaukee
31st Wisconsin Board of Directors Meeting

August

Circle of Life Golf Outing TBA (at top of month of August)

9th Madison Hepatitis Support Group
15th Racine Hepatitis Support Group
19th University Transplant Support Group
21st St. Luke's Transplant Support Group
23rd Madison Hepatitis Support Group

September

3rd Chapter office closed
11th Madison Hepatitis Support Group
16th University Transplant Support Group
18th St. Luke's Transplant Support Group
25th Wisconsin Board of Directors Meeting
27th Madison Hepatitis Support Group

October

Liver Disease Awareness Month!

11th Madison Hepatitis Support Group
15th Children's Liver Disease Support Group
17th Racine Hepatitis Support Group
21st University Transplant Support Group
22nd St. Luke's Transplant Support Group
25th Madison Hepatitis Support Group
25th General Liver Diseases Support Group - Milwaukee

November

8th Madison Hepatitis Support Group
18th University Transplant Support Group
20th St. Luke's Transplant Support Group
21st Racine Hepatitis Support Group
22nd Chapter office closed - Happy Turkey Day!
27th Wisconsin Board of Directors Meeting

December

Happy Holidays for the Wisconsin Chapter!

24th -25th - 31st Chapter office closed

**For more information on the Lions Eye Bank of WI activities call Sandy Leslie at 877-223-2354.
For any other questions please call the chapter office at 888-WI-Liver (888-945-4837).**

DRIVE AWAY

Liver Disease!

Get rid of your old car or boat without the hassle of advertising, fixing or selling it.

Help fight hepatitis and other liver diseases by making a tax deductible donation of your used vehicle to the American Liver Foundation.



Your Liver. Your Life.

1-800-GO-LIVER or

1-800-456-5517

www.liverfoundation.org

Include the American Liver Foundation in Your Will

The American Liver Foundation plays a crucial role in the fight against liver disease, in raising the public's awareness of the liver's vital life supporting role and preventing new cases of liver disease for generations to come.

Likewise, the American Liver Foundation can help you plan your will so you can be sure that your family, friends, and the institutions that matter to you benefit from your generosity and remain strong in the future.

To help you plan your estate, the American Liver Foundation has prepared a workbook to assist you in gathering all the information your attorney should need. Our workbook will also make it easier for your loved ones, in the event of your disability or death, to locate important estate information.

Even if you have a will and an estate plan, it is important that they be reviewed periodically to ensure that they continue to take into account evolving circumstances and tax laws. Many changes in your life, such as the birth of children or grandchildren, marriage, divorce, or the death of a loved one, can result in your wishes not being fulfilled.

To learn more about including ALF in your estate planning, call Lauren Johnson, Director of Development, at 212-668-1000, ext. 137, or at ljohnson@liverfoundation.org.



Your Liver. Your Life.



Do You Give at Work?

Community Health Charities employer's makes it easy for its employees to take dollars from their regular paychecks to donate to the charity -- or charities -- of their choice. Through Community Health Charities, the American Liver Foundation, along with a family of nearly 50 of America's most respected health charities, partners to offer workplace giving in companies across the country.

If your employer conducts a workplace giving campaign and includes Community Health Charities as a partner, you can make a difference in someone's life today by designating your contribution to the American Liver Foundation. Federal employees can donate to the American Liver Foundation through the Combined Federal Campaign by using the **CFC code #509**.

If your employer does not currently offer a workplace giving campaign and you would like to find out more about how to start one, contact the American Liver Foundation Wisconsin Chapter at 888—WI-LIVER or email us at infowisc@liverfoundation.org.

The American Liver Foundation appreciates the support and generosity of the American workforce in helping us to promote liver health and disease prevention through research, education and advocacy.

Community Health Charities of Wisconsin partners with Wisconsin's employers and their employees to support the mission and work of over 40 Wisconsin community health charities.

The American Liver Foundation-Wisconsin Chapter

is grateful for the funds it receives annually through its membership in CHC-Wisconsin.

CHC-Wisconsin enables employers and employees to support the American Liver Foundation and other CHC-Wisconsin health charities through annual payroll deduction campaigns.

Become a health philanthropist with impact.

Find out how to expand support for the American Liver Foundation at your workplace. Call CHC-Wisconsin 414.933.4216 • www.chcwi.org

Join the We Care Program at your nearest Pick 'n Save!

The program is simple and is a way for everyone to help in our fight against liver disease. All you need to do is go to the courtesy counter and let them know you would like to participate in the We Care Program and would like to designate your We Care dollars to go to ALF, WI Chapter. You might have to reapply for your Advantage Plus Card to be able to select us but it's worth the effort to know that every time you shop and use your card, you are helping expand our services throughout our state. Our We Care organizational number is 027600.

Become A Member

The American Liver Foundation Membership Levels

- **Fellows Society** \$1,000 or more
Members receive same benefits as Sponsor Circle and a \$100 coupon to use on any Wisconsin Chapter event.
- **Sponsor Circle** \$500 to \$999
Receive the same benefits as the Partner Circle and a \$25 coupon to use on any Wisconsin Chapter event
- **Partner Circle** \$100 to \$499
Receive the same benefits as the Associate Circle and invitations to our special events
- **Associate Circle** \$25 to \$99
Members receive our chapter newsletter, ALF decal and the chapter's Faces of Liver Disease calendar

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The Threat Facing Medical Research

By Dr. James L. Boyer, MD

Medical research has produced some truly important breakthroughs in the past few years. As a result, treatments for many diseases have significantly improved. America's tremendous history of medical and biological research has saved countless lives and eased untold pain throughout the world. However there are clouds gathering on the horizon. There are over 22,000 biomedical researchers in the US. In recent years, the NIH has been able to award 30% of the grant applications submitted as the NIH budget doubled. Now, however, the level of funding is down to about 10% or less of grant applications.

Some reasons for this drop in funding include the increase in the number of scientists applying for grants and commitments from prior years as well as general inflation of the basic costs of research. However, the main problem at present is a lack of sufficient funding in the annual federal budget for biomedical research.

The priorities of Congress have substantially changed since 2003. In 2007,



for the first time ever, there will no budget increase for the NIH. As prices rise in the cost of research there will be a substantial reduction in the number of grants funded.

When funding and grant acceptance levels are low, working scientists are forced to consider leaving the research fields and

students are discouraged from entering them. An entire generation of physicians and PhDs could be lost and with them who knows what medical advances will be delayed.

This is why the American Liver Foundation is working so hard to take up the slack. Last year, the American Liver Foundation spent almost \$2.7 million funding 23 research projects, most of which were designed to help researchers beginning their careers. This work is vital to maintain the scientific manpower in such specialized fields as hepatology.

Thanks to the work of the researchers funded by the NIH and the ALF, Americans are living longer, healthier lives. We can't stop the progress we have been making. It is essential that Congress continue to fund the NIH's life-saving research.

Dr. James L. Boyer is the Ensign Professor of Medicine and Director of the Liver Center at Yale University School of Medicine and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Liver Foundation

2006 Distinguished Service Award Recipient

Dr. Allan Wolkoff is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Liver Foundation as well as Professor of Medicine and Anatomy and Structural Biology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He is also Director of the Belfer Institute for Advanced Biomedical Studies and the Associate Director of the Marion Bessin Liver Research Center at Einstein. He is one of the most respected men in the field of hepatology and recently received important recognition of his accomplishments.

Dr. Wolkoff was presented with the 2006 Distinguished Service Award by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) during The Liver Meeting 2006, the nation's premier liver

disease conference. The Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to an individual in honor of his or her sustained service to AASLD and/or liver disease research. It recognizes the recipient's lifelong commitment to the field of hepatology, and contribution to AASLD through service on numerous governance and scientific committees over the years.

"I am honored to have been chosen for this award," said Dr. Wolkoff. "However, an award such as this is really much more than to an individual, but is also recognition of the training and support that one has received over many years. In that vein, I would like to recognize the important role that my many mentors, especially Win Arias and Paul Berk have

played in stimulating my fascination with the liver and its pathobiology. Receiving the AASLD Distinguished Service Award is one of the true highlights of my life."

Dr. Wolkoff's work relates to the mechanisms of liver cell transport and their aberrations leading to liver disease and sets the standard for the field. His work has consistently been funded by NIH, published in leading scientific journals, and recognized nationally and internationally by distinguished lectureships and honors. He has written over 150 peer reviewed research papers, review articles, and book chapters. He has been an editorial board member and an associate editor of the journal *Hepatology*. He also currently chairs the Hepatobiliary Pathophysiology Study Section at the National Institutes of Health.

Our Upcoming Events



Our Mission The American Liver Foundation is the nation's leading nonprofit organization promoting liver health and disease prevention. We provide research, education, and advocacy for those affected by liver-related diseases, including hepatitis.



Your Liver. Your Life.

Wisconsin Chapter of
the American Liver
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