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Media Advisory

For Immediate Release

Exciting results from two inaugural trials to treat alcoholic cirrhosis to be presented at Europe’s biggest liver disease gathering in Vienna next week

Researchers to present results of the first-ever faecal microbiota transplant in people to treat advanced cirrhosis

Scientists to reveal data from first-ever trial of opioid substitute drug Naltrexone to reduce alcohol dependence amongst people with cirrhosis

Tetiana Deshko, Director of Programmes of Ukrainian NGO Alliance for Public Health will deliver a keynote speech on the impact of the Russian invasion on Ukraine’s health system

Tuesday 13 June, 2023 (Vienna, Austria)—Two breakthrough trials that aim to treat severe alcoholic cirrhosis are among the scientific highlights of the [European Association for the Study of the Liver \(EASL\) Congress 2023](#) to be held June 21-24 at the [Messe Wien Exhibition and Congress Centre](#) in Vienna, Austria. The congress is convened annually by EASL and is expected to attract some 8,000 researchers, doctors, policy makers, industry leaders and affected communities from some 120 countries.

In recent years there has been growing awareness of the link between gut health and liver disease. Patients with cirrhosis have reduced gut bacterial diversity, and a gut microbiome over-represented by pathobionts. This, coupled with gut barrier damage and bacterial translocation, increases susceptibility to infection and death. Lead investigator **Lindsey Edwards** from Kings College London will present data in the [Official Scientific Press Conference](#) on Thursday June 22 from a placebo-controlled randomised single-blinded feasibility trial of 32 patients with advanced cirrhosis involving a Faecal microbiota transplant (FMT).

Naltrexone is an authorized medication that is used to manage alcohol use or opioid use disorder by reducing cravings. However, the drug has never been tested in a cirrhotic patient. **Manasa Alla** from the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences in India will present results in the [Official Scientific Press Conference](#) from a first-time double-blind placebo-controlled trial of the safety and efficacy in a group of 100 people with advanced cirrhosis.

The Official Scientific Press Conference will also feature results from a Phase III trial of the drug resmetirom in patients with Nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), the most severe form of fatty liver disease and the end results of an eight-year trial of the drug tenofovir to treat Hepatitis B.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and liver disease

A final study to feature in the Official Scientific Press Conference will be presented by **Julien Calderaro** of the Henri- Mondor University Hospital in France and assesses whether AI can predict the survival rates of patients treated by the combination drugs atezolizumab and bevacizumab.

Impact of the Russian invasion on Ukraine's health infrastructure

Vienna is often considered as a city that bridges between East and West Europe and the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine is being felt across the continent. **Tetiana Deshko**, Director of Programs at the Alliance for Public Health Ukraine, will address journalists at the [Official Opening Press Conference](#) on Wednesday June 21 and describe the impact that the war is having on the delivery and maintenance of hepatitis and health services across Ukraine.

The official press conferences will be held onsite at the Messe Wien in room **Schubert 3, Level 1** and will also be broadcast live via Zoom. **Accredited media can register [here](#)** to receive Zoom links for both official press conferences.

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Further information

Programme: For updates to the congress programme see [here](#)

Embargo Policy: Media representatives are asked to familiarise themselves with the official policy [EASL Congress 2023 Embargo Policy](#)

Further Information:

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About the EASL Congress 2023

This annual congress (previously known as the International Liver Congress) is EASL's flagship event, attracting scientific and medical experts from around the world to learn about the latest in liver research and exchange clinical experience. Attending specialists present, share, debate and conclude on the latest science and research in hepatology, working to enhance the treatment and management of liver disease in clinical practice.

About [The European Association for the Study of the Liver \(EASL\)](#)

Since its foundation in 1966, this not-for-profit organisation has grown to over 5,200 members from all over the world, including many of the leading hepatologists in Europe and beyond. EASL is the leading liver association in Europe, having evolved into a major European association with international influence, and with an impressive track record in promoting research in liver disease, supporting wider education, and promoting changes in European liver policy.