

Media Release
--for immediate release--

EASL Congress 2025: Advancing liver health from global strategies to local action

Wednesday, 7 May 2025 (Amsterdam, the Netherlands) Liver disease remains one of the major health challenges of our time, affecting more than 1.5 billion people worldwide and responsible for over 2 million deaths each year—accounting for approximately 4% of global mortality. Beyond the human toll, it places a considerable strain on health systems and national economies. Yet, with up to 90% of cases considered preventable, progress is possible through sustained commitment and coordinated action.

Addressing liver disease requires a comprehensive approach: globally, through aligned policies and research collaboration; regionally, by harmonising strategies and sharing solutions; nationally, via strong healthcare systems and prevention efforts; and at the local level, by ensuring people have access to early detection, health education, and care.

Today marks the opening of [EASL Congress 2025](#) in Amsterdam, the largest liver health meeting in Europe, hosted by the [European Association for the Study of the Liver \(EASL\)](#). From 7–10 May, more than 7,500 healthcare professionals, scientists, policymakers, industry leaders, and community advocates from around the world are gathering to exchange knowledge and explore new developments in hepatology.

“At EASL, we are committed to reducing the burden of liver disease. EASL Congress 2025 reflects that mission—bringing together the liver community from around the world to share knowledge, drive innovation, and push for more equitable and effective responses to liver health challenges,” said **Prof. Aleksander Krag**, EASL Secretary General.

“Liver health is a shared responsibility. EASL Congress 2025 is a key opportunity to unite science, policy, and community efforts to make meaningful change,” added **Prof. Debbie Shawcross**, EASL Vice-Secretary.

Global collaboration for Healthy Livers, Healthy Lives

Though rooted in Europe, EASL congress draws a global audience uniting experts, policymakers, and advocates from every continent, reflecting the international nature of liver health collaboration. The [Healthy Livers, Healthy Lives Coalition](#), founded by EASL, APASL, AASLD, ALEH, and SOLDA brings together leading liver associations to advance science, improve public health, and advocate for policy change. Several EASL Congress sessions are dedicated to showcasing the coalition’s work across continents.

Initiatives such as [World Liver Day](#) observed each 19 April, and engagement at the World Health Assembly continue to push liver disease higher on the global health agenda, aiming for its inclusion in international NCD frameworks and national strategies worldwide.

“Liver disease is a global issue that transcends borders, and our response must do the same. International partnerships can drive progress in science, policy, and public health. By working together, we are elevating liver health on the global agenda and ensuring it gets the recognition it deserves,” said **Prof. Shira Zelber-Sagi**, EASL Public Health Councillor.

Changing global NCD policy together - Future directions for World Liver Day and the World Health Assembly, Friday 9 May 8:30, 9:45, Hepatology Arena

European action: Launch of the European Health Alliance on Alcohol

Europe has the highest alcohol consumption in the world. Alcohol use contributes to approximately 800,000 deaths annually in the region, playing a major role in over 200 health conditions—including liver cirrhosis and cancer—and placing a strain on societies and health systems.

In response, the European Health Alliance on Alcohol is being launched at EASL Congress 2025, in collaboration with the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe. This new alliance of medical organisations and public health experts aims to reduce alcohol-related harm through awareness, child protection, and evidence-based policy, including marketing regulation and pricing measures.

“Alcohol is linked to over 200 health conditions—from liver cirrhosis to cancer and cardiovascular diseases—and still, its harms are frequently overlooked,” said **Prof. Aleksander Krag**. “This Alliance will aim to ensure people have the facts, and the right to make informed choices.”

A recent [WHO study](#) demonstrated that the quick-buy policies – including increased alcohol taxation and reduced alcohol marketing – result in benefits in less than 1 year, so they can be implemented effectively within 1 political term.

Several sessions organised in collaboration with WHO Europe will highlight efforts to address alcohol-related harm throughout EASL Congress.

Opening Ceremony [“From Evidence to action: Joining forces to confront Europe’s alcohol challenges”](#) 7 May, 10:30 - 11:30 CEST, De Groote Room

EASL Studio [“Beyond the myths: alcohol harm and policy action”](#) 7 May, 12:00 - 12:45 CEST, Hepatology Arena

[Official launch of the European Health Alliance on Alcohol](#), 8 May, 15:00-16:00 CEST, Ring-Larsen Room

[WHO-EASL Training Session: helping any patient to drink less alcohol](#), 8 May 12:30 – 13:30 & 16:15 – 17:15 CEST, 9 May, 12:30 – 13:30 & 16:15 – 17:15 CEST, Skills Learning Centre 4

Community impact: “Love Your Liver” returns to the Netherlands

A national study in the Netherlands investigated how the incidence, risk factors and tumour characteristics of primary liver cancer and the overall survival of patients with primary liver cancer changed over a 10-year period. The [rising rates of primary liver cancer](#) in the Netherlands—especially those linked to metabolic dysfunction associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD)—are a clear warning sign. The results of the national study that will be presented at EASL Congress 2025 in Amsterdam, showed that:

- The number of new cases of primary liver cancer in the Netherlands increased from 3.5 to 4.1 per 100,000 person-years, an average annual increase of 2.3% over 10 years. Primary liver cancer has poor overall survival, with 1-, 3-, and 5-year rates at 46.5%, 26.1%, and 18.8%, respectively.
- Alcohol-related liver disease remains the leading risk factor, but cases linked to MASLD in overweight individuals are rising fastest, increasing about 10% annually.

As lifestyle-related liver diseases continue to rise across the Netherlands, EASL Congress 2025 in Amsterdam places a renewed emphasis on public engagement and prevention through its “*Love Your Liver*” projects. EASL is working with Dutch hepatologists, schools, and city partners to raise awareness and promote prevention.

This year, interactive liver health workshops will reach nine primary schools across the country, educating pupils aged 10–12 on liver function and healthy habits. In partnership with Croatian patient organisation Hepatos, EASL is also offering free and painless liver health screening to the public and delegates outside Entrance C of RAI Amsterdam. Open throughout the Congress, this initiative makes early detection accessible and encourages practical steps to prevent liver damage.

“This year’s *Love Your Liver* activities in Amsterdam are crucial. By raising awareness and promoting prevention at the community level, we can begin to reverse these troubling trends and help people understand how everyday choices impact liver health,” said **Dr Bart Takkenberg**, University of Amsterdam.

By embedding education and screening within communities, EASL aims to support early intervention and leave a lasting public health legacy in the Netherlands.

[Love your Liver at EASL Congress 2025](#)

###ENDS###

Further Information

Media Registration: Accredited media can apply for free registration [here](#)

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

Embargo Policy: Media representatives are asked to familiarise themselves with the official policy EASL Congress 2025 [Embargo Policy](#)

Further Information:

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About EASL and EASL Congress

EASL, the European Association for the Study of the Liver, is a medical association serving over 7,700 members worldwide. EASL is committed to fostering awareness, prevention and the best possible patient care. EASL Congress 2025 brings together over 8,000 international delegates for unparalleled scientific exchange, collaboration, and cutting-edge learning opportunities.