



DR. STEPHEN A. HARRISON
**PATIENT
ADVOCACY
FELLOWSHIP**

Advancing Patient Partnership in Liver Research and Drug Development

Elena Samsonova, CMP
Program Manager

Liver Forum 21 (Paris, France)
September 9, 2026





A Legacy of Science and Humanity



Col. Stephen A. Harrison, MD, FAASLD
1969 - 2024

“ *We cannot lose sight of the patients behind the science. Their stories and struggles drive our research and innovation.*

“ *Innovation does not happen in isolation. It requires collaboration, dedication, and a persistent focus on the needs of the community we serve.*



Patient Engagement Needs Preparation

Evolving Research Landscape

MASH and ALD therapeutics are moving quickly through trials and regulatory review.

The design decisions being made now will shape care for years.

Gap in Patient Engagement

Sponsors, researchers, and advocates are all learning how to do this well.

Willingness is not the gap. Grounding in trial design and regulatory science is.



A Fellowship Built for Impact

One cohort approaching its Capstone. A second beginning.

EDUCATION

- Foundations of regulatory science and clinical trial design
- Expert-led sessions with leading voices in liver health

01

MENTORSHIP

- Guidance from clinical research, regulatory science, industry, and advocacy leaders
- Personalized support to advance Fellows' goals

02

ENGAGEMENT & NETWORKING

- Participation in liver research meetings and industry forums
- Connections with research, policy, industry, and clinical trial communities

03

GROUP SUPPORT

- Collaborative network of Fellows
- Diversity of backgrounds and advocacy experience

04



What Meaningful Input Looks Like

Fellows advising a non-interventional study on recruitment

What the study team sees

Enrollment numbers. Someone who cools off after the recruitment conversation is counted once, under a single heading: declined to participate.

What Fellows named

Interest is not yet a decision. For patients who leave the conversation interested, hesitation tends to surface two or three days later — before anyone calls back.

Action: Follow up on day two or three.

No protocol amendment. No change to the consent form. A recruitment step that may help keep already-interested patients engaged.

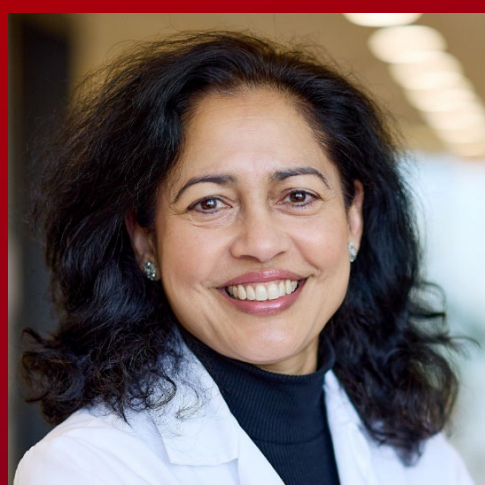


Powered by Collaboration

Mentors, 2025–2026



Dr. Naim Alkhouri



Dr. Meena B. Bansal



Julio Burman



Gina Bartes



Dr. Michael P. Cooreman



Jenn Leigh Jones



Dr. Fasiha Kanwal



Dr. Tania Kamphaus



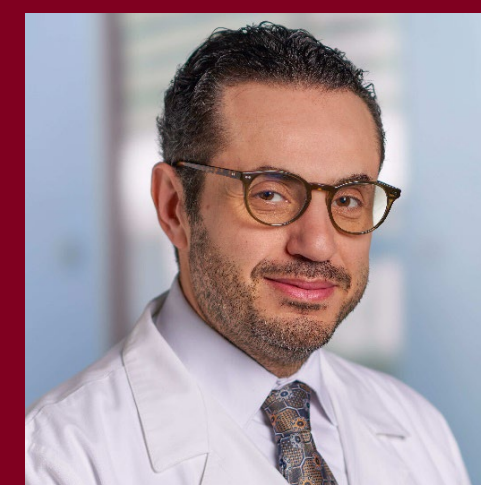
Dr. George A. Makar



Dr. Veronica Miller



Milan Mishkovikj



Dr. Mazen Nouredin



Dr. Maru Rinella



Powered by Collaboration

Education Partner

The University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health

2025-2027 Inaugural and Continuing Lead Funder

Madrigal Pharmaceuticals

2026-2027 Fellow Sponsor

Genentech



From Fellows to Research Partners

A year of education, mentorship, and scientific meeting participation has produced trained patient partners — ready to engage in protocol and trial-design discussions.

Areas where Fellows bring lived experience

MASLD / MASH

METALD / ALD

HBV & MASH

CIRRHOSIS

PRE- & POST-LIVER TRANSPLANTATION

Jennifer Berg
Texas, USA

Jacki Chen
New Jersey, USA

Mark Curran
Massachusetts, USA

Bruce D. Dimmig
Arizona, USA

Lorrinda Gray-Davis
Texas, USA

Susan Horava
Ohio, USA

Marianthi Kavelidou
Massachusetts, USA

Úna Keightley
Ireland

Silvana Lesidrenska
Bulgaria

Kimberly Alice Martinez
Oklahoma, USA

Pamela S. Miller
Ohio, USA

Rebecca Anne Randall
Ohio, USA

Lindsey Ruth Moore
North Carolina, USA

Julie Peyaut
Canada

Gabriela Portugal-Bouza
Utah, USA

Michele M. Radcliffe
California, USA

Kerry Marie Sivia
Illinois, USA

Melaine Smith
Kansas, USA

Jennifer Thorp
Washington, USA



Harrison Fellows and FLF Team at the Liver Meeting 2025. Photo by Taylor Mickal (www.TaylorMickal.com)



Learning Beyond the Screen

Fellows go where liver research is presented, debated, and decided — badges on and questions ready — meeting researchers, clinicians, industry teams, and regulators face to face.



EASL Congress 2026 · Barcelona, Spain



MASH-TAG 2026 · Park City, Utah



Liver Forum 20 · Washington, DC



PARIS
MASH
MEETING



With thanks to the organizers of these meetings for creating space for meaningful patient engagement.



The Fellowship Capstone

Patient Advocate Clinical Trial Design Simulation Lab

Fellows apply a year of learning to a real Phase 3 MASH protocol — reviewing it as a patient would experience it, then taking their recommendations to a multidisciplinary expert panel.

01

Review

Read a real Phase 3 protocol through the patient lens



02

Identify

Name the gaps and where the design could work better for patients



03

Present

Pitch the proposals to a panel of experts



04

Defend

Hold the patient rationale under scientific and operational pushback



05

Negotiate

Work toward the changes a sponsor could realistically adopt

The outcome: confident engagement in protocol review — evaluating a trial from the patient perspective, negotiating and prioritizing changes by patient impact and feasibility, and defending those recommendations with clinical development stakeholders.



Welcome the 2026–2027 Fellows

20* Fellows · 12 U.S. States · 4 Countries

Lori Botello

Arizona, USA

Kathryn J. Hudson

Maryland, USA

Lesley Anne Manning

United Kingdom

Jerry Rosenberg

Florida, USA

Willis Frank Dungan

Mississippi, USA

Gema Iribar

Spain

Gary Miller

Connecticut, USA

Jillian Sanchez

Texas, USA

Dianne Gillard

United Kingdom

Karen V. Kwinn

Colorado, USA

Terri Milton

Texas, USA

Claudia S. Tamayo-Torres

Massachusetts, USA

D. Scott Graham

Virginia, USA

Georgeta Lester

North Carolina, USA

Tricia Nichols

Tennessee, USA

Ken Wong

California, USA

Jo Anne Henry

Virginia, USA

Wendy Lo

California, USA

Joana Pina

Portugal

***19 Confirmed Fellows · 1 Position Being Finalized**



Program Governance

Selection Committee for 2026–2027 Cohort



Gina Bartes
*Founding President
United Liver*



Mike Betel, MS, MSc
*Founder and
President
Fatty Liver Alliance*



**Wayne Eskridge,
BSEE**
*Co-Founder and CEO
Fatty Liver Foundation*



Jeff McIntyre, MA
*Principal
McIntyre Strategies*



**Michael Providence,
CAE**
*Director of Policy and
Planning
American Association
for the Study of Liver
Diseases (AASLD)*



José Willemse, MSc
*Board Member
Liver Patients
International*



Bring Fellows Into the Work

Four areas where Fellows are ready to contribute

WHAT FELLOWS BRING

Trial design and endpoints

Insights on endpoint selection and protocol feasibility

Recruitment and retention

Barriers to participation, and strategies to address them

Benefit–risk and regulatory

Lived experience to inform assessment and build trust

Patient voice and reach

Priorities, burden, and connection to patient communities

PARTNERS WHO CAN ACT

Sponsors · Researchers

Sponsors · Sites

Regulators · Policy leaders

Advocacy organizations



Join Us in Building the Future of Patient Advocacy

- ✓ **Support Sustainability** as a 2026–2027 sustaining sponsor
- ✓ **Stay Connected** through the Fellowship website



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Sponsorship Contact

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