

Sharpening Aptitude for Hepatology Research Program (SHARP)

WORKSHOP IN KOLKATA

April 19-20, 2024

Application Deadline

February 29, 2024

A SSI-VCU, USA AND JCMLRI, LIVER FOUNDATION, WEST BENGAL Initiative
Academic Partner: INDIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR STUDY OF THE LIVER (INASL).

Sharpening Aptitude for Hepatology Research Program

SHARP IS NOT MEANT TO BE A ONE TIME, HIT AND GO, EVENT TO APPROACH THE ISSUE OF CAPACITY BUILDING.

Through a continuous catalysis of interactive handholding with mentors, individual scientists will be provided with a platform for strengthening of research skills that will begin with this two days' workshop. Implantation of germinating skills through handholding and forward progress in research capacity, outcome driven rather than event driven and promise of a change are the elements of the program that makes it different from a traditional research methodology workshop .

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The proposed workshop is going to be a **priming event** for an ongoing, continued process targeting clinical science research capacity building in the Hepatology space.

There will be both tangible outcomes as well as some more indiscrete yet definite longer term benefits of such an endeavor.

- ⇒ Development of a **core cohort** of clinical researchers who will shape hepatology research in India in a futuristic manner.
- ⇒ Inoculation and inculcation of a much needed **spirit and pleasure of research** within them – research culture and ambience development that may percolate to other disciplines of medical research as well.
- ⇒ **Grant writing guidance** and development of collaborations subsequently through continued mentee-mentor interface action.
- ⇒ Fostering collaboration between clinical scientists and basic researchers - **Team Science**.
- ⇒ Generation of **viable research projects** by a group of New Generation scientists that change Indian hepatology research landscape .

Sharpening Aptitude for Hepatology Research Program

BACKGROUND

There is fair amount of vibrancy in clinical hepatology training and delivery of organized hepatology care in India. The pace of progress in the specialty had been significantly rapid over the past decade in almost every related corner. The clinical space is widening fast with a progressively expanding burden, refined better diagnostic tools providing precise diagnosis, awareness among the general population about liver disease and public expectations about a well-defined care system. A spiraling increase in the volume of structured centers for advanced liver care has come up to match these elements in a fast changing scenario with several liver transplantation centers across all the regions. Structured teaching and training programs in DM Hepatology are imparting necessary skill and knowledge and a set of human resources including specialists. Overall, there had been promising progress in building clinical hepatology human resources and infrastructure in the region.

NEEDS

Progress in research capacity building and outputs in hepatology, however, had not been as rapid, despite the very evident burgeoning enthusiasm that can be palpated. Clinical scientists in several Indian Institutes are engaged in productive cutting edge research that is visible and impacting, both in publications as well as presentation in international meetings. An even closer interaction between clinical and basic scientists is needed to keep pace with global research and make Indian research impacting. It is time that the plate of action and germination becomes bigger with more widespread engagement **of young early career clinicians** in the process of thinking, implementation and analyzing as career objectives. A continuous process, a variety of Gurukul in the Indian tradition, that handholds these potential scientists at a critical phase of their career is urgently needed.

GOAL OF SHARP

Liver diseases are emerging public health priorities in India and there is an urgent need to build a team of young researchers who will be transformative in this context for the next two decades. The SHARP initiative is going to seed and crystallize existing capabilities within our human resources and take them forward in Hepatology research, addressing health disparities at the national level, fostering regional cooperation, and contributing to the global scientific discourses. By empowering young scientists under the guidance of world-class mentors,

SHARP is not only shaping the future of Hepatology in India but also making significant strides toward a healthier world through collaborative research and knowledge exchange. Inculcating research culture and ambience among young aspiring people within clinical communities in India needs upheaval. This calls for an organized and focused initiative in research mentoring for early career clinicians trained and working in the hepatology space through hand holding, nurturing and fine tuning their research ideas, ability to innovate and research methodological approach. Once a critical mass and energy builds up it is highly likely that entropy gained will push it forward and sustain it.

*The primary goal of SHARP is to bring together promising young researchers in India who have demonstrated aptitude, innovative ideas, and a commitment to building a career in Hepatology research. These individuals will be provided with a **unique mentoring platform**, facilitated by globally renowned experts in the field.*

WHAT SHARP AIMS AT

Clinical skill building and development of aptitude as well as capability for cutting edge research are two complimentary pursuits that have definitive differences in cultural fabric, attitude and approach to the art and craft of the work. While the trait of questioning exists in every individual, the habit as well as capacity of raising the right question in the right context, trying to address it with a set of appropriate design of tests and finally, extracting the essence of truth within through an intense analytical approach before concluding is a trajectory that needs to be pursued with meticulousness, earnest, right kind of values and rigor of the exercise. Each individual participant will come with a research project at this workshop. They will present that, will be enriched and then be aligned with a mentor at the end of the workshop. The mentor will foster the building of idea, capability of the project that the mentee has envisioned and lead it to a defined outcome. The rich insights and experience of the faculty – each lead global thought leaders – will add value and make the endeavor meaningful. The entire project will work under an existing Memorandum of Association between Virginia Commonwealth University, USA and Liver Foundation, West Bengal. Indian National Association for Studies of the Liver (INASL) is a partner and will provide an overarching participatory as well as advisory role in making the program impactful.

Sharpening Aptitude for Hepatology Research Program (Event Schedule)

Date: 19th & 20th April 2024

Venue: Vivanta Kolkata

DAY – 1 (Date: 19/04/2024)

8:00 - 8.10

WELCOME REMARKS

SESSION 1

Maximizing scientific impact

08:15 – 08:35	How to do impactful science	Arun J. Sanyal
08:35 – 08:55	It starts with a question- how to pick the scientific question	Saul Karpen
08:55 – 09:15	Publishing in high quality journals-an editor's perspective	Jasmohan Bajaj (<i>Virtual</i>)
09:15 – 09:35	You are an Indian Scientist – Learn and Innovate Strategies to Do Good Science.	Ajay Duseja
09:35 – 09:55	Discussion	
10:00 – 11:00	Inaugural Program	Arun Sanyal, Abhijit Chowdhury, Ajay Duseja, Melinda Pavcek (<i>Consulate General – USA, Kolkata</i>), Rajiv Bahl (<i>DG, ICMR</i>)

SESSION 2

Setting up to be a successful translational scientist

11:00 – 11:20	The biorepository- the lynchpin of successful translational research	Jennifer Sayne (<i>Virtual</i>)
11:20 – 11:40	Principles of team science and how to create a successful research team	Mohammad Siddiqui
11:40 – 12:00	What does it take to do large research projects- building national capacity	Tania Kamphaus (<i>Virtual</i>)
12:00 – 12:30	Elements of A High Quality Grant Proposal – What India is Looking For	Rajiv Bahl
12:30 – 12:45	Discussion	
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch	

SESSION 3

Generating interpretable data

14:00 – 14:20	The differential diagnosis of a p value	Jasmohan Bajaj
14:20 – 14:40	Assessment of causality in research	Saul Karpen
14:40 – 15:00	Matching study design to study question	Mohammad Siddiqui
15:00 – 15:20	How to manage post-randomization confounding events	Arun J. Sanyal
15:20 – 15:40	Sample Size Determinations	Rakesh Agarwal
15:40 – 16:00	Discussion	
16:00 – 16:20	Break	

SESSION 4

The translational science tool kit

16:20 – 16:40	Animal models- why do they fail to translate	Saul Karpen
16:40 – 17:00	Target hunting in Omic research- using the TCGA	Devanand Sarkar (<i>Virtual</i>)
17:00 – 17:20	Framework for doing meaningful microbiome/ Immunology research	Shyam Kottlilil
17:20 – 17:40	What's a good strategy to dissect the architecture of a common disease?	Partha Majumdar
17:40 – 18:00	Discussion	

SESSION 5

How to translate science to script the future of medicine

18:00 – 18:20	Precision Medicine and Metabolic Health- The EPPOS framework	Paul Franks (<i>Virtual</i>) vs Arun J Sanyal
18:20 – 18:40	Bridging the Valley of Death	Mani Subramaniam
18:40 – 19:00	Scientific principles of biomarker development	Arun J Sanyal
19:00 – 19:20	Discussion	

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08:00 – 08:20	Developing a Cohort	Abhijit Chowdhury
08:20 – 08:40	The Transformative Power of Research Carried out by Busy Clinician	Harshad Devarbhabhi
08:40 – 10:40	Proposal Building	
	Team A (leaders):	Siddiqui / Agarwal
	Team B (leaders):	Karpen / Majumder
	Team C (leaders):	Kottilil / Duseja
10:40 – 11:00	Break	
11:00 – 12:30	Grant writing workshop	
12:30 – 13:30	Working faculty lunch- to do a debrief on the workshop and future planning	
	Mentees will prepare for afternoon presentation	
13:30 – 14:30	Mentee research proposals (3 presentations)- 10 min presentation and 10 min discussion	
14:30 – 15:30	Mentee research proposals (3 presentations)- 10 min presentation and 10 min discussion	
15:30 – 16:30	Mentee research proposals (3 presentations)- 10 min presentation and 10 min discussion	
16:30	Wrap Up and next steps	Abhijit Chowdhury / Ajay Duseja

Eligibility Criteria & How to Apply

Letters of Intent are invited from interested individuals meeting the requisites mentioned below for joining **the Sharpening Aptitude for Hepatology Research Program (SHARP)** as detailed in the attached note. This program is envisaged as a longitudinal outcome oriented mentorship process rather than a onetime participation on the part of the mentees. John C Martin Centre for Liver Research and Innovations, Liver Foundation, West Bengal (JCMLRI- www.jcmlri.edu.in) and Stravitz-Sanyal Institute for Liver Disease and Metabolic Health, Virginia Commonwealth University, USA

(SSI, VCU, USA- <https://liverinstitute.medschool.vcu.edu>) are the primary stakeholders and organizers of this initiative. Indian National Association for the Study of the Liver (<https://inasl.org.in>) are academic partners and co-host of this Program. This Research Mentorship platform is targeted at Early career (Post DM / DNB / MRCP / PhD) Clinical and Basic Scientists **who have desires and plans to pursue Research on Liver diseases as an objective goal in professional carrier**.

As part of this program :

INASL invites Letter of intent from interested persons who fulfil the following criteria:

- A. Must be less than Five years POST DM / DNB / MRCP / PhD.
- B. Is focused in Liver Disease care, education and training.
- C. Desires to pursue Research as a carrier goal.
- D. Have a Defined / to be developed Project at Hand that needs handholding and guidance.

Candidates should be able to physically attend the Priming Workshop at Kolkata on 19th to 20th April, 2024 and continue in the program thereafter.

Please apply with CV and your Project description, along with a Certificate from your current mentor / administrative head to

The Secretary- General, INASL
(inasl.secretary@gmail.com)

The last date for sending completed application is
29th February 2024.

A selection committee constituted by the organizers will do the screening. The decision of the selection committee will be final and binding. **15 (fifteen) candidates will be selected from** amongst the applicants. Selected applicants persons will be informed by email by 30th March, 2024 and will be invited to attend the priming workshop at Kolkata on 19th and 20th April, 2024. This will be a TWO DAY LONG PROGRAM AT HOTEL VIVANTA, KOLKATA.

John C Martin Centre for Liver Research and Innovations, Liver Foundation, West Bengal (JCLMRI) will bear the cost of travel for the physical meeting and local hospitality in Kolkata. Subsequently, the organizers of this program (SHARP) a continuous connect with the mentee and the mentors for a period of **at least one year** / completion of the project that they will be pursuing as component of SHARP program.

Participating candidates will be provided a certificate of attendance and a letter of appraisal by the organizers.

Important dates

Last date of application- by **29th February 2024.**

Completion of Selection by the INASL
30th March 2024.

Date of Physical workshop -
19th and 20th April 2024.