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2024 Liver Cancer Conference Summary Report

November 2, 2024
Cambria Hotel & Suites, Pittsburgh, PA

The 7th Annual Liver Cancer Conference, hosted by the Community Liver Alliance (CLA) in partnership with the Allegheny Health Network and the Pittsburgh Liver Research Center, brought together leading experts and clinicians from across the liver health and oncology community to address the evolving landscape of liver cancer, including hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and cholangiocarcinoma (CCA).

Liver cancer continues to present a substantial and growing burden, with increasing incidence rates and complexities in treatment, underscoring the need for concerted research efforts and innovative solutions. This year's program has been crafted to provide the latest insights into these challenges, featuring updates on diagnostic advancements, novel therapies, and multidisciplinary care approaches that are transforming patient outcomes.

Course Directors
Dulabh K. Monga, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine,
Drexel University School of Medicine
Allegheny Health Network Cancer Institute

Satdarshan (Paul) Singh Monga, MD,
Professor of Pharmacology and Medicine
Director, Pittsburgh Liver Research Center

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Program Objectives

Enhance participants' knowledge of liver cancer pathogenesis, classification, and novel therapies.

Promote multidisciplinary care models involving surgery, oncology, hepatology, radiology, and nutrition.

Equip clinicians with strategies to apply evidence-based care and incorporate emerging treatments into practice.

Address social determinants of health and advocate for equitable access to liver cancer care across underserved populations.

Empower participants to discuss and apply the most up-to-date, evidence-based treatment options for advanced hepatocellular carcinoma.

Enhance understanding of emerging biomarkers and molecular targets for personalized medicine in liver cancer care.

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Featured Presentations & Topics

The conference was led by Course Directors Dr. Dulabh Monga and Dr. Satdarshan (Paul) Singh Monga, with expert faculty including:

- Dr. Paul Monga: Provided a foundational overview on the pathogenesis of liver cancer, emphasizing the role of molecular biology in tumor development.
- Dr. Obaid Shaikh: Discussed best practices for HCC surveillance in high-risk patients and highlighted the importance of early detection.
- Dr. David Geller: Shared surgical advancements and insights into liver resection and transplantation for HCC and CCA.
- Dr. Dulabh Monga: Reviewed current systemic therapies and their implications for clinical practice.
- Dr. Anwaar Saeed: Highlighted the significance of ongoing and upcoming clinical trials in hepatobiliary malignancies.
- Rachel Harken, RD: Addressed nutrition in cancer care, stressing its critical role in comprehensive treatment planning.
- Dr. Andrew Klobuka: Presented interventional radiology techniques, including Y-90 and radiation segmentectomy, for liver cancer.
- Dr. Paul Renz: Delivered a recorded session on modern radiation therapy strategies for liver tumors.

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Health Equity Focus

As part of CLA's ongoing commitment to advancing health equity, the conference integrated discussions on:

- **Reducing disparities in diagnosis and treatment access for minority and rural populations**
- **Enhancing cultural competency in liver cancer care delivery**
- **Promoting patient-centered approaches that reflect the diverse needs of those impacted by liver disease**
- **Increase provider education on implicit bias and its role in liver cancer diagnosis and treatment disparities.**

People experiencing liver cancer face significant disparities that impact their ability to access timely diagnosis, effective treatment, and supportive care. These disparities are especially pronounced among racial and ethnic minorities, individuals living in rural communities, and those with low socioeconomic status. Social determinants of health—such as limited access to healthcare services, lack of insurance, food and housing insecurity, and language or cultural barriers—can delay diagnosis and reduce the likelihood of receiving advanced treatment options. Additionally, implicit bias within healthcare systems and underrepresentation in clinical trials further exacerbate inequities in outcomes.

As liver cancer incidence continues to rise, addressing these disparities through targeted interventions, culturally competent care, and policy advocacy is essential to ensure equitable treatment and improved survival for all patients. The Community Liver Alliance is deeply committed to addressing these disparities by promoting health equity through education, advocacy, outreach, and community-based partnerships that prioritize the needs of underserved populations.

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Engagement and Impact

100% of respondents rated the overall program and information as excellent or very good.

Presenters such as Dr. David Geller and Dr. Paul Monga received consistent praise for their clarity, expertise, and practical insights.

Providers valued the inclusion of various specialties, including surgery, oncology, interventional radiology, nutrition, and palliative care.

Advanced Practice Providers and other allied health professionals found the content highly relevant and helpful for supporting liver cancer patients in their roles.

A few attendees suggested improvements such as receiving the agenda prior to the event to enhance session navigation and engagement.

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Conclusion

The 2024 Community Liver Alliance Annual Liver Cancer Conference reaffirmed the power of collaboration, education, and innovation in advancing liver cancer care. Through expert-led sessions, multidisciplinary dialogue, and a focus on real-world applications, the program delivered meaningful insights into the evolving landscape of hepatocellular carcinoma and bile duct cancers.

Participants gained practical tools to enhance screening practices, implement emerging therapies, and adopt culturally competent care models that reflect the needs of diverse patient populations. The inclusion of topics such as nutrition, clinical trials, and radiation oncology further underscored the importance of a holistic and patient-centered approach to liver cancer treatment.

As the burden of liver cancer continues to rise, the Community Liver Alliance remains steadfast in its mission to promote equitable access to care and drive progress through education, advocacy, and community engagement.

The CLA is grateful to all presenters, sponsors, and attendees who made this year's conference a success, and looks forward to building on this momentum. Together, we will continue working to eliminate disparities, improve outcomes, and bring hope to patients and families affected by liver cancer.

Program Recording

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The Community Liver Alliance extends its deepest gratitude to all presenters, attendees, and sponsors for making this year's program a success. Special thanks go to **Dr. Dulabh Monga and Dr. Paul Monga** for their longstanding leadership in organizing this event.

We also thank our generous sponsors who make this conference possible.

AHN

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