

REPORT ON FIRST ANNUAL HEPATOLOGY UPDATE

The First Annual Hepatology Update was held on June 3rd at SUNY... This extensive review of Hepatology got off to an excellent start with excellent attendance of more than 150 physicians, gastroenterologists, hepatologists, infectious disease specialists, surgeons, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, specialty nurses, house staff from SUNY and the Brooklyn medical community.

After the opening remarks by Dr. Ian Taylor, Senior Vice President for Biomedical Education and Research and Dean, College of Medicine and also Dr. Frank Gress, Chief of Gastroenterology and Hepatology the course directors Dr. Ayse Aytaman, Chief of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at VA New York Harbor HCS Brooklyn and Dr. Veronika Dubrovskaya, Director, Hepatology Service SUNY Downstate Medical Center introduced a nationally renowned faculty, which covered most of the hot topics in hepatology with updates from AASLD and EASL.

Dr. Ira Jacobson, Vincent Astor Distinguished Professor of Medicine, Joan and Sanford I. Weill Medical College of Cornell University, reviewed the newly approved direct acting antivirals and outlined their efficacy, use and side effects for chronic hepatitis C patients. Dr. Norah Terrault, Director of Viral Hepatitis Center Division of Gastroenterology University of California San Francisco, presented updates on current management of hepatitis B infection. Dr. Sukru Emre, Chief, Section of Transplantation and Immunology, Director of Yale-New Haven Transplantation Center Department of Surgery Yale University School of Medicine, updated us on liver transplantation developments. Dr. Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao, the upcoming president of AASLD, Chief of Digestive Diseases VA-CT Healthcare System and Director Clinical and Translational Core Yale Liver Center gave an update on portal HTN and ascites management. Dr. Myron Schwartz, from Surgical Oncology Division of Liver Transplantation, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine reviewed the current management of hepatocellular carcinoma. Dr. Norbert Brau, Associate Professor of Medicine, Liver and Infectious Disease Mt. Sinai School of Medicine gave us the perspective of ID hepatologist in the management of HIV/HCV coinfection. Dr. Ayse Aytaman reviewed the peritransplant management of hepatitis C infection and Dr. Veronika Dubrovskaya reviewed the hepatopulmonary syndrome.

The parallel session for NP/PA /pharmacist and specialty nurses was very well attended with faculty from VA New York Harbor liver team (Anna Christakos-Diteodoro, PharmD, Sabina Kirtich, DNP, Sirisha Jasti, MD, Asra Batool, MD), as well as SUNY liver team (Denise Romney, CFNP, Winsome Jeffries, CGRN).

This excellent review/update course hopefully will become a staple in Brooklyn medical community for years to come. Next one is already set for June 5, 2012 and preparations are under way for a gathering of national, international faculty and thought leaders.