

American association for the study of liver diseases

Conference Report

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In November 2016 I attended the annual meeting of the American association for the study of liver diseases. This is one of the leading conferences in the field of hepatology, and this year the meeting was held in Boston, USA.

The meeting started with a basic science symposium that focused on human liver immunology. Different subjects were discussed including basic knowledge of intrahepatic immunity, liver immunology in the context of specific liver diseases and experimental approaches to investigate human tissue. During this symposium many leaders in the field of liver immunology presented their newest data in combination interesting overview talks. After two days of symposium, the conference started.

During the meeting there was an interesting mix of clinical data and basic science. During the past few years, many new drugs for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C virus infection have dominated the field of viral hepatitis. During this meeting, there were many talks and posters on new treatment options for chronic hepatitis B virus infection. There is a lot of interest for the mechanism of action of these new compounds and therefore, many immunological data to discuss.

At the meeting, I was able to present three posters, which all gained a lot of attention. Attending a conference like this allows you to really discuss preliminary data with the leaders in the field, but also with other PhD students from all around the world working on the exact same thing you are working on. I went home with a lot of new ideas for my research projects. I am grateful for the support of the Dutch Society for Immunology which allowed me to visit this conference.