ILCA Annual Report 2021
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LETTER FROM THE ILCA PRESIDENT

Jessica Zucman-Rossi
ILCA President

ILCA goes from strength to strength

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a high impact on our ILCA community in 2021, especially when it came to government restrictions, a growing surgery backlog and intense workloads. ILCA’s focus throughout 2021 has been to support our members with initiatives, education and a multi-disciplinary network that help save and improve more lives.

Last year we conducted a series of webinars and virtual meetings about relevant research diagnoses and treatments which were highly appreciated by our community. Our Annual Conference became a virtual event, for the second time, and brought our high-quality education to new audiences around the world. Recognising the limited time availability of our members and changing work patterns, we also invested in building a new podcast offering in which we deliver insights and education in bite-sized form that can be consumed on the go.

We have progressed well on our strategic programmes last year and we enter 2022 with great momentum. We followed our plans for Advocacy, with much work being conducted ‘behind the scenes’ to determine priorities and develop a realistic roadmap. We have kept investing in our Guidances initiative; particularly as it is seen by all as an invaluable resource in the management of liver cancer. Work is advancing well on our third Guidances publication, covering TACE, and we are on schedule to publish it in mid-2022.

We also invested in forming partnerships, joining forces with other societies and organisations to form a collaborative alliance to build awareness. The aim is to build a connected liver cancer network, supporting both frontline medical staff and experts deliver the best patient treatment possible. In 2021, we also launched our partnership programme with a select group of companies from industry. As you can see, the pandemic has also not stopped us from launching new community offerings, member benefits or programmes. In 2021, ILCA has gone from strength to strength.

I had the honor of becoming ILCA President in September 2021. For this, I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the tireless efforts and leadership of my predecessor Prof. Bruno Sangro who, with his Executive Committee, has been the driving force behind our success. As we plan for 2022 and beyond, I have great confidence that the ILCA community - our ‘team’ - will continue delivering great results ultimately benefitting liver cancer patients, and their families, everywhere.

Kind regards,

Jessica Zucman-Rossi
ILCA President 2021 - 2023
Professor of Medicine, Oncology, Université Paris Descartes
Head of INSERM Unit, Functional Genomic of Solid Tumours
Centre de Recherche des Cordeliers, Paris, France
ABOUT ILCA

The International Liver Cancer Association (ILCA) is the only international organisation devoted exclusively to liver cancer research for experts from all related disciplines.

Our Mission

Our mission is to lead a global community of physicians, scientists and allied professionals through education and research to better prevent and treat liver cancer.

We will promote novel pathogenic, diagnostic, and therapeutic interventions for liver cancer by taking a transversal approach to research and bringing together scientists, physicians and allied professionals from all interrelated fields.

Our Vision

We come together for better liver cancer patient treatment and care. Liver cancer incidence rates are rapidly increasing across the world. And, because it is rarely detectable early when it is most treatable, any liver cancer is difficult to cure.

It is all about strengthening our global reach through education and research to better serve our members, our partners, and ultimately, our patients.

Community

ILCA continues to inspire liver cancer professionals across the globe. Our growing communities in Europe, the Americas and Asia are interacting through conferences, networking events and an interactive community platform to strengthen a true collaboration as a global community.

We have also worked hard to make our membership programme more attractive and beneficial. Our members form the largest and most important multi-disciplinary community of liver cancer specialists in the world.

ILCA members extend across epidemiology, gastroenterology, hepatology, internal medicine, molecular biology, oncology, pathology, radiology, surgery, and transplantation. This multi-disciplinary aspect sets ILCA apart from other medical societies. We have also opened our membership to welcome nurses and patient advocates in recognition of the vital role they play in delivering patient care. And all our members can now benefit from an improved range of benefits accessible via our new membership and community platform.
Membership

› Members per continent
- Africa 43%
- America 32%
- Asia Pacific 22%
- Europe 2%

› Members per discipline
- Hepatology 4.5%
- Oncology 3.8%
- Internal Medicine 1.3%
- Molecular biology 12.3%
- Gastroenterology 9%
- Radiology 5.3%
- Basic Research 7.1%
- Epidemiology 9.1%
- Surgery 11%
- Pathology 3.8%
Leadership & Volunteers

Leadership and volunteers who belong to ILCA undoubtedly contribute to improved patient care. The ILCA Leadership consists of several volunteer committees formed by prominent ILCA members joining forces to advance the mission of advancing liver cancer science and care worldwide.

› Governing Board

The Governing Board consists of the Executive Committee and the Council members, who, as stipulated in the ILCA Bylaws, represent different liver cancer disciplines and countries.

› ILCA Executive Committee 2021

Jessica Zucman-Rossi
President*
France

Augusto Villanueva
Executive Secretary
USA

Tim Meyer
Treasurer
UK

Bruno Sangro
Past President*
Spain

Stephen Chan
Hong Kong

Valerie Chew*
Singapore

R. Kate Kelley
USA

Laura Kulik
USA

Jeong Min Lee,
Republic of Korea

Amaia Lujambio
USA

Valérie Paradis*
France

Lorenza Rimassa
Italy

Gonzalo Sapisochin*
Canada

Amit Singal
USA

*from September 2021

› Council members
› Communications Committee
– Chair: Lorenza Rimassa
– ILCA ExCo Liaison: Augusto Villanueva
– Alejandro Forner
– Amaia Lujambio
– Gonzalo Sapisochin
– Jesper Andersen
– Laura Kulik
– Richard Finn
– Sadahisa Ogasawara

› Education Committee
– Chair: Stephen Chan
– ILCA ExCo liaison: Tim Meyer
– R. Kate Kelley
– Amit Singal
– Arndt Vogel
– Hua-Chuan Sun
– Yoo Changhoon
– Valerie Chew
– Federico Pinero
– Julie Heimbach
– Simone Strasser
– Thierry de Baere

› Y-ILCA Steering Committee
– Chair: Laura Kulik
– Amanda Craig
– David Pinato
– Ken Liu
– Marco Sanduzzi
– Marina Bárcena Varela
– Monika Lewinska
Liver cancer prevention and treatment has always been at the heart of ILCA, which reflects our strategic pillars of education, member network and awareness. They are the ways through which we can best lead the world’s largest, multi-disciplinary community of liver cancer specialists.
3. EDUCATION

Ever since ILCA was founded in 2007, we have been educating doctors on the latest research and procedures. And as progress has been made in the therapeutic landscape and HCC treatment, so has the range of ILCA’s educational resources become ever more significant.

3.1. Online Education

Over 1,450 participants learning cutting-edge topics, including HCC and COVID-19, radiation oncology, systemic therapy, resistance to immunotherapy in HCC, rare liver tumours and more.

1,454 Learners
4 Webinars
2 Podcasts
2 Guidances
1 ILCA School
Our ILCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE is today the world’s leading liver cancer meeting. It is more international than ever, reaching a record number of first-time attendees in the last editions and enjoying 100 presentations from some of the most important key opinion leaders, researchers, and rising stars.

Due to COVID-19, the ILCA Annual Conference had to be transformed into a virtual format for the past 2 editions. 2020 was a learning year on what a virtual conference is and harnessing its true value. The Annual Conference solidifies an ongoing commitment to connect and inspire liver cancer specialists worldwide with outstanding education and thought leadership. Recognising the power of virtual to reach audiences anywhere, ILCA aims to bring all communities together in a multidisciplinary, international gathering in 2022.

> A word from our attendees

“The ILCA conference is a MUST for all professionals engaged in hepatology and liver cancer. The content is amazing and up-to-date from all the world-class experts in this field. I would highly recommended the ILCA conference to anyone involved or interested in liver cancer research.”

- Yi-Te Lee, University of California, Los Angeles

“A very informative meeting highlighting some exciting developments and addressing on-going challenges in treating hepatobiliary cancers”

- Jason Chow, St George’s Hospital

“Excellent meeting, I strongly recommend the meeting to general and GI medical Oncologist and will continue to attend every year.”

- Tannaz Armaghany, Baylor College of Medicine- Dan L Duncan comprehensive Cancer Center

“I find ILCA2021 conference to be one of the most useful meetings of these years. The speakers and topics selected this year were outstanding. Although I clearly prefer in person meetings, the streaming platform of the conference gave me a really immersive experience.”

- Josep Maria Argemi, Clínica Universidad De Navarra
The world’s leading liver cancer meeting

ILCA 2022
16th Annual Conference
1 - 4 September 2022 | Madrid, Spain
Our ILCA SCHOOL offers an intensive, multi-day learning experience. The ILCA School 2021 ran in Aarhus, Denmark and focused on HCC and Cholangiocarcinoma, bringing together specialists from Scandinavia, France, Spain and the US. For 2022, we have planned 3 ILCA schools; the first one in Chicago, which will cover the essential topic of HCC Imaging and Management—followed by the ILCA School in Yale. The third school will be in Taipei, where participants will learn about the principles and nuances of liver cancer diagnosis, management, and clinical investigation. The Schools’, multidisciplinary and interactive format offers attendees state-of-the-art clinically relevant information regarding the disease.

ILCA continues to build up education with the first edition of the ILCA SINGLE TOPIC WORKSHOP as a response to the significant changes to the therapeutic landscape. The field of HCC is transforming, and each of our Single Topic Workshops concentrates on one particular development to deliver a deep dive covering all of its aspects. And, we have integrated one into the conference programme so that everyone may benefit. For this year’s STW, we have chosen the topic of prevention, risk stratification, and early detection, as these areas arguably have the greatest potential to reduce HCC-related mortality. We will discuss recent advances in each of these areas as well as areas in need of continued research. Topics and points include:

− Understand at-risk patients and current recommendations for HCC surveillance
− Identify barriers to HCC surveillance and potential strategies to improve surveillance effectiveness
− Describe proven as well as promising chemoprevention strategies for HCC in patients with cirrhosis
Earlier in 2021, we launched ILCA’s WEBINAR SERIES. Our inaugural webinar presented a review of the breakthrough science and new techniques which emerged last year and was a huge success. Hundreds of liver cancer specialists united to collaborate and advance the field of liver cancer through attending. Our second webinar followed very much in this vein and explored how radiation oncology can be deployed in the management of HCC.

These webinars are ideal for refreshing participants knowledge or giving an insight into a new aspect. For 2022, we are increasing the webinar offer with a full range of topics delivered by scientific and medical experts exchanging the latest scientific advances and best practices in liver cancer research and care.

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<th>Systemic Therapy for Advanced HCC Continues to Evolve Rapidly</th>
<th>February 8, 2022</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Moving immunotherapy into surgical arena. Immunotherapy as an adjuvant, neoadjuvant therapy in HCC</td>
<td>March 10, 2022</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Publishing Papers: Y-ILCA</td>
<td>April 12, 2022</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Liquid Biopsy</td>
<td>May 10, 2022</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Tumor heterogeneity in HCC analyzed by single cell analysis</td>
<td>June 14, 2022</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>ILCA Young Investigators Committee webinar (Y-ILCA)</td>
<td>September 13, 2022</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Recent developments in targeted therapies in BTC</td>
<td>October 11, 2022</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>ILCA recommendations for practicing TACE</td>
<td>November 8, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Novel emerging therapies for advanced HCC</td>
<td>December 13, 2022</td>
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ILCA Awards and Fellowships

Furthermore, ILCA recognises young scientists and junior investigators through a series of AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS. ILCA does this to promote research and education among the next generation of liver cancer specialists. Through our recognition programmes, ILCA continues to highlight outstanding research that will hopefully lead to breakthroughs in our prevention and treatment of liver cancer. The awards are presented annually at each ILCA Annual Conference. On these awards, ILCA recognises extraordinary achievements in liver cancer research across disciplines and supports four junior investigators’ professional development in training (2 clinical and 2 basic researchers). The awards are given for novel and significant liver cancer research across the fields of basic cancer research, translational cancer research, cancer diagnosis, the prevention of cancer, or cancer patients treatment.

ILCA is pleased to announce that Benjamin Ruf, Post-doctoral Research Fellow from the National Institute of Health (NIH), National Cancer Institute (NCI), USA, has been awarded the ILCA Fellowship 2021. ILCA will support his research on “Elucidating the role of mucosal-associated invariant T cells (MAITs) in hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) using spatial transcriptomic analysis by combining CODEX and single-cell RNA-sequencing”.

Through the FELLOWSHIP Programme, ILCA supports research in all liver cancer-related disciplines by encouraging young scientists to develop their careers in liver cancer research. The aim of this key initiative is:

- Encourage young investigators to pursue a career in liver cancer research
- Develop the potential of outstanding young scientists and encourage research in liver cancer disciplines
- Foster career development for individuals performing research in a liver cancer-related area and who have shown commitment to excellence at an early stage of their research study
- Help progress ILCA’s mission to lead a global community of physicians, scientists and allied professionals through education and research to better prevent and treat liver cancer
- Promote science through the support of young researchers

Session from 2020 Fellowship Awardee Aveline Filliol at ILCA 2021
ILCA Guidances

The energy and sense of togetherness in the fight to diagnose and treat liver cancer is present throughout ILCA’s educational programme, like our ILCA GUIDANCES.

We have brought together an exceptional team of experts to collaborate and co-produce much-needed guidance. The first ILCA Guidelines publication covered Biomarker Development for HCC and was led by Drs Villanueva and Singal. Our second Guidelines publication addressed Systemic Therapy Guidance and was led by Drs Meyer and Kelley. Both Guidelines were published to critical acclaim and are a true feather in ILCA’s cap. ILCA is thankful for their hard work and is now collaborating on a third Guidelines publication, called the Transarterial Chemoembolisation (TACE) Consensus Guidance. A multi-disciplinary working group of oncologists, surgeons, hepatologists and scientists is working together to write clinical questions and literature search for the TACE manuscript based on the findings of evidence-based medicine. This guidance generated by these experts will provide a set of recommendations and unique documentation offering an invaluable resource in the correct management of liver cancer and helping patients with the best care options.

ILCA Tace Consensus Guidance will be finalised and published this year, 2022.
› Young Investigators

Developing our community is one of the main ILCA commitments for the future.

We have developed a new Young Investigator programme to equip young doctors with the proper education, network and opportunities needed for them to be the next generation of liver cancer specialists and leaders. Thanks to the commitment and work of the Young Investigator steering committee, we are seeing this community grow and develop with new offerings and educational activities.

The main goals of the Young Investigators Steering Committee of ILCA (Y-ILCA) are to promote young investigators in ILCA, communicate ILCA activities, build an active community and participate in the organisation of activities for young investigators in ILCA educational activities, including the annual conference.
ILCA’s third pillar is AWARENESS. We are extremely focused on ensuring that every liver cancer patient has access to the best possible care and the latest therapies. We have spent the past 12 months raising awareness and engagement of ILCA among the liver cancer community. Our reach has grown considerably, representing an impressive increase of over 350% since the beginning of last year, meaning that more and more healthcare professionals worldwide understand our association and the resources we offer. Whilst we take comfort in this, we know that it is only the beginning.

› Africa Programme

We are ramping up efforts to alleviate Africa’s need for medical assistance. Although the African continent is one of the regions with a very high disease burden, clinical and scientific resources for diagnosing, treating, and researching liver cancer are very limited in most parts of this continent. ILCA recognises this immense clinical and scientific need and plans to develop a strategy to engage African organisations and healthcare professionals in educational and training activities of ILCA.

ILCA is counting on the precious help of Dr. Lewis Roberts as the ILCA Ambassador for Africa. Dr. Lewis Roberts will help ILCA attain its mission to lead a global community of physicians, scientists and allied professionals through education and research to better prevent and treat liver cancer, focusing on the African continent.

And specifically, to identify, propose and supervise research and educational opportunities, projects and initiatives arising from or devoted to Africa, liaising with local or international societies and programs on behalf of the Governing Board.

Below are some of the key activities that we will work on in 2022:

− Support research fellowship for 2022 with projects in Africa with a topic relevant for African patients.
− Work closely with AHPBCC (Africa Hepatopancreatobilary Cancer Consortium) to develop educational programs in Africa.
− Establish a mentoring programme to help African investigators apply for funding opportunities in the US and Europe.

Dr. Roberts Lewis,
ILCA Ambassador for Africa
› Advocacy Programme

Today's world is one of rising healthcare costs and policy changes - and the need for advocacy by ILCA is greater than ever. There is simply no organisation better suited and more credible than ILCA to represent the liver cancer community and to lead the conversation around liver cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. This role is ILCA's, and we have taken the proper steps in this direction. Our goal is not just to bring awareness to liver cancer; we want to exceed that through developing a policy agenda that can be the model for nations to follow around the world.

› 10 Principles on Access to Care:

ILCA is bringing together the experts in the liver cancer community to align behind a new and coordinated patient advocacy programme to understand the barriers that limit the access of patients with liver cancer to the different therapies and their causes and propose a series of actions to overcome those barriers.

ILCA is assembling the expert opinions, organising round table discussions, and involving patient care organisations on this topic. The completion of this project in 2022 will be the 10 principles that focus on access to care.

› ILCA Advocacy Leader

Bruno Sangro

› ILCA Patient Advocacy Panel

– Helen Reeves
– Jordi Bruix
– Riad Salem
– Bruno Sangro
INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

We work together for better liver cancer patient treatment and care. Our industry partnership programme created in early 2021 offers healthcare companies the platform to support ILCA’s mission and values through educational, scientific activities and events.

We offer a strategic forum for high-level dialogue between ILCA leadership and industry partners to discuss the fundamental issues for the future of liver cancer treatment, as well as recognition of your year-round partnership support.

The partnership of these companies (logos of 4 partners) enables ILCA to undertake and develop research and educational activities among them.

› Such actions and programs include

- **Inter-societal relations ILCA**: support shared principles and activities with a range of related societies as a way to build a connected liver cancer network. Such a network shall collaborate on best practice sharing and adoption of guidance and other support materials.

- **ILCA Advocacy**: ILCA is focused on developing an advocacy strategy to influence decisions that improve liver cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment services. As part of this, ILCA is planning an advocacy workshop to develop and coordinate a strategy with industry partners and other stakeholders at the highest in-country level possible.

- **ILCA Guidance Documents**: Expand ILCA’s thought leadership through generating additional guidance documentation offering an invaluable resource in the correct management of liver cancer.
2022 is a year that will mark the end of our 3-year strategic map. By the end of 2022, we hope that our distinctive ability to build and integrate world-class education and thought leadership while growing the liver cancer network will have secured us recognition as the trusted leader and authority on liver cancer research and education worldwide.

With Community and Network, we aim to:
- Assist physicians, scientists, allied professional healthcare providers, patients and other interested parties through education and research to better prevent and treat liver cancer.
- Develop career development offering for our community of young investigators.

With Education, we aim to:
- Create and deliver a full range of educational events which disseminate knowledge and build an ILCA fanbase.
- Double the number of members from all related disciplines and academia.
- Deliver scientific education and help progress ILCA’s mission to advance research in pathogenesis, prevention and treatment of liver cancer.

With Awareness, 2022 will be the year to:
- Develop joined-up advocacy.
- Present a series of ILCA Position Papers focused on access to treatment: 10 Principles for Improving Access to Treatment.
- Establish formal regulatory dialogue and advice.
- Put our efforts towards raising awareness about liver disease.
- Development of more ILCA guidance to broaden awareness and deepen knowledge about recent, relevant research diagnosis and treatment of liver cancer.
Call for Abstracts
Now Open

Submission deadline: 11 April, 2022

1 - 4 September 2022 | Madrid, Spain

#ILCA22
GET IN TOUCH

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