

EXPANDING GLOBAL HORIZONS

IN HEPATOLOGY THROUGH THE ACG INTERNATIONAL TRAINING GRANT AT YALE UNIVERSITY

By Coşkun Demirtaş, MD

LIVER DISEASES REMAIN A MAJOR GLOBAL HEALTH BURDEN, and with advancing tools in hepatology and an expanding network of international collaboration, we are better equipped than ever to meet these challenges. My clinical and research interests in portal hypertension and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) led me to seek specialized training opportunities that could build a bridge between academic excellence in the U.S. and ongoing work in Europe. I was honored to be selected as a 2024 recipient of the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) International GI Training Grant, which made possible a research and clinical training program at the Yale University Liver Unit and Section of Digestive Diseases. I engaged in both academic and bedside activities, which expanded my clinical acumen and helped establish lasting collaborative ties.

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During my training, I participated in daily GI rounds and rotated through the Klatskin Inpatient Hepatology Service and Medical Intensive Care Unit, where I had firsthand exposure to multidisciplinary liver disease management. These rotations offered an in-depth perspective on complex liver disease management and emphasized the value of multidisciplinary, integrated care in patients with advanced liver disease.

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Romania, we launched an international, multicenter collaborative project to explore the usefulness of liver stiffness measurement in predicting hepatic venous pressure gradient in patients with HCC. We successfully developed the study protocol and completed data collection, with plans to publish an original article in the upcoming year.

In addition to multicenter collaboration, I was involved in several research initiatives based at Yale and the affiliated Veterans Affairs Medical Center. These projects laid the foundation for an ongoing collaboration with Yale, and I am thrilled to continue our work as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Yale University.

This remarkable opportunity would not have been possible without the ACG and its International Training Grant program. I am deeply grateful to the ACG International Relations Committee for its vision in promoting global medical education. My sincere thanks also go to my mentor, Professor Guadalupe Garcia-Tsao, whose leadership, generosity, and guidance were instrumental to the success of my training program. I am also profoundly grateful to Professor Tamar Taddei, whose support made my time at Yale both productive and enjoyable.

I look forward to the future with renewed enthusiasm, expanded knowledge, and strong academic partnerships that I believe will help shape the next chapter of my work in hepatology.



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