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# ~~NAFLD~~ **OBESITY AND MASLD** ~~MAFLD~~

*Angelo Iossa MD PhD*

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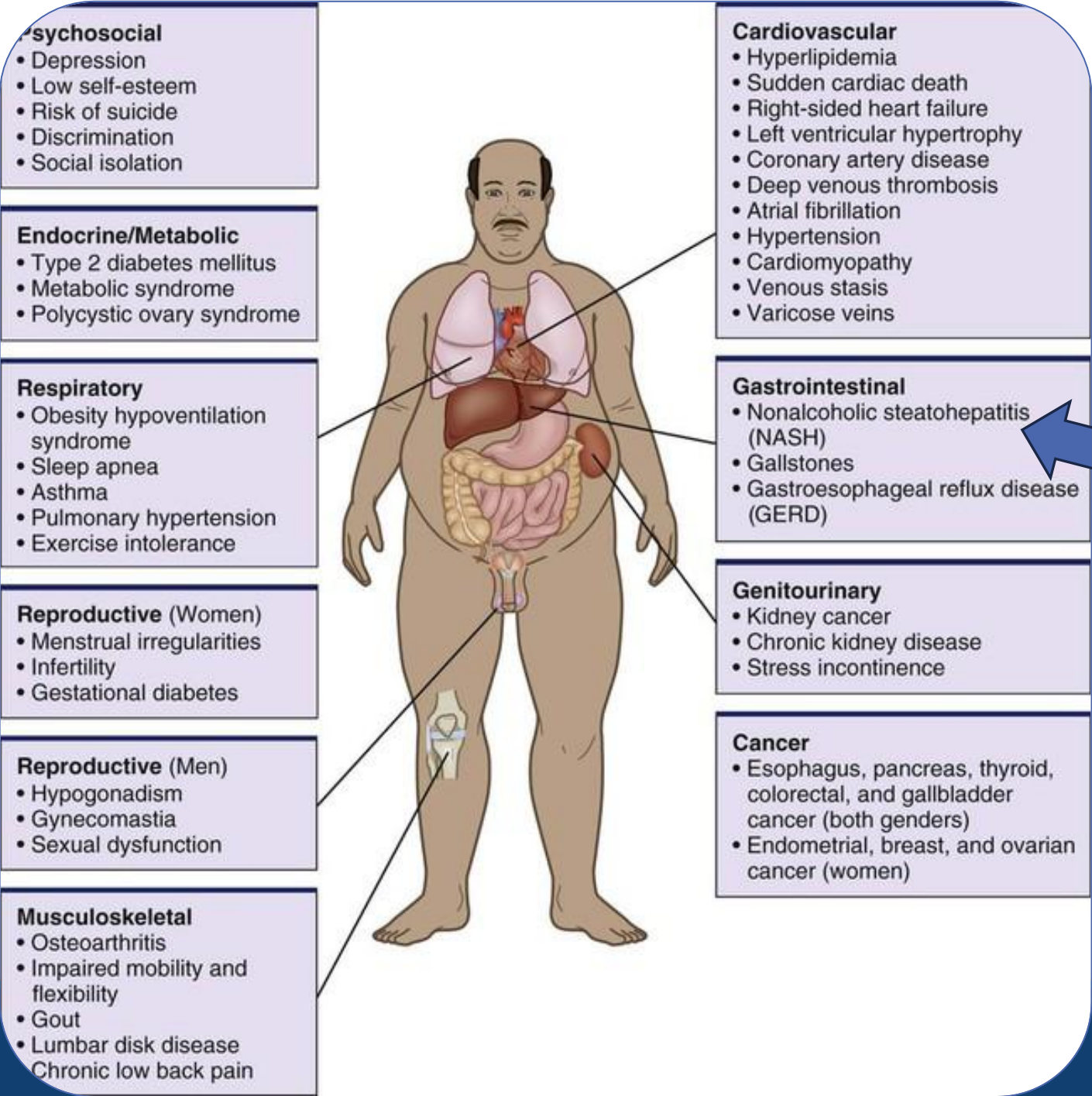
*Polo Pontino-Latina*

*ICOT Hospital*



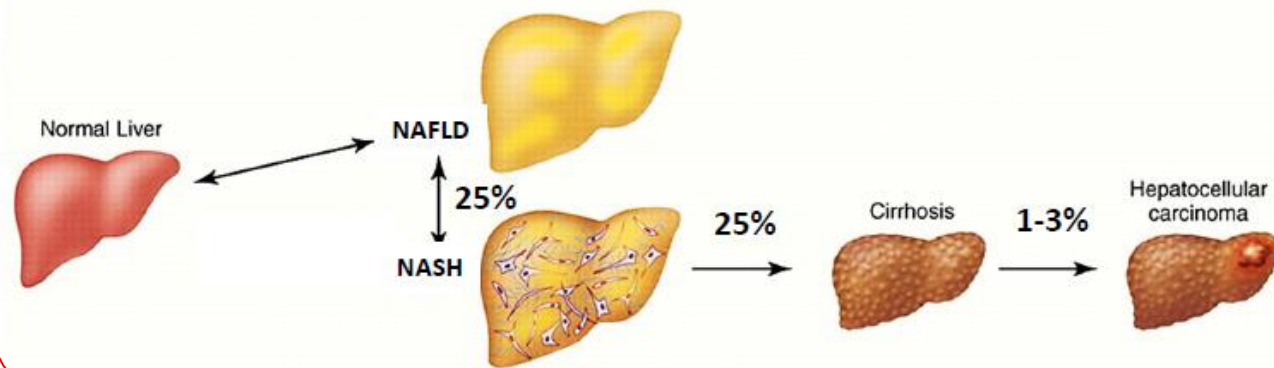


Direct link to 60- 200  
comorbidities





# NAFLD (Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease)



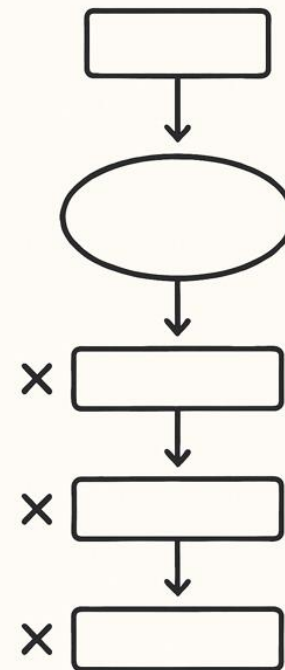
91% of pts...OBESE!

## Characteristics

Accumulation of triglycerides in hepatocytes (> 5% of the total liver weight)

Reduced (/NO) alcohol intake (less than 20g/day for women and 30g/day for men)

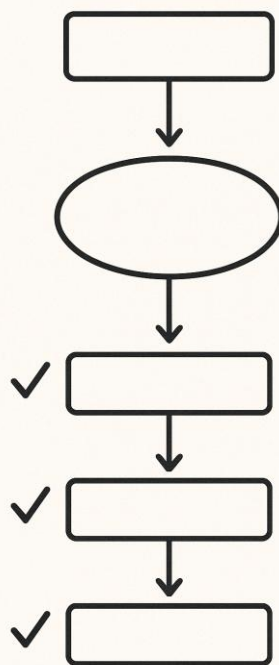
(Excluded diagnosis of viral infection, toxicity, selfimmunity etc)



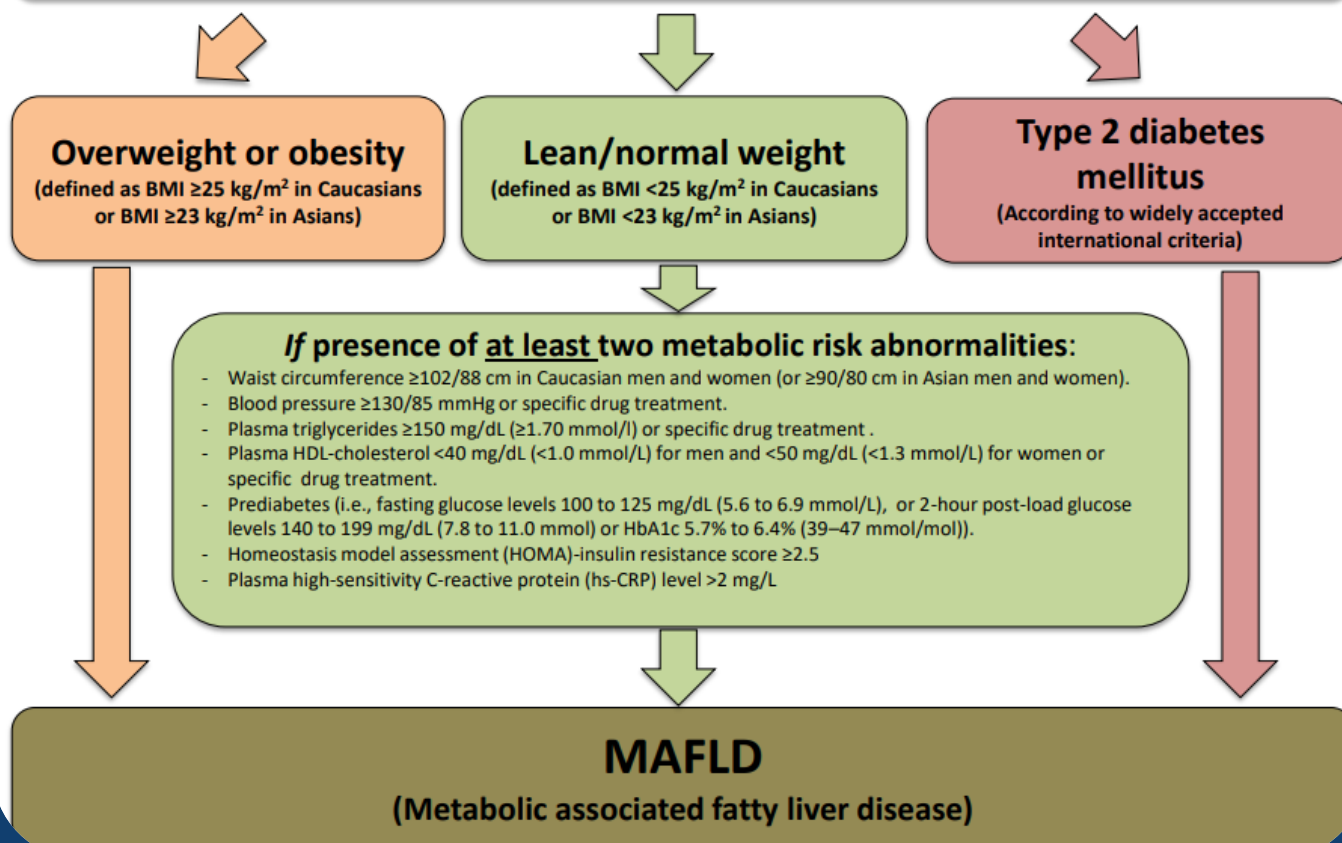


## A new definition for metabolic dysfunction-associated fatty liver disease: An international expert consensus statement

Mohammed Eslam<sup>1,\*†</sup>, Philip N. Newsome<sup>2,\*†</sup>, Shiv K. Sarin<sup>3</sup>, Quentin M. Anstee<sup>4</sup>, Giovanni Targher<sup>5</sup>, Manuel Romero-Gomez<sup>6</sup>, Shira Zelber-Sagi<sup>7</sup>, Vincent Wai-Sun Wong<sup>8</sup>, Jean-François Dufour<sup>9</sup>, Jörn M. Schattenberg<sup>10</sup>, Takumi Kawaguchi<sup>11</sup>, Marco Arrese<sup>12</sup>, Luca Valenti<sup>13</sup>, Gamal Shiha<sup>14</sup>, Claudio Tiribelli<sup>15</sup>, Hannele Yki-Järvinen<sup>16</sup>, Jian-Gao Fan<sup>17</sup>, Henning Grønbaek<sup>18</sup>, Yusuf Yilmaz<sup>19</sup>, Helena Cortez-Pinto<sup>20</sup>, Claudia P. Oliveira<sup>21</sup>, Pierre Bedossa<sup>22</sup>, Leon A. Adams<sup>23</sup>, Ming-Hua Zheng<sup>24</sup>, Yasser Fouad<sup>25</sup>, Wah-Kheong Chan<sup>26</sup>, Nahum Mendez-Sanchez<sup>27</sup>, Sang Hoon Ahn<sup>28</sup>, Laurent Castera<sup>29</sup>, Elisabetta Bugianesi<sup>30</sup>, Vlad Ratziu<sup>31,\*†</sup>, Jacob George<sup>1,\*†</sup>



## Hepatic steatosis in adults (detected either by imaging techniques, blood biomarkers/scores or by liver histology)



Review Article

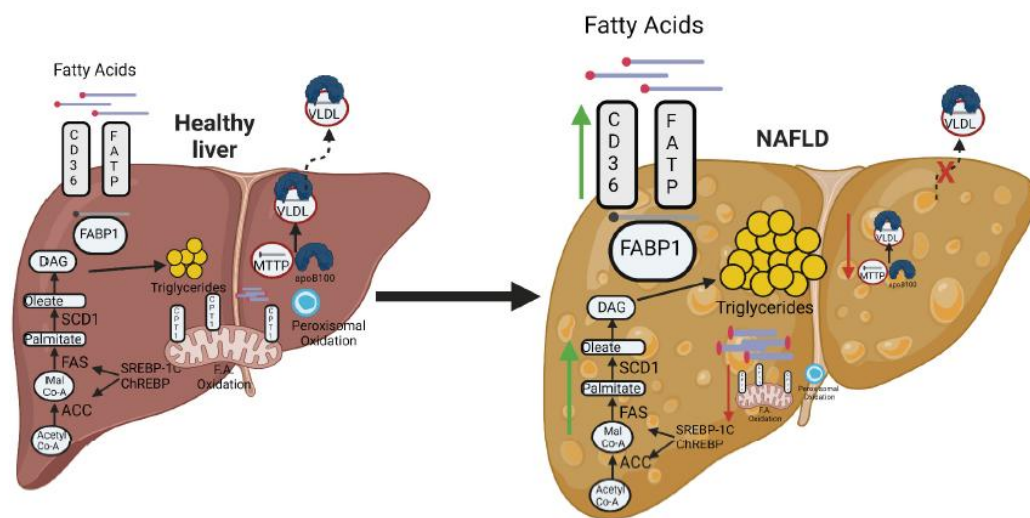
# Molecular mechanisms of metabolic associated fatty liver disease (MAFLD): functional analysis of lipid metabolism pathways

Olufunto O. Badmus<sup>1</sup>, Sarah A. Hillhouse<sup>1</sup>, Christopher D. Anderson<sup>2</sup>, Terry D. Hinds Jr<sup>3</sup> and David E. Stec<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Physiology and Biophysics, Cardiorenal, and Metabolic Diseases Research Center, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS 39216, U.S.A.;

<sup>2</sup>Department of Surgery, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS 39216, U.S.A.; <sup>3</sup>Department of Pharmacology and Nutritional Sciences, Barnstable Brown Diabetes Center, Markey Cancer Center, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40508, U.S.A.

Correspondence: David E. Stec (dstec@umc.edu) or Terry D. Hinds (Terry.Hinds@uky.edu)



**Figure 3. Pathways governing lipid accumulation in the liver**

Fatty acid uptake and *de novo* lipogenesis can be up-regulated in MAFLD (green arrows), while fatty acid export and oxidation of fatty acids by the mitochondria and peroxisomes are decreased in MAFLD (red arrows); ACC, acetyl-CoA carboxylase; DAG, diacylglycerol; FAS, fatty acid synthase; SCD1, stearoyl-CoA desaturase-1; VLDL, very-low-density lipoprotein. Created with Biorender.com

| Grade   | Percent Fat |
|---------|-------------|
| Grade 0 | <5%         |
| Grade 1 | 5-33%       |
| Grade 2 | 34-66%      |
| Grade 3 | >66%        |

## MAFLD

**Liver Biomarker/Enzymes:**

AST ↑  
ALT ↑  
Bilirubin ↓

**De Novo Lipogenesis**

**Enzymes:**

FAS ↑  
SCD1 ↑

**β-Oxidation:**

PPARα ↓

## Metabolically Fit

**Liver Biomarker/Enzymes:**

AST ↓  
ALT ↓  
Bilirubin ↑

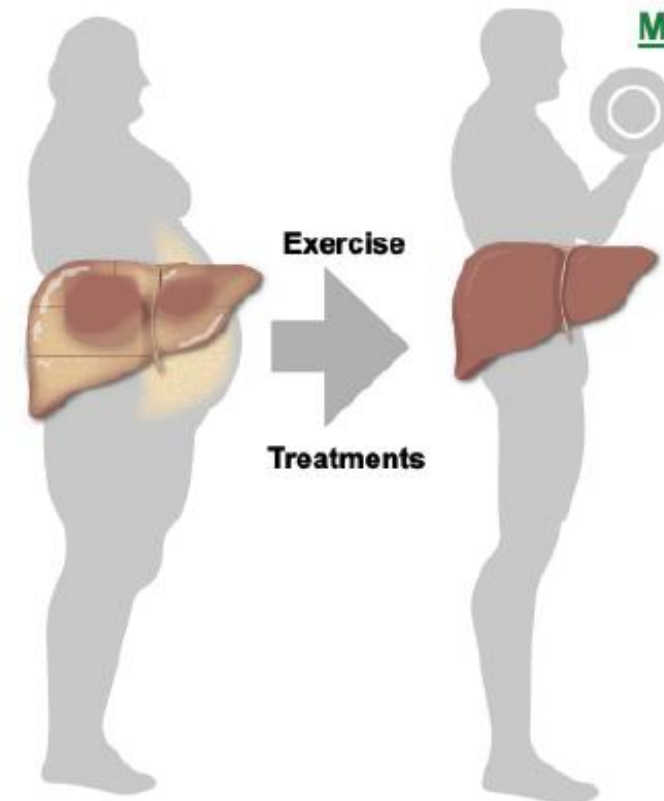
**De Novo Lipogenesis**

**Enzymes:**

FAS ↓  
SCD1 ↓

**β-Oxidation:**

PPARα ↑



## NAFLD

(Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease)

Hepatic steatosis (detected by imaging methods, serum biomarker scores, or histology)

No excessive alcohol consumption  
(a threshold of 20 g/day for women and 30 g/day for men is conventionally adopted)

No other causes of hepatic steatosis (e.g., HBV, HCV, drugs, hemochromatosis, autoimmunity, Wilson's disease, alpha 1 anti-trypsin deficiency, rapid weight loss)



## MAFLD

(Metabolic Associated Fatty Liver Disease)

Hepatic steatosis (detected by imaging methods, serum biomarker scores, or histology)

One of the following metabolic criteria:

- Overweight/obesity
- Type 2 diabetes
- Metabolic dysregulation<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup>At least two features amongst:

- increased waist circumference (i.e.,  $\geq 102/88$  cm in Caucasian men and women or  $\geq 90/80$  cm in Asian men and women),
- arterial hypertension (i.e., blood pressure  $\geq 130/85$  mmHg or drug treatment),
- hypertriglyceridemia (i.e., plasma triglycerides  $\geq 150$  mg/dl or specific drug treatment),
- low HDL-cholesterol (i.e., plasma HDL  $< 40$  mg/dl for men and  $< 50$  mg/dl for women or specific drug treatment),
- prediabetes (i.e., fasting plasma glucose from 100 to 125 mg/dl or 2 hour post-load glucose levels from 140 to 199 mg/dl or HbA1c from 39 to 47 mmol/mol Hb),
- insulin resistance (i.e., Homeostatic Model Assessment of Insulin Resistance [HOMA-IR]  $\geq 2.5$ )
- subclinical inflammation (i.e., high sensitivity C-reactive protein [hs-CRP]  $> 2$  mg/L)

biomarker [hs-CRP]  $> 2$  mg/L)

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## Exercise in the Management of Metabolic-Associated Fatty Liver Disease (MAFLD) in Adults: A Position Statement from Exercise and Sport Science Australia

Shelley E. Keating<sup>1</sup> , Angelo Sabag<sup>2,3,4</sup>, Kate Hallsworth<sup>5,6,7</sup>, Ingrid J. Hickman<sup>8,9</sup>, Graeme A. Macdonald<sup>9,10</sup>, Jonathan G. Stine<sup>11,12,13,14</sup>, Jacob George<sup>15</sup>, Nathan A. Johnson<sup>2,3</sup>



## Advancements in the treatment of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD)

Li Rong<sup>1†</sup>, Junyan Zou<sup>2,3†</sup>, Wei Ran<sup>3</sup>, Xia Yaokai Chen<sup>3</sup>, Hongjuan Cui<sup>2</sup> and Jinjun

<sup>1</sup>Department of Gastroenterology, Bishan Hospital of Chongqing Hospital of Chongqing, Chongqing, China, <sup>2</sup>Medical Research Institute, Chongqing, China, <sup>3</sup>Medical Research Institute, Southwest University Affiliated to Southwest University, Chongqing, China, <sup>4</sup>Department of People's Hospital of Yunnan Province, Baoshan, Yunnan, China

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2020-2023



biomedicines



Review

## From NAFLD to MAFLD: Definition, Pathophysiological Basis and Cardiovascular Implications

Andrea Boccatonda<sup>1,†</sup> , Lorenzo Andreetto<sup>2,†</sup>, Damiano D'Ardes<sup>3,\*,†</sup> , Giulio Cocco<sup>4</sup> , Ilaria Rossi<sup>3</sup> , Susanna Vicari<sup>1</sup>, Cosima Schiavone<sup>4</sup>, Francesco Cipollone<sup>3</sup> and Maria Teresa Guagnano<sup>3</sup>



International Journal of  
Molecular Sciences



Review

## Role of Insulin Resistance in MAFLD

Yoshitaka Sakurai<sup>1</sup>, Naoto Kubota<sup>1,2,3,\*</sup>, Toshimasa Yamauchi<sup>1</sup> and Takashi Kadowaki<sup>4,\*</sup>



International Journal of  
Molecular Sciences



Review

## Pathophysiological Molecular Mechanisms of Obesity: A Link between MAFLD and NASH with Cardiovascular Diseases

Jorge Gutiérrez-Cuevas<sup>1,\*</sup> , Arturo Santos<sup>2</sup> and Juan Armendariz-Borunda<sup>1,2,\*</sup>

34 other members to ensuring broad geographic representation.

## SPECIAL ARTICLE

# A multi-society Delphi consensus statement on new fatty liver disease nomenclature

**✉** Rinella, Mary E.<sup>1</sup>; **✉** Lazarus, Jeffrey V.<sup>2,3</sup>; **✉** Ratzliff, Vlad<sup>4</sup>; **✉** Francque, Sven M.<sup>5,6</sup>; **✉** Sanyal, Arun J.<sup>7</sup>; **✉** Kanwal, Fasiha<sup>8,9</sup>; **✉** Romero, Diana<sup>2</sup>; **✉** Abdelmalek, Manal F.<sup>10</sup>; **✉** Anstee, Quentin M.<sup>11,12</sup>; **✉** Arab, Juan Pablo<sup>13,14,15</sup>; **✉** Arrese, Marco<sup>15,16</sup>; **✉** Bataller, Ramon<sup>17</sup>; **✉** Beuers, Ulrich<sup>18</sup>; **✉** Boursier, Jerome<sup>19</sup>; **✉** Bugianesi, Elisabetta<sup>20</sup>; **✉** Byrne, Christopher<sup>21,22</sup>; **✉** Castro Narro, Graciela E.<sup>16,23,24</sup>; **✉** Chowdhury, Abhijit<sup>25</sup>; **✉** Cortez-Pinto, Helena<sup>26</sup>; **✉** Cryer, Donna<sup>27</sup>; **✉** Cusi, Kenneth<sup>28</sup>; **✉** El-Kassas, Mohamed<sup>29</sup>; **✉** Klein, Samuel<sup>30</sup>; **✉** Eskridge, Wayne<sup>31</sup>; **✉** Fan, Jiangao<sup>32</sup>; **✉** Gawrieh, Samer<sup>33</sup>; **✉** Guy, Cynthia D.<sup>34</sup>; **✉** Harrison, Stephen A.<sup>35</sup>; **✉** Kim, Seung Up<sup>36</sup>; **✉** Koot, Bart<sup>37</sup>; **✉** Korenjak, Marko<sup>38</sup>; **✉** Kowdley, Kris<sup>39</sup>; **✉** Lacaille, Florence<sup>40</sup>; **✉** Loomba, Rohit<sup>41</sup>; **✉** Mitchell-Thain, Robert<sup>42</sup>; **✉** Morgan, Timothy R.<sup>43,44</sup>; **✉** Powell, Elisabeth<sup>45,46,47</sup>; **✉** Roden, Michael<sup>48,49,50</sup>; **✉** Romero-Gómez, Manuel<sup>51</sup>; **✉** Silva, Marcelo<sup>52</sup>; **✉** Singh, Shivaram Prasad<sup>53</sup>; **✉** Sookoian, Silvia C.<sup>15,54,55</sup>; **✉** Spearman, C. Wendy<sup>56</sup>; **✉** Tiniakos, Dina<sup>11,57</sup>; **✉** Valenti, Luca<sup>58,59</sup>; **✉** Vos, Miriam B.<sup>60</sup>; **✉** Wong, Vincent Wai-Sun<sup>61</sup>; **✉** Xanthakos, Stavra<sup>62</sup>; **✉** Yilmaz, Yusuf<sup>63</sup>; **✉** Younossi, Zobair<sup>64</sup>; **✉** Hobbs, Ansley<sup>2</sup>; **✉** Villota-Rivas, Marcela<sup>65</sup>; **✉** Newsome, Philip N<sup>66,67</sup>; on behalf of the NAFLD Nomenclature consensus group

## ..FROM MAFLD TO MASLD





# ***MAFLD limits***

*No endorsement*

*No clear exclusion of different causes*

*No rigorous scientific definition*



## \*Cardiometabolic criteria

### Adult Criteria

At least 1 out of 5:

- ☐ BMI  $\geq 25$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> [23 Asia] **OR** WC > 94 cm (M) 80 cm (F) **OR** ethnicity adjusted
- ☐ Fasting serum glucose  $\geq 5.6$  mmol/L [100 mg/dL] **OR** 2-hour post-load glucose levels  $\geq 7.8$  mmol/L [ $\geq 140$  mg/dL] **OR** HbA1c  $\geq 5.7\%$  [39 mmol/L] **OR** type 2 diabetes **OR** treatment for type 2 diabetes
- ☐ Blood pressure  $\geq 130/85$  mmHg **OR** specific antihypertensive drug treatment
- ☐ Plasma triglycerides  $\geq 1.70$  mmol/L [150 mg/dL] **OR** lipid lowering treatment
- ☐ Plasma HDL-cholesterol  $\leq 1.0$  mmol/L [40 mg/dL] (M) and  $\leq 1.3$  mmol/L [50 mg/dL] (F) **OR** lipid lowering treatment

### Pediatric Criteria

At least 1 out of 5:

- ☐ BMI  $\geq 85^{\text{th}}$  percentile for age/sex [BMI z score  $\geq +1$ ] **OR** WC > 95<sup>th</sup> percentile **OR** ethnicity adjusted
- ☐ Fasting serum glucose  $\geq 5.6$  mmol/L [ $\geq 100$  mg/dL] **OR** serum glucose  $\geq 11.1$  mmol/L [ $\geq 200$  mg/dL] **OR** 2-hour post-load glucose levels  $\geq 7.8$  mmol [140 mg/dL] **OR** HbA1c  $\geq 5.7\%$  [39 mmol/L] **OR** already diagnosed/treated type 2 diabetes **OR** treatment for type 2 diabetes
- ☐ Blood pressure age < 13y, BP  $\geq 95^{\text{th}}$  percentile **OR**  $\geq 130/80$  mmHg (whichever is lower); age  $\geq 13y$ , 130/85 mmHg **OR** specific antihypertensive drug treatment
- ☐ Plasma triglycerides < 10y,  $\geq 1.15$  mmol/L [ $\geq 100$  mg/dL]; age  $\geq 10y$ ,  $\geq 1.70$  mmol/L [ $\geq 150$  mg/dL] **OR** lipid lowering treatment
- ☐ Plasma HDL-cholesterol  $\leq 1.0$  mmol/L [ $\leq 40$  mg/dL] **OR** lipid lowering treatment



# Diagnostic tools

## Blood Tests:



- Liver function tests (LFTs) are checked to assess liver enzymes like ALT and AST.
- Blood tests also evaluate for other conditions like diabetes, high cholesterol, and metabolic syndrome.
- Tests can also rule out other causes of liver disease, such as viral hepatitis.

## Imaging Studies:

- Ultrasound, CT scans, or MRI can show fat accumulation in the liver.
- Transient elastography (FibroScan) or MR elastography can measure liver stiffness and estimate fibrosis, helping assess the severity of the disease.

## Liver Biopsy:

- Although not always necessary, a liver biopsy is the gold standard for diagnosis and can help differentiate MASLD from MASH (Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis).
- It involves taking a small tissue sample and examining it under a microscope.

REVIEW OPEN ACCESS

### Accuracy of Non-Invasive Imaging Techniques for the Diagnosis of MASH in Patients With MASLD: A Systematic Review

Jennifer Cathcart<sup>1,2</sup> | Rachael Barrett<sup>1</sup> | James S. Bowness<sup>3,4</sup> | Ashis Mukhopadhy<sup>2</sup> | Ruairi Lynch<sup>1</sup> | John F. Dillon<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Division of Molecular and Clinical Medicine, University of Dundee, Dundee, UK | <sup>2</sup>Gastroenterology Department, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen, UK | <sup>3</sup>University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK | <sup>4</sup>Department of Targeting Intervention, University College London, London, UK

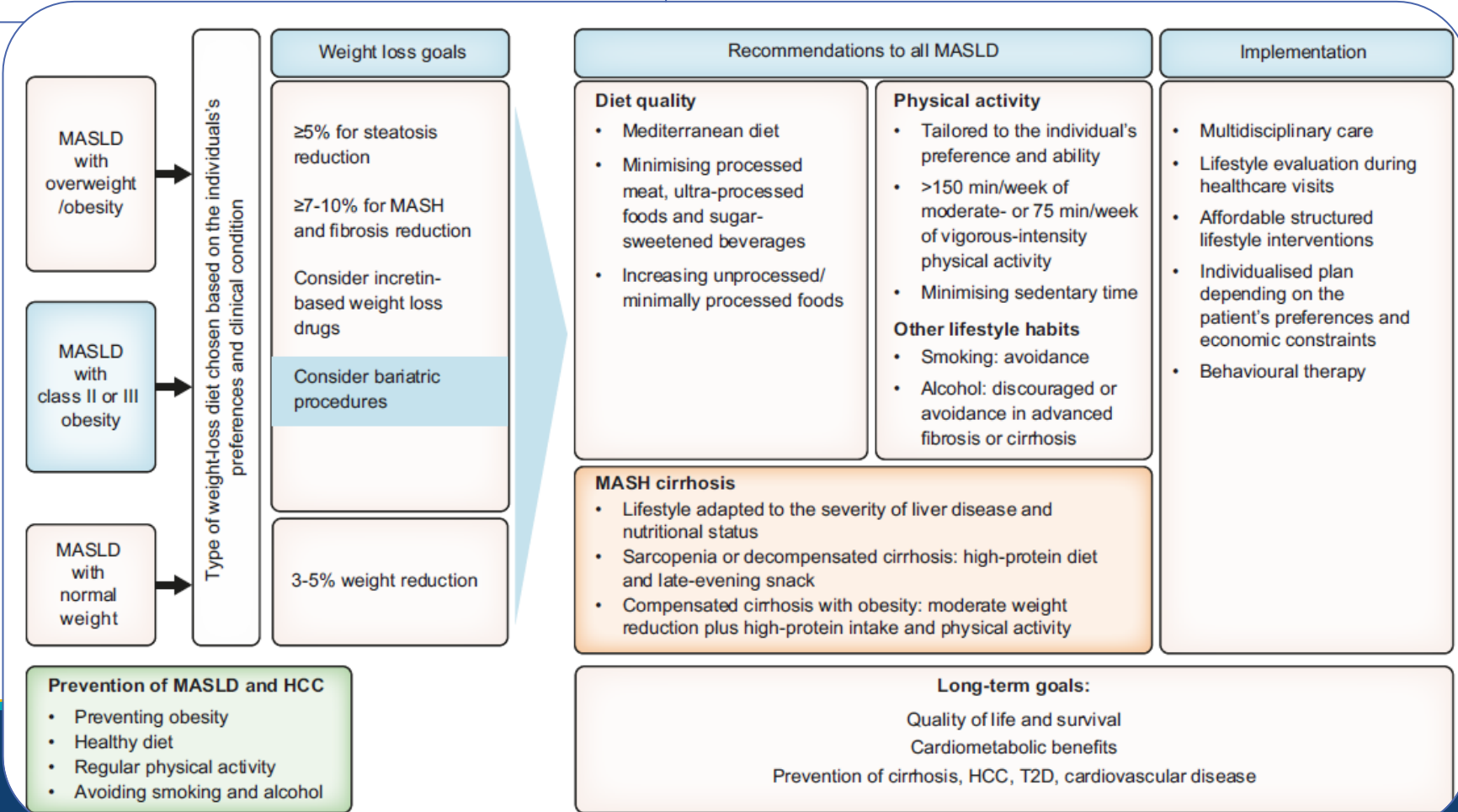
#### Summary

- There is no clear imaging tool or score currently available to diagnose MASH.
- The most promising imaging tools are MRI techniques or ultrasound-based scores.
- More independent validation studies are needed; this will reduce bias.
- Future work should build on these studies with validation.



EASL-EASD-EASO Clinical Practice Guidelines on the management of metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD)<sup>☆</sup>

European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL)<sup>\*</sup>, European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD), European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO)



## >10% weight loss through lifestyle modification cures NASH and fibrosis

Paired biopsies from 261 NASH patients at 0 and 52 weeks; BMI= 31,3; T2D= 33%; men= 41%

### WEIGHT LOSS GOAL

| % Weight loss (WL)      |     | 5%  | 7%  | 10%  |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| NASH resolution         | 10% | 26% | 64% | 90%  |
| FIBROSIS regression     | 45% | 36% | 50% | 81%  |
| STEATOSIS improvement   | 35% | 65% | 76% | 100% |
| % Patients achieving WL | 70% | 12% | 9%  | 10%  |

Vilar-Gomez E et al; Gastroenterology 2015; 149: 367-378

Vilar-Gomez E et al; Gastroenterology 2015; 149: 367-378



**THR-β agonists**

**ARBs**

**Antioxidants**  
Vitamin E  
Bilirubin

**PPAR agonists**  
PPARα  
PPARγ  
PPARδ

**MASLD**

**MASH**

**Cirrhosis**

**Hepatocellular carcinoma**

**Obesity & diet**

**diabetes mellitus**

**dyslipidemia**

**Exercise**

**Hypocaloric Diet**

**Bariatric Surgery**

**Antidiabetic drugs**  
SGLT-2 inhibitors  
GLP-1RAs  
DPP-4 Inhibitors

**Lipid altering agents**  
Statins  
ACC Inhibitors

**Pharmacologic**

Patients (%)

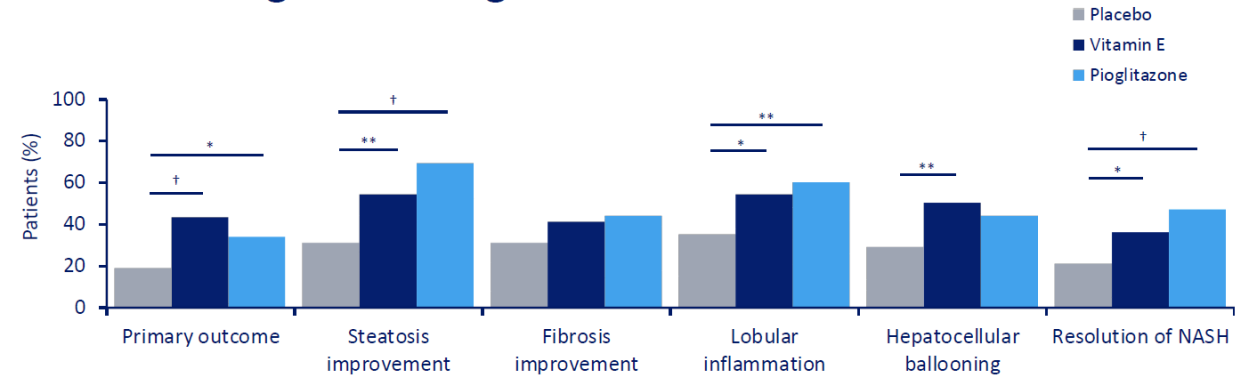
Primary outcome

**• Pioglitazone**

**• Vitamin E**

\*p ≤ 0.05; \*\*p ≤ 0.01; †p ≤ 0.001 vs placebo. N=247; nondiabetic patients. †p ≤ 0.001 vs placebo. N=247; nondiabetic patients. †p ≤ 0.001 vs placebo. N=247; nondiabetic patients.

*Pioglitazone and vitamin E are not approved for treatment of NASH*



- **Pioglitazone** may improve NASH histology other than fibrosis
- **Vitamin E** may improve histology

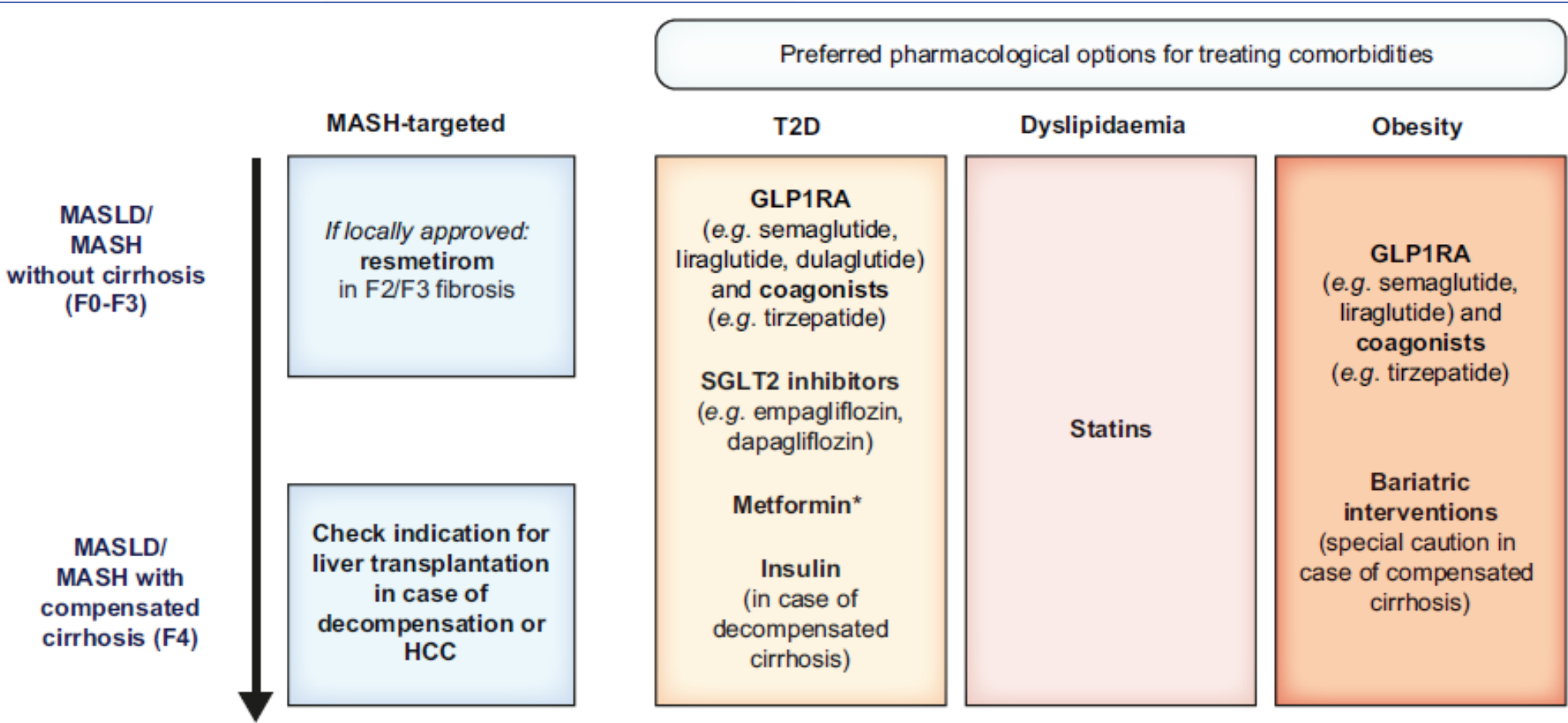
\*p ≤0.05; \*\*p ≤0.01; †p ≤0.001 vs placebo. N=247; nondiabetic adult patients with biopsy-proven NASH were randomized to pioglitazone 30 mg/day, vitamin E 800 IU/day, or placebo for 96 weeks. The primary outcome was defined as an improvement in histologic findings, which required improvement by 1 or more points in the hepatocellular ballooning score; no increase in the fibrosis score; and either a decrease in the activity score for NAFLD to a score of ≤3 points or a decrease in the activity score of ≤2 points, with 21-point decrease in either the lobular inflammation or steatosis score. NAFLD, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease; NASH, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis. Sanyal AJ et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2010;362:1675–85.

### Figure 5. Influence of current and emerging therapies on MAFLD

Risk factors such as obesity, diet, diabetes mellitus, dyslipidemia, oxidative stress, inflammation, and apoptosis stimulate MAFLD, which can progress to liver fibrosis, cirrhosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma. Lifestyle intervention (diet and exercise) and therapeutic interventions inhibit fatty liver diseases; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; DPP-4, dipeptidyl peptidase-4; FGF, fibroblast growth factor; GLP-1RAs, glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists; PPAR, peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor; SGLT-2, sodium-glucose cotransporter-2; THR- $\beta$ , thyroid hormone receptor- $\beta$ . Created with Biorender.com

EASL–EASD–EASO Clinical Practice Guidelines on the management of metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD)<sup>☆</sup>

European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL)<sup>\*</sup>, European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD), European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO)



\*if glomerular filtration rate >30 ml/min



# ***OBESITY AND MASLD***





# Grazie



• **THANK YOU!**



• **[ANGELO.IOSSA@UNIROMA1.IT](mailto:ANGELO.IOSSA@UNIROMA1.IT)**



• **[@ANGELOIOSSMD](https://www.instagram.com/ANGELOIOSSMD)**