

Identifying a key research question: new areas of potential significance in hepatology

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What are major areas of new knowledge or unaddressed problems?

1. Molecular basis for various diseases
2. Management of NAFLD
3. Liver cell cancer
4. How to stop or reverse fibrosis
5. Cure for HBV
6. Treatment for alcoholic liver disease
7. Role of microbiome
8. Treatment for PSC

What are ways to identify key research questions?

1. Know what is known really well
 - Thereby have a chance of asking an unanswered question
2. Assess demographic trends
3. Be aware of emerging treatment options
4. What questions does new information pose?

What seems important for funding agencies?

1. Know what funding agencies see as their priorities.
2. Where does industry seem to be focusing?
3. Are there new epidemiologic issues (HCV & other viruses)?
4. New environmental factors

Be open to other input as far as questions

- Patients
- Students
- Colleagues
- Industry
- Colleagues in unrelated field

Be aware of new developments in other fields that be applied to liver diseases

- Imaging
- Prognostic modeling
- Environmental impact

Be curious and committed