

Personal Statement – NASPGHAN Secretary-Treasurer: Ajay K. Jain, MD, DNB, MHA

I am honored to be considered for the position of NASPGHAN Secretary-Treasurer. NASPGHAN has played an important role throughout my career. My first extramural research funding came from NASPGHAN at a pivotal point and helped put my academic career on track. I have never forgotten that early investment. Serving as Secretary-Treasurer would be an opportunity to contribute to the Society that has supported me throughout my career.

My leadership experience comes from helping build clinical, research, and educational programs. As Chief of the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at Saint Louis University, I oversee divisional operations, faculty development, resource allocation, and financial planning. I also chair the Department of Pediatrics Finance and Compensation Committee and have served on both the governing board of our university-wide physician practice and the University Compensation and Finance Committee. These roles have provided practical experience in budgeting, compensation strategy, financial oversight, and organizational decision-making. My Master of Health Administration degree provided additional training in healthcare finance, operations, and health-system leadership that I would bring to NASPGHAN.

Leading an NIH-funded research program has given me firsthand experience in research finance and stewardship. Over the course of my career, my team and I have secured substantial NIH, foundation, philanthropic, and industry funding, requiring careful attention to grant budgets, regulatory requirements, and fiscal accountability. This experience extends beyond my own laboratory through mentoring early-career investigators, several of whom have secured NIH and other extramural funding. Working with institutional leaders to develop bridge and gap funding for promising research programs has reinforced the importance of sound financial management in advancing discovery, mentorship, and innovation.

My service to the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN), a 6,000-member international professional society, has included serving as President, Vice President, Board member, Executive Committee member, Nominating Committee member, and ASPEN Foundation Board member. These leadership roles have provided experience in strategic planning, nonprofit governance, financial oversight, philanthropy, and Foundation stewardship. During my time as Director of our University's MD/PhD Program, I helped strengthen the program through mentorship, program development, and philanthropic and extramural support.

My commitment to NASPGHAN has grown over many years through service on the Research Committee, co-chairing the Research Resources Subcommittee, reviewing abstracts and Foundation grants, and presenting scientific work at NASPGHAN meetings. I am also deeply grateful for NASPGHAN's recognition of my work through several research and nutrition awards.

As Secretary-Treasurer, my priority would be straightforward: to help keep NASPGHAN financially strong, transparent, and able to support its core mission. Drawing on my leadership experience in ASPEN, I would work closely with NASPGHAN's leadership and staff on responsible budgeting, long-term financial planning, and careful stewardship of the Society's resources, with attention to its priorities and the needs of its members.

The Secretary-Treasurer role carries fiduciary responsibility, but it is also a position of trust. If selected, I would bring practical financial and nonprofit governance experience, a collaborative approach, and deep respect for the volunteers, staff, members, and Foundation partners who sustain NASPGHAN.

NASPGHAN supported me when it mattered. I would be honored to help keep NASPGHAN strong so it can continue investing in the people, ideas, and programs that will shape our field and improve the lives of children and families.

Thank you
Ajay K. Jain, MD, DNB, MHA

ABBREVIATED CURRICULUM VITAE: Ajay Kumar Jain, MD, DNB, MHA

Anthony Rejent Endowed Professor of Pediatrics, Pharmacology and Physiology

I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Institutional Leadership and Financial Stewardship:

2023-present Chief, Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology Hepatology and Nutrition, Saint Louis University
2018 - 2023 Associate Chief and Section Head, Pediatric Gastroenterology Hepatology and Nutrition, SLU
2024-present Co-Director, Saint Louis University Metabolic and Nutrition Institute
2021-present Chair, Pediatrics Finance and Compensation Committee
2020 - 2022 Elected Member, SLUCare Governing Board, Saint Louis University
2018 - 2020 Member: Compensation and Finance Committee, Saint Louis University
2012-present UNOS-approved, Director, Pediatric Liver Transplantation

International and National Leadership Roles:

2025-2026 Immediate Past President, American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, ASPEN – 6,000 global members
2024-2025 President, American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition
2025-present Co-Chair, Global Leadership in Malnutrition for Pediatrics, ESPEN/ASPEN
2024-present Council Member, European Society for Clinical Nutrition & Metabolism, ESPEN
2022 - 2023 Vice President, American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition

Program Development, Education, and Physician-Scientist Leadership:

2024-present Founder & Director, PIONEER International Program
2024-present Founder & Director, ASPIRE (Advancing Student Participation in Research Excellence), SLU
2020 - 2023 Director, MD/PhD Program, Saint Louis University, School of Medicine

NASPGHAN Roles: Professional Development Committee; NASPGHAN Foundation Young Investigator Grant Reviewer; Co-Chair, Research Resources Subcommittee; Member, Research Committee.

II. EDUCATION

Executive, Administrative, and Financial Leadership Training:

2025 - 2026 Pediatric Leadership Development Program, Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs (AMSPDC)
2022 - 2023 Division Director Cohort, AMSPDC
2018 - 2021 Master of Health Administration (MHA), Saint Louis University

Medical and Research Training:

2007 - 2009 Postdoctoral Research, Texas Children's Hospital, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
2006 - 2009 Postdoctoral Clinical Fellow, Texas Children's Hospital, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX: Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
2004 - 2006 Pediatric Resident, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, GA.
2001 - 2004 Senior Research Fellow, (ICMR), Diplomate of National Board, Pediatrics, New Delhi
1999 - 2003 Pediatric Resident, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi
1992 - 1998 Medical School, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi

III. RECENT AWARDS AND HONORS

Awards: 2026 Saint Louis Metropolitan Medical Society - Award of Merit
2023 Richard J. Grand and John B. Watkins Award, NASPGHAN
2023 Transplant Visionaries Challenge Award, American Society of Transplantation (AST)
2023 Best of ASPEN, Pediatrics and Neonatal
2022 Best Doctor award
2021 Gerard Odell Prize for Excellence in Liver Research, NASPGHAN
2020 International Stanley J Dudrick Award: Stanley J Dudrick Research Scholar Award, ASPEN

Honors: 2026 Fellow, American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition
2024 Council member: The European Society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism
2024 Dean's Award for Research: Saint Louis University
2023 Fellow, Saint Louis University, Research Institute

IV. FEDERAL PEER REVIEW AND REGULATORY SERVICE

NIH Study Section: ZRG1 EMS-Q, 2026
FDA Grant Application Review Panel, Food and Drug Administration's Office of Orphan Products Development (OOPD), FDA, 2026

NIH Standing Study Section Member: DDC-K (2024-2025)
NIH Loan Repayment program Scientific Review Group 2024: Member 2024
NIH Special Emphasis Panel/Scientific Review Group 2024 DDK-C: Member 2024
NIH Kidney, Urology and Digestive Systems (KUDS). Special Emphasis Panel: Member 2023
NIH Special Emphasis Panel/Scientific Review Group 2023/05 DDK-C: Member 2023
NIH ZRG1 KUDS: 2022; Digestive and Nutrient Physiology and Diseases (DNPD): Member: 2022

V. RESEARCH FUNDING

Selected ongoing and completed projects:

NIH R01 DK131136-01 Jain AK (PI)
9/22/2021 - 7/31/2027: Role of bile acid receptors FXR and TGR5 in preventing injury in short bowel syndrome

NIH R01DK119147 Elgendy, BE, Randolph G, Jain AK (Multi-PI)
3/01/2024 – 2/28/2029: Intestinally restricted LXR agonism in ameliorating liver failure in short gut syndrome

NIH R21AI169487-01 Jain AK (PI)
2/1/2022 - 1/31/2024: Role of intestinal microbiota in driving injury mechanisms in short bowel syndrome

NIH P01AG078106-01 Randolph (PI), Jain AK (Co-I)
08/2022 - 08/2026: Neuroimmunology of AD and CAA with focus on innate immunity and lymphatics

NIH U01 AI163064-01 Randolph (PI), Jain AK (Co-I)
08/2021 - 08/2025: Gut region-specific mechanisms that limit dissemination of microbial signals from intestine.

NIH R03 DK121046-01 Jain AK (PI)
04/2019-04/2022: Role of gut microbiota in total parenteral nutrition associated injury

NIH U01-DK61718 Neuschwander-Tetri (PI), Jain AK (Site PI)
07/01/2011-Current: Multicenter studies on etiology, contributing factors, natural history, and treatment of NASH.

Clinical Innovation Fund, Mid America Transplant Jain AK (Co-PI), Nazal M (Co-PI)
07/2024-06/2027: Role of Nanocomposite Tagged Deferoxamine in Mitigating Hepatic Ischemia Reperfusion Injury, Using a Novel Normothermic Machine Perfusion Pump

Clinical Innovation Fund, Mid America Transplant Jain AK (PI)
2018-2023: Cytokeratin 18 as a biomarker for rejection in liver transplantation.

Clinical Innovation Fund, Mid America Transplant Jain AK (Co-PI), Nazal M (Co-PI)
07/2020-06/2024: Role of ferroptosis in mitigating ischemia-reperfusion injury in marginal livers using PROTECT.

Mirum Pharmaceuticals Jain AK (PI)
2025 – 2027: Role of IBAT modulators in regulating injury mechanisms in short bowel syndrome

NIH R13DK124950-01 Jain AK (PI)
2020 – 2021: Novel Nutritional Status Biomarkers.

NIH K08DK098623 Jain AK (PI)
2016 – 2021: Role of the bile acid activated receptors FXR and TGR5 in Total Parenteral Nutrition associated hepatic and gut disease.

NIH R13DK109671-01 Jain AK (PI)
2017 – 2018: Gastric Bypass: Role of the Gut. 2017.

NIH-1R03EB015955-01 Jain AK (Co-I)
2015 – 2017: Enhancing Health Care Access with Cellular Technology.

Zealand Pharmaceuticals Jain AK (PI)
2018-2020: Role of novel gut growth promoters in intestinal rehabilitation

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Jain AK (Co-I)
2017 – 2019: Grand Challenges Explorations, Improving Childhood Immunizations with Cellular Technology

NASPGHAN Young Investigator Award/Nestle Nutrition Award Jain AK (PI)
2014 – 2016: Role of Bile Acids in Preventing PN Associated Disorders

VI. MENTORSHIP AND TRAINING

Recent Protégé

Mentored Career Development Awards

NIH K08HL175196: 2026–2031 Chien-Jung Lin, MD, PhD — NIH/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute “Extracellular Matrix in Vascular Development and Disease.” Role: Primary Mentor. Jain AK

Physician Scientists:

2025-Current Ohkura, Takahiro, MD, PhD: Role of gut restricted FXR ligands in IFALD.
2025-Current Shun Onishi, MD, PhD: Deferoxamine tagged nanoparticles to modulate ferroptosis.
2024-Current Ashlesha Bagwe, MD: Developing organoids for interrogating gut-systemic signaling.
2022-Current Chien-Jung Lin, MD, PhD: Extracellular matrix in vascular development and disease
2021-2025 Kento Kurashima, MD PhD: PROTECT: Assessing ischemia reperfusion injury mechanisms.
2022-2023 Daniel Goldenberg, MD: Role of gut-brain axis in short bowel syndrome.
2020-2021 Jeffrey Salomon, MD: Effect of cardiopulmonary bypass during surgery on intestinal microbiome.
2019-2020 Christine Denton, MD: Role of fecal transplantation in TPN associated injury.

Clinical Faculty: Jonathan Rodrigues, MD; Timothy Blaufuss, MD; Abhineet Sharma, MD; Aayush Mittal, MD; David Westrich, MD; Nitin Tillam, MD

Trainees on research grants / research protocols:

2022-2025: Emily Duncan, Madeline Huber, Maya Hines, Simi Doshi, Shailie Shah, Yuwan Chali, Mira Iyer, Janvi Patel, Sungho Son, Ashish Allu, Neel Nayak, Nishika Moradia, Siri Battula, Cedric Bruges, Taylor Soukup, Shree Kolli, Ashish Samaddar, Rabiah Fresco, Margarita Fedorova, Marcus Voigt

Entered Fellowship / Residency Positions Recently: Jun Ik, Robert Leuong, Matthew Westrich, Katie Forest, Salim Munoz, Hector Osei, Pranjali Rajalakshmi, Aditya Suresh, Yogi Patel

Directorship of the MD/PhD Program:

MD/PhD Students: Lindsay Vinarsik, Reagan McGuffee, Elisabeth DeMarco, Stella Hoft, Robert Kousnetsov, Alex Piening, Monica Goodland, Andy Wu, Emily Cybulla, Zachary Grese, Jessica Bourque, Valerio Rasi, Meghan Murray, Michelle Bach, Kevin Bockerstett, Stephen Grote, Daniel Pike, Nick Steinauer

Students receiving NIH F-30 Grants: Kevin Bockerstett; Daniel Pike; Valerio Rasi; Emily Cybulla; Stella Hoft, Monica Goodland, Reagan McGuffee

VII. SELECTED INVITED NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS (> 75 total)

2026 Composite Linear Increment Plan for Physician and Physician Scientists. Pediatric Leadership Development Program, Denver 2026
2025 Presidential Address: A Gut Feeling – The Story of Short Bowel Syndrome. American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, Columbus, 2025.
2025 NASPGHAN: An Innovative DREAM Promotes Intestinal Adaptation and Prevents Liver Injury in Short Bowel Syndrome. Chicago, 2025.
2024 ESPEN: Post-Pyloric Intestinal Microbiota Delivery Ameliorates Parenteral Nutrition Associated Gut Atrophy and Hepatic Cholestasis. Milan, Italy, 2024.
2024 Biomarkers and Therapeutics: Future of Intestinal Failure Management. Mexico City, Mexico, 2024.
2024 Impact of Malnutrition in the Pediatric Patient. Malaysia, 2024
2024 Keynote Speaker: Current updates in Pediatric Metabolic Syndrome. South Korea, 2024
2024 Novel Biomarkers for Intestinal Failure Associated Liver Disease, Jordan, 2024

VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Selected Recent Peer-Reviewed Publications (> 90 total)

Mehta S, Kurashima K, Manithody C, Ohkura T, Morfin S, Bagwe A, Syn M, Sims A, Kolli S, Whalen C, Jain A, Guzman M, Besmer S, Jain S, Buchanan P, Pereira K, Lin C-J, Hartmann B, Holst JJ, Long J, Miyata S, McHale M, Hutchinson C, **Jain AK**. DREAM promotes intestinal adaptation and restores enterohepatic signaling in short bowel syndrome. *Gastroenterology*. Jun 10 2026;doi:10.1053/j.gastro.2026.05.024. PMID 42269947

Huneault H, Tiwari P, Jarrell Z, Smith M, Chen CY, Ramirez TA, Sanchez TC, Gillespie S, Bai S, Carrillo LR, **Jain AK**, Yates K, Tetri B, Schwimmer J, Xanthakos S, Molleston J, Behling C, Fishbein M, Hartman T, Pasquel F, Kamaleswaran R, Jones D, Welsh J, Vos M. Clinically distinct metabotypes of pediatric MASLD identified through unsupervised clustering of NASH CRN data. *Nature Communications*. 2026 Feb 24; PMID: 41735280.

Lam TBN, Yates KP, Noon SL, Newton KP, Fishbein MH, Molleston JP, Xanthakos SA, **Jain AK**, Vos MB, Blondet NM, Mysore KR, Behling CA, Wilson LA, Schwimmer JB; NASH CRN. Reclassifying pediatric NAFLD using the steatotic liver disease framework: a multicenter retrospective study. *Hepatology*. 2025 Oct 17. PMID: 41104541.

Manithody C, Denton C, Mehta S, Carter J, Kurashima K, Bagwe A, McHale M, Long J, Hutchinson C, Ericsson A, **Jain AK**. Intra duodenal Fecal Microbiota Transplantation Ameliorates Gut Atrophy and Cholestasis in a Novel Parenteral Nutrition Piglet Model. *Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol*. 2024 Nov 1;327(5). PMID: 39163019

Plata GAB, Prado RL, Deleyto SN, Sanz A, García F, Calle AC, Silva C, Caleiras E, Castro O, Leiva L, **Jain AK**, Sabio G, Efeyan A. Regulation of nutrient and hormone signaling to mTORC1 in hepatocytes instructs the postnatal metabolic zonation of the liver. *Nature Communications*. 2024 Mar 18;15(1):1878. PMID: 38499523

Jain AK, Busgang SA, Gennings C, Yates KP, Schwimmer JB, Rosenthal P, Murray KF, Molleston JP, Scheimann A, Xanthakos SA, Behling C, Carpenter D, Fishbein M, Tetri BA, Tonasia J, Vos MB. Environmental toxicants modulate disease severity in pediatric metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr*. 2024 Nov;79(5):943-953. PMID: 39282813

Jain AK, Buchanan P, Yates K, Belt P, Schwimmer J, Rosenthal P, Murray K, Molleston J, Scheimann A, Xanthakos S, Behling C, Hertel P, Nilson J, Tetri B, Tonascia J, Vos MB Nutrition Assessment and MASH Severity in Children Using the Healthy Eating Index. *Hepatology Commun*. 2023 Dec 7;7(12). PMID: 38055641

Wang A, Blackford AL, Behling C, Wilson LA, Newton KP, Xanthakos SA, Fishbein MH, Vos MB, Mouzaki M, Molleston JP, **Jain AK**, Hertel P, Harlow Adams K, Schwimmer JB; NASH CRN. Development of Fibro-PeN, a clinical prediction model for moderate-to-severe fibrosis in children with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. *Hepatology*. 2024 Jun 1;79(6):1381-1392. PMID: 37870272

Samaddar, A, Nispen J, Armstrong A, Song E, Voigt M, Murali V, Krebs J, Manithody C, Denton C, Ericsson A, **Jain AK**. Lower systemic inflammation is associated with gut firmicutes dominance and reduced liver injury in a novel ambulatory model of parenteral nutrition. *Ann Med*. 2022 Dec;54(1):1701-1713. PMID: 35706376

Song E, Nagarapu A, Nispen J, Armstrong A, Manithody C, Murali V, Voigt M, Samaddar A, Hutchinson C, Jain S, Roenker J, Krebs J, **Jain AK**. Carbamazepine Reduces Parenteral Nutrition Associated Liver Disease in a Piglet Model of Total Parenteral Nutrition. *JPEN* 2022 Aug;46(6):1384-1392. PMID: 35072265

Vos MB, Van Natta ML, Blondet NM, Dasarathy S, Fishbein M, Hertel P, **Jain AK**, Karpen SJ, Lavine JE, Mohammad S, Miriel LA, Molleston JP, Mouzaki M, Sanyal A, Sharkey EP, Schwimmer JB, et al. Randomized placebo-controlled trial of losartan for pediatric NAFLD. *Hepatology*. 2022 Aug;76(2):429-444. PMID: 35133671.

Nazzal M, Madsen EC, Armstrong A, Nispen J, Murali V, Song E, Voigt M, Madnawat H, Welu A, Manithody C, Suri A, Krebs J, Gilbert E, Blackall D, Carpenter D, Varma C, Teckman JT, **Jain AK**. Novel normothermic perfusion split liver model recapitulates human ischemia-reperfusion injury and demonstrates ferroptosis modulators as a new therapeutic strategy. (Featured Cover) *Pediatr Transplant*. 2022 Mar;26(2):e14164. PMID: 34633130

Salomon JD, Ericsson A, Price A, Manithody C, Murray DJ, Chhonker, Buchanan P, Lindsey M, Singh AB, **Jain AK**. Dysbiosis and Intestinal Barrier Dysfunction in Pediatric Congenital Heart Disease is Exacerbated Following Cardiopulmonary Bypass. *JACC Basic Transl Sci*. 2021;6(4):311-327. PMC8093480

Newton KP, Lavine J, Wilson L, Behling CA, Vos MB, Molleston JP, Rosenthal P, Miloh T, Fishbein MH, **Jain AK**, Murray KF, Schwimmer JB. Alanine Aminotransferase and Gamma Glutamyl Transpeptidase Predict Histologic Improvement in Pediatric Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis. *Hepatology*. 2021 Mar;73(3):937-951. PMID: 32416645

Jain AK, Anand R, Lerret S, Yanni G, Chen J, Mohammad S, Doyle M, Telega G, Horslen S. Outcomes following liver transplantation in young infants: Data from SPLIT. *Am J Transplant*. 2021 Mar;21(3). PMID: 32767649.

IX. PATENTS, INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

1. **Lead inventor: US Patent No. 12,642,527**, DREAM - Distal Recirculation of Enteral contents Augmented Mechanically.
2. **Lead inventor: Pending patent US63/603,885**, Biliary Atresia Through Targeted Endothelial Destruction.
3. **Lead co-inventor: Pending patent US63/136,165**, PROTECT: Perfusion Regulated Organ Therapeutics with Enhanced Controlled Testing.
4. **Co-Inventor: Gut-restricted LXR agonist and LXR inverse agonist**. US 18/997,728. Docket No. 047563-733937.
5. **Betaru: A cordless Stethoscope (Telemedicine): Jain AK**
6. **Doctor 3.0: Medical Software: Jain AK, co-inventor (GOI - Copyright Office Reg. No. L-15696/96)**

