

EASL Awardee 2006

Professor Jaime Bosch, MD, PhD



Jaime Bosch was born on August 10, 1947, in Girona, in the north of Catalonia. He attended the I.N.E.M. Girona High School and obtained his Bachiller (BS) in 1964. He was the top graduate at the University of Barcelona Medical School in 1970. He immediately took the opportunity to undertake research completing a PhD on the Hepatorenal Syndrome in 1973. He then started his clinical training in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology at the Hospital Clinic, University of Barcelona, which he completed in 1979. He became a Faculty member at the Liver Unit at Hospital Clinic University of Barcelona in 1979, at the start of what became a power-house in Hepatology on a world level, and in 1980 became Associate Professor of Medicine.

From 1980 to 1982 he had one of the most formative periods in his research career as a post doctoral fellow in the laboratory of Professor Roberto Grozsmann, at the Liver unit of Yale University School of Medicine. During this period, he furthered his interests in hepatic haemodynamics and portal hypertension just as the discovery of nitric oxide in vascular biology was actively being exploited. Professor Roberto Grozsmann became a firm friend and future collaborator in many projects and he himself spent a sabbatical period in Professor J. Bosch's laboratory in 1989. This friendship is one of the special ones in medicine.

On his return to Barcelona, Jaime Bosch set about building up his laboratory. In 1985 he became Professor

of Medicine, at the University of Barcelona, and was granted a full chair in 2003. During this period, he became Acting Chief of the Liver Unit in Barcelona, Senior consultant hepatologist, and took a sabbatical at Yale in the year 1999–2000.

Professor Jaime Bosch has been, and continues to be, active in Spanish Medicine. In 1995 he was appointed National Health Research Program Manager until 1998, and then he was advisor to the Ministry of Education and Culture, and to the Director of IDIBAPS (his mentor, Professor Juan Rodés). In 2003 he became Scientific Co-ordinator of National Research in Gastroenterology and Hepatology. In 2005 he was advisor to the Commission of Co-operative Medical Research, Instituto de Salud Carlos III, and Member of the Council for Scientific policy at the Ministry of Health. He was President of the Catalan Society of Gastroenterology between 1996 and 1998, Member of the Scientific Committee of EASL between 1980 and 1983. He has been Associate Editor for *Hepatology* (1996–2001), *Seminars Liver Disease* (1999–2004) and since 2004, the *Journal of Hepatology*.

Alongside these commitments, Professor Jaime Bosch has developed one of the most famous research centres for the study of portal hypertension both in animal models and in the clinical setting worldwide, training numerous research fellows, integrating new discoveries in vascular biology into the field.

His major research interests have included intrahepatic resistance, formation of collaterals, the management of bleeding varices, the development of non-invasive measurement of variceal pressure (Varipress), effects of cellular and molecule adhesion to the hepatic vascular bed during injury, the clinical importance of measuring portal pressure and the development of potential new therapies, most recently statin agents.

The clinical impact of all this research is considerable, with 16 randomized clinical trials being published, all of which improved the treatment for patients. In addition he is an active international collaborator with the Liver

Units in Yale, Faulkner Hospital and the Royal Free Hospital. An 8 year National Institute of Health Grant was used to study the natural history, and role of pharmacological intervention in cirrhotic patients with raised portal pressure but without varices. This has already led to a publication in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Since 1974, Professor J. Bosch has published over 250 peer-reviewed papers and editorials including 82 in *Hepatology* and 40 in *Gastroenterology*, 36 in *Journal of Hepatology* and 9 in the *American Journal of Physiology*. This is a tremendous recorded testament to the extremely high quality and innovative nature of his research, with over 10% of his publications being published in the last 30 months!

No man is an island, and this aphorism is no more true than for Jaime Bosch. He was nurtured in the embryonic stage of the Liver Unit at Hospital Clinic in Barcelona, headed by Professor J. Rodés, who with Professor V. Arroyo and Professor R. Groszmann are his mentors. Back then, he was part of the tremendous growth of the Unit, and is now an integral part of its global reputation. During this development, he has been supported, helped and encouraged not only by his mentors, but by his colleagues J. Bruix, P. Ginés, A. Rimola, M. Navasa, W. Jimenez, R. Planas, J. Teres and M. Bruguera, not to mention his numerous fellows, foremost amongst whom is J.C. García-Pagan, and international collaborators myself included.

Those of us in the field of portal hypertension but also hepatologists salute Jaime for being honoured by EASL acknowledging he is still forging ahead – this is not a retirement recognition but one recognizing his continued contribution to European and world hepatology.

Congratulations.

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