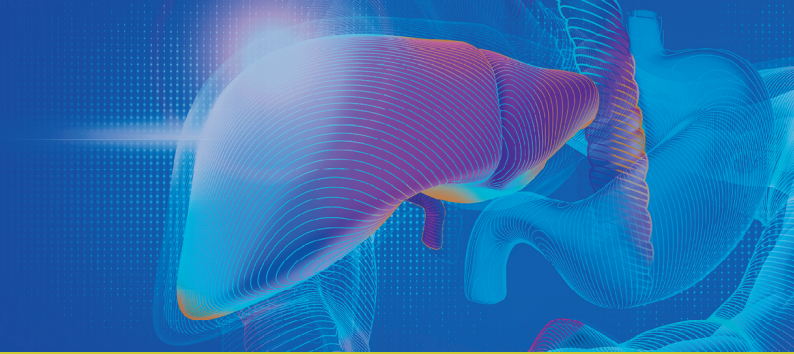


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## Dr Falk/Guts UK Awards 2024

### SPR TRAINEE AUDIT/QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AWARD : DR LAURA BURKE

**PROJECT:**  
Alcohol related LivER disease audiT : ALERT-UK



*Dr Laura Burke is a gastroenterology specialist registrar in the Yorkshire deanery and has completed an advanced hepatology training post on the Leeds Liver Unit. She is a current trainee representative for the BASL ArLD special interest group and has worked closely with them in the development of this collaborative project.*

**Dr Burke explains:**

'ArLD is the most common cause of liver related morbidity and mortality in the UK and deaths from ArLD have doubled in the last decade. The management of ArLD requires treatment of both liver disease and alcohol use; but previous published work has identified significant shortcomings and inequalities in care for this patient group.

'ALERT UK is a nationwide multi-centre audit designed to evaluate the current standards of care for patients admitted to UK hospitals with alcohol related liver disease (ArLD). Our project aims to identify shortfalls in care to highlight areas for targeted improvement in hospital care.

'Quality standards and key performance indicators for inpatient ArLD management have been developed by a multidisciplinary group of experts from the British Association for the Study of the Liver (BASL), British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG), The British Liver Trust and patient representatives.

'In this project, we aim to assess the current standards of care for people admitted to hospital with ArLD against these national quality standards. All UK hospitals involved in treating inpatients with ArLD are eligible to participate and we are keen to encourage all disciplines of health professionals involved in the care of patients with ArLD to get involved.

'The project has received widespread support from national societies with endorsement from the BSG, BASL and TORCH UK and we hope

to build on the considerable achievements of previous trainee led hepatology projects in the UK to continue to expand the trainee network.

'We have already conducted a pilot audit at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, which has confirmed that the patient identification method is reliable, accurate and easy to use for centre informatics teams. The pilot results indicate poor compliance with the written information aspects of the quality standards, and it is anticipated this is likely to be a UK wide issue. In recognition of this we intend to develop resources (in print and online) to support patients to understand their health in the transition from hospital to the community. We've also recognised the need for patient and public involvement in the project as the next step before launching.

'We hope the audit will deliver impactful and representative data and the more sites that join us, the greater the opportunity to identify areas for future service improvement for patients with ArLD.'

**Dr Burke's Supervisor, Richard Parker, Consultant Hepatologist, Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust comments:**

'Dr Burke's award will allow her to pursue a national audit that will examine the management of alcohol related liver disease (ArLD). ArLD is a common cause of ill-health and premature mortality, especially in areas of high deprivation. Dr Burke's project to review practice on a large scale is a vital step towards improving outcomes for people who live with ArLD.

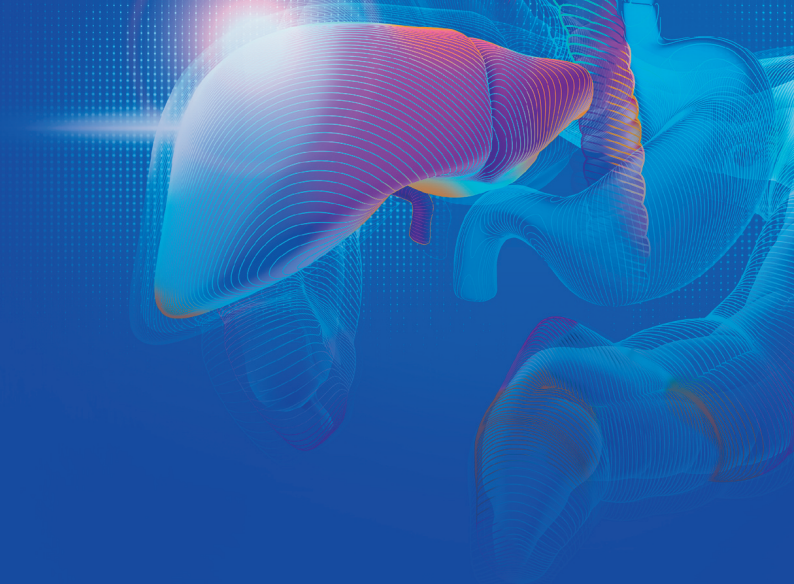
'Dr Burke has driven the design of this national audit in addition to her specialist training, showcasing her leadership and communication skills and confirming that she is a rising star in hepatology.'

**Dr Burke states:**

'I am incredibly grateful to have received the Dr Falk / Guts UK Award and for the recognition of the ALERT - UK project from the committee. The award will provide valuable support for the continued development of the project and also provide a platform to publicise the audit to reach as many UK hospital sites as possible.'



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Together we *do more*.



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**Formulation**



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