

HANS POPPER HEPATOPATHOLOGY SOCIETY



President's Message:

Dear Members, Colleagues and Friends,

It is an honor and privilege to be nominated as the 2026-2028 President of the Hans Popper Hepatopathology Society. Please allow me to briefly introduce myself and present my credentials to you, the members.

Currently, I am a faculty member in the Department of Pathology at Emory University, where I moved after nineteen and a half years at Indiana University School of Medicine preceded by 3 years at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. The outstanding medical, surgical and transplant liver teams at these institutions fed my professional interest in liver pathology and nurtured my soul. Most of my training was similarly focused exclusively on liver pathology: 3 years as Senior Registrar/Lecturer at the Institute of Liver Studies, King's College Hospital, London and 2 years as Fellow in Liver Pathology and Gene Therapy at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. A one-year fellowship in GI pathology at Yale University taught me to be kind to luminal GI pathology.

August 2026

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I am grateful to previous HPHS leadership for expanding the society's educational footprint. Internationally, HPHS is regularly present at the ESP, IAP Thailand and IAP Australia, and nationally at ASCP, CAP and most importantly, at AASLD through its Community Conversations forum. Our flagship educational event, the HPHS companion meeting at USCAP, continues to draw unexpectedly large audiences, consisting of a healthy mix of devoted followers, the newly initiated and the recently curious. The regional webinars initiated two years ago continue to offer high-value educational content.

We are now at an opportune moment to create a safe and welcoming space for meeting and mingling of the society's members, where they may exchange ideas and create lasting

connections. As USCAP expands its own educational offerings, the companion meeting is now halved from 4 hours to 2 with, distressingly, no coffee break. Not everyone can jet off to places far and near, so how about meeting as a wider community somewhere in the heart of the United States to enjoy a good meal with friends while unwrapping a challenging idea, particularly one that involves liver pathology? To foster this community of members, I presented a proposal for an annual retreat to the HPHS executive committee, which was not only wholeheartedly accepted but also empowered at every stage. Thank you Maha, Daniela and Sadhna, as well as close friends and hubby I consulted privately, for hearing me out, encouraging me and offering invaluable suggestions. My local companion-in-crime for organizing the retreat is Dr. Wei Zheng, who not only accompanies me to site visits, but also gently steers me away from precipitous ideas to more stable thoughts.

The first retreat is being planned in Atlanta for reasons both logistic and holistic. Our physical presence in Atlanta allows easy recon of event spaces and catering; after all, what is community without food?! Atlanta is a major airline hub with the busiest airport in the world and I can personally vouch to its claim at being

the most efficient. Atlanta is home to Delta, which is usually voted among the best domestic carriers as well as the “most-on-time” domestic airline; it is also the most expensive (personal experience). Atlanta is more likely to be snow-free in December than a lot of other places in the United States, although climate change alarms us enough to not have donated our Indiana snow shovels just yet. Pleasantly surprising has been the infrastructure available at Emory University to organize a successful meeting.

We warmly welcome you to Atlanta on Dec 5-6, 2026 for the first Annual Retreat of the Hans Popper Hepatology Society. Since we are not sure how useful, memorable or valuable this will prove for our members, we have reserved a modest sized venue for this debut year, which unfortunately limits number of attendees. Once membership decides the value, or lack thereof, of an annual retreat, we can scale up this event or eliminate it from our calendars and collective thoughts next year. If deemed valuable enough, we promise to reach for the sky.

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to serve as President of HPHS, thank you Dr. Jain for nominating me. It is the only title that I have ever aspired to, as hepatology is the only field that offers me a true sense of belonging and one in which I can claim some modest measure of excellence. Over three decades of what I lightly describe as forced servitude to the cause of luminal GI (and pancreas) pathology, I have certainly gained a respectable degree of expertise in those specialties as well. Regrettably, it is a fact that the soul refuses to entertain or even acknowledge. Such intrusive thoughts are a sure signal that I must stop and sign off while my brain still retains a residual measure of equanimity.

Until next time, please accept my best wishes to each and every one of you,

Romil
President, HPHS

Romil Saxena, MD, FRCPath
Professor of Pathology
Director, Liver Pathology
Director, Gastrointestinal and Liver Pathology Fellowship

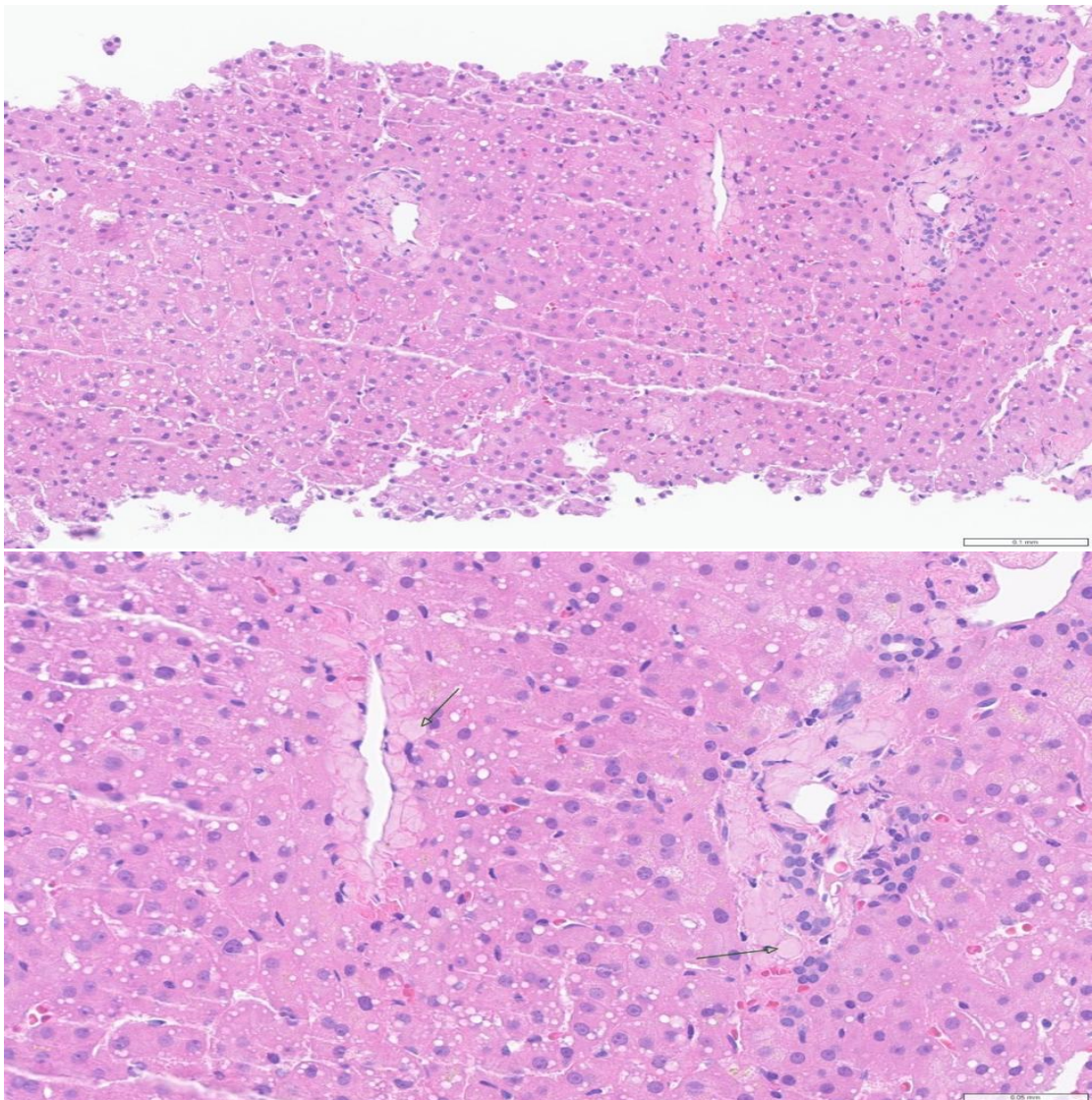
1364 Clifton Road NE, Room H182-A
Atlanta, GA 30322
Phone: 404 712 8585
romil.saxena@emory.edu

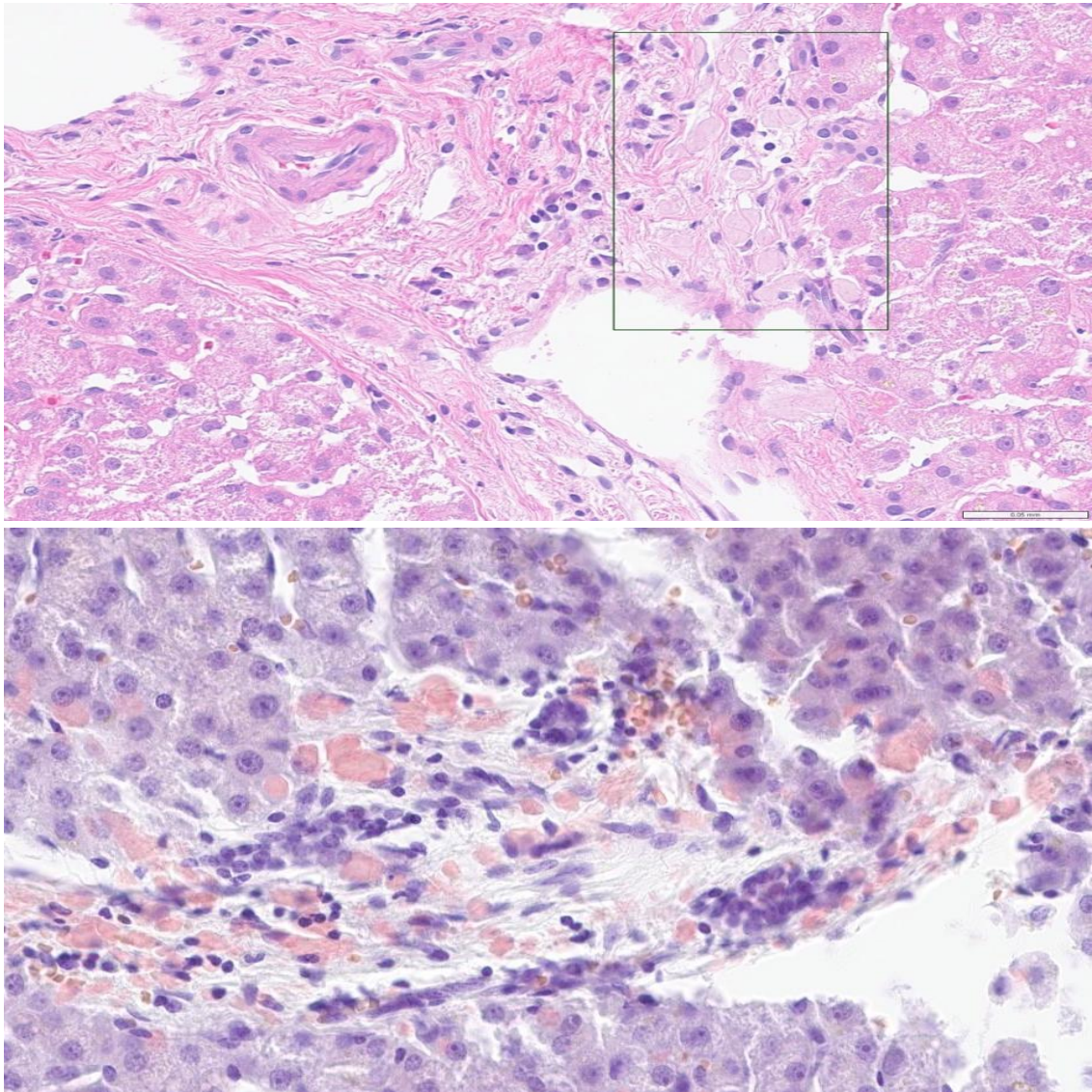


Interesting Case Presentation

Clinical history

A 47-year-old female with history of primary biliary cholangitis (PBC)-autoimmune hepatitis (AIH) overlap syndrome status post liver transplantation 8 years ago presented with confusion spells, headaches, jaundice and general malaise. Liver function tests were elevated (total bilirubin 7.2, ALT 217, AST 323, alkaline phosphatase 1351). Liver Doppler ultrasound was concerning for underlying cirrhosis and an MRCP showed moderate narrowing of the biliary anastomosis but no upstream ductal dilatation. The patient underwent EUS guided liver biopsy.





What is your diagnosis?

Log on to the HPHS website to read the discussion of this case.

Case contributed by

Ruchi Patel MD

Gastrointestinal and Liver Pathology Fellow 2025-26
Mayo Clinic, Arizona

HPHS newsletter case contribution

We will be happy to feature your interesting cases in our future Newsletters.
Please submit your cases to HPHS newsletter committee chair, Michael Lee,
via email mjl2197@cumc.columbia.edu

Committees:

Executive Committee

President: Romil Saxena

Vice President: Daniela Allende

Past President: Maha Guindi

Secretary-Treasurer: Sadhna Dhingra

Education Committee

Chair: Xuchen Zhang

Members: Ryan Gill, Xiuli Liu

Journal Watch Subcommittee: Juan Putra (Journal Watch Editor), Nigar Khurram, Angela Shih, Clifton Fulmer, Yuanxin Liang, Camila Simoes, Beena Ahsan, Shefali Chopra, Xiaoyan Liao, Kwun Wah Wen

Membership Committee

Chair: Shaomin Hu

Members: Purva Gopal, Paula Vieira Teixeira Vidigal, Paola Mattiolo

Newsletter/Publications Committee

Chair: Michael Lee

Members: Brent Larson, Marcela Salomao, Iván A González

Website Committee

Chair: Ashley Stueck

Members: Phoenix Bell, Lindsey Westbrook, Kathleen Byrnes

Survey Committee

Chair: Deepti Dhall

Members: Amarpreet Bhalla, Mojgan Hosseini

Upcoming Meetings

- **2026 (Inaugural) Annual Retreat of the Hans Popper Hepatopathology Society, Emory Conference Center, Silverbell Pavilion, Atlanta, GA (USA), December 5-6, 2026**
- USCAP: Liver Pathology - All You Need to Know (And No More), USCAP Interactive Center, Palm Springs, California (USA), September 16-18, 2026
- CAP26 Annual Meeting: College of American Pathologists; Wynn Las Vegas, NV, USA; October 3-6, 2026
- The Liver Meeting (TLM) 2026, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD), Denver, CO, USA; November 5-9, 2026
- ASCP: 2026 Annual Meeting, Montréal Convention Centre, Montréal, Quebec (Canada), November 17-20, 2026

Also on the website...

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Visit the HPHS website to browse the bimonthly Journal Watch prepared by your Education Committee! 17 journals publishing on Hepatopathology are reviewed for the most salient articles on our field. The articles are summarized by the Education Committee and a direct PubMed link to the article is provided.

Reminder

Please be sure to pay your membership dues (100% tax deductible). The dues pay for the Society's proceedings including the reception, abstract awards and website.

Thank you!