



Latin American Association of Pediatrics (ALAPE) endorses the MAFLD definition of fatty liver disease

To the Editor:

We read with great interest the statement of the Chinese Society of Hepatology endorsing the new metabolic dysfunction-associated fatty liver disease (MAFLD) (The Spanish translation is “Hígado graso asociado a disfunción metabólica”) definition of fatty liver disease.¹ In this letter, the Latin American Pediatric Association (ALAPE) announces our full endorsement of the MAFLD definition. Our statement and the Chinese statement add to growing list of similar endorsements by other liver societies including the Latin American Association for study of the Liver,² the Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver,³ the African Middle East Association of Gastroenterology,⁴ and experts from sub-Saharan African,⁵ among others.

This standpoint is based on taking in account all the positive information related to the new definition of MAFLD. MAFLD constitutes a more appropriate term to name the liver disease associated with metabolic dysfunction and provides simple and practical diagnostic criteria for the disease, in adults and children. More importantly, the MAFLD definition also performs better in head-to-head comparisons than the former NAFLD definition,⁶ which was confirmed in a recent meta-analysis.⁷ In addition, in a recent study, we found that 96% respondents indicated that they supported the proposed MAFLD diagnostic criteria and 74% believed that it would have a positive effect on disease awareness.⁸ In conclusion, we believe that the new MAFLD diagnostic criteria will be very helpful to improve disease awareness, diagnosis, risk stratification and treatment, and hence ALAPE has decided to endorse it.

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Conflict of interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Please refer to the accompanying ICMJE disclosure forms for further details.

Authors' contributions

NMS: Conceptualization and design, data collection and analysis, wrote the article's draft, critical revision and supervision of the article, final approval of the version to be published; SMG: final approval of the version to be published; CAR: final approval of the version to be published.

Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhep.2021.12.020>.

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Nahum Méndez-Sánchez^{1,2,*}

Stella Maris-Gil^{3,4}

Carlos G. Alonso-Rivera^{5,6}

¹National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico

²Liver Research Unit, Medica Sur Clinic & Foundation, Mexico City, Mexico

³Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina

⁴Hospital General de Niños Pedro de Elizalde. Buenos Aires, Argentina

⁵Hospital Angeles San Luis, San Luis Potosi, Mexico

⁶Current Latin American Association of Pediatrics (ALAPE) President

*Corresponding author. Address: Liver Research Unit, Medica Sur Clinic & Foundation and Faculty of Medicine. Puente de Piedra 150. Col. Toriello Guerra, Tlalpan, Mexico City, Mexico; Tel.: (+525) 55424-4629, fax: (+525) 55 666-4031.

E-mail addresses: nmendez@medicasur.org.mx, nah@unam.mx (N. Méndez-Sánchez)

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