Stanford



# Natalie Torok

Professor of Medicine (Gastroenterology and Hepatology)

Medicine - Gastroenterology & Hepatology


**CLINICAL OFFICE (PRIMARY)**

- **Liver Transplant Clinic**

  300 Pasteur Dr A160

  MC 5309

  Stanford, CA 94305

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**ACADEMIC CONTACT INFORMATION**

- **Administrative contact**

  Cynthia Cruise

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## Bio

### BIO

Dr. Torok's primary research interests are in the pathomechanisms of liver fibrosis and matrix remodeling, and exploring translational aspects to prevent or improve fibrosis.

Clinically, metabolic dysfunction associated steatohepatitis (MASH) is becoming the leading cause of chronic liver disease and liver cancer, and her lab is interested in deciphering how dynamic changes in the liver matrix accelerate this process in certain conditions such as type 2 diabetes. Of particular interest are studies on collagen architecture and connectivity and how these are implicated in mechano-sensing. They also explore aging-related metabolic pathways in wound healing and matrix remodeling processes, and how these intersect with innate immune responses in the liver. The third area of investigations focus on primary sclerosing cholangitis deciphering early events in the extracellular matrix that modulate disease progression. Based on these studies they are identifying targets to treat fibrosis, and are performing investigator-initiated clinical trials.

### CLINICAL FOCUS

- Hepatology
- Liver transplant

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor-Univ Med Line, Medicine - Gastroenterology & Hepatology
- Member, Bio-X
- Member, Maternal & Child Health Research Institute (MCHRI)
- Member, Stanford Cancer Institute

### ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Vice Chief of Research, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, (2020- present)
- Director of the T32 Program, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, (2019- present)
- Department of Medicine Team Science Division Representative, Department of Medicine, (2023- present)

### HONORS AND AWARDS

- Fellow, American Association for Studies of Liver Diseases (2016)
- elected member, American Society for Clinical Investigation (2014)
- Boris Ruebner and John Rosenquist Excellence in Teaching Award, UC Davis (2014)

### BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Associate Editor, Hepatology (2021 - present)
- Associate Editor, Seminars in Liver Disease (2017 - present)
- Associate Editor, Hepatology Communications (2017 - 2021)
- Associate Editor, American Journal of Physiology Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology (2015 - 2018)
- Data Monitoring Committee, NASH Clinical Research Network, NIH (2012 - present)
- Regular member, NIH HBPP Study Section (2012 - 2016)

### PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Board Certification: Gastroenterology, American Board of Internal Medicine (2025)
- Board Certification: Gastroenterology, American Board of Internal Medicine (2003)
- Residency: Mayo Clinic Internal Medicine Residency (1999) MN
- Board Certification, American Board of Internal Medicine , Gastroenterology (2004)
- Fellowship: Mayo Clinic Gastroenterology Fellowship (2003) MN
- Medical Education: Semmelweis Univ Med School (1988) Hungary

## Research & Scholarship

### CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Our laboratory focuses on the mechanism of liver fibrosis in metabolic associated steatohepatitis (MASH), and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). We are particularly interested in clinical conditions that are linked to accelerated fibrosis and higher cancer risk such as aging and type 2 diabetes (T2DM). Our goal is to uncover how biomechanical changes in the extracellular matrix (ECM), in particular, viscoelasticity affect mechano-sensation, and how these pathways could ultimately be targeted. We are exploring the changes in collagen architecture and the effects on viscoelasticity, guiding cancer invasion. We are also interested in aging, dysregulation of metabolic pathways and mitochondrial function and how these intersect with matrix changes in MASH and HCC.

Our other major focus is primary sclerosing cholangitis, to define early matrix changes and mechano-sensation. Our ultimate goal is translation and to develop new treatment approaches that reverse fibrosis and improve patient outcomes. To this end we have been pursuing translational efforts, and conducting investigator-initiated clinical trials exploring novel treatment and diagnostic strategies in MASH and PSC.

### CLINICAL TRIALS

- Novel MRE Technique to Assess a Risk Factor for Liver Cancer, Recruiting
- Oral Hymecromone to Treat Adolescents and Adults With Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis., Recruiting
- A Phase 3 Study Evaluating Efficacy and Safety of Lanifibranor Followed by an Active Treatment Extension in Adult Patients With (NASH) and Fibrosis Stages F2 and F3 ( NATiV3 ), Not Recruiting
- Study of Oral Idebenone to Treat Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis, Not Recruiting

# Teaching

## STANFORD ADVISEES

**Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor**

Byunghang Ha, Shuang Li

**Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (NonAC)**

Liam Cotter

**Doctoral (Program)**

Vidushi Bansal

## GRADUATE AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Gastroenterology & Hepatology (Fellowship Program)

# Publications

## PUBLICATIONS

- **T Cells Tear Apart Confining Extracellular Matrix Via a Breaststroke-like Motion to Generate Migration Paths.** *bioRxiv : the preprint server for biology*
  Ha, B., Xie, P., Johns, B., Allan, C., Korah, M., Delitto, D., Bollyky, P., Torok, N., Chaudhuri, O.
  2025
- **Optimal population screening strategies for liver fibrosis associated with metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease.** *The American journal of gastroenterology*
  Kim, W. R., Mannalithara, A., Charu, V., Chung, N., Kwong, A., Kwo, P. Y., Torok, N. J., Asch, S. M., Kim, S. H.
  2025
- **P46Shc Inhibits Mitochondrial ACAA2 Thiolase, Exacerbating Mitochondrial Injury and Inflammation in Aging Livers.** *The American journal of pathology*
  Li, Y., Fan, W., Lo, T. H., Jiang, J. X., Fish, S. R., Tomilov, A., Chronopoulos, A., Bansal, V., Mozes, G., Vancza, L., Kunimoto, K., Ye, J., Becker, et al
  2024
- **ECM1 attenuates hepatic fibrosis by interfering with mediators of latent TGF-β1 activation.** *Gut*
  Link, F., Li, Y., Zhao, J., Munker, S., Fan, W., Nwosu, Z. C., Yao, Y., Wang, S., Huang, C., Liebe, R., Hammad, S., Liu, H., Shao, et al
  2024
- **Metabolic dysfunction-associated liver disease and diabetes: Matrix remodeling, fibrosis, and therapeutic implications.** *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*
  Fan, W., Bradford, T. M., Török, N. J.
  2024
- **Matrix viscoelasticity promotes liver cancer progression in the pre-cirrhotic liver.** *Nature*
  Fan, W., Adebowale, K., Váncza, L., Li, Y., Rabbi, M. F., Kunimoto, K., Chen, D., Mozes, G., Chiu, D. K., Li, Y., Tao, J., Wei, Y., Adeniji, et al
  2024
- **Primary sclerosing cholangitis and the path to translation.** *The Journal of clinical investigation*
  Váncza, L., Torok, N. J.
  2023; 133 (17)
- **Shc is implicated in calreticulin-mediated sterile inflammation in alcoholic hepatitis.** *Cellular and molecular gastroenterology and hepatology*
  Li, Y., Jiang, J. X., Fan, W., Fish, S. R., Das, S., Gupta, P., Mozes, G., Vancza, L., Sarkar, S., Kunimoto, K., Chen, D., Park, H., Clemens, et al
  2022
- **Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease and Liver Fibrosis during Aging** *AGING AND DISEASE*
  Li, Y., Adeniji, N. T., Fan, W., Kunimoto, K., Torok, N. J.

2022

- **Editorial: Noninvasive Fibrosis Biomarkers in Patients With NASH With Diabetes.** *Hepatology communications*
  Fan, W., Torok, N. J.
  2021; 5 (4): 553–55
- **NADPH oxidase 4 (Nox4) deletion accelerates liver regeneration in mice**
  Herranz-Iturbide, M., Lopez-Luque, J., Gonzalez-Sanchez, E., Caballero-Diaz, D., Crosas-Molist, E., Martin-Mur, B., Gut, M., Esteve-Codina, A., Jaquet, V., Jiang, J., Torok, N. J., Fabregat, I.
  ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2021
- **Soluble epoxide hydrolase hepatic deficiency ameliorates alcohol-associated liver disease.** *Cellular and molecular gastroenterology and hepatology*
  Mello, A., Hsu, M., Koike, S., Chu, B., Cheng, J., Yang, J., Morisseau, C., Torok, N. J., Hammock, B. D., Haj, F. G.
  2020
- **Non-phagocytic Activation of NOX2 is Implicated in Progressive Non-alcoholic Steatohepatitis During Aging.** *Hepatology (Baltimore, Md.)*
  Jiang, J. X., Fish, S. R., Tomilov, A. n., Li, Y. n., Fan, W. n., Dehnad, A. n., Gae, D. n., Das, S. n., Mozes, G. n., Charville, G. W., Ramsey, J. n., Cortopassi, G. n., Török, et al
  2020
- **AGER1 downregulation associates with fibrosis in nonalcoholic steatohepatitis and type 2 diabetes.** *The Journal of clinical investigation*
  Dehnad, A. n., Fan, W. n., Jiang, J. X., Fish, S. R., Li, Y. n., Das, S. n., Mozes, G. n., Wong, K. A., Olson, K. A., Charville, G. W., Ali, M. n., Török, N. J.
  2020
- **Digoxin improves steatohepatitis with differential involvement of liver cell subsets in mice through inhibition of PKM2 transactivation.** *American journal of physiology. Gastrointestinal and liver physiology*
  Zhao, P., Han, S., Arumugam, S., Yousaf, M. N., Qin, Y., Jiang, J. X., Torok, N. J., Chen, Y., Mankash, M. S., Liu, J., Li, J., Iwakiri, Y., Ouyang, et al
  2019
- **P300, A New Player in Mechanosensitivity and Activation of Cancer-Associated Fibroblasts.** *Gastroenterology*
  Torok, N. J.
  2018; 154 (8): 2025-2026
- **Digoxin Suppresses Pyruvate Kinase M2-Promoted HIF-1α Transactivation in Steatohepatitis.** *Cell metabolism*
  Ouyang, X., Han, S. N., Zhang, J. Y., Dioletis, E., Nemeth, B. T., Pacher, P., Feng, D., Bataller, R., Cabezas, J., Stärkel, P., Caballeria, J., LePine Pongratz, R., Cai, et al
  2018; 27 (5): 1156
- **Hepatocyte Nicotinamide Adenine Dinucleotide Phosphate Reduced Oxidase 4 Regulates Stress Signaling, Fibrosis, and Insulin Sensitivity During Development of Steatohepatitis in Mice** *GASTROENTEROLOGY*
  Bettaieb, A., Jiang, J. X., Sasaki, Y., Chao, T., Kiss, Z., Chen, X., Tian, J., Katsuyama, M., Yabe-Nishimura, C., Xi, Y., Szyndralewiez, C., Schroeder, K., Shah, et al
  2015; 149 (2): 468-?
- **Strategies and endpoints of antifibrotic drug trials: Summary and recommendations from the AASLD Emerging Trends Conference, Chicago, June 2014** *HEPATOLOGY*
  Torok, N. J., Dranoff, J. A., Schuppan, D., Friedman, S. L.
  2015; 62 (2): 627-634
- **Phagocytosis of apoptotic bodies by human stellate cells induces NADPH oxidase activation.**
  Torok, N. J., Wu, J., Zern, M. A., Friedman, S. L., Zhan, S. S.
  JOHN WILEY & SONS INC.2004: 532A-533A
- **Genetic and pharmacological inactivation of soluble epoxide hydrolase ameliorates diet-induced MASH.** *Journal of biomedical science*
  Mello, A., Hsu, M. F., Yang, J., Torok, N., Hammock, B., Haj, F. G.
  2026; 33 (1)
- **Author Correction: Matrix viscoelasticity promotes liver cancer progression in the pre-cirrhotic liver.** *Nature*
  Fan, W., Adebowale, K., Váncza, L., Li, Y., Rabbi, M. F., Kunimoto, K., Chen, D., Mozes, G., Chiu, D. K., Li, Y., Tao, J., Wei, Y., Adeniji, et al

2025

- **THE INCIDENCE OF HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA IN CHRONIC HEPATITIS B VIRUS INFECTION SUBJECTS NOT MEETING CRITERIA FOR ANTIVIRAL THERAPY**
  Alshuwaykh, O., Goel, A., Daugherty, T., Cheung, A., Kim, W., Kwong, A. J., Ahmed, A., Ghaziani, T., Torok, N. J., Nguyen, M. H., Dronamraju, D., Dhanasekaran, R., Kumari, et al
  WILEY.2020: 472A–473A

- **SHC INHIBITORY DRUG IDEBENONE PROTECTS MICE FROM DIET-INDUCED NASH**
  Jiang, J., Tomilov, A., Torok, N. J., Cortopassi, G.
  WILEY.2020: 1036–37

- **Leptin/adiponectin ratio correlates with hepatic steatosis but not arterial stiffness in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease in Japanese population.** *Cytokine*
  Mikami, K., Endo, T., Sawada, N., Igarashi, G., Kimura, M., Hasegawa, T., Iino, C., Tomita, H., Sawada, K., Nakaji, S., Matsuzaka, M., Torok, N. J., Fukuda, et al
  2019; 126: 154927

- **SHC LINKS OXIDATIVE AND INFLAMMATORY SIGNALS IN ALCOHOLIC LIVER DISEASE (ALD)**
  Gupta, P., Dehnad, A., Das, S., Fish, S., Jiang, J., Cortopassi, G., Torok, N. J.
  WILEY.2019: 826A–827A

- **Patterns and co-occurrence of risk factors for hepatocellular carcinoma in four Asian American communities: a cross-sectional study.** *BMJ open*
  Stewart, S. L., Dang, J. H., Torok, N. J., Chen, M. S.
  2019; 9 (6): e026409

- **SHC MODULATES OXIDATIVE AND INFLAMMATORY SIGNALS IN ALCOHOLIC LIVER DISEASE**
  Dehnad, A., Das, S., Fish, S. R., Jiang, J. X., Torok, N. J.
  WILEY.2019: 46A

- **Macrophage Nourishment in NASH: A Novel Role for Ketone Bodies.** *Hepatology (Baltimore, Md.)*
  Torok, N. J.
  2019

- **Neutrophil-Hepatic Stellate Cell Interactions Promote Fibrosis in Experimental Steatohepatitis.** *Cellular and molecular gastroenterology and hepatology*
  Zhou, Z., Xu, M. J., Cai, Y., Wang, W., Jiang, J. X., Varga, Z. V., Feng, D., Pacher, P., Kunos, G., Torok, N. J., Gao, B.
  2018; 5 (3): 399-413

- **The NOX1 isoform of NADPH oxidase is involved in dysfunction of liver sinusoids in nonalcoholic fatty liver disease.** *Free radical biology & medicine*
  Matsumoto, M. n., Zhang, J. n., Zhang, X. n., Liu, J. n., Jiang, J. X., Yamaguchi, K. n., Taruno, A. n., Katsuyama, M. n., Iwata, K. n., Ibi, M. n., Cui, W. n., Matsuno, K. n., Marunaka, et al
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- **AGER1/RAGE imbalance and accumulation of AGEs result in inflammation, expansion of ductular cells and fibrosis in NASH**
  Dehnad, A., Wong, K. A., Fish, S., Jiang, J., Alzofon, N., Olson, K., Gui, D., Matsukuma, K., Abdi, R., Ali, M., Singh, S., Stewart, S., Angel, et al
  WILEY.2017: 210A

- **Activation of NOX2 in older mice by the aging protein p52Shc leads to accelerated fibrosis in NASH**
  Fish, S., Tomilov, A., Dehnad, A., Jiang, J., Alzofon, N., Das, S., Ramsey, J., Cortopassi, G., Torok, N. J.
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- **TRIF as a Novel Modulator of Liver Inflammation and Fibrosis.** *Cellular and molecular gastroenterology and hepatology*
  Török, N. J.
  2017; 3 (3): 299-300

- **Galectin-3 regulates inflammasome activation in cholestatic liver injury** *FASEB JOURNAL*
  Tian, J., Yang, G., Chen, H., Hsu, D. K., Tomilov, A., Olson, K. A., Dehnad, A., Fish, S. R., Cortopassi, G., Zhao, B., Liu, F., Gershwin, M. E., Torok, et al

2016; 30 (12): 4202-4213

- **Ductular reaction-on-a-chip: Microfluidic co-cultures to study stem cell fate selection during liver injury** *SCIENTIFIC REPORTS*
  Haque, A., Gheibi, P., Stybayeva, G., Gao, Y., Torok, N., Revzin, A.
  2016; 6
- **Dysregulation of redox pathways in liver fibrosis** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHYSIOLOGY-GASTROINTESTINAL AND LIVER PHYSIOLOGY*
  Torok, N. J.
  2016; 311 (4): G667-G674
- **Aged mice exhibit a more proinflammatory and fibrogenic NASH phenotype linked to the induction of Shc and NADPH oxidase 2**
  Fish, S., Dehnad, A., Jiang, J., Tomilov, A., Ramsey, J., Cortopassi, G., Torok, N. J.
  WILEY.2016: 825A
- **Advanced glycation end products and dysregulated RAGE/AGER1 induce proinflammatory and fibrogenic signaling in NASH via NOX4**
  Dehnad, A., Fish, S., Jiang, J., Torok, N. J.
  WILEY.2016: 830A
- **Metabolic Syndrome Post-Liver Transplant: Can We Predict?** *METABOLIC SYNDROME AND RELATED DISORDERS*
  Marsano, J. G., Torok, N. J.
  2016; 14 (6): 289-290
- **Extracellular vesicles and ceramide: new mediators for macrophage chemotaxis?** *JOURNAL OF LIPID RESEARCH*
  Toeroek, N. J.
  2016; 57 (2): 157-158
- **Update on Alcoholic Hepatitis.** *Biomolecules*
  Torok, N. J.
  2015; 5 (4): 2978-2986
- **Vascular adhesion protein 1 in nonalcoholic steatohepatitis: A novel biomarker?** *HEPATOLOGY*
  Torok, N. J.
  2015; 62 (4): 1313-1315
- **Galectin 3 regulates HCC cell invasion by RhoA and MLCK activation** *LABORATORY INVESTIGATION*
  Serizawa, N., Tian, J., Fukada, H., Baghy, K., Scott, F., Chen, X., Kiss, Z., Olson, K., Hsu, D., Liu, F., Toeroek, N. J., Zhao, B., Jiang, et al
  2015; 95 (10): 1145-1156
- **Calciphylaxis in a Patient With Alcoholic Cirrhosis.** *ACG case reports journal*
  Akhtar, E., Parikh, D. A., Torok, N. J.
  2015; 2 (4): 209-210
- **Role of intestinal myofibroblasts in HIV-associated intestinal collagen deposition and immune reconstitution following combination antiretroviral therapy** *AIDS*
  Asmuth, D. M., Pinchuk, I. V., Wu, J., Vargas, G., Chen, X., Mann, S., Albanese, A., Ma, Z., Saroufeem, R., Melcher, G. P., Troia-Cancio, P., Torok, N. J., Miller, et al
  2015; 29 (8): 877-888
- **MLK3 as a regulator of disease progression in Non-alcoholic steatohepatitis** *LIVER INTERNATIONAL*
  Jiang, J. X., Toeroek, N. J.
  2014; 34 (8): 1131-1132
- **Advanced glycation endproducts induce fibrogenic activity in nonalcoholic steatohepatitis by modulating TNF-a-converting enzyme activity in mice.** *Hepatology*
  Jiang, J. X., Chen, X., Fukada, H., Serizawa, N., Devaraj, S., Török, N. J.
  2013; 58 (4): 1339-1348
- **Calciphylaxis in a Patient with Alcoholic Cirrhosis**
  Akhtar, E., Parikh, D., Torok, N.
  NATURE PUBLISHING GROUP.2013: S337

- **Hepatocyte NOX4 plays an important role in modulating stress response-mediated fibrogenic injury during NASH**
  chao, T., Jiang, X., Fukada, H., Haj, F., Bettaieb, A., Torok, N.
  WILEY-BLACKWELL.2013: 221A

- **Liver Injury and the Activation of the Hepatic Myofibroblasts.** *Current pathobiology reports*
  Jiang, J. X., Török, N. J.
  2013; 1 (3): 215-223

- **Wilson's Disease: Changes in Methionine Metabolism and Inflammation Affect Global DNA Methylation in Early Liver Disease** *HEPATOLOGY*
  Medici, V., Shibata, N. M., Kharbanda, K. K., LaSalle, J. M., Woods, R., Liu, S., Engelberg, J. A., Devaraj, S., Toeroek, N. J., Jiang, J. X., Havel, P. J., Loennerdal, B., Kim, et al
  2013; 57 (2): 555-565

- **Role of FNA and Core Biopsy of Primary and Metastatic Liver Disease.** *International journal of hepatology*
  McGahan, J. P., Bishop, J., Webb, J., Howell, L., Torok, N., Lamba, R., Corwin, M. T.
  2013; 2013: 174103-?

- **Nox4 plays an important role in alcohol-induced hepatic oxidative stress**
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  WILEY-BLACKWELL.2012: 1124A

- **NADPH oxidase 4 plays a key role in hepatocyte injury and HSC activation leading to NASH progression**
  Jiang, J., Chen, X., Fukada, H., Schroder, K., Brandes, R. P., Devaraj, S., Torok, N.
  WILEY-BLACKWELL.2012: 258A

- **NOX4 IS A KEY ENZYME IN ALCOHOLIC LIVER DISEASE**
  Chen, X., Fukada, H., Jiang, X., Torok, N. J.
  WILEY-BLACKWELL.2012: 76A

- **Liver fibrosis and hepatocyte apoptosis are attenuated by GKT137831, a novel NOX4/NOX1 inhibitor in vivo** *FREE RADICAL BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE*
  Jiang, J. X., Chen, X., Serizawa, N., Szyndralewiez, C., Page, P., Schroeder, K., Brandes, R. P., Devaraj, S., Toeroek, N. J.
  2012; 53 (2): 289-296

- **Human ESC self-renewal promoting microRNAs induce epithelial-mesenchymal transition in hepatocytes by controlling the PTEN and TGFß tumor suppressor signaling pathways.** *Molecular cancer research*
  Jung, C. J., Iyengar, S., Blahnik, K. R., Jiang, J. X., Tahimic, C., Torok, N. J., de Vere White, R. W., Farnham, P. J., Zern, M.
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- **Galectin-3 modulates phagocytosis-induced stellate cell activation and liver fibrosis in vivo** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHYSIOLOGY-GASTROINTESTINAL AND LIVER PHYSIOLOGY*
  Jiang, J. X., Chen, X., Hsu, D. K., Baghy, K., Serizawa, N., Scott, F., Takada, Y., Takada, Y., Fukada, H., Chen, J., Devaraj, S., Adamson, R., Liu, et al
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- **NOX4 INDUCTION IS ATTENUATED IN NOX2-/- MICE DURING LIVER FIBROSIS**
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- **ADVANCED GLYCATION END PRODUCTS INDUCE INFLAMMATORY AND FIBROGENIC ACTIVITY IN NASH BY REGULATING TIMP3/TACE ACTIVITY**
  Jiang, X., Chen, X., Serizawa, N., Torok, N.
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- **TREATMENT WITH A NOVEL NOX4 INHIBITOR ATTENUATES LIVER FIBROSIS**
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  Devaraj, S., Torok, N.
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- **Increased Soluble Leptin Receptor Levels in Morbidly Obese Patients With Insulin Resistance and Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease** *OBESITY*
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