



Despite the troubles brought by COVID-19 this year, we are happy to let all our supporters know that SPLIT has continued to function, making Family Emergency Grants available and funding Research Awards. Velma Wright (Liver Unit Family Support Worker) told us how *even more valuable* these Emergency Grants are for families affected by liver and intestinal failure who are stranded in hospital many miles from home during Lockdown. Since January 2020 twelve cash grants to total of £2295.00 have been distributed.

And in the past 18 months, thanks to the fundraising efforts of Charles Tobey friends and family, SPLIT funded the purchase of a Fibro-scanner now housed on ward 8 – it's a portable machine which allows the medical team to see how much fatty change and scarring has occurred inside the liver without always having to do a liver biopsy to monitor progress. This information provided by the scanner helps doctors decide on changes in treatment and plan care in conditions like viral hepatitis; intestinal failure associated liver disease (IFALD) and transplantation. The Fibro-scanner was delivered in April 2019 and Dr Indra van Mourik said "This device is really helping us make better informed decisions about medical care for our in-patients and can be used in out-patients too".



ULTRA MOBILE

## FIND OUT MORE

If you want to know more about SPLIT, please check out our website: <https://splituk.org> - you will see that we sponsor fundraising activities by subsidising entries in National events like the Great North Run, the Birmingham Half Marathon, the Velo Birmingham and West Midlands 50 or 100 mile cycle ride. We hope to resume these fundraising efforts in 2021. Also keep your eyes peeled for the launch of the SPLIT 100 Club 2021 - it is a bit like a local lottery where for an investment of £2 per month you are in with a chance of winning up to £50 cash prize in a monthly draw - meanwhile £1200 per year is raised for SPLIT per year.

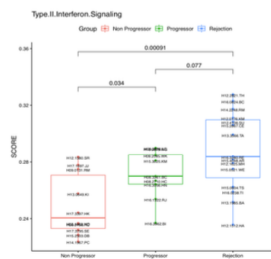
## The Debbie Hartt Fund - DHF

In 2019 DHF supported Laura Johnson and Monica Smith in travel scholarships for meetings in Paris and Montreal where they gave presentations on diet in Liver Disease (LJ) and improving the process and outcome of transition for adolescents and young adults (MS).

**FIND US at [SPLITUK.org](https://splituk.org)**

## Research Corner

We are delighted to congratulate Dr Nicola Ruth whose laboratory study part funded by SPLIT in 2017, was selected for presentation at a prestigious international meeting on Liver Disease in the United States, and published in the academic journal *Hepatology* 2019; 70S. Dr Ruth was able to detect chemical signals associated with gene activation in the liver biopsy samples of children who are actively rejecting their transplants and



Red box left = samples from children with stable livers  
Green box middle = samples from children at risk of progression to scarring in the liver  
Blue box right = samples from children whose livers are rejecting

found that these bio-markers may also be used to provide early warning for children at increased risk of liver scarring.

And also a publication in

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333657320\\_Long-Term\\_Effects\\_of\\_Cholestatic\\_Liver\\_Disease\\_in\\_Childhood\\_on\\_Neuropsychological\\_Outcomes\\_and\\_Neurochemistry](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333657320_Long-Term_Effects_of_Cholestatic_Liver_Disease_in_Childhood_on_Neuropsychological_Outcomes_and_Neurochemistry)

which describes a research collaboration with Aston University funded by SPLIT (previously CLF) and showed that Liver Transplantation had minimal impact on long term IQ, but long delays in treatment (more than 18 months) should be avoided as this can lead to some modest impairments of cognitive ability.