



Naoky Tsai, MD

Dr. Naoky Tsai is a Clinical Professor of Medicine at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii. He started the first Liver Center to care for patients with chronic liver disease in the state of Hawaii, and helped to start the first Liver Transplant Program since 1992. Currently he is practicing at the GI and Hepatology Clinic in Castle Medical Center in Kailua. His focus is on liver health and illness. His research interest has been on

Screening and Linkage to Care, improving community access to care for chronic liver disease, and on the natural history and consequences of chronic liver disease, nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), risk for disease progression and prevention of hepatic decompensation and development of liver cancer. He has received an NIH/NCI grant (1RO1 NIH/NCI CA161209-01) for translational clinical research protocol to study the epidemiology and unmet needs of the underserved minority group Asian Pacific Islander Americans (API), and was awarded an NIH/NIDDK UO1 grant -DK082863 (F021481) from 2008 to 2018 to participate in a Clinical Research Network for Chronic Hepatitis B. In addition, over the years, multiple clinical trials were conducted for chronic hepatitis B, chronic hepatitis C and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) resulting in multiple publications in peer reviewed journals. In recent years, he has focused on studies to improve chronic liver disease care cascade including prevalence studies of chronic hepatitis in Hawaii raising the issues of unmet medical needs of API in Hawaii. In addition, he has been conducting webinar conferences to educate community health centers to train the primary care providers to manage chronic liver diseases. For instance, a 16 week ECHO program was conducted on the management of chronic hepatitis C and B to multiple attendees from community health centers across the state of Hawaii. He has also mentored medical students, residents, practicing providers, and faculty members of the university applying for research grants.

With the new awareness of fatty liver disease and its consequences, he believes education on this disease is of great importance in promoting healthy liver living and on treatment of the disease. The education should be for both the community health providers and patients alike.