The Liver Meeting 2026 (AASLD Meeting 2026)

Denver, Colorado, USA · 5-9 November 2026

Meeting Report - Silvia Pickering

With the support of the BioMed Program Travel Grant, I travelled to Denver in November to attend The Liver Meeting 2026, organised by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD). With more than 8,000 attendees at the Colorado Convention Center, The Liver Meeting was the largest conference I had ever attended. I particularly valued the opportunity to speak with fellow doctoral researchers and principal investigators from around the world, and to present my own work to an international audience.

I had the opportunity of giving an oral abstract presentation on my doctoral research into MRGPRX4, a receptor implicated in the persistent itch that can accompany cholestatic liver disease. It was a privilege to talk about my findings and to bring a symptom that can profoundly affect patients' daily lives into the discussion at such an international meeting.

Moreover, attending in the final year of my PhD made the meeting especially valuable. When I applied for the grant, I hoped that presenting my work internationally would help me refine the final direction of my thesis. Indeed, discussions with other researchers at the meeting helped me see where my findings fit within current research on liver disease and which aspects of the project will warrant further attention.

The nine-and-a-half-hour flight was well worth it. I found Denver a vibrant city and enjoyed getting to know a little of it between conference commitments. I took my first ride in a driverless car, ate a burger and fries in a saloon while people around me watched American football, and made a brief trip to Red Rocks Amphitheatre. Just half an hour from downtown, the open-air venue sits between towering red sandstone formations. It was definitely a memorable change of scene after several days in the convention centre!

I am grateful to the BioMed Program for making this trip possible. I think I'll always remember the feeling of standing up in Denver to present work I'd spent years on, and the pleasure of getting to know a city I might never otherwise have visited. When I look back on my PhD, that week will be one of the first I surely will think of!



Left: With my PhD supervisor (Prof. Andreas Kremer), at The Liver Meeting 2026 in Denver. **Right**: Visiting Red Rocks Amphitheatre, just outside of Denver.