

Abstract/Prospectus

Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease has been a major concern in the field of gastroenterology due to its presence in 20-30% of the general population. In addition with adults and elderly people, an increasing proportion of adolescents and children are also experiencing progressions of higher severity like nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), fibrosis, cirrhosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). NAFLD is caused by the excess accumulation of fat in the liver, leading to conditions of metabolic syndrome, like high levels of blood pressure and triglycerides, affecting the disease's presence and progression. NAFLD's pathogenesis is also influenced by heredity and chronic diseases, leading to certain genetic disparities among various ethnic groups, particularly Mexican-Origin (MO) adults, experiencing NAFLD more often than others at increased stages of severity. Socioeconomic factors influencing annual income and access to healthcare and medicine are also considered when viewing our data.

This research reports the epidemiologic characteristics of NAFLD in a community-based research clinic in South Texas. The data was collected at the beginning of my summer immersion program, beginning during June 2024 and continued remotely until November 2024. This study aims to provide a simple, cross-sectional study of the prevalence of NAFLD among residents of McAllen, Texas. This study also aims to support the accuracy of FibroScan as an NAFLD diagnostic method and to find treatments, whether medically or economically, that tend to the disadvantages that lower-income residents and Latinos face in having NAFLD.