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## Finding Drug Targets in the Liver to Treat Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Diseases

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The liver is the most metabolically complex organ in our body. Although the liver has regenerative abilities, it is vulnerable to a variety of diseases. Non-alcoholic fatty liver diseases (NAFLD) are caused by the build-up of fat in the liver in people who drink little alcohol. Over 20% of Canadians are affected by this disease and that number is predicted to increase over the next decade. Unfortunately, there are currently no targeted therapies for NAFLD. The only treatment option for end-stage liver diseases is organ transplantation, and yet the need for organs greatly exceeds the supply. In collaboration with the University Hospital, my research focuses on examining liver biopsy samples from patients with NAFLD and finding novel therapeutic targets. To date, I have identified a group of proteins in the liver called protease-activated receptors that could potentially attenuate inflammatory responses and offer protective effects for patients with NAFLD.