

2025 INTERNATIONAL
HBV MEETING
Biology of the Hepatitis B and D Viruses



SEPTEMBER 8-12 | 2025
GERMANY | WWW.HBVMEETING.ORG

Program International HBV meeting 2025 – Berlin

Monday, September 8, 2025

08:00 – 12:00 **Emerging Researchers Workshop***

- 08:00 – 8:30 **Registration, breakfast, networking and icebreaker challenge**
- 08:30 – 8:40 **Welcome and overview of workshop**
Chari Cohen, DrPH, MPH; Barbara Testoni, PhD, HDR and Dr. rer. nat. Lena Allweiss
- 08:40 – 9:00 **Icebreaker session**
Thomas Tu, PhD
- 09:00 – 10:00 **Keynote address: “Why and how to scicomm – Communicating science to nonexpert audiences”**
Ulrike Brandt-Bohne, PhD, National Institute for Science and Communication (NaWik)
- 10:00 – 10:30 **Networking and practice session: The elevator speech**
- 10:30 – 11:30 **Table discussion: Communicating science in different settings**
- 11:30 – 12:30 **Putting it into practice: Communicating your research**

12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch and networking for Emerging Researchers Workshop**

13:30 **Conclusion**

**Please note the Emerging Researchers Workshop is a ticketed event.*

14:00 – 15:35 **HBF and ICE-HBV Community Forum**

- 14:00 – 14:05 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- 14:05 – 14:20 **Current hepatitis B treatment landscape in Germany**
National Strategies - Hep B United: A national coalition for eliminating hepatitis B
Prof. Frank Tacke, MD, PhD Charité, Universitätsmedizin Berlin
- 14:20 – 14:35 **Current hepatitis delta treatment landscape in Germany**
Prof. Heiner Wedemeyer, MD, PhD, Hannover Medical School
- 14:35 – 14:50 **Epidemiology, progress and challenges with hepatitis B and D elimination in Germany**
Prof. Thomas Berg, MD, FAASLD, University of Leipzig Medical Center
- 14:50 – 15:20 **Lived experience of hepatitis B or D in the European region – Panel**

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Discussion

Moderator: Thomas Tu, PhD, Westmead Institute for Medical Research

Panel members from the European region will share their experiences of living with hepatitis B/D

15:20 – 15:25

Q&A

Moderated by Chari Cohen, DrPH, MPH

15:25 – 15:35

HepBCommunity.org Award Presentations

Presented by Thomas Tu, PhD

15:35

Closing Remarks

Prof. Maura Dandri, PhD, Chair ICE-HBV

16:00 – 16:30

Welcome address by co-organizers

Co-organizers: **Dr. rer. nat. Lena Allweiss** Research Scientist and Principal Investigator, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany and **Barbara Testoni, PhD, HDR Team Leader - PathLiv Unit, Lyon University, Inserm, The Lyon Hepatology Institute, Lyon, France**

16:30 – 17:00

Distinguished Award in Hepatitis B Research Lecture – John M. Taylor, PhD

17:00 – 18:30

Session I: Emerging models and technologies

Chaired by: Rob Schwarz (USA) and Helene Strick Marchand (France)

17:00 – 17:10

An alphavirus replicon-based method enables high-throughput studies of HBV core variants

Catherine Freije

17:10 – 17:15

Q&A

17:15 – 17:25

A Syrian hamster model of persistent HDV infection

Elias Broeckhoven

17:25 – 17:30

Q&A

17:30 – 17:40

Cross-species core protein chimerism enables HBV cccDNA formation in murine hepatocytes

Kaitao Zhao

17:40 – 17:45

Q&A

17:45 – 17:55

Domestic cat hepatocytes support NTCP-dependent HBV infection whereas domestic cat hepadnavirus fails to infect human hepatocytes

Qingyan Wu

17:55 – 18:00

Q&A

18:00 – 18:10

Screening of RNA-based antiviral gene editors targeting HBV cccDNA using a novel episomal, stable HBV replicon system

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Pratik Mallick

18:10 – 18:15 Q&A

18:15 – 18:25 **Modeling HIV/HBV co-infection in primary human cells**
Adriana Norris

18:25 – 18:30 Q&A

18:30 – 20:30 **Welcome Reception and Poster Viewing with drinks and food**

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

08:30 – 09:00 Introduction I: Molecular Virology
Yuchen Xia (China)

09:00 – 10:00 **Session II: Profiling intrahepatic complexity**
Chaired by: Aleksei Suslov (Switzerland) and Xiaonan Zhang (Australia)

9:00 – 9:10 **Spatial and quantitative profiling of intrahepatic HBsAg heterogeneity in chronic hepatitis B virus infection**
Yuyan Qian

9:10 – 9:15 Q&A

9:15 – 9:25 **Single cell laser capture microdissection (scLCM) and droplet digital PCR (ddPCR) reveal heterogeneity of HDV in six HBV/HDV co-infected people**
Chi-Fen Lee

9:25 – 9:30 Q&A

9:30 – 9:40 **High-throughput pipeline detecting viral integration reveals evidence for oncogenic insertional mutagenesis in domestic cat hepatitis B virus-associated hepatocellular carcinoma**
Harout Ajoyan

9:40 – 9:45 Q&A

9:45 – 9:55 **Comprehensive mapping of episomal and integrated hepatitis B genomes uncovers heterogeneous transcripts and drug-resistant lineages.**
James Harris

9:55 – 10:00 Q&A

10:00 – 10:30 **Coffee Break**

10:30 – 12:00 **Session III: Viral entry and early steps**
Chaired by: Ulrike Protzer (Germany) and Koichi Watashi (Japan)

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- 10:30 – 10:40 **Real-time imaging of Hepatitis B virus reveals an early entry mechanism mediated by filopodia**
Maika S. Deffieu
- 10:40 – 10:45 Q&A
- 10:45 – 10:55 **CDC42 supports hepatitis B virus entry by fostering NTCP to plasma membrane and macropinocytosis**
Yu Wei
- 10:55 – 12:00 Q&A
- 11:00 – 11:10 **Diverse hepatitis B and D virus susceptibility in feline species determined by combined mutation in NTCP**
Chisa Kobayashi
- 11:10 – 11:15 Q&A
- 11:15 – 11:25 **Cathepsin F regulates HBV-preS1/NTCP interaction facilitating HBV And HDV Entry into hepatocytes and its therapeutic implications**
Abdulla A. Mahmoud
- 11:25 – 11:30 Q&A
- 11:30 – 11:40 **Scavenger receptor class F member 2 is an intracellular receptor for hepatitis B virus**
Cong Li
- 11:40 – 11:45 Q&A
- 11:45 – 11:55 **Disruption of HBV core protein dynamics and cccDNA maintenance by the capsid assembly modulator HAP_R01**
Chunkyu Ko
- 11:55 – 12:00 Q&A
- 12:00 – 13:00 **Keynote Lecture I: Ang Cui Assistant Professor, Systems Immunology, Harvard University**
- 13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch and “Meet the Speaker”**
- 14:30 – 15:00 Introduction II: Immunology
Maike Hoffmann (Germany)
- 15:00 – 16:00 **Session IV: Innate immunity**
Chaired by: Dimitra Peppas (UK) and Adam Gehring (Canada)
- 15:00 – 15:10 **Macrophage Toll-like receptor 8 recognizes cleaved hepatitis B virus transcription products and activates NF-κB signaling**
Jiatong Yin

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15:10 – 15:15 Q&A

15:15 – 15:25 **Early immune responses define Peg-IFN α -mediated treatment outcome in chronic hepatitis D virus infection**
Helenie Kefalakes

15:25 – 15:30 Q&A

15:30 – 15:40 **NK cell regulation constrains B cell immunity to therapeutic vaccination in chronic HBV**
Joseph McDowell

15:40 – 15:45 Q&A

15:45 – 15:55 **Spatial and Single-Cell Transcriptomic Mapping Reveals Selective Disruption of Hepatocyte–Kupffer Cell Interactions in HBV/HDV Coinfection**
Maria Saez-Palma

15:55 – 16:00 Q&A

16:00 – 16:30 **Coffee Break**

16:30 – 18:00 **Session V: Adaptive immunity**

Chaired by: Carolina Boni (Italy) and Georg Lauer (US)

16:30 – 16:40 **Circadian control of HBV T-cell responses: Implications for optimizing therapeutic vaccine timing**
Alan Xiaodong Zhuang

16:40 – 16:45 Q&A

16:45 – 16:55 **Role and mechanism of mCD100 in regulating the activation and differentiation of HBV-specific CD8 T cell**
Mengxiao Zhao

16:55 – 17:00 Q&A

17:00 – 17:10 **Immune Complexes of BJT-778 enhance cross-presentation of HBsAg and activation of CD8⁺ T Cells**
Loghman Salimzadeh

17:10 – 17:15 Q&A

17:15 – 17:25 **Lactate triggers HBV-specific CD8⁺ T cell exhaustion through mitophagy suppression-mediated mitochondrial dysfunction**
Xiaoyi Liu

17:25 – 17:30 Q&A

17:30 – 17:40 **4-1BB Costimulation restore Tfh1 function to augment HBV-specific humoral immunity in chronic infection**
Yanchen Ma

17:40 – 17:45 Q&A

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17:45 – 17:55 **Th1-like CD4⁺ T-cell responses are key drivers of an effective therapeutic vaccine against chronic hepatitis B**

Jinpeng Su

17:55 – 18:00 Q&A

18:00 – 18:30 **Updates from the Hepatitis B Foundation**

Updates from ICE-HBV

18:30 – 20:00 **Poster Session I**

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

08:00 – 09:00 **Parexel Rise & Shine Panel Discussion**

09:00 – 10:30 **Session VI: HBsAg clearance**

Chaired by: Robert Thimme (Germany) and Nina Le Bert (Singapore)

9:00 – 9:10 **The CD8 T cell transcriptional profile in chronic hepatitis B is shaped by antigen-specificity and is only partially corrected by HBsAg loss**
Sara Doselli

9:10 – 9:15 Q&A

9:15 – 9:25 **Clinical cure of chronic hepatitis B requires activation and perpetuation of a robust CD4⁺ T cell response**
Jody Baron

9:25 – 9:30 Q&A

9:30 – 9:40 **Hepatitis B surface antigen loss is associated with reversal of B-cell dysregulation in**
Tarik Asselah

9:40 – 9:45 Q&A

9:45 – 9:55 **Transcriptional landscapes of intrahepatic immunity in acute and chronic hepatitis B surface antigen seroclearance in people with and without HIV**
Martin Feuerherd

9:55 – 10:00 Q&A

10:00 – 10:10 **Distinct HBsAg-specific B cell phenotype precedes spontaneous HBsAg clearance in CHB**
Lucy Cooper

10:10 – 10:15 Q&A

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10:15 – 10:25 **The intestinal microbiome regulates HBsAg seroconversion in mouse models of HBV pathogenesis**
Marta Grillo

10:25 – 10:30 Q&A

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break supported by**



11:00 – 12:00 **Poster Session II**

12:00 – 13:30 **Session VII: Replication cycle**

Chaired by: Christine Neuveut (France) and Maria Francesca Cortese (Spain)

12:00 – 12:10 **Tracking the pathway of HBV DNA-containing virions using confocal and high-resolution microscopy**
Vanessa Sarabia Vega

12:10 – 12:15 Q&A

12:15 – 12:25 **HBV capsids engage FG phase of nuclear pores**
Qiaoyi Li

12:25 – 12:30 Q&A

12:30 – 12:40 **Cryo-EM analysis reveals cell-type-dependent phosphorylation patterns and structural variability in HBV capsid**
Katie Culhane

12:40 – 12:45 Q&A

12:45 – 12:55 **How does HBV fall apart?**
Adam Zlotnick

12:55 – 13:00 Q&A

13:00 – 13:10 **Drug-mediated transcriptional readthrough of HBV RNAs triggers antiviral effects in infected hepatocytes**
Guillaume Giraud

13:10 – 13:15 Q&A

13:15 – 13:25 **Direct RNA sequencing reveals m6A-dependent stabilization of hepatitis B virus RNA** | Pei-Yi (Alma) Su

13:25 – 13:30 Q&A

13:30 – 14:30 **Lunch and “Meet the Editor”**

Eleni Kotsiliti, Fabien Zoulm, Haitao Guo, Matteo Iannaccone, Peter Revil, Tobias Böttler

14:30 – 15:00 **Introduction III: Therapy**

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Lefteris Michailidis (USA)

15:00 – 16:00 **Session VIII: New perspectives in current treatments**

Chaired by: Ashwin Balagopal (USA) and Rachel Wen-Juei Jeng (Taiwan)

15:00 – 15:10 **End-of-treatment biomarkers and HBV genotype predict severe biochemical flares after NUC cessation independent of HBsAg level or NUC type – Results of the PROSTOP consortium**
Fleur Ballet

15:10 – 15:15 Q&A

15:15 – 15:25 **Bulevirtide reduces HDV viral load and hepatocyte-derived innate immune responses in humanized mice with an enriched amount of HDV-mono-infected hepatocytes**
Annika Volmari

15:25 – 15:30 Q&A

15:30 – 15:40 **IB-001: A partial type I interferon agonist that exhibits potent anti-HBV activity with the potential for an improved safety profile**
Yueh-Ming Loo

15:40 – 15:45 Q&A

15:45 – 15:55 **Antiviral mode of action of IFN- α on Hepatitis Delta Virus (HDV) intracellular amplification**
Elise Chabot

15:55 – 16:00 Q&A

16:00 – 16:30 **Takeaway Coffee Break**

16:30 – 19:00 **Sightseeing Tour**

Thursday, September 11, 2025

08:30 – 10:00 **Session IX: Host-virus interplay**

Chaired by: Thomas Tu (Australia) and Julie Lucifora (France)

8:30 – 8:40 **HBV inhibits stress granule formation by hijacking core components of SGs into the nucleocapsids to maintain viral effective replication**
Danjuan Lu

8:40 – 8:45 Q&A

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8:45 – 8:55 **HDV passively induces an innate immune-mediated specific refractoriness to IFN- α , but not IFN- λ treatment in infected hepatocytes**
Claudie Eber

8:55 – 9:00 Q&A

9:00 – 9:10 **Liver mechanosignaling-mediated HBV control: A non-cytolytic antiviral mechanism with implications for therapeutic response**
Jieliang Chen

9:10 – 9:15 Q&A

9:15 – 9:25 **A proteomic approach identifies COP9 signalosome as a key host factor in an early step of hepatitis B virus life cycle.**
Karim Mouzannar

9:25 – 9:30 Q&A

9:30 – 9:40 **The BAF chromatin remodeling complex regulates HBV cccDNA transcriptional activity**
Rongjuan Pei

9:40 – 9:45 Q&A

9:45 – 9:55 **Structural determination of subviral particles of hepatitis B virus using cryo-electron microscopy and cryo-electron tomography**
Aditi Dhawan

9:55 – 10:00 Q&A

10:00 – 10:30 **Coffee Break**

10:30 – 12:00 **Session X: Novel antiviral strategies**

Chaired by: David Durantel (France) and Gregor Ebert (Germany)

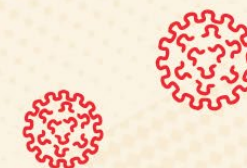
10:30 – 10:40 **Broad neutralizing efficacy of Brelovitug, a monoclonal antibody targeting HBsAg, against HBV and HDV infections across genotypes**
Ronald Alcalá

10:40 – 10:45 Q&A

10:45 – 10:55 **Programmable RNA sensor system for targeted elimination of active HBV cccDNA and integrated DNA reservoirs**
Jieliang Chen

10:55 – 11:00 Q&A

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- 11:00 – 11:10 **Preclinical profiling of ABI-6250, a first-in-class oral therapeutic candidate for chronic hepatitis D virus infections**
Marc P. Windisch
- 11:10 – 11:15 Q&A
- 11:15 – 11:25 **The CAM-E ALG-001075 potently reduces HBV cccDNA in preclinical experiments**
Yannick Debing
- 11:25 – 11:30 Q&A
- 11:30 – 11:40 **Antisense oligonucleotide-based strategy to target hepatitis delta virus infections**
Julie Lucifora
- 11:40 – 11:45 Q&A
- 11:45 – 11:55 **Adenine base editing of HBx ORF to inhibit HBV replication**
Emmanuel Combe
- 11:55 – 12:00 Q&A
- 12:00 – 13:00 **Keynote Lecture II: Angelo Lombardo, PhD, Assistant Professor, Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan, Italy**
- 13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch and “Meet the Speaker”**
- 14:30 – 16:00 **Session XI: Novel immunotherapeutic strategies**
Chaired by: Ivana Carey (UK) and Sabela Lens (Spain)
- 14:30 – 14:40 **Epitope-mismatched helper T cells induced by BRIL-179 therapeutic vaccination break anti-HBs humoral tolerance in CHB patients**
Nina Le Bert
- 14:40 – 14:45 Q&A
- 14:45 – 14:55 **A multivalent mRNA-LNP therapeutic vaccine with broad cross-genotype immunogenicity elicits clearance of HBV infected hepatocytes**
Yanbo Sun
- 14:55 – 15:00 Q&A
- 15:00 – 15:10 **Genetic immunotherapy against chronic Hepatitis D Virus infection**
Matti Sallberg
- 15:10 – 15:15 Q&A
- 15:15 – 15:25 **Identification and preclinical evaluation of a potent HLA-A*24:02-restricted, HBV envelope-specific T cell receptor for adoptive T cell therapy**
Nina Kallin
- 15:25 – 15:30 Q&A

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15:30 – 15:40 **HBV immune checkpoint receptor CD33 (Siglec-3) is a promising therapeutic target for chronic hepatitis B infection**
Shie Liang Hsieh

15:40 – 15:45 Q&A

15:45 – 15:55 **Testing the safety and anti-HBV efficacy of formulated RIG-I agonist RNA in a rhesus macaque model**
Sreya Biswas

15:55 – 16:00 Q&A

16:00 – 16:30 **Coffee Break**

16:30 – 18:00 **Research without Borders**

18:00 – 19:00 **Session XII: Pathogenesis**

Chaired by: Janine Kah (Germany) and Antonio Bertoletti (Singapore)

18:00 – 18:10 **Tumor size-dependent endothelial reprogramming limits CD8+ T cell immune surveillance of liver cancer**
Carlotta Tacconi

18:10 – 18:15 Q&A

18:15 – 18:25 **Selective depletion of HBsAg-specific B cells in pediatric chronic hepatitis B infection**
Sabela Lens

18:25 – 18:30 Q&A

18:30 – 18:40 **Spatial analysis of the chronic hepatitis B and D liver reveals new aspects of viral pathogenesis and cancer.**
Nadina Wand

18:40 – 18:45 Q&A

18:45 – 18:55 **Circulating Capsid-Antibody-Complexes (CACs) drive intrahepatic complement deposition and inform subclinical liver inflammation in chronic hepatitis B**
Xiaonan Zhang

18:55 – 19:00 Q&A

19:00 - 19:30 **Farewell and 2026 International HBV Meeting Presentation**

20:00 – 23:00 **Networking Dinner**

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Friday, September 12, 2025

08:30 – 11:30 **ICE-HBV Symposium**



The 6th ICE-HBV “HBV cure symposium”: Genome and epigenome editing to target the HBV reservoir

Welcome & Opening Remarks Fabien Zoulim and Teresa Pollicino (5 min)

1) The viral reservoir in the liver (15 min: 12 min + 3 min discussion) Maura Dandri (Hamburg, Germany)

2) Genome editing technologies (60 min: 10 min + 5 min questions for each talk)

- Excision CRISPR/Cas9 approach: EBT-107 for HBV. Ryo Takeuchi (Excision, U.S.)
- Precision Arcus technology: PBGENE-HBV. Emily Harrison (Precision, U.S.)
- Beam base editors: A and C Base editors for HBV and HDV. Anuj Kumar (Lyon, France)
- HBV RNA targeting with Cas13. Laura McCoullough (Melbourne, Australia)

Coffee break (15 min)

3) Epigenome editing technologies (45 min: 10 min + 5 min questions for each talk)

- nChroma technology for HBV DNA Methylation: CRMA-1001 for HBV. Sarah Voytek (nChroma Bio, U.S.)
- Tune technology for HBV DNA Methylation: Tune-401 for HBV. Brian Cosgrove (Tune Tx, U.S.)
- EPIREG: Next-gen Epigenetic Modulator for HBV Eradication through direct silencing of ccDNA transcription. Yidi Sun (Epigenic, China)

4) Knowledge gaps to advance clinical development of gene and epigenome editing (10 min) Fabien Zoulim (Lyon, France) (introduction to the roundtable)

5) Round table discussion (30 min): Co-chairs, Speakers and with the contribution of Markus Cornberg (MHH, CiiMHannover, Germany) and Kosh Agarwal (Kings College hospital, London, U.K.)

Closing Remarks (5 min) – Fabien Zoulim and Teresa Pollicino