

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, 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 **HBV 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

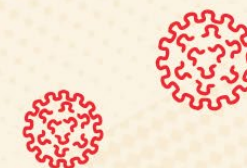
14:35 – 14:50 **Epidemiology, progress and challenges with hepatitis B and D elimination in Germany**

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

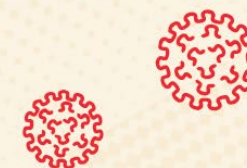
Domestic cat hepatocytes support NTCP-dependent HBV infection whereas domestic cat hepadnavirus fails to infect human hepatocytes

Qingyan Wu

17:55 – 18:00

Q&A

**2025 INTERNATIONAL
HBV MEETING**
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SEPTEMBER 8-12 | 2025
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18:00 – 18:10 **Screening of RNA-based antiviral gene editors targeting HBV cccDNA using a novel episomal, stable HBV replicon system**
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)

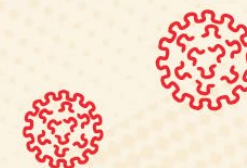
**2025 INTERNATIONAL
HBV MEETING**
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- 10:30 – 10:40 **Real-time imaging of hepatitis B virus reveals an early entry mechanism mediated by filopodia**
Maika S. Deffieu
- 10:40 – 10:45 Q&A
- 10:45 – 10:55 **CDC42 supports hepatitis B virus entry by fostering 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
Maïke 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

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HBV MEETING**
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SEPTEMBER 8-12 | 2025
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17:40 – 17:45 Q&A

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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SEPTEMBER 8-12 | 2025
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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

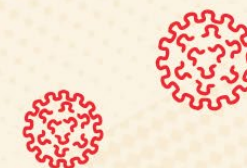
13:15 – 13:25 **Direct RNA sequencing reveals m6A-dependent stabilization of hepatitis B virus RNA** | Pei-Yi (Alma) Su

13:25 – 13:30 Q&A

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

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

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

14:30 – 15:00 Introduction III: Therapy
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

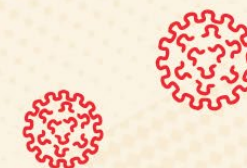
08:30 – 10:00 **Session IX: Host-virus interplay**

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

- 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
- 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

2025 INTERNATIONAL HBV MEETING

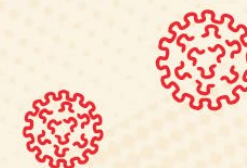
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SEPTEMBER 8-12 | 2025
GERMANY | WWW.HBVMEETING.ORG

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 <i>Chaired by: Ivana Carey (UK) and Sabela Lens (Spain)</i>
14:30 – 14:40	Epitope-mismatched helper T cells induced by BRII-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
15:30 – 15:40	HBV immune checkpoint receptor CD33 (Siglec-3) is a promising therapeutic target for chronic hepatitis B infection Shie Liang Hsieh

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



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

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