

Program International HBV Meeting 2026 – Singapore

Preliminary program – subject to change

Program at a Glance

Day 1 Sunday, Sept 6 th	Day 2 Monday, Sept 7 th	Day 3 Tuesday, Sept 8 th	Day 4 Wednesday, Sept 9 th	Day 5 Thursday, Sept 10 th
*Emerging Researchers Workshop *HBV Community Forum *ICE-HBV Symposium *2026 Welcome Reception	*2026 HBV Researcher Award *Travel Awards *Abstract Sessions I-II *Keynote Speaker I *Grand Discussion I *Poster Session I	*Abstract Sessions III-VI *Poster Session II	*Abstract Sessions VII-IX *Keynote Speaker II *Grand Discussion II *Networking Dinner & Beach Party	*Abstract Session X-XI *Farewell & HBV 2027 *HBV Organizers Meeting

Sunday, September 6, 2026

- 08:00 – 12:45 **Emerging Researchers' Workshop – registration required**
- 08:00 – 08:30 **Registration & Networking**
- 08:30 – 08:40 **Welcome & Introductions**
Chari Cohen, Thomas Tu & Nina Le Bert
- 08:40 – 09:10 **Icebreaker Activity**
- 09:10 – 10:30 **Panel & Audience Discussion on “Navigating Transition Phases in Your Research Career”**
Moderator: Jochen Wettengel
Panel: Haitao Guo, Rachel Jeng, Wenhui Li, Lefteris Michailidis, Alexander Ploss, Ulrike Protzer
- 10:30 – 10:45 **Break**
- 10:45 – 12:00 **Table Discussions:**
Table Discussions: Peer-to-peer discussion of topics related to transition phases in research careers
- 12:00 – 12:45 **Lunch & Networking with Panelists and Peers**
- 13:00 – 14:30 **HBF and ICE-HBV Community Forum - registration required**
- 13:00 – 13:05 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Chari Cohen, DrPH, MPH
- 13:05 – 13:25 **Epidemiology, Progress and Challenges with Hepatitis B Elimination in Southeast Asia**
Seng Gee Lim, FRACP, FRCP, FAMS, MD
- 13:25 – 13:45 **Progress towards Hepatitis B Elimination in Vietnam**
Doan Dao, MD
- 13:45 – 14:15 **Lived experience of hepatitis B or D in Asia – Panel Discussion**
Panelists: Chris, Dee Lien and Tay
- 14:15 – 14:25 **Q&A**
Moderated by Chari Cohen
- 14:25 – 14:30 **Closing Remarks**
Maura Dandri, MD, PhD
- 14:30 – 15:00 **High Tea for Community Forum & ICE-HBV Symposium**
- 15:00 – 18:00 **The 7th ICE-HBV Symposium: Therapeutic Vaccines for Chronic Hepatitis B: Optimizing Their Utility in Novel Therapeutic Combinations - registration required**
- 15:00 – 15:10 **Welcome & Opening Remarks**
Chairs: Adam J Gehring & Anna D. Kosinska
- 15:10 – 15:35 **What we've learned, current strategies and future prospects for therapeutic vaccines**
Speaker: Anna Kosinska
- 15:35 – 16:00 **Vaccine combinations in the current landscape of novel HBV therapies**

16:00 – 16:25 **Speaker: Seng Gee Lim**
What deep translational studies teach us about vaccine efficacy in combination therapies, experience from the Brie studies
Speaker: Antonio Bertolotti

16:25 – 16:45 **Coffee and Tea Break**

16:45 – 17:05 **How much would effective therapeutic vaccination improve functional cure rates?**

Speaker: Adam Gehring

17:05 – 17:15 **TherVacB - on the way to the clinic**

Speaker: Ulrike Protzer

17:15 – 17:25 **Immunogenicity and antiviral efficacy of GS-2829 and GS-6779 in CHB patients with a broad range of baseline HBsAg levels**

Speaker: Simon Fletcher

17:25 – 17:35 **Immunogenicity and long-term antiviral effect of VRON-0200**

Speaker: Sue Currie

17:35 – 18:00 **Round Table Discussion & Closing of ICE-HBV Symposium**

18:00 – 20:00 **Welcome Reception: Refreshing Drinks & Asian Live Food Stations**

Monday, September 7, 2026

- 09:00 – 09:30 **Lion Dance & Welcome Address**
Thomas Tu, Associate Professor, Westmead Clinical School, University of Sydney, Australia & **Nina Le Bert**, Assistant Professor, Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore
- 09:30 – 10:30 **Distinguished Award in Hepatitis B Research Lecture – John E. Tavis, PhD**
Introduction by Haitao Guo, PhD and Fabien Zoulim, MD
- 10:30 - 11:00 **Morning Coffee & Networking**
- 11:00 – 12:30 **Session 1: New Models**
Session Chairs: Robert Schwartz & Helene Strick-Marchand
- 11:00 – 11:12 **Establishment of an immunocompetent mouse model of hepadnavirus infection using Asian grey shrew hepatitis B virus**
Chen Li
- 11:12 – 11:17 Q&A
- 11:17 – 11:29 **A late entry step restricts hepatitis B virus infection in murine hepatocytes**
Xupeng Hong
- 11:29 – 11:34 Q&A
- 11:34 – 11:46 **Oncostatin M and forskolin confer permissiveness to HBV infection in A549-NTCP lung carcinoma cells**
Yi Ni
- 11:46 – 11:51 Q&A
- 11:51 – 12:03 **A rice rat hepadnavirus efficiently replicates and forms cccDNA in cotton rat and mouse hepatocytes**
Qingyan Wu
- 12:03 – 12:08 Q&A
- 12:08 – 12:20 **Modeling hepatitis B driven hepatocarcinogenesis in zebrafish**
Samer Ayoub
- 12:20 – 12:25 Q&A
- 12:30 – 12:45 **Sponsors & Travel Awards**
- 12:45 – 14:00 **Buffet Lunch & Networking**
- 14:00 – 14:30 **Keynote Lecture I**
Speaker: Julia Beatty, City University of Hong Kong
"Cancer-causing viruses in cats (and how they will save the world)"
- 14:30 – 14:40 Q&A
- 14:40 – 15:30 **Grand Discussion Round 1 - Animal models of Hepatitis B: what we have, how they can inform us, and where we need to go from here**

Panelists: Ulrike Protzer, Luca Guidotti, Maura Dandri, Carla Coffin, Ben Burowitz, Julia Beatty; Moderator: Thomas Tu

15:30 – 16:00 **Afternoon Coffee & Networking**

16:00 – 17:45 **Session 2: HBV Pathogenesis**

Session Chairs: Adam Gehring & Margaret Littlejohn

16:00 – 16:12 **Spatial profiling the chronic hepatitis B liver identifies viral-immune niches that perturb local immune responses in a zonal dependent manner**

James Harris

16:12 – 16:17 Q&A

16:17 – 16:29 **Visualizing the spatial dynamics of in situ HBV-specific tissue-resident memory T cells and hepatic immune niches that govern tumor control in hepatocellular carcinoma**

Jing-Yun Wu

16:29 – 16:34 Q&A

16:34 – 16:46 **Kupffer cells modulate the early host immune response and severity of hepatitis in the woodchuck infection model of hepatitis B**

Md Deen Islam

16:46 – 16:51 Q&A

16:51 – 17:03 **Hepatic Tertiary Lymphoid Structures Enable Local Adaptive Immune Responses in the HBV-Replicating Liver**

Cristian G Beccaria

17:03 – 17:08 Q&A

17:08 – 17:20 **Proliferation of hepatocytes in postnatal period depletes nuclear cccDNA in vivo**

Qiong Li

17:20 – 17:25 Q&A

17:25 – 17:37 **The HBV capsid is membrane active**

Adam Zlotnick

17:37 – 17:42 Q&A

17:45 – 19:00 **Poster Session 1**

High Tea & Drinks

19:30 – 21:00 **Emerging Researcher's Dinner**

By Invitation Only RSVP Required

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

09:00 – 10:30 **Session 3: Novel Antivirals & Immunotherapies**

Session Chairs: Carla Coffin & Koichi Watashi

- 09:00 – 09:12 **Intravenous delivery of cationic nanoparticles carrying a RIG-I agonist leads to liver centric innate immunity in rhesus macaques: A preclinical study for HBV therapy**
Sreya Biswas
- 09:12 – 09:17 Q&A
- 09:17 – 09:29 **Structure-guided discovery and engineering of miniature CRISPR–Cas12m for durable epigenetic silencing and effective inhibition of HBV infection**
Zhao Guan
- 09:29 – 09:34 Q&A
- 09:34 – 09:46 **CRISPR/Cas9 Gene Editing Induces Genetic Disruption and Epigenetic Silencing of Chromosomal Integrated HBV DNA and Episomal cccDNA**
Qiong Zhao
- 09:46 – 09:51 Q&A
- 09:51 – 10:03 **SAMD9 Is Required for the Antiviral Activity of Interferon-α Against Hepatitis B Virus**
Antonios Athanasiadis
- 10:03 – 10:08 Q&A
- 10:08 – 10:20 **A single subcutaneous injection of the long-acting capsid assembly modulator (CAM) SR-1891 delivers 9 weeks of superior virologic suppression compared with daily oral entecavir in humanized and transgenic models of chronic hepatitis B**
Luca Giulio Guidotti
- 10:20 – 10:25 Q&A

10:30 - 11:00 **Morning Coffee & Networking**

11:00 – 12:30 **Session 4: Novel Immunotherapies & Mechanisms**

Session Chairs: Upkar Gill & Anna Kosinska

- 11:00 – 11:12 **A single-mismatched CD4 T cell epitope derived from prehistoric HBV drives functional cure**
Akshay Anil Binayke
- 11:12 – 11:17 Q&A
- 11:17 – 11:29 **Influence of Type-I interferon on antiviral immunity of CD8 T Cells in chronic Hepatitis B**
Vincent Steinbacher
- 11:29 – 11:34 Q&A
- 11:34 – 11:46 **Development of multi-specific T-cell engager antibodies targeting HBV surface antigens**
Alexander Seidler
- 11:46 – 11:51 Q&A

- 11:51 – 12:03 **Impact of checkpoint inhibition on HBV-specific CD8 T cells**
Martin Feuerherd
- 12:03 – 12:08 Q&A
- 12:08 – 12:20 **Immune priming by HBsAg-specific mRNA TCR-T therapy supports combination with PD-1 blockade in HBV-related hepatocellular carcinoma**
Lu-En Wai
- 12:20 – 12:25 Q&A

12:30 – 14:00 Buffet Lunch & Networking

14:00 – 15:30 Session 5: cccDNA & Viral Persistence

Session Chairs: Lena Allweiss & Haitao Guo

- 14:00 – 14:12 **Comprehensive characterization of HBV closed minus-strand rcDNA reveals the strand-specific roles of host DNA ligase I and III in cccDNA formation**
Hu Zhang
- 14:12 – 14:17 Q&A
- 14:17 – 14:29 **Mitotic Nuclear Remodeling Enables ENDOG-dependent Degradation of Hepatitis B Virus Minichromosome**
Gaihong Zhao
- 14:29 – 14:34 Q&A
- 14:34 – 14:46 **Mechanism of Covalently Closed Circular DNA Synthesis from Hepatitis B Virus Double-Stranded Linear DNA and Implications in Viral Pathogenesis**
Qiong Zhao
- 14:46 – 14:51 Q&A
- 14:51 – 15:03 **Hepatocyte-intrinsic resistance to cell death limits elimination of HBV infected hepatocytes**
Pauline Krebs
- 15:03 – 15:08 Q&A
- 15:08 – 15:20 **A pan-genotypic, sensitive PCR assay reveals that covalently closed circular (ccc)DNA is reduced after cessation of long-term antiviral therapy in HBeAg-negative patients**
Delgerbat Boldbaatar
- 15:20 – 15:25 Q&A

15:30 – 16:00 Afternoon Coffee & Networking

16:00 – 17:30 Session 6: HBV Integration

Session Chairs: Chloe Thio & Teresa Pollicino

- 16:00 – 16:12 **HBV DNA integrations are involved in cellular and genomic rearrangements directly after infection and can express HBcAg/HBeAg**
Harout Ajoyan

16:12 – 16:17	Q&A
16:17 – 16:29	Analysis of natural HBV DNA integration in vitro reveals an association between HBsAg abundance and HBV superinfection exclusion Lottida Phondeth
16:29 – 16:34	Q&A
16:34 – 16:46	Integrated HBV DNA expressing HBx drives genomic instability and promotes further viral integrations Marika Longo Minnolo
16:46 – 16:51	Q&A
16:51 – 17:03	HBV superinfection is impaired in human hepatocytes harboring HBs-producing integrations or actively replicating HBV Melina Schäfer
17:03 – 17:08	Q&A
17:08 – 17:20	A new humanized mouse model demonstrates HBV DNA integration-driven HDV spread mimicking chronic hepatitis D Carina Hingst
17:20 – 17:25	Q&A

17:30 – 19:00 **Poster Session 2**
High Tea & Drinks

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

09:00 – 10:30 **Session 7: HDV Pathogenesis & Therapy**

Session Chairs: Stephan Urban & Naranjargal Dashdorj

- 09:00 – 09:12 **Deltaviruses spread through a viral Trojan Horse**
Karim Majzoub
- 09:12 – 09:17 Q&A
- 09:17 – 09:29 **Cell proliferation reduces innate antiviral defenses and promotes HDV spread in primary human hepatocytes in vivo**
Annika Volmari
- 09:29 – 09:34 Q&A
- 09:34 – 09:46 **Viral disruption of MOV10-LINE-1 complexes leads to MDA5 activation during hepatitis D virus infection**
Julia Steinberg
- 09:46 – 09:51 Q&A
- 09:51 – 10:03 **Combining S-HDAg-specific siRNA with AAV-mediated expression of hyperfarnesylated L-HDAg profoundly suppresses intracellular HDV replication**
Yanfei Gao
- 10:03 – 10:08 Q&A
- 10:08 – 10:20 **Reduced bystander activation of CD8⁺ T cells under bulevirtide treatment associates with improved liver function in chronic HDV infection**
Shruti Chowdhury
- 10:20 – 10:25 Q&A

10:30 - 11:00 **Morning Coffee & Networking**

11:00 – 12:30 **Session 8: Intrahepatic & Peripheral HBV-specific T cells**

Session Chairs: Carolina Boni & Yang Cheng

- 11:00 – 11:12 **The liver contains tissue-resident HBsAg-specific T cells across HBeAg⁺ and HBeAg⁻ chronic hepatitis B despite low peripheral responses**
Loghman Salimzadeh
- 11:12 – 11:17 Q&A
- 11:17 – 11:29 **Circulating virus-specific CD8⁺ T cells as sentinels for intrahepatic antiviral immunity in acute and chronic hepatitis B**
Ioanna Gemünd
- 11:29 – 11:34 Q&A
- 11:34 – 11:46 **Single cell RNA/TCR profiling of HBV-specific T cells persisting in the human liver following resolution of infection**
Jose Cabezas Caballero
- 11:46 – 11:51 Q&A
- 11:51 – 12:03 **Accumulation of HBV-reactive T cells with age in HBV-unexposed subjects**

- Joey Matsuyama
- 12:03 – 12:08 Q&A
- 12:08 – 12:20 **LINE-1 retrotransposons drive liver-imposed CD8+ T cell dysfunction in chronic HBV infection**
- Francesco Andreato
- 12:20 – 12:25 Q&A
- 12:30 – 13:30 **Buffet Lunch & Networking**
- 13:30 – 14:00 **Keynote Lecture 2**
Speaker: Arash Grakoui, Emory University
“B ≠ C: Decoding the divergent immune responses to HBV and HCV”
- 14:00 – 14:10 Q&A
- 14:10 – 15:00 **Grand Discussion Round 2 - Immune recovery in chronic HBV: does it really mimic acute resolved HBV infection?**
Panelists: Georg Lauer, Mala Maini, Adam Gehring, Carolina Boni, Arash Grakoui;
Moderator: Nina Le Bert
- 15:00 – 15:30 **Afternoon Coffee & Networking**
- 15:30 – 17:00 **Session 9: HBV-specific Humoral Immunity**
Session Chairs: Valeria Fumagalli & Loghman Salimzadeh
- 15:30 – 15:42 **A microbiota–lactate–immune axis breaks B cell tolerance to HBV**
Valeria Fumagalli
- 15:42 – 15:47 Q&A
- 15:47 – 15:59 **Analysis of HBsAg-specific B cells reveals skewed differentiation-state distribution and glutamine metabolic deficiency during chronic hepatitis B**
Liangjun Shen
- 15:59 – 16:04 Q&A
- 16:04 – 16:16 **Interferon-α orchestrates antiviral humoral immunity to facilitate functional cure of chronic hepatitis B**
Shihon Zhong
- 16:16 – 16:21 Q&A
- 16:21 – 16:33 **Duration of HBV infection shapes the fate of therapeutic vaccine-induced B cells in mice**
Annabelle Vossius
- 16:33 – 16:38 Q&A
- 16:38 – 16:50 **Defining the origin, specificity and function of human antibodies in hepatitis B e-seroconversion**
Heng Boon Low
- 16:50 – 16:55 Q&A
- 17:30 – 18:00 **Shuttle buses to Sentosa Island from Selected Hotels + CHI**

18:00 – 22:30 **Sunset Beach Party & Gala Dinner – *ticketed event***
Tanjong Beach Club – Sentosa Island

Thursday, September 10, 2026

09:00 – 10:30 **Session 10: Viral Replication**

Session Chairs: Jianming Hu & Christine Neuveut

09:00 – 09:12 **SIMC1-SLF2 is required for SMC5/6 complex-mediated HBV transcription suppression in the absence of PML**

Xueleli Li

09:12 – 09:17 Q&A

09:17 – 09:29 **Hepatitis B virus precore RNA produces trans-acting polymerase that supports reverse transcription of spliced viral RNAs**

Mengyin Zhang

09:29 – 09:34 Q&A

09:34 – 09:46 **ChIRP-MS performed in HBV-replicating cells identified RBM39 as a novel host RNA-binding protein involved in HBV RNA biogenesis.**

Victor Boschetti

09:46 – 09:51 Q&A

09:51 – 10:03 **Hepatic extrachromosomal circular DNA (eccDNA) profiling identifies genomic RUNX1 as a novel restriction factor for HBV transcription**

Andrea Jurado

10:03 – 10:08 Q&A

10:08 – 10:20 **Mechanistic studies of a first-in-class HBV cccDNA modulator in primary human hepatocytes**

Alfred Jiang

10:20 – 10:25 Q&A

10:30 - 11:00 **Morning Coffee & Networking**

11:00 – 12:30 **Session 11: Host-Viral Interactions**

Session Chairs: Barbara Testoni & Chunkyu Ko

11:00 – 11:12 **Pin1-mediated isomerization at HBV core protein phosphorylated-Ser170 regulates pgRNA encapsidation**

Chi-Ling Hsieh

11:12 – 11:17 Q&A

11:17 – 11:29 **Phylogenetic footprint of a wide range of primate Ntcps reveals convergent evolution toward loss of hepadnavirus receptor function**

Kago Shionoya

11:29 – 11:34 Q&A

11:34 – 11:46 **Visualization of HBV by Metabolic Glycan Labeling**

Xiangmei Chen

11:46 – 11:51 Q&A

11:51 – 12:03 **Smc5/6-mediated restriction and DDB1 dependency shape HBV transcription across species**

Jenny Ijoma

12:03 – 12:08 Q&A
 12:08 – 12:20 **Structural and functional insights into HBx-Smc6 targeting for HBV inhibition**
 Lanfeng Wang
 12:20 – 12:25 Q&A

12:30 – 13:00 **Farewell + Awards + HBV 2027**

13:00 – 14:00 **High Tea Buffet & HBV Organizers Meeting**