

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 *Abstract Session I-II *Keynote Speaker I *Grand Discussion *Poster Session I	*Abstract Session III-VI *Poster Session II	*Abstract Session VII-IX *Keynote Speaker II *Grand Discussion II *Networking Dinner & Beach Party	*Abstract Session X-XI *Awards *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**
Speaker: Seng Gee Lim
- 16:00 – 16:25 **What deep translational studies teach us about vaccine efficacy in combination therapies, experience from the Bii 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 **Chen Li**
Establishment of an immunocompetent mouse model of hepadnavirus infection using Asian grey shrew hepatitis B virus
- 11:12 – 11:17 **Q&A**
- 11:17 – 11:29 **Xupeng Hong**
A late entry step restricts hepatitis B virus infection in murine hepatocytes
- 11:29 – 11:34 **Q&A**
- 11:34 – 11:46 **Yi Ni**
Oncostatin M and forskolin confer permissiveness to HBV infection in A549-NTCP lung carcinoma cells
- 11:46 – 11:51 **Q&A**
- 11:51 – 12:03 **Qingyan Wu**
A rice rat hepadnavirus efficiently replicates and forms cccDNA in cotton rat and mouse hepatocytes
- 12:03 – 12:08 **Q&A**
- 12:08 – 12:20 **Samer Ayoub**
Modeling hepatitis B driven hepatocarcinogenesis in zebrafish
- 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
"Cancer-causing viruses in cats (and how they will save the world)"
- 14:30 – 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

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 **James Harris**

Spatial profiling the chronic hepatitis B liver identifies viral-immune niches that perturb local immune responses in a zonal dependent manner

16:12 – 16:17 **Q&A**

16:17 – 16:29 **Jing-yun Wu**

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

16:29 – 16:34 **Q&A**

16:34 – 16:46 **Md Deen Islam**

Kupffer cells modulate the early host immune response and severity of hepatitis in the woodchuck infection model of hepatitis B

16:46 – 16:51 **Q&A**

16:51 – 17:03 **Cristian G Beccaria**

Hepatic Tertiary Lymphoid Structures Enable Local Adaptive Immune Responses in the HBV-Replicating Liver

17:03 – 17:08 **Q&A**

17:08 – 17:20 **Qiong Li**

Proliferation of hepatocytes in postnatal period depletes nuclear cccDNA in vivo

17:20 – 17:25 **Q&A**

17:25 – 17:37 **Adam Zlotnick**

The HBV capsid is membrane active

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 **Sreya Biswas**

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

- 09:12 – 09:17 **Q&A**
09:17 – 09:29 **Zhao Guan**
Structure-guided discovery and engineering of miniature CRISPR–Cas12m for durable epigenetic silencing and effective inhibition of HBV infection
- 09:29 – 09:34 **Q&A**
09:34 – 09:46 **Qiong Zhao**
CRISPR/Cas9 Gene Editing Induces Genetic Disruption and Epigenetic Silencing of Chromosomal Integrated HBV DNA and Episomal cccDNA
- 09:46 – 09:51 **Q&A**
09:51 – 10:03 **Antonios Athanasiadis**
SAM9 Is Required for the Antiviral Activity of Interferon-α Against Hepatitis B Virus
- 10:03 – 10:08 **Q&A**
10:08 – 10:20 **Luca Giulio Guidotti**
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

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 **Akshay Anil Binayke**
A single-mismatched CD4 T cell epitope derived from prehistoric HBV drives functional cure
- 11:12 – 11:17 **Q&A**
11:17 – 11:29 **Vincent Steinbacher**
Influence of Type-I interferon on antiviral immunity of CD8 T Cells in chronic Hepatitis B
- 11:29 – 11:34 **Q&A**
11:34 – 11:46 **Alexander Seidler**
Development of multi-specific T-cell engager antibodies targeting HBV surface antigens
- 11:46 – 11:51 **Q&A**
11:51 – 12:03 **Martin Feuerherd**
Impact of checkpoint inhibition on HBV-specific CD8 T cells
- 12:03 – 12:08 **Q&A**
12:08 – 12:20 **Lu-En Wai**
Immune priming by HBsAg-specific mRNA TCR-T therapy supports combination with PD-1 blockade in HBV-related hepatocellular carcinoma
- 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 **Hu Zhang**

Comprehensive characterization of HBV closed minus-strand rcDNA reveals the strand-specific roles of host DNA ligase I and III in cccDNA formation

14:12 – 14:17 **Q&A**

14:17 – 14:29 **Gaihong Zhao**

Mitotic Nuclear Remodeling Enables ENDOG-dependent Degradation of Hepatitis B Virus Minichromosome

14:29 – 14:34 **Q&A**

14:34 – 14:46 **Qiong Zhao**

Mechanism of Covalently Closed Circular DNA Synthesis from Hepatitis B Virus Double-Stranded Linear DNA and Implications in Viral Pathogenesis

14:46 – 14:51 **Q&A**

14:51 – 15:03 **Pauline Krebs**

Hepatocyte-intrinsic resistance to cell death limits elimination of HBV infected hepatocytes

15:03 – 15:08 **Q&A**

15:08 – 15:20 **Delgerbat Boldbaatar**

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

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 **Harout Ajoyan**

HBV DNA integrations are involved in cellular and genomic rearrangements directly after infection and can express HBcAg/HBeAg

16:12 – 16:17 **Q&A**

16:17 – 16:29 **Lottida Phondeth**

Analysis of natural HBV DNA integration in vitro reveals an association between HBsAg abundance and HBV superinfection exclusion

16:29 – 16:34 **Q&A**

16:34 – 16:46 **Marika Longo Minnolo**

Integrated HBV DNA expressing HBx drives genomic instability and promotes further viral integrations

16:46 – 16:51 **Q&A**

- 16:51 – 17:03 **Melina Schäfer**
HBV superinfection is impaired in human hepatocytes harboring HBs-producing integrations or actively replicating HBV
- 17:03 – 17:08 **Q&A**
- 17:08 – 17:20 **Carina Hingst**
A new humanized mouse model demonstrates HBV DNA integration-driven HDV spread mimicking chronic hepatitis D
- 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 **Karim Majzoub**

Deltaviruses spread through a viral Trojan Horse

09:12 – 09:17 **Q&A**

09:17 – 09:29 **Annika Volmari**

Cell proliferation reduces innate antiviral defenses and promotes HDV spread in primary human hepatocytes in vivo

09:29 – 09:34 **Q&A**

09:34 – 09:46 **Julia Steinberg**

Viral disruption of MOV10-LINE-1 complexes leads to MDA5 activation during hepatitis D virus infection

09:46 – 09:51 **Q&A**

09:51 – 10:03 **Yanfei Gao**

Combining S-HDAg-specific siRNA with AAV-mediated expression of hyperfarnesylated L-HDAg profoundly suppresses intracellular HDV replication

10:03 – 10:08 **Q&A**

10:08 – 10:20 **Shruti Chowdhury**

Reduced bystander activation of CD8⁺ T cells under bulevirtide treatment associates with improved liver function in chronic HDV infection

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 **Loghman Salimzadeh**

The liver contains tissue-resident HBsAg-specific T cells across HBeAg⁺ and HBeAg⁻ chronic hepatitis B despite low peripheral responses

11:12 – 11:17 **Q&A**

11:17 – 11:29 **Ioanna Gemünd**

Circulating virus-specific CD8⁺ T cells as sentinels for intrahepatic antiviral immunity in acute and chronic hepatitis B

11:29 – 11:34 **Q&A**

11:34 – 11:46 **Jose Cabezas Caballero**

Single cell RNA/TCR profiling of HBV-specific T cells persisting in the human liver following resolution of infection

11:46 – 11:51 **Q&A**

11:51 – 12:03 **Joey Matsuyama**

- Accumulation of HBV-reactive T cells with age in HBV-unexposed subjects
- 12:03 – 12:08 **Q&A**
- 12:08 – 12:20 **Francesco Andreata**
LINE-1 retrotransposons drive liver-imposed CD8+ T cell dysfunction in chronic HBV infection
- 12:20 – 12:25 **Q&A**
- 12:30 – 13:30 **Buffet Lunch & Networking**
- 13:30 – 14:10 **Keynote Lecture 2**
Arash Grakoui
- 14:10 – 15:00 **Grand Discussion Round 2**
Panelists TBA
- 15:00 – 15:30 **Afternoon Coffee & Networking**
- 15:30 – 17:00 **Session 9: HBV-specific Humoral Immunity**
Session Chairs: Valeria Fumagalli & Loghman Salimzadeh
- 14:00 – 14:12 **Valeria Fumagalli**
A microbiota–lactate–immune axis breaks B cell tolerance to HBV
- 14:12 – 14:17 **Q&A**
- 14:17 – 14:29 **Liangjun Shen**
Analysis of HBsAg-specific B cells reveals skewed differentiation-state distribution and glutamine metabolic deficiency during chronic hepatitis B
- 14:29 – 14:34 **Q&A**
- 14:34 – 14:46 **Shihon Zhong**
Interferon- α orchestrates antiviral humoral immunity to facilitate functional cure of chronic hepatitis B
- 14:46 – 14:51 **Q&A**
- 14:51 – 15:03 **Annabelle Vossius**
Duration of HBV infection shapes the fate of therapeutic vaccine-induced B cells in mice
- 15:03 – 15:08 **Q&A**
- 15:08 – 15:20 **Heng Boon Low**
Defining the origin, specificity and function of human antibodies in hepatitis B e-seroconversion
- 15:20 – 15:25 **Q&A**
- 18:00 **Shuttle buses to Sentosa Island from Selected Hotels**
- 18:30 – 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 **Xuele Li**

SIMC1-SLF2 is required for SMC5/6 complex-mediated HBV transcription suppression in the absence of PML

09:12 – 09:17 **Q&A**

09:17 – 09:29 **Mengyin Zhang**

Hepatitis B virus precore RNA produces trans-acting polymerase that supports reverse transcription of spliced viral RNAs

09:29 – 09:34 **Q&A**

09:34 – 09:46 **Victor Boschetti**

ChIRP-MS performed in HBV-replicating cells identified RBM39 as a novel host RNA-binding protein involved in HBV RNA biogenesis.

09:46 – 09:51 **Q&A**

09:51 – 10:03 **Andrea Jurado**

Hepatic extrachromosomal circular DNA (eccDNA) profiling identifies genomic RUNX1 as a novel restriction factor for HBV transcription

10:03 – 10:08 **Q&A**

10:08 – 10:20 **Alfred Jiang**

Mechanistic studies of a first-in-class HBV cccDNA modulator in primary human hepatocytes

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 **Chi-Ling Hsieh**

Pin1-mediated isomerization at HBV core protein phosphorylated-Ser170 regulates pgRNA encapsidation

11:12 – 11:17 **Q&A**

11:17 – 11:29 **Kago Shionoya**

Phylogenetic footprint of a wide range of primate Ntcps reveals convergent evolution toward loss of hepadnavirus receptor function

11:29 – 11:34 **Q&A**

11:34 – 11:46 **Xiangmei Chen**

Visualization of HBV by Metabolic Glycan Labeling

11:46 – 11:51 **Q&A**

11:51 – 12:03 **Jenny Ijoma**

Smc5/6-mediated restriction and DDB1 dependency shape HBV transcription across species

12:03 – 12:08 **Q&A**

12:08 – 12:20 **Lanfeng Wang**

Structural and functional insights into HBx-Smc6 targeting for HBV inhibition

12:20 – 12:25 **Q&A**

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

13:00 – 15:00 **High Tea Buffet & HBV Organizers Meeting**