ICE-HBV
International Coalition to Eliminate HBV

PROMOTING GLOBAL COLLABORATION IN HBV CURE RESEARCH

Toronto Hybrid Symposium on:

HBV Cure: The Mechanisms behind Combination Therapies

September 30, 9:15am to 2:45pm (Exact Time TBC) - Sheraton Centre Toronto & on Zoom

Co-Chairs: Fabien Zoulim & John Tavis

Background & Objectives: Functional cure for chronic HBV infections, defined as stable post-therapy loss of HBV surface antigen, is the major goal of current HBV cure strategies using direct acting antivirals and/or anti-HBV immune-stimulating responses.

The new drugs that are currently being developed and tested will most likely be used as components of combination therapies. It is essential to understand the mechanisms behind the anticipated therapeutic combinations in the pipeline to prepare for future clinical trials. The ICE-HBV symposium will address the following questions:

- Which combinations make mechanistic sense, and why?
  - Combinations of direct acting antivirals to decrease the cccDNA pool?
  - Combinations of compounds that stimulate and enhance function of specific B/T cells?
- What pre-clinical evidence is needed to justify advancing a combination into clinical trials? What is the pre-clinical evidence for combination of antiviral and immune strategies?
- What is the best way to design combination trials to advance the most promising drugs efficiently and rapidly?
  - Clinical trial design for the various combinations.
  - Use of novel biomarkers to assist those trials.

In this workshop, a range of academic and industry experts will discuss the latest advances and identify knowledge gaps in our understanding of combination mechanisms. They will discuss challenges that need to be overcome to ensure the efficacy and safety of combination therapies. Presentations will be complemented by in-depth discussion panels that will debate these challenges and propose a way forward.

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