Elimination of Perinatal HBV and HCV Transmission: New Opportunities to Improve Screening, Prevention, and Care

Thursday, October 14th 3-5 pm ET

Program and Speaker Bios
Elimination of Perinatal HBV and HCV Transmission: New Opportunities to Improve Screening, Prevention, and Care Program

Opening remarks
Dr. Sonia Lee, National Institute of Child Health and Development (NICHD), National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Speaker presentations

*Epidemiology, current progress, and current recommendations for prevention of mother to child transmission*
Dr. Carolyn Wester, Division of Viral Hepatitis, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

*Strategies for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of hepatitis B virus*
Dr. Gonzague Jourdain, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) and Chiang Mai University

*Treatment of HCV in pregnancy?*
Dr. Catherine Chappell, University of Pittsburgh

*Hepatitis B and C: Treatment in Children*
Dr. Ravi Jhaveri, Northwestern University

Panel Discussion
Dr. Craig Towers, University of Tennessee Medical Center, Knoxville
Ms. Megan McReynolds, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Dr. Poonam Mishra, US Food and Drug Administration
Dr. Neil Gupta, Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination
Dr. Nahida Chakhtoura, NICHD
Bios

Presenters

Sonia S. Lee, PhD
Acting Branch Chief, Maternal and Pediatric Infectious Disease Branch (MPIDB), National Institute of Child Health and Development, NIH

Dr. Sonia Lee is acting branch chief of MPIDB at NICHD. She works with investigators on adolescent HIV prevention and treatment, including the Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions, to design and implement behavioral studies and behavioral components of biomedical studies in youth living with HIV or at risk for HIV. Her grant portfolio also includes global research on adolescent HIV prevention and treatment, mobile health for HIV/AIDS, and assessment of neurodevelopmental outcomes. She contributes behavioral science expertise to all activities supported by the branch.

Prior to joining NICHD in 2006, Dr. Lee was a psychologist on the Special Immunology Service at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., dealing with assessment and care of children, adolescents, and families living with HIV.

Dr. Lee earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Pennsylvania, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from American University in Washington, D.C.
Carolyn Wester, MD, MPH
Director, Director of the Division of Viral Hepatitis, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, U.S. CDC

Carolyn Wester, MD, MPH, serves as the Director of the Division of Viral Hepatitis in the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) within the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. In this role, she oversees the design and implementation of national programs for viral hepatitis prevention, control, surveillance and outbreak response. Prior to this role, Dr. Wester held positions as the Medical Director for HIV, STDs, and Viral Hepatitis at the Tennessee Department of Health, a Research Associate at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and the Director of Urogynecology and Pelvic Reconstructive Surgery section at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. Dr. Wester received her Medical Degree from Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine, and a Master of Public Health from Harvard’s T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Gonzague Jourdain, MD, PhD
Researcher, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD)/French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development and Chiang Mai University

Gonzague Jourdain is a clinical epidemiologist who was trained as an MD and earned a PhD in Epidemiology in France. After he worked for Harvard School of Public Health until 2006, he joined the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development, but his clinical research work is performed in close collaboration with Chiang Mai University in Thailand.

He has been the PI of several grants from NICHD. He has co-authored more than 130 papers in international peer-reviewed journals, especially on perinatal transmission of HIV and HBV.

His current research is implemented in Thailand and Lao PDR. The objective is to design and assess simplified clinical strategies to prevent mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis B virus, and horizontal transmission of HIV in key populations.
Catherine Chappell, MD  
Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Chappell an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Pittsburgh. She completed fellowships in both reproductive infectious diseases and family planning and then was a BIRCWH scholar (https://orwh.od.nih.gov/career-development-education/building-interdisciplinary-research-careers-womens-health-bircwh). Her research focuses on optimizing antiviral strategies for women of reproductive age with chronic viral infections, and more specifically evaluating the safety and efficacy of directly acting antivirals in pregnant women with hepatitis C virus.
Ravi Jhaveri, MD
Interim Division Head, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital and Professor of Pediatrics, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

Dr. Ravi Jhaveri attended Boston University as an undergraduate and Mount Sinai School of Medicine for medical school. He subsequently completed his residency training in General Pediatrics at the University of Chicago Hospitals and a fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Mattel Children’s Hospital at UCLA. After having served on the faculty at both Duke and UNC, in October 2018 Dr. Jhaveri became Associate Division Head for Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital in Chicago and Professor of Pediatrics at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He became the Interim Division Head in January 2021.

Dr. Jhaveri’s research has largely focused on various aspects of Hepatitis C virus. For the past several years, he has focused on the burden, clinical outcomes and treatment of HCV in infants, children and pregnant women. He currently serves on the AASLD/IDSA HCV Guidelines Panel as well as the AASLD Viral Hepatitis Elimination Task Force. Dr. Jhaveri is a Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and currently serves as Chair of the IDSA Standards and Practice Guidelines committee. He is a Fellow of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society and served on the PIDS Board of Directors from 2015-2019.

He currently serves as one of the Co-Editors-in-Chief for the journal Clinical Therapeutics and as an Associate Editor for the Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society.
Discussants

Nahida Chakhtoura, MD
Medical Officer/Physician, Maternal and Pediatric Infectious Disease Branch (MPIDB), National Institute of Child Health and Development, NIH

Dr. Chakhtoura’s main research areas include: the epidemiology and natural history of HIV infection in pregnant and non-pregnant women, HIV prevention and treatment research in pregnant and non-pregnant women, congenital infections such as Zika and cytomegalovirus, women’s health, and cohort studies and clinical trials. She also serves as the executive secretary of the HHS Panel on Treatment of Pregnant Women with HIV Infection and Prevention of Perinatal Transmission.

Dr. Chakhtoura received her M.D. from the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, and her master of science in global health from Duke University. She completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Jackson Memorial Hospital and was a fulltime faculty at the University of Miami prior to joining NICHD. She still holds a volunteer faculty position with the University of Miami.

Megan McReynolds, PMP
Director, Clinical Obstetrics, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)

Megan McReynolds is a director of clinical obstetrics in the Practice Division for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). She has 20 years of experience working in women’s health care, specifically working in continuing physician education, immunization, surgical skills development, ob-gyn workforce projections, and federal and state policy. Currently, Ms. McReynolds leads the Clinical Practice Guidelines–Obstetrics committee. ACOG Clinical Practice Guidelines summarize current information on clinical management issues in the practice of obstetrics and include recommendations for clinicians. ACOG Clinical Practice Guidelines are evidence-based documents, including formal dual literature review with inclusion and exclusion criteria, and cover such topics as viral hepatitis in pregnancy, gestational diabetes mellitus, heart disease in pregnancy, and preterm birth.
Poonam Mishra, MD, MPH, FAASLD  
Deputy Director for Safety, Division of Antivirals, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Dr. Poonam Mishra is the Deputy Director for Safety in the Division of Antivirals, in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). She shares the responsibility for overseeing the safety of antiviral drug products. Dr. Mishra joined FDA in 2008 as a Medical Officer and has been involved in the regulatory review of multiple antiviral products, including direct-acting antivirals for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C. She is actively engaged in the drug development of novel therapies for treatment of chronic hepatitis B and chronic hepatitis D virus infection. Dr. Mishra also has a strong interest in the evaluation of drug-induced liver injury particularly in patients with pre-existing chronic liver disease.

Neil Gupta, MD, MPH  
Chief Technical Officer, Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination, Task Force for Global Health

Dr. Gupta, MD, MPH, is the Chief Technical Officer for the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination. Dr. Gupta is a specialist in internal medicine, pediatrics, and public health, and is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Associate Physician at the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham & Women’s Hospital in Boston, USA. Dr. Gupta has worked extensively in sub-Saharan Africa to support viral hepatitis programs and research initiatives. He is the Primary Investigator for the SHARED study (“Simplifying Hepatitis C Antiviral Therapy for Elsewhere in the Developing World”), which aims to demonstrate the safety and effectiveness of direct-acting antivirals for hepatitis C in Rwanda and develop models for care for hepatitis C treatment in resource-limited settings. Dr. Gupta is also the Policy Director for the NCDI Poverty Network, which supports over 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia in national health system planning and policy for health services for chronic diseases, including liver cirrhosis and cancer.
Craig V. Towers, MD
University of Tennessee Medical Center, Knoxville

Dr. Towers received his undergraduate degree from Whittier College in Whittier, California. He completed medical school at the University of Kansas School of Medicine and his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Wesley Medical Center / University of Kansas in Wichita, Kansas. Following his residency, Dr. Towers completed his fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Long Beach Memorial Women’s Hospital and the University of California-Irvine. Dr. Towers is board certified in both Obstetrics and Gynecology and Maternal-Fetal Medicine. He is a coauthor of the textbook Drugs in Pregnancy and Lactation and has published over 100 journal articles, chapters, and abstracts. In addition, he has presented locally, nationally, and internationally on topics of interest such as drug addiction in pregnancy, infectious diseases in pregnancy, fetal heart monitoring, fetal lung maturity, and third trimester bleeding. Dr. Towers was Medical Director of the Regional Perinatal Program at UT Medical Center, but recently retired from clinical practice. He remains active in his research on drug addiction in pregnancy.
Moderators

John W. Ward, MD
Director, Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination, Task Force for Global Health

Dr. John W. Ward created and directs the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination of the Task Force for Global Health. Modeled after other Task Force programs to eliminate disease, the Coalition is a community of practice strengthening the capacity of national and sub-national hepatitis elimination programs through funding, advocacy, technical assistance, operational research and monitoring progress toward hepatitis elimination in >190 countries. Globally, Dr. Ward is an advisor to African Union Hepatitis Technical Working Group, and WHO including the PAHO technical advisory committee on disease elimination and the WPRO Hepatitis B Expert Resource Panel. Dr. Ward chairs the AASLD Task Force for Hepatitis Elimination. Over a 13-year tenure, Dr. Ward directed the US CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis with responsibilities for viral hepatitis surveillance, prevention, and research. At the national level, Dr. Ward developed recommendations for hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccination, hepatitis B and hepatitis C screening, authored the first action plan for viral hepatitis prevention. Dr. Ward initiated the US Academies of Sciences recommendations for viral hepatitis elimination and guided the launch of pioneer HCV elimination programs. Earlier Dr. Ward was Editor of the CDC MMWR and assisted in the CDC response to large outbreaks including SARS and the anthrax attacks after 9/11. As a medical epidemiologist in the CDC HIV/AIDS program, Dr. Ward identified new routes of HIV transmission, evaluated the first HIV tests to protect the nation’s blood supply and led national HIV/AIDS surveillance. Dr. Ward has authored over 150 publications of scientific work in viral hepatitis and HIV and edited Silent Victories, a history of public health in the 20th Century published by Oxford University Press. Dr. Ward received his medical training at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and University of Washington, Seattle. Dr. Ward is a Professor in the Hubert Department of Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta.