CGHE ICE-HBV HDV Webinar Speakers’ Profiles

Title: “Global HDV Elimination: Challenges and Opportunities“

Chairs:

● Massimo Levrero (ICE-HBV)

Massimo Levrero is Professor of Medicine at the University Claude Bernard Lyon 1 (UCLB1), Lyon, France and Praticien Hospitalier in the Service d’Hépatologie et Gastroentérologie - Hôpital de la Croix Rousse - Hospices Civils de Lyon. He leads a Research Unit on “Epigenetics and Epigenomics of Hepatocellular Carcinoma”, at the Centre de Recherche en Cancérologie de Lyon (CRCL) – INSERM U1052 in Lyon, France. Professor Levrero trained and completed his residency at Sapienza before holding posts at the University Paris VI and the Institut Gustave Roussy in Paris. He has acted as Scientific Secretary of EASL (European Association for the Study of the Liver) and he currently presides over the CSS12 study session on basic and translational research on viral hepatitis at the French National Agency for Research on AIDS and Viral Hepatitis (ANRS). He is a founding member and sits on the Governing Board of ICE (International Coalition to Eliminate HBV).

● John Ward (CGHE)

Dr. John W. Ward is the founder of the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination of the Task Force for Global Health (www.globalhep.org). Ward is an advisor to WHO Geneva, WPRO, PAHO and the African Union 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, and authored the first national action plan to prevent viral hepatitis. Dr. Ward guided the launch of pioneer HCV elimination programs. Previously, Dr. Ward led US HIV/AIDS surveillance and served as Editor of the CDC MMWR and of Silent Victories, a history of public health in the 20th century. Dr Ward
has authored over 150 scientific publications. Dr. Ward is a Professor in the Hubert Department of Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Atlanta.

- **Iman Waked (CGHE)**

  Dr. Waked is a Professor of Medicine and Hepatology, previous chairman of the Hepatology, and past Dean of the National Liver Institute (NLI) in Egypt. He graduated from Cairo University School of Medicine, obtained a Doctorate degree from Ain Shams University, and trained in the liver unit of the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles. He is a Fellow of the American Association of the Study of Liver Disease, and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London. He is a Board member of the Egyptian National Committee for Control of Viral Hepatitis, which sets national strategies and guidelines, and oversees the National hepatitis C treatment and screening program in Egypt.

- **Maura Dandri (ICE-HBV)**

  Maura Dandri is full Professor at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, where she leads the research group Viral Hepatitis. She is a member of the executive board of the German Center for Infection Research (DZIF) and the Vice/Incoming Chair of the ICE-HBV governing board. Her research focuses on developing infection models to study interactions between hepatitis viruses, human hepatocytes and immune cells. She also investigates the potential of HBV and HBV/HDV new therapeutic strategies using humanized mice and patient sample analyses.

**Topic 1. Burden of HDV: Global Epidemiology & Clinical Features**

- **Maria Buti, Spain**

  Maria Buti is a Professor of Medicine and consultant of Hepatology at the Hospital General Universitari Valle Hebron, Barcelona. Dr. Buti has worked in viral hepatitis for the last 35 years, particularly in diagnosis and therapy of hepatitis B, C and D. Dr. Buti was president of the Spanish Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, and an active member of EASL, and AASLD. Currently she is the chair of Public Health at EASL and associate editor of Journal of Hepatology. She has published more than 500 papers in the field of liver disease, with numerous papers and contributions to books.

**Topic 2. Treatment indications and current options for advances in therapy**
Heiner Wedemeyer, Germany

Professor Heiner Wedemeyer is Principal Investigator in the Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Endocrinology at Hannover Medical School in Germany. He studied musicology and medicine and graduated in Medicine from the University of Göttingen, Germany. From 1998-2000, Professor Wedemeyer worked as a research fellow in immunology in the Liver Diseases Section at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, USA. Since 2001, he has been a Senior Physician in gastroenterology and hepatology in the Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Endocrinology in Hannover, where he leads a research group on T cell immunology and heads the hepatitis diagnostic laboratory. Since 2002, Professor Wedemeyer has been the Scientific Secretary of the German Network of Competence on Viral Hepatitis. Prof. Wedemeyer joined the Governing Board of the European Association for the Study of the Liver from 2008-2011 and was appointed as EASL Secretary General from April 2009-April 2011.

His main interests are the immunopathogenesis of hepatitis B, hepatitis C and hepatitis D and the development of novel immunomodulatory therapies, such as therapeutic vaccines for hepatitis C. He has been involved as an Investigator in several Phase I–IV clinical trials of antiviral drugs and immunotherapies for viral hepatitis and has published more than 150 articles in peer reviewed journals.

Topic 3. Lessons Learned from Bulevirtide

Pietro Lampertico, Italy

Professor Pietro Lampertico is Full Professor in Gastroenterology, Director of the Gastroenterology and Hepatology Division, Head of the “A. M. e A. Migliavacca” Center for Liver Disease at the Fondazione IRCCS Ca’ Granda, Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, University of Milan, Milan, Italy. In the Gastroenterology Unit, Professor Lampertico is primarily involved in the clinical management of chronic viral hepatitis outpatients, particularly those with CHB and CHD. His research interests include the treatment of patients with chronic hepatitis/cirrhosis due to HBV and HDV, the long-term outcome of cirrhotic patients undergoing antiviral treatment, and the diagnosis and management of antiviral resistance to oral nucleos(t)ide analogues. Since November 2016, as Director of the Gastroenterology and Hepatology Division, he oversees all the medical and scientific activities in the field of liver disease.
Professor Lampertico is currently a reviewer for several top-ranked international journals. He is a member of AASLD, EASL and AISF and serves in the Editorial Board of prestigious journals.

**Topic 4. What are the Challenges in Testing for HDV**

- **Fabien Zoulim, France** fabien.zoulim@inserm.fr

  Fabien Zoulim obtained his M.D. in Gastroenterology and Hepatology in Lyon Medical School in 1991. He has also obtained a PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology and was trained as a post-doctoral researcher at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia. He is Professor of Medicine at Lyon I University since 1997. He is Head of the Hepatology Department at the Hospices Civils de Lyon, and Head of the Viral Hepatitis Research Laboratory of INSERM Unit 1052. He founded the Lyon Hepatology Institute in 2023. Dr Zoulim is currently Associate Editor for Gut. He also served as a Governing Board member of the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL). Dr Zoulim received the William Prusoff and the Gertrude Elion awards of the International Society for Antiviral Research. He is currently coordinating the ANRS “HBV cure” Task Force in France and the “IP-cure-B” project within the EU H2020 workprogram. He co-founded the International Coalition to Eliminate HBV (ICE-HBV: http://www.ice-hbv.org). He has published more than 550 articles (Web of Science H index 90) and he is a member of the highly cited researchers (Clarivate 2021).

**Round Table Discussion Panelists**

- **Stephan Urban (HDV researcher)** stephan.urban@med.uni-heidelberg.de

  Professor Stephan Urban is head of the Translational Virology unit at the Department of Infectious Diseases, Molecular Virology at Heidelberg University Hospital. He is also Project Coordinator in the DZIF TTU Hepatitis. Prof. Urban and his team developed the first drug for hepatitis D at the Heidelberg University Hospital. The drug, which blocks the entry of the hepatitis B and hepatitis D virus into the liver cell, was approved by the European Commission on 31 July 2020. In 2014 he was awarded with the DZIF Research Award. He is the recipient of the Pettenkofer Prize of the Pettenkofer Foundation 2011. Professor Urban’s research interests include Molecular mechanisms of Hepatitis B- and Hepatitis D Virus/host interactions with a focus on the early and late events of viral infection; Identification of hepatitis viral receptors and structural analyses of virus receptor interactions; Development of novel cell culture systems and animal models for HBV and HDV; Clinical development of entry inhibitors for HBV and HDV infection; Development of hepatotropic drugs for the therapy of liver diseases. Prof. Urban
completed his Diploma in Biochemistry at the University of Tübingen in 1991 and was awarded a Ph.D. in 1995 under Prof. Dr. P.H. Hofschneider at the Max-Planck-Institut für Biochemie, Martinsried and undertook Postdoctoral research at the Centre for Molecular Biology (ZMBH), Heidelberg University with Prof. Dr. H. Schaller.

- **Dr. Naranjargal Dashdorj (Mongolia)** dashdorj@onomfoundation.org

Dr. Naranjargal Dashdorj is one of the co-founders of Onom Foundation and has been Head of the Onom Foundation since June 2013. As the head of Onom Foundation, Nara has the exciting job to lead the organization committed to addressing challenges in healthcare and education in order to make a tangible difference in the lives of ordinary people.

With her leadership, Onom Foundation has played a key role in shaping the Hepatitis Prevention, Control and Elimination Program of Mongolia (HPCE program). HPCE program aims to eliminate hepatitis C by 2020 and reduce liver cancer in Mongolia. The program was announced in September 2014 by Onom Foundation, Mongolian Society of Hepatology and Mongolian Gastroenterology Association. Later, in 2016 the HPCE program was adopted by the Mongolian Government. With the HPCE program, Mongolia is leading the hepatitis elimination and control goal set by the WHO.

- **Dr. Anna Kramvis (South Africa)**

Professor Anna Kramvis is Professor Emerita and Director of the Hepatitis Virus Diversity Research Unit, Department of Internal Medicine, University of the Witwatersrand. The major objective of the research unit is to study of hepadnaviral sequence variation, its functional characterization and role in the clinical manifestation of liver disease. Professor Kramvis is a fellow of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSaf), a member of: the European Association for the Study of Liver (EASL), the governing body of the International Committee to Eliminate HBV (ICE-HBV), ICE-HBV Virology and Chronic Hepatitis B Management in Resource-Limited Settings working groups and co-convenor of the ICE-HBV Biomarkers working group. She is a passionate advocate for the elimination of hepatitis in sub-Saharan Africa.

- **Dr. Richard Njouom (Cameroon)**

Professor Richard Njouom has a PhD and a Habilitation to Direct Research (HDR) in Virology from the University of Toulouse III in France obtained in 2003 and 2013, respectively. He currently holds the rank of Research Director of the International Network of Pasteur Institutes and serves as head of the Virology Department at the
Centre Pasteur of Cameroon. He also have teaching activities acting as temporary Associate Professor at the Department of Microbiology of the University of Yaounde 1 in Cameroon.

Njouom’s research focused on general and molecular epidemiology of hepatitis and respiratory viruses in Central Africa and its impact on diagnostic, treatment response and pathogenesis. He has published about 100 peer-reviewed papers and one book, has given more than 70 scientific presentations in international meetings. He is Principal Investigator of about 5 ongoing international research and public health projects.

Njouom is member of the WHO Guidelines Development Group for the diagnostic of Viral Hepatitis and also member of the WHO Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Advisory Group.

- **Dr. Manal El-Sayed (Egypt)**

Dr. Manal El-Sayed is Professor of Pediatrics at Ain Shams University in Cairo. She is director of the clinical research center (MASRI-CRC) and co-supervisor of the viral hepatitis treatment center at the Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University and clinical director of the national HCV Pediatric treatment program.

Dr. El-Sayed is a founding member of the Egyptian National Committee for Control of Viral Hepatitis (NCCVH) since 2006. She contributed to the establishment of a nationwide network of more than 100 specialized liver centers that provided interferon therapy and direct-acting antiviral agents for treatment of more than 3 million HCV patients. Manal collaborated on the development of the national action plan for prevention and control of viral hepatitis published in 2014 with representatives from WHO, U.S. CDC, Pasteur Institute, and national stakeholders.

Manal is also the secretary general of the Egyptian Liver Care Society, an NGO offering financial assistance to patients receiving hepatitis treatment or liver transplants. She authored and co-authored numerous journal articles on hepatitis, and participated in the development of the WHO’s global HBV, HCV and diagnostic guidelines. Between 2011-2015, Manal was Vice Chair of WHO’s Technical Advisory Group for Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis in Egypt and has been a member of the Global Accelerator for Pediatric Formulations (GAP-f) since December 2016. She is also a board member of the European Study of Liver Disease International Liver Foundation since January 2018. In addition to co-organising and co-chairing numerous international meetings on viral hepatitis and liver disease in Europe and Africa.