Update on Biology and Clinical Impact of Occult Hepatitis B Virus Infection
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TAORMINA - MESSINA - ITALY

October 1st • 2nd | 2018

ENDORSEMENTS

Image on the cover: Saint Jerome - Antonello da Messina - London, National Gallery
The first International Meeting was organized in 2008. It was entirely focused on the biology and clinical implications of the so-called “occult” phase of chronic hepatitis B virus infection (Occult Hepatitis B Virus Infection: Biology and Clinical Impact – Taormina, March 7th-8th, 2008). The workshop was endorsed by the EASL and enjoyed extraordinary success. Many international experts (virologists, immunologists, transfusionists, epidemiologists, hepatologists, etc.) were involved and produced a document published in the Journal of Hepatology that has hundreds of citations and it is still considered the benchmark in the field (Statements from the Taormina expert meeting on occult hepatitis B virus infection - Journal of Hepatology, 2008: 49; 652–657).

In the last years, the knowledge on occult HBV infection (also known with the abbreviation “OBI”, as established at the Taormina meeting) has greatly increased. Some important virological and immunonological aspects have been clarified. The molecular basis of OBI has been identified as the long-lasting persistence of HBV cccDNA in the form of a transcriptionally suppressed minichromosome.

In addition, there is growing evidence supporting its clinical impact in different clinical scenarios. In fact, apart from the well-established risks of acute and often fatal reactivation in the course of immune-suppressive therapy and of HBV transmission in cases of liver transplantation and blood transfusion, OBI might be a factor that negatively influences the outcome of the disease if other causes of liver damage (HCV infection, ASH, NASH, hemochromatosis, etc.), co-exist.

The Meeting will be a unique occasion to discuss both the different aspects of this important and particular phase of the HBV infection and new strategies for a complete - or at least functional - HBV cure.
SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZER

- Giovanni Raimondo
  Division of Clinical and Molecular Hepatology
  University Hospital of Messina - Italy

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Antonio Craxi (Palermo, Italy)
- Carlo Ferrari (Parma, Italy)
- Massimo Levrero (Lyon, France)
- Stephen Locarnini (Melbourne, Australia)
- Anna Suk-Fong Lok (Ann Arbor, MI, USA)
- Teresa Pollicino (Messina, Italy)
- Fabien Zoulim (Lyon, France)

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Christian Trepo (Lyon, France)
Man-Fung Yuen (Hong Kong, PRC)
Fabien Zoulim (Lyon, France)
14.00-14.15  Where do we stand now from 2008?  
G. Raimondo

SESSION 1:  Virology and Immunopathobiology  
*Chairmen: L.G. Guidotti – C. Sureau*

14.15-14.30  Molecular definition of occult HBV infection  
S. Locarnini

14.30-14.45  Molecular basis of viral genome silencing in occult infection  
M. Levrero

14.45-15.00  Escape mutants in occult HBV infection  
D. Glebe

15.00-15.15  Immunological aspects of occult HBV infection  
C. Ferrari

15.15-15.30  Animal models of occult hepadnavirus infection  
T.I. Michalak

15.30-15.45  Open selected questions  
M. Dandri

15.45-16.00  General Discussion

SESSION 2:  Diagnosis  
*Chairmen: M.R. Brunetto – C.F. Perno*

16.00-16.15  Current approaches to detect occult HBV infection  
T. Pollicino

16.15-16.30  May new virological biomarkers be useful to detect occult HBV?  
T. Berg

16.30-16.40  Open selected questions  
J-M Pawlotsky

16.40-16.50  General Discussion
16.50-17.15  Coffee Break

SESSION 3:  Epidemiology
Chairmen: V. Di Marco – G.B. Gaeta

17.15-17.30  Epidemiology and regional prevalence of occult HBV infection in Western World
N. Coppola

17.30-17.45  Epidemiology and regional prevalence of occult HBV infection in Asia
D-S. Chen

17.45-18.00  Epidemiology and regional prevalence of occult HBV infection in Africa
A. Kramvis

18.00-18.15  Occult HBV infection in special populations
V. Soriano

18.15-18.30  Open selected questions
R. Bruno

18.30-18.45  General Discussion

18.45-19.15  Lecture
Chairman: M.U. Mondelli

Immunobiology and Pathogenesis of Acute. Occult and Chronic HBV Infection
F.V. Chisari
SESSION 4: Transmission
Chairmen: M. Cornberg – A. Marzano

08.30-08.45 Occult HBV infection in vaccinated new-borns from HBsAg positive mothers
J-P Allain

08.45-09.00 Occult HBV and blood products in Europe and Americas
D. Prati

09.00-09.15 Occult HBV and blood products in Asia and Africa
C. Li

09.15-09.30 Occult HBV and liver transplantation
D. Samuel

09.30-09.45 Open selected questions
D. Glebe

09.45-10.00 General Discussion

10.00-10.30 Lecture
Chairman: C. Trepo

Endpoints of HBV treatment: how to differentiate between cure and converting active to occult HBV infection?
A. S-F Lok

10.30-11.00 Coffee Break
SESSION 5: Liver disease / Therapeutic implications  
Chairmen: P. Lampertico – J. Liang

11.00-11.15 Occult HBV in HCV-related liver disease and HCC in the DAA era  
A. Craxì

11.15-11.30 Reactivation of occult HBV in HCV patients treated with DAAs  
M. Puoti

11.30-11.45 Occult HBV in HCV-negative liver disease and HCC  
G. Squadrito

11.45-12.00 Reactivation of occult HBV infection in immunocompromised patients  
M-F. Yuen

12.00-12.15 Immunotherapy in patients with occult HBV and HCC  
A. Bertoletti

12.15-12.30 May occult HBV infection be cleared by therapy?  
F. Zoulim

12.30-12.45 Open selected questions  
D. Shouval

12.45-13.00 General Discussion

13.30-14.30 Lunch

SESSION 6: Final Discussion and Statements  

Faculty Members

16.30-16.45 ECM Questionnaire

16.45 Closure of the Meeting
CONGRESS VENUE
Palazzo dei Congressi
Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II
98039 Taormina (Messina) Italy

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REGISTRATION FEE
Fees for participants, reserved up to 150 attendees, will include:
• Access to scientific sessions
• Lunches and coffee breaks
• Attendance Certificate
• ECM credits certificate (Not European Accreditation)
To register please contact Spazio Congressi spazio.c@mclink.it

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<td>before July 16th 2018</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>NON MEMBER AISF/EASL</td>
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<td>TRAINEES, STUDENTS AND YOUNG INVESTIGATORS</td>
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(*) Trainees, students and young investigators must be under 35 years old or still in training at the time of the Meeting (October 1st,). Proof of age or training status is mandatory.
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• All refunds will be made after the Event.

LANGUAGE

The official language of the Event is English. Simultaneous translation will not be provided.

FORMATIVE OBJECTIVE ECM - CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

Application in the daily practice of the principles and procedures of the evidence based practice (EBM - EBN - EBP)

ECM CREDITS CERTIFICATE (NOT EUROPEAN ACCREDITATION)

The Scientific Event ID 2519-234737 has been accredited for 100 medical specialists with 10 (ten) ECM Credits.

Credits have been requested for the physician professional category specialist in: Gastroenterology, Internal Medicine, Infectious diseases, Microbiology and Virology, General Surgery.

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• Compilation of the learning questionnaire answering at least 80% of the questions correctly together with the evaluation board/satisfaction form of the Event;

• Compilation of the personal data form;

• 90% participation in the full training activity to be verified by incoming and outgoing signatures for each day;

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