

## OPEN-ACCESS HBV RESEARCH PROTOCOL DATABASE

Easterbrook M. (1), Reville P.\* (2), Zoulim F. (3) Penicaud C. (1)

1. International Coalition to Eliminate HBV (ICE-HBV), Melbourne, Australia 2. Melbourne Health, Melbourne, Australia, 3. INSERM, Lyon, France.

**Background:** The hepatitis B virus (HBV) kills over 880,000 people each year, and as such there is an urgent need for a cure. To expedite the discovery of a cure, the International Coalition to Eliminate HBV (ICE-HBV) is creating a centralized repository of HBV research protocols to support the development of HBV cure research. Enabling global access to critical resources will accelerate drug development and curative research. The lack of matching data on HBV can be eliminated if researchers have the ability to work concurrently using the same protocols and materials. Our aim is to advance the discovery of an HBV cure and bring together research groups internationally by enabling accurate replication of research methods using standardized protocols that are freely and publicly available worldwide.

**Methods:** To achieve this, the ICE-HBV is collaborating with over 50 scientists in 21 countries to create an online open-access database where research groups can submit their research protocols for others to follow and refine.

**Results:** Complementing the upcoming repository of infectious disease materials from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), the ICE-HBV has developed an online database for HBV research protocol sharing. The ICE-HBV database will shortly be released publicly and will be globally available for scientists, clinicians and companies to conduct quality-controlled HBV research and facilitate data matching and comparison. Key areas included in the HBV cure research protocols database include: large-scale production of infectious HBV from cell clones; standardized protocols for assaying rcDNA, cccDNA and reference standards; human stem cell derived hepatocytes; standardized protocols for Elispot, intracellular cytokine staining, proliferation and CTL assays; and more.

**Conclusion:** This collaborative, open-access database will accelerate curative HBV research as it enables concurrent studies to be performed using the same protocols producing readily comparable results.