



PROGRAM OF THE 10th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
NEW VISBY NETWORK ON HEPATITIS C
RIGA, FEBRUARY 11-13, 2013

**Monday, February 11th – Open session day 1 at Biomedical Research
and Study Center)**

9:00-9:30 Opening of the meeting

Opening of the meeting by BMC hosts

“Research profile of Biomedical Research and Study Center: epidemiological studies and development of vaccine prototypes” Irina Sominskaya (Biomedical Research and Study Center, Riga, Latvia)

Formulating the tasks of the Baltic Network on Hepatitis C for 2013-2014: Anders Widell, Patrik Medstrand, Maria Isaguliantis

9:30-10:50 Open Session #3 “Hepatitis C: clinical sequelae and treatment”

Chair: Pascal Pineau

“HCV-associated metabolic disorders (steatosis, insulin resistance) and how they impact on liver fibrosis” Francesco Negro (Geneva University Hospitals, Geneva) 30 min

“Genomic instability in HCV infection: manifestations and mechanisms” Pascal Pineau (Pasteur Institute, Paris, France) 30 min

“Chronic hepatitis C impairs psychomotor functions of the infected subjects” Ilona Savlan & Valentina Liakina (Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania) 15 min

10:50-11:10 Open Poster Session on hepatitis C clinical sequelae

Chair: Pascal Pineau

Coffee break 11:10-11.30 Poster viewing

11:30-13:00 Open Session #4 “Molecular mechanisms of HCV pathogenicity”

Chair: Francesco Negro

“HCV infection reprograms the hepatic glucose and glutamine metabolism” Birke Bartosch (INSERM, Lyon, France) 40 min

“Regulation of polyamine metabolism in HCV-infected and uninfected hepatoma cells” Olga Smirnova (WA Engelhardt Institute of Molecular Biology, Moscow, Russia) 20 min

“Polyamines as diagnostic tools and therapeutics” Tuomo Keinänen (University of Eastern Finland, School of Pharmacy, Kuopio, Finland) 20 min

Lunch 13:00-14:00

14:00-15:20 Open Session #5 “HCV epidemiology”

Chair: Saleem Kamili

“New paradigms in the epidemiology, prevention and control of HCV infection” Jan Drobeniuc (Division of Viral Hepatitis, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta) 25 min

“Hepatitis C in Latvia: epidemiological surveillance and prevention” Raina Nikifirova (Latvian Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Riga, Latvia) 25 min

“HCV physical stability, a review of recent cell culture studies of viral contamination” Anders Widell (Department of Laboratory of Medicine, Lund University, Skene University Hospital, Malmö, Sweden) 25 min

Coffee break 15:20-15:40 Poster viewing

15.40-17:20 Open Session #6 “HCV molecular epidemiology”

Chair: Anders Widell

“HCV evolution: diversification and convergence“ Yuri Khudyakov (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, USA) 40 min

“Dating HCV introductions and spread with confidence” Patrik Medstrand (Department of Molecular Virology, Lund University, Lund, Sweden) 30 min

“HCV subtypes distribution in the Estonian blood donors, 2007-2009” Valentina Tefanova (National Institute for Health Development, Tallinn, Estonia) 10 min

Round table discussion.

Tuesday, February 12th– Open session day 2 at Biomedical Research and Study Center

9.00-10:20 Open Session #7 “HCV detection, diagnostics, immune correlates”
Chair: Jan Drobeniuc

“Laboratory diagnostics of HCV infection: challenges and recent advances” Saleem Kamili (Division of Viral Hepatitis, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta) 30 min

“Control of hepatitis viruses in the environment” Karen Kyuregyan (M. P. Chumakov Institute of Poliomyelitis and Viruses Encephalitis, Moscow, Russia) 20 min

“Features of immune status and cellular immune response to HCV antigens in healthy medical personal” Natalia Fedoseeva (Moscow State University of Dentistry and Medicine, and Ivanovsky Institute of Vriology, Moscow, Russia) 10 min

“Frequency of HIV-specific cellular immune responses in seronegative individuals with parenteral or heterosexual HIV-1 exposure” Ekaterina Akulova (Biomedical Center, St Petersburg, Russia) 10 min

10:20-10:40 Open Poster Session on HCV viral and immune detection, diagnostics, and molecular epidemiology
Chair: Jan Drobeniuc.

Coffee break 10:40-11:00 Poster viewing

11:00-13:00 Open Session #8 “Modern vaccine development and perspectives for an HCV vaccine”
Chairs: Andrei Kozlov and Britta Wahren

“Development of vaccines and model systems to support clearance of HCV infection” by Lars Frehlin (Department of Laboratory Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm) 30 min

“Progress and perspectives for DNA vaccines in Russia” Andrei Kozlov (Biomedical Center, St Petersburg University, Russia) 20 min

“Chemical interactions and immune response with plasmid DNA nanovaccine” Britta Wahren (Department of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden) 15 min

“Improving HCV NS3/4 vaccine efficacy by enhancing DNA uptake at the site of vaccination using a novel device in combination with in vivo electroporation” Gustaf Ahlen (Department of Laboratory Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm) 15 min

“Application of in vivo imaging to monitor the efficacy of gene immunization in small laboratory animals” Maria Isaguliants (Department of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden and Ivanovsky Institute of Virology, Moscow, Russia) 15 min

Round-table discussion on problems in HCV vaccine development, poster presentation.

POSTER #8 “In silico HCV vaccine design” Ekaterina Matyunina (Biomedical Center, St Petersburg University, Russia)

Lunch 13:00-14:00

14:00-15:30 Open Session #9 “HCV social issues”

Chair: Prof Anders Widell

“25 years experience from a social worker working in a Swedish needle exchange program aiming at limiting transmission of blood borne viruses” Magnus Andersson (Skanes University Clinics, Lund University, Sweden) 20 min

“Primary prevention of liver damage in young people” Irma Caplinskiene (Centre for Communicable Diseases and AIDS, Vilnius, Lithuania) 20 min

“Men having sex with men and risk of viral hepatitis (data of EMIS research)” Saulius Caplinskas (Centre for Communicable Diseases and AIDS, Vilnius, Lithuania) 20 min

“Chronic alcohol consumption modulates gene expression in the rat liver” Maxim Vonsky (Institute of Cytology, Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg, Russia) 20 min

15.30 Closing remarks



The 3rd OPEN LECTURE COURSE “HEPATITIS ABC”

on **February 13th, 2013** at the Riga Stradins University (RSU)

Dzirciema street 16, lecture theatre Hippocrates

PART #1: 09:00-11:30

9.00-09.40 - “Hepatitis A” by Prof. Anders Widell (Institute of Laboratory Medicine, Department of Medicine, Lund University, Malmo, Sweden)

09.45-10.15 - “Hepatitis B” by Karen Kyuregyan (Chumakov Institute of Polyomyelitis and Viral Encephalitis, Moscow, Russia)

BREAK 10.20-10.30

10.30-11.10 - “Hepatitis C” by Dr. Maria Isaguliantis (*Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, and DI Ivanovsky Institute of Virology, Moscow, Russia*)

11.10-11.50 - "Hepatitis D" by Prof. Mikhail Mikhailov (*Chumakov Institute of Polyomyelitis and Viral Encephalitis, Moscow, Russia*)

COFFEE BREAK 12:00-12:30

PART #2: 12:30-14:45

12.30-13.15 - “Hepatitis E” by Dr. Jan Drobeniuc (*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, USA*)

13.15-14.00 - “Molecular Epidemiology of Viral Hepatitis” by Dr Yuri Khudyakov (*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, USA*)

14.00-14.45 - “Diagnostics of viral hepatitis” by Dr. Saleem Kamili (*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, USA*)