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Viral Hepatitis and Hepatocellular Carcinoma

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For many decades, viral hepatitis has been an important public health threat. Hepatitis viruses infect millions of people worldwide. Chronic infections with hepatitis B virus (HBV), HCV, or HDV are associated with cirrhosis and liver cancer, and are among the best-known infectious causes of cancer in humans. Viral hepatitis-associated liver cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide, but there have been many important scientific discoveries and medical advances. We have therefore dedicated a special Issue of *Gastroenterology* to viral hepatitis and hepatocellular carcinoma. This special issue summarizes state of the art science, highlights knowledge gaps and unmet needs, and discusses remaining challenges and future directions. Although it is impossible to cover all topics, we hope this issue will be a valuable resource and blueprint for the medical and scientific community as we continue our progress against this global scourge.

We have assembled the foremost authorities as authors of articles on public health issues, disease progression, diagnostics, molecular virology, immunology, genomics and genetics, oncogenesis, prevention, and development of treatments for viral hepatitis and hepatocellular carcinoma. We are thankful for all the authors' efforts and expertise—their collective contributions make this issue special. We were particularly delighted that Harvey Alter (the co-discoverer of HBV) and Francis Chisari (a towering scientist with immense contributions to the field) wrote an elegant and prescient introductory Perspective article that provides a unique, expert overview of this special issue and the field's progress.

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