

## THE INTERNATIONAL COALITION TO ELIMINATE HEPATITIS B

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**Background.** Over 250 million people worldwide are chronically infected with hepatitis B and even though a prophylactic vaccine and effective antiviral therapies are available, no cure currently exists. Recent advances in the field, such as the identification of the NTCP receptor for viral entry and improved cell culture and animal models, are facilitating a new era in HBV cure research worldwide. However, prior to 2016 coordinated global approaches to HBV cure were non-existent.

**Methods.** The International Coalition to Eliminate Hepatitis B (ICE-HBV) was created in 2016 to accelerate HBV cure research. ICE-HBV aims to support discovery of a safe, affordable, scalable and effective cure, available to all persons living with CHB including children. ICE-HBV's vision is to develop an international, independent, research-based and patient-centered forum in order to coordinate, promote and foster collaborative partnerships working towards a cure for HBV.

**Results.** International working groups on virology, immunology, innovative tools and clinical studies composed of leading HBV research experts from around the world have been created to identify HBV cure research gaps and perform the research needed to address these gaps. They are preparing scientific recommendations to inform long-term research policy and programming in order to accelerate the optimization of diagnostics and treatment regimens. These groups engage regularly with key HBV research stakeholders.

**Conclusion.** A global collaborative approach to HBV cure, using science-driven and patient-focused approach, has never occurred before. The ICE-HBV scientific working groups collaborate closely with representatives from key HBV cure stakeholders, including patient representatives, to ensure that their interests and needs are addressed by researchers. Coupled with the implementation of WHO Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis, an HBV cure could help fully eliminate Hepatitis B as a public health problem within the 21st century.

**Disclosure of Interest:** None