



## VIRAL HEPATITIS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA ECHO CLINIC

### SYMPOSIUM ON HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA (HCC) IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

**23 MARCH 2023: 16H00 to 17H30 SAST**

- 16h00: Welcome: Wendy Spearman**
- 16h05: HCC - An overview from sub-Saharan Africa: Wendy Spearman** (Head of the Division of Hepatology, University of Cape Town and Groote Schuur Hospital)
- 16h20: Risk factors for HCC in sub-Saharan Africa: Mark Sonderup** (Consultant Hepatologist, Division of Hepatology, University of Cape Town and Groote Schuur Hospital)
- 16h35: Preventative strategies for reducing the burden of HCC in sub-Saharan Africa: Primary, secondary and tertiary prevention: Hailemichael Desalegn** (Consultant Gastroenterologist/Hepatologist at St Pauls Hospital Millennium Medical College, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
- 16h50: Treatment of HCC in sub-Saharan Africa: Eduard Jonas** (Professor of Surgery & Head of the Surgical Gastroenterology Unit, University of Cape Town & Groote Schuur Hospital)
- 17h05: A multi-omic approach to HCC in sub-Saharan Africa: Time to open Pandora's Box: Sanju Sobnach** (Transplant surgeon and Fellow in the Surgical Gastroenterology Unit, Groote Schuur Hospital)
- 17h15: Q and A: Panel Discussion: Speakers and Panelists: Anna Kramvis** (Professor Emerita and Director of the Hepatitis Virus Diversity Research Unit, University of Witwatersrand) and **Gibril Ndow** (Clinician Scientist at the MRC Unit The Gambia at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)
- 17h25: Closing Remarks: Chris Kassianides** (Chair of the Gastroenterology Foundation of SSA)

**PRE-REGISTER AND JOIN ON ZOOM**

**<https://echo.zoom.us/j/85605752766?pwd=RFRndzk5SFNkbXhHM2dBdW5jY2pLUT09>**

**CPD points will be available**

## SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



**Wendy Spearman, PhD**

**Wendy Spearman** is Head of the Division of Hepatology, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town. She is Head of the Liver and Liver Transplant clinics at Groote Schuur Hospital. She completed her 2-year Hepatology Fellowship under Professors Ralph Kirsch and Simon Robson at the UCT/MRC Liver Research Centre in 1991 and obtained her PhD in 2008 from the University of Cape Town on *"The effect of two novel C-type lectins, Ba100 and Ba25, isolated from the venom of the puff adder, Bitis arietans on T lymphocyte proliferative responses."* She is actively involved in outreach Liver education programmes and is a co-lead of the 'Viral Hepatitis in sub-Saharan Africa' Project ECHO Clinic programme. She was appointed as the Lead consultant to develop the National Guidelines on the management and prevention of viral hepatitis in South Africa. Her research interests include viral hepatitis, MAFLD, drug-induced liver injuries, liver transplantation, and novel immunosuppressants.



**Mark Sonderup, MMed**

**Mark Sonderup** obtained a B Pharm degree from the University of Port Elizabeth in 1990 and an MBChB from the University of Cape Town in 1995. His internship training was in Port Elizabeth at Livingstone Hospital and his postgraduate training was at the University of Cape Town and Groote Schuur Hospital where he obtained a Fellowship of the College of Physicians in 2002. Between 2002 and 2004, he completed a 2 year fellowship in Hepatology at the UCT/MRC Liver Research Centre and Liver Clinic at Groote Schuur Hospital. He briefly worked in the UK before being appointed as a Senior Specialist in the Department of Medicine and Division of Hepatology at UCT and Groote Schuur Hospital in 2007. He is currently Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine and Division of Hepatology. His research interests include HIV/AIDS associated liver disease, viral hepatitis, drug induced liver injuries and the porphyrias. His publications included peer reviewed articles, chapters and proceedings. He currently serves on the WHO Strategic Advisory Committee on Viral Hepatitis



**Hailemichael Desalegn, PhD**

**Hailemichael Desalegn** graduated from medical school and specialty in Internal Medicine at Jimma University, Ethiopia. He completed a fellowship program in Gastroenterology/Hepatology in 2014 at Addis Ababa University. In 2020, he successfully defended his PhD with an outstanding performance at Aklilu Lemma Institute of Pathobiology (ALIPB) on Tropical and Infectious Disease (TRID). The main focus of his PhD work on Non-invasive markers of Liver Fibrosis and simplified treatment programs for Hepatitis B virus in Sub-Saharan Africa. He is currently working as an Associate Professor and Consultant Gastroenterologist/Hepatologist in St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College. He has established and is a Director of Sub-Saharan Africa Gastroenterology Project ECHO clinic. He has built successful research collaborations addressing key questions in the area of viral hepatitis and hepatocellular carcinoma. Through collaboration, he has established one of the largest treatment cohorts for Hepatitis B in sub-Saharan Africa. Through this cohort, he has contributed key knowledge in the presentation, natural evolution, and treatment success for Hepatitis B in Ethiopia. He was also involved in simplified point-of-care tests for Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C viruses. Additionally, he led a study on hepatocellular carcinoma through an award from the International Liver Cancer Association.



**Eduard Jonas, PhD**

**Eduard Jonas** underwent his pre-graduate training at the University of Pretoria, South Africa obtaining a MBChB in 1985. He did his surgical training at the University of Stellenbosch, becoming a Fellow of the South African College of Surgeons in 1995 and obtaining a MMed in General surgery.

He served as consultant surgeon in the Upper Gastrointestinal Service of the Department of General Surgery at the University of Stellenbosch and Tygerberg hospital before taking up an endoscopy fellowship position at Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden in 1997 where he obtained a PhD. He previously held clinical positions in Karolinska Institute affiliated hospitals, including the Departments of Surgery at Danderyd Hospital and Karolinska University Hospital.

He is affiliated to the Karolinska Institute as an Associate professor and since 2015 is Professor of Surgery and Head of the Surgical Gastroenterology Unit at the University of Cape Town and Groote Schuur Hospital.



**Sanju Sobnach, FCS(SA)**

**Sanju Sobnach** is a medical graduate of the University of Cape Town (class of 2007). He completed his General surgery training at Groote Schuur Hospital from 2012 to 2018, followed by a multi-organ transplant fellowship at the University of Toronto (2018-2021) under the preceptorship of Professors Paul Greig and Markus Selzner. He is currently a Fellow in the Surgical Gastroenterology Unit at GSH and a research associate at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology.



**Anna Kramvis, PhD**

**Anna Kramvis** is Professor Emerita and Director of the Hepatitis Virus Diversity Research Unit, Department of Internal Medicine, University of the Witwatersrand. The major objective of the research unit is to study of hepadnaviral sequence variation, its functional characterization and role in the clinical manifestation of liver disease. Professor Kramvis is a Fellow of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), a member of the European Association for the Study of Liver (EASL), the governing body of the International Committee to Eliminate HBV (ICE-HBV), ICE-HBV Virology and Chronic Hepatitis B Management in Resource-Limited Settings working groups and co-convenor of the ICE-HBV Biomarkers working group as well as the WHO HBV guidelines committee. She is a passionate advocate for the elimination of hepatitis in sub-Saharan Africa.



**Gibril Ndow, PhD**

**Gibril Ndow** is a Clinician Scientist at the MRC Unit The Gambia at LSHTM. He leads the MRCG Hepatitis Research Group and oversees the Unit's Liver Clinic. He obtained his medical degree from the University of The Gambia, did his specialist training in Infectious Diseases & Tropical Medicine at University Cheikh Anta Diop in Senegal, and completed a PhD in Clinical Medicine Research at Imperial College London. His clinical and research interests centre around understanding the mechanisms underlying liver disease progression and Hepatitis B surface antigen loss among Africans with chronic hepatitis B infection, and developing simplified algorithms and biomarkers for optimal treatment and early detection of advanced liver disease.



**Chris Kassianides, FCP(SA)**

**Chris Kassianides** following graduation in 1979 from the University of the Witwatersrand Medical School in Johannesburg South Africa, completed a Fellowship with the College of Physicians in South Africa and in 1986 joined the Liver Unit of the National Institutes of Health in Washington DC where he spent a number of years researching the antiviral therapy of the hepatitis B and C viruses. This was followed by GI Fellowships at Georgetown University in Washington DC and Cornell Hospital in New York City. In 1990, he joined the Prince of Wales Hospital in Hong Kong as a Visiting Lecturer. He returned to South Africa in 1991 where he established a private practice in Johannesburg. Over the past 20 years he has been actively involved in the Continuing Medical Education of GI/Hepatology Fellows and Gastroenterologists and Hepatologists in practice both in SA and SSA. In 2006, he founded and chairs the Gastroenterology Foundation of SSA and in 2017 he established GHASSA - The Gastroenterology and Hepatology Association of SSA. In 2018 he was awarded an Associate Professorship from the University of Cape Town.