

Joint International Meeting supported by DFG/DZIF

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# VIRAL INFECTIONS OF THE LIVER & THE HEART

17th - 18th January, 2025  
BERLIN | GERMANY

**CERTIFIED WITH  
10 CME POINTS**

BY THE MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION BERLIN  
(ÄKB)



CHAired BY

PROF. DR. JENS KURRECK

PROF. DR. DANIEL TODT

PROF. DR. HEINER WEDEMEYER



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Hannover Medical School

THE ORGANIZING INSTITUTIONS ARE HAPPY  
TO WELCOME YOU TO BERLIN:



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## DEAR COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the International DFG/DZIF Joint Meeting on Viral Infections of the Liver and the Heart, taking place on January 17–18, 2025, in the vibrant city of Berlin. This two-day symposium will bring together leading experts and emerging researchers to discuss the latest advances and pressing challenges in the fields of virology, hepatology, and cardiovascular research.

The meeting will begin with an in-depth exploration of the cardiovascular consequences of viral infections, featuring keynote lectures from distinguished scientists and companions of Professor Thomas Bock, whose outstanding contributions to virology we are proud to honor as he retires. The first day's sessions will also highlight groundbreaking research on Hepatitis B virus and other key pathogens.

On the second day, our focus shifts to Hepatitis E virus (HEV), a topic of growing global importance. Once considered a rare infection, HEV is now recognized as the leading cause of acute viral hepatitis worldwide. Despite significant strides in understanding HEV's transmission, clinical manifestations, and extrahepatic effects, many questions remain unanswered. The sessions will delve into critical areas such as personalized medicine for Hepatitis E, outcome prediction, novel diagnostics, and innovative therapeutics. These discussions aim to advance our knowledge and foster collaborations that can accelerate breakthroughs in this field.

We are particularly pleased to offer opportunities for early-career researchers to present their work during poster sessions and engage with established scientists in a dynamic and interdisciplinary environment. By facilitating these interactions, we hope to inspire the next generation of virologists and clinicians to drive future innovations.

Berlin, our host city, is a cultural and scientific hub renowned for its dynamic spirit and historical significance. From world-class museums and theaters to its lively neighborhoods and green spaces, Berlin offers a unique atmosphere for discovery and exchange. We encourage you to take some time to explore its many charms.

On behalf of the organizing committee, we extend our warmest invitation and look forward to an inspiring and productive meeting filled with insightful discussions, new collaborations, and shared discoveries.

## WELCOME TO BERLIN!

Jens Kurreck, Daniel Todt & Heiner Wedemeyer

## PROGRAM FRIDAY, 17TH JANUARY

- 14:30 Registration
- 15:00-15:15 Welcome  
▶ *J. Kurreck (Berlin), D. Todt (Bochum), H. Wedemeyer (Hannover)*
- 15:15-15:30 Introduction to the symposium  
▶ *Heiner Wedemeyer (Hannover)*

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5-minute buffer for discussion after each presentation

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### SESSION 1 CARDIOVASCULAR CONSEQUENCES OF VIRAL INFECTIONS

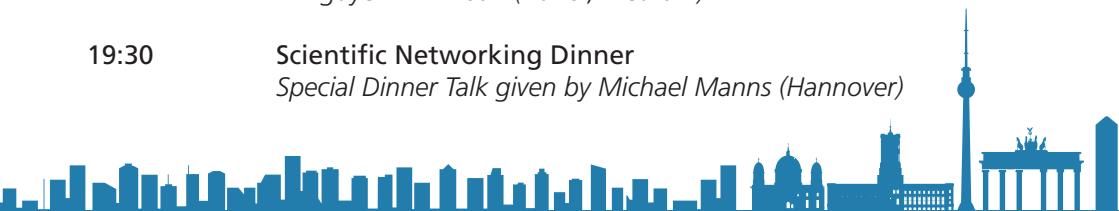
- 15:35-16:05 The diagnostic value of endomyocardial biopsy in the era of precision medicine ▶ *Heinz-Peter Schultheiss (Berlin)*

### SESSION 2 THE ROBERT KOCH INSTITUTE

- 16:10-16:30 Viral research at RKI from past to present  
▶ *Sascha Al Dahouk (Berlin)*
- 16:35-16:55 Insights into the RKI as reference center for viral infections  
▶ *Sandra Niendorf (Berlin)*
- 17:00-17:45 Coffee Break and DZIF Poster Session

### SESSION 3 UPDATE IN HEPATITIS B VIRUS MANAGEMENT

- 17:50-18:10 Hepatitis B: From circumstantial evidence to excellent treatments!  
▶ *Hans L. Tillmann (Greenville, USA)*
- 18:15-18:35 Introduction to HBV virology – what's this cccDNA?  
▶ *Prof. Joe Torresi (Melbourne, Australia)*
- 18:40-19:00 HBV management – challenges in Eastern Asia  
▶ *Nguyen Linh Toàn (Hanoi, Vietnam)*
- 19:30 Scientific Networking Dinner  
*Special Dinner Talk given by Michael Manns (Hannover)*



## PROGRAM SATURDAY, 18TH JANUARY

### SESSION 4 OUTCOME PREDICTION AND PERSONALIZED MEDICINE FOR HEPATITIS E

- 09:00-09:15 Potential reservoir of HEV infection in the intestinal stem cell niche  
▶ *Viet Loan Dao Thi (Heidelberg)*
- 09:20-09:35 Zoonotic potential of rat hepatitis E virus in Germany  
▶ *Reimar Johne (Berlin)*
- 09:40-09:55 RNA interference strategies targeting HEV  
▶ *Mathias Ziersch (Berlin)*
- 10:00-10:15 Dynamics of hepatitis E virus variant evolution during ribavirin treatment of chronic infection: An in-depth in vitro versus in vivo comparison  
▶ *Dominik Harms (Berlin)*

### 10:20-11:10 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION I

Research in HEV – key challenges and future perspectives

*Moderators: Jens Kurreck & Daniel Todt*

*Panelists: Volker Kinast, Martin Eiden, Martin Groschup, Viet Loan Dao Thi, René Kallies, Philip Meuleman*

11:10-12:00 Coffee Break and DZIF Poster Session

THE PROGRAM CONTINUES >>



**SESSION 5      DIAGNOSTICS AND NOVEL THERAPEUTICS FOR  
HEPATITIS E VIRUS INFECTIONS**

- 12:00-12:20      The hepatitis E virus - more than just the 5th  
wheel on the wagon  
▶ *Prof. Dr. Jörg Hofmann (Berlin)*
- 12:25-12:45      A novel class of human monoclonal antibodies  
neutralising HEV  
▶ *Katja Dinkelborg (Hannover)*
- 12:50-13:10      Novel antivirals to combat HEV infections  
▶ *Mara Klöhn (Bochum)*
- 13:15-13:35      Risk factors for hepatitis E in kidney transplant recipients  
▶ *Mira Choi (Berlin)*

**13:40-14:30      ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION II**

Clinical Management of HEV – Challenge accepted!

*Moderator: Heiner Wedemeyer*

*Panelists: Oladele Oluyinka Opaleye, Thirumalaisamy P. Velavan,  
Le Huu Song, Nguyen Linh Toàn, Sven Pischke, Patrick Behrendt*

- 14:30-14:45      Summary of the Symposium and Concluding Remarks  
Heiner Wedemeyer, Daniel Todt, Jens Kurreck



# ABSTRACTS

P01 - P09:

**OUTCOME PREDICTION FOR HEPATITIS E**

P10 - P17:

**PERSONALIZED MEDICINE FOR HEPATITIS E**

P18 - P25:

**DIAGNOSTICS FOR HEPATITIS E VIRUS INFECTION**

P26 - P35:

**NOVEL THERAPEUTICS FOR HEPATITIS E VIRUS INFECTIONS**

OVERVIEW OF  
ALL ABSTRACTS



## FACULTY

### A-H

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### **Mathias Ziersch**

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## LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

### CHAIRS AND ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

This symposium is jointly organized and co-hosted by the Scientific Committee Members:

- **Prof. Dr. Jens Kurreck**  
Technische Universität Berlin (TUB)  
Institute of Biotechnology
- **Prof. Dr. Daniel Todt**  
Ruhr-Universität Bochum (RUB)  
Department for Translational and Computational Infection Research
- **Prof. Dr. med. Heiner Wedemeyer**  
Hannover Medical School (MHH)  
Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology,  
Infectious Diseases and Endocrinology

### CONFERENCE ORGANIZER

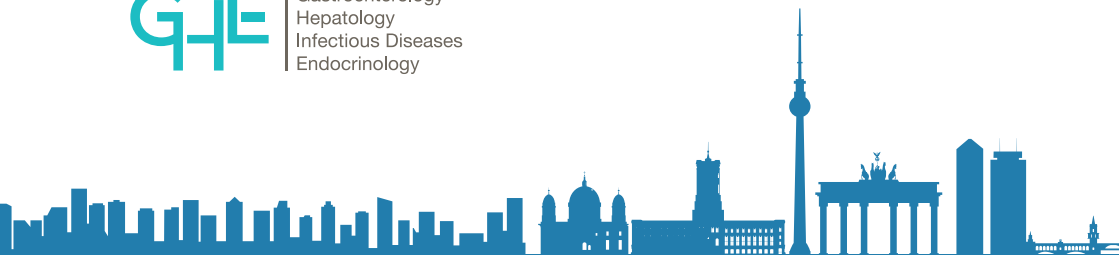
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**GHE** | Gastroenterology  
Hepatology  
Infectious Diseases  
Endocrinology



## REGISTRATION \*

Please scan the QR code to register for the meeting (Liver and Heart Infections) in Berlin or enter

<https://eveeno.com/berlin2025>

in your browser.

SCAN FOR  
REGISTRATION:



## CONFERENCE FEES \*\*

- In-person attendance: 75.00 €
- Virtual attendance: 25.00 €
- Scientific Networking Dinner: 40.00 €

Coffee breaks are included in the conference fee and provided for registered in-person attendees only. The Scientific Networking Dinner is not included in the conference fee.

## VENUE

The venue of the conference is *Cantinerie* in Berlin's Mitte district. It's a versatile event location with historic industrial charm, easily accessible by public transport and offers ample parking facilities.

### Address:

- Cantinerie  
Gustav-Meyer-Allee 25  
13355 Berlin

\* In accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), you agree with your binding event registration for the processing of personal data concerning you for the purpose of purposes of the implementation of the event.

\*\* All rates are inclusive of 19% VAT.



## EXHIBITORS

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