



## Hepatitis B Virus and Carcinogenesis—Pathophysiology, Disease and Treatment

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) is a major cause of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Despite advances in anti-HBV therapies, there is still no cure for HBV. Current antiviral drugs improve overall patient outcomes through the effective suppression of viral replication, but they do not eradicate HBV, particularly the cccDNA, which often causes viral reactivation as well as liver disease progression after cessation of treatment. HCC still occurs in a subset of patients on therapy, even with maintained HBV remission. HBV can drive liver carcinogenesis through direct oncogenic potential. In addition, other direct or indirect viral factors can induce HCC, including HBV genotypes, molecular variants (pre-S deletion, mutations in the HBx/precore regions), and viral antigens (HBsAg, HBcrAg, and HBx).

This Special Issue aims at providing an updated overview of basic, translational, and clinical knowledge on the virology, pathophysiology, immunology, and molecular genomics of HBV and HBV-associated HCC as well as on the development of innovative diagnostic and therapeutic approaches, while debating their promises and pitfalls.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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