
Immunotherapy in Viral Hepatitis B and C – impact of recent research in immunopathogenesis, Adjuvants, development of therapeutic vaccines, viral kinetics measuring and mathematical modeling.

Havana, January 2005

Dear Tania Rosas,

The Organizing Committee of the “Immunotherapy in Viral Hepatitis B and C” Conference is pleased to send you the 2nd Announcement and Call for Papers. We would like to remind you that the conference is being held at Tryp Peninsula Hotel in Varadero beach, Cuba from April 27-30, 2005.

If you are interested in attending to conference, please pre-register on-line at the conference website (http://www.hepatitis2005.cigb.edu.cu/). In addition, if you are planning to deliver a lecture or present a poster during the conference, please send us the abstract as soon as possible (deadline 1st April) by filling out the electronic form at the conference website.

Immunotherapy is a very promising approach for the treatment of several devastating diseases and, at the same time, a potential source of products with high impact on world health as it has been for preventive vaccination over the last few decades. However, chronic diseases have posed a new challenge to modern immunology and several issues arise in therapeutic strategies. Vaccine strategies have evolved from the repetition of preventive strategies to reinforcing strategies in terms of what is required in each individual case. Cuban scientists have been carrying out a big effort to fight viral hepatitis, mainly Hepatitis B and C. In less than a decade relevant results have been achieved like the development of diagnostic kits, interferon and a vaccine against the Hepatitis B virus. These products have been highly useful to control and prevent these diseases. However, chronic viral hepatitis remained as an unsolved health problem affecting 500 million people worldwide. We have already begun the first’s clinical trials with therapeutic vaccination.

The groups working on immunotherapy around the world are approximately at the same stage, which means that they are already either carrying out the first clinical trials or planning them. Due to this reason, we consider that a scientific conference focused on this treatment strategy against Hepatitis B and C would be of great importance not only for Cuban researchers but for the whole medic and scientific community.
Varadero 2005 promises to combine a wonderful scientific atmosphere within the backdrop of a superb natural environment. Conference participants will have the opportunity to improve and pool their knowledge of new strategies from researchers working in this field as well as to take into consideration the necessary regulatory issues which are essential in this area of rapid clinical advancement. This meeting has a great relevance since it gathers relevant top-level researchers from all-over the world. It is expected to join around 100 researchers from Cuba, and the rest of the world.

With the combination of all these elements, it is our intention to provide an adequate environment in which scientific collaboration and interaction between scientists and companies are promoted. The list of topics covered by this meeting is as follows:

1- New Results in Hep B and C Viral Immunopathogenesis, impact on therapeutic design.
2- Viral Kinetics measuring and mathematical modelling in the rational design of therapeutic approaches.
3- Novel strategies in the development of therapeutic vaccines for chronic diseases caused by Hepatitis B and C viruses.
4- Adjuvant in therapeutic vaccination for chronic Hepatitis B and C.
5- New Clinical developments.

E.mail: Hepatitis2005@cigb.edu.cu