



## Viral Hepatitis Research: Updates and Challenges

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

In recent years, measures to eradicate hepatitis B and D have been overshadowed by advances in hepatitis C therapies. There is an ongoing effort to eliminate hepatitis C and meet WHO's ambitious targets by 2030. To meet this target, 90% of people with hepatitis B and/or C should be diagnosed, and 80% of those eligible for treatment should be cured or virally suppressed if they have hepatitis B.

The negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the shift in focus to other viral infections, has endangered hepatitis services and, as a result, the elimination agenda.

Only several countries were able to estimate the proportion of people diagnosed with these hepatotropic viruses due to barriers impeding the availability and accessibility of standard healthcare testing services.

This issue aims to catalyze debate on this topic and outline the recent advances in biomedical science and immunization approaches. This in turn will, we hope, assist in revitalizing elimination programs and provide care models.

Research areas include (but not limited to): hepatitis B (C, D); COVID-19; epidemiology; autoimmunity; elimination programs; antiviral treatments.





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