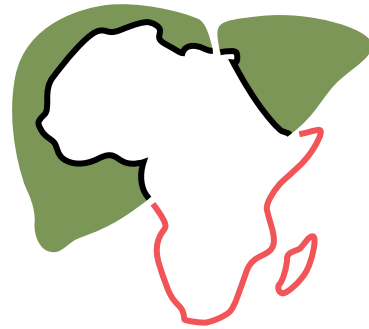


COLDA 2026

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
17-19 SEPTEMBER

9TH CONFERENCE
ON LIVER DISEASE
IN AFRICA



Program Book



Program

DAY 1 | Thursday 17 September

East Africa Time (GMT +3)

7:00 AM **Registration Open**

Parallel Capacity Building Sessions

8:00 AM	Capacity Building Session 1: Steatotic Liver Disease Moderators: Manal El-Sayed and Wendy Spearman	Capacity Building Session 2: Harmonizing HCC guidance for Africa Moderator: Mark Sonderup
	The Dynamic Spectrum of Steatotic Liver Disease Wendy Spearman Abstract # 31: Hepatic Fibrosis Burden in Chronic Hepatitis B, Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease, and Their Co-occurrence: A Cross-Sectional Study from a Liver Disease Center in Mogadishu, Somalia Mohamed Abdulkadir Hassan-Kadle Panel discussion Tinsay Woreta: Integrated Approaches Manal El-Sayed: Political Overview Debbie Shawcross: Implementation on the Ground Discussion	Speaker: Ghassan Abou-Alfa Discussant: Lewis Roberts

9:00 AM **Tea Break**

Official Opening of the Conference

- 9:30 AM **Welcome Words by the Local Chairs**
Hailemichael Desalegn Mekonnen, MD, PhD
 St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College, Ethiopia
Jiksa Dabessa, MD
 Myungsung Christian Medical Center Comprehensive Specialized Hospital / Ethiopian Gastroenterology Association, Ethiopia
- 9:45 AM **Combating Hepatitis B and C in Africa**
Julio Rakotonirina, MD, PhD
 African Union Commission, Madagascar
- 10:00 AM **Africa CDC -Support for Implementing Hepatitis B Guidelines in Africa**
Landry Dongmo Tsague, MD, MPH, PhD
 African CDC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 10:15 AM **WHO involvement in Hepatitis Care in the Region**
Ismael Endris
 WHO Representative, Ethiopia
- 10:30 AM **UNITE perspectives on Hepatitis Care in Africa**
Hon. Tabot Lawson
 Cameroon
- 10:45 AM **Lessons learned from Ethiopia**
Fekadu Yadeta
 Ministry of Health, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 11:00 AM **Panel Discussion**



Session 1 **Viral Hepatitis in Africa - Functional Hepatitis B Cures and Hepatitis D Treatment: The Reality in Africa**

Session Chairs: Gibril Ndow and Rafael Esteban

11:15 AM **Hepatitis B - Functional Cures in Africa**

Francesco Russo, MD, PhD, FAASLD

University of Padova, Italy

11:35 AM **Hepatitis D - Diagnosis and Management**

Maria Buti, MD, PhD

Hospital General Universitari Valle Hebron, Spain

11:55 AM **Panel Discussion**

12:20 PM **Prevalence of Hepatitis C in Nigeria, Rwanda, and Tanzania: Who Needs to Be Targeted for Screening to Increase Diagnosis and Linkage to Care?** **#1**

Rania Tohme, United States

12:30 PM **Seroprevalence, Genotypes and Active Infection of Hepatitis Delta Virus in Individuals Naive to Antiviral Therapy** **#2**

Eugenie Liliane Etogo, Cameroon

12:40 PM **Variation in Hepatitis B Replication Markers across Africa: Analysis of the Multicentre Hepatitis B in Africa Collaborative Research Network (HEPSANET) Cohort Study** **#3**

Kalisha Bheemraj, South Africa

12:50 PM **Q & A**

1:00 PM **Lunch**

Session 2 **Collaborative Clinical Research: Liver Disease in Africa**

Session Chairs: Lewis Roberts and Yvonne Narthey

2:00 PM **The Forum for Collaborative Research**

Veronica Miller, PhD

Forum for Collaborative Research, UC Berkeley School of Public Health, United States

2:10 PM **Core-HepB**

Gibril Ndow, MD, PhD

Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination, Task Force for Global Health, United States

2:20 PM **HepsaNet**

Asgeir Johannessen, MD, PhD

Tønsberg Hospital / University of Oslo, Norway

2:30 PM **Global NASH Council**

Inclusion of people living with HIV in the MASH trials and the potential integration of HIV and its related SLD phenotypes, beyond MASLD and viral phenotypes

Ahmed Cordie, MD, MSc, MBBCh

Cairo University Hospitals, Egypt

2:40 PM **Panel Discussion**

Session 3 **Breaking Down Barriers to Hepatitis Elimination: A dialogue Between Communities, Implementers and Policymakers**

co-organized by World Hepatitis Alliance

Session Chairs: Shaibu Issa and Danjuma Adda

3:10 PM **Welcome**

3:15 PM **The Role of Collaboration across Africa in Reaching Elimination**

Chukwuemeka Agwuocha

Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)



- 3:25 PM **Panel Discussion:**
Andeman Timothy
 First Referral Hospital Gashaka, Nigeria
Chukwuemeka Agwuocha, PharmB
 Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Nigeria
Abdo Abahaba
 Waklisa Development Association, Ethiopia

3:40 PM **Tea Break**

Session 4 Mother-to-Child Triple Elimination: HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B and Integration of services
 Session Chairs: Ponsiano Ocama and Alex Stockdale

- 4:10 PM **Universal versus Targeted Hepatitis B Birth Dose Vaccinations**
Wendy Spearman, MBChB, FCP, FRCP, MMed, PhD
 University of Cape Town, South Africa

- 4:30 PM **Decentralising Comprehensive Hepatitis B Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission Through Primary Healthcare: A Family Centred, Peer-Supported and Locally Financed Model Improving Access, Affordability and Equity in Rural Nigeria** **#4**
Danjuma Adda, Nigeria

- 4:40 PM **Field Performance and Acceptability of the Hepatitis B Core-Related Antigen Rapid Diagnostic Test (HBcrAg-RDT) for Detecting High Viral Load among Pregnant Women in The Gambia (PROTECT-B)** **#5**
Alexandra Famiglietti, The Gambia

- 4:50 PM **Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of Hepatitis B: A Quality Improvement Project in the Cape Coast Teaching Hospital, Ghana** **#6**
Yvonne Ayerki Nartey, Ghana

- 5:00 PM **Decentralized Point-of-Care HBV Viral Load Testing for HBs Ag Positive Pregnant Women in Mali: A Prospective Study** **#7**
Mountaga Diallo, Mali

- 5:10 PM **Vers L'Atteinte des Objectifs et des Conditions OMS de Certification/Validation de L'élimination de la TME du VIH, de la Syphilis et de L'Hépatite B: Expérience du Projet TRI-MOM au Burkina Faso** **#8**
Nanelin Alice Guingane, Burkina Faso

- 5:20 PM **Low Costs to Implement Universal Hepatitis B Birth Dose, Screening and Treatment of Antenatal Women in South Africa** **#9**
Kgomotso Vilakazi-Nhlapo, South Africa

5:30 PM **Panel Discussion**

- 5:50 PM **SOLDA Annual Report**
Manal El-Sayed (President) and Wendy Spearman (Vice-President)

6:00 PM **Welcome Reception & Poster viewing**



DAY 2 | Friday - 18 September

East Africa Time (GMT +3)

Parallel Capacity Building Sessions			
8:00 AM	Capacity Building Session 3: Interventional Radiology Moderators: Jiksa Dabessa	Capacity Building Session 4: Special Interest Group: Hepatitis B: Africa CDC Hepatitis B Operational Toolkit Moderators: Ponsiano Ocama and Wendy Spearman	
	Transarterial chemoembolization for Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Ethiopia: Early experience and lessons learned Ashenafi A. Buser Bridging the access Gap: Barriers to interventional Radiology in Africa Yared Negussie	- The role of the HBV toolkit in Africa: Africa CDC - WHO 2024 HBV guidelines for initiation of Treatment: Wendy Spearman - Need for an operational toolkit: Asgeir Johannessen - Operational Toolkit Algorithms: Gibril Ndow - Demonstration of the App (clinical cases): Alex Stockdale - Community perspective on the Toolkit: Danjuma Adda - Discussion with the audience	
Session 5 Chronic Liver Diseases Session Chairs: Abate Shewaye and Sabela Lens			
9:00 AM	Drug-induced liver injuries (including toxin related injuries) Yohannes Birhanu, MD Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia		
9:15 AM	Autoimmune liver diseases: AIH & PSC and PBC Kidist Yiman, MD California Pacific Medical Center, United States		
9:35 AM	Learning points from one-year screening and linkage-to-care activities: Decentralized Chronic Hepatitis B (CHB) care in Rural Ethiopia. Fufa Hunduma, Ethiopia		#10
9:45 AM	Ten-Year Outcomes of Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate (TDF) Therapy for Chronic Hepatitis B in Ethiopia: A Prospective Cohort Study Hailemichael Desalegn Mekonnen, Ethiopia		#11
9:55 AM	Autoimmune Hepatitis in a High HIV-Burden Setting: Clinical Characteristics and Determinants of Treatment Response in a South African Cohort Gasim Ibrahim Mohamed Gasim, South Africa		#12
10:05 AM	A Distinct Immune Signature Characterizes Cirrhosis in Ethiopian Individuals with Chronic HBV Infection Asgeir Johannessen, Norway		#13
10:15 AM	Discussion		
10:30 AM	Tea break & Poster viewing (even numbered posters)		



Session 6 Life Style and Liver Health

Session Chairs: Tinsay Woreta and Manal El-Sayed

11:15 AM **World Health Assembly Resolution on Steatotic Liver Disease**

Debbie Shawcross, MD

King's College, London, UK

11:30 AM **Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease - MASLD**

Mohamed El Kessas, MD

Helwan University, Egypt

11:45 AM **Alcohol-related Liver Disease (ALD) and MetALD**

Debbie Shawcross, MD

King's College, London, UK

12:00 PM **MASLD in the WHO Africa Region: Prevalence and Development of a Simple Clinical Score to Detect Steatosis and Advanced Fibrosis in Dysmetabolic Patients (MetLive)** **#14**
Brendan Janse Van Rensburg, South Africa

12:10 PM **Alcohol Use Patterns and Clinical Significance among Patients Living with Chronic Hepatitis B Infection in Africa** **#15**

Taonga Musonda, Zambia

12:20 PM **Prevalence, Persistence and Predictors of Steatotic Liver Disease and Liver Fibrosis among Adults Living with and without HIV in Zambia and Zimbabwe: A Longitudinal Study (2020-2026)** **#16**

Varaidzo Shamaine Kachingwe, Zimbabwe

12:30 PM **Discussion**

1:00 PM **Lunch**

Session 7 Oral Abstract Presentations

Session Chairs: Jiksa Dabessa and Francesco Russo

2:00 PM **Hepatitis B Burden, Policy Readiness, and Health System Capacity Across 11 African Countries: An Update Situational Analysis** **#17**

Jana Manning, United States

2:10 PM **Hepatic Safety of Long-Acting Cabotegravir and Rilpivirine in a Hepatitis B Endemic Setting: 96-Week Results from the Impala Trial in East and Southern Africa** **#18**

Ubaldo Bahemuka, Uganda

2:20 PM **Real-World Effectiveness of Antiviral Therapy for Chronic HBV Infection in Africa: HEPSANET Analysis** **#19**

Kalisha Bheemraj, South Africa

2:30 PM **Retention in Hepatitis B care in Africa: a HEPSANET analysis** **#20**

Fiskani J.M. Kondowe, Malawi

2:40 PM **Molecular Characterization of Hepatitis B virus Among Blood Donors in Botswana** **#21**

Chanana Tsayang, Botswana

2:50 PM **Discussion**



3:00 PM	Guided Poster Tour & Tea break		
	OC guided poster walks (parallel)		
	<i>Guided Poster tour:</i> WHA Danjuma Adda	<i>Guided Poster tour:</i> AASLD Kidist Yiman/ Benyam Addissie	<i>Guided Poster tour:</i> EASL Debbie Shawcross/ Francesco Russo
Session 8	Liver Cancer Session Chair: Hailemichael Desalegn		
4:00 PM	Hepatocellular carcinoma: Diagnosis and Management Lewis Roberts, MBChB, PhD, FAASLD Mayo Clinic, United States		
4:20 PM	Cholangiocarcinoma: Diagnosis and Management Benyam Addissie MD, MS University of Rochester Medical Center, United States		
4:40 PM	Hepatitis B Core-Related Antigen (HBcrAg) Predicts Hepatocellular Carcinoma and Mortality in Chronic Hepatitis B: A 10-Year Prospective Cohort Study from Ethiopia Hailemichael Desalegn Mekonnen, Ethiopia		#22
4:50 PM	Screening for Hepatitis B and Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Emergency Departments in Tanzania: A Prospective Multicenter Study of an Integrated Program James Ford, United States		#23
5:00 PM	Characteristics of 405 HBV related HCCs in Africa – a HEPSANET perspective Mark Sonderup, South Africa		#25
5:10 PM	Whole-Genome Sequencing of Hepatitis B Virus in Malawi Reveals High Prevalence of HCC-Associated Mutations and Novel Regions of Hyper-Variability Marion Delphin, South Africa		#26
5:20 PM	Discussion		
Session 9	Pediatric Liver Disease Session Chairs: Wendy Spearman and Naresh Shanmugam		
5:45 PM	Red Flags for Early Diagnosis of Pediatric Liver Disease Manal El-Sayed, MD, PhD Ain Shams University, Egypt		
6:00 PM	Discussion		
	End of Day 2		



DAY 3 | Saturday - 19 September

East Africa Time (GMT +3)

Parallel Capacity Building Sessions		
8:00 AM	Capacity Building Session 5: <i>Special Interest Group</i> PMTCT Moderators: Manal El-Sayed and Gibril Ndow	Capacity Building Session 6: <i>Special Interest Group</i> Autoimmune Liver Disease Moderators: Kidist Yimam and Wendy Spearman
	The role of African CDC in improving the Hepatitis B birth doses uptake Folake Olayinka Africa CDC # 32: Early Implementation outcome of a Decentralized HBeAg-hs Rapid Diagnostic Test Strategy for Hepatitis B Mother-to-Child Transmission Prevention in The Gambia: Preliminary Care Cascade Findings from DETECT-B. Bakary Dibba, Gambia # 33: Bringing Care Home: Civil Society-Led Community-Based Triple Elimination of MTCT of HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis B in Gombe State, Nigeria (July 2025 – February 2026) Suraj Abdulkarim, Nigeria # 34: Declining Hepatitis B Positivity Rates Amid Expanded Community ANC Screening of Pregnant Women in Lagos State: Evidence from Routine Program Data, 2025–2026 Josiah Ibrahim, Nigeria	8:00-8:05 Welcome and program/SIG overview 8:05-8:20 SOLDA AIH Survery: Review and Launch 8:20-8:35 SOLDA PSC Survey: Review and Launch 8:35-8:45 Discuss future activities: guidance statement and plan for prospective multicenter natural history studies 8:45-9:00 Discussion/Comment
Session 10 Liver Transplantation in Africa Session Chairs: Nabil Debzi and Kumar Palaniappan		
9:00 AM	Setting up a Liver Transplantation Program in Ethiopia Kidist Yiman, MD California Pacific Medical Center, United States	
9:15 AM	Lessons learnt from Sudan Abdelmounem Abdo, MD Ibn Sina Hospital, Sudan	
9:30 AM	Lessons learnt from Egypt Ashraf Omar, MD, FAASLD Cairo University, Egypt	
9:45 AM	Lessons learnt from South Africa Bilal Bobat, MBChB, FCP Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre, South Africa	
10:00 AM	Lessons learnt from Algeria Nabil Debzi, MD Mustapha Hospital Algiers, Algeria	
10:15 AM	Discussion Panel member: Naresh Shanmugam	
10:45 AM	Tea Break	



Session 11 Mini-Oral Abstract Presentations Session Chairs: Kidist Yimam and Asgeir Johannessen		
11:15 AM	Identification and Molecular Characterization of Ten Novel Recombinant Variants of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) in Cameroon Using Oxford Nanopore Sequencing and Phylogenomic Analysis Mounchili Njifon Aristide, Cameroon	#27
11:20 AM	Healthcare-Associated Hepatitis C Virus Transmission in Hemodialysis Centres, Benghazi (2025–2026): Outbreak Investigation of Infection Control Breaches and PCR-Based Detection of Window-Period Infections Ahmed Belgasem El Haddad, Libya	#28
11:25 AM	Association between HBV DNA, HDV RNA and liver fibrosis among HBV/HDV co-infected individuals in Ethiopia Teklu Shiferaw Simbo, Ethiopia	#30
11:30 AM	Discussion	
11:50 AM	AWARD session	
Session 12 Closing Session - Innovations in Liver Disease Care Session Chairs: Debbie Shawcross and Mark Sonderup		
12:05 PM	The Impact of Multi-Disciplinary Clinics on the Management of MASLD Tinsay Woreta, MD, MPH, FAASLD Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, United States	
12:30 PM	The Impact of AI in the Management of Liver Disease in the context of Africa Sabela Lens, MD, PhD Hospital Clinic Barcelona, Spain	
12:55 PM	Discussion	
1:10 PM	Closing of the Program	
	Closing Remarks	
	COLDA 2026 Summary	
13:25	End of the Conference	



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