

**7th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW VISBY UNIVERSITY NETWORK ON
HEPATITIS C**

TARTU, ESTONIA, February 20-23, 2010

Workshop of Network members, educational lecturing; reporting; planning of the coming work and application to submit March 1, 2010

PROGRAM

Saturday, February 20

arrivals

Sunday, February 21

INTERNAL (CLOSED) SESSION FOR NETWORK MEMBERS

12.00-14.00 Presentation of unpublished results and discussion

Chairs Anders Widell and Maria Isaguliantis

- Irina Sominskaya (BMRC, Riga). *Diversity of hypervariable region 1 (HVR1) of HCV E2 in acute and chronic patients with hepatitis C of the prevalent genotypes.*

- Maria Isaguliantis, Natalia Petrakova, Anders Widell (MAS, Malmö; Ivanovsky Institute, Moscow; SMI, Stockholm). *Inhibition of hepatocyte infection with HCV pseudoparticles in relation to serum lipid content and antiviral antibody titers.*

- Tatjana Tallo (National Institute for Health Development, Tallinn; SMI, Stockholm). *Investigation of the cases of HCV reinfection.*

- Natalia Fedoseeva, Olga Znoiko, Maria Isaguliantis (Ivanovsky Institute, and State University of Dentistry and Medicine, Moscow; SMI, Stockholm). *Assembly of the cohort of individuals exposed to blood-borne infections (HIV, HBV, HCV) through professional exposure: presentation of the questionnaire*

- Maxim Vonsky (Institute of Cytology, St Petersburg) *Detection of hepatotropic autoantibodies in patient sera, sensitivity for prediction of liver disease.*

- Kristjan Vääk, Mario Plaas (Institute of Technology, Transgenic Technology Core Laboratory University of Tartu, Estonia) *HCV infectable small animal models: considerations for incorporation into Network activities.*

Lunch 14.00-15.00

15.00-16.30 Planning of the joint experiments and scientific exchange for 2010.

16.30-17.00 Coffee break

16.30-18.30 Discussion of the outlines of the application for continued networking

OPEN SESSIONS

Monday, February 22

Session 1 Opening of the meeting 9.30-10.40

Chair Riina Salupere

9.30-9.45 Joel Starkopf (Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Tartu) *Welcome to Tartu University*

9.45-10.15 Viktor Hennius (Department for Intercultural Relations, Swedish Institute) *The Swedish Institute's Scholarships and Possibilities to Finance International Cooperation Projects within Science and Education*

10.20-10.40 Anders Widell (Department of Medicine, Lund University, Sweden) *Presentation of New Visby HCV Network Activities*

10.40-11.00 – Coffee break

Session 2 Basic science 11.00-13.00

Chair Anders Widell

11.00-11.45 Birke Bartosch (INSERM, France) *HCV and liver carbohydrate metabolism.*

11.50 -12.35 Yuri Khudyakov (NIH, US) *Deep genomic sequencing following primer extension enrichment reaction (PEER).*

12.40-13.00 Alexander Ivanov (Engelhardt Institute of Molecular Biology Russian Academy of Sciences) *HCV protein activate cellular defence system against oxidative stress and interfere with polyamine metabolism.*

13.00-14.00 Lunch

Session 3 HCV infection, clinical features 14.00-16.00

Chair Valentina Tefanova

14.00 -14.45 Yuri Khudyakov (NIH, US) *Bayesian networks linking HCV sequence information with disease/treatment course and outcome.*

15.00 -15.20 Natalia Petrakova (Ivanovsky Institute of Virology, Moscow, Russia) *The presence of neutralizing activity against genotype-matched HCV pseudoparticles in acute phase sera correlates with resolution of HCV infection.*

15.30 -15.50 Elena Tsyganova (State University of Dentistry and Medicine, and Ivanovsky Institute of Virology, Moscow, Russia) *Coinfections of HCV and other hepatotropic viruses with atypical serological profile.*

19.00 Welcome Reception (sponsored by MSD)

Tuesday, February 23

Session 4 HCV epidemiology and surveillance 8.30-11.00

Chair Benno Margus

8.30-8.50 Riina Salupere (Department of Internal Medicine, University of Tartu, Estonia) *A population-based surveillance study on the prevalence and treatment of hepatitis C in Estonia.*

8.55-9.15 Helene Norder, Lars Magnus (Department of Virology, Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control, Stockholm, Sweden) *Population based prospective molecular typing of hepatitis C in a Swedish Community.*

9.20-9.40 Tatjana Tallo (National Institute for Health Development, Tallinn, Estonia) *Epidemiology of hepatitis C virus infection during the two last decades in Estonia.*

9.45 -10.05 Saulius Caplinskas (Centre for Communicable Diseases and AIDS and Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius, Lithuania) *Epidemiological studies of HCV in IDUs and other high risk groups in Lithuania.*

10.10 -10.30 Olga Kalinina (Pasteur Institute, St Petersburg, Russia) *Tracing nosocomial HCV infection*

10.35-10.55 Anders Widell (Department of Medicine, Lund University, Sweden) *Nosocomial transmission of HCV in a cardiothoracic and vascular surgical unit: a complete look-back investigation.*

11.00-11.30 – Coffee break

Session 5 HCV treatment and prevention 11.30-13.00

Chair Antoon De Schryver

11.30 -11.50 Benno Margus (East Tallinn Central Hospital, Tallinn, Estonia) *Estonian Guidelines for the treatment of hepatitis C*

11.50 -12.10 Vadim Brjalin (West Tallinn Central Hospital, Tallinn, Estonia) *Clinical predictors of hepatitis C treatment in nonresponders and relapsers.*

12.10 -12.40 Antoon De Schryver (Epidemiology and Social Medicine, University of Antwerpen) *Prevention of hepatitis B and C virus infection in healthcare workers: an overview of national policies in Europe.*

12.40 -13.00 Maria Isaguliantis (Karolinska Institutet, and Smittskyddsinstitutet, Stockholm, Sweden) *Development of experimental DNA vaccines against hepatitis C virus.*

13.00-14.00 Lunch

Session 6 Modern methods in research 14.00-16.00

Chair Maria Isaguliantis

14.00-14.20 Eva Zusinaite (University of Tartu, Estonia) *Antisense oligonucleotides as inhibitors of HCV replication.*

14.20 -14.40 Kristi Huik (Institute of Microbiology, University of Tartu, Estonia) *CCL3L1 copy number is a strong genetic determinant of HIV seropositivity in Caucasian intravenous drug users.*

14.40 -15.20 Johanna C. Craig (GATACA, LLC, CEO, Scientific Director, USA) *Desktop Software for Managing, Integrating and Analyzing HCV Data.*

15.30-16.00 – Coffee break

16.00-17.30

Training classes on the GATACA desktop software for the applicants by Johanna C. Craig (GATACA, LLC, CEO, Scientific Director, USA)

Wednesday, February 24

09.30-11.30 Discussion of the outlines of the application for continued networking (continuation for those leaving during Wednesday afternoon)