Falk FOUNDATION e.V.

ADVANCES IN HEPATOLOGY – FROM MECHANISTIC INSIGHTS TO NOVEL THERAPEUTIC CONCEPTS

October 24-25, 2025

Symposium 242

BERLIN, GERMANY

APPLICATION FOR CME CREDITS SUBMITTED

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An application has been made to the UEMS EACCME® for CME accreditation of this event. The number of credits awarded will be printed in the final program.

PREFACE

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to our international symposium, *Advances in Hepatology*, a unique gathering that brings together leading minds from across the globe to explore the latest advancements in the understanding and treatment of liver diseases. This meeting represents a confluence of diverse expertise, from basic science to clinical practice, and offers a platform to foster collaboration, inspire innovation, and pave the way toward transformative breakthroughs in hepatology.

Liver diseases remain a significant global health challenge, with far-reaching impacts on millions of lives. The focus of this year's conference is on new mechanisms and therapies, and our program reflects this emphasis with cutting-edge sessions on topics such as liver fibrosis, cholestatic liver diseases, metabolic liver disease / MASLD, viral hepatitis, and liver cancer. These sessions will delve into the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying disease progression, as well as emerging therapeutic strategies, including precision medicine, disease monitoring strategies, novel drug targets, and advanced technologies like organoids, single-cell omics and artificial intelligence.

We are proud to host an outstanding lineup of internationally renowned speakers who will share their groundbreaking research and clinical insights. In addition to the plenary sessions, the conference will feature interactive panel discussions, poster presentations, and networking opportunities, ensuring a dynamic and engaging experience for all participants.

This event is not only an opportunity to learn from the best but also a chance to contribute to the future of hepatology. By fostering an open exchange of ideas and building connections across disciplines, we aim to create an environment that inspires innovation and advances the care of patients with liver diseases. We are grateful to the Falk Foundation for providing us this unique platform of international exchange at the symposium.

We look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be an intellectually stimulating and highly rewarding conference in Berlin. Together, let us explore the frontiers of hepatology and work toward a healthier future.

Warm regards,

Stefan Fichtner-Feigl Tom Hemming Karlsen Sophie Lotersztajn Frank Tacke

ADVANCES IN HEPATOLOGY – FROM MECHANISTIC INSIGHTS TO NOVEL THERAPEUTIC CONCEPTS

October 24-25, 2025

Scientific Organization:
Stefan Fichtner-Feigl, Freiburg (Germany)
Tom Hemming Karlsen, Oslo (Norway)
Sophie Lotersztajn, Paris (France)
Frank Tacke, Berlin (Germany)

Congress Venue:
JW Marriott Hotel Berlin
Stauffenbergstr. 26
10785 Berlin
Germany

For admission to scientific events your name badge should be clearly visible.

Accompanying persons are not permitted during the conference at any time.

Call for Posters:
An ePoster session will be held.
For details see page 16.

Start of Registration:
Thursday, October 23, 2025
16:00-20:00 h
at the congress office

Publication Date of the Final Program:
October 2025

The final program will be available on the website www.falkfoundation.org one week before the start of the symposium.

Friday, October 24, 2025

09:00 Welcome
Stefan Fichtner-Feigl, Freiburg; Tom H. Karlsen, Oslo; Sophie Lotersztajn, Paris; Frank Tacke, Berlin

SESSION I

Current developments in hepatology

Chairs: *Robert Thimme, Freiburg; Jessica Zucman-Rossi, Paris*

09:10 Keynote lecture: Trends and challenges in hepatology in 2025
Arun J. Sanyal, Richmond

09:30 Liver disease burden in 2025
Zobair Younossi, Washington DC

09:50 Liver biology at single-cell resolution
Sonya MacParland, Toronto

10:10 Liver disease modelling
Ludovic Vallier, Berlin

10:30 **Coffee break with ePoster session**

SESSION II

Mechanisms of injury, inflammation, fibrosis

Chairs: *Sophie Lotersztajn, Paris; Massimo Pinzani, Palermo*

11:00 Fibrosis progression and regression: An integrated view
Robert Schwabe, New York

11:20 Liver immunology in the era of multi-omics data
Charlotte Scott, Ghent

11:40 Metabolic reprogramming in liver injury
Catherine Postic, Paris

Poster pitches

Chairs: *Sophie Lotersztajn, Paris; Massimo Pinzani, Palermo*

12:00 Basic and translational science
(5 poster pitches)

12:30 **Lunch break with ePoster session**

SESSION III

Cholestatic liver diseases

Chairs: *Michael P. Manns, Hannover; Palak Trivedi, Birmingham*

14:00 Management of primary biliary cholangitis: Current algorithms
Christophe Corpechot, Paris

14:20 Management of concurrent inflammatory bowel disease and primary sclerosing cholangitis
Britta Siegmund, Berlin

14:40 The translational journey of drug development in cholangiopathies

Part 1: From bile acid pathobiology to therapeutic actions of Norucholic acid
Peter Fickert, Graz

Part 2: Clinical development and trial results with Norucholic acid
Michael Trauner, Vienna

Panel discussion

Chair: *Michael P. Manns, Hannover*

15:10 Current management of primary sclerosing cholangitis
Verena Keitel-Anselmino, Magdeburg; Tom H. Karlsen, Oslo; Michael Trauner, Vienna; Palak Trivedi, Birmingham

15:30 **Coffee break with ePoster session**

INTERNATIONAL HERBERT FALK AWARD

16:00 Presentation of the International Herbert Falk Award
Jürgen Schölmerich, Hofheim

16:10 International Herbert Falk Award Lecture: What hepatologists can learn from the discovery of pancreatic stellate cells
Minoti Apte, Sydney

SESSION IV

New avenues for liver diseases

Chairs: *Paolo Angeli, Padova; Thomas Berg, Leipzig*

16:30 Viral hepatitis: Challenging current dogmas on hepatitis B and on delta
Heiner Wedemeyer, Hannover

16:50 Genetic cholestasis: Diagnosis and management
Verena Keitel-Anselmino, Magdeburg

17:10 Alcohol-associated liver diseases: How can we leverage the developments from the MASLD field?
Alexandre Louvet, Lille

17:30 New therapeutic modalities: New opportunities for hepatology? (CAR-T cells, siRNA, CRISPR-Cas9...)
Rohit Loomba, San Diego

Saturday, October 25, 2025

SESSION V

From monitoring liver disease progression to pathways of care

Chairs: *Annalisa Berzigotti, Bern; Rohit Loomba, San Diego*

09:00	Do we need a non-invasive liver health check in the general population? *Maja Thiele, Odense*
09:20	Blood-based and imaging biomarkers for monitoring liver disease progression and treatment responses: Are we there yet? *Vincent Wong, Hongkong*
09:40	The microbiome as a diagnostic tool and a therapeutic target in liver diseases *Bernd Schnabl, San Diego*
10:00	Is digital pathology ready for routine clinical practice? *Jakob N. Kather, Dresden*
10:20	**Coffee break with ePoster session**

SESSION VI

Challenges in advanced liver diseases

Chairs: *Patrizia Burra, Padova; Cornelius Engelmann, Berlin*

10:50	Portal hypertension: What to expect from Baveno VIII? *Annalisa Berzigotti, Bern*
11:10	Acute-on-chronic liver failure: Evidence-based management *Paolo Angeli, Padova*
11:30	Moving boundaries in liver transplantation: Obesity, cholangiocarcinoma, alcohol *Julie Heimbach, Rochester*

Poster pitches

Chairs: *Thomas Berg, Leipzig; Stefan Fichtner-Feigl, Freiburg*

11:50	Clinical science (5 poster pitches)
12:20	**Lunch break with ePoster session**

SESSION VII

Hepatocellular and cholangiocellular carcinoma

Chairs: *Johann Pratschke, Berlin; Lorenza Rimassa, Milan*

13:20	Therapeutic relevance of the molecular landscape in liver cancer *Jessica Zucman-Rossi, Paris*
13:40	Functional relevance of the immunological environment in liver cancer *Mathias Heikenwälder, Heidelberg*
14:00	The therapeutic (r)evolution in managing liver cancer *Bruno Sangro, Pamplona*
14:20	Moving boundaries in surgery for liver cancer *Iswanto Sucandy, Tampa*
14:40	**Awards for best presentations (posters + poster pitches)** *Stefan Fichtner-Feigl, Freiburg; Tom H. Karlsen, Oslo;* *Sophie Lotersztajn, Paris; Frank Tacke, Berlin*
15:00	**Coffee break with ePoster session**

SESSION VIII

MASLD: The biggest challenge in hepatology?

Chairs: *Patrizia Burra, Padova; Münevver Demir, Berlin*

15:30 Management of obesity and type 2 diabetes: Lessons for the hepatologist
Cyrielle Caussy, Pierre-Bénite

15:50 The next generation of risk stratification algorithms in MASLD
Elisabetta Buggianesi, Torino

16:10 The evolving landscape of pharmaceutical therapies in MASLD management
Vlad Ratziu, Paris

Panel discussion

Chair: *Patrizia Burra, Padova*

16:30 Current medical therapies in MASLD management
Cyrielle Caussy, Pierra-Bénite; Vlad Ratziu, Paris; Frank Tacke, Berlin

16:50 Closing Remarks
Stefan Fichtner-Feigl, Freiburg; Tom H. Karlsen, Oslo; Sophie Lotersztajn, Paris; Frank Tacke, Berlin

HERBERT FALK (1924 – 2008)

Herbert Falk was born in 1924 in Müllheim, a small town in South-West Germany between Freiburg and Basle, where his father ran a pharmacy. It was here that Herbert Falk spent his early years, attending primary school and high school up to the 5th grade. His parents then moved to Freiburg, where his father had his own pharmacy. On gaining his university entrance diploma from the Rotteck high school in March 1942, he was immediately called up for military service. During the Second World War he served on the front line in North Africa as a soldier with the Africa Corps and narrowly escaped death several times. At the end of the North Africa campaign, he was captured and transferred to the USA as a prisoner of war, spending his final year of captivity in England.

On his release and return to Germany, Herbert Falk studied pharmacy then medicine at the University of Freiburg. He graduated and received his doctor's degree in both subjects. Thereafter, he took over the pharmacy in Freiburg from his father.

After several years of success as a pharmacist, Herbert Falk made the decision which would prove so crucial for his future life's journey and founded his own company, producing and marketing pharmaceuticals for application in gastroenterological and hepatological diseases. Within a few years, his abundant energy, determined pursuit of goals, untiring diligence, keen eye for promising research developments, and not least his legendary talent for organization, had turned his pharmaceutical company into a global enterprise world famous in specialist circles. Falk products are meanwhile highly acclaimed not only in Germany and other European countries but also in South America, countries of the Near and Far East, Russia, China and Australia.

Herbert Falk's contributions to research were founded not on his own scientific work but on his organization of symposia, workshops and other scientific congresses which he sponsored and promoted to an extraordinary level and with great personal dedication. International Falk Symposia, workshops and congresses have won global recognition. There are several reasons for this:

- In addition to numerous advanced medical education programs for doctors organized by the Falk Foundation, which are primarily or exclusively concerned with issues of medical practice, the foundation also organizes symposia, workshops and congresses. These feature in-depth

lectures and critical discussions on questions and findings of biomedical basic sciences as well as their application in diagnostic measures, diagnostic decision-making, disease prevention and therapy.

- Leading researchers from a particular field and clinical-medical experts are invited to Falk Symposia as speakers or discussion leaders, enabling comparison within a field at an international level. The scientific organizers have a completely free hand in their choice of topics and selection of speakers. This gives symposia participants an opportunity to acquire first-hand knowledge of the latest findings in their field.
- Falk Symposia are the ideal opportunity for representatives of biomedical basic research, clinical research and physicians working in clinic and practice to meet and exchange opinions. Participants benefit enormously from this fertile interchange of personal experiences, critical viewpoints and valuable suggestions for further work.
- Not least, Falk Symposia are of great significance for the new medical and scientific generation in Germany, since they provide an opportunity for young doctors and scientists to encounter internationally renowned scientists from the field of gastroenterology who can answer their queries and assist their further progress by offering constructive criticism, suggestions and encouragement. A frequent outcome of these encounters is the opportunity for young German scientists to spend a lengthy period abroad as guests in the laboratories or clinical institutions of foreign researchers.

It was Herbert Falk's personality which gave the symposia their unique stamp. His generous support of organizers and speakers, intuitive flair for innovative developments, extraordinary talent for organization and overwhelming hospitality have turned Falk Symposia, workshops and congresses into scientific events of international esteem and renown.

Herbert Falk received many honors and distinctions for his outstanding achievements as a sponsor of biomedical and clinical research and patron of the upcoming medical-scientific generation. These included honorary membership of numerous national and international gastroenterological and hepatological societies. He was made an honorary doctor of the medical faculties of the Universities of Cluj-Napoca (Romania), Basle and Freiburg. The German Medical Association commended him for his services by awarding him the Ernst von Bergmann Plakette. In 2004, the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) honored him with its highest distinction: The Lifetime Distinguished Service Award.

The portrait of Herbert Falk would not be complete without mentioning some key aspects and traits of his personality. Despite his multifaceted success in the development of his pharmaceutical company and the many honors he received, Herbert Falk remained a man of great humility in his personal dealings with the people around him. His friends and co-workers could rely on him implicitly to fulfill any decision or promise which had been made. He always had an open ear for constructive criticism. His joie de vivre and positive attitude to life remain unforgettable. Especially memorable is the pleasure he took in the culinary delights of kitchen and cellar. On such festive occasions he would strike up the "Badener Lied", the hymn to his beloved native area of Baden. The unique beauty of this countryside - so dear to him from countless hikes through the Black Forest - never ceased to fascinate him. This was where he felt at home. This was where he found the strength and inspiration he needed for his work.

Herbert Falk continued to contribute to the development of his company into a ripe old age. He kept up to date with the latest international research projects in the fields of gastroenterology and hepatology, showing a keen interest, critical discernment and sure instinct for quality. He did not give up his leading role in the company until the end of 2003, when he was nearly 80 years of age.

In 2008, a serious illness borne with admirable equanimity brought his life to an end. His memory, life's work and services will live on through the Herbert Falk Prize.

Wolfgang Gerok, Freiburg (†)

INTERNATIONAL HERBERT FALK AWARD 2025

The International Herbert Falk Award will be presented for the 6th time by the Falk Foundation e.V. on the occasion of Symposium 242 in Berlin in October 2025. The prize amounts to EUR 40.000,- and is awarded for outstanding contributions to gastroenterology and hepatology, including advances in diagnosis, therapy and prevention.

MEMBERS OF THE PRIZE COMMITTEE:

M.M. Lerch, München (Germany)
A. Schoepfer, Lausanne (Switzerland)
J. Schölmerich, Hofheim (Germany)
R.C. Spiller, Nottingham (Great Britain)
H. Wedemeyer, Hannover (Germany)

COORDINATOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL HERBERT FALK AWARD COMMITTEE:

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POSTER SESSION

ePosters will be exhibited on our ePoster screens on October 24-25, 2025.
The authors will be in attendance during coffee and lunch breaks on both days.

CALL FOR POSTERS

Please submit your poster abstract before July 23, 2025.

Abstracts must be submitted via our Internet Abstract Submission System (https://poster.falkfoundation.com) where further information regarding the submission format and the submission process is available.

The abstracts will be selected by the scientific organizers, with preference being given to those thematically related to one of the sessions of the congress. The accepted abstracts will be published in the final program of the meeting.

Poster authors will receive notification about acceptance and further instructions in August, 2025.

For the first author of an accepted poster, accommodation expenses (October, 23-26, 2025) and fees for the scientific program will be covered during Symposium 242. Travel expenses will not be covered.

POSTER AWARDS

Three prizes will be awarded for the best poster presentations. Winners will be asked to give a short presentation (2–5 minutes) of their poster during the award ceremony.

Award winners will be presented with a certificate and prize money.

Travel expenses will also be covered for the first authors of the three winning posters.

REGISTRATION

You can register for the event via our homepage:
www.falkfoundation.org
Registration is only possible online.

You will receive an automatic confirmation of registration by e-mail.
Please transfer the congress fee to the bank account listed in the e-mail within two weeks.

CONGRESS FEES

Scientific Program of Symposium 242	EUR 300
Students (copy of student ID required)	EUR 150

The congress fees include:
- Pre-Opening and Welcome on Thursday, October 23, 2025
- Refreshments during coffee breaks
- Lunch on Friday and Saturday, October 24-25, 2025
- A copy of the final program

CONGRESS OFFICE AND REGISTRATION

Opening Hours:

Thursday, October 23, 2025	16:00 – 20:00 h
Friday, October 24, 2025	08:00 – 17:30 h
Saturday, October 25, 2025	08:00 – 17:00 h

The Falk Foundation will take pictures during the meeting. Additionally, parts of the meeting might be recorded. By participating all attendees consent and agree with the recording and the photo shoots.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The event “Advances in Hepatology - from Mechanistic Insights to Novel Therapeutic Concepts, Symposium 242 Berlin, Germany” is organized by the Falk Foundation e.V.

The Falk Foundation covers the travel expenses for speakers as well as their hotel and registration costs. The Falk Foundation e.V. also bears the costs for catering, room rental and technical equipment. The organizer is associated with Dr. Falk Pharma GmbH.

ARRIVAL

JW Marriott Hotel Berlin
Stauffenbergstr. 26
10785 Berlin
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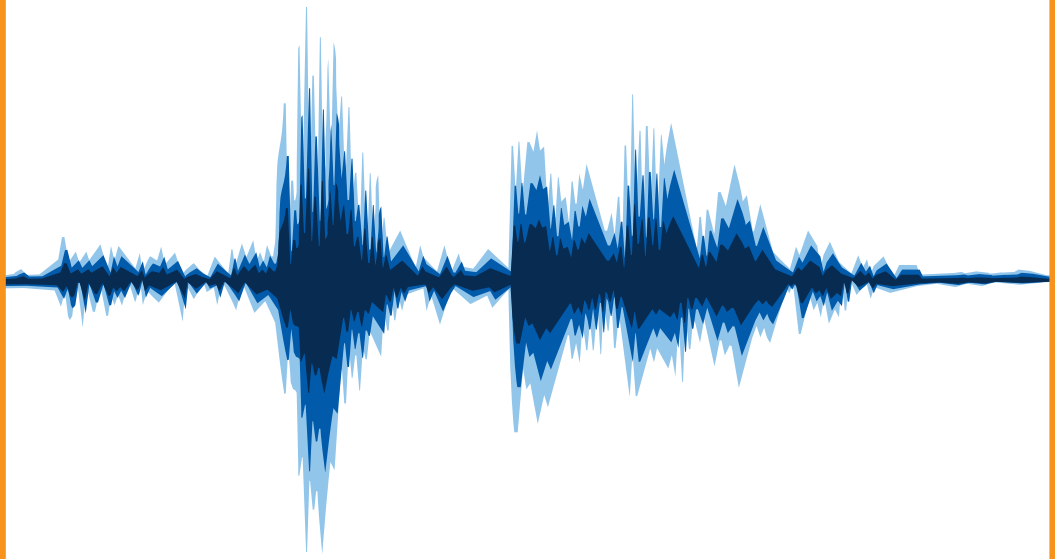
By plane
The Berlin Brandenburg Airport (BER) is about 26.5 km away from the hotel and well connected with trains departing from Terminal 1-2 every hour. You can also take a taxi which takes about 30 minutes time.

By train
Berlin Central Station (U-Bahn, S-Bahn, regional trains, ICE train)
Station Potsdamer Platz (U-Bahn, S-Bahn, regional trains)
From Station Potsdamer Platz: Head west on Potsdamer Platz/B1.
Turning right toward Sigismundstrasse. Slight right onto Sigismundstrasse. Turn left onto Stauffenbergstrasse. Destination will be on the left.

By car
On-Site Parking
Hourly: €3.00
Daily: €25.00

Registration via www.falkfoundation.org or simply scan and register.



Together we know more. Together we do more.
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