EXPERIMENTAL HEPATOLOGY DAYS

May 13-15, 2027

Symposium 247
FREIBURG, GERMANY

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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,

We are delighted to welcome you to the third Falk Foundation “Experimental Hepatology Days” in Freiburg. Following the highly successful meetings in Zurich and Lyon, we are excited to continue this growing tradition by once again bringing together leading scientists and clinician-scientists from around the world who share a passion for innovative basic and translational hepatology.

The symposium will maintain its successful format, with Part A focusing on hepatic injury, inflammation and immunology, and Part B addressing regeneration, fibrosis and carcinogenesis. Keynote lectures, panel discussions, poster pitch sessions, and presentations ranging from novel methodologies and fundamental mechanisms to clinical translation will provide ample opportunity for lively discussions and scientific exchange.

One of the hallmarks of the “Experimental Hepatology Days” has been its open and interactive atmosphere, encouraging in-depth discussions, new collaborations, and active participation, particularly by early-career scientists. We are committed to preserving this unique spirit as the meeting continues to grow.

We are also pleased to welcome you to Freiburg, a vibrant university city at the edge of the Black Forest, renowned for its historic old town, sunny climate, and outstanding scientific environment. We hope you will enjoy both an inspiring scientific program and the unique charm and hospitality of our city.

We look forward to welcoming you to Freiburg for another stimulating and memorable symposium.

Thomas Baumert Ana Lleo Frank Tacke Robert Thimme

EXPERIMENTAL HEPATOLOGY DAYS

May, 13-15, 2027

Scientific Organization:
Thomas F. Baumert, Strasbourg
Ana Lleo, Rozzano (Milan)
Frank Tacke, Berlin
Robert Thimme, Freiburg

Congress Venue:
Konzerthaus Freiburg
Konrad-Adenauer Platz 1
79098 Freiburg
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 19.

Start of Registration:
Thursday, May 13, 2027
13:00 - 19:00 h
at the congress office

Publication Date of the Final Program:
May 2027

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

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2027

13:00	**Networking Lunch**
14:00	Welcome and opening remarks *Robert Thimme, Freiburg*

PART A: HEPATOCYTE INJURY, INFLAMMATION AND IMMUNOLOGY

SESSION I

Hepatocyte injury, metabolism, and inflammation

Chairs	*Thomas F. Baumert, Strasbourg; Natascha Röhlen, Freiburg*
14:05	Keynote lecture I: Pathways of metabolic injury and adaptations in human liver assembloids *Meritxell Huch, Dresden*
14:35	Cellular and molecular mechanisms of liver injury and sterile inflammation *Bin Gao, Bethesda*
14:55	Multi-omics identifies disease-associated macrophage alterations in MASH *Olivier Govaere, Leuven*
15:15	Unveiling the mechanisms of cholangiocyte injury and biliary inflammation in PSC *Melum Espen, Oslo*
15:35	Gut microbiota and derived metabolites as modulators of liver metabolism and injury *Bernd Schnabl, La Jolla*
15:55	**Coffee break with ePoster session**

SESSION II

Poster session

Chairs	*Verena Keitel-Anselmino, Magdeburg; Frank Tacke, Berlin*
16:30	2 x 3 moderated poster presentations including discussion
17:10	Oral poster presentation

SESSION III

Immune cell (mal)adaptation in chronic liver disease

Chairs	*Charlotte Rennert, Freiburg; Heiner Wedemeyer, Hannover*
17:30	Kupffer cells and steatotic liver disease *Elvira Mass, Bonn*
17:50	Kupffer cell plasticity and hepatic immunity in mycobacterial infection *Philipp Henneke, Freiburg*
18:10	B cell immunity in the liver *Mala Maini, London*
18:30	Decoding HBV specific CD8+ T cell immunity *Nina Le Bert, Singapore*
18:50	The many flavors of virus-specific CD4+ T cell immunity *Tobias Böttler, Freiburg*
19:10	**Welcome evening**

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2027

SESSION IV

Immune architecture of the liver

Chairs	*Mathias Heikenwälder, Heidelberg; Maike Hofmann, Freiburg*
09:00	Keynote lecture II: The liver immune niche in health and disease *Sonya MacParland, Toronto*
09:30	How resident liver cells spatially organize inflammation *Adrien Guillot, Berlin*
09:50	Liver macrophages in health and disease *Martin Guilliams, Ghent*
10:10	Tissue determinants of antiviral immunity *Percy A. Knolle, Munich*
10:30	Decoding immune cell neighborhoods in the human liver *Bertram Bengsch, Freiburg*
10:50	**Coffee break with ePoster session**

SESSION V

The liver as a central hub in multisystem disease

Chairs	*Dominik Bettinger, Freiburg; Debbie Shawcross, London*
11:30	Immune dysfunction in liver cirrhosis *Markus Cornberg, Hannover*
11:50	Mechanistic insights into the liver–brain axis in chronic liver disease *Anna Hadjihambi, London*
12:10	Roles of systemic inflammatory and metabolic responses in the pathophysiology of acute-on-chronic liver failure *Joan Clària, Barcelona*
12:30	Circadian rhythm and liver disease *Thomas Marjot, London*

12:50	Liver–intestinal microbiota interactions in cirrhosis *Debbie Shawcross, London*
13:10	**Lunch break with ePoster session**

PART B: REGENERATION, FIBROSIS, AND CARCINOGENESIS

SESSION I

Liver cell plasticity, regeneration, and fibrosis

Chairs	*Verena Keitel-Anselmino, Magdeburg; Frank Tacke, Berlin*
14:00	Keynote lecture III: Mechanisms of hepatic stellate cell inactivation and fibrosis regression *Tatiana Kisseleva, La Jolla*
14:30	Patient-derived liver organoids and liver epithelial heterogeneity *Pau Sancho Bru, Barcelona*
14:50	Genetic drivers of disease progression and regression in the liver *Stefano Romeo, Flemingsberg (Stockholm)*
15:10	Immunopathogenesis of PBC: A double-hit disease – driven by the immune system or the cholangiocytes? *Vincenzo Ronca, Pieve Emanuele (Milan)*
15:30	**Coffee break with ePoster session**

SESSION II

Poster session

Chairs	*Ana Lleo, Rozzano (Milan); Jessica Zucman-Rossi, Paris*
16:00	2 x 3 moderated poster presentations including discussion
16:40	Oral poster presentation

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2027

SESSION III

Carcinogenesis

Chairs	*Ana Lleo, Rozzano (Milan); Jessica Zucman-Rossi, Paris*
17:00	Impact of hepatic adaptation to chronic metabolic stress on tumorigenesis *Alex K. Shalek, Cambridge*
17:20	Oncofoetal reprogramming at the crossroads of liver inflammation and cancer development *Luke Boulter, Edinburgh*
17:40	Microbiota in cancer progression and treatment *Maria Rescigno, Pieve Emanuele (Milan)*
18:00	Metabolic reprogramming in CCC drives disease progression and immune evasion *Ana Lleo, Rozzano (Milan)*
18:20	**Presentation of poster awards** *Thomas F. Baumert, Strasbourg; Frank Tacke, Berlin*
18:40	**Scientific networking with flying buffet**

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2027

SESSION IV

Tumor immunology

Chairs	*Maria Rescigno, Pieve Emanuele (Milan); Robert Thimme, Freiburg*
09:00	Keynote lecture IV: HCC specific immunity in preclinical models *Matteo Iannacone, Milan*
09:30	From steatosis to malignancy: The connection between steatotic liver disease and HCC *Mathias Heikenwälder, Heidelberg*
09:50	T cell immunity in CCC *Enrico Lugli, Milan*
10:10	Reprogramming the liver immune system to combat HCC *Alice Kamphorst, New York*
10:30	Checkpoint inhibitors in HCC: Emerging trends *David J. Pinato, London*
10:50	**Coffee break with ePoster session**

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2027

SESSION V	
Opportunities and risks of emerging therapies	
Chairs	*Markus Heim, Basel; Fabien Zoulim, Lyon*
11:40	Targeting lipid droplets in MASLD management *David E. Cohen, Los Angeles*
12:00	Epigenetic mechanisms in liver tumors: Therapeutic implications *Matías A. Ávila, Pamplona*
12:20	Advances in HBV vaccines development *Ulrike Protzer, Munich*
12:40	Lessons learned from recent vaccine trials *Eleanor Barnes, Oxford*
13:00	**Closing remarks**
13:10	**Lunch**

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POSTER SESSION

ePosters will be displayed on our screens from May 13-15, 2027. We kindly ask the authors to be present during coffee and lunch breaks on both days to discuss their work.

CALL FOR POSTERS

Please submit your abstract by February 14, 2027, using our online submission system (https://poster.falkfoundation.org). The system will guide you through the submission process and provide further information on formatting requirements.

The abstracts will be reviewed by the scientific organizers, with preference given to those that align thematically with one of the final meeting sessions.

Accepted abstracts will be published in the final program.

Abstract submitters will be informed about acceptance and receive further instructions in February 2027.

For the first author of an accepted abstract, registration fee and accommodation (May 13-15, 2027) will be covered during Symposium 247. Travel expenses will not be covered.

POSTER AWARDS

Prizes of up to EUR 3.000, along with coverage of travel expenses, will be awarded for the best posters.

Winners will be invited to give a short presentation (2–5 minutes) of their poster during the award ceremony.

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 247	EUR 300
Students (copy of student ID required)	EUR 150

The congress fees include:
- Pre-Opening and Welcome on Thursday, May 13, 2027
- Scientific networking with flying buffet on Friday, May 14, 2027
- Refreshments during coffee breaks
- Lunch on Thursday, Friday and Saturday
- A copy of the final program

CONGRESS OFFICE AND REGISTRATION

Opening Hours:

Thursday, May 13, 2027	13:00 – 19:00 h
Friday, May 14, 2027	08:00 – 19:00 h
Saturday, May 15, 2027	08:00 – 13:00 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.

ARRIVAL

Konzerthaus Freiburg
Konrad-Adenauer-Platz 1
79098 Freiburg im Breisgau
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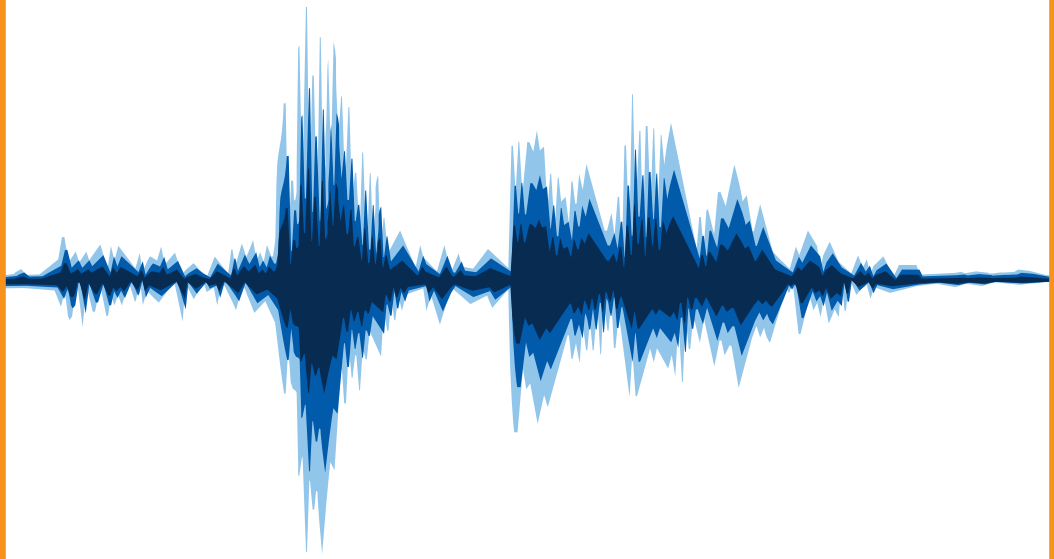
By car
From north and south via A5 Frankfurt-Basel Rhine Valley motorway, exit Freiburg-Mitte. Follow the signs. From east via the A81 Stuttgart-Singen motorway and B31 Donaueschingen, Titisee-Neustadt. Pass Freiburg on Schwarzwaldstrasse in the direction to motorway A5 and follow the signs. There is a huge underground car park belonging to Konzerthaus and Freiburg main station.

By plane
Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg Airport (EuroAirport) is the nearest airport, just an hour's drive away. It offers international scheduled flights and charter flights. The airport bus runs directly to Freiburg main bus station, opposite the Konzerthaus. For more information see www.freiburger-reisedienst.de. Bigger airports like Zurich or Frankfurt offer good train connections to Freiburg main station.

By train
The Konzerthaus is ideally connected to public transport. Freiburg main railway station is directly opposite. The bus and tram stations are also located here. Taxis are available in front of the main entrance to the Konzerthaus Freiburg.

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



Together we know more. Together we do more.

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