1. RATIONALE FOR ORGANIZING THE FIRST EUROPEAN UNION - MONGOLIA HEPATOLOGY CONFERENCE

Prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of infected patients are three pillars of infectious disease control. Viral hepatitis is not only an infectious disease, but also it is the main cause of deadly liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. In 2010, liver cancer was the third leading cause of cancer mortalities globally. It was also reported that hepatitis B (HBV) and C (HCV) together killed 1.45 million people in 2013, which is more than number of mortalities due to malaria, tuberculosis, or HIV/AIDS (1).

Mongolia has the world’s highest rate of liver cancer mortality—nearly eight times the global average (Fig. 1). The prevalences of chronic viral hepatitis B, C, and D (HDV) in Mongolia are at an endemic level (2 and 3) and constitutes the dominant cause for Mongolia’s world-leading liver cancer mortality rate, which has been steadily increasing over the last decade. At the moment, liver cirrhosis and liver cancer mortalities account for 15% of all annual mortalities in Mongolia, and it is projected to increase in the future. In short, the viral hepatitis endemic has been wreaking a havoc in Mongolian society.

To tackle this deadly crisis, the Onom Foundation, Patient and Civil Society Council, Mongolian Gastroenterology Association, and Mongolian Society of Hepatology launched the Hepatitis Prevention, Control, and Elimination (HPCE) Program that consists of three intrinsically inter-dependent campaigns on prevention, screening, and treatment on September 8, 2014. Thanks to the persistent and unwavering effort of these organizations, the Government of Mongolia officially adopted the HPCE Program - ЭЛЭГ БҮТЭН МОНГОЛ ХѲТѲЛБѲР into the 2016 - 2020 Action Plan on September 9, 2016. The MISSION 2020 of the HPCE Program to eliminate HCV in Mongolia by 2020 and to significantly reduce viral hepatitis induced liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma was explicitly stated in the 2016 - 2020 Action Plan of the Government of Mongolia:

**MISSION 2020**

- To eliminate cancer-causing hepatitis C virus in Mongolia by 2020
- To reduce mortalities related to liver cirrhosis and HCC by 50% in Mongolia by 2030

To radically change the current state of viral hepatitis in Mongolia and to achieve the MISSION 2020, the HPCE Program needs to be comprehensive in tackling the viral hepatitis endemic in Mongolia. Thus, Mongolia is strengthening surveillance, education, testing, and linkage to care for HBV, HCV and HDV, to prevent transmission, morbidity, and mortality from chronic liver disease and hepatocellular carcinoma.

As of June 5, 2017, branded Sofosbuvir/Ledipasvir (Harvoni), 4 kinds of generic Sofosbuvir/Ledipasvir, and generic Sofosbuvir+Daclatasvir are available in Mongolia at prices of US$300 and US$150 respectively. In addition, both branded and generic Tenofovir and 2 kinds of generic Entecavir are available in Mongolia. Both branded and generic Tenofovir are subsidized by the Health Insurance Fund, resulting in costs of approximately US$15 (Viread).
and US$3 (generic Tenofovir) per month. Both branded and generic Sofosbuvir/Ledipasvir are also subsidized by the Health Insurance Fund, resulting in costs of approximately US$215 (Harvoni) and US$65 (generic Sofosbuvir/Ledipasvir) per month. More importantly, the Parliament of Mongolia allocated approximately US$10 million for hepatitis medicines subsidies, US$2.5 million for hepatitis diagnostics, and US$4 million for early screening within the 2017 Expenditure Budget of the Health Insurance Fund.

On April 12, 2017, in accordance with the very concrete mandate from the Parliament of Mongolia to the executive branch, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Government of Mongolia approved the detailed plan for the HPCE Program using a blueprint that was developed by the Onom Foundation and Mongolian Society of Hepatology. In doing so, the Government of Mongolia allocated 226 Billion Mongolian National Tugrugs or US$96MM for the HPCE Program through 2020. It is the largest amount of funding ever allocated for a national program, demonstrating the full commitment of the Government of Mongolia.

Finally, the Comprehensive Scientific and Clinical Research Program has been established within the HPCE Program to enable evidence-based decision-making, to quantitatively assess the impact of the program in a number of areas, and to internationally disseminate the best-practices, lessons-learned, and research findings that would be very relevant and useful for eliminating viral hepatitis in other countries around the world. Thanks to very novel population tracking and monitoring platform that extensively utilizes mHealth, crowdsourcing, and other innovative mobile information technology, there is an unprecedented opportunity to conduct world-class, rigorous research on a number of aspects within the HPCE Program in Mongolia. In fact, the HPCE Program will turn Mongolia into a mini-laboratory for testing innovative solutions in screening entire population and providing mass-scale treatment and ultimately a model for eliminating a major cancer-causing infectious disease around the world for the first time in history.

REFERENCES
2. THE FIRST EUROPEAN UNION - MONGOLIA HEPATOLOGY CONFERENCE IN ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

The First European Union - Mongolia Hepatology Conference will bring together clinicians, scientists, and specialists who are interested in conducting collaborative, multi-disciplinary, and world-class research within the Hepatitis Prevention, Control and Elimination Program in Mongolia. In addition, it will help to generate active discussions and collaborations among major research institutions, industry partners, professional organizations, and funding agencies that are committed to bringing breakthrough innovations and technologies, industry cooperations, novel implementation approaches, and rigorous research together to achieve the MISSION 2020 of the HPCE Program in Mongolia that will ultimately serve as a model for eliminating a major cancer-causing infectious disease around the world for the first time in history.

Place & Time: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and Two day conference on August 17 - 19, 2017

Participants: The First European Union - Mongolia Hepatology Conference will convene about 50 - 60 participants, including approximately 10 international experts and 50 Mongolian specialists

Priority topics:
- HCV elimination
- HBV/HDV superinfection
- HCC

Organizing Institutions:
- EASL
- EASL International Liver Foundation
- Mongolian Society of Hepatology
- Mongolian Gastroenterology Association
- Onom Foundation

Partner Institutions in Mongolia:
- Ministry of Health
- Cabinet Secretariat of the Government of Mongolia
- Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare
- Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences
- National Center for Health Development
- National Cancer Center
- All Major Hospitals and Research Institutions

Cost Sharing:
Mongolian side will take over all costs that arise in Mongolia
- Venue
- Printing and distribution materials
- Catering

EASL and EASL ILF will take care its own costs and flight costs and reimbursements for invited speakers
- No conference fees for participants

Fundraising and Sponsoring:
- Onom Foundation, Mongolian Gastroenterology Association, and Mongolian Society of Hepatology will raise funding within Mongolia
- A partnership of EASL, EASL ILF, MSH, MGA, and Onom Foundation fundraising/sponsoring from international partners would be possible.
Scientific Committee for The First European Union - Mongolia Hepatology Conference in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia:

EASL:
   To be determined…

Mongolia:
   Prof. Nymadawa Pagbajab, President of the Mongolian Academy of Medical Sciences
   Prof. Dahgwahdorj Yagaanbuyant, President of the Mongolian Society of Hepatology
   Prof. Zulkhuu Genden, Vice President of the Mongolian Society of Hepatology
   Prof. Davaadorj Duger, President, Mongolian Gastroenterology Association
   Dr. Naranjargal Dashdorj, Executive Director of the Mongolian Society of Hepatology

National Organizing Committee:
   Dr. Ochirbat Dagvadorj, State Secretary at the Ministry of Health of Mongolia
   Dr. Naranbaatar Dashdorj, Chairman of the Board at the Onom Foundation
   Dr. Andreas S. Bungert, Chief Scientific Officer and Senior Vice President of the Onom Foundation
   Dr. Odgerel Oidovsambuu, Head of Laboratory at the Liver Center
3. DRAFT SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM FOR THE FIRST EUROPEAN UNION - MONGOLIA HEPATOLOGY CONFERENCE

Conference Purpose:
- To review current advances in viral hepatitis, chronic liver diseases, and liver cancer.
- To discuss the potential for European Union-Mongolia research and training collaboration in these areas.
- To discuss mechanisms for research and training collaboration.

August 16, 2017 - Wednesday
Visit to primary and secondary healthcare centers in Ulaanbaatar, the capital city, organized by the Onom Foundation.

August 17, 2017 - Thursday - Day 1

08:30-09:00 Registration

Session 1: Opening Session
Moderators: Prof. Dahgwahtordj Yagaanbuyant, President, Mongolian Society of Hepatology
Prof. Tom H. Karlsen, Secretary General, European Association for the Study of the Liver

09:00-09:10 Opening Speech Prof. Nymadawa Pagbajav
President, Mongolian Academy of Medical Sciences, Mongolia

09:10-09:20 Opening Speech Prof. Massimo Colombo
Chair of the Board, EASL International Liver Foundation, Italy

09:20-10:00 GROUP PHOTO/TEA/COFFEE BREAK

Session 2: Background and Epidemiology of Hepatitis Virus Infections in Mongolia
Moderators: Prof. Altankhuu Mordorj, Mongolian Society of Hepatology, Mongolia
Prof. Francesco Negro, EASL Educational Councilor, Switzerland

10:00-10:25 Prevalence of Viral Hepatitis and Burden of Hepatitis and Liver Diseases in Mongolia
Dr. Naranjargal Dashdorj, Mongolian Society of Hepatology, Mongolia

10:25-10:50 Update on Viral Hepatitis Elimination in Mongolia and Other High Burden Countries
Speaker TBD, WPRO/WHO

10:50-11:20 Hepatitis Prevention, Control, and Elimination Program: A Model for Hepatitis Elimination in Low and Middle Income Countries with High Burden of Viral Hepatitis
Dr. Naranbaatar Dashdorj, Onom Foundation, Mongolia

11:20-11:40 TEA/COFFEE BREAK

11:40-12:00 General Population Hepatitis Screening Campaign within the Hepatitis Prevention, Control, and Elimination Program in Mongolia: National Update
Speaker TBD, Ministry of Health, Mongolia

12:00-12:45 Discussions of Key Research Questions and Opportunities for Collaboration

12:45-13:45 LUNCH
Session 3: HCV - A Path Toward Elimination: Diagnosis and Treatment

Moderators:  
Prof. Zulkhuu Genden, Mongolian Society of Hepatology, Mongolia  
Prof. Kenrad Nelson, Johns Hopkins University, USA

13:45-14:05  
Current Practices in Management of HCV  
Prof. Norah Terrault, University of California San Francisco, USA

14:05-14:25  
The Relevance of Metabolic and Alcoholic Co-Morbidity in HCV and HCC Control  
Prof. Francesco Negro, EASL Educational Councillor, Geneva, Switzerland

14:25-14:40  
Current Practices in Management of HCV in Mongolia  
Prof. Davaadorj Duger, Mongolian Gastroenterology Association, Mongolia

14:40-14:55  
Update on the Treatment Campaign within the HPCE Program in Mongolia  
Dr. Ts. Sarantuya, Mongolian Gastroenterology Association, Mongolia

14:55-15:15  
Geographical and Target-Population HCV Micro-Elimination within the HPCE Program in Mongolia  
Dr. Andreas S. Bungert, Onom Foundation, Mongolia

15:15-15:25  
Discussions on Implementation of the Screening and Treatment Campaigns of the HPCE Program

15:25-15:45  
TEA/COFFEE BREAK

Session 4: Impact of the HPCE Program on Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Current and Future Perspective

Moderators:  
Dr. Tsetsegsaikhan Batmunkh, Ministry of Health, Mongolia  
Dr. Robert Allison, National Institutes of Health, USA

15:45-16:05  
Liver Cancer in Mongolia: Surveillance and Epidemiology  
Dr. T. Undarmaa, National Cancer Center, Mongolia

16:05-16:25  
HCC Management in Mongolia  
Dr. Chinburen Jigjidsuren, National Cancer Center, Mongolia

16:25-16:50  
Recent Developments in the Management of HCC  
Prof. Massimo Colombo, EASL International Liver Foundation, Italy

16:50-17:10  
Liver Cancer Screening Program in Mongolia  
Dr. Ts. Badamsuren, National Cancer Center, Mongolia

17:10-18:00  
Discussions of Key Research Questions and Opportunities for Collaboration

19:30  
Reception Hosted by the Onom Foundation
### Session 5: General Hepatology Update

**Moderators:**
- Prof. Oyungerel Ravjir, Mongolian Society of Hepatology, Mongolia
- Prof. Massimo Colombo, EASL International Liver Foundation, Italy

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>09:00-09:25</td>
<td>Recent Developments in European Hepatology: Best of the ILC 2017</td>
<td>Prof. Tom Hemming Karlsen, EASL, Norway</td>
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<td>09:25-09:40</td>
<td>The Risk of HCC in the Context of HCV Eradication – Critical Review of the Evidence</td>
<td>Prof. Massimo Colombo, EASL International Liver Foundation, Milan, Italy</td>
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<td>09:40-10:05</td>
<td>Current EASL HBV Clinical Practice Guidelines and Prospects Towards HBV Cure</td>
<td>Prof. Francesco Negro, EASL, Switzerland</td>
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<td>10:05-10:15</td>
<td>Mongolian Society of Hepatology Speaker: Case Presentation</td>
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<td>10:15-10:30</td>
<td>Case Discussions MSH/EASL Panel</td>
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<td>10:30-10:45</td>
<td>TEA/COFFEE BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45-11:10</td>
<td>Hot Topics in Metabolic and Cholestatic Liver Diseases</td>
<td>Prof. Tom Hemming Karlsen, EASL, Norway</td>
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<td>11:10-11:40</td>
<td>Systematic Strategies Towards HCV Elimination</td>
<td>Prof. Massimo Colombo, EASL International Liver Foundation, Italy</td>
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<td>11:40-12:30</td>
<td>Discussions of Key Research and Training Questions and Opportunities for Collaboration</td>
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<td>12:30-13:30</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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### Session 6: HBV/HDV - Diagnosis and Treatment

**Moderators:**
- Prof. Byambajav Tsogt-Ochir, Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences, Mongolia
- Prof. Francesco Negro, EASL, European Union

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>13:30-13:45</td>
<td>Incidences of Acute HBV/HDV in Mongolia</td>
<td>Dr. Delgerbat Boldbaatar, Liver Center, Mongolia</td>
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<td>13:45-14:00</td>
<td>Diagnosis of HDV: Comparative Analysis and Innovation</td>
<td>Prof. Odgerel Oidovsambuu, Liver Center and National University of Mongolia, Mongolia</td>
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<td>14:00-14:25</td>
<td>Novel Treatment with Prenylation Inhibitors for Hepatitis Delta</td>
<td>Prof. Jeffrey S. Glenn, Stanford University, USA</td>
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<td>14:25-14:40</td>
<td>Current Practices in Management of HBV in Mongolia</td>
<td>Dr. Naranjargal Dashdorj, Mongolian Society of Hepatology, Mongolia</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:40-15:10</td>
<td>Discussions of Key Research Questions and Opportunities for Collaboration</td>
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<td>15:10-15:35</td>
<td>TEA/COFFEE BREAK</td>
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### Session 7: Poster Session and Discussions

| Time          | Topic                                                                 |                                                                                             |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|                                                                                             |
| 15:35-16:30   | Poster Viewing and Discussions                                         |                                                                                             |
Session 8: Summary Discussion and Closing

16:30-17:30  Roundtable Discussions – To identify key research and training questions that might be addressed through European Union - Mongolia research and training collaboration

17:30-17:40  Closing Remarks
Prof. Tom H. Karlsen, Secretary General, European Association for the Study of the Liver

17:40-17:50  Closing Remarks
Prof. Dahgwahtorj Yagaanbuyant, President, Mongolian Society of Hepatology

19:00  Reception Hosted by the Mongolian Society of Hepatology

August 19, 2017 - Saturday

Visiting a nomadic family in Mongolian countryside and social program organized by the Onom Foundation.