

Propositions accompanying the doctoral thesis

Genetic diversity of Hepatitis B and C Viruses in Ethiopia

1. HBV seroprevalence is intermediate and that of HCV is low in Ethiopia (this thesis).
2. Ethiopia borders the HBV genotype A and D geographic distribution in Africa (this thesis).
3. Identification of a novel subgenotype D10 in Ethiopia highlights the high genetic diversity of HBV strains in Africa (this thesis).
4. HCV infection in Ethiopia is characterized by the predominance of genotype 4 (this thesis).
5. Deep-sequencing technologies provide novel insight into viral quasispecies diversity of HBV and HCV (this thesis).
6. Because observations from other regions of the world cannot be extrapolated from one locale to another, the HBV strains circulating in Africa should be studied and related to clinical outcomes (Kramvis & Kew, *Hepato Res* 2007).
7. No longer overshadowed by HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis, hepatitis now moved into the spotlight as one of the leading killers worldwide (WHO).
8. Systematic pathogen surveillance is within our grasp, but is still undervalued and underfunded relative to the magnitude of the threat (Worobey, *Nature* 2017).
9. DNA analysis of what was once thought to be the oldest evidence of a smallpox infection in humans has revealed that a 450-year-old mummy actually died from Hepatitis B (Ross et al., *PLoS Pathog* 2018).
10. Train PhD students to be thinkers not just specialists (Bosch, *Nature* 2018).
11. He who conceals his disease cannot expect to be cured (Ethiopian proverb).

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