

#### Scientific advisor's information:

After completing medical school in Mainz, Germany, Hans Tillmann trained and worked for Michael Manns in Hannover, Germany for 11 years. In Hannover he was responsible for the viral hepatitis diagnostic laboratory, which led to numerous high ranking publications including in the Lancet, the New England Journal of Medicine, Gastroenterology and others. He is active in reviewing manuscripts for various Journals including Hepatology and Gastroenterology, and J Hepatology, in addition to being on the editorial board for World J Gastroenterology, Journal Infectious Disease, and PLoS One.

Hans L. Tillmann has gained a reputation for developing innovative but sometimes controversial ideas, some of which lead to unexpected discoveries; he was instrumental in discovering GBV-C's positive influence on HIV infection and identification of anti-GB E2 antibodies' role in prohibiting GBV-C infection as well as discovering lamivudine resistant HBV strains not only resistant to but dependent on lamivudine. His interest in viral hepatitis in the setting of organ transplant was accompanied by his engagement to establish a complete prevention of HBV-reinfection by direct antivirals plus HBIg, and more recently attempts to substitute HBIg by vaccine approaches or combination antivirals. He has a more than a decade experience in running a diagnostic laboratory for viral load determination.

In 2004 he was appointed Professor of Medicine in Leipzig, Germany and continued to focus on viral infections. In 2007 he joined the Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI), which can be considered the largest academic clinical research institution worldwide, where is now is responsible for viral load and safety monitoring for various clinical trials. He has an interest in treatment prediction and optimized use of antivirals.

HLT has published over 120 original and 65 review and opinion articles, and 35 book chapters, and has edited 2 books.