

University of Groningen

## Genetic characterizations and epigenetic interference to better understand and fight occult Hepatitis B virus infection

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## PROPOSITIONS

- The Genetic characteristics and epigenetic regulation in each viral minichromosome drive the viral replication control and the cellular immune response contributing to establish and maintain occult HBV infection.
- Occult HBV infection is a multifactorial condition with not one common causal mechanism being shared in all cases (This thesis).
- OBI represents a latent risk during liver transplantation procedures and should thus be monitored carefully (This thesis).
- Transcription control in HBV is a highly regulated process in which epigenetic inactivation of viral promoters by CGI methylation plays a pivotal role. (This thesis).
- Epigenetic editing is a useful strategy to induce targeted methylation in HBV genome, which inhibits viral transcription, which can be envisioned as an alternative strategy for viral clearance (This thesis)
- HBx is known to induce epigenetic changes in both the viral as cellular genomes during HBV infection; the cellular effects, however, are time dependent and seems to induce a slight direct transcription activation (This thesis)
- Becoming a successful scientist not only depends on the lab skills or theoretical knowledge, but also on enjoying what is being done and on sharing experiences, knowledge, and opinions with colleagues.
- Ideas and knowledge come from everywhere; even the less expected person can give you the key to solve the most complex problem
- Living in a foreign country teaches you to better appreciate your own land. I can't live without mountains, fruits and summer weather all the time.
- "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants." Isaac Newton.