



# 13<sup>th</sup> UPDATE on Hepatology Course

PERSONALIZED MANAGEMENT  
OF LIVER DISEASES IN THE FLOW  
OF HEPATOLOGY PRACTICE



LIANA GHEORGHE | ANCA TRIFAN  
COURSE DIRECTORS

SPERANȚA IACOB  
SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY

Bucharest | 13-14 March 2026 | Hotel Crowne Plaza



# 13<sup>th</sup> UPDATE on Hepatology Course

## PERSONALIZED MANAGEMENT OF LIVER DISEASES IN THE FLOW OF HEPATOLOGY PRACTICE

### National Faculty

- Dana Crișan - Cluj-Napoca
- Adina Croitoru - Bucharest
- Mircea Diculescu - Bucharest
- Eugen Dumitru - Constanța
- Carmen Ester - Bucharest
- Dan Gheonea - Craiova
- Cristian Gheorghe - Bucharest
- Liana Gheorghe - Bucharest
- Irina Gîrleanu - Iași
- Mugur Grasu - Bucharest
- Speranța Iacob - Bucharest
- Răzvan Iacob - Bucharest
- Ioan Cristian Lupescu - Bucharest
- Cristina Muzică - Iași
- Corina Pop - Bucharest
- Bogdan Procopet - Cluj-Napoca
- Simona Ruță - Bucharest
- Andrada Seicean - Cluj-Napoca
- Zeno Spârchez - Cluj-Napoca
- Horia Ștefănescu - Cluj-Napoca
- Anca Trifan - Iași

### International Faculty

- Costică Aloman - New York, USA
- Luca Belli - Milan, Italy
- Marco Carbone - Milan, Italy
- Umberto Cillo - Padova, Italy
- Philip Mathurin - Lille, France
- Raluca Pais - Paris, France
- Nancy Reau - Chicago, USA
- Shiv Sarin - New Delhi, India
- Dominique Thabut - Paris, France
- Heiner Wedemeyer - Hannover, Germany



*Dear* COLLEAGUES *and* FRIENDS,

We are delighted to welcome you to the **13th Update on Hepatology Course**, taking place in **Bucharest, 13–14 March 2026**, at **Crowne Plaza Bucharest**.

Since 2014, Update on Hepatology has grown into a leading scientific and educational event in Romania, bringing together international and national experts, clinicians, researchers, and

young gastroenterologists who share the same goal: improving the lives of people living with liver disease.

This year's course theme, "**Personalized management of liver diseases in the flow of hepatology practice**", reflects a shift that many of us feel every day in clinic: moving from "one-size-fits-all" medicine to care that is truly tailored to the individual patient, and that fits the real-world flow of disease pathways, multidisciplinary care and longitudinal follow-up.

Personalization is not only about selecting the right drug or the newest algorithm. It is about integrating science into decisions that matter to patients: timely diagnosis, risk stratification, prevention of decompensation, meaningful outcomes, quality of life and shared priorities. In that spirit, the program connects cutting-edge updates with practical, patient-centered implementation, from viral hepatitis B and D (beyond elimination and toward cure), to autoimmune and cholestatic liver disease (from patterns to personalized therapy), alcohol-related liver disease and MetALD, cirrhosis as a multisystemic condition, innovation in liver transplantation, and the expanding role of endohepatology.

Importantly, we also open the conversation beyond traditional clinical endpoints through HepaHUB: Connecting with Our Patients, including a dedicated focus on Patient-Reported Outcomes in liver care, because the patient's voice should be a core part of modern hepatology practice.

We are grateful to our faculty for shaping such a clinically meaningful program, to our partners for their support, and to all of you for being part of this community. We hope you will find these two days stimulating, interactive, and immediately applicable to your daily practice and that you will leave inspired to bring personalized hepatology into the natural flow of care for every patient.

*Liana Abecroge*

*Speranta Iacob*

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Friday, 13 March 2026

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7.30 - 8.25 **Welcome coffee and registration**

8.25 - 8.30 **Welcome**

Co-Chair: **Liana Gheorghe, MD, PhD**  
**Anca Trifan, MD, PhD**

Scientific secretary: **Speranța Iacob, MD, PhD**

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08:30 - 10.00

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## **Session 1**

### **VIRAL HEPATITIS B AND D - BEYOND ELIMINATION AND TOWARDS CURE**

Chair: **Simona Ruță, Heiner Wedemeyer**

8.30 - 8.50 **HBV in 2026 - At a crossroads between control and cure - Corina Pop, Bucharest, Romania**

8.50 - 9.10 **Shaping the next era in hepatitis B treatment - Simona Ruță, Bucharest, Romania**

9.10 - 9.30 **European experience with Bulevirtide and the HDV therapeutic pipeline - Heiner Wedemeyer, Hannover, Germany**

9.30 - 9.50 **HBV and MASLD - A double hit for the liver - Anca Trifan, Cristina Muzică, Iași, Romania**

9.50 - 10.00 **Discussions**

10.00 - 10.30 **Medical event supported by Alfasigma** 

Title: **The impact of the  $\alpha$ -polymorphic form of Rifaximin in the management of hepatic encephalopathy**

Chair: **Mircea Mihai Diclescu**  
**EncephalApp Stroop Test for subclinical hepatic encephalopathy diagnosis**

Speaker: **Ioan Cristian Lupescu**  
**Rifaximin -  $\alpha$ : "standard of care" in hepatic encephalopathy**  
Speaker: **Mircea Mihai Diclescu**

10.30 - 10.45 **Coffee break**

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10.45 - 12.15

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## **Session 2**

### **AUTOIMMUNE AND CHOLESTATIC LIVER DISEASE: FROM PATTERNS TO PERSONALISED THERAPY**

Chair: **Nancy Reau, Răzvan Iacob**

10.45 - 11.05 **Advancing treatment in primary biliary cholangitis and primary sclerosing cholangitis - Marco Carbone, Milan, Italy**

11.05 - 11.25 **New Patterns, New Agents and Evolving Strategies in the management of DILI in 2026 - Nancy Reau, Chicago, USA**

11.25 - 11.45 **Steatosis and autoimmunity - Diagnostic pitfalls and true overlaps - Dana Crișan, Cluj-Napoca, Romania**

11.45 - 12.05 **Unmasking idiopathic cholestasis - when genes reveal the diagnosis - Răzvan Iacob, Bucharest, Romania**

12.05 - 12.15 **Discussions**

12.15 - 13.15 **Medical event supported by Gilead**   
Title: **Bulevirtide treatment in 2026: what we know**  
Speakers: **Corina Pop, Liana Gheorghe, Anca Trifan**

13.15 - 14.15 **Lunch**

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14.15 - 15.45

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## **Session 3**

### **ALCOHOL AND THE LIVER IN 2026 - OLD RISKS, NEW CONCEPTS, AND EVOLVING STRATEGIES**

Chair: **Liana Gheorghe, Philip Mathurin**

14.15 - 14.35 **Managing alcoholic hepatitis - Evidence, experience and therapies - Philip Mathurin, Lille, France**

14.35 - 14.55 **Beyond the bottle: microbioma, genetic and metabolic drivers of alcohol-related liver disease - Horia Ștefănescu, Cluj-Napoca, Romania**

14.55 - 15.15 **MetALD and liver cancer - challenges in diagnosis,**

management and outcomes - Raluca Pais, Paris, France

15.15 - 15.35 **Advancing the management of alcohol-related liver disease - A multidisciplinary approach to liver care, addiction, and nutrition - Liana Gheorghe, Bucharest, Romania**

15.35 - 15.45 **Discussions**

15.45 - 16.05 **Medical event supported by AstraZeneca** AstraZeneca   
Title: **Advancing patient outcomes in Biliary Tract Cancer**  
Speaker: **Adina Croitoru**

16.05 - 16.25 **Coffee break**

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16.25 - 18.15

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## **Session 4**

### **CIRRHOSIS AS A MULTISYSTEMIC DISEASE - A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO COMPLICATIONS**

Chair: **Dominique Thabut, Zeno Spârchez**

16.25 - 16.45 **Hepatic encephalopathy phenotypes - A personalized approach to diagnosis and management - Dominique Thabut, Paris, France**

16.45 - 17.05 **Acute Kidney Injury: Hepatorenal syndrome and beyond - expanding concepts in diagnosis and therapy - Irina Gîrleanu, Iași, Romania**

17.05 - 17.25 **Challenges in SBP treatment and prophylaxis - Dan Gheonea, Craiova, Romania**

17.25 - 17.45 **Advances in locoregional therapies for HCC - can we do better? Mugur Grasu, Bucharest, Romania**

17.45 - 18.05 **Benign mimics of HCC in cirrhotic liver - diagnosis, differentiation and management strategies - Zeno Spârchez, Cluj-Napoca, Romania**

18.05 - 18.15 **Discussions**

18.15 - 19.15 **POSTER TOUR**

19.15 **WRAP UP**



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Saturday 14 March 2026

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8.15 - 8.30

**Medical event supported by Terapia**   
Title: **MASLD and hepatoprotective therapy: current insights and clinical applications**  
Speaker: **Carmen Ester**

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08.30 - 10.00

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## **Session 5**

### **INNOVATION AND PERSONALIZATION IN LIVER TRANSPLANTATION - TOWARD LONG-TERM SUCCESS**



Chair: **Speranța Iacob, Umberto Cillo**

8.30 - 8.50 **Immune tolerance and long-term immunosuppression minimization - Costică Aloman, New York, USA**

8.50 - 9.10 **Strategic liver transplantation for HCC - Integrating biology, response to therapy and benefit - Speranța Iacob, Bucharest, Romania**

9.10 - 9.30 **Expanding transplant indications - cholangiocarcinoma, neuroendocrine, and colorectal liver metastasis - Umberto Cillo, Padova, Italy**

9.30 - 9.50 **Life after liver transplant - What 20-Year survivors teach us? - Luca Belli, Milano, Italy**

- 9.50 - 10.00 **Discussions**
- 10.00 - 10.15 **Coffee break**
- 10.15 - 10.35 **Medical event supported by Novo Nordisk**   
 Title: **SEAGLUTIDE: can quality weight loss lead to improved liver health?**  
 Speakers: **Liana Gheorghe**
- 10.35 - 10.50 **Medical event supported by Salveo**   
 Title: **Beyond ammonia lowering the broader role of LOLA in chronic liver disease**  
 Speakers: **Speranța Iacob**

10.50 - 12.20

## Session 6 THE EXPANDING ROLE OF ENDOHEPATOLOGY IN 2026

Chair: **Cristian Gheorghe, Shiv Sarin**

- 10.50 - 11.10 **Bleeding from portal hypertensive gastropathy and gastric varices in the cirrhotic patient - clinical reality and therapeutic solutions - Shiv Sarin, New Delhi, India**
- 11.10 - 11.30 **Non-Variceal Upper GI Bleeding in Cirrhosis - Clinical Challenges and Management Strategies - Eugen Dumitru, Constanța, Romania**
- 11.30 - 11.50 **TIPS in 2026 - Indications, Technical Advances and Long-Term Outcomes - Bogdan Procopet, Cluj-Napoca, Romania**
- 11.50 - 12.10 **EUS in Liver Disease - Diagnostic and Therapeutic Applications - Andrada Seicean, Cluj-Napoca, Romania**
- 12.10 - 12.20 **Discussions**
- 12.20 - 12.30 **Closing ceremony**
- 12.00 - 14.00 **HepaHUB: Connecting with Our Patients (Parallel session)  
Your Health, Your Voice: Patient-Reported Outcomes in Liver Care** 

## EPOSTER

- G. Anghelici, O. Savin, S. Pisarenco, V. Garbuz, V. Moraru, T. Zugrav, M. Ceban, G. Tara, S. Cernei, M. Danu;** Endoscopic Hemostasis by Fibrin Glue Sealing in Variceal Hemorrhage in Patients with Liver Cirrhosis; Universitatea de Stat de Medicină și Farmacie „Nicolae Testemițanu”, Catedra Chirurgie N2, Clinica Chirurgie „Constantin Țibîrnă”, LCȘ Hepatochirurgie, Chișinău, Republica Moldova
- Raluca-Ioana Avram<sup>1,2</sup>, Laura Huiban<sup>1,2</sup>, Cristina-Maria Muzică<sup>1,2</sup>, Ioana Roxana Damian<sup>1,2</sup>, Mihaela Cornelia Mușet<sup>1,2</sup>, Horia Minea<sup>1,2</sup>, Ștefan Chiriac<sup>1,2</sup>, Ana Maria Sîngeap<sup>1,2</sup>, Irina Gîrleanu<sup>1,2</sup>, Carol Stanciu<sup>2</sup>, Anca Trifan<sup>1,2</sup>;** Diagnostic accuracy of blood-based non-invasive tests for advanced fibrosis in patients with MASLD; <sup>1</sup> University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Grigore T. Popa”, Iași, România; <sup>2</sup> “St. Spiridon” Emergency Hospital, Institute of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Iași, România.
- Raluca-Ioana Avram<sup>1,2</sup>, Cristina-Maria Muzică<sup>1,2</sup>, Laura Huiban<sup>1,2</sup>, Ioana Roxana Damian<sup>1,2</sup>, Mihaela Cornelia Mușet<sup>1,2</sup>, Horia Minea<sup>1,2</sup>, Ștefan Chiriac<sup>1,2</sup>, Ana Maria Sîngeap<sup>1,2</sup>, Irina Gîrleanu<sup>1,2</sup>, Carol Stanciu<sup>2</sup>, Anca Trifan<sup>1,2</sup>;** Beta-blocker exposure is associated with longer survival in decompensated cirrhosis: evidence from a pre-baveno vii real-world cohort; <sup>1</sup> University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Grigore T. Popa”, Iași, România; <sup>2</sup> “St. Spiridon” Emergency Hospital, Institute of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Iași, România.
- Mihaela-Cornelia Beșleagă<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Cristina Muzică<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Sebastian Zenovia<sup>1,2</sup>, Laura Huiban<sup>1,2</sup>, Irina Gîrleanu<sup>1,2</sup>, Raluca Avram<sup>1,2</sup>, Ioana Roxana Damian<sup>1,2</sup>, Anca Trifan<sup>1,2</sup>;** Diagnostic Utility of Presepsin and Procalcitonin in Early Detection of Bacterial Infections in Patients with Acute-on-Chronic Liver Failure; <sup>1</sup> University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Grigore T. Popa”, Iași, România; <sup>2</sup> “St. Spiridon” Emergency Hospital, Institute of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Iași, România; <sup>3</sup>
- Mihaela Beșleagă<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Cristina Muzică<sup>1,2</sup>, Sebastian Zenovia<sup>1,2</sup>, Laura Huiban<sup>1,2</sup>, Irina Gîrleanu<sup>1,2</sup>, Raluca Avram<sup>1,2</sup>, Ioana Roxana Damian<sup>1,2</sup>, Carol Stanciu<sup>1,2</sup>, Anca Trifan<sup>1,2</sup>;** MASLD-Related Hepatocellular carcinoma: Patterns for Diagnosis and Fibrosis Risk Evaluation; <sup>1</sup> University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Grigore T. Popa”, Iași, România; <sup>2</sup> “St. Spiridon” Emergency Hospital, Institute of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Iași, România;
- Ioana-Roxana Damian<sup>1,2</sup>, Laura Huiban<sup>1,2</sup>, Raluca-Ioana Avram<sup>1,2</sup>, Cornelia-Mihaela Mușet<sup>1,2</sup>, Cristina-Maria Muzică<sup>1,2</sup>, Anca Trifan<sup>1,2</sup>;** Impact of Bacterial Infections on ACLF Development and 90-Day Mortality in Severe Alcohol-Associated Hepatitis; “Grigore T. Popa” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Iași, România; Institute of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Iași, România.
- Denisa-Ștefania Ghiga<sup>1,2</sup>, Marinela-Cristiana Voinescu-Urhuț<sup>1</sup>, Citto-Iulian Tăișescu<sup>3</sup>, Larisa-Daniela Săndulescu<sup>1</sup>;** Transient Elastography In Medical Students: Steatosis and Liver Stiffness Findings . <sup>1</sup> Department of Internal Medicine, Emergency County Hospital of Craiova, Craiova, România; <sup>2</sup> Doctoral School, University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova, 200349 Craiova, România; <sup>3</sup> Department of Physiology, University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova, 200349 Craiova, România.
- Simona Juncu<sup>1,2</sup>, Andreea Lungu<sup>1,2</sup>, Alexandru Cotlet<sup>1,2</sup>, Alina Jucan<sup>1,2</sup>, Raluca Avram<sup>1,2</sup>, Ana-Maria Buzuleac<sup>1,2</sup>, Horia Minea<sup>1,2</sup>, Camelia Cojocariu<sup>1,2</sup>, Anca Trifan<sup>1,2</sup>, Ana Maria Sîngeap<sup>1,2</sup>;** Culture-positive spontaneous bacterial peritonitis in cirrhotic patients: association with acute kidney injury and nosocomial onset. <sup>1</sup> “Grigore T. Popa” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Iași, România; <sup>2</sup> “St. Spiridon” Emergency Hospital, Institute of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Iași, România.
- Dorina Potop-Rotari<sup>1</sup>, Adrian Hotineanu<sup>2</sup>, Natalia Taran<sup>3</sup>, Diana Buga<sup>4</sup>, Angela Peltec<sup>3</sup>;** Longitudinal changes in liver stiffness after liver transplantation; <sup>1</sup> Discipline of Clinical Synthesis, Department of Internal Medicine, Nicolae Testemițanu University, Chișinău, Republic of Moldova; <sup>2</sup> Surgery Department no. 2, Nicolae Testemițanu University, Chișinău, Republic of Moldova; <sup>3</sup> Gastroenterology Laboratory, Nicolae Testemițanu University, Chișinău, Republic of Moldova; <sup>4</sup> Transplant Agency, Chișinău, Republic of Moldova.
- Remus Stafie<sup>1,2</sup>, Adrian Rotaru<sup>1,2</sup>, Ermina Stratina<sup>1,2</sup>, Sebastian Zenovia<sup>1,2</sup>, Robert Năstasa<sup>1,2</sup>, Horia Minea<sup>1,2</sup>, Laura Huiban<sup>1,2</sup>, Cristina Muzică<sup>1,2</sup>, Irina Gîrleanu<sup>1,2</sup>, Ana-Maria Sîngeap<sup>1,2</sup>, Cătălin Sfarti<sup>1,2</sup>, Raluca Avram<sup>1,2</sup>, Ioana Damian<sup>1,2</sup>, Laura Mușet<sup>1,2</sup>, Carol Stanciu<sup>1,2</sup>, Anca Trifan<sup>1,2</sup>;** Disease-Specific Determinants of Steatotic Liver Disease in Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease. <sup>1</sup> Department of Gastroenterology, Grigore T. Popa University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Iași, România; <sup>2</sup> Institute of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, “St. Spiridon” University Hospital, Iași, România.



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