

S5.2

Supporting Global Hepatitis Health Sector Strategy

09:00 Convention Hall C

**The Future of Viral Hepatitis Testing: Innovations and Testing Technologies and Approaches***Peeling R**Clinical Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK*

A large burden of undiagnosed hepatitis virus cases remains globally. Despite the documented 240 million people living with chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection, 110 million identified as hepatitis C virus (HCV) antibody positive and 80 million with chronic viraemic HCV infection. The majority of the disease burden of hepatitis is in the developing world, where less than 1% of the population is aware of their infection. The World Health Organization (WHO) has set an ambitious set of targets to reduce the incidence of chronic hepatitis infection from the current 6–10 million cases to 0.9 million infections, and to reduce the annual deaths from chronic hepatitis from 1.4 million to less than 0.5 million by 2030. To reach these targets, countries will require a radical change in their hepatitis response, including strengthening health and community systems to deliver high-quality services to achieve equitable coverage, improved efficiencies and embracing innovation for acceleration.

In 2016, WHO developed testing guidelines for HBV and HCV. Advances in rapid detection technology have created new opportunities for enhancing access to screening and referral, as well as monitoring of treatment. This presentation examines a range of technological innovations associated with simplified and more affordable testing algorithms for HBV and HCV testing, including treatment monitoring, improved access to testing through self-testing of oral fluids, dried blood spots and point-of-care molecular assays. Multiplex and polyvalent platforms can be leveraged for use with HIV, HBV and HCV. Innovations in delivery through data connectivity and use of unmanned aerial vehicles to transport tests and dried blood spots and other supplies will allow expanded services to remote areas.