



JOSIP JURAJ STROSSMAVER UNIVERSITY OF OSIJEK  
**FACULTY OF DENTAL  
 MEDICINE AND HEALTH**



**Mursa  
 Medical  
 Center**



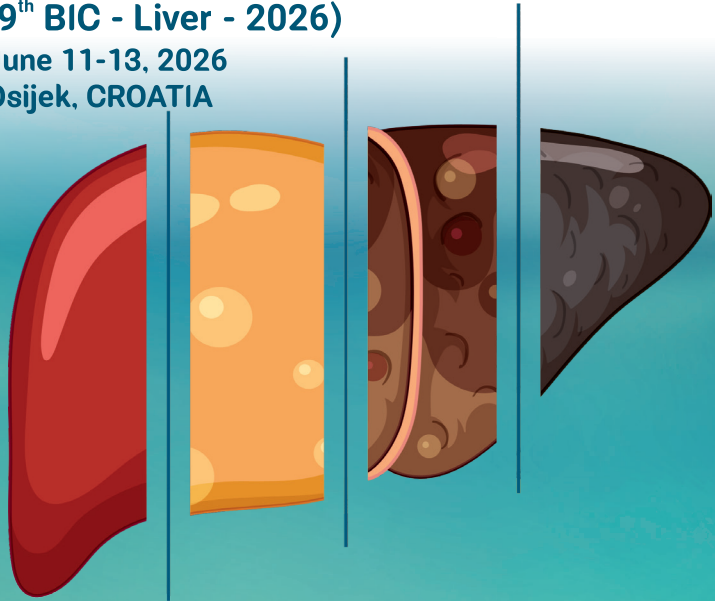
**CROATIAN SOCIETY  
 FOR HUMAN GENETICS**



**THE CROATIAN SOCIETY  
 OF GASTROENTEROLOGY**

**9<sup>th</sup>**

**Biennial International  
 Conference on  
 Liver Diseases  
 (9<sup>th</sup> BIC - Liver - 2026)  
 June 11-13, 2026  
 Osijek, CROATIA**



UNDER THE AUSPICES OF



**REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
 Ministry of Science,  
 Education and Youth**



**REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
 Ministry of  
 Health**



**Funded by  
 the European Union  
 NextGenerationEU**



# 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Conference on Liver Diseases

(9<sup>th</sup> BIC - Liver - 2026)

## ORGANISED BY

Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek,  
Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health Osijek  
Mursa Medical Center  
Croatian Academy of Medical Sciences  
Croatian Society for Precision (Personalized) Medicine  
Croatian Society for Human Genetics  
Croatian Society of Gastroenterology



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**FACULTY OF DENTAL  
MEDICINE AND HEALTH**



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SOCIETY  
FOR  
PRECISION  
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MEDICINE



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FOR HUMAN GENETICS



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OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

## UNDER THE AUSPICES OF

Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek  
Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts  
Ministry of Science, Education and Youth of the Republic of Croatia  
Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia  
Osijek-Baranja County  
City of Osijek



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
Ministry of Science,  
Education and Youth



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
Ministry of  
Health



June 11 – 13, 2026  
Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek,  
Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health Osijek,  
Crkvena 21,  
Osijek, CROATIA

# 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Conference on Liver Diseases

## (9<sup>th</sup> BIC – Liver - 2026)

The 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Conference on Liver Diseases forms part of the dissemination activities of the **REVITA project (Project code: 581-UNIOS-47)** and the **PRIM-JET project (Project code: 581-UNIOS-46)**, carried out at the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health Osijek, and funded by the European Union – NextGenerationEU through the National Recovery and Resilience Plan.



**Funded by  
the European Union**  
NextGenerationEU

Funded by the European Union - NextGeneration EU through programme funding of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek (UNIOS) - Institutional Project „Razvoj i Evaluacija Višestaničnih modela masne promjene jetre za ispitivanje farmakoTerapije Alternativnim spojevima” (acronym: REVITA; project code: 581-UNIOS-47) and „Protokol za Rano umjetnom Inteligencijom potpomognuto otkrivanje Masne bolesti JETre i prekanceroza debelog crijeva” (acronym: PRIM-JET; project code: 581-UNIOS-46)  
The views and opinions expressed are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official positions of the European Union or the European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the European Commission can be held responsible for them.



## Dear Invited Speakers, Friends and Colleagues,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 9th Biennial International Conference on Liver Diseases (9th BIC-Liver-2026), held from June 11 to 13, 2026, at the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health Osijek, in Osijek, Croatia.

Liver diseases remain an important clinical and public health challenge. Recent advances in basic and translational research, diagnostic imaging, non-invasive assessment of liver fibrosis, molecular medicine, and emerging therapeutic approaches have greatly improved our understanding and management of many liver conditions. However, the growing burden of metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease, drug-induced liver injury, autoimmune liver diseases, and viral hepatitis continues to place significant demands on healthcare systems worldwide. The impact of liver disease extends beyond hepatology, affecting overall health, quality of life, and the management of other medical conditions. Therefore, liver diseases are highly relevant not only to physicians, but also to dental medicine, nursing, rehabilitation, physiotherapy, and other health-related disciplines. This multidisciplinary approach is particularly important for our Faculty, where these study programmes are closely connected through education, clinical practice, and research.

The conference also forms part of the dissemination activities of the REVITA project (Project code: 581-UNIOS-47) and the PRIM-JET project (Project code: 581-UNIOS-46), carried out at the Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health Osijek and funded by the European Union – NextGenerationEU through the National Recovery and Resilience Plan. In line with the aims of these projects, the conference programme addresses current experimental, translational, and clinical challenges in liver disease research and care, including pre-clinical models, metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease, oxidative stress and lipid metabolism, innovative diagnostic and therapeutic approaches, and the broader clinical, public health, and economic burden of liver diseases. By bringing together international experts, clinicians, researchers, and young scientists, the conference provides a valuable platform for knowledge dissemination, exchange of expertise, and interdisciplinary collaboration in hepatology.

Osijek, as the leading academic, medical, and healthcare centre of eastern Croatia, offers an inspiring setting for this scientific meeting. Situated on the banks of the Drava River and surrounded by the cultural and natural heritage of Slavonia and Baranja, the city combines academic tradition with warmth, hospitality and history.

We look forward to welcoming you to Osijek and to another successful gathering dedicated to advancing knowledge and improving care for patients with liver diseases.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee,

Sincerely,

**Martina Smolić, M.D., Ph.D.**

**Robert Smolić, M.D., Ph.D.**

**Aleksandar Včev, M.D., Ph.D.**

**George Y. Wu, M.D., Ph.D.**

## June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Thursday

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### 18:00 WELCOME RECEPTION

Join colleagues, speakers and partners for an informal welcome reception. The reception is intended as a relaxed opportunity to meet fellow participants and start conversations ahead of the scientific programme.

Location: „Projekt 9“ Restaurant, Gornjodravaska obala bb, Osijek, Croatia

## June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Friday

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Location: Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health Osijek, Hall of Josip Juraj Strossmayer, Crkvena 21, Osijek, Croatia

### 9:00 -18:00 REGISTRATION

#### 9:30 OPENING CEREMONY AND WELCOME REMARKS

Robert Smolić (Osijek, Croatia), George Y. Wu (Farmington, CT, USA), Aleksandar Včev (Osijek, Croatia) and Martina Smolić (Osijek, Croatia)

#### 10:00 **From Bench to Breakthroughs: Innovative Paths in Liver Disease Research (Introduction by Martina Smolić)**

#### 10:00 Leo van Grunsven (Brussels, Belgium): **A Decadelong Quest for Relevant Pre-clinical *in vitro* Models for Acute and Chronic Liver Disease**

#### 10:20 George Y. Wu, Catherine H. Wu (Farmington, CT, USA): **A Transferrin-based Carrier for Targeted Transplantation of Mitochondria to Liver Cell**

#### 10:40 Srđan Bjedov, Ivana Kovačević (Novi Sad, Serbia): **Targeting the NRF2 Pathway in Liver Diseases: Opportunities for Small-Molecule Therapeutic**

#### 11:00 Darinka Dimitrova (Plovdiv, Bulgaria): **Nanoparticles in the Diagnosis and Therapy of Liver Cancer**

#### 11:20 Marija Hefer, Martina Smolić (Osijek, Croatia): **(-)-Epicatechin as a Modulator of Oxidative Stress and Lipid Homeostasis in Steatotic Liver Disease**

#### 11:40 Discussion & Coffee break

- 12:00 The Changing Face of Liver Disease: Metabolism, Toxicity and Beyond (Introduction by Lucija Virović Jukić)**
- 12:00** Kristina Bojanić, Robert Smolić (Osijek, Croatia): **Beyond Glycaemic Control: SGLT2 Inhibitors and Liver Remodelling in Type 2 Diabetes–Associated MASLD**
- 12:20** Damir Erceg, Aleksandar Včev (Zagreb, Osijek, Croatia): **Drug-induced Hepatotoxicity: an Update**
- 12:40** Marko Duvnjak, Lucija Virović Jukić (Zagreb, Croatia): **Focus on Met-ALD: Epidemiology, Natural History and Prognosis**
- 13:00** Hrvoje Roguljić, Dragan Primorac (Zagreb, Osijek, Croatia): **MASLD and atrial fibrillation - the new metabolic arrhythmia?**
- 13:20** Discussion & Lunch
- 14:00** Adjourn

### **Optional Networking and Cultural Programme**

The following activities are optional and are not part of the scientific programme. Participation requires separate registration. These activities are intended to facilitate informal professional networking and to provide participants with an opportunity to become acquainted with the host city and region.

**15:30 Conference Tour**

Optional cultural tour for participants and accompanying persons who wish to learn more about the host city and region.

Meeting point: In front of the Archaeological Museum Osijek, Trg Sv. Trojstva 2, Osijek

**18:30 Conference Dinner**

The Conference Dinner will provide an opportunity for informal collegial exchange in a local setting.

Location: Josić Restaurant and Winery, Planina 194, Zmajevac, Croatia

## June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Saturday

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Location: Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health Osijek, Hall of Josip Juraj Strossmayer, Crkvena 21, Osijek, CROATIA

- 09:30 Expanding Horizons in Liver Disease: New Insights Across Disciplines (Introduction by Ashraf Tabll)**
- 09:40** Emina Talakić (Graz, Austria): **Beyond Detection: How Imaging is Reshaping Precision Medicine in Liver Disease**
- 10:00** Ervin Alibegović (Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina): **Rare vascular abnormality - Portal vein aneurysm (PVA)**
- 10:20** Marjana Knežević (Collegeville, PA, USA), Marinka Mravak Stipetić (Osijek, Croatia): **Oral manifestations of liver diseases**
- 10:40** George Y. Wu (Farmington, CT, USA): **Prolonged Jaundice: When Not to Worry**
- 11:00** Discussion & Coffee Break
- 11:30 Beyond Infection: Social, Clinical and Economic Challenges in Viral Hepatitis (Introduction by Robert Smolić)**
- 11:30** John Wells †, Florian Scheibein, Catherine Kelly Mason (Waterford, Ireland): **Crisis, Stigma, and Social Construction: Psychological Reflections on the Hepatitis C Scandal in Ireland † Deceased**
- 11:50** Lucija Virovic-Jukic (Zagreb, Croatia): **HCV Elimination Program Among People Who Inject Drugs: A Single Center Experience**
- 12:10** Ashraf Tabll (Cairo, Egypt): **Monoclonal and IgY antibodies in liver and infectious diseases: Affordable immunotherapies for low and middle-income countries**
- 12:30** Damir Šebo (Osijek, Croatia): **Economic Burden of Liver Diseases in the European Union**
- 12:50** Discussion & Closing of the Conference
- 13:00 Lunch** will be provided for registered participants following the Closing of the Conference. The lunch is intended to facilitate continued professional exchange among participants after the scientific programme.

Location: "Darocz" Restaurant, Košuta Lajoša 39, Vardarac, Croatia

## INVITED SPEAKERS (in alphabetical order)

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<b>Ervin Alibegović</b>	University Clinical Center Tuzla, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina
<b>Srđan Bjedov</b>	University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Science, Novi Sad, Serbia
<b>Kristina Bojanić</b>	Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health Osijek, Osijek, Croatia Health Center Osijek Baranja County, Osijek, Croatia
<b>Darinka Dimitrova</b>	Medical University of Plovdiv, Plovdiv, Bulgaria
<b>Marko Duvnjak</b>	University of Zagreb, School of Medicine, Zagreb, Croatia
<b>Damir Erceg</b>	Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health Osijek, Osijek, Croatia Children's hospital Srebrnjak, Zagreb, Croatia
<b>Leo van Grunsven</b>	Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussel, Belgium
<b>Marija Hefer</b>	Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health Osijek, Osijek, Croatia
<b>Marjana Knežević</b>	Estetic Dental Care of Collegeville, Collegeville, PA, USA
<b>Ivana Kovačević</b>	University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Science, Novi Sad, Serbia
<b>Catherine Kelly Mason</b>	South East Technological University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Waterford, Ireland
<b>Marinka Mravak Stipetić</b>	Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health Osijek, Osijek, Croatia
<b>Dragan Primorac</b>	St. Catherine Specialty Hospital, Zagreb, Croatia, Eberly College of Science, The Pennsylvania State University, PA, USA The Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, University of New Haven, West Haven, CT, USA Medical School, University of Split, Split, Croatia Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health, Osijek, Croatia Faculty of Medicine Osijek, Osijek, Croatia University of Rijeka, Faculty of Medicine, Rijeka, Croatia Medical School REGIOMED, Coburg, Germany

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<b>Hrvoje Roguljić</b>	Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Medicine Osijek, Osijek, Croatia University Hospital Osijek Osijek, Croatia Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health Osijek, Osijek, Croatia Mursa Medical Center, Osijek, Croatia
<b>Florian Scheibein</b>	South East Technological University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Waterford, Ireland
<b>Martina Smolić</b>	Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health Osijek, Osijek, Croatia
<b>Robert Smolić</b>	Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health Osijek, Osijek, Croatia Mursa Medical Center, Osijek, Croatia
<b>Damir Šebo</b>	Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, The Academy of Arts and Culture in Osijek, Osijek, Croatia
<b>Ashraf Tabll</b>	National Research Center, Cairo, Egypt Egypt Center for Research and Regenerative Medicine (ECRRM), Cairo Egypt
<b>Emina Talakić</b>	Medical University of Graz, University Clinic for Radiology, Graz, Austria
<b>Aleksandar Včev</b>	Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Dental Medicine and Health Osijek, Osijek, Croatia Mursa Medical Center, Osijek, Croatia
<b>Lucija Virović Jukić</b>	Clinical Hospital „Sestre Milosrdnice“, Zagreb, Croatia University of Zagreb, School of Medicine, Zagreb, Croatia
<b>John Wellst</b>	South East Technological University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Waterford, Ireland
<b>Catherine H. Wu</b>	University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT, USA
<b>George Y. Wu</b>	University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT, USA

## Scientific Program Information

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### ***Certificate of Attendance***

Certificates of attendance will be available at the registration desk.

### ***Credits***

The **9<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Conference on Liver Diseases (9th BIC- Liver- 2026)** has been approved for 20 credit points for lecturers and 12 credit points for participants by the Croatian Medical Chamber.

### ***Sponsor Exhibition opening hours***

Set up: Thursday, June 11, 2026 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Friday, June 12, 2026 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Saturday, June 13, 2026 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

### ***Language***

The official language of the conference is English (no simultaneous translation).

### ***Program Changes***

The organizers cannot assume liability for any changes in the program due to external or unforeseen circumstances.

### ***Registration Desk Opening Hours***

Friday, June 12, 2026 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Saturday, June 13, 2026 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

### ***Info and Registration at***

[liver.meeting.croatia@fdmz.hr](mailto:liver.meeting.croatia@fdmz.hr)



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