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### Drugs of misuse and therapeutics a deadly combination

Alcohol consumption remains a significant risk factor for the development of liver damage in patients being treated with pegylated interferon (PEG-IFN- $\alpha$ ), in the presence or absence of ribavirin as well the protease inhibitors for viral hepatitis B, C (HBV, HCV) and human immunodeficiency viral infections (HIV) or HCV-HIV. The daily alcohol consumption of >60 mg/day provides a significant risk factor for the development of cirrhosis, hepatocellular carcinoma and the increased risk of mortality. This applies to treatments that used a variety of the non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor class. Severe hepatotoxicity [defined as AST or ALT being at >5 upper limit of normal] is also seen in patients who are co-infected HIV/HCV and are being treated with indinavir, nelfinavir, ritonavir, saquinavir, or ritonavir plus saquinavir. In highly active antiretroviral therapies (HAART) that included PI-based, NNRTI-based, and PI- plus NNRTI-based therapies, alcohol abuse is an identified risk factor for the drug-induced liver injury (DILI). Alcohol misuse and over the counter drugs (sulphonamides, antipyretics or anti-inflammatory) may lead

to DILI and liver transplant. Also misuse of illicit drugs in the presence or absence of alcohol lead to drug-induced liver injury.

#### Speaker Biography

Manuela G Neuman is Adjunct Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Associated Global Health at the University of Toronto, and a Professor at the Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy (UMF), Bucharest. She is the Founder and CEO of In Vitro Drug Safety and Biotechnology, Toronto. She holds an MSc in Biology from University of Bucharest, a Post-doctoral Fellowship from the Institute of Inframicrobiology, Faculty of Medicine, Bucharest, PhD in Physiology and Pharmacology from Tel-Aviv University. She also completed her Post-doctoral fellowship in Clinical Chemistry, Hepatology, Immunology, Gastroenterology and Clinical Pharmacology at the University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada. Her research was in the Department of Biochemistry and in the Chemotherapy Institute, while she acted as a Biochemist at the "Victor Babes" Hospital in Bucharest. In these positions of pharmaceuticals, she had "hands on" daily routine, as well as, acting as a Laboratory Scientific Director making liaison between the laboratory and drug discovery platforms and translational research. She has published extensively in the areas of therapeutic and drug of (use and misuse) monitoring, new biologic and their monitoring in clinical practice, pharmacogenetic and immunopharmacogenetic clinical applications, drug-induced liver and skin adverse reactions, liver immunology, hepatocellular carcinoma and inflammatory bowel disease. Since 1992, she is a member of the IATDMCT.

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