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Hepatitis C Virus in Sickle Cell Disease

I found the article, *Hepatitis C Virus in Sickle Cell Disease* (JNMA 2003;95:939-942), both timely and well thought out.

The issue now at hand is how do we treat these patients. Currently, the gold standard of care for patients infected with the

hepatitis C virus is combination therapy, utilizing a pegalated form of Alpha Interferon—such as peginterferone alfa-2b—plus Ribavirin. However, the use of Ribavirin is contraindicated in patients with sickle-cell anemia and other hemoglobinopathies. This leaves us with the only option of offering an infected sickle-cell patient a course of monotherapy with peginterferone alfa-2b. Unfortunately, this type of therapy can only be expected to produce a 24%

treatment response (combined virologic response and ALT normalization) or 25% when only looking at a virologic response; in patients with viral genotype 1 (the most common genotype in the United States). Even the use of peginterferone alfa-2b carries a risk for patients with sickle-cell anemia since it has been shown to suppress bone marrow function.

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C A R E E R O P P O R T U N I T I E S



Emergency Medicine/ Pediatric Faculty Position

The Division of Emergency Medicine at Duke University Medical Center is currently recruiting for board certified/prepared Emergency Medicine/Pediatric Emergency medicine clinical faculty. Duke University Medical Center is a Level I Trauma Center with an annual Emergency Department volume of 65,000 patient visits -20% Pediatrics. The Pediatric ED sees a wide variety of patients and is associated with the Duke Children's Hospital. Duke University has a dynamic Emergency Medicine Residency training program. Competitive salary and benefits package. EOE/AA employer. Please contact: Kathleen J. Clem, M.D., FACEP, Chief, Division of Emergency Medicine, Department of Surgery, DUMC 3096, Durham, NC 27710 email: clem0002@mc.duke.edu Phone (919) 684-5537.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR — The University of Maryland's Institute of Human Virology is seeking a full time Assistant Professor (non tenure track) in the Department of Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Candidates must demonstrate a strong interest in the clinical management of HIV infection and associated diseases and complications. Applicants must be board certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases. Responsibilities will include both clinical activity and active participation in Institute's clinical research programs. Clinical activity will include providing comprehensive clinical care in both in/outpatient settings to patients with chronic viral diseases, particularly HIV infections, as well as providing educational activities directed at fellows and residents. Clinical research activities will be consistent with the Clinical Research Division's interests.

Please direct inquiries with CV, four references and a brief description of career plans to Robert R. Redfield, MD, c/o JoAnn Gibbs, Department of Medicine, Academic Programs Office, Department of Medicine, Rm N3E10, 22 S. Greene Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. Applicants from diverse racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds are encouraged to apply; reference Position 03-309-384.