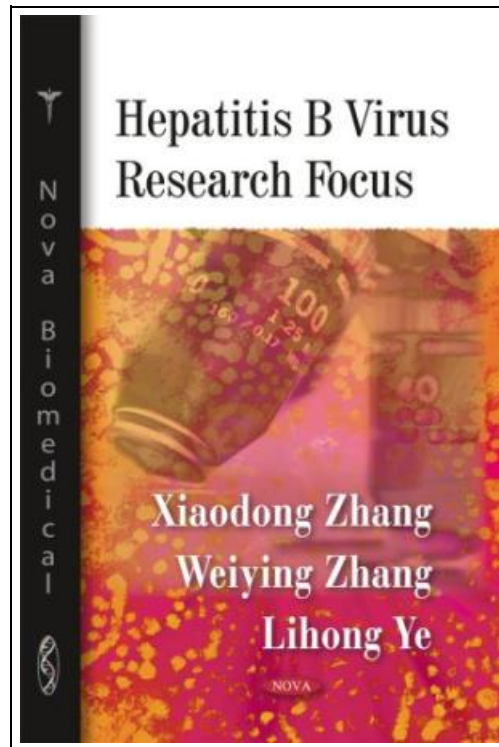


## Hepatitis B Virus Research Focus



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Nova Science Publishers Inc. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Hepatitis B Virus Research Focus, Xiaodong Zhang, Weiyong Zhang, Lihong Ye, Hepatitis B virus (HBV), discovered in 1966, infects more than 350 million people in the world. The infection of HBV is a leading cause of chronic carriage of the virus and progressive liver diseases, such as hepatitis, liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). HBV consists of a circular, partially double-stranded DNA molecule of 3.2 kb in length, which contains four overlapping reading frames that code for surface proteins (HBsAg), core proteins (HBcAg/HBeAg), the viral polymerase, and the transcriptional transactivator X protein. Chronic hepatitis appears to be due to a suboptimal cellular immune response that destroys some of the infected hepatocytes and does not purge the virus from the remaining infected hepatocytes, thereby permitting the persisting virus to trigger a chronic indolent necroinflammatory liver disease that sets the stage for development of HCC. However, the mechanisms responsible for malignant transformation in chronic HBV infection are not well defined, and both viral and host factors have been implicated in the process. All cases of HCC occur after many years of chronic hepatitis which could, theoretically, provide the mitogenic and mutagenic environment to precipitate random genetic and chromosomal damage, and lead to the development of HCC. Hepatitis B virus X protein (HBx), an important transforming inducer, plays a crucial role in HCC development. HBx has the capability to influence a variety of signal transduction pathways within the cells. Monitoring of the HBV genotypes and antibody to Hepatitis B x antigen (anti-HBx) are significant for predicting early diagnosis of liver cirrhosis and HCC. HBV and Hepatitis C virus or HIV coinfections can accelerate the course of chronic liver disease and facilitate progression to cirrhosis and HCC. As for therapy of liver diseases, five drugs are...

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