

**Conflict-of-interest statement:** Saunier B, Triyatni M and Berger EA are co-inventors on NIH-owned patent #US 9,052,321 B2 on the HCV particle production system.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the name 'B Saunier', written in a cursive style.

Bertrand Saunier, M.D., Ph.D.