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## **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

Novel HBV Recombinants between Genotypes B and C in 3'-terminal Reverse Transcriptase (RT) Sequences are Associated with Enhanced Viral DNA Load, Higher RT Point Mutation Rates and Place of Birth among Chinese Patients Baoming Liu<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Jing-Xian Yang<sup>a,1</sup>, Ling Yan<sup>a</sup>, Hui Zhuang<sup>a</sup>, Tong Li<sup>a,\*</sup> <sup>a</sup>Department of Microbiology and Center of Infectious Diseases, School of Basic Medical Sciences, Peking University Health Science Center, Beijing, China; <sup>b</sup>Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Biochemistry, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN, USA

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