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Cover illustration: Sketch of hepatitis C virus (HCV) full viral life cycle cell culture systems. Blue arrows indicate different steps in this recombinant virus system: *In vitro* RNA transcripts (orange) derived from the JFH1 or intra- and intergenotypic JFH1-based recombinant cDNA clones are transfected into Huh7 or derived cell lines. Subsequent replication (dependent on HCV protein expression from transfected RNA transcripts) and expression of HCV proteins (e.g. Core, green; E1/E2, turquoise/light blue) results in assembly and release of viral particles, which are capable of infecting naïve cells. Background: Confocal microscopy picture of HCV infected Huh7.5 cells; HCV Core antigen is visualized by immunostaining with anti-Core and a secondary Alexa Fluor 488 coupled antibody (green); cell nuclei are counterstained with Hoechst reagent (blue). Courtesy of Jens Bukh.

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