...dedicated to finding a cure and improving the quality of life for those affected by hepatitis B worldwide...
Dear Friends,

This annual report is intended to provide a summary of the year, as well as to celebrate accomplishments that will allow us to achieve our goal of improving the lives of those affected by hepatitis B.

Five years ago the Hepatitis B Foundation established two ambitious tactical objectives: For outreach, we proposed to become the world’s leading portal of information about HBV; for research, we planned to become one of the nation’s centers of HBV research.

This report describes how we have succeeded.

Today, we are a primary resource for information about HBV and our website www.hepb.org receives 1 million visits from 180 countries.

We also probably have the largest concentration of HBV scientists working together through the creation of our research institute – the Institute for Hepatitis and Virus Research (IHVR) – and partnership with Drexel University.

With 23 principal investigators (13 working in IHVR labs and 10 sponsored by HBF in Drexel labs) and additional research support staff, we are now under one roof in the PA Biotechnology Center that we created to accelerate our research mission.

Although the economy took a dip this year, the need for helping those with HBV remained constant. We did not relax nor reduce our effort. Please enjoy reading about our achievements this year, and know that we look forward to the new opportunities in 2010!

With appreciation and gratitude,

Joel Rosen, Esq.
Chairman of the Board

Timothy M. Block, Ph.D.
Co-Founder and President

The Hepatitis B Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to finding a cure and improving the quality of life for those affected by hepatitis B worldwide. Our commitment includes funding focused research, promoting disease awareness, supporting immunization and treatment initiatives and serving as the primary source of information for patients and their families, the medical and scientific community and the general public.

Hepatitis B Foundation
Institute for Hepatitis and Virus Research

YEAR IN REVIEW*
(Fiscal Year 2009 ending June 30, 2009)

Revenue (Total $4,709,656)

Grants 88%
$4,139,418

Charitable Contributions 7%
$365,902

Interest >1%
$14,894

Other 4%
$189,442

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$189,442

Expenses (Total $4,456,180)

Research 56%
$2,501,259

Outreach and Education 23%
$1,058,149

Biotechnology Outreach 3%
$138,990

General and Administrative 12%
$533,479

Development 1%
$21,131

Public Health 5%
$203,172

* This audited financial information includes revenue and expenses from HBF and its research institute IHVR, but excludes the Foundation’s 50% ownership (or $6.9 million) in the PA Biotechnology Center valued at $13.8 million as per audited statements.
Research

We are bringing hope through research by funding our own research institute – the Institute for Hepatitis and Virus Research...

Scientific Discoveries and Innovations
This has been a year of outstanding accomplishments, in which our lead diagnostics for cirrhosis and liver cancer have moved closer to human use, and our basic science discoveries have led to new strategies for intervention. Our research receives support from the National Institutes of Health and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We carry out our work with scientists from IHVR and Drexel University working together at our research center in Bucks County, PA.

The HBF/IHVR research program is led by Dr. Timothy Block, HBF president and Drexel professor, in collaboration with Dr. Anand Mehta, IHVR adjunct faculty and Drexel associate professor.

International Research Exchange Program

Scientists Without Borders is a new international research exchange program launched by the HBF to train graduate level students so they can return to their country armed with the knowledge and research technology to address this global health problem. HBF is currently sponsoring three graduate and medical students from China.

Scientific Breakthroughs

Early Detection of Cirrhosis and Liver Cancer
Early detection of these serious diseases is the best way of improving outcomes and our biomarkers are under agreement with a major U.S. diagnostic company offering the hope that they will be available for patient use in the near future.

- Hepatocellular carcinoma (primary liver cancer)
  Our biomarker results have been confirmed in a multi-center study. Reported in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Hepatology, Proteomics, J. of Hepatology as well as praised in reviews in J. of the National Cancer Institute and Nature Medicine.

- Fibrosis and Cirrhosis
  Our noninvasive biomarker gives hope that liver biopsies will be less necessary and disease can be followed more easily. Reported in Gastroenterology and J. Virology.

- Detection of HBV Mutants and Liver Cancer Proto-Oncogenes
  We have developed highly sensitive PCR-based approaches to detect HBV mutants, which should have considerable clinical value. Reported in J. Viral Hepatitis.

Drug Discovery for HBV and Liver Cancer

Therapeutic options for hepatitis B are of very limited value and there are no good ways to treat primary liver cancer.

- HBV Antivirals
  Our search for novel HBV antivirals by screening compounds already shown to be safe in people have led to several “in-vitro” lead compounds. Reported in J. Virology.

- Primary Liver Cancer Drugs
  We have screened more than 86,000 compounds for activity against liver cancer and one was found to have impressive activity in culture.
• Liver Carcinoid Drug Completes Phase II Human Trials  Atiprimod, co-developed by HBF/IHVR scientists and being developed by Callisto Pharma, has now been used to treat more than 40 people with liver carcinoids. Reported at BIO 2009.

• Liver Cancer Screen Leads To New Glucovirs with 100 Times Improved Activity  Glucovirs were identified by IHVR and Oxford scientists for activity against HBV and were shown in early studies to be active in people for HCV treatment. They have now been developed with 100 times the original activity. Reported in Antimicrobial Agents Chemo.

Understanding HBV Disease
This program seeks to identify new targets for therapeutic intervention by studying the molecular mechanisms of chronic HBV infection and liver cancer.

- Identification of Interferon (IFN)-Induced Genes that Inhibit HBV and HCV  We have established a new system that express individual IFN-stimulated genes and identified liver cell proteins that inhibit HBV and HCV. Reported in J. Virology.

- Novel System to Search for Drugs that Inhibit cccDNA Formation  We have identified a viral DNA intermediate in cell culture as a potential precursor for cccDNA and mapped the molecular pathway for the HBV cccDNA. Reported in J. Virology.

Nobel Scientist in Residence
HBF Distinguished Scholar Dr. Baruch Blumberg, who won the Nobel Prize in Medicine for his discovery of the hepatitis B virus and invention of the hepatitis B vaccine, regularly meets with HBF staff, scientists and students every month to share his experience and wisdom, and to keep abreast of current developments in public health and research being conducted at the HBF.

Students meet with Dr. Baruch Blumberg and Dr. Thomas London.

HBF Distinguished Scientist Award 2009
Dr. Brian McMahon (center) received the HBF’s Distinguished Scientist Award 2009 at our Crystal Ball for advancing the science and medicine of hepatitis B. HBF chairman Joel Rosen (left) and HBF president Dr. Timothy Block (right) presented the award.

Bruce Witte Lecturer 2009
Dr. Stephen Locarnini (left) gave the 8th Annual Bruce Witte Lecture about “The Virology of Hepatitis B Immunomodulation and Therapy.” The lecture series was established by Paul and Janine Witte, HBF co-founders, in memory of Bruce Witte. Past Witte lecturers include Drs. Raymond Dwek, John Gerin, Raymond Schinazi, Frank Chisari, Ben Yen, Stan Lemon and Rafi Ahmed.
Reaching Out to Patients and Families Affected by Hepatitis B

HBF continues to offer the only national B Informed Patient Conference for those living with chronic hepatitis B. Since 2001, we have listened to the needs of the patients and families we serve. Today, we alternate the annual conference on the east and west coasts; provide “in-language” educational sessions and free screenings for at-risk ethnic populations (e.g. Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese); added expert pediatric liver specialists to address parent concerns; and partner with two valuable online support groups, the Hepatitis B Information and Support List and the HBV Adoption List. Future plans include taking “B Informed on the Road”!

The annual B Informed Patient Conference hosted by HBF was held in Doylestown, PA (June 2009).

This year’s expert speakers included keynote speaker Dr. Mack Mitchell from Johns Hopkins (update on HBV treatment); Dr. Michael Fried from U. of North Carolina (NIH HBV Clinical Research Network); Dr. Kenneth Rothstein from Drexel U. (HBV and liver cancer); Dr. Thomas London from Fox Chase Cancer Center (Expert FAQs); and Dr. Timothy Block from Drexel U. (HBV drug watch).

Take a Look Inside Our Website @ www.hepb.org

The HBF is continuously growing our site to provide a rich and informed experience. We believe that integrating information access among providers, patients, and the scientific community is the first step to disease management and future cure. Some of our user-friendly features currently include: Podcasts, Videos, Translated Language Chapters (Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Spanish, and Turkish), Multi-media Learning Guides, Expert Speaker Forums, Online Newsletters, Liver Specialist Directory (U.S. and international), Drug Watch, Clinical Trials, and copyright free Educational Materials. Visit www.hepb.org regularly for updates and new information that you can use!

Hepb.org FAST FACTS

- Almost 1 million visits each year from 180 countries
- 49% of visitors live outside the U.S.
- Top 5 visited Website pages
  1. Prevention and Vaccination
  2. Treatment Options
  3. What is Hepatitis B
  4. HBV Drug Watch
  5. Frequently Asked Questions
- Most visited Language Chapter is the Turkish translation
Public Health

We are working to improve access to care for those affected through our Public Health programs...

Good Health, Happy Family

“Good Health, Happy Family” was launched as part of the HBF’s public health campaign to increase awareness about hepatitis B and improve screening rates among the at-risk ethnic communities in Philadelphia. During the 14th annual Chinatown Mid-Autumn Festival in Philadelphia in September, the HBF organized free health screenings that attracted 350 people. With the help of 60 medical student volunteers to staff and provide bi-lingual language capabilities, HBF offered blood pressure, blood glucose, osteoporosis and hepatitis B testing.

National Pediatric Hepatitis B Workshop

The National Pediatric Hepatitis B Workshop was first convened November 2008 by the HBF to bring together an expert panel of pediatric liver specialists to establish clear recommendations for the care and management of children with chronic hepatitis B since there are currently no national guidelines. A second workshop was convened August 2009 to establish additional recommendations for the treatment of affected children. The recommendations from the first workshop were published in J. of Pediatrics (Nov. 2009), and free copies of the article are available by sending us an email at info@hepb.org.

Gateway to Care

HBF’s ambitious Gateway to Care public health campaign seeks to raise awareness about hepatitis B and improve access to care through education, free screenings, and creation of a Philadelphia Hepatitis B Task Force.

60 medical students from the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA) volunteered at the HBF’s free screening program in Philadelphia’s Chinatown which attracted 350 people (Sept. 2009).
HBF Sponsors Congressional Briefing on
World Hepatitis Day!

On May 19, HBF sponsored its 5th annual Congressional Briefing in Washington, DC to put the spotlight on the deadly link between chronic hepatitis B and liver cancer. More than 70 people attended the briefing which included members of Congress, expert presentations, and patient testimony.

Increased national attention and funding is urgently required for the care and treatment of the 6 million Americans living with chronic hepatitis B and hepatitis C who, without federal intervention, will die prematurely from either end-stage liver disease or liver cancer.

Experts from the NIH and CDC participated in the HBF Congressional Briefing on May 19, 2009.

L to R: Dr. Katherine McGlynn, NCI/NIH; Shannon Morris, personal testimony; Chris Taylor, NVHR chair; Dr. Timothy Block, HBF president; Dr. John Ward, director, CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis; Dr. Ira Jacobson, chief, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Weill-Cornell Medical College; Jeffrey Caballero, AAPCHO executive director.

Hepatitis and Liver Cancer Bill
Introduced in Congress

The Viral Hepatitis and Liver Cancer Control and Prevention Act (HR 3974) was introduced in Congress by U.S. Representatives Mike Honda [(D-CA) see photo above] and Charles Dent (R-PA) in October, which represents the first legislation to address both HBV and HCV!

Pennsylvania Legislators Support HBV and Liver Cancer Research

Our advocacy efforts at the state capitol have earned the respect of Pennsylvania legislators and, with the full support of the Bucks County delegation, we have been given the opportunity to significantly advance our research and outreach mission.


PA state Senator Chuck McIlhinney was the Keynote Speaker at the HBF/IHVR annual biotech conference.

Advocacy

We are advocating for increased federal support and seek to make hepatitis B an urgent health priority in this country...
The PA Biotech Center was created by the HBF to accelerate its research mission, and houses both its offices and IHVR labs.