



Hepatitis B Foundation

Baruch S. Blumberg Institute

Double the Funding Campaign

ADVISORS

Timothy Block, PhD

Carol Brosgart, MD

Frank Chisari, MD

Robert Gish, MD

Daryl Lau, MD

W. Thomas London, MD

Brian McMahon, MD

William Mason, PhD

Charles Rice, PhD

Eugene Schiff, MD

Raymond Schinazi, PhD

Christoph Seeger, PhD

Thomas Shenk, PhD

Mark Sulkowski, MD

John Tavis, PhD

Call to Action

Double the Federal Funding for Hepatitis B

THE NEED IS URGENT

The Hepatitis B Foundation (HBF) wants the U.S. government to double federal funding for hepatitis B research and public health in five years. Washington leaders are listening and they are telling us that hepatitis B needs a strong, visible and vocal advocacy presence in Washington, DC.

There is the need, the know-how, and the tools to take us to a cure that will bring hope to more than 240 million people worldwide suffering from hepatitis B. A cure was accomplished for hepatitis C with increased federal attention and funding. It can be accomplished for hepatitis B as well. The current treatments for hepatitis B are not cures. They require lifelong medication. Some patients cannot afford the medication long term. Even after ten years of therapy, people are still at very high risk for premature death from liver failure and liver cancer.

In addition to the devastating toll on patients and their families, ignoring hepatitis B is costing the United States an estimated \$4 billion per year in medical costs. Yet, the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) will spend only \$49 million in 2016 on hepatitis B research. Targeted research commitment has made a significant difference for HIV/AIDS, which is currently funded at \$3 billion. By increasing the NIH budget for hepatitis B, we have a good chance of success in finding a cure in the next 5-10 years.

It is time to “Double the Federal Funding for Hepatitis B.” We must advocate to double the federal spending on hepatitis B research so we can find a cure and eliminate this deadly virus! As the primary cause of liver cancer and the second leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide, a hepatitis B cure will be a “moon shot” goal towards curing one of the deadliest cancers.



THE OPPORTUNITY IS NOW

The way to a cure is to pay for a cure.

1. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) already has the research infrastructure needed to find a cure. We just need them to fund it.
2. A significant boost to NIH funding over the last 10 years has led to a cure for hepatitis C!
3. Advocacy efforts directly led to the significant increase in funding at NIH for hepatitis C research.
4. Our elected officials have told us how influential advocacy campaigns can be for changing budgets and policy.

Funding for hepatitis B research in the NIH budget decreased 15% since 2011. We need to reverse that trend.

This is a critical moment to advocate for an increase in hepatitis B research funding.

THE WAY IS TRIED AND TRUE

The Hepatitis B Foundation is the nation's leading nonprofit research and disease advocacy organization. The Foundation is uniquely positioned to lead the charge for this new advocacy campaign to double federal funding for hepatitis B research. We have the commitment, leadership and credibility to mobilize key stakeholders (patients and families, providers and researchers, private and public supporters) to call for action! We will utilize strategies known to be effective to create a highly visible and vocal presence in Washington:

- Mobilize nationwide grassroots campaign to engage hepatitis B patients and families, Hep B United coalition partners, researchers and clinicians, medical societies and more.
- Establish an office in Washington with leading government affairs representation to develop and guide the plan.
- Conduct regular meetings with key legislative offices and federal agencies.
- Prepare letters of support and comments regarding hepatitis B funding and related issues in federal policies and legislative bills.
- Organize Congressional Briefings on hepatitis B funding and related issues.
- Develop hepatitis B policy resources (toolkits, presentations, fact sheets, policy briefs, and white papers) to advance campaign priorities and to address national policies that impact hepatitis B funding and related issues.
- Coordinate annual "Hepatitis B Hill Days" to mobilize stakeholders and to increase the number of Congressional champions to advocate for increased federal funding.



The money the Hepatitis B Foundation raises will be used to build a highly visible and vocal hepatitis B presence in Washington, DC. Our plan is to create an ongoing presence at NIH and on Capitol Hill over the next three years, building powerful advocacy initiatives and providing policy guidance to Congress and health officials. This work will cost approximately \$100,000 per year. In addition we will support an annual grassroots event to bring individuals and families directly impacted by hepatitis B to Washington, DC to tell their stories. We anticipate the cost for those events to be \$50,000 a year. Our overall fundraising goal is \$450,000 (\$150,000 per year for three years).

MOVING FORWARD

Since 1991, the Hepatitis B Foundation has been committed to finding a cure for hepatitis B and improving the lives of those affected worldwide through research, education, public health and patient advocacy. HBF has been critically involved in achieving these key milestones over the past decade:

- Introduction of the first “Hepatitis B Act” in Congress (2007) that merged with the “Hepatitis C Act” (2009), which has evolved into the “Viral Hepatitis Testing Act” (2015);
- Invitation to serve on the expert committee for the Institute of Medicine’s first report on “Hepatitis and Liver Cancer” (2010);
- Successful introduction of Congressional bill report language to make hepatitis B and liver cancer a funding priority for the past six years (2010-present);
- Addition of chronic hepatitis B infection as a protected condition under the Americans With Disabilities Act (2013);
- Participation on the international committee to prepare the World Health Organization’s first management guidelines for hepatitis B (May 2015); and
- Invitation to speak at the first World Hepatitis Summit held in Glasgow, Scotland (September 2015).

MAKING HEPATITIS B HISTORY

This is the critical moment for curing hepatitis B. It is evident that hepatitis B is an urgent public health threat that can be solved because of the enormous scientific and medical advances that have been made over the past 25 years. We are ready to stand up and fight for funding to find a cure and to truly make hepatitis B history.

CALL TO ACTION

Your gift toward our goal of \$450,000 (\$150,000 per year) will fund a strong, highly visible and vocal advocacy campaign to double federal funding for hepatitis B research over the next five years. Please help by making a generous donation to the Hepatitis B Foundation designated for “Double the Federal Funding for Hepatitis B.” Help us take this fight to a powerful new level and help us eliminate this deadly virus in our lifetime.