



Hepatitis B Foundation Launching Effort to IMPROVE Patient Access to Hepatitis B Medications

For many people with chronic hepatitis B, the cost of antiviral medications is a major barrier to treatment. Even those who have prescription coverage can face co-pays that put medication out of reach.



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6th Hep B United Summit

While U.S. health insurance plans must cover people living with hepatitis B, many plans place hepatitis B medications in a category that dramatically increases the co-pays for those drugs. Although current laws protect individuals with pre-existing conditions including hepatitis B, from discriminatory practices by health insurance companies, these prescription pricing practices have effectively made many insurance plans unaffordable for people living with hepatitis B.

When health insurers design plans, they assign each prescription drug to a price “tier.” A low-cost generic antibiotic may be a Tier 1 while a new, brand-name drug is assigned to a pricier Tier 4 or 5. The Hepatitis B Foundation recently reviewed hepatitis B prescription coverage for Silver-Level

Qualified Health Plans sold through Florida’s 2018 healthcare marketplace. Our research revealed that common hepatitis B medications were placed on the highest two tiers in the majority of the plans. These tiers typically required patients to meet deductibles between \$2,500 and \$6,750 before allowing cost-sharing benefits for any hepatitis B drugs, even generics. This over-pricing of certain drugs by placing them in a higher tier, called “adverse tiering,” acts as a deterrent for people with chronic conditions from buying a health plan, and can be considered discriminatory against pre-existing conditions.

To fight these practices, The AIDS Institute and the National Health Law Program (NHeLP) filed complaints in Florida against insurance companies that inflated their HIV drug prices

through “adverse tiering” to discourage people living with HIV from buying their plans. The complaint was based on Florida Qualified Health Plans available in 2014 and 2015, and found that four of the insurance plans they reviewed placed all HIV drugs on the highest tier, leading to inordinately high co-payments and co-insurance for medications used in the treatment of HIV and AIDS. The practice was found to be discriminatory by the Department of Health and Human Service’s Office for Civil Rights. The insurers were fined and the drug tiers for HIV drugs were revised to be more affordable, but this “adverse tiering” persists nationwide for hepatitis B and C drugs.

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Hepatitis B Foundation and Baruch S. Blumberg Institute Name New Vice Presidents for Research Affairs, Institutional Advancement, and Public Health and Programs

The Hepatitis B Foundation and the Baruch S. Blumberg Institute are pleased to announce that **Ju-Tao Guo, MD** has been named vice president, research affairs, **Jean Holmes, MBA** has joined the organization as vice president, institutional advancement, and **Chari Cohen, DrPH, MPH** has been named vice president, public health and programs.



Ju-Tao Guo, MD

In his new position, Dr. Guo will oversee all research undertaken by scientists at the Blumberg Institute. Dr. Guo has served as the W. Thomas London Distinguished Professor and Chairman of Department of Experimental Therapeutics at Baruch S. Blumberg Institute since 2015. He received medical training in Lanzhou University School of Medicine in China and postdoctoral training with Dr. Christoph Seeger at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia. Dr. Guo established his research laboratory in 2004 in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Drexel University College of Medicine. Dr. Guo has been working on the molecular pathogenesis and antiviral research of hepatitis viruses, flaviviruses and human coronaviruses for the past thirty years.



Jean Holmes, MBA

Jean Holmes, MBA, joined the organization as vice president, institutional advancement, in April 2018. In her new role, she oversees development, marketing and events for the Hepatitis B Foundation, Baruch S. Blumberg Institute, and the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center. Most recently, she was at the Bucks County

Community College Foundation for 13 years, during which she built the college's major gifts, corporate grants, annual fund, and donor relations programs. She has been deeply involved as a volunteer in her community, serving on numerous committees with the Lower Bucks Chamber of Commerce and Greater BucksMont Chamber of Commerce, and currently serves on the board of directors for the Youth Orchestra of Bucks County. A member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals since 2005, she has participated with them as a mentor and has been a conference presenter for the Nonprofit Center at LaSalle.



Chari Cohen, DrPH, MPH

As vice president, public health and programs, Dr. Cohen will be responsible for building and expanding programs designed to promote disease awareness, and support immunization and treatment efforts, improving the quality of life for those affected by hepatitis B worldwide.

Dr. Cohen has been with the Hepatitis B Foundation for 17 years, during which she has planned, implemented and evaluated community programs and research projects focusing on hepatitis B and liver cancer. Her research focuses on reducing hepatitis B related health disparities, including developing culturally competent models for improving health care access. She is co-founder and director of Hep B United Philadelphia, and chair of CHIPO: Coalition Against Hepatitis for People of African Origin. She sits on the steering committee for NVHR, the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable, and served as Policy Chair for the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus of the American Public Health Association.



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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 through research, education and patient advocacy.

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In Memoriam

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Improved Patient Access, continued...

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Our research uncovered additional barriers to hepatitis B treatment. In addition to these financial barriers, when hepatitis B treatments and other drugs are placed on high tiers, this often requires prior authorization, quantity limits, or the use of specialty pharmacies, which further discourage users from accessing treatment. In the case of Florida, area coverage also poses an issue. In 21 of the 67 counties in Florida, Blue Cross Blue Shield is the only carrier offering coverage. In an additional 22 counties, only two carriers offer coverage. Thus, while some plans offer better coverage and cost-sharing for specific medications, patients have a limited ability to choose the best plan for their needs.

The Hepatitis B Foundation is working to change these practices for hepatitis B medications, but we need your help to gather data and document cases to identify areas where we can be most effective at changing policy. Patients who are having difficulty affording their hepatitis B medication are encouraged to contact the Foundation at 215-489-4900 or via

email at info@hepb.org to share their story.

In addition, there are federal consumer protection laws that apply to insurance plans purchased on the marketplace, as well as Medicare and Medicaid. We encourage patients with one of these insurance plans, who are facing high costs for medication, to file complaints with their state's Health Insurance Commissioner. The Foundation, in collaboration with NHeLP, has created instructions and a template for consumers and organizations to use to file complaints, which can be found at hepb.org/overpricing. Consumers will have to do some research on the marketplace's website to discover the drug prices in their region, but they can help end discrimination and bring down the rapidly-escalating drug prices found in many health plans. The Foundation can also assist you in filing.

Even if you don't file a complaint, if you shop for health insurance on the marketplace, take time to thoroughly research how much the plan will charge for antivirals to protect your rights and your wallet.

Filing a Hepatitis B Drug Pricing Complaint ↓

Who can file a complaint?

Anyone can file a complaint at any time. You do not have to be a hepatitis B patient or a purchaser/holder of the insurance plan to file an administrative complaint with your state Bureau of Insurance or the federal civil rights office.

How do I file the complaint?

Each state's Bureau of Insurance website should have a portal for filing a complaint. Usually you can copy and paste the completed complaint into a form on the website, or you can email the complaint to the Bureau of Insurance.

For detailed instructions on researching pricing and filing a complaint, visit www.hepb.org/overpricing or email info@hepb.org.

Hep B Cure Campaign Grows Momentum

In 2016, the Hepatitis B Foundation launched the Hepatitis B Cure Campaign to capitalize on the increased national and international momentum around hepatitis B and to sharpen the focus on finding a cure. **Our goal is to make the elimination of hepatitis B by 2030 a national health priority.** Since the program was launched two years ago, substantial progress has been made, with several major accomplishments that are moving us closer to our goal.

We established a presence in Washington DC, which has helped us to develop new HBV champions and leadership on Capitol Hill, conduct advocacy training and meetings with 38 congressional offices, secure strong appropriations report language from National Institutes of Health (NIH), Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Department of Defense (DOD), and meet with NIH leaders to identify ways to

accelerate the pace of discoveries related to hepatitis B and liver cancer.

Our *Roadmap for a Cure* provided a detailed research agenda for curing hepatitis B, developed by 35 of the world's leading scientists and clinicians in the fields of hepatitis B and liver cancer convened by the Hepatitis B Foundation for this purpose. This research agenda was published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal *Hepatology* in 2017. Our Professional Judgment Budget identified the most critical projects from the research agenda, aligning them with existing NIH funding mechanisms, and calculating the increased investment needed over the next six years to follow the scientific roadmap to cure hepatitis B. (\$232 million additional investment per year or \$526 million total over six years)

In October 2018, the Liver Illness Visibility, Education, and Research (LIVER)

Act was introduced by Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) to direct the National Cancer Institute to create new funding opportunities for liver cancer and to make hospitals and healthcare facilities eligible to receive new funding for experimental treatment and prevention programs. The bill also creates two new HHS grant programs: one for liver cancer prevention activities and another for awareness activities targeted to Americans in communities at higher risk.

To help the program continue to build momentum, the Hepatitis B Foundation has established the Hep B Cure Campaign (HBCC) Partnership program to promote increased public-sector investment in hepatitis B and liver cancer research. With increased partnerships and expansion of advocacy efforts to secure research funding, we believe that the elimination of hepatitis B is within our reach.

Please give generously to our 2018 Annual Fund!

Your donation will help us continue our valuable research, outreach, and patient advocacy programs. Thank you in advance for your support of our mission to find a cure for hepatitis B and to improve the lives of those affected worldwide. A secure donation can be made on our website at www.hepb.org/donate. Thank you!

Family/Drug Name	Mechanism	Company	Website	USA Status
Interferons				
Mimic naturally occurring infection-fighting immune substances produced in the body				
Intron A (Interferon alfa-2b)	Immunomodulator	Merck, USA	merck.com	Approved 1991
Pegasys (Peginterferon alfa-2a)	Immunomodulator	Genentech, USA	gene.com	Approved 2005
Nucleos(t)ide Analogues				
Interfere with the viral DNA polymerase enzyme used for hepatitis B virus reproduction				
Epivir (Lamivudine)	* Inhibits viral DNA polymerase	GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)	gsk.com	Approved 1998
Hepsera (Adefovir Dipivoxil)	* Inhibits viral DNA polymerase	Gilead Sciences, USA	gilead.com	Approved 2002
Baraclude (Entecavir)	* Inhibits viral DNA polymerase	Bristol-Myers Squibb, USA	bms.com	Approved 2005
Tyzeka (Telbivudine)	* Inhibits viral DNA polymerase	Novartis, Switzerland	novartis.com	Approved 2006
Viread (Tenofovir)	Inhibits viral DNA polymerase	Gilead Sciences, USA	gilead.com	Approved 2008
Vemlidy (TAF or Tenofovir Alafenamide)	Prodrug of tenofovir	Gilead Sciences, USA	gilead.com	Approved 2016
Levovir (Clevudine)	Inhibits viral DNA polymerase	Bukwang, S. Korea	bukwang.co.kr	Approved 2006 in S. Korea
Besivo (formerly ANA 380/LB0380)	Inhibits viral DNA polymerase	Ildong Pharma, S. Korea	ildong.com/en	Approved 2017 in S. Korea
Zadaxin	Immunomodulator	SciClone, USA	sciclone.com	Approved outside USA
DIRECT ACTING ANTIVIRALS				
Targets the virus and interferes with specific steps in the HBV life cycle to prevent replication				
TDF Pro Drugs				
Targets the virus and interferes with specific steps in the HBV life cycle to prevent replication				
TXL (CMX 157)	Prodrug of tenofovir	ContraVir, USA	contravir.com	Phase II
Silencing RNA's (siRNAs)				
Interferes and destroys viral RNA				
ARB-1467	RNAi gene silencer (1.0)	Arbutus Biopharma, USA	arbutusbio.com	Phase II
RG6004	RNA gene silencer	Roche, Switzerland	roche.com	Phase I/II
ARO-HBV	RNAi gene silencer	Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals, USA	arrowheadpharma.com	Phase I/II
AB-729	RNAi gene silencer	Arbutus Biopharma, USA	arbutusbio.com	Phase I
ALN-HBV	RNAi gene silencer	Alnylam and Vir Biotech, USA	alnylam.com	Preclinical
BB-103	RNAi gene silencer	Benitec, Australia	benitec.com	Preclinical
Lunar-HBV	RNAi gene silencer	Arcturus, USA with Janssen	arcturusrx.com	Preclinical
DCR-HBV5	RNAi gene silencer	Dicerna, USA	dicerna.com	Preclinical
Entry Inhibitors				
Interferes with HBV getting into liver cells				
Myrcludex B	Entry inhibitor	Hepatera, Russia with MYR GmbH, Germany	myr-pharma.com	Phase II
Capsid Inhibitors				
Interferes with the viral DNA protein shield				
Morphothiadin (GLS4)	Capsid inhibitor	HEC Pharma, PR China	pharm.hec.cn/en	Phase II
JNJ56136379	Capsid inhibitor	Janssen, Scotland	janssen.com	Phase II
ABI-H0731	Capsid inhibitor	Assembly Biosciences, USA	assemblybio.com	Phase II
AB-423	Capsid inhibitor	Arbutus Biopharma, USA	arbutusbio.com	Phase I
AB-506	Capsid inhibitor	Arbutus Biopharma, USA	arbutusbio.com	Phase I
ABI-H2158	Capsid inhibitor	Assembly Biosciences	assemblybio.com	Phase I
RG7907	Capsid inhibitor	Roche, Switzerland	roche.com	Phase I
QL-007	Capsid inhibitor	Qilu Pharmaceuticals, China	qilu-pharma.com	Phase I
GLP-26	Capsid inhibitor	Emory University, USA	emory.edu	Preclinical
EP-027367	Capsid inhibitor	Enanta Pharmaceuticals, USA	enanta.com	Preclinical
QL-0A6a	Capsid inhibitor	Qilu Pharmaceuticals, China	qilu-pharma.com	Preclinical
HBsAg Inhibitors				
Interferes with production of HBV surface antigen (sAg)				
Rep 2139	sAg inhibitor	REPLICor, Canada	replicor.com	Phase II
Rep 2165	sAg inhibitor	REPLICor, Canada	replicor.com	Phase II
Antisense Molecules				
Binds to the viral mRNA to prevent it from turning into viral protein				
IONIS-HBVRx (GSK3228836)	Viral protein inhibitor	Ionis Pharma with GSK, USA	ionispharma.com	Phase II
IONIS-HBVLrx (GSK33389404)	Viral protein inhibitor	Ionis Pharma with GSK, USA	ionispharma.com	Phase II
Ribonuclease H Inhibitor				
Inhibit degradation of viral RNA				
ARB-452	Viral RNase inhibitor	Arbutus Biopharma, Canada	arbutusbio.com	Preclinical
INDIRECT ACTING ANTIVIRALS				
Targets the human immune system to attack the HBV virus				
Therapeutic Vaccines				
Vaccine technology used to stimulate the immune system as a treatment				
AIC 649	Therapeutic vaccine	AiCuris, Germany	aicuris.com	Phase I
INO-1800	Therapeutic vaccine	Inovio, USA	inovio.com	Phase I
HB-110	Therapeutic vaccine	Ichor Medical Systems, USA	ichorms.com	Phase I
TG1050	Therapeutic vaccine	Transgene, France	transgene.com	Phase I
HepTcell	Therapeutic vaccine	Altimmune, USA	altimmune.com	Phase I
HBV (TomegaVax)	Therapeutic vaccine	Vir Biotechnology, USA	vir.bio	Preclinical
HBV	Therapeutic vaccine	GeoVax Labs, USA	geovax.com	Preclinical
VR-CHB01	Therapeutic Vaccine	Vical, USA	vical.com	Preclinical
Innate Immune Defense Pathway				
Compounds that activate the innate immune system				
RG7795	TLR-7 agonist	Roche, Switzerland	roche.com	Phase II
Inarigivir (SB9200)	RIG -1 and NOD2 agonist	Spring Bank Pharmaceuticals, USA	springbankpharm.com	Phase II
GS9688	TLR-8 agonist	Gilead Sciences, USA	gilead.com	Phase I
RG7854	TLR-7 agonist	Roche, Switzerland	roche.com	Phase I
Host Acting Pathway				
Compounds that induce programmed cell death (apoptosis)				
APG-1387	Apoptosis Inducer	Ascentage Pharma, China	en.ascentagepharma.com	Phase I
CRV 431 (CPI 431-32)	Ciclofilin inhibitor	ContraVir, USA	contravir.com	Preclinical
Viral Gene Editing				
CRISPR/Cas 9				
EBT106	CRISPR/Cas 9	Excision Biotherapeutics, USA	excisionbio.com	Preclinical
HBV	CRISPR/Cas 9	Intellia Therapeutics, USA	intelliatx.com	Preclinical
HBV	CRISPR/Cas 9	Precision Pharma with Gilead, USA	precisionsciences.com	Preclinical
Other				
GC1102	sAg monoclonal antibody	Green Cross, S. Korea	globalgreencross.com	Phase II
EYP001	FXR agonist	Enyo Pharma, France	enyopharma.com	Phase I
LTCR-H2-1	T cell immunotherapy	Lion TCR, Singapore	liontcr.com	Preclinical
IMMTav	T cell immunomodulator	Immunocore, USA	immunocore.com	Preclinical
HBV	MicroRNA	Regulus Therapeutics, USA	regulusrx.com	Preclinical
HEPATITIS DELTA VIRUS (HDV)				
Lambda (Pegylated Interferon)	Immune response stimulator	Eiger Biopharma, USA	eigerbio.com	Orphan Drug Status Phase II
Myrcludex B	Entry inhibitor	MYR-GmbH, Germany	myr-pharma.com	Phase II
Lonafamib	Prenylation inhibitor	Eiger Biopharma, USA	eigerbio.com	FDA Fast Track / Orphan Drug Designation Phase II
REP 2139 / REP 2165	HBsAg inhibitor	REPLICor, Canada	replicor.com	Phase II
Ezetimibe	NTCP inhibitor	Ziauddin University Hospital, Pakistan	zu.edu.pk	Phase II
ALN-HDV	RNAi gene silencer	Alnylam, USA	alnylam.com	Preclinical
GI-18000	Immune Response Stimulator	GlobeImmune, USA	globeimmune.com	Preclinical

* Generics Available

Hepatitis B Foundation to Provide Resources for African Immigrant Communities

The Hepatitis B Foundation, in collaboration with the CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis, is excited to announce the creation of a collection of hepatitis B educational resources for African immigrant communities that will be released in early 2019. These will be the first nationally available resources created for African immigrants and will serve an unmet need to raise awareness and promote testing for hepatitis B, which is estimated to affect 5-18% of African immigrant communities in the U.S.

Working with an expert advisory board of community health workers, clinicians, scholars and community members, HBF conducted an assessment of current hepatitis B knowledge, barriers to accessing testing and care, and strategies to address current gaps. The data we collected was used to inform the



creation of culturally-relevant resources. The materials will be pilot-tested in multiple communities and will include a self-teach audio-visual module for educators, a picture-based flipchart for direct community education, and a comprehensive resource toolkit. Future expansion for the project will focus on dissemination of the materials, media advertising and community outreach. **Subscribe to our e-newsletter for news and updates on these materials!**



FOCUS ON Hepatitis Delta

Karen and Dave: One Couple's Journey through Hepatitis B, Hepatitis D, Liver Cancer and a Successful Transplant

"Dave knew he had hepatitis B for decades, but honestly, no one ever seemed concerned – doctors hadn't even insisted on yearly blood tests! In 2016, a routine colonoscopy and subsequent blood testing revealed Dave had serious liver disease. We were blindsided.

In the beginning, we faced insensitive and ignorant doctors who told Dave there was nothing they could do. They even refused him treatment for his hepatitis B and never referred him to a transplant clinic. During this time, Dave's liver was getting worse and we couldn't afford to waste any more time. Eventually, he found a knowledgeable doctor who put him on antivirals and knew to test him for hepatitis D, a dangerous coinfection of hepatitis B. "It won't be good if you have it," he said. He did.

Due to changes in our health insurance, we were sent to a highly respected liver center in California, who helped save Dave's life. He now had liver cancer and was taking interferon treatment for his hepatitis D. Still, he was doing poorly and although he was on the transplant list, didn't qualify for an organ yet. After many months, hundreds of office and emergency room visits, he qualified, and we got the call – on Thanksgiving night 2017! There was a healthy liver available, and we took it.

As a caregiver, it was tough. No one prepares you for the physical and mental toll it takes to support someone who is in pain, incapacitated, and often, down-right nasty. It was an enormous stress on me; driving, paying bills, our construction business: you name it, I did it all. But the good we took away is his health! Dave still doesn't feel it was real. We went through so much and are so grateful to be on the other side."

Karen



Hepatitis Delta Connect is a dedicated program of the Hepatitis B Foundation to increase awareness about this serious virus that co-infects hepatitis B patients, promote screening and testing, and provide information and support for those affected. If you are a hepatitis D patient or provider and have questions, please visit our Hepatitis Delta Connect website at www.hepdconnect.org, or email us at: connect@hepdconnect.org.

Sixth Annual Hep B United Summit Focuses on *Achieving Health Equity*

The 6th Annual Hep B United National Summit was held in Washington, D.C. on July 24-26, 2018 – just a few days before World Hepatitis Day on July 28. Approximately 80 people from 50 organizations, campaigns, and coalitions from around the United States joined Hep B United (HBU) to learn more about the current state of hepatitis B and to advocate for increased support and prioritization from the federal government.

The Summit provides federal, state, and community-based organizations with the opportunity to join forces and share their expertise and knowledge. The collaborative work that is done at the Summit provides momentum for the hepatitis B community and allows for the growth of new ideas and plans of action on both a community and organizational level. Each annual Summit advances our movement to effectively address hepatitis B, reflect on recent successes, and move the community one step closer to eliminating hepatitis B.

The 2018 summit theme was *Achieving Health Equity to End Hepatitis B*, with sessions that addressed expanding hepatitis B screenings in high-risk communities, combating stigma and discrimination, disparities in hepatitis B medication pricing, and preventing perinatal transmission.

The day before the Summit began, attendees participated in a hepatitis B advocacy day on Capitol Hill. More than 65 participants were able to meet with 61



The 2018 Hep B United Summit attracted over 80 attendees from 50 organizations to the event in Washington, DC.



Congressional offices in just under four hours! Advocates shared their personal experiences with hepatitis B and asked their representatives to support funding for expanded hepatitis B surveillance and prevention programs, funding towards accelerating research to find a cure for hepatitis B and improving treatment options, and improved resources to increase vaccination rates among adults.

On Wednesday, July 25, **Senator Mazie Hirono** from Hawaii, and **Representatives Judy Chu** from California's 27th district, **Hank Johnson** from Georgia's 4th district, and **Brian Fitzpatrick** from Pennsylvania's 8th district joined a Congressional reception hosted by the Hepatitis B Foundation to recognize community and Congressional Hep B Champions. **Dr. Matthew Lin**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, shared remarks on the Department of

Health and Human Services' commitment to eliminating hepatitis B. Senator Hirono was presented with the first annual Hepatitis B Congressional Champion Award for her dedication to elevating hepatitis B research at a national level; **Arman Altug** from the Hepatitis Education Project, the **Charles B. Wang Community Health Center**, and **Kenson and Rensely Alik** from Hep Free Hawaii and the #justB storytelling campaign were also recognized for the work that they've done to address hepatitis B in their communities.

Established by the Hepatitis B Foundation and AAPCHO in 2012, Hep B United now has more than 30 local coalitions across 26 cities in 19 states and the District of Columbia, all with the goal of promoting screening, vaccination and linkage to care to eliminate hepatitis B.

These stories were created to provide information and raise awareness about hepatitis B issues in the United States and globally. We invite others to use the videos as a tool to educate audiences about screening and prevention, and advocate for increased attention to the virus within the health professions and broader medical community. To help facilitate discussion, a newly updated Discussion Guide is available to prepare presenters to lead conversations about the experiences presented in the videos. To view the new videos and download the newly updated Discussion Guide, visit www.hepb.org/justb.



#justB
New Videos and Updated Discussion Guide
Now Available

The Hepatitis B Foundation recorded six new stories this summer for our #justB campaign, for a total of 30 unique stories available as part of our national, multilingual hepatitis B storytelling campaign. Their stories include messages of hope and encouragement despite difficult situations such as facing discrimination due to having chronic hepatitis B, recovering from an emergency liver transplant surgery, learning to take control of one's health after being diagnosed and losing a family member to the disease, or working with limited resources to fill the gaps in hepatitis B education and access to care for your community.



PROVIDER PROFILE



Su Wang, MD, MPH

Medical Director, Center for Asian Health
Saint Barnabas Medical Center
Board Member, Hepatitis B Foundation

Center for Asian Health
華人醫療服務中心

When Dr. Su Wang moved to New Jersey from New York City, she noticed something unusual about the way local patients sought care.

"After living [in northern New Jersey] for three years, I noticed that there was a very strong Asian community here, but people were not accessing health care locally. They would go into New York, into Flushing, into Chinatown to see a doctor once a year, but then they wouldn't have anybody nearby to see. Some of it was the language barrier, the cultural barrier. When it comes to medical stuff, they still prefer to speak to somebody in their own language. And that is enough of a barrier where they just won't go."

Dr. Wang's vision was to fill that void. She approached the Saint Barnabas Health System with her idea. "They had great services, and I wanted to be the bridge between those services and the community," she says. They agreed, and in 2013, the Center for Asian Health at Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Florham Park was born. Dr. Wang, who is fluent in both English and Mandarin, also recruited other bilingual physicians to join her practice.

"New Jersey just hadn't been tapped into as much and yet it is so diverse. It's the fourth highest Asian population in the US," she says. "My passion was hepatitis B, so I got grants to do some screenings. We're really trying to do prevention and true population health, which means not just treating people who are sick, but really trying to keep people from getting sick. That's where I think the public health thing that I do is helpful," she says. "Because for hep B, the screening and early treatment all helps keep people healthy."

Dr. Wang's interest in public health began during her medical training at University of Miami. After her residency, she did a two year public health fellowship with Centers for Disease Control, then began searching for a clinical position. That search landed her a job at the Charles B Wang Community Health Center in New York City (CBWCHC). The Center's patient population had a high prevalence of hepatitis B, and Dr. Wang quickly learned how to treat the patients who

came to her. "Treating hepatitis B was not something I learned during residency, but CBWCHC was one of the pioneers to start training [primary care] doctors to treat hep B. It is especially important training for doctors who treat a population of people with high prevalence," she continued. "It's a way for a physician to respond to a need in their own community. Sometimes seeing a specialist is a barrier, and primary care doctors who see high risk patients should be able to offer care."

Su Wang, MD, MPH is the Medical Director for the Center for Asian Health at Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Florham Park, NJ. She is committed to Asian health and wellness, as well as the clinical identification and treatment of hepatitis B. She currently serves as the Executive Board Member for the Americas Region for the World Hepatitis Alliance. She joined the Board of the Hepatitis B Foundation in 2017.



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Signature _____

*We cannot process your donation without the security code.

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Donations will be acknowledged in our Annual Report unless otherwise requested.

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained by calling the PA Department of State toll-free within PA at 800-732-0999 or out-of-state at 717-783-1720. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Hepatitis B Foundation Boards Add Two New Members

The Hepatitis B Foundation is pleased to announce the addition of **David A. Gruber, CPA** to its Board of Directors, and **Anna Lok, MD** to its Scientific and Medical Advisory Board.

Mr. Gruber is a certified public accountant with over 40 years of experience in nonprofit accounting. He currently provides financial, business, and consulting services through his company, Gruber Administrative Services, and serves as trustee for several family trusts. He is a member of both the American and Pennsylvania Institutes of Certified Public Accountants and is active on several nonprofit boards. He joined the HBF Board of Directors in August.

Dr. Lok is an internationally renowned hepatologist with a more than 30 year career focused on the natural history and treatment of hepatitis B and C. She is the Alice Lohrman Andrews Research Professor in Hepatology at the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan Health System. Her research has been supported by federal grants from the Veterans Health Administration and the National Institutes of Health. She has published more than 350 articles, reviews, editorials, and book chapters.



Calendar of Events

2019

Feb 20-24

APASL 2019

Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver

Manila, Philippines
apasl2019manila.org

March 8-9

EASL-AASLD HBV Endpoints Meeting

European Association for the Study of the Liver and American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

London, UK
easl.eu

April 10-14

International Liver Congress

European Association for the Study of the Liver

Vienna, Austria
easl.eu

April 26

2019 Crystal Ball Gala

Hepatitis B Foundation

Blue Bell, PA, USA
hepb.org

May 19

National Hepatitis Testing Day

United States CDC

Events around the country
cdc.gov/hepatitis/testingday

July 28

World Hepatitis Day

WHO and WHA

Events around the world
worldhepatitisday.org

October 1-4

2019 International HBV Meeting


Hepatitis B Foundation

Melbourne, Australia
HBVmeeting.org

Find HBF on social media networks...

 [/hepbfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/hepbfoundation)

 [@hepbfoundation](https://twitter.com/hepbfoundation)

 [@hepbfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/hepbfoundation)

 [/hepbfoundation](https://www.youtube.com/hepbfoundation)

 hepb.org/blog

 [@hepbfoundation](https://www.snapchat.com/add/hepbfoundation)

B Informed and all back issues are available online at
www.hepb.org/newsletters

For More Information About Hepatitis B Foundation Programs

- **HBV Info & Support List ...** HBList.net
- **HBV Clinical Trials ...** hepb.org/clinicaltrials
- **HBV Drug Watch ...** hepb.org/drugwatch
- **Hepatitis Delta Connect ...** hepDconnect.org
- **Liver Cancer Connect ...** livercancerconnect.org