

CHIPO: Coalition Against Hepatitis for People of African Origin



Conference Call Minutes
Monday January 25th, 2021
3:00 - 4:00pm EST

Phone: +1 (312) 626-6799 Access Code: 993868
Meeting Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82508066108?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82508066108?pwd=cTlZazJBOUdkQXUwU0J5U2pNZVpiZz09)
[pwd=cTlZazJBOUdkQXUwU0J5U2pNZVpiZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82508066108?pwd=cTlZazJBOUdkQXUwU0J5U2pNZVpiZz09)

Attendees (Please let us know if we missed you or misspelled your name!)

Chari Cohen (Hepatitis B Foundation), Nadine Kela-Murphy (NYC Department of Health), Beatrice Zovich (Hepatitis B Foundation), Farma Pene (NYC Department of Health), Dr. Olorunseun Ogunwobi (Hunter College of the City University of New York), Dr. Robert Gish (Hepatitis B Foundation), Danait Yemane (African Services Committee), Shahnaz Jaleel (Asian Health Coalition), Amy Wishner (Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition and American Academy of Pediatrics, Pennsylvania Chapter), Nyasha Makoni (Mt. Sinai/Project HONE), Monde Nyambe (Illinois Public Health Association), Amy Meurs (Illinois Public Health Association), Heather Entenmann (Merck & Co.), Elizabeth Koch (Columbus Public Health), Bilan Hussein (Columbus Public Health)

3:00 pm **Welcome & Introductions**

3:05pm **Updates**

- **BMS Grant for Disparities in Liver Cancer Project**
 - The Hepatitis B Foundation was recently awarded a grant to begin examining liver cancer awareness and screening disparities in Asian American, Pacific Islander, and African immigrant communities and to develop and disseminate a suite of educational materials to help close these gaps. The project is just beginning with the assembly of an advisory board, but the help of CHIPO partners will be requested. Please stay tuned for further details!
- **Updating Partner Organizations on Website**
 - We want to make sure all of our partner organizations are accurately reflected on our CHIPO website and documents. Please complete the survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6FRWKGB>) to provide us with your updated information so we can add you to our website!
- **Expanding Membership**
 - We have had a lot of increased interest in CHIPO over the past couple of months, which is great! A reminder to please continue to spread the word, so that we can continue to build this coalition!
- **Dissemination of African Immigrant Project Materials and Grant Opportunities**
 - Dissemination of the PowerPoint presentations and flipcharts that were created from the CDC-funded project to increase hepatitis B screening, prevention, and linkage to care among African immigrants has largely been halted due to COVID-19, but please do continue to let us know should you need assistance with disseminating these materials (found at <https://www.hepb.org/research-and-programs/chipo/resources/resources-for-educators/>). Additionally, if anyone knows of any grant or funding opportunities that would be appropriate for the work of CHIPO, please pass along that information as well!
- **More Frequent Webinars and Meetings in Spring of 2021**
 - Due to increased interest in presentations, CHIPO will be meeting monthly for the spring of 2021, so keep an eye out for more frequent invitations!

3:15 pm **Presentation:** Biobehavioral factors related to hepatitis B virus infection and progression to liver cancer in African immigrants to the US

Presenter: Olorunseun O. Ogunwobi, MD, PhD, Director, Hunter College Center for Cancer Health Disparities Research and Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Hunter College of the City University of New York

- Overview of hepatitis B virus and global prevalence
- In 2018, approximately 2 million immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa lived in the US.
- Somewhere between 9.1 and 11.8% of sub-Saharan African immigrants living in the United States have HBV and 73.9% of the AI population in the US has been exposed to HBV.
- Infections were exacerbated by high poverty, low insurance coverage, and a reduced likelihood of acting upon health concerns.
- 75% of black Africans with liver cancer are infected with HBV.
- A cross-sectional survey among 71 first-generation African immigrants was conducted to assess knowledge of HBV status of family members, knowledge of HBV transmission, and sociodemographic factors.
- Among first-generation African immigrants, HBV screening rates were 55.7% and vaccination rates were 50.8%. Knowledge of transmission was low and two thirds of participants reported never having received screening or vaccination recommendations from their doctors.
- Marriage and higher education were predictors of HBV screening and health insurance was a predictor of HBV vaccination.
- Other researchers with whom Dr. Ogunwobi has worked have found that bridging the gap between viral hepatitis and liver cancer involves coordinating the efforts of families, communities, and healthcare workers to be involved in education and awareness, screening and prevention, linkage to care, and patient navigation. Care must be patient-centered.
- An intervention with this framework was implemented in Korean communities, and a full 84% of study participants received all three doses of the hep B vaccine.
- A city bus advertisement advocacy campaign was found to be highly effective in increasing rates of liver cancer screening in Philadelphia.
- Further research is coming! Many thanks to Dr. Ogunwobi for his insightful presentation.

3:45pm Member Updates

- There was a question about progress made by Annette Gaudino, who presented at the last CHIPO-NYC meeting, in advocating for a greater focus on viral hepatitis in African immigrant communities from AASLD. Chari will follow up on this.
- Nyasha Makoni of Project HONE at Mt. Sinai briefly presented about a survey her team is conducting about factors influencing hepatitis B screening in West African immigrant communities. Please see attached flyers in English and French and share widely!

4:00 pm **Conclusion**

Thanks so much for joining! Please keep us updated about research and programmatic updates and let us know if you'd like to present at future meetings!

Upcoming CHIPO Webinars

Monday February 15th, 2021 3:00 - 4:00 PM EST

Establishing a Patient-Led African Immigrant Health Research Consortium

Link to Join: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85920596528?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85920596528?pwd=TUK2YINHMIFjL1IVVzdBOHFrVzBxQT09)

[pwd=TUK2YINHMIFjL1IVVzdBOHFrVzBxQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85920596528?pwd=TUK2YINHMIFjL1IVVzdBOHFrVzBxQT09)

Monday March 15th, 2021 3:00-4:00 PM EDT

Presentation of HBV Research in Tanzania Conducted by the CDC

Link to Come!