



CHIPO: Coalition Against Hepatitis
for People of African Origin

Conference Call Minutes
Monday December 13th, 2021

3:00-4:00 pm EST

Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83498375146?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83498375146?pwd=cFpXazJkdEp6cnVrSnRIYmF2Z2dsQT09)
[pwd=cFpXazJkdEp6cnVrSnRIYmF2Z2dsQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83498375146?pwd=cFpXazJkdEp6cnVrSnRIYmF2Z2dsQT09)

Phone: +1 646 558 8656

Attendees: Please let me know if I missed you or got only your partial information!

Chari Cohen (Hepatitis B Foundation), Beatrice Zovich (Hepatitis B Foundation), Peyton Thompson (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Seun Aluko (Columbus Department of Public Health), Bilan Hussein (Columbus Department of Public Health), Agatha Adigwe (Multicultural AIDS Coalition), Monde Nyambe (Illinois Public Health Association), Cait O'Donnell (AFAHO), Victoria Foster (NYU), Leso Munala (St. Kate's University), Elizabeth Koch, Farma Pene (NYC Department of Health)

3:00pm: Welcome and Updates:

- Thank you to everyone who nominated either themselves or someone else to serve on the CHIPO advisory committee! This committee will inform the future goals and directions of CHIPO, and one member will also serve as a liaison to Hep B United to represent CHIPO as a partner and communicate information about available opportunities and resources to the rest of the coalition. We are working on solidifying the committee and hope to have it fully formed in the upcoming weeks – stay tuned!
- We are updating the "Members" section on our website and would love to have more complete information for our different member organizations! If you would like to have your organization's description, website, and/or contact information listed on our website, please complete this [SurveyMonkey form](#), so we can list you!
- We have printed out many of the [resources](#) that were created for community health educators and community members, as part of the CDC's Know Hepatitis B campaign. If you would like any materials printed and mailed to you, please let us know using [this form](#).
- CHIPO now has now expanded to other social media channels! Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [@CHIPO_HBV](#) on Twitter and Instagram.

3:10 pm: Presentation: Arresting Vertical Transmission of Hepatitis B (AVERT-HBV) in the DRC

Presented By: *Dr. Peyton Thompson, Pediatric Infectious Disease Specialist and Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

- Presentation slides are attached and please feel free to reach out to Dr. Thompson (peyton_thompson@med.unc.edu) with any questions!
- Hepatitis B prevalence in the DRC is 10 times that of the United States.
- HBIG is not generally used in the DRC (or in other parts of Africa), and is not even recommended by the WHO for use in Africa, given significant burdens in cost, access, and storage capabilities.
- Mother to child transmission of HBV is a significant concern and this study demonstrated that it is feasible to add hepatitis B testing and prevention measures (primarily administration of tenofovir to pregnant women with high viral loads and at high risk for transmission to their infants, as well as providing timely birth dose vaccines to infants, along with appropriate vaccination and follow-up care to mothers and babies) to existing HIV infrastructure in the DRC.

- Vertical transmission in all babies followed through to six months was prevented!
- The greatest challenges in this study included ensuring that delivery of hep B birth dose vaccines was timely, ensuring adherence to prescribed tenofovir regimens (in which further challenges such as distrust, stigma, lack of information, and misinterpretation of treatment as cure were embedded), and difficulty in obtaining appropriate treatments and vaccines.
- Dr. Thompson and other leaders on this study team have advocated for provision of hepatitis B birth dose to all children born in the DRC with the country's Ministry of Health. There is hope that this will come to fruition in the future.
- This study offers hope that this model can be emulated in other low-resource settings, thus further interrupting the vertical transmission of hepatitis B virus!

3:50pm: Questions

4:00pm: Conclusion

Thanks so much for joining! Please keep us updated about research and programmatic news and let us know if you'd like to present at the next meeting!

Next Coalition Call:
January 17th, 2022, 10am ET/9am CT