



B News

Monthly News & Updates

April 2021

"More than B" - our new campaign to celebrate our community

You are more than hep B -- we're all more than hep B -- and we want to hear a bit about your story!

Share a few short sentences about your life, family, friends, hobbies and a photo. We'd like to feature your story in our May Hepatitis Awareness Month and World Hepatitis Day social media campaigns.

U.S. participants: submit your profile by April 23 to be featured during Hepatitis Awareness Month. International participants: submit your profile by June 30 to be featured as part of our World Hepatitis Day communications in July.

Please submit [here](#), both international and U.S residents!

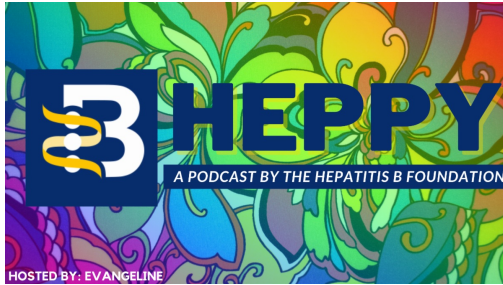
Free and fun: Our 30th Anniversary Gala is set for April 30!



Our Annual Crystal Ball Gala is set for Friday, April 30, at 7:30 p.m. EDT. Please join us! It's free, open to all and registration is not required. Although it's a virtual event due to the pandemic, it will be a fun way to launch the Foundation's 30th Anniversary celebration.

A new, feature video will provide a rich but brief view of our history. We will present three awards to some wonderfully deserving people. And you can bid on one or more of the amazing items in our silent auction, such as airlines tickets, a stay at Busch Gardens in

Podcasts are hugely popular, and now we have one!



"B Heppy" is the name of our brand-new podcast series, which we're launching with an episode focused on COVID-19 vaccines and hepatitis B.

We created the podcast to share new and valuable information with people living with hep B and their families.

Robert G. Gish, MD, the Hepatitis B Foundation's medical director and a leading specialist who has been treating hepatitis B patients for many years, is the featured guest in episode #1, which is posted [here](#).

Dai's story: #justB

For three years, Dai dedicated her life to caring for her severely ill father.

She made sure he took his medications, went with him to doctor's appointments, and sought support for him in their Vietnamese community.

While Dai regrets that so little information about hepatitis B and liver cancer was available in her area and even within her own profession, which is in public health, she feels lucky to have been able to spend time with her father before his death. Read more of their story [here](#).

DAI'S STORY

"If we had talked sooner, if we had known more about this, he could have lived for so many more years..."

For three years, Dai dedicated her life to caring for her severely ill father. She made sure he took his meds, went with him to doctor's appointments, and sought support for him in the Vietnamese community. While Dai regrets that so little information about hepatitis B and liver cancer were available in her area, even within her own profession in public health, she feels lucky to have been able to spend time with her father before his death.

#justB
www.hepb.org/justB/dai

The #justB storytelling campaign is a program of the Hepatitis B Foundation in collaboration with AAPCHO & StoryCenter, sponsored by AbbVie Biopharma, Dynavax Technologies and Gilead Sciences.

All of Us: Minority Health Month



Spring is upon us, as is Minority Health Month! With new beginnings and ongoing conversation about advancing health equity for all people, now is the perfect time to learn about and participate in the All of Us Research Program.

Run by the U.S. National Institutes of Health, the program aims to increase diversity and inclusion in medical research, so that doctors can learn more about the various health factors affecting the many different people who represent the many rich and wonderful cultures around the U.S.

This knowledge will lead to more informed decisions about health care and will promote precision medicine, or medical care that is specifically tailored to individual people. The end result will be lives that are longer and healthier, and a health care system that works

for everyone!

Visit www.joinallofus.org to explore more about the program, learn more about data and its role in health equity, and sign up to participate!

COVID-19 vaccines and people living with cirrhosis

Researchers at Johns Hopkins Medicine have asked us to help recruit people living with cirrhosis and have received a COVID-19 vaccination for a study

now underway. They are examining the COVID-19 vaccines' safety and COVID-19 antibody levels in patients who receive a vaccine with the following chronic conditions: HIV, an autoimmune condition, cirrhosis or on home dialysis. Learn more [here](#).



New blog postings from our team every week

One of our recent blog postings discussed hepatitis delta, a liver infection that results from the hepatitis delta virus (also known as HDV) and causes the most severe form of viral hepatitis known to human beings. Hepatitis delta is unique because it is dependent on the hepatitis B virus to infect and reproduce in liver cells, so those already infected with hep B are at a greatly increased risk of developing hepatitis delta. You can read more [here](#).

Hepatitis B Foundation's journal pick of the month

Low Prevalence of Vaccination or Documented Immunity to Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B Viruses Among Individuals with Chronic Liver Disease

Wong R, Gish R, Cheung R, Chitnis A

American Journal of Medicine, March 25, 2021

While national guidelines emphasize the importance of vaccination and immunity documentation for the hepatitis A and B status of individuals living with chronic liver disease, adherence to these recommendations remain minimal. The authors used data published in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey to evaluate adults living with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease and alcoholic liver disease, as well as hepatitis B and C to determine the prevalence of vaccination and reactivity. Prevalence of either vaccination or documented reactivity to hepatitis A antibody and hepatitis B surface antibody remains extremely low among those living in the U.S. Read more [here](#).

Remembering John C. Martin, hepatitis B advocate

The leadership and staff of the Hepatitis B Foundation share a high regard for John C. Martin, PhD, former CEO of Gilead Sciences Inc., who died earlier this month. Best known for his leadership at Gilead in providing the first effective treatment for HIV, Dr. Martin also headed the company as it conducted groundbreaking work aimed at a treatment for hepatitis B. Please read more [here](#).

Dr. Martin (left) and Dr. Tim Block, president, Hepatitis B Foundation



Please consider joining our Champions Club

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WITH HEPATITIS B? SUPPORT THEM BY JOINING THE CHAMPIONS CLUB!



\$5
a month

ANSWERS
QUESTIONS ON
OUR HELPLINE
FOR AN HOUR

JOIN TODAY HERE:

[Hepb.org/champion](https://hepb.org/champion)



\$10
a month

LINKS SOMEONE TO
A HEPATITIS B
SPECIALIST



\$20
a month

TRAINS 10 HEALTHCARE
WORKERS ON HEPATITIS B



\$50
a month

PROVIDES 10 HEPATITIS
B SCREENINGS



Click [here](#) for the Champions Club web page.

Free research seminar series continues online

The Baruch S. Blumberg Institute, which is our research arm, has a strong lineup of prominent scientists in hepatitis B and liver diseases for its online Distinguished Speaker Seminars. The series is free-of-charge and open to anyone interested (pre-registration is required).

Upcoming seminars are listed below in "Events" and on the Institute's website [here](#), where you also can watch recordings of prior Blumberg 2020 Research Seminars.



EVENTS

April 15, 2-3 p.m. EDT

Expanding Access to Hepatitis B vaccinations

Webinar, HepBUnited

[Register here](#)

April 30, 9 a.m. EDT

Wenhui Li, Ph.D., Investigator

National Institute of Biological Sciences, Beijing

2021 Blumberg Prize Recipient

Online Only

[Register here](#)

April 30, 7:30 p.m. EDT

30th Anniversary Crystal Ball Gala

Online Only

[Details here](#)

May 2-5

Canadian Liver Meeting

Online Only

[Details here](#)

Sept. 13-17

**International HBV Meeting on the
Molecular Biology of Hepatitis B Viruses**

Toronto

[Details here](#)

Learn more about our research and education programs at

www.hepb.org

- **Baruch S. Blumberg Institute**
- **Hep B United**
- **Hep B United Philadelphia**
- **Hepatitis Delta Connect**
- **Liver Cancer Connect**



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.

