



## B News

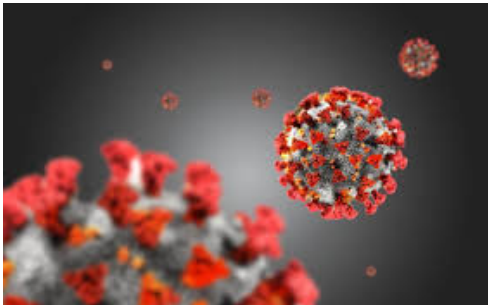
### Monthly News & Updates

*Help us save lives today!*

**DONATE**

**January 2021**

### **COVID-19 statement from our Scientific and Medical Advisory Board to the hepatitis B community**



Should people living with hepatitis B get the COVID-19 vaccine? Vaccination will be key to preventing spread and reducing serious illness and death due to COVID-19. We encourage all those who are part of the hepatitis B community to talk with their clinical care providers about getting vaccinated.

We believe that people with hepatitis B and liver disease, who are not immunosuppressed, will respond to these vaccines similarly as do those without liver disease. We know of no scientific or biological reason why people living with chronic hepatitis B would respond differently to these vaccines compared to people without hepatitis B, regardless of whether they have active or inactive hepatitis B infection. Read more [here](#).

### **Tuya's story: #justB Screened**

Tuya had many battles to fight after her own family's experience of immigrating to the U.S. from Mongolia and their relief at moving to a community where friends could point them to resources.

She saw firsthand the struggles of other newcomers and decided she wanted to help, so she joined a nonprofit that helps people with a variety of challenges, including hepatitis B.

Please click [here](#), for more of Tuya's story and others in our #justB storytellers collection.

## Tuya's Story

*"Hepatitis B and C are big issues in Mongolia. Some of my friends have parents or relatives who suddenly got diagnosed with liver cirrhosis or cancer. It usually comes as a surprise, because they don't show any symptoms."*

WWW.HEPB.ORG/JUSTB/TUYA



## International B the Voice Story Bank

Our new international B the Voice Story Bank builds upon the success of the Foundation's national #justB campaign, which we launched three years ago in partnership with Story Center and the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO). The B the Voice Story Bank provides an online platform for people living with hepatitis B, their families, community health workers and health care providers to share their firsthand knowledge and experiences with a global audience. So far, we've received complete submissions from 19 people in 11 different countries. Read more [here](#).



## Federal task force recommendation for hepatitis B screening fails to close gaps in diagnosis rates

The Hepatitis B Foundation last month released a formal response to the recent publication of a new statement from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. The group reinforced its 2014 recommendation to screen only adolescents and adults at increased risk for hepatitis B (HBV) infection with a B grade. Our response is posted [here](#).

## Jan. 26 webinar about hepatitis delta and new drug Hepcludex

**JOIN US!**

**WEBINAR**

TAKE PART IN A DISCUSSION OF HEPATITIS DELTA AND THE NEW TREATMENT HEPCLUDEX

TUESDAY JANUARY 26TH, 2021  
10AM EASTERN STANDARD TIME.  
4PM CENTRAL EUROPEAN STANDARD TIME

On Jan. 26 at 10 a.m. EST, the Hepatitis B Foundation will host a patient- and provider-focused webinar about hepatitis delta virus (HDV) and the new drug Hepcludex, which was just approved for prescription by the European Union last July. This is the first drug in the world approved for the treatment of HDV.

The webinar will feature a discussion of the disease and the drug led by Dr. Ira Jacobson of NYU's Langone Health, followed by patient testimony and time for questions and answers. Please join us! Register [here](#).

## Announcing the 300 Million Reasons movement



300 Million Reasons is a movement to improve awareness about hepatitis B and liver cancer worldwide, to promote engagement of key stakeholders, and to empower people impacted by hepatitis B to become vocal advocates.

There are almost 300 million people around the world living with chronic hepatitis B infection, and we want to make sure every voice is heard. The movement has four different branches: B Informed, B Connected, B the Voice and B the Change. It will be officially and fully launched in July, but we want to begin sharing some information and resources now. Check out the [website](#) today!

## Patients are needed for study on itching from hepatitis

If you are living with itching (cholestatic pruritus) caused by hepatitis B, hepatitis C, drug-induced liver-injury, auto-immune hepatitis or primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC), you may be eligible for a new opportunity to help researchers understand the experience of this condition.

A new research study is seeking people ages 12-80 living in the U.S. and Canada for interviews. Please read more [here](#).

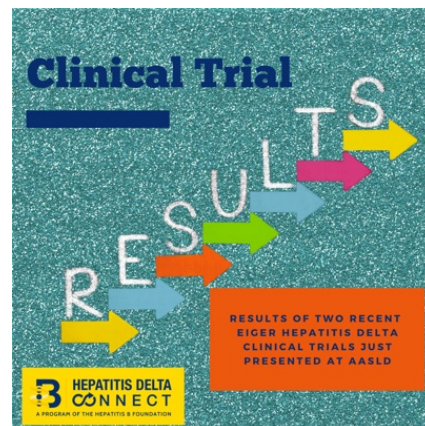
A recruitment poster for a research study. The top section is green and asks 'Are you living with itching (CP) caused by liver disease or injury?' and 'PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERVIEW ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE!'. Below this, a blue box contains the text: 'A new research study is seeking individuals 12-80 years old Living in the US or Canada You'll receive compensation for your time!'. A green circle on the left says 'Share your story! Contact lbroderick@qualitymetric.com for more info.' At the bottom, it states '\*This study does not include treatment.' The poster also features two photos: one of a man and a woman riding bicycles, and another of silhouettes of people on a beach.

## Eiger Presents Clinical Trial Results at The Liver Meeting

At the November annual meeting of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, Eiger BioPharmaceuticals Inc. presented its findings from two studies on the effectiveness of peginterferon lambda and lonafarnib, both independently and in combination, in treating hepatitis delta virus (HDV) and halting liver fibrosis.

The results are promising and offer hope for those affected by HDV. Read about the trials [here](#) and [here](#).

HBF will continue to share the latest findings as therapies for hepatitis B and D move through clinical trials. Check out the [Hepatitis Delta Connect](#) website for detailed information on HDV, as well as current [clinical trials](#) and a [drug watch](#) page, both of which we update regularly (a brand-new clinical trial has just been added).



## Bristol Myers Squibb awards grant to Hepatitis B Foundation

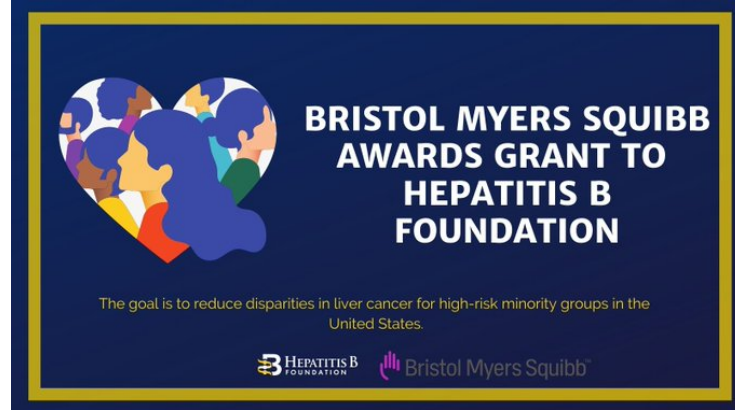
Bristol Myers Squibb has



awarded a one-year, \$134,000 grant to the Hepatitis B Foundation to close the disparity gaps related to hepatitis B-associated liver cancer in the U.S. among Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, African immigrant communities and other high-risk groups.

Hepatitis B is the primary cause of liver cancer

worldwide and more than 2 million people in the U.S. are living with chronic hepatitis B infection. The grant will fund an initiative to develop and implement a culturally appropriate, community-focused awareness and education campaign to improve knowledge about the link between hepatitis B and liver cancer, dispel common myths and misconceptions. Read more [here](#).



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## Please consider joining our Champions Club

A blue graphic with the Hepatitis B Foundation logo at the top. The main text reads "BECOME A CHAMPION!" in large yellow letters, followed by "Why a monthly gift is a great choice:". Below this, four benefits are listed with icons: 1. "EASIEST AND MOST CONVENIENT WAY TO GIVE" with a hand icon; 2. "LESS STRESS IN DECEMBER" with a calendar icon; 3. "YOU CAN CANCEL AT ANYTIME" with a checkmark icon; 4. "ENSURES THAT RESOURCES ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO HELP HEPATITIS B PATIENTS" with a dollar sign icon.

Become a Hepatitis B Champion today! Our goal for January is to get 30 new monthly donors to trigger a \$2,500 match from generous donors Anthony and Jane Ford-Hutchinson. Help us make our goal with your support, which also will help ensure that resources are always available to help hepatitis B patients [here](#).

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## Hepatitis B Foundation's Journal Pick of the Month

### **Hepatitis B Virus Elimination in the U.S.: Time to Dismantle Barriers and Implement Solutions**

Wang S, Cohen C, Tang AS, Graham CS  
*Current Hepatology Solutions*, 2021.

The World Health Organization has challenged the health care and public health professionals to work toward eliminating hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection as a threat by 2030, but the U.S. currently has fallen behind. This is due to various barriers, including the bureaucratic isolation of health care and public health services. The U.S. is failing to improve HBV screening and expand adult vaccination, so acute cases are increasing. Simple policy and guideline changes are recommended to allow the nation to decentralize and scale-up screening, vaccination and patient care. Read more [here](#).

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## 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 recording of prior Blumberg 2020 Research Seminars.



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## EVENTS

**Jan. 28, 3 p.m. EST**

**Chari Cohen, DrPH, MPH, and Yasmin Ibrahim, MD, PhD, MBA  
Hepatitis B Foundation**

[Register here](#)

"The first Patient-Focused Drug Development (PFDD) meeting dedicated to hepatitis B: Results and next steps"

**Feb. 4, 11 a.m. EST**

**Prof. Aleem Siddiqui, Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Public Health  
University of California, San Diego**

[Register here](#)

"Regulation of HBV/HCV infection by N6-methyladenosine modification"

**April 30, 11 a.m. EST**

**Wenhui Li, Ph.D., Investigator  
National Institute of Biological Sciences, Beijing**

[Register here](#)

2021 Blumberg Prize Recipient

**Sept. 13-17**

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

[Registration link pending](#)

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**Learn more about our research and education programs at**

[www.hepb.org](http://www.hepb.org)

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



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.

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215-489-4900 | [info@hepb.org](mailto:info@hepb.org)



Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"