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.
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

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

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.

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.

Please consider joining our Champions Club

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.

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.

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)

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- 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.

Hepatitis B Foundation I 3805 Old Easton Road Doylestown, PA 18902 I 215-489-4900 I 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!"