

ELIBRATING 30 YEARS TOGETHER





B News

Monthly News & Updates

March 2021

April 30 is the date for our 2020 Gala, this year celebrating our 30th!

Our year-long 30th Anniversary celebration will focus on the people who've contributed to the many successes we've achieved over three decades. The biggest single occasion is our annual Crystal Ball Gala, set for **Friday, April 30**.



You can participate in this free online, one-hour event, as we look back over the Foundation's first 30 years. We will present the Baruch S. Blumberg Award to Dr. Wenhui Li in recognition of his hepatitis B research. The Milestone Achievement Award will be presented to the Carol and Edmund Blake Foundation for its major contributions to the Hepatitis B Foundation. The Community Commitment Award will be given to Nadine Shiroma for her dedication to social justice and addressing discrimination among people impacted by hepatitis B.

We created a <u>Gala website</u> that reflects the theme of our <u>30th Anniversary website</u> (see the Timeline). Please keep an eye out in the months ahead and help us celebrate 30 years together in service to the hepatitis B community.



Jason: #justB Aware

Jason was at a difficult time in his life when he found out he has hepatitis B. The untimely death of his mother pushed him into recovery from addiction, but after struggling to find any hepatitis B specialists and going through a disastrous experience with one provider, Jason fell into a deep depression.

Finally, he located a knowledgeable and caring doctor, who gave him hope.

"So, today I educate high school students about hepatitis B as well as HIV. Let me tell you something hep B: I have you; you don't have me." For more, click <u>here</u>.

Webinar: COVID-19 and hepatitis B prevention and treatment

Join Hep B United and the World Hepatitis Alliance for a webinar discussion on the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on hepatitis B prevention and treatment programs.

Globally, nearly 300 million people are living with chronic hepatitis B infection and only 10 percent of those are diagnosed. For more, click <u>here.</u>



Hepatitis B Foundation's journal pick of the month

An Updated Assessment of Chronic Hepatitis B Prevalence Among Foreign-Born Persons Living in the United States Wong R, Brosgart C, Welch S, Block T, Chen M, Cohen C, Kim WR, Kowdley K, Lok A, Tsai N, Ward J, Wong S, Gish R Hepatology, 2021

The number of adults living in the U.S. who have chronic hepatitis B infection may be as high as 2.4 million, which is nearly three times greater than the federal government's official estimate, according to a new analysis by a team of public health experts, scientists and physicians. The authors conducted a meta-analysis, calculating updated prevalence estimates among foreign-born persons in the U.S. by country of birth. A report on the analysis is published in *Hepatology*, the journal of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases. Read more here.

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

You are more then Hep B and we want to hear about it! Share a few short sentences about your life, family, friends, hobbies and a photo. We'll feature them in our May Hepatitis Awareness Month & World Hepatitis Day social media campaigns.

U.S. participants: submit your profile by April 2 to be featured during Hepatitis Awareness Month.

International participants: submit your profile by June 30 to be featured as part of World Hepatitis Day in July. Submit <u>here.</u>.



Join us for an upcoming webinar!

On March 15 at 3 p.m. EDT, HBU and the Coalition Against Hepatitis for People of African Origin (CHIPO) will be co-hosting a webinar entitled "Linkage to Care and Treatment for Persons with Chronic Hepatitis B Infection in Dar es-Salaam and Zanzibar." The webinar will feature Brian McMahon, MD, head of liver



disease and hepatitis at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington.

This presentation will include an overview, history, data collection, interventions and next steps. Register <u>here</u>.

Update on National Viral Hepatitis Policy Summit and Hill Day

The Hepatitis B Foundation, along with Hep B United, National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR), and NASTAD participated in Viral Hepatitis Policy Summit and Hill Day on Feb. 17-18. There were over 100 advocates from around the country who participated in the Viral Hepatitis Policy Summit, making it the largest ever. We heard from CDC and HHS officials and met with U.S. legislators to discuss a range of topics, including viral hepatitis elimination, health equity, strategies to expand hepatitis B & C testing and hepatitis A & B vaccination, the impact of COVID-19, scaling up comprehensive harm reduction for people who inject drugs and the importance of robust funding. Read more here.

Do you have cirrhosis and have had a COVID-19 immunization?

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



now underway. They are examining COVID-19 vaccines safety and antibody levels in patients who receive a vaccine with the following chronic conditions: HIV, an autoimmune condition, cirrhosis or on home dialysis. Learn more <u>here</u>.

Moving from hepatitis discovery to elimination

"Moving from hepatitis discovery to elimination: Research advancing hepatitis elimination," is a series of monthly webinars sponsored by the U.S. National Institutes of Health that is open to the public and free of charge. The topic on April 8 will be, "Collaborative research on hepatitis C identification and treatment among inject drug users." The May 13 session will be on, "Leaving no one behind: Research to uncover and address health disparities in hepatitis burden of disease and care." Details are <u>here</u>.

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 <u>here</u>.

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 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 <u>website</u>, where you also can watch recording of prior seminars.





March 18, 11 a.m. EDT Longi Li, Ph.D., Investigator Princeton University <u>Register here</u> Young Scientists Choice Speaker

April 30, 11 a.m. EDT

Wenhui Li, Ph.D., Investigator National Institute of Biological Sciences, Beijing Register here 2021 Blumberg Prize Recipient

> June 11-12 HBV-TAG Virtual Conference Register here HBV Therapeutic Agents

Sept. 27-30

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

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.

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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!"