



## B News

Monthly News & Updates

*Help us save lives today!*

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### November 2020

#### **HHS issues powerful statement about discrimination against people living with hepatitis B pursuing careers in health care**

We applaud the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for issuing a letter to health professions schools in the U.S. that calls for renewed attention to admissions and clinical placement policies and their obligation to comply with federal civil rights laws that protect the rights of people living with hepatitis B. The letter from Admiral Brett P. Giroir, assistant secretary for health, and Roger Severino, director of the HHS Office for Civil Rights, highlights current recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for hepatitis B-infected health care providers and students. Please [read more](#).



#### **New tool launched to help make decisions on health insurance**

The Hepatitis B Foundation has released a new report, *Health Insurance Costs Impacting Shoppers Living with Hepatitis B*, that is designed to help those living with chronic hepatitis B and their caregivers make better-informed decisions when choosing health insurance plans. The [online report](#) summarizes an analysis of over 280 plans in 14 states sold on the health insurance marketplace in 2019 and 2020. Please read more [here](#).

#### **Kat's story: #justB Knowledgeable**

Kat's father has hepatitis B, but nobody in the family was willing to talk about it. For years, they weren't allowed to share the same chopsticks or eat dinner with him. As Kat grew older, she learned how hepatitis B is actually spread and shared this information with the family. She also



began doing outreach and education to teach other immigrants about how hepatitis B is contracted, and what resources exist for screening and care. To read more, click [here](#).

"I was confused when I found out about my father's diagnosis. No one in the family was willing to talk about it, so I thought that it must be something like the flu that would go away on its own."

## COVID-19 Update

### "When someone in the family has Hepatitis B"

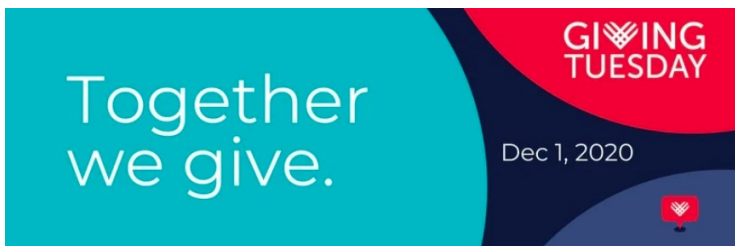
This November, as we gather with family near and far, virtually or in-person, to share meals and stories, we would like to highlight National Family Health History Day (Nov. 26) and provide a helpful [Know Hepatitis B \(KHB\) Campaign](#) resource, "[When Someone in the Family has Hepatitis B](#)" factsheet.

This one-page factsheet provides basic information about hepatitis B and the importance of testing and vaccinating family members. The document is available in 13 Asian and African languages as well as three English versions focused on [Asian American](#), [Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander](#), and [African Immigrant](#) communities. You can download and share within your communities for free!

### New tool, our Liver Cancer Drug Watch, now online

As part of our increased emphasis on liver cancer, along with our commitment to HBV work, the Hepatitis B Foundation has launched an online Liver Cancer Drug Watch. The new tool, which will be updated regularly, is tracking the development of many new drugs that could help treat liver cancer. Similarly, the Foundation launched our HBV Drug Watch, which we update monthly, more than 10 years ago.

The Hepatitis B Foundation is announcing the Liver Cancer Drug Watch during a virtual reception the evening of Nov. 12 for participants in The Liver Meeting Digital Experience, which is the annual meeting of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases. It will be an online-only event this year. To read the liver cancer drug watch, click [here](#).



**A great way to give is by joining our Champion's Club!**

It's easy to become a Hep B Champion! We rely on support from friends from all over the

world to keep our programs and research going. By giving a small, monthly gift, you can help us find the cure and improve lives of people living with hepatitis B throughout the year! To become a Champion today, click [here](#).

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## How Right Now Initiative Shares New Tools to Help with Coping and Resilience During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Hep B United is pleased to announce its support of *How Right Now*, an initiative that aims to address people's feelings of grief, loss and worry during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It offers information and support to help people cope and be resilient during this time. Hep B United and many other national, regional and local organizations are working together to help improve individual and community resilience. Visit [here](#) to explore the resources. Additional resources are being developed and will be made available.



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## National Family Caregivers Month and Hepatitis B



November is National Family Caregivers Month! There are over 40 million Americans who are unpaid caregivers to their families, friends and neighbors.

Someone who lives with an individual with hepatitis B may assume a caretaker position. This month we celebrate and support all the caregivers who work tirelessly to keep our family and communities strong. To learn more, click [here](#).

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## Hepatitis B Foundation journal pick of the month

### The case for simplifying and using absolute targets for viral hepatitis elimination goals

H. Razavi; Block, T.; Cohen, C., et al.

*Journal of Viral Hepatitis*, Sept. 26, 2020

Following on the 69th World Health Assembly's endorsement of the goal to eliminate hepatitis infection as a public health threat by 2030 and the World Health Organization's (WHO) global targets for the care and management of hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections, the authors propose simplified and specific targets. The objective of these recommendations, the authors write, is to provide more understandable targets that recognize countries' previous and existing elimination programs, assist with the assessment of progress towards actual elimination and encourage other countries to pursue their own elimination initiatives. The article, which is behind a paywall, is [here](#).

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## Top scientists lined up for the Blumberg Institute seminars

The Baruch S. Blumberg Institute, which is the Hepatitis B Foundation's research arm, has a strong lineup of prominent researchers 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).

The next seminar is **Dec. 3**, with Dr. Stephen Urban, a virologist at the University Hospital Heidelberg.

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.



## EVENTS

### **Dec. 2-4 - Hep B United Summit**

*Online*

[event website](#)

"Standing up for hepatitis B: Creative collaborations to amplify awareness, access and equity"

### **Dec. 3, 11 a.m. EDT**

**Stephen Urban, Ph.D., Department of Infectious Diseases,  
University Hospital Heidelberg**

[www.blumberginstitute.org/seminars/online](http://www.blumberginstitute.org/seminars/online)

"Inhibitor of entry as a therapeutic for hepatitis B and D"

### **Dec. 10, 11 a.m. EDT**

**Dongfang Liu, MBBS, Ph.D, Prof. of Pathology,  
Rutgers New Jersey School of Medicine**

[www.blumberginstitute.org/seminars/online](http://www.blumberginstitute.org/seminars/online)

"Natural Killer (NK) cells from basic immunobiology to clinical application"

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

