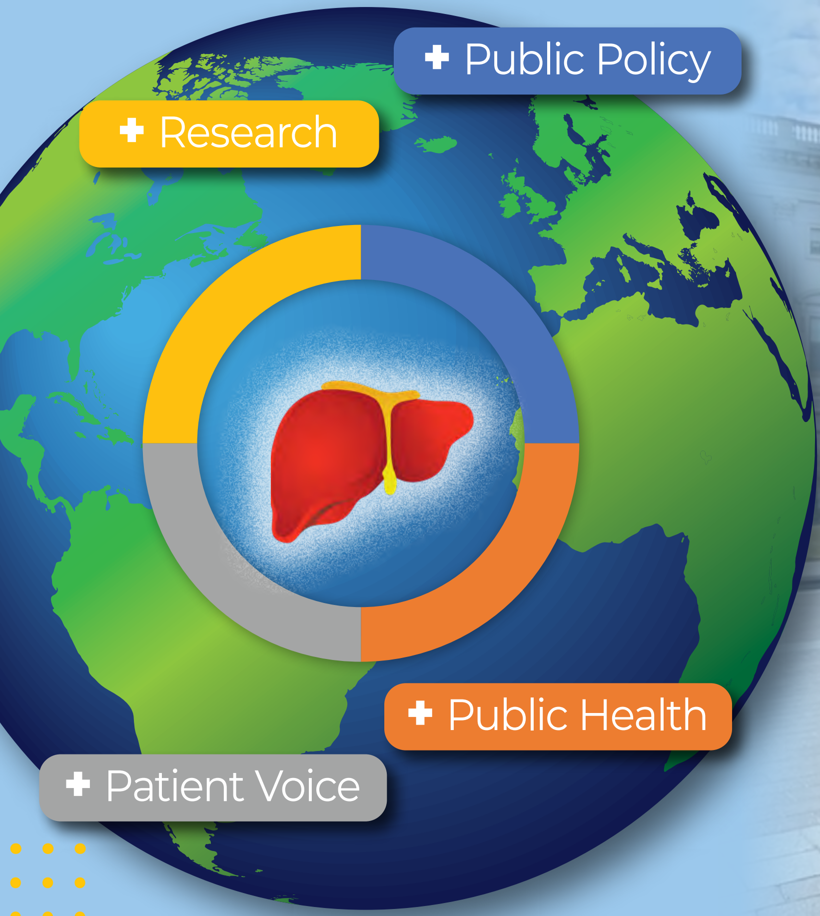
B INFORMED

Fall 2025

HepB.org
80

The Importance of Public Health & Research for a Healthier World



Hepatitis B Foundation

The Hepatitis B Foundation is a global nonprofit organization dedicated to finding a cure and improving the quality of life for those affected by hepatitis B worldwide through research, education and patient advocacy.

Protecting the Hepatitis B vaccine

In recent months, the new members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) have taken several actions that directly threaten access to the hepatitis B birth dose in the U.S. and undermine public trust in vaccines. The ACIP reviewed the longstanding universal hepatitis B birth dose vaccine recommendation during their meeting on Sept. 18 but decided to delay voting to remove this recommendation after their two-day meeting was overshadowed by confusion and ambiguity.

The Committee, however, made it clear on Sept. 19 that they will continue to deliberate changing the longstanding, successful recommendation from universal to risk-based, which is a strategy that has previously failed to protect those most vulnerable. They are also expected to vote on removing funding for the hepatitis B vaccine through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program—a federal program that provides childhood vaccines at no cost to millions of families across the U.S.—at some point in the near future.

In response to the meeting, the **Hepatitis B Foundation** partnered with several national organizations, including the **American Academy of Pediatrics**, the **American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases**, **Immunize.org** and the **Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations**, on a joint statement (posted here) expressing concern around the lack of evidence to remove universal birth dose, and calling for ACIP to utilize their previous scientific framework for evaluating changes to vaccine recommendations. The Foundation prepared and responded to the September ACIP meeting by organizing hundreds of public comments, given numerous national media interviews, and playing a key role in dispelling misinformation about the vaccine. In the past months, we have conducted dozens of Congressional office visits, hosted webinars reaching thousands of people, and created a new media toolkit to help improve knowledge about the hepatitis B vaccine.

The Foundation has played a key role in raising awareness about the benefits of the hepatitis B birth dose through Hill visits, webinars, public comments and a new media toolkit. **Dr. Chari Cohen** (president), **Dr. Su Wang** (public health advisor), and **Michaela Jackson** (director of prevention policy) also gave numerous national media interviews,including a live appearance on ABC News, highlighting the significant impacts of removing the universal recommendation.

Find resources at **www.hepb.org**.

HEPATITIS B FOUNDATION

LIVER CANCER PREVENTION

COST OF LIVING WITH HEPATITIS B

Hepatitis B costs millions, but prevention costs pennies

Hepatitis B, the world's leading cause of liver cancer, continues to impose a staggering, but preventable, burden on individuals and healthcare systems alike. Without widespread prevention and early intervention, the U.S. is projected to spend **more than $44.8 million by 2050** on hepatitis B-related care.

$44,822,000 BY 2050

DIRECT COSTS TO THE U.S. FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HEPATITIS B

Health care, screening, diagnostic testing and treatments for treating ✓cirrhosis, ✓liver cancer and ✓liver transplants.

up to $12,310 USD

COST OF MEDICATION ANNUALLY PER PATIENT

All of these costs and suffering could be prevented. It's cheaper to vaccinate than to medicate.

$0 USD

NO COST FOR FAMILIES TO PROTECT NEWBORNS

National programs save lives & have prevented +90,000 hepatitis B-related deaths in the U.S.

Vaccination is not only effective, it's far more affordable.

www.hepb.org

A LIFETIME of PROTECTION

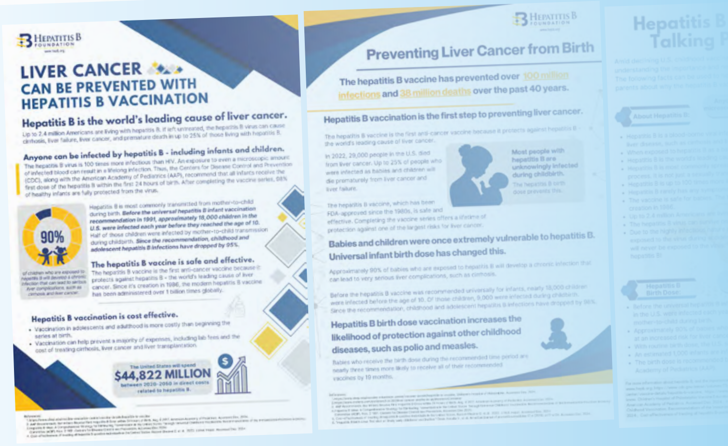
Providing a hepatitis B birth dose to all U.S. newborns prevents chronic infection and liver cancer.

America is a leader in childhood vaccinations.

Liver Cancer Prevention Starts at Birth

Universal birth dose vaccination is simple, safe and effective.

Let's talk about th



HEPATITIS B FOUNDATION

LIVER CANCER CAN BE PREVENTED WITH HEPATITIS B VACCINATION

Hepatitis B is the world's leading cause of liver cancer.

Anyone can be infected by hepatitis B - including infants and children.

90%

The hepatitis B vaccine is safe and effective.

Hepatitis B vaccination is cost effective.

The United States will spend $44,822 MILLION between 2020-2050 in direct costs related to hepatitis B.

Preventing Liver Cancer from Birth

The hepatitis B vaccine has prevented over 100 million infections and 38 million deaths over the past 40 years.

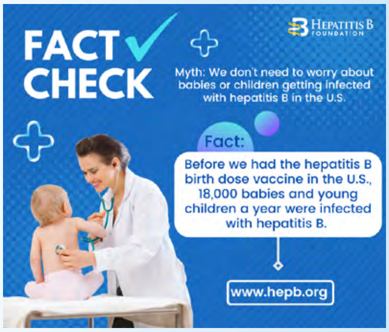
Hepatitis B vaccination is the first step to preventing liver cancer.

Most people with hepatitis B are unknowingly infected during childbirth.

Babies and children were once extremely vulnerable to hepatitis B. Universal infant birth dose has changed this.

Hepatitis B birth dose vaccination increases the likelihood of protection against other childhood diseases, such as polio and measles.

Hepatitis B Talking



FACT CHECK

HEPATITIS B FOUNDATION

Myth: We don't need to worry about babies or children getting infected with hepatitis B in the U.S.

Fact: Before we had the hepatitis B birth dose vaccine in the U.S., 18,000 babies and young children a year were infected with hepatitis B.

www.hepb.org

HEPATITIS B FOUNDATION

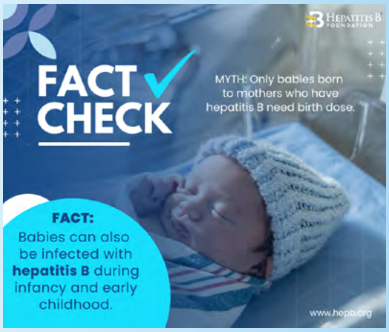
FACT CHECK

Myth: Hepatitis B is rare in the U.S. We don't need to worry about babies or children getting infected.

Fact: Up to 2.4 million people in the U.S. have hepatitis B – but 70% remain undiagnosed.

www.hepb.org

SCAN CODE for resources



HEPATITIS B FOUNDATION

FACT CHECK

MYTH: Only babies born to mothers who have hepatitis B need birth dose.

FACT: Babies can also be infected with **hepatitis B** during infancy and early childhood.

www.hepb.org

Celebrating the Legacy of Baruch S. Blumberg: A Century of Impact

+ Research

To celebrate the 100th birthday of the brilliant scientist and Nobel Prize Laureate who discovered the hepatitis B virus, Baruch S. Blumberg, MB, DPhil, more than 100 of his admirers, friends, family members and former colleagues gathered on July 29 for an event in Philadelphia. Sponsored by the Hepatitis B Foundation, Baruch S. Blumberg Institute and American Philosophical Society (APS), the event was held at the APS in Benjamin Franklin Hall.

The event included a panel discussion with **Dr. Jane Blumberg**, who is Dr. Blumberg's daughter; **Dr. Timothy Block**, co-founder of the Hepatitis B Foundation and Blumberg Institute; **Dr. Chari Cohen**, president of the Foundation; and **Dr. Walter Tsou**, president of the Philadelphia County Medical Society; and moderated by **Dr. Michelle McDonald**, director of the APS Library and Museum. A recording is posted on our YouTube channel.

Dr. Blumberg and colleagues discovered the hepatitis B virus in 1967. Two years later he co-invented the first hepatitis B vaccine, the world's first anti-cancer vaccine.

After helping launch the Foundation and what today is the Baruch S. Blumberg Institute, Dr. Blumberg worked continuously with our team and maintained an office on our Doylestown campus until his passing in 2011.

Dr. Blumberg was born on July 28, 1925, and on that date every year people around the globe celebrate World Hepatitis Day in his honor.

Use the QR code to watch the event video to learn how Dr. Blumberg and his team made groundbreaking scientific discoveries, and the auspicious role Philadelphia has played in hepatitis B research and public health.

Dr. Block (left) and Dr. Blumberg in 2005.

Sir Mark Thompson, keynote speaker and CEO of CNN, with hiking boots worn extensively by Dr. Blumberg, his father-in-law.

✚ Patient Voice

Storytellers in Action: Amplifying Voices, Inspiring Change

Storytellers in Action is a unique program designed to empower individuals living with hepatitis B, hepatitis D and liver cancer to share their personal journeys with confidence and impact. Since January 2025, our pilot cohort of storytellers has gathered monthly, featuring engaging guest speakers, interactive workshops and open discussions. Over six months, participants had an opportunity to strengthen their storytelling skills, gain confidence and become powerful advocates for change.

At the April workshop, we warmly welcomed our newest #justB storytellers—**MW, Lynette, Bruno, Tay and Trieu**—who are bravely sharing their journeys with hepatitis B. Their stories reflect resilience, advocacy and the process of healing, reminding us of the power of lived experiences to educate and inspire. You can explore their moving stories at **www.hepbstories.org**.

Each participant brings a unique perspective:

 # Bruno reflects on the strength of family.
 # Lynette shares the importance of early diagnosis and care.
 # MW speaks to the challenges of stigma.
 # Tay highlights the role of community support.
 # Trieu reflects on navigating treatment and recovery.

We are proud to spotlight these individuals and celebrate their courage in transforming personal challenges into awareness and action. Their voices are helping to break stigma, influence policy and inspire hope for the **300 million affected by hepatitis B worldwide**.

Together, we are making a difference—one story at a time.

“If I hadn't started the hepatitis B medication before my cancer diagnoses, my liver might not have been healthy enough to manage.”

“I'm a doctor, but I'm also a patient. If others can learn to advocate for themselves from my story, I'm happy.”

- Trieu

Meet our newest #justB storytellers—MW, Lynette, Bruno, Tay and Trieu—who bravely shared their hepatitis B journeys at our April workshop. Their stories reflect resilience, identity, advocacy and healing. Explore their experiences at www.hepbstories.org

“The only reminder of my Hepatitis B is the daily medication I take each morning.”

At the end of the day, it doesn't matter how you got hepatitis B, because hepatitis B doesn't discriminate.

~MW

“Staying healthy—whether it's with hep B or having a relationship with food—takes daily effort. It's a marathon, not a sprint.”

Tay

Hepatitis B Foundation hosts Inaugural Liver Cancer Patient Conference


B Informed

Virtual Liver Cancer Patient Conference

17th June 2025

LEARN THE LINK:
HEPATITIS B & LIVER CANCER

Now available!

Hepatitis B Foundation

Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center

The Hepatitis B Foundation hosted the first liver cancer-focused *B Informed!* patient conference, *Working Together to Tell a New Story*, in June of 2025.

The purpose was to explore hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), or primary liver cancer, from a variety of perspectives that are most relevant to those with lived experience or at high risk, and to hear from experts about the most effective strategies for improving early detection and HCC outcomes in the U.S.

The online event included presentations from experts in the field discussing the current epidemiology of HCC and some of the biggest obstacles to routine HCC surveillance for people living with risk factors, from both clinical and socio-ecological perspectives. A panel discussion with individuals who themselves had been treated for, or were at high risk for HCC, discussing their experiences across the full cascade of care and the impacts of the disease on their lives, was one of the event's highlights.

Research updates and an overview of the current HCC drug pipeline, as well as strategies for effective community outreach and social support, were also discussed.

The conference had over 80 real-time attendees at its peak and the recording has had 159 views over subsequent weeks. The success of this endeavor will hopefully lay the groundwork for similar events going forward. The key findings from the conference can be found in this infographic to the right. >

You can view the **conference recording** at:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Ceaa4SUbw0

B Informed Virtual Liver Cancer Patient Conference

Working Together to Tell a New Story

Key Takeaways

01. Importance of early detection

All those who are at increased risk for HCC should have access to surveillance for early detection, though many challenges remain and most liver cancers are still found at a later stage.

02. The impacts of HCC are multi-faceted.

The HCC journey can have physical, emotional and professional impacts, and support from various sources is critical throughout the process.

03. Multiple factors can impede routine HCC surveillance.

These can be social, environmental, cultural, and/or economic in nature.

04. Different types of support are critical.

It is important that there is a multi-sectoral team supporting people with HCC through the journey (healthcare providers, social workers, case navigators, family/friends, support groups, advocacy orgs), all of whom are seen as equal partners along the way.

05. Advocacy is crucial.

Individuals need to be empowered to advocate for themselves and their care. Collectively, we need to advocate to improve care, treatment and services for people with HCC.

06. The power of storytelling & community education.

Sharing personal HCC stories and serving as a community educator and advocate can be a rewarding experience for people who have been impacted by HCC.

07. Cultural competence & community awareness.

It is imperative that we improve community awareness in culturally competent ways, to promote both screening for HCC risk factors and HCC surveillance.

08. Promising new research.

There are new medical innovations in the research pipeline for HCC that can potentially lead to better health outcomes and offer hope for the future.

Do you have thoughts on how to move the needle on improving HCC outcomes in the United States? We would love to hear from you! Click this link or scan the QR code to share your opinions!

Hepatitis B Foundation

Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University

Global Hepatitis B & D Community Advisory Board (CAB) Update

The mission of the Global Hepatitis B & D Community Advisory Board (CAB), established in 2022, is to integrate community perspectives and lived experience into hepatitis B and D drug development and clinical research. By ensuring that people living with, and affected by, these conditions are meaningfully represented, the CAB works toward advancing equitable and effective cures.

THE CAB HAS 24 MEMBERS FROM 16 COUNTRIES IN AFRICA, EUROPE, ASIA, AND NORTH AMERICA. EACH CAB MEMBER BRINGS A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE AND REPRESENTS THE COMMUNITIES MOST IMPACTED BY HEPATITIS B, ENSURING THAT THE GROUP'S WORK REMAINS INCLUSIVE, RELEVANT, AND COMMUNITY-DRIVEN.

Members launched several key initiatives this year. Three members wrote a two-part blog on the lived experiences of, and best practices for, disclosing hepatitis B or D status to partners and family. This resource, now in its final drafting phase, will be translated into Bulgarian and other languages for distribution on members' organizational websites. Two members collaborated on a statement examining how current U.S. politicals are affecting people worldwide living with hepatitis B and D. One led the CAB's submission of comments on the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases' draft hepatitis B treatment guidelines, gathering input from across the membership before submitting. The CAB also participated in two meetings with pharmaceutical companies this year.

Recent and forthcoming publications highlight both lived experiences and practical guidance for improving care. These include *Lived experiences of clinical trials and how patient insights can improve equity in process and outcomes* (blog), *Global Hepatitis B and D community advisory board: expectations, challenges, and lessons learned, Best practices for engaging with affected communities: chronic hepatitis B as a case study*, and two blogs on disclosure: *Disclosure: How to tell your partner, family, or friends about your hepatitis B or D status – Tips and tricks and Importance of disclosing your hepatitis B and hepatitis D status.*

Improving Capacity for Patient-Centered Research to Address Hepatitis B

The Hepatitis B Foundation has been approved for funding through the Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award Program, an initiative of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). This project aims to amplify the voices of people living with hepatitis B by integrating their perspectives into the development of new therapeutics and clinical research.

Through comparative effectiveness research (CER), the project will build and train a diverse consortium of patients, caregivers, advocatses, health care providers, researchers and policy stakeholders. Together, they will identify patient-prioritized research questions, develop strategies to educate and empower the broader community, and establish a comprehensive patient-centered CER agenda. This framework will guide future research on hepatitis B diagnosis, prevention and management, ensuring that patient needs and lived experiences are at the center of progress. Ultimately, the initiative seeks to improve quality of life and treatment outcomes for people with hepatitis B in the U.S. and worldwide.

Community Health Center Learning Collaborative

The annual Community Health Center Learning Collaborative fosters a cohort of four to eight community-based health centers across the U.S. serving Asian American, Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander and African communities, and/or people who use drugs. Hosted in collaboration with the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO), cohort members learn to integrate and improve their capacity to implement hepatitis B education, screening, vaccination and linkage to care programs and promote cross-sector partnerships with community-based organizations. The cohort meets weekly for a month, and members complete homework in between sessions.

The project brings together staff with selected community health centers from across the U.S. to model hepatitis B community engagement, prevention and control programs. They share best practices, skills, strategies and tested resources in a virtual group learning series. This intensive training allows cohort members to begin to implement changes to their organization with minimal delay and real-time technical assistance. Hepatitis B Foundation staff provide one-on-one support to each organization over the following year to ensure cohort members are able to implement their projects. Since its launch in 2023, the Learning Collaborative has graduated 20 participants from its three cohorts, fostering improved capacity and helping 13 community clinics to improve the hepatitis B care cascade.


Visit our resource

DRUG WATCH

for the latest on hepatitis B treatment

DRUG WATCH SCAN CODE

New therapies in development

The Foundation maintains a comprehensive list of drugs currently in pre-clinical and clinical development for chronic hepatitis B. We update this list monthly and you can find it on our website.

www.hepb.org > Treatment & Management > Drug Watch

B Heppy Podcast
https://bheppy.buzzsprout.com

HepB blog

https://www.hepb.org/blog
High-value insights on many topics


SAVE THE DATE

HEPATITIS B FOUNDATION

Gala

APRIL 10, 2026

THE WARRINGTON
1360 Almshouse Road
Warrington, Pa.

Save the date Friday, April 10, 2026 for the annual Hepatitis B Foundation Gala at The Warrington in PA!

Our primary fundraiser, the Gala is a fun celebration, with presentations of the prestigious Baruch S. Blumberg award and the Community Leadership Award. Details are coming soon!

More at **www.hepbgala.org**.

HEPATITIS B FOUNDATION
3805 Old Easton Road, Doylestown, PA 18902
Phone: (215) 489-4900
www.hepb.org info@hepb.org

The Hepatitis B Foundation is a global nonprofit organization dedicated to finding a cure and improving the quality of life for those affected by hepatitis B worldwide through research, education and patient advocacy.

Contact – monique.benvenutti@hepb.org

Layout & Design: Jill M. Brown, CP Print+Promo

HEPATITIS B
FOUNDATION
3805 Old Easton Road
Doylestown, PA 18902
Phone: (215) 489-4900
www.hepb.org info@hepb.org

Fighting to save birth-dose vaccination in the U.S.

The current Advisory for Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), which the new federal administration re-created this year, is seriously considering removing current universal recommendations for hepatitis B birth dose vaccine in the U.S. It seems clear that ACIP is inclined to remove or greatly weaken the birth dose recommendation, which we believe would be a grave mistake.

What does this mean?

We will undoubtedly see completely preventable hepatitis B infections among babies and children in the U.S.

Before universal birth dose was introduced in the U.S., 18,000 babies and young children were infected with hepatitis B each year. With universal birth dose, those infections decreased dramatically – in 2019, only 16 babies tested positive for hepatitis B at birth. The hepatitis B vaccine saves lives. Almost all babies and children exposed to the virus develop chronic infection, and up to 25% will develop liver failure or liver cancer without medical care and treatment.

What can be done now?

Help us continue to fight to save lives. Your gift to the Foundation will support our advocacy, education and public health programs that prevent new infections and save lives.

Your gift fuels our ability to perform this work.

Help us save lives.

Your support today is needed now more than ever.
Donate online at **hepb.org/donate**

PLEASE DONATE

Scan to donate

www.hepb.org/donate.
Thank you.

For More Information About Hepatitis B Foundation Programs

- **HBV Clinical Trials ...** hepb.org/clinicaltrials
- **Hep B United ...** hepbunited.org
- **Hepatitis Delta Connect ...** hepDconnect.org
- **Liver Cancer Connect ...** livercancerconnect.org

This issue of ***B Informed*** and all back issues are online at
hepb.org

SCAN ME

Find HBF on social media:

/hepbfoundation
/hepatitis-b-foundation
@hepbfoundation
/hepbfoundation
@hepbfoundation
hepb.org/blog