

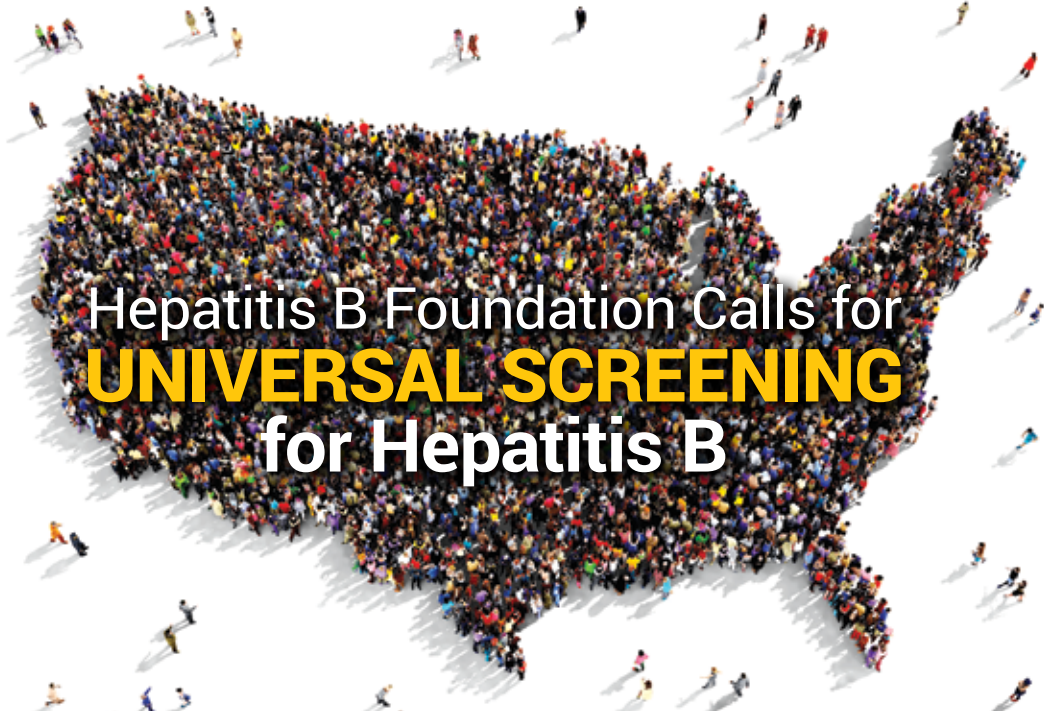


# Informed

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HEPATITIS B FOUNDATION

HepB.org

73  
Summer  
2018



## Hepatitis B Foundation Calls for **UNIVERSAL SCREENING** for Hepatitis B

All Americans should know their status to eliminate public health threat

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2018 Crystal Ball Gala

In recognition of World Hepatitis Day in July, the Hepatitis B Foundation has called for all Americans to be tested for hepatitis B infection. The formal recommendation was approved by HBF's Scientific and Medical Advisory Board to achieve the World Health Organization's (WHO) ambitious goal of eliminating hepatitis B by the year 2030.



**2.2 million**  
Americans infected

**292 million**  
Worldwide infected

Up to 2.2 million Americans, and more than 292 million people worldwide, are chronically infected with this serious virus of the liver, which can lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer. Because there are often few symptoms, hepatitis B frequently goes undiagnosed, with experts estimating that only 20-30% are aware of their infection.

"We have made the recommendation to test all adults for hepatitis B because we believe it is the only way to identify those who need care and reduce deaths due to hepatitis B infection," explained

**Timothy Block, PhD**, President of the Hepatitis B Foundation and its Baruch S. Blumberg Institute. "Current guidelines recommend testing for people in high risk populations, but data suggests that up to 40% of those infected may not fall within those populations. It is imperative that we test everyone in order to provide care and education that will reduce deaths from hepatitis B."

This recommendation is a bold shift from the current hepatitis B risk-based screening guidelines published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). But multiple

challenges, including the complexity of risk-based screening, and stigma surrounding hepatitis B, have led to a lack of adherence of the current guidelines, and there has not been a significant increase in hepatitis B testing in the U.S.

HBF's recommendation is limited to adults, because universal infant vaccination has been standard in the U.S. since 1991. The new recommendation includes the provision that individuals who test negative for hepatitis B in the screening and have not been vaccinated, be offered and receive an effective hepatitis B vaccine.

*Continues on page 3 »*



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 through research, education and patient advocacy.

## Baruch S. Blumberg Institute Elects Wayne Yetter, MBA, as Board Chair



Wayne Yetter, MBA

The Baruch S. Blumberg Institute is pleased to announce the election of **Wayne Yetter, MBA**, as its board chair. The Blumberg Institute is the independent research institute established the Hepatitis B Foundation to conduct discovery research. Mr.

Yetter was the founding CEO of Astra Merck and former CEO of Novartis Pharmaceuticals U.S., and has served as a member of the Blumberg and Hepatitis B Foundation boards. “We are proud to have Mr. Yetter lead our board,” said Blumberg Institute President and Co-Founder, Timothy M. Block, PhD. “He brings decades of successful research company executive experience to our

organization, having served in positions of the greatest responsibility.”

With a career of 30 years in the pharmaceutical field, Mr. Yetter has served in executive positions at Pfizer, Merck, Astra Merck (now named Astra Zeneca), and Novartis. Other positions held by Mr. Yetter include being Chief Operating Officer of healthcare market research company, IMS Health, and chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Synavant, Inc.

Mr. Yetter has worked as chairman of the Board and lead director of several public biotech and healthcare companies. He is a member of the Boards of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association, and the National Pharmaceutical Council. He earned his undergraduate degree in biology from Wilkes University, and an MBA from Bryant University.



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### In Memoriam

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## New Two-Dose HBV Vaccine Recommended by ACIP

HEPATITIS B FOUNDATION LEADERS EXPECT USE OF HEPLISAV-B TO INCREASE IMMUNIZATION RATES IN U.S.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices’ (ACIP) voted in February to unanimously recommend **HEPLISAV-B™** for use among individuals age 18 years and older to prevent hepatitis B infection (HBV). The Hepatitis B Foundation welcomes the use of the new vaccine, which can be completed in two doses and is expected to increase immunization rates for adults in the United States. HEPLISAV-B™ was approved for use by the FDA on July 28, 2017. It is the first new hepatitis B vaccine in more than 25 years, and the only two dose vaccine for the prevention of infection.

Previous vaccines for hepatitis B require three doses over the course of six months to protect against this deadly liver infection, and vaccination initiatives have shown that as few as 13% of people who receive the first dose of the vaccine complete the final dose.

According to Kate Moraras, Senior Program Director of the Hepatitis B Foundation, who provided public testimony at February’s ACIP meeting, “Vaccination is a critical tool towards eliminating hepatitis B, but in the U.S. only 25% of adults are vaccinated. Having a new 2-dose vaccine can help to greatly increase vaccine coverage,

especially among those at high-risk for infection, such as people with diabetes and HIV-infected individuals.”

Binh Ly, a hepatitis B advocate and *#justB* storyteller from Washington. D.C., also provided testimony at the ACIP meeting, stating that “the availability of a two-dose vaccine over 1 month instead of being given as 3 doses over 6 months is a critical tool to protect many more Americans – this is one less barrier for vulnerable and at-risk communities to receive necessary protection.”

**2 POKES.**  
A lifetime of protection.



HEPLISAV-B  
CAN BE COMPLETED WITH  
2 SHOTS IN 1 MONTH



# Hepatitis B Foundation Calls for UNIVERSAL SCREENING for Hepatitis B

## Diagnosing Hepatitis B in the U.S. By the Numbers

« Continues from page 1

The WHO has called for reduction in the number of deaths due to hepatitis B by at least 65% by the year 2030.

While increased vaccination rates can reduce the number of new cases, “the only way to achieve the WHO goal is to identify those with a chronic infection, by screening, and then linking them with care,” said **Chari Cohen, DrPH, MPH**, Vice President for Public Health and Programs, at the Hepatitis B Foundation.

“Testing based only on risk factors has failed to identify over a million infected individuals,” Cohen said. “It is time to move forward with universal testing to make this effort most effective and most efficient.”

While there is still no cure for chronic hepatitis B, current medications work by lowering the amount of virus in the blood, which in turn reduces damage to the liver. Effective treatment has been shown to reduce death from liver disease by 50-70% in those with chronic infection. In addition, there are many drugs currently in development that could provide even more effective treatment or a cure in the future. However, it is estimated that fewer than 7% of Americans with chronic hepatitis B are currently receiving treatment.

“It is absolutely within our power to reduce deaths due to hepatitis B,” said **Robert Gish, MD**, HBF Medical Director. “But it will only be possible if we identify everyone who needs treatment and help them find care they can afford.”

**Up to 2.2 million people in the U.S. are infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV)**

**70% of those infected are unaware that they are living with the disease**

**Only 25% of adults are currently protected by the hepatitis B vaccine**

Without **early diagnosis and intervention,**

**1 in 4 of those chronically infected with HBV will die prematurely from cirrhosis, liver failure or liver cancer.**

## Partnering to End Hepatitis B in Vietnam

Vietnam has one of the highest rates of viral hepatitis in Asia, with an estimated 8.6 million Vietnamese chronically infected with hepatitis B, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). In 2016, the Hepatitis B Foundation partnered with the Vietnam Viral Hepatitis Alliance (V-VHA), established and led by **Doan Dao, MD**, to launch a pilot hepatitis B screening and care program in Ho Chi Minh City.

The goals of the program were to determine the prevalence of hepatitis B, develop a model for linkage to care, and impact national policy on prevention and protection of health care providers from viral hepatitis. V-VHA also supports a public health education and awareness program throughout Vietnam.

The initiative achieved outstanding results in just one year. In the first six months of 2016, V-VHA screened 1,000 individuals, connecting infected individuals to a network of care, and helping those who were uninfected to complete the three-dose vaccine series. The pilot's success helped V-VHA to build

partnerships and develop a model to continue and expand the project to reach more people in the community.

In 2017, V-VHA was given an international NGO status by Vietnam's Department of State, and was recognized by Vietnam's General Department of Preventive Medicine and WHO-Vietnam. Their program has grown to include ongoing screenings and linkage to care, a new pilot program to screen health

care providers in hospital settings, and a monthlong hepatitis awareness campaign during Hepatitis Awareness Month in July.

HBF is proud to be a partner of this international effort, which involves HBF medical director **Robert Gish, MD**, who serves on the board of V-VHA and has been a driving force to address the problem of hepatitis B in Vietnam for almost a decade.



A community screening site in Ho Chi Minh City

Family/Drug Name	Mechanism	Company	Website	USA Status
<b>Interferons</b>				
Mimic naturally occurring infection-fighting immune substances produced in the body				
Intron A ( <i>Interferon alfa-2b</i> )	Immunomodulator	Merck, USA	merck.com	Approved 1991
Pegasys ( <i>PegInterferon alfa-2a</i> )	Immunomodulator	Genentech, USA	gene.com	Approved 2005
<b>Nucleos(t)ide Analogues</b>				
Interfere with the viral DNA polymerase enzyme used for hepatitis B virus reproduction				
Epivir ( <i>Lamivudine</i> )	* Inhibits viral DNA polymerase	GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)	gsk.com	Approved 1998
Hepsera ( <i>Adefovir Dipivoxil</i> )	* Inhibits viral DNA polymerase	Gilead Sciences, USA	gilead.com	Approved 2002
Baraclude ( <i>Entecavir</i> )	* Inhibits viral DNA polymerase	Bristol-Myers Squibb, USA	bms.com	Approved 2005
Tyzeka ( <i>Telbivudine</i> )	* Inhibits viral DNA polymerase	Novartis, Switzerland	novartis.com	Approved 2006
Viread ( <i>Tenofovir</i> )	Inhibits viral DNA polymerase	Gilead Sciences, USA	gilead.com	Approved 2008
Vemlidy ( <i>TAF or Tenofovir Alafenamide</i> )	Prodrug of tenofovir	Gilead Sciences, USA	gilead.com	Approved 2016
Levovir ( <i>Clevudine</i> )	Inhibits viral DNA polymerase	Bukwang, S. Korea	bukwang.co.kr	Approved 2006 in S. Korea
Besivo ( <i>formerly ANA 380/LB80380</i> )	Inhibits viral DNA polymerase	Ildong Pharma, S. Korea	ildong.com/en	Approved 2017 in S. Korea
Zadaxin	Immunomodulator	SciClone, USA	sciclone.com	Approved outside USA
<b>DIRECT ACTING ANTIVIRALS</b>				
Targets the virus and interferes with specific steps in the HBV life cycle to prevent replication				
<b>TDF Pro Drugs</b>				
Targets the virus and interferes with specific steps in the HBV life cycle to prevent replication				
TXL ( <i>CMX 157</i> )	Prodrug of tenofovir	ContraVir, USA	contravir.com	Phase II
<b>Silencing RNA's (siRNAs)</b>				
Interferes and destroys viral RNA				
ARB-1467	RNAi gene silencer (1.0)	Arbutus Biopharma, Canada	arbutusbio.com	Phase II
ARB-1740	RNAi gene silencer (2.0)	Arbutus Biopharma, USA	arbutusbio.com	Phase II
RG6004 ( <i>HBV LNA</i> )	RNA targeted via Locked Nucleic Acid	Roche, Switzerland	roche.com	Phase I/II
ARO-HBV	RNAi gene silencer	Arrowhead Pharmaceuticals, USA	arrowheadpharma.com	Phase I/II
ALN-HBV	RNAi gene silencer	Alnylam and Vir Biotech, USA	alnylam.com	Preclinical
Hepbarna ( <i>BB-HB-331</i> )	RNAi gene silencer	Benitec, Australia	benitec.com	Preclinical
Lunar-HBV	RNAi gene silencer	Arcturus, USA with Janssen	arcturusrx.com	Preclinical
<b>Entry Inhibitors</b>				
Interferes with HBV getting into liver cells				
Myrcludex B	Entry inhibitor	Hepatera, Russia with MYR GmbH, Germany	myr-pharma.com	Phase II
<b>Capsid Inhibitors</b>				
Interferes with the viral DNA protein shield				
Morphothiadin ( <i>GLS4</i> )	Capsid inhibitor	HEC Pharma, PR China	pharm.hec.cn/en	Phase II
NVR 3-778	Capsid inhibitor	Janssen, USA	janssen.com	Phase II
AIC 649	Capsid inhibitor	AiCuris, Germany	aicuris.com	Phase I
JNJ56136379	Capsid inhibitor	Janssen, USA	janssen.com	Phase I
ABI-H0731	Capsid inhibitor	Assembly Biosciences, USA	assemblybio.com	Phase I
AB-423	Capsid inhibitor	Arbutus Biopharma, Canada	arbutusbio.com	Phase I
EP-027367	Capsid inhibitor	Enanta Pharmaceuticals, USA	enanta.com	Preclinical
<b>HBsAg Inhibitors</b>				
Interferes with production of HBV surface antigen (sAg)				
Rep 2139	sAg inhibitor	REPLICor, Canada	replicor.com	Phase II
Rep 2165	sAg inhibitor	REPLICor, Canada	replicor.com	Phase II
<b>Antisense Molecules</b>				
Binds to the viral mRNA to prevent it from turning into viral protein				
IONIS-HBVRx ( <i>GSK3228836</i> )	Viral protein inhibitor	Ionis Pharma with GSK, USA	ionispharma.com	Phase I
IONIS-HBVLRx ( <i>GSK33389404</i> )	Viral protein inhibitor	Ionis Pharma with GSK, USA	ionispharma.com	Phase I
<b>Ribonuclease H Inhibitor</b>				
Inhibit degradation of viral RNA				
RNaseH Inhibitor	Viral RNase inhibitor	Arbutus Biopharma, Canada	arbutusbio.com	Preclinical
<b>INDIRECT ACTING ANTIVIRALS</b>				
Targets the human immune system to attack the HBV virus				
<b>Therapeutic Vaccines</b>				
Vaccine technology used to stimulate the immune system as a treatment				
GS 4774	Therapeutic vaccine	Globimmune, USA	globeimmune.com	Phase II
INO-1800	Therapeutic vaccine	Inovio, USA	inovio.com	Phase I
HB-110	Therapeutic vaccine	Ichor Medical Systems with Janssen, USA	ichorms.com	Phase I
TG1050	Therapeutic vaccine	Transgene, France	transgene.com	Phase I
HepTcell	Therapeutic vaccine	Altimmune, USA	altimmune.com	Phase I
TomegaVax HBV	Therapeutic vaccine	TomegaVax, USA	tomegavax.com	Preclinical
MVA-VLP	Therapeutic vaccine	GeoVax Labs, USA	geovax.com	Preclinical
<b>Innate Immune Defense Pathway</b>				
Compounds that activate the innate immune system				
GS 9620	TLR-7 agonist	Gilead Sciences, USA	gilead.com	Phase II
RO6864018 ( <i>RG7795/ANA773</i> )	TLR-7 agonist	Roche, Switzerland	roche.com	Phase II
Inarigivir ( <i>SB9200</i> )	RIG -1 and NOD2 agonist	Spring Bank Pharmaceuticals, USA	springbankpharm.com	Phase II
GS9688	TLR-8 agonist	Gilead Sciences, USA	gilead.com	Phase I
<b>Host Acting Pathway</b>				
Compounds that induce programmed cell death (apoptosis)				
APG-1387	Apoptosis Inducer	Ascentage Pharma, China	en.ascentagepharma.com	Phase I
CRV 431 ( <i>CPI 431-32</i> )	Ciclofillin inhibitor	ContraVir, USA	contravir.com	Preclinical
<b>Gene Editing</b>				
EBT106	CRISPR/Cas	Excision Biotherapeutics, USA	excisionbio.com	Preclinical
HBV	CRISPR/Cas	Intellia Therapeutics, USA	intelliatx.com	Preclinical
<b>Other</b>				
GC1102	sAg monoclonal antibody	Green Cross, S. Korea	globalgreencross.com	Phase II
EYP001	FXR agonist	Enyo Pharma, France	enyopharma.com	Phase I
LTCR-H2-1	T Cell immunotherapy	Lion TCR, Singapore	liontcr.com	Preclinical
<b>HEPATITIS DELTA VIRUS (HDV)</b>				
Lambda ( <i>Pegylated Interferon</i> )	Immune response stimulator	Eiger Biopharma, USA	eigerbio.com	Orphan Drug Status
Myrcludex B	Entry inhibitor	MYR-GmbH, Germany	myr-pharma.com	Phase II
Lonafarnib	Prenylation inhibitor	Eiger Biopharma, USA	eigerbio.com	Phase II
Rep 2139	HBsAg inhibitor	REPLICor, Canada	replicor.com	Phase II
Ezetimibe	NTCP inhibitor	Ziauddin University Hospital, Pakistan	zu.edu.pk	Phase II
ALN-HDV	RNAi gene silencer	Alnylam, USA	alnylam.com	Preclinical



# 32<sup>nd</sup> International Molecular Biology of Hepatitis B Virus Meeting Held in Washington DC

The International HBV Meeting was held September 3-7, 2017, with more than **550 scientists** from **36 countries** meeting in Washington DC to discuss the latest research progress in hepatitis B (HBV) and hepatitis delta (HDV). This was the largest turnout ever for the meeting in the US.



2017 HBV Meeting co-chairs, Drs. Kramvis and Liang

The 2017 meeting, co-chaired by **Drs. Anna Kramvis** (U Witwatersrand, SA) and **T. Jake Liang** (NIH, USA), was administratively coordinated by The Hepatitis B Foundation (HBF).

The meeting remains the only international conference dedicated to HBV molecular biology and is considered the definitive meeting on the subject.

The meeting is characterized by presentations, given by senior and junior scientists, including trainees, with plenty of room for vigorous discussion. This year, there was a special satellite conference focusing on HBV therapeutics (*Novel HBV Antiviral or Immune Modulatory therapies in Late Pre-Clinical/Clinical Development*), which was also organized by the meeting organizers and HBF,

and co-chaired by **Dr. Anna Lok** (University of Michigan) and **Dr. Marc Ghany** (National Institutes of Health). The satellite symposia brought clinicians and those involved in the clinical phases of therapeutic drug discovery together with the basic scientists. The scientific quality of the work presented was notable, with many novel and innovative findings presented, as a result of the improvement in the systems used to study HBV and HDV.

This year, the meeting organizers conferred the inaugural “Distinguished Award in Hepatitis B Research” to **Francis Chisari, MD**, of the Scripps Institute, La Jolla, CA. Dr. Chisari’s research focuses on the immunovirology of chronic hepatitis B and C and Professor Chisari is considered to be a founding scientist of the field. The meeting organizers plan to recognize an outstanding scientist with this award at each future meeting. There are still many outstanding scientists to recognize, and we all expect



Distinguished Award in Hepatitis B Research honoree **Francis Chisari, MD**.

## 2018 Bruce Witte Distinguished Lecturer



**Dennis Liotta, PhD**, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Chemistry and Executive Director Emory Institute for Drug Development (center) delivered the HBF’s 2018 Bruce Witte Distinguished Lecture on the role of the immune system in hepatitis B infection on May 3, 2018. He is pictured with HBF co-founders **Paul and Janine Witte** (left), who established the named lectureship, and **Tim Block, PhD**, HBF President (right).

that among the current trainees there are future Frank Chisaris, who will make seminal contributions to the field in the future.

The first International HBV Meeting was held in 1985 in Cold Spring Harbor, USA and was organized by **Drs. Harold Varmus** and **Jesse Summers**. Today, the meeting annually elects new academic co-chairs and rotates between North America, Europe, and Asia, with the Hepatitis B Foundation as the official sponsor of this important scientific meeting.

## Hepatitis B Foundation Joins Forces with Grace Meng and NYC Hep B Coalition to Promote Awareness in Asian American Community



The Hepatitis B Foundation (HBF) and the New York City Hep B Coalition, founded by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, co-sponsored a community forum on “Eliminating Hepatitis B in New York City,” at the Flushing Branch of the Queens Library in Flushing, NY on May 2, 2018.

**U.S. Representative Grace Meng (D-6th CD, Queens)**, the keynote speaker, stated that “hepatitis B is a major health issue that disproportionately impacts Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI).” Meng added that “the virus can lead to cirrhosis, liver failure, or liver cancer if left untreated. That is why it’s critical for AAPI communities to become more aware of hepatitis B, and the importance of getting tested.”

Ms. Meng, who co-chairs the Congressional Hepatitis Caucus, pointed out that her congressional district is 42% Asian American and in Flushing, Asian Americans make up 67% (48,500) of her constituents.

“I am deeply concerned that most people living with chronic hepatitis B are not aware that they have this life-threatening infection, and most of those who have been diagnosed are not being treated” said Meng.

**Dr. Ann Winters**, Medical Director of the Viral Hepatitis Program at New York City’s Department of Health and Mental Hygiene said that the department is working to ensure that all New Yorkers at risk are screened for hepatitis B, including the uninsured.

The Hepatitis B Forum in Flushing was opened by **Chari Cohen, DrPH, MPH**, HBF’s vice president for public health, who cited statistics about chronic hepatitis B affecting 2.2 million Americans and 292 million people worldwide, leading to nearly 800,000 deaths each year, primarily from liver cancer—the second leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide. “Increased awareness and advocacy for a cure are necessary if we hope to eliminate hepatitis B,” said Dr. Cohen.

# 2018 Crystal Ball Gala Raises \$128,000 for HBF Research and Programs

The Hepatitis B Foundation (HBF) hosted over 230 leaders from academia, industry, government and the community at its annual *Crystal Ball Gala* on April 6, 2018 at Pinecrest Country Club in Lansdale, PA. The evening also included a ceremony to honor influential scientists in hepatitis B research and leaders in the local community. Over \$128,000 was raised to support the organization's valuable research, outreach, public health, and patient advocacy programs.

During the evening's ceremony, the Foundation's most prestigious award, the *Baruch S. Blumberg Prize*, was presented to **Prof. Ding-Shinn Chen, MD, FAASLD**, distinguished chair professor, National Taiwan University College of Medicine. Dr. Chen was recognized for his pioneering work toward prevention and management of viral hepatitis and liver disease. His leadership efforts included identifying hepatitis B as the main cause of chronic liver disease and liver cancer in Taiwan, implementation of mass hepatitis B vaccination in Taiwan, and his role in the Hepatitis Control Committee of the Taiwanese government for over 30 years.

**Mr. Fred Beans**, Founder and CEO of the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships, was honored with the 2018 *Community Commitment Award* for improving the community through his significant financial support and board service for over 30 years.



Prof. Ding-Shinn Chen (left) receives the Blumberg Prize from Dr. Tim Block, HBF president, and Mrs. Jean Blumberg

Among his numerous charitable endeavors, the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships have supported the HBF's Summer High School Internship program for the past two years.

The ceremony concluded with a screening of a video from the Foundation's *#justB* campaign, featuring storytellers Kurt and Janet. The *#justB* campaign is a national storybank featuring real people affected by hepatitis B who share their stories to put a human face on this serious disease. Following the video, **Kurt and Janet** provided an update on their story of adopting a baby born to a mother with hepatitis B.

The Hepatitis B Foundation's 2018 Crystal Ball Gala was made possible with the generous support of **Presenting Sponsor**



Fred Beans, with his wife Gisela (left), pictured with HBF co-founder Joan Block, received the highly-deserved *Community Commitment Award*



Mission moment presenters Kurt and Janet with their daughter

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## Hepatitis B Foundation Releases New #justB Stories to Empower People Affected by Hepatitis B, Raise Awareness and End Stigma

The Hepatitis B Foundation released **seven new videos** in May 2018 as part of its national *#justB* storytelling campaign. The *#justB* campaign now includes 22 stories that highlight the personal experiences of people from across the United States who have been affected by hepatitis B, with the goals of increasing awareness of hepatitis B and its

role in causing liver failure and liver cancer, decreasing stigma and discrimination associated with the disease, promoting testing and vaccination, and supporting the Foundation's advocacy efforts to increase federal funding for improved access to care and more research to find a cure.

Since the campaign launched in May 2017, the *#justB* videos have collected more than **9,600 YouTube views** and **10,300 Facebook views**. Storytellers who participated in last year's workshops have remained actively engaged in hepatitis B advocacy and outreach in their communities, and several have had the opportunity to share their stories in local and national media, at Congressional issue briefings in Washington, DC, at awareness events, and on webinars.

Each *#justB* story reflects a unique personal experience and an important message about hepatitis B. The stories share messages of hope and encouragement, while still highlighting serious issues that hepatitis B patients and family members experience, including language barriers, misconceptions about how the virus is spread, fear of discrimination, lack of access to affordable care, and the risk of mother-to-child transmission. The new videos also add four additional languages to the *#justB* story bank, with stories that will be available to watch in Cantonese, Khmer, Twi, and Yoruba. **Check out all 22 stories at [www.hepb.org/justb](http://www.hepb.org/justb).**

**#justB**  
[www.hepb.org/justb](http://www.hepb.org/justb)



# "SPEAKING PERSONALLY"

## Chenda's Story: #justB Inspired

Recently engaged and waiting to join her fiancé in America, Chenda got a blood test, only to find out that she has hepatitis B. Upon seeing a doctor in Cambodia, she was inspired to learn how to protect her family from the disease... [ Chenda's story is available online in English and Khmer. ]



In 2012, when I was living Phnom Penh, I got engaged to a Cambodian American man. The atmosphere was full of blessings and congratulations.

Three months later, everything collapsed. I took a blood test – I thought I needed it to get a U.S. visa. I learned I have hepatitis B. I was sure this meant I could not join my husband. I barely remember riding home on my motorbike. My eyes blurred, and my soul went out. Other drivers yelled at me, but I didn't hear them.

When I gave my mom the test result, she could not read it, but she knew from the look on my face that something was wrong. She put her hand on my shoulder and said, "Honey, it's okay. We never know when we will die... you might live longer than people without this virus."

I didn't believe her at first. One night, there was a funeral nearby, and there was a black out. I was afraid of the darkness, so I lit a candle. I listened to the sad music and felt like I was the flame: the wax would melt, and my life would end due to hepatitis B.

When my fiancé called, I was scared to answer. But I told him the truth. He said, "I love you," and encouraged me to see a doctor.

The first one told me I needed treatment costing a thousand U.S. dollars a month. Too expensive! But a second doctor said, "You just need to monitor the virus carefully."

So I threw away all negative thoughts! I wrote "CHANGE" in big letters and put it on the wall. I researched how to protect my family and my lover from hepatitis B.

And a year later, I got my visa!

Now, I am pregnant. I'm talking with my doctor about how to make sure my beloved baby won't get the virus. I have transformed myself from survivor to helper. Hepatitis B does not haunt me anymore.

*Chenda is a featured storyteller in the Hepatitis B Foundation's #justB storytelling program.*

*To view her digital story, and the other stories in our program, visit [www.hepb.org/justb](http://www.hepb.org/justb).*

**#justB**

*Do you have a hep B story to tell? HBF is recruiting storytellers for our #justB storytelling campaign. For more information about applying for our next workshop, visit [www.hepb.org/justb](http://www.hepb.org/justb) or contact Rhea Racho at [rhea.racho@hepb.org](mailto:rhea.racho@hepb.org).*



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## Timothy M. Block, PhD, President of Hepatitis B Foundation and its Baruch S. Blumberg Institute, named a 2017 National Academy of Inventors Fellow



Timothy Block, PhD

**H**epatitis B Foundation and Baruch S. Blumberg Institute President **Timothy M. Block, Ph.D.**, was formally inducted as a Fellow of the US National Academy of Inventors (NAI) on April 5, 2018, as part of the NAI Conference in Washington, DC. Election to NAI Fellow status is

the highest professional accolade bestowed solely to academic inventors who have demonstrated a prolific spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions that have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development, and welfare of society.

Dr. Block was recognized for his contributions to therapeutic drug and biomarker of disease screening and discovery. Specifically, for methods of DNA transfer to mammalian cells (1979), methods of discovery of antiviral drugs and biomarkers of liver cancer (1986, 1996, 2000, 2003). Dr. Block has been involved in viral hepatitis research for more than 30 years as a member of the faculty at Thomas Jefferson University (1984-2005) and Drexel University School of Medicine (2005-2015). He holds more than 9 patents, co-authored more than 240 scholarly papers, and was named a "Visionary in Hepatitis" by the *World Hepatitis Alliance* in 2017. Congratulations Dr. Block!

## | Calendar of Events

### 2018

#### September 13-18

**Conference on Liver Disease  
in Africa**

**Virology Education**

Nairobi, Kenya

[www.colda2018.com](http://www.colda2018.com)

#### November 7

**HBV CURE WORKSHOP 2018**

**Virology Education**

Toronto, Canada

[virology-education.com](http://virology-education.com)

#### October 3-7

**2018 International HBV Meeting**

**Hepatitis B Foundation**

Taormina, Sicily, Italy

[HBVmeeting.org](http://HBVmeeting.org)

#### November 9-13

**The Liver Disease Meeting**

**American Association for the  
Study of Liver Diseases**

San Francisco, CA

[aasld.org](http://aasld.org)

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- **HBV Clinical Trials ...** [hepb.org/clinicaltrials](http://hepb.org/clinicaltrials)
- **HBV Drug Watch ...** [hepb.org/drugwatch](http://hepb.org/drugwatch)
- **Hepatitis Delta Connect ...** [hepDconnect.org](http://hepDconnect.org)
- **Liver Cancer Connect ...** [livercancerconnect.org](http://livercancerconnect.org)