



LEARN THE LINK

BETWEEN

hepatitis
B

liver
cancer



Alan lost many family members to liver cancer but only discovered hepatitis B's role after falling ill himself. He highlights how stigma hinders open discussion about the virus and questions the medical community's lack of focus on hepatitis B.

“The stigma surrounding hepatitis B will remain unless more people speak out about it openly and confidently. Other diseases get funding because people are outspoken, so I encourage anyone with chronic hep B to get involved and share their stories.”

GET TESTED FOR HEP B
[HTTPS://GETTESTED.CDC](https://gettested.cdc.gov)

Hepatitis B
 Understanding Hepatitis B and Promoting Testing in Haitian Communities
 A guide for community health workers, health educators, religious leaders, medical staff and other

Protect Your Liver Health
 Learn the facts about hepatitis B and take control of your health!

Anyone can get hepatitis B.
 It is one of the most common infections in the world, and 300 million people live with it.
 Hepatitis B is not your fault!
 It is not a punishment for bad behavior.

Symptoms
 With hepatitis B, you may not have any symptoms. Sometimes, people may have hepatitis B for years and not know that's why it's so important to test for hepatitis B early, so that you can keep your liver healthy and avoid more serious liver disease and cancer.

Testing
 Because hepatitis B can take many years to show symptoms, getting tested is important. The only way that you can find out if you have hepatitis B is through testing. With or without symptoms, it's important to get tested!

Management
 You can live a long and healthy life with hepatitis B. Taking your doctor's advice, getting tested regularly, eating a healthy diet, and staying active can help you manage your hepatitis B.

Prevention
 You can protect yourself from hepatitis B! Make sure to get vaccinated against hepatitis B. If you have sex, use condoms. Don't share needles, syringes, or other sharp objects. Don't share toothbrushes, razors, or nail clippers. Don't share personal items like razors, toothbrushes, or nail clippers. Don't share personal items like razors, toothbrushes, or nail clippers.

Vaccination
 You can protect yourself from hepatitis B by getting vaccinated against hepatitis B. It's safe and effective. Get vaccinated against hepatitis B.





LEARN THE LINK

campaign highlights connection between hepatitis B and liver cancer



The Hepatitis B Foundation launched the Learn the Link campaign this year to emphasize the connection between hepatitis B and liver cancer in highly impacted communities.

Beatrice Zovich, MPH, public health program manager at the Foundation, said liver cancer is among the deadliest and the most preventable forms of cancer, which is why the early detection message is so vital. Learn the Link also confronts stigma, which is an issue with liver cancer, just like hepatitis B. The campaign plays an important role in broadening the conversation around liver cancer prevention and is helping to improve rates of hepatitis B vaccination, screening, care and treatment.

Developed through community focus groups and expert consultation, the campaign includes culturally tailored resources to raise awareness, encourage screening and improve care linkage. The campaign provides infographics, fact sheets, videos and presentations and more.

Materials tailored for 12 communities, including Cantonese-speaking, Ethiopian, Filipino, Haitian, Hmong, Korean, Micronesian, Mandarin-speaking, Nigerian, Somali, Vietnamese and West African, have been developed. We've begun releasing translated materials starting with Haitian Creole; versions in Mandarin, Cantonese and Somali are coming shortly.



YOU CAN FIND MANY OF OUR MATERIALS AT www.hepb.org/research-and-programs/liver.

For more details or resources, please email Beatrice at beatrice.zovich@hepb.org.



Cash was diagnosed with hepatitis B during a school health check-up and was told no treatment was needed. Later, a malignant liver tumor was discovered. After surgery and joining a clinical trial to prevent recurrence, she began taking antivirals to control the virus.

“Because the liver doesn’t cause pain, so by the time people find it, it’s already quite late.”



Nathaniel discovered he had hepatitis B after his father passed away from liver cancer caused by the virus. He highlights the lack of awareness about hepatitis B in Nigeria and his challenging treatment journey. Nathaniel emphasizes the high cost of hepatitis B treatment in his country and hopes

it will one day be as accessible as HIV treatment. He is dedicated to raising awareness and advocating for better access to care.

“Fighting this virus has not been easy, but I made up my mind to give my best to the fight against hepatitis B—through advocacy and research.”



Emma shares her heartfelt journey as a caregiver for her husband, Paul, who was unexpectedly diagnosed with liver cancer after showing no symptoms. She reflects on the emotional toll of transitioning from a wife to a caregiver and how they both navigated the uncertainty. Emma discusses how Paul’s liver regenerated after surgery, offering hope to others facing similar challenges.

“I think the biggest message I could give doctors, surgeons and nurses is just to look at us as people. We’re people, not bodies. Treat us how you would want your family member or yourself to be treated.”

Making a major investment to fight hepatitis B in **Africa**

To fight hepatitis B in Africa—where our team has been working with strong local partners in more than 12 countries to develop models for prevention, education, testing and linkage to care—the Hepatitis B Foundation Board of Directors recently agreed to make a major new, multiyear investment to launch a program supporting hepatitis B elimination initiatives across the continent.

The new community-focused, capacity-building program will expand our previous efforts and growing partnerships in Africa. The work started with efforts to improve birth-dose hepatitis B vaccination rates in Nigeria led by **Catherine Freeland, PhD, MPH**, associate director for public health research, who will head the new initiative.

Foundation President **Chari A. Cohen, DrPH, MPH**, said: “Community-based organizations (CBOs) and people with lived experience are working locally to improve awareness, prevention, testing and treatment. These partners play a key role in implementing effective local strategies, but they often lack connection, shared knowledge of best practices, resources and capacity. This new program will help fill these gaps and unite motivated communities across Africa.”



A public health professional in Nigeria talking with community residents about the importance of hepatitis B vaccination for prevention and related issues.

In 2024, in partnership with The Society on Liver Disease in Africa (SOLDA), our team launched a landscaping survey to assess on the ground activities across the continent related to hepatitis B. Over 300 CBOs, individuals and academic organizations working on hepatitis B responded to the survey expressing their needs to work toward elimination.

Nearly all the CBOs said they need help with capacity-building, resource mobilization, data reporting, advocacy and improving testing, prevention and treatment in their locales. In response, the Hepatitis B Foundation will create a formal capacity-building network across Africa focused on person-centered care and people with lived experience.

Among the program's specific activities:

- The network will provide capacity-building to CBO leaders with a centralized training hub;
- The network will create models of best practices and share them with stakeholders;
- The team will help partners collate, analyze and publish their local data widely;
- Regular group meetings and webinars led by local leaders will promote sharing of best practices;
- A community-grants program will support CBOs implement innovative and scalable programs on local community education, screening, vaccination, linkage to care and advocacy.
- Storytelling will be greatly expanded and people with lived experience will be trained, connected with others and supported in sharing their stories;
- We will create and manage a safe space for ongoing communication, collaboration and networking.

Work is underway on the Africa Initiative, such as formation of an advisory group of experts that includes people living with hepatitis B across the Continent.



Catherine Freeland leads training for public health nurses in Nigeria in partnership with the CDC Nigeria, African Field Epidemiology Network and CDC Atlanta to improve timely hepatitis B birth dose administration.

Combating hepatitis B in the U.S. and globally discussed in Chicago forum



The International HBV Meeting, which is the world’s primary scientific conference on hepatitis B and hepatitis delta, this year began with a Community Forum on Sept. 11 that focused on people living with hepatitis B, including a lived experience panel.

Wendy Lo, a Californian with chronic hepatitis B, is an outspoken advocate: ***“Hepatitis is not just a liver disease, it’s an infectious disease, and it’s very, very stigmatized.”***

As one of the Hepatitis B Foundation’s #justB Storytellers, Wendy talked about how research for hepatitis B is underfunded relative to other serious diseases. She shared an experience as the sole patient representative on a grant-review panel and hearing someone say, “We don’t need to fund hep B research; we got vaccines for that.”

Wendy was stunned. ***“Vaccines are not going to solve the hepatitis B epidemic,”*** she said.

Of the 300 million people worldwide living with hepatitis B, few are diagnosed and far fewer are being treated. Hepatitis B Foundation President **Chari A. Cohen, DrPH, MPH**, talked about the national landscape for eliminating the disease.

“In the U.S., we have no true national surveillance system for chronic hepatitis B,” she said. Dr. Cohen added that, based on modeling: ***“You will see estimates of anywhere from 800,000 to 2.4 million people living with chronic hepatitis B infection. What we can say is that the numbers haven’t changed appreciably over the past 15 years and acute cases have been on the rise.”***

The U.S. has a national hepatitis B elimination plan, Dr. Cohen said, and many states are developing one. Three states have plans to get rid of hepatitis B and C: Alaska, Minnesota and Pennsylvania. Illinois is the only state with a plan specifically for hepatitis B.

Jing Zhang, PhD, Director of Community Health Programs at the Midwest Asian Health Association (MAHA) in Chicago, spoke at the Community Forum.

“In the U.S., Asian Americans make up about 6% of the total population yet comprise almost 60% of the people chronically infected by hepatitis B,” Dr. Zhang said.



Speakers at the 2024 Hepatitis B Community Forum

The Community Forum was sponsored by the Hepatitis B Foundation and ICE-HBV. First held five years ago at the 2019 International HBV Meeting in Australia, the Forum facilitates engagement between attendees at the International HBV Meeting, public health professionals and the broader community affected by hepatitis B. The primary goal is promoting communication among these groups to identify the best approaches to fast-track HBV cure and eliminate stigma and discrimination.

Seeking your perspectives: three surveys by our public health researchers

You might be able to help our research! The Hepatitis B Foundation is working to learn more from people who are living with hepatitis B or coinfection with hepatitis delta. We have three online surveys underway:

- Youth & adolescent perspectives on hepatitis B management and treatment,
- Perspectives on future strategies for antiviral treatment among people with hepatitis B, and,
- Perspectives on COVID-19 experiences and clinical trials among people with liver disease.

The surveys are part of our Public Health Research program, and you can find out more about how to participate at www.hepb.org.

A survey of young people

We want to learn about the experiences of young people with hepatitis B to improve care and support through a brief screening survey. Your insights will help inform clinicians and health care professionals about the unique needs of youth and adolescents.

Eligibility: Ages 10-19 and living with hepatitis B.



Assessing progress toward a functional cure

The Hepatitis B Foundation held its prestigious Princeton Workshop in Philadelphia on Oct. 7-8 with the focus on promising new innovations that could lead to a functional cure for hepatitis B.

The unique invitation-only biannual workshop concept, which our leadership started in 1995, convenes renowned thought leaders from academia, industry, government and public health to foster scientific exchange and collaborations dedicated to hepatitis B and D and liver cancer. The participants also reviewed current barriers and what the financial markets might sustain for a functional cure. The vigorous discussions resulted in several ideas for future research and partnerships to move the needle in the search for more effective hepatitis B/D therapies, including a cure.



Participants in the 2024 Princeton Workshop

Future hepatitis B treatment

Are you age 18 or over, living with hepatitis B and interested in sharing your thoughts on future antiviral treatment? Your responses to our anonymous, confidential online survey is appreciated. We need as many people as possible to complete it! The 20-minute survey is available in English, Tagalog, Mandarin, Spanish and Arabic. If you have any questions, please email Yasmin Ibrahim at Yasmin.Ibrahim@hepb.org.



COVID-19 vaccine perspectives

Support your community by sharing your opinions through an anonymous, 25-minute survey! Please consider contributing your time and experience to an important study that focuses on underrepresentation of specific populations in clinical trials for the COVID-19 vaccine. If you are age 18 or older, and living in African, Southeast Asian, Western Pacific (AAPI) or Latin American countries, you are eligible! This survey is available in Spanish, French, Haitian Creole, Swahili, Hindi, Urdu, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Mandarin and English.



DRUG WATCH
SCAN CODE



Visit our in-depth resource

DRUG WATCH

for the latest on hepatitis B treatment



READER SURVEY

Here's a
chance to win a
\$100 gift card!

Your opinion matters to us!

Complete our online
reader survey at

<https://bit.ly/B-Informed-survey>



New therapies in development

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

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



3805 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.

Board of Directors

Chair: Timothy M. Block, PhD

President: Chari A. Cohen, DrPH, MPH

Vice Chair: Catharine Williams, MGA

Vice Chair: Joel Rosen, Esq

Treasurer: Elizabeth Seeber, MBA, CPA, FHFMA

- Stanley Broadbent
- Carol Brosgart, MD
- Nathaniel Brown, MD
- Gang Chen, MD, PhD
- Lillian Chiang, PhD, MBA
- David A. Gruber, CPA
- Lu-Yu Hwang, MD
- Raman Kapur, MBA
- Louis P. Kassa III, MPA
- Mark Petty, MBA
- Lewis Roberts, MB, ChB, PhD
- Elizabeth D. Sigety, Esq
- Walter Tsou, MD, MPH
- Su Wang, MD, MPH, FACP

Contact – info@hepb.org

Copyright 2024 Hepatitis B Foundation

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

B Informed is a free publication of the Hepatitis B Foundation with information that is provided solely for educational purposes. It is not intended to serve as medical advice or endorsement of any product or company. Readers should discuss all personal medical questions and decisions with a qualified health care provider. It is not intended to serve as medical advice or endorsement of any product or company. Readers should discuss all personal medical questions and decisions with a qualified health care provider.

SAVE THE DATE

HEPATITIS B FOUNDATION

Gala

APRIL 4, 2025

THE WARRINGTON
1360 Almshouse Road
Warrington, PA

GALA COMING SOON!

The Hepatitis B Foundation's Annual Gala is not far away: Friday, April 4, 2025. Once again it will be at The Warrington, an excellent venue in Warrington, 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!

www.hepbgala.org

Get to know us

The Hepatitis B Foundation team is small but strong, with a mix of experienced and early career professionals. Here are five of our newest staffers.

Monique Benvenuti knows how



to communicate effectively with diverse populations because she worked closely with people new to America from other countries in two

previous jobs. A Penn State University grad, Monique joined us last year as social media and communications manager.

Fiona Borondy-Jenkins, MPH, is



passionate about community and global health. She's dedicated to bringing the voice of people living with hepatitis B and D to the forefront of research

and drug development efforts. Fiona started as an intern and joined the organization full-time after earning her MPH last year at Temple University.

Chief Development Officer **Joe Erckert,**



MA, who joined us recently, has a long track of successful fundraising in higher education. A New York native, Joe graduated from Lafayette College,

where he started his career in institutional advancement.

Alaina Schukraft, our new development



manager, comes with a strong background in fundraising, strategic partnerships and event management at large nonprofits. She graduated from

Elon University, where her passion for development grew from working with children's hospitals.

Brooke Walsh, development coordinator,



demonstrated her commitment to our mission as an intern. After graduating recently from Penn State, she joined us fulltime last spring

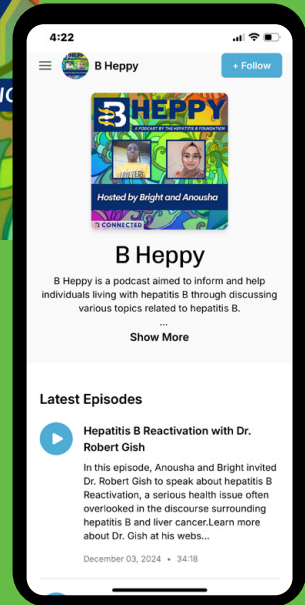
and is excited to continue supporting our efforts to fight hepatitis B.



B Heppy Podcast

B Heppy is a podcast created to support and inform individuals living with hepatitis B. Featuring insights from patients, doctors, scientists and public health experts, it explores new topics every other week.

The podcast fosters a sense of connection and reminds listeners they're not alone in their diagnosis, working to build a united global community around hepatitis B awareness and support.



➔ B Heppy library: <https://bheppy.buzzsprout.com>



HepB blog

Our blog provides high-value insights on many topics

Become part of a flourishing community of informed readers by subscribing to our blog! Dive into essential topics on hepatitis B and D, liver health and more. Our blog offers insights, resources and inspiring stories to empower you with knowledge and tools to make a positive impact—both in your life and the lives of others.

Subscribe today and join us in spreading awareness and fostering a healthier future for everyone.

➔ Check out our blog library here: <https://www.hepb.org/blog>.



Alaina Schukraft, our new development manager, comes with a strong background in fundraising, strategic partnerships and event management at large nonprofits. She graduated from Elon University, where her passion for development grew from working with children's hospitals.

Brooke Walsh, development coordinator, demonstrated her commitment to our mission as an intern. After graduating recently from Penn State, she joined us fulltime last spring and is excited to continue supporting our efforts to fight hepatitis B.



➔ You can find our **staff list** on www.hepb.org under "About Us" and reach us via info@hepb.org.

You can make a difference... Gifts of any size are appreciated!

Nearly 300 million people and their families need help in battling hepatitis B. Statistically, 300 million people equates to roughly 1 in 27 individuals in the world.

These data points are real people. Cosmin (Romania) learned of his diagnosis at age 1 and faced a childhood full of hospital visits. Amanda (UK) learned of hers at age 62 from routine blood tests. While their journeys are separated by decades of life experience, they have shared many of the same challenges, including stigma, misinformation and discrimination. Both families hid their story from others. Today, they are doing well and are proud advocates and educators for hepatitis B. Amanda serves as part of our Community Advisory Board and Cosmin is a #BtheVoice storyteller.

There are 150 real stories available at www.hepbstories.org that demonstrate the experiences of people in 16 different countries living with hepatitis B, hepatitis delta and liver cancer. Our storytelling program educates, fights stigma and supports people around the world who feel alone in their diagnosis. Our storytellers and the millions of people we serve are why we exist, and why we will not stop until every person with hepatitis B or hepatitis delta can live their life free from fear of liver cancer and discrimination. We will not stop until people around the world have access to the care and treatment needed to save their lives. We will not stop searching for a cure for hepatitis B.



Scan to donate



**PLEASE HELP US HELP
COSMIN, AMANDA
AND MILLIONS MORE**

by making a tax-deductible gift
to the Foundation today at
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 ... hepbconnect.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

 @hepbfoundation

 @hepbfoundation

 /hepatitis-b-foundation

 /hepbfoundation

 hepb.org/blog