



CHIPO: Coalition Against Hepatitis

for People of African Origin

Coalition Call Minutes

May 22nd, 2024

2:00-3:00pm EDT

Zoom:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87966500625?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87966500625?pwd=QmtpbFRQZndBZXJaempweHQycEgvZz09)

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Phone: +1 646 558 8656

Attendees: Please let me know if I missed you, misspelled your name, or got only your partial information!

Beatrice Zovich (Hep B Foundation), Shreya Koirala (Hep B Foundation), Dr. Yusuke Shimakawa (Institut Pasteur, France), Lydia (Congolese Health Board, Washington), Assita Belemkoabga (Project HONE, Mount Sinai, NYC), David Irinam (Bekwarra Hepatitis B Support Advocacy Initiative, Cross River State, Nigeria), Noor (Columbus Department of Health)

2:00 pm: Welcome and Updates:

- Access Hep B United's new [resource repository](#), where members across the Hep B United coalition can share resources that they have created to advance the goal of hepatitis B elimination. If you would like to add resources, [you can do so here](#).
- The application for the next round of Hep B United mini-grants closes next **Friday May 31st at 5pm PT** - this is an opportunity only for US partners at this time (but we will definitely let you know if this changes). The description can be found [here](#) and the application can be found [here](#).
- If you are interested in applying for HBU's peer partnership program, which cultivates supportive relationships between organizations working to advance hepatitis B elimination, [please apply here](#). Applications are due this **Friday May 24th**.
 - If you have questions about any of the Hep B United resources, please feel free to reach out to Shreya at shreya.koirala@hepb.org.
- The annual conference of the United States Coalition for African Immigrant Health (USCAIH) is happening from September 27th-29th in Baltimore, MD. The conference theme is *Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: Cultivating Health Equity with African Immigrant Communities*. If you are interested in submitting an abstract, you can do so [here](#) - the deadline to do so is June 15th.
- The new WHO guidelines for the care and treatment of people living with chronic hepatitis B can be found [here](#). A simplified and graphical version can be found [here](#).
- The Hepatitis B Foundation has a new recent publication, [Survey of Lived Experiences and Challenges in Hepatitis B Management and Treatment](#), which had a large role in informing the aforementioned guidelines.
- There has been a [new report](#) issued by the WHO with updated hepatitis B statistics that are deeply sobering. The report finds that 83% of all hepatitis deaths worldwide are due to hepatitis B. Hopefully this updated data can help to more effectively advance advocacy efforts.
- In honor of World Hepatitis Day, the Hepatitis B Foundation is hosting a B Informed Patient Conference in Philadelphia on July 27th from 9am-1pm. You can learn more and register [here](#).
- The group Rise to Immunize® (RIZE) is expanding their campaign to include the option of the RSV, COVID-19, and hepatitis B adult vaccine measures and extending through 2027! They announced this exciting news with their members at AMGA's Annual Conference earlier this month through a [short video](#) that explains the details of the expansion and extension. You can read the press release [here](#)

2:15 pm: Presentation about the article [Treat All versus targeted strategies to select HBV-infected people for antiviral therapy in The Gambia, west Africa: a cost-effectiveness analysis.](#) (Dr. Yusuke Shimakawa, Epidemiologist at Institut Pasteur in Paris, France)

- Treatment efficacy may in fact be higher when there is a higher viral load.
- The threshold for cost-effectiveness compared to actual cost of treatment is much less balanced in low-resource settings than in high-resource settings.
- The Hepsanet model includes some very basic tests that can be used to determine the need for treatment in a variety of settings across the African continent – these include primarily ALT, AST, and platelets. These are generally available at the district level and 78% of those who need treatment can be identified in this way.
- The TREAT-B model relies on a slightly different set of criteria, including ART and HBeAg tests, which have higher sensitivity, but also require lab work (they are not rapid tests yet).
- There is a rapid diagnostic test being developed for HBcrAg, which would allow 96.6% of individuals in need of treatment for HBV to be properly identified – this is presently still in the research stages, but will hopefully become available for widespread use soon! This could be an effective replacement for viral load tests.
- Uptake and patient preferences are crucial factors in the development of all of these tests. These diagnostics will likely improve once an effective HBV cure is available.

2:35 pm: Member Updates, Challenges, Successes, and Hepatitis Awareness Month Activities

Mount Sinai, Project HONE

- Education about hepatitis B can be challenging, as can breaking into communities
- Involving community and faith leaders in health activities is very important for gaining community buy-in and increasing confidence

Bekwarra Hepatitis B Support Advocacy Initiative

- Many successful outreach events, leveraging faith leaders
- Mass sensitization campaigns and advocacy efforts
- Have recently screened 800 people for hepatitis B
- Biggest challenge is funding
- Can read more about the work of the organization on their [Facebook account](#).

Columbus Department of Health

- Participated in a Somali Health Fair in April, testing for hepatitis B and C among Asian and African communities
- 63 tests were done – have not found any hep C; still working on hep B test results
- There was higher acceptance of testing this year than in previous years, largely due to in-language outreach efforts.
- Lots of education, reducing stigma, encouraging vaccination, spreading the message that hepatitis B is not a death sentence.

Feel free to send member news and updates you might have to the listserv!

3:00 pm: Conclusion

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on **Monday July 15th at 2pm Eastern Time.**

Thanks so much for joining! Please keep us updated about research and programmatic news and let us know if you'd like to present at the next meeting!

