

Hepatitis B Foundation Background

The Hepatitis B Foundation (HBF) is dedicated to finding a cure and improving the quality of life for those affected by hepatitis B through a comprehensive program of **research, education, and patient advocacy**. The organization is committed to raising funds for focused research, promoting disease awareness, supporting immunization and treatment initiatives, and serving as the primary source of hepatitis B information for patients and their families, the medical and scientific community, and the general public.

The Hepatitis B Foundation was founded in 1991, when Paul and Janine Witte and Dr. Timothy Block and his wife Joan were deeply moved by the plight of a young family affected by hepatitis B. In research, the two couples discovered there was no place for this family to turn for support, nor was there any organization devoted to finding a cure for hepatitis B. With the personal support of Dr. Baruch Blumberg, who discovered the hepatitis B virus, the Wittes and Blocks worked to establish the Hepatitis B Foundation. The organization has since grown into a professional organization with a global reach. The Hepatitis B Foundation is the only national non-profit organization solely dedicated to the global problem of hepatitis B.

Research

The Hepatitis B Foundation sponsors several activities that help to keep the national research focus on hepatitis B and promote innovative scientific exchange among academia, industry and government. The Hepatitis B Foundation Lab was founded to provide a place for scientists to research promising new compounds for the disease.

Education / Outreach

The Hepatitis B Foundation values the importance of education in fighting this deadly disease. The organization provides training for health care providers, distributes literature, helps sponsor vaccine and screening programs, coordinates a Speakers Bureau, and assists with media campaigns focused on hepatitis B. The HBF Web site located at www.hepb.org has become the major portal of hepatitis B information with more than 1 million visits from 135 countries in the past 18 months. In addition to serving as a vital resource for patients and family members affected by hepatitis B, healthcare professionals, as well as researchers and scientists, the site also features customized foreign language chapters for ethnic communities at high risk for hepatitis B within the U.S. and abroad.

Patient Advocacy

Medical and scientific experts, and outreach staff continue to provide expert testimony about hepatitis B to both state and federal legislators. In order to help build a stronger and more visible hepatitis B community, the Hepatitis B Foundation helps to organize an annual conference for patients with hepatitis B, their families and health care professionals.

RESOURCES

- *B Informed*: a free newsletter that includes timely articles about hepatitis B, conference summaries and information for patients and families
- Live telephone and email help-lines provide assistance to those with questions about hepatitis B
- Online Hepatitis B Support Group: more than 500 patients log-on to provide information and emotional support
- Hepatitis B Educational Videos/Brochures/Pamphlets

For more information on the Hepatitis B Foundation and the organization's commitment to the fight against hepatitis B, visit www.hepb.org.



HEPATITIS B FOUNDATION

F0-DD0019-05-04