



## | 2007 At a Glance |

Dear Friends and Donors,

I am writing to you with the utmost appreciation for your support of the Asian Liver Center at Stanford University as we aim for the global eradication of hepatitis B.

Hepatitis B and the liver cancer it causes are two of the most neglected serious health problems in the world and have not received enough attention or funding in both Asia and the United States. Governments, charitable organizations, and philanthropists often donate to efforts to combat other diseases emphasized by the media, leaving hepatitis B and liver cancer to struggle for funding.

Inequality in funding has led to the current situation of approximately 370 million people worldwide living with chronic hepatitis B; this is ten times more than the number of people infected with HIV. Over two-thirds of chronic carriers live in Asia. It is our hope that our model programs will inspire governments and the world to take notice and take action.

With your generous contribution towards the support of our many programs and events throughout the year, we are one step closer to our ultimate goal of eliminating hepatitis B and liver cancer worldwide.

From our extended Asian Liver Center family to yours, warmest wishes for peace and prosperity in the New Year!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. So".

Samuel K. So, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
Director, Asian Liver Center  
Director, Liver Cancer Program  
Lui Hac Minh Professor of Surgery  
Stanford University School of Medicine



Our efforts would not be possible without our volunteers and supporters, and a special thank-you to our 2007 Jade-level sponsors (\$100,000+):  
Dr. C. J. and Mrs. Ha Lin Yip Huang, Good Hope Seeders Foundation, Hong Kong Anonymous donor, Lui Hac Minh Foundation, Mr. Philip Ping Lim Shek, Ping and Amy Chao Family Foundation, and Mr. and Mrs. Yin Ming Tsui.





# OUTREACH



## FREE HEP B VACCINATION AND EDUCATION FOR 500,000 CHILDREN IN QINGHAI, CHINA

In 2003, China achieved a giant leap towards curbing hepatitis B by implementing a national policy to provide free HBV vaccinations for newborn children. However, this policy neglects the many unvaccinated children 5 years of age and older. The remote province of Qinghai has a high prevalence of chronic hepatitis B and is home to a large population of ethnic minorities of low socioeconomic status. Our unique two-part hepatitis B prevention project aims to vaccinate as well as educate youth in this often neglected region of rural China. During the program's pilot run between 2006-2007, supported by a donation from the Ze-Shan Foundation, 54,680 elementary school students received free hepatitis B vaccination, with an unprecedented 99.4% completing all three shots in the vaccination series. Thanks to a generous donation from the Ping and Amy Chao Family Foundation, interns Julie Len and Yan Pu are now participating in an expanded program to vaccinate over 500,000 children between September 2007 and May 2008, protecting future generations of Chinese citizens from hepatitis B. On the impact of the Qinghai project so far, Julie says, "I have witnessed how this project has broken the silence about hepatitis B, uniting people of various backgrounds and geographies against this once formidable infectious disease."



## FIRST CITY-WIDE HEPATITIS B CAMPAIGN

The San Francisco Hep B Free campaign, launched in April 2007, vows to make San Francisco "The first city to test and vaccinate all Asian and Pacific Islanders for hepatitis B." This ambitious, two-year, city-wide project aims to meet its goal by providing convenient free and low-cost screening and vaccination opportunities at partnering health facilities. SF Hep B Free has already received nationwide attention and is currently regarded by the California state legislature as a model for adoption by other states. Among the many public supporters behind this campaign are San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and California Assemblywoman Fiona Ma; the steering committee consists of Ted Fang of AsianWeek Foundation, Dr. Susan Fernyak of the San Francisco Department of Public Health and Dr. Samuel So. With over 50 healthcare-related organizations and Asian/Pacific Islander community-based organizations partnered in this endeavor, we hope that SF Hep B Free will revolutionize the movement against hepatitis B and liver cancer and motivate other metropolitan areas in the US to initiate similar campaigns.



## NEW FREE HEPATITIS B CLINIC IN SAN JOSE

Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, Pacific Free Clinic is a Stanford-affiliated clinic, dedicated to serving medically underserved individuals and families. Throughout the year, the clinic is open on Saturdays from 10am to 2pm and offers hepatitis B screening, education, vaccinations and treatment to patients in partnership with the Asian Liver Center and Stanford Hospitals and Clinics. "The young individuals who have started this novel initiative are pioneers in the fight against hepatitis B," Dr. So comments. Stanford medical student Steven Lin, one of the clinic's founders says, "PFC is the first clinic of its kind in the country; we are thrilled to be able to provide services to those without insurance and with low English proficiency."

## JADE RIBBON YOUTH COUNCIL MAKES MAJOR POLITICAL IMPACT

Bursting with energy and enthusiasm, the Jade Ribbon Youth Council is composed of highly motivated high school students who regularly design and execute local hepatitis B awareness events with guidance from the Asian Liver Center. Recently, these students reached out to nine city councils in the Bay Area to proclaim March 18-24, 2007, "Hepatitis B Awareness Week." In an effort to convey the urgency of the fight against hepatitis B in a light-hearted yet effective manner, Daniel Kim, a Youth Council member, created a video entitled "End of the World: Hepatitis B Remix". Since the video was initially posted on the popular website YouTube -<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgSOLQMdUMQ> - it has received an incredible 127,983 hits to-date!

# ADVOCACY



## NATIONAL HEPATITIS B BILL IS RE-INTRODUCED TO CONGRESS

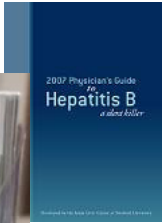
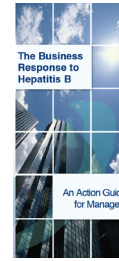
On November 9, 2007, U.S. Congressmen Mike Honda and Charlie Dent directed congressional attention towards the National Hepatitis Bill (H.R. 4550). The bill, initially introduced in 2005, proposes developing and funding a national plan for hepatitis B prevention, vaccination, research and medical management. Please contact your Congressional representatives (<http://www.House.Gov/writerep/>) and encourage them to sign on as co-sponsors of the bill! If passed and funded, H.R. 4550 will provide much-needed resources toward the elimination of hepatitis B in the U.S.

## CALIFORNIA PASSES HEPATITIS B BILL

When California assemblywoman Fiona Ma discovered that she and her brother had chronic hepatitis B, her lifelong fight against hepatitis B began. As part of this battle, Ma and the Asian Liver Center worked together to garner support for California Assembly Bill 158, holding a rally with about a hundred Asian Americans from San Francisco. The bill proposes to fund pilot education, prevention and treatment programs for hepatitis B in the Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay Areas. Dr. So testified before the Assembly Health Committee and, after some impressive last-minute lobbying by Ma, the bill was passed on April 24, 2007. In January 2008, the bill was amended to expand Medi-Cal benefits to persons with chronic hepatitis B infection. If you are a California resident, please contact your local state representatives (<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>) by mail or email to support AB158. Take action now!



# EDUCATION



## NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE BRINGS STUDENTS TOGETHER

At this year's 5th Annual Youth Leadership Conference, the Asian Liver Center hosted 100 outstanding high school students at the Stanford University campus. Over the course of four intense days, these high school students learned about hepatitis B and developed a repertoire of skills to tackle public health issues ranging from media campaigns to outreach event-planning. Assemblywoman Fiona Ma inspired the students by talking about her chronic hepatitis B diagnosis and her advocacy work to eliminate this health disparity. She encouraged the students to follow their dreams, describing her process of giving up accounting to run for public office. One student said that despite having lost a close family member to liver cancer, he had never truly understood the societal impact of hepatitis B until the conference. He now plans to major in public health in college instead of his original inclination towards computer science. We publicly thank the CDC and the American Cancer Society for their support of this unique program.

## RECORD-BREAKING REQUESTS FOR ALC BROCHURES

This year, the Asian Liver Center distributed over 950,000 educational brochures for free! "Know HBV" and "Hepatitis B and Moms-to-Be," two brochures designed for the general public, are available in English, Chinese, Korean, Laotian, Tagalog and Vietnamese. Health departments, health care providers, interested individuals and non-profit organizations nationwide regularly request these brochures. We also partnered with the CDC and the US National Business Group on Health to introduce our newest brochure: "The Business Response to Hepatitis B: An Action Guide for Managers." The "2007 Physician's Guide to Hepatitis B" is a very thorough handbook that has been promoted by the CDC and placed on its website for use by all health professionals and government agencies. All of these publications can be freely downloaded from the Asian Liver Center website at [http://liver.stanford.edu/Mult/Mult\\_print.php](http://liver.stanford.edu/Mult/Mult_print.php).



## EDUCATING AND TRAINING TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE PRACTITIONERS ABOUT HEPATITIS B

On July 15th, 2007, over 320 traditional Chinese medicine practitioners and acupuncturists from all over California convened at Stanford University for our 4th annual educational and training symposium. The day was filled with discussions from experts from both Eastern and Western medicine traditions so that practitioners would be empowered and motivated to help prevent hepatitis B. Attendees learned about the latest advances in hepatitis B prevention, heard personal testimonials from individuals affected by hepatitis B and received a free hepatitis B screening. One participant told us after the symposium: "Thank you for this program. I consider this a gift for myself and many others that are infected...to save many lives. Thank you."

## WHO ARE THE PEOPLE IN THE BRIGHT GREEN SHIRTS?

Team HBV is the Asian Liver Center's collegiate chapter, composed of students involved in improving hepatitis B awareness and education on their campuses and within their communities. Currently there are chapters of Team HBV at Duke, Cornell, UC Berkeley, and Columbia, with more on the way! The Asian Liver Center could not reach so many people and run so many programs if it were not for the hard work of the college student interns who join our staff during the academic year and during the summer. They put a lot of time and effort into our projects, work nights and weekends, and do it all with a fantastic attitude. We would like to thank all of our interns, both past and present. You will be a part of the Asian Liver Center family forever!

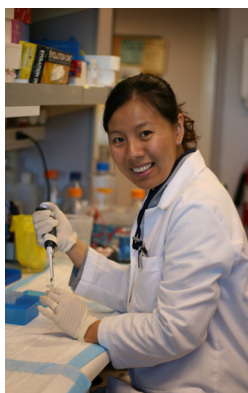
## RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

The public is taking notice of the Asian Liver Center and its efforts to eradicate hepatitis B worldwide. Media attention -- China CCTV News, China Newsweek and Bloomberg News -- has placed the ALC's different projects in an unprecedented spotlight. The interviews were based on our recent publications such as cost effectiveness of screenings and outreach efforts in Qinghai, China. Dr. Samuel So has also been receiving recognition for his work, being awarded one of three Community Star Awards by the Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI) for his excellence in the field of medicine. In November 2007, he was an award recipient at the 34th Annual Banquet of the Chinese Hospital Medical Staff for distinguished achievement in medical science and outstanding contribution to the community. We are thankful for the recognition and hope that the media will continue to highlight this important issue.



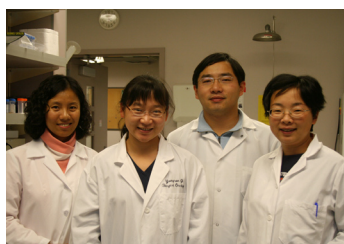


# RESEARCH



## NEW PUBLICATIONS ON HEPATITIS B AND LIVER CANCER PREVENTION RESEARCH

To change national policies and the attitudes of healthcare providers towards prevention and screening for hepatitis B and liver cancer, we must provide policymakers with sound, evidence-based information through vigorous research. In one year, the Asian Liver Center's studies culminated in the publication of seven research papers in scientific journals. Among the articles published were three landmark studies: "Cost-effectiveness of screening and vaccinating Asian and Pacific Islander adults for hepatitis B" (*Annals of Internal Medicine*); "The burden of liver cancer in Asians and Pacific Islanders in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area, 1990 through 2004" (*Cancer*); and "Why we should routinely screen Asian American adults for hepatitis B: a cross-sectional study of Asians in California" (*Hepatology*).



## PROGRESS IN OUR LIVER CANCER RESEARCH LAB

The Asian Liver Center has received international recognition for our cutting-edge liver cancer research program that is helping to define the molecular basis of liver cancer. We have further broadened our studies into the fields of liver cancer molecular imaging and stem cells. Our studies led to the discovery of molecular targets that may be important in the development of better diagnostic tests and more effective treatments for liver cancer. A 2007 publication identified the overexpression of NDRG1 as an indicator of poor prognosis in hepatocellular carcinoma (*Modern Pathology*). In 2007, we received an award from the US National Institutes of Health to help fund our research on liver cancer biomarkers. However, liver cancer remains a poorly funded research area, and we would not have made these discoveries without donated funds. In particular, we want to thank our research donors Dr. CJ and Halin Yip Huang and the Lui Hac Minh Foundation (Hong Kong) for their generous seed grants, and our group of devoted researchers and collaborators.

# 2008...

## UPCOMING ALC EVENTS

The Asian Liver Center is very excited for the upcoming debut of its new and improved website, which is set to occur in early 2008. The web address will stay the same - <http://liver.stanford.edu> - but the site will incorporate a new user-friendly interface, allowing visitors to navigate the site easily. In the coming year, we are also looking forward to hosting our major Asian Liver Center projects, including the Traditional Chinese Medicine Symposium, the Youth Leadership Conference and our LIVERright 5K Run/Walk. We can't wait for 08!



## LIVERRIGHT RUN/WALK 2008

What do you get when you combine over 500 runners, 100 volunteers, 13 dedicated staff members, and \$135,000 in donations to benefit the campaign against HBV? The answer, simply stated, is LIVERright 2006. Hosted in November by the Asian Liver Center in conjunction with the Answer to Cancer Foundation, LIVERright 2006 took place at Stanford University to promote awareness about hepatitis B and liver cancer. LIVERright 2008 will be held on May 10th, 2008 in San Francisco's scenic Golden Gate Park. Join us to experience the fun and festivities of the race and learn more about hepatitis B and liver cancer, as families and friends from all over the Bay Area unite in the fight! If you are interested in participating or learning more about LIVERright, go to our website for registration information: <http://liver.stanford.edu>

## CHANGES IN THE ASIAN LIVER CENTER FAMILY

After five years with the Asian Liver Center, our Program Manager Jordan Su has decided to move on. We will miss her, but wish her the best of luck! New to the staff are Meredith Bergin, our Special Projects Coordinator and Wei Wei, a post-doc in molecular biology from Wuhan University, China. Aarti Rao is our Outreach Coordinator from 2007-2008. The ALC has established a new prevention and community research program as of 2006, and warmly welcomes Ellen Chang as the Senior Epidemiologist and Chrissy Cheung as a Research Coordinator.

## STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTION OF PERINATAL TRANSMISSION

In 2007, we received a federal grant to design and implement strategies to eliminate the risk of mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis B in Alameda and Santa Clara counties, where the combined population of about 3.2 million experiences some of the highest rates of chronic hepatitis B and liver cancer in the US. We will begin our efforts to assess health care provider knowledge and implement physician education programs in 2008.

## NEW PROJECT SERVING SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

To expand our efforts for hepatitis B prevention in the Bay Area, we will kick-off our Santa Clara County Hep B Free project on March 1st. Co-sponsored by the ALC, the California Department of Public Health and Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI), this groundbreaking campaign will provide free hepatitis B screening and low-cost vaccinations every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month at AACI in San Jose for the large Asian community residing in Santa Clara County.