



National Task Force on Hepatitis B

www.hepbtaskforce.org

Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 (every 1st Wednesday of the month)

Time: 3PM ET / 2PM CT / 1PM MT / 12PM PT / 9 AM Hawaii

Email: administrator@hepbtaskforce.org

Zoom Meeting registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89547123798?pwd=NWx1ak9XU3lOdTJtVXlmcDNzeGFzd09>

Attendance (at or after 3:05PM) are as follows:

Executive Board Members (Officers):

- Co-Chair: Carol Brosgart, MD** (San Francisco, CA)
- Co-Chair: Richard So, MPH**, Executive Director, SF Hep B Free – Bay Area (San Francisco, CA)
- Secretary: Catherine Freeland, MPH**, Public Health Program Director, Hepatitis B Foundation (Doylestown, PA)
- Administrator (and notetaker): Amy Trang, PhD, MEd**, Founder and CEO, Social Capital Solutions (Northern VA)

Regional Directors:

- Northeast Regional Director: Dr. Ponni Perumalswami, MD**, Associate Professor, University of Michigan and Director of the Liver Clinic VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System (Ann Arbor, MI)
- Southeast Regional Director: Vacant**
- North Central Regional Director: Vacant**
- South Central Regional Director: Tzu-Hao "Howard" Lee, MD**, Assistant Professor, Baylor College of Medicine (Houston, TX)
- Western Regional Director: Thaddeus Pham**, Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator, Hawaii State Department of Health (Honolulu, HI)

Student Representation

- APAMSA students**

Board Advisors:

- Richard Andrews, MD, MPH, Board Advisor (Houston, TX)
- Moon Chen, PHD, MPH, Board Advisor; one of the original founders of the Task Force in 1997 (UC Davis; Sacramento, CA)
- Chari Cohen, DrPH, MPH, Board Advisor (Hep B Foundation; Doylestown, PA)
- Robert Gish, MD, Board Advisor (Robert G. Gish Consultants; San Diego, CA)
- Lu-yu Hwang, MD, Board Advisory (Department of Epidemiology, University of Texas HSC; Houston, TX)
- Karen Jobu, Board Advisor (Asian American Community Services; Columbus, OH)
- Amy Tang, MD, Board Advisor (North East Medical Services; San Francisco, CA)

General Members (open to all on listserv; please excuse any typos): Total Number of attendees: 11

- ✓ Julia Freimund, University of Washington School of Medicine (Seattle, WA)
- ✓ Julie Yoshimachi, MD, Charles B Wang Community Health Center (New York, NY)
- ✓ Binh Tran, PharmD, APHF and Hep B Free LA (Los Angeles, CA)
- ✓ George Do, PharmD, APHF (San Diego, CA)
- ✓ Winnie Gong, APHF (San Diego, CA)
- ✓ Jacki Chen, Ph.D. (New Jersey)

Note: There may be some members missing from this list of attendees; please excuse any omission.

Agenda:

- 1) Welcome Task Force members
- 2) Note any changes to previous meeting's notes
- 3) Strategic Planning Discussion (2024 – 2030 towards Elimination!)

4) Other items (all members)

Meeting format:

- strategic discussions and resource sharing to assist members with their local work
- Note: majority of those on the call for this meeting was engaged in the collaborative discussions, so not everyone's name was specifically mentioned in the notes.

Notes:

1) Welcome: Introduction / Roll Call of Officers and Regional Directors (Amy Trang)

- a) Opening remarks made by Dr. Carol Brosgart and Richard So
- b) Recognize any new members on the call: see list of attendees above

2) Note any changes to previous meeting's notes: None

3) Strategic Planning Discussion (2024 – 2030 towards Elimination!)

1. Question #1: What role should the National Task Force on Hepatitis B play moving forward?

- i) Answer via email from Thaddeus Pham: Focus on expanding clinician and healthcare team capacity:
 - (1) CE education
 - (2) Expert recs on guidance (e.g., treatment)
 - (3) Advocacy as clinical body

b) Question #2: Are standing monthly meetings necessary for us to accomplish our goals?

- i) Answer via email from Thaddeus Pham: Not necessarily, but I think it is still good to convene and share updates...it helps to stay connected and network 😊
- ii) Answer via email from Becky Nguyen (VACF): For VACF, we see there is a need to address hepatitis B in our community and we are providing direct services with very limited resource. It is difficult to attend many meetings but we still would like to be a part of the taskforce. As for what role, it really depends on what we all as a group wanting to do. What's our goal(s) for the coming year?

Meeting notes summary (by Fathom - AI technology):

- The group discussed the role of the National Task Force on Hepatitis B and the necessity of their monthly meetings. They emphasized the importance of implementing routine testing, linkage to care, and vaccinations, as well as expanding clinician and healthcare team capacity for better progress in combating hepatitis B.
- The group discussed the feasibility of implementing changes in the healthcare system to address hepatitis B. They considered focusing on one aspect of the initiative and partnering with other organizations, while acknowledging the need for more discussions and setting specific goals for the future.
- The group discussed the frequency of their meetings and agreed to reduce the frequency to accommodate the busy schedules of physicians. They also discussed the possibility of assigning specific tasks to certain members to explore and report back on certain ideas or initiatives (instead of standing monthly meetings).
- The group discussed the role of the task force moving forward, including the importance of universal screening and vaccination recommendations, and the need to continue working towards hepatitis B elimination. They also discussed the frequency of future meetings, suggesting a quarterly schedule instead of monthly.

- Amy and Carol discussed the importance of effectively disseminating new recommendations to healthcare providers on the ground. They proposed strategies such as sending letters and slide sets to relevant organizations and partnering with pharmaceutical sponsors to support small projects for nationwide implementation.
- In the discussion, Carol, Amy, Lu-yu, Jacki, and Binh talked about the upcoming AASLD meeting and the opportunity to meet in person. They also discussed the need to promote the task force, share resources, and organize educational webinars and events related to viral hepatitis.
- Amy, Jacki, Binh, and others discussed the importance of raising awareness about a recurring issue and ensuring that people get tested, treated, and avoid its repetition. They expressed gratitude for the fruitful discussion and looked forward to seeing many at AASLD.

c) Additional thoughts:

- i) Let's do quarterly meetings with the next one Wednesday, January 10, 2024 (one week after the New Year); subsequent meeting Wednesday, April 10, 2024; July meeting may be in-person during the Hep B United Summit; and October 9, 2024.
- ii) Many Hep B Task Force members are also actively involved in various hepatitis B initiatives, so it's best to conserve each other's time and energy for meetings. Also, there are many conferences that provide an opportunity for Task Force members to meet in person to further collaboration and network expansion.
- iii) The Task Force will continue to serve as a means for sharing timely resources and information via email and on the website; this includes connecting members to funding opportunities, continuing to promote viral hepatitis ECHO programs across the country, and sharing technical assistance resources.
- iv) Other additional thoughts and feedback will be collected by Amy Trang via email and direct phone calls.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00PM Eastern Time.

4) Other items: (not discussed in the meeting)

- Next Hep B Task Force Zoom meeting date: **Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 3PM Eastern Time /2PM Central/ 1PM Mountain/ 12PM Pacific / 10 AM Hawaii** (1st quarterly meeting for 2024).
 - Other dates in 2024: April 10, 2024, July TBD, and October 9, 2024.
- The National Task Force on Hepatitis B is a volunteer-based national coalition and is independent from the state and local Task Forces or coalitions. Everyone is welcome to join the National Task Force on Hepatitis B by registering through our website. [Newsletter - The National Task Force on Hepatitis B \(hepbtaskforce.org\)](https://hepbtaskforce.org). Promotion of the National Task Force on Hepatitis B is primarily through "word-of-mouth" and personal communication.

Upcoming HBV ECHO sessions: Free CME

Gulf Coast (Texas Heart Institute with Baylor St. Luke Medical Center): [Project ECHO Interest Form \(bcm.edu\)](https://bcm.edu)

- Every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month
- 12:00PM to 1:00PM Central Time
- To register: [Project ECHO Interest Form \(bcm.edu\)](https://bcm.edu)

East Coast (Hep B United Philadelphia): Hepatitis B ECHO Meeting [Registration - Zoom](https://zoom.us)

- Every 4th Thursday of the month
- 12:00PM – 1:00PM Eastern Time
- To register: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](https://zoom.us)

Other ECHO programs with HBV:

- The University of Washington Project ECHO Viral Hepatitis meets every Tuesday, 12 – 1:30 PM Pacific Time.
- To discuss if this ECHO program would be a good fit or if other training or consult options would better suit your interests/schedules, please email Pam Landinez, landinez@uw.edu.
- The sessions are geared towards individuals in the state of Washington and focus on hepatitis B or C is driven by the program participants.

Upcoming international conferences relating to HBV and other liver diseases:

- EASL SLD Summit 2023
 - Prague, Czechia
 - September 21 -23, 2023
 - Topic: Metabolism, alcohol, and toxicity
 - Registration link: <https://easl.eu/event/easl-sld-summit-2023/registration/>
- American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) Liver Meeting 2023
 - Boston, MA
 - November 10 – 14, 2023
 - Registration link: <https://www.aasld.org/the-liver-meeting>
- EASL Liver Cancer Summit 2024
 - Rotterdam, Netherlands
 - February 22 – 24, 2024
 - Topic: Liver tumours
 - No registration link yet. Info page: <https://easl.eu/event/liver-cancer-summit-2024/>
- Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver (APASL) 2024
 - Kyoto, Japan
 - March 27 – 31, 2024
 - Registration link: <https://www.apasl2024kyoto.org/>
- World Hepatitis Summit 2024
 - Lisbon, Portugal
 - April 9 – 11, 2024
 - Registration link: <https://www.worldhepatitisalliance.org/news/world-hepatitis-summit-2024-to-convene-in-lisbon/>
- EASL SLD Summit 2024
 - Geneva, Switzerland
 - September 19 – 21, 2024
 - No registration link yet.

Items shared via email:

Ongoing.