



National Task Force on Hepatitis B

www.hepbtaskforce.org

Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 (generally, the 2nd Wednesday of the quarterly month unless otherwise noted)

Time: 3PM ET / 2PM CT / 1PM MT / 12PM PT / 10 AM Hawaii

Email: administrator@hepbtaskforce.org

Zoom Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81255351755?pwd=y1ve5Bx77MaQeA25Lw5vzoeIq2UBSt.1>

Meeting ID: 812 5535 1755; Passcode: 316125

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

- ✓ Amy Trang, PhD, Administrator for the National Task Force on Hepatitis B (DC, MD, VA)
- ✓ Binh Tran, PharmD, APHF and Hep B Free LA (San Diego and Los Angeles, CA)
- ✓ Angeline Nguyen, RN, HBI (DC, MD, VA)
- ✓ Grace Kim, Grubbs Care Pharmacy (Washington, DC)
- ✓ Heather Richmond, Dynavax
- ✓ Jacki Chen, PhD (New Jersey)
- ✓ Julia Freimund, University of Washington – IDEA Program (Seattle, WA)
- ✓ Assita Belemkoabga, Mt. Senai Hospital (New York, NY)
- ✓ “Vdegale,” NYC DOHMH, Viral Hepatitis Elimination (New York, NY)
- ✓ Ben Juul, Department of Health in Philadelphia (PA)
- ✓ Linnea Schenck, Department of Health in Philadelphia (PA)

Total Number of attendees: 11

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) Program / Project updates from Hep B Task Force members across the country
- 4) Discussion:
 - a. The New Yorker article published December 18, 2024: <https://www.newyorker.com/science/annals-of-medicine/a-cancer-causing-virus-hiding-in-millions-of-americans>
 - b. Integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) in your work / practice
 - c. Attendance / Call for Proposals to upcoming viral hepatitis conferences in 2025

Meeting format:

- Open 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:

Zoom AI Companion Created Meeting Summary for the Quarterly National Task Force on Hepatitis B Discussion Forum.

Quick recap

The team discussed the New Yorker article on hepatitis B and its potential for raising awareness and preventing liver cancer. They also explored the shift in social media platforms; the potential impact of artificial intelligence on healthcare practices; and the importance of reliable sources of information. Lastly, they reviewed upcoming conferences and training resources related to hepatitis B and encouraged participation in these events.

Next steps

- Richard So to coordinate a campaign to promote the New Yorker article on hepatitis B.
 - Amy to connect Heather and Linnea with Richard for the New Yorker article promotion campaign.
 - Linnea to share the New Yorker article on the Hepatitis C Allies of Philadelphia social media.
- Julia to ask their data person to provide more details on Chat GPT referrals to their website.
- Heather to ask Dynavax's communications team about their approach to AI.
- Dr. Binh Tran to email Amy details about the Desert Liver Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona on March 7-8.
- Julia and Maria to draft a message seeking physician volunteers for clinical challenge scenarios.
 - Amy to include Julia and Maria's request for physician volunteers in the task force e-newsletter.
- Dr. Binh Tran to provide Amy with details about three upcoming events on January 25th, 29th, and February 2nd to include in the meeting notes.

New Yorker Article Discussion

Amy also welcomed new members who joined the call. Amy reminded everyone of the change in meeting format, i.e., quarterly discussion forum. Amy initiated a discussion about the New Yorker article and its relevance to hepatitis B awareness, which she had shared in the chat box. She mentioned that the article had been circulating among their partners and was excited about its mainstream attention. She also mentioned that Richard So from SF Hep Free wanted to know who might be interested in raising social media attention around the article. Linnea, who runs the social media for their coalition, expressed her willingness to share the article and reach a wider audience. Amy agreed to connect Richard with Linnea for further collaboration.

The group discussed the promotion of a New Yorker article about a cancer-causing virus. They agreed on the importance of sharing the article within their networks to maintain momentum and bring attention to the issue. Amy mentioned a shift towards a discussion forum for sharing insights and resources. Many expressed their support of the article and had already shared it among his network. Amy suggested reposting the article to capitalize on the missed opportunity during the holiday season. She highlighted the importance of raising awareness to prevent liver cancer and to encourage screening and testing. Angeline shared her team's work on a RELINK program for hepatitis B and C patients and the challenges they face due to the lack of funding and resources.

Social Media Platform Discussion

Of note, the group discussed the shift in focus from X (formerly Twitter) to Bluesky (a social media platform), with many people moving away from X. The group also noted an increase in activity on LinkedIn and Instagram, with news and information being shared through these platforms. Amy encouraged the team to connect with task force members on LinkedIn. The team also discussed their experiences with X, with Jacki sharing her negative experience and personal decision to move away from the platform.

Hepatitis B Awareness and AI Impact Discussion

Amy then shifted the discussion to artificial intelligence (AI) and its potential impact on healthcare practices. She asked for opinions on the use of AI tools for symptom and diagnosis inquiries, and the potential for misinformation. Several people shared their experiences with patients seeking information online and the challenges of dealing with misinformation. The team discussed the use of AI in their work, particularly in relation to information sharing and verification. They noted that AI can provide instant summaries of information, but cautioned that it should not be relied upon for diagnosis or medical advice. They also discussed the importance of having reliable sources of information to counteract misinformation generated by AI. The team also discussed the potential impact of AI on their work, including the use of AI-generated social media posts and the potential for AI to influence search results. They agreed to continue monitoring these developments and to share reliable information within their networks.

Of note, organizations like Hepatitis B Foundation should have more evidence-based information on their website so that AI could pull from it when people use tools like ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini, etc.

Upcoming Conferences and Training Resources

Amy mentioned that Dr. Howard Lee, an advisor for the task force, was planning to lead AI sessions at the upcoming AASLD conference in Washington, DC. Amy also highlighted the Global Hepatitis Summit 2025 in Los Angeles, which is open for registration and offers a 10% discount code. She mentioned that the summit's website would be updated if there were any changes due to the fires in LA. Lastly, Amy noted that Dr. Howard Lee was considering a presentation on the impact of Hepatitis B on the LGBTQIA population.

Other upcoming conferences, including the Global Hepatitis Summit, the AASLD, HepDart, and the Hawaii Liver Summit will be posted on the Hep B Task Force website. Dr. Binh Tran informed Amy about a conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, and Amy asked for further details to include on the website.

Amy also discussed the pause of the echo program in Philadelphia and the need to check with Baylor about their ongoing activities to update on the Hep B Task Force as well.

Julia shared that the University of Washington had hosted a mini lecture on hepatitis B vaccinations in adults and were working on the third edition of Hepatitis B Online; the second edition is currently on their website. She also mentioned the need for physicians to help respond to clinical challenges.

Binh detailed three upcoming events for Lunar New Year in San Diego and the Desert Liver Conference:

1. On 1/25/2025: Tet Festival at Vietnamese Federation, 7833 Linda Vista, San Diego, CA, 2 PM - 5 PM.
2. On 1/26/25: Lunar New Year Festival, Jeremy Henwood Memorial Park, 4455 Wightman St, San Diego, CA 92105, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
3. On 2/22/25: VAYA Tet Festival, Liberty Station, San Diego, CA, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
4. On 3/7/25: Desert Liver Conference, Scottsdale, AZ

The conversation ended with Amy thanking everyone and encouraging participation in the Hep Be United calls for additional resources relating to hepatitis B.