2022
YEAR IN REVIEW

#JOINJADE
USA OUTREACH

California Mandates That Hepatitis B and C Screenings Must Be Offered

Effective January 1, 2022, California law requires health care facilities that provide primary care services to offer adult clients a hepatitis B and a hepatitis C screening test, and that care and treatment be provided for those who test positive. Dr. So stated “AB 789 is an important, lifesaving legislation that would help end the silent epidemic of liver disease and liver cancer deaths in California caused by untreated hepatitis B and C.”

Life-Saving Bill AB 789 in The Media

In collaboration with SF Hep B Free and Santa Clara Department of Public Health, we issued press releases for World Hepatitis Day (WHD) on AB 789 with various media outlets such as World Journal and Sing Tao.

Stanford Electronic Medical Record

As California Bill AB 789 was signed into law, in April 2022, Stanford Medicine and Stanford Medical Partners implemented a novel universal chronic hepatitis B (CHB) alert through the electronic medical record (EMR) to prompt primary care teams to discuss CHB screening with patients. The Asian Liver Center (ALC) collaborated with Stanford Primary Care and Population Health to assess the impact of the EMR tool. Initial data analysis showed that a one-time, universal hepatitis B screening alert is effective and easily implemented resulting in a 5 fold increase in screening rates.

PARTNERSHIPS & OUTREACH

AB 789 prompted our primary care practices to improve hepatitis B screening. We have launched and are studying the impact of a universal adult hepatitis B screening reminder in over 70 clinics!

Anuradha Phadke, MD, Director of Quality and Clinical Associate Professor of Primary Care and Population Health, Stanford School of Medicine.
Corporate Partnerships
As we continue in post-covid, we have re-engaged with many of our previous and new corporate partners in planning potential collaborations. We began discussions with companies such as LinkedIn and Microsoft, and opened opportunities for discussions with restaurants and food companies.

World Hepatitis Day Campaign
In recognition of WHD on July 28th, ALC led a social media campaign to increase viral hepatitis awareness which included a series of “Hep Can’t Wait” social media posters throughout all of our ALC media platforms.

Hep B Giving Fundraiser
For the first time, we organized the Hep B Giving Fundraiser for National Giving Tuesday in November. Thank you to our donors for supporting our youth, outreach and education.

Outreach at The Hindu Community and Culture Center
For the third consecutive year, ALC partnered with the Hindu Community and Culture Center’s (HCCC) annual health fair to promote and educate on the JoinJade campaign.

New Hep B Moms Website
We launched the new Hep B Moms website at hepbmoms.org, and shared our resources nationwide with perinatal hepatitis B prevention program coordinators and birthing centers.
Our 20th annual Youth Leadership Conference (YLC), “Believe in Change, Become Empowered, and Be the Future” was a success with over 100 participants engaged in virtual leadership sessions and a final Team Challenge where teams developed a hepatitis B digital media campaign.

JoinJade Youth Ambassadors High School Program

9 students were selected for the JoinJade Youth Ambassadors Program which helps high school students leverage their interests and develop solutions aimed to promote hepatitis B and liver cancer awareness.

We welcomed speakers from diverse fields who shared their leadership journeys including Vincent Zhou, two-time Olympic ice skater; Candice Nguyen, investigative reporter with NBC Bay Area; Jennifer Wong, co-founder at Empathie, a learning app that empowers racial minorities; and California State Treasurer, Fiona Ma.

JoinJade Youth Ambassadors Inspire

Our talented ambassadors created an animation to raise awareness for HBV transmission, testing, and treatments; made pamphlets with a QR code survey about hepatitis B in both English and Mandarin; and, an art piece titled “let the silent killer be revealed” to visually represent HBV and its effects.
ALC Interns Bring Communities Together

ALC Interns made a tremendous impact to our mission and found creative ways to bring youth together and empower their own communities.

“Interning at the ALC was an amazing experience, and it sparked my interest in public health and motivated me to find more opportunities in hepatology. Fostering a collaborative environment, the ALC provided me the opportunity to work with other like-minded and dedicated interns all focused on reducing hepatitis B transmission and stigma.”

Harrison Chou, UCLA

ALC Academic Year and Summer Internship

The ALC is delighted to welcome new academic year and summer college interns every year. This year, we had university students representing schools throughout California and the East Coast. Our ALC intern network continues to grow.

“I participated in YLC back when I was in high school, so it was a really wonderful experience to work on the other side behind the scenes. Advancing global health equity has always been something I’ve cared deeply about, and the ALC was such a supportive and encouraging environment that enabled me to delve deeper into these issues.”

Varsha, Cornell University
Support for Team HBV High School and College Boards

The ALC continued to support Team HBV high school and college chapter advisory boards through start-up kits that help to strengthen and create new school clubs focused on hepatitis B awareness.

Youth Promoting JoinJade

Students from the first Team HBV chapter formed in Texas created hand made phone charms to support fundraising for the ALC. They also held pop ups at local farmers markets.

Team HBV 14th Annual Collegiate Conference

The 14th Annual Collegiate Conference featured advocacy experts on hepatitis related discrimination and personal stories. College chapters across the nation continue to make impact in their schools and communities.

Teaching High School Students in Japan

Dr. So spoke to a class of 50 highly motivated students at the Takatsuki High School in Osaka, Japan to educate them about hepatitis B and liver cancer. The online global health class was organized by Sabrina Ishimatsu at Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE). Erin Kim and Julia Fensel, the co-chairs of the US Team HBV high school advisory board, also spoke to the students about why they joined the movement to eliminate hepatitis B.

Troy Michaud is currently Team HBV’s High School Outreach Advisor, a high school senior in Austin, Texas. He has led fundraisers and partnered with ALC in outreach efforts.
**Outreach Collaboration at Vietnamese American Service Center**

The ALC collaborated with the Vietnamese American Service Center (VASC) to provide on-site education and testing to the Vietnamese community in San Jose. Our outreach staff distributed educational materials in both Vietnamese and English to visitors, provided counseling, and referred patients who need hepatitis B care to low-cost clinics. The event was a success bringing many community members together and answering their questions.

**Vietnam Team HBV’s Founder and a Passionate Volunteer**

The Vietnam Team HBV was founded and spearheaded by Tien Minh Nguyen, a passionate volunteer with ALC and a junior at Menlo Atherton High School. Tien Minh became involved with ALC’s community outreach in 2018 and has since participated in numerous initiatives to raise awareness about hepatitis B. Tien Minh contributed to the analysis of a survey that evaluated medical students' knowledge about hepatitis C. Recognizing the significant burden of hepatitis B in Vietnam, his country of origin, Tien Minh created a platform for youth-led initiatives to fight against hepatitis B.

**Collaborated with VietBay Group for HBV Education**

In collaboration with the VietBay Group, a nonprofit organization focused on strengthening multigenerational bonds within the American-Vietnamese community in Northern California, we successfully raised awareness about HBV education at the VietBay Tet Festival. Through interactive games and quizzes, we engaged with approximately 500 participants and provided them with valuable information about the JoinJade campaign and HBV. We are committed to continuing our work with partners like VietBay Group to promote HBV education and prevention.
Our study on medical students’ knowledge and attitudes towards hepatitis C in Vietnam emphasized the need to update medical training curricula. The findings provided valuable insights for policymakers and educators on how to better address the global burden of hepatitis C. This work was conducted in partnership with eight medical universities in Vietnam and published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health in October 2022.

Launching Of High School Team HBV in Vietnam

We extend our warmest congratulations on the launch of the Vietnam Team HBV. Beginning in 2022, the team has successfully established a network of chapters in 9 high schools and has grown to a network of 25 core members. The chapters have conducted a nationwide survey to evaluate high school students’ understanding and perception of hepatitis B and liver cancer; created educational materials tailored to young audiences; executed awareness-raising events through in-person interactions and social media; and, organized a series of training sessions for club members.

Disseminating the Know HBV App in Mongolia

Oyuntuya Bayanjargal, Officer of the Ministry of Health Mongolia disseminated the Know HBV app to a total of 160 health care workers from 90 family, soum, and village health centers in 19 provinces and 9 district health departments. The app in Mongolian was developed by the ALC to guide clinicians in the management and treatment of hepatitis B.

Knowledge and Attitude Related to Hepatitis C among Medical Students in Vietnam

In partnership with the US CDC, the ALC is committed to improving public health by building capacity to prevent and manage hepatitis B. Our collaboration included training 450 healthcare professionals on newborn hepatitis B vaccination and prevention of mother-to-child transmission of the virus in eight additional provinces. This effort has strengthened healthcare systems in those regions. We also distributed 50,000 educational materials to pregnant women and mothers to raise awareness of hepatitis B screening and birth dose vaccination. This program was co-sponsored by the SHP Foundation.
Hepatitis B Costs and Health Impact in China
Our research presented in Beijing showed increasing hepatitis B treatment to achieve the World Health Organization’s target of 80% by 2030 would save US $472 billion in healthcare costs and prevent 3.3 million deaths in China. The study was published in Journal of Global Health.

Cost-effectiveness of Hepatitis B Testing and Vaccination of Adults Seeking Care for Sexually Transmitted Infections
In a study funded and in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we found one-time HBV pre-vaccination testing in addition to hepatitis B vaccination for adults seeking care for sexually transmitted infections is cost saving, and would save lives and prevent new infections. The research was published in Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

Developing Nanoparticle Formulations to Improve Delivery and Activity of Drug Candidates
Our lab had previously identified a promising drug candidate, niclosamide, for treating liver cancer. We have shown the new formulations greatly increased the amount of drug at the tumor site, while simultaneously increasing its anti-tumor activity.

Targeting Protein-Protein Interactions for Disrupting Cancer Cell Growth
Specific proteins that are highly abundant in liver cancer cells interact with other protein partners to promote liver cancer cell growth. We have developed peptide antagonists that inhibit these critical protein-protein interactions. Four promising peptide candidates have been identified for studies in animal models of liver cancer.

Identifying New Drug Candidates Using Artificial Intelligence
Using a proprietary artificial intelligence drug discovery platform developed by Aria Pharmaceuticals, we have identified potentially novel drug candidates for treating liver cancer. One of the top candidates have been successfully validated to have encouraging anti-tumor potential, both in cell-based assays, and in animal models of liver cancer.
ALC collaborated with China CDC to create a World Hepatitis Day (WHD) poster to raise national awareness in hepatitis prevention, testing and treatment. We also collaborated with Shanghai CDC to promote hepatitis awareness.

During WHD, hepatitis B became a trending topic of discussion. ALC Beijing’s WHD posters and hepatitis B related articles were widely used and reposted by different media platforms such as Tencent and SINA/SOHU.

ALC collaborated with Beijing public transportation and placed WHD posters at over 50 subway and bus stops with over 6 million people using these forms of daily transportation, and is one of the most effective ways to communicate.

On June 8th, ALC held an online workshop discussing the issue of hepatitis B discrimination in China. Attendees included international movie director, Jing Wang; Wei Zhang, Beijing CDC specialist; Zhuo Cheng, Founder of Hepatitis B Patient Alliance; and, Linda Zhang from ALC.

ALC Beijing created a “Hep B educational H5”, an interactive user experience with a questionnaire to learn about hepatitis B, which resulted in over 10k participants. The users would receive a certificate of recognition if all the questions were answered correctly.

As JoinJade ambassadors for PKALC (ALC Peking), top stars Zhuoyan Cai and Xintong Zhong, aka ‘TWINS’ called on over 40 million fans on Weibo to unite in JoinJade. The public service announcement reached over one million people on Weibo.

JoinJade H5 Educational Certificate

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During the WHD period, ALC Beijing collaborated with 67 NGOs from different cities throughout China, and reached local communities to raise public awareness of hepatitis B.

15 college and 4 high school teams were supported by the ALC’s Shenshen and Qingqing Funds to educate the local and rural communities about hepatitis B facts to eliminate stigma.

PKALC collaborated with 44 JoinJade corporate partners to send a message about hepatitis B, 7 of which held both online and onsite activities to raise awareness of hepatitis B. PKALC also welcomed a new JoinJade partner, Clarivate.

ALC Beijing selected 8 students from different universities including Peking University, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Beijing Foreign Studies University, training them to participate in our program management as interns and volunteers.
THANK YOU

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