


Adrienne Simmons

From: National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR) <info@nvhr.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 8:25 AM
To: Adrienne Simmons
Subject: NVHR Newsletter: Happy Pride Month!





Happy Pride Month from everyone at NVHR! NVHR is proud to support the LGBTQ community and throughout the month will celebrate the contributions the LGBTQ community has made in raising awareness for viral hepatitis, HIV, and other health concerns that disproportionately impact LGBTQ people.

LAUREN CANARY, MPH (SHE/THEY) 
VTC-SOM Medical Student, NVHR Advisor

“ **WHAT MESSAGE DO YOU HAVE FOR THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING #HEPAWARE?**

First of all, I think it is incredibly important for the LGBTQ community to hear that we are at greater risk of acquiring hepatitis A, B, and C. That messaging has not yet been made loud and clear to our community, so we need to spread the word. Secondly, I wish I could yell from the rooftops that we have amazing tools for prevention and treatment (we even have a cure for hepatitis C!), so the sooner we equip ourselves with knowledge about our vaccination and infection status, the better we can protect ourselves and our community.

 **NVHR**
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable



NVHR recently [sat down](#) with Lauren Canary, Viral Hepatitis Epidemiologist and former NVHR Director, to discuss opportunities to advance public health programs and increase awareness of viral hepatitis among the LGBTQ community. Lauren Canary, MPH (she/they) is a Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine medical student and an NVHR Advisor. [Click here to read the blog.](#)

See more opportunities to engage and the latest from the viral hepatitis community below.

TAKE ACTION

DEBRA GRANER
Hepatitis Advocate



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I started the effort to get National Hepatitis Testing Day proclaimed in Kentucky by searching the Governor’s website for information about requesting a proclamation. Like in many states, information and instructions are readily available, including the fact that it takes at least 30 days to process a request.

Ahead of World Hepatitis Day on July 28, I encourage everyone to review proclamation requirements in your state and submit a request for a proclamation.

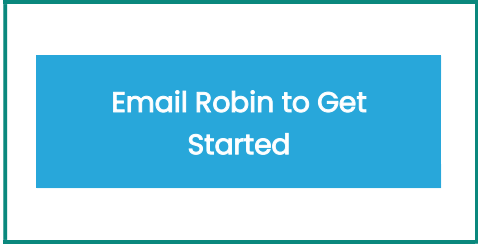


Take Action TODAY!

Request a proclamation and help raise awareness of the impact of viral hepatitis and World Hepatitis Day.

Request a World Hepatitis Day Proclamation

This year's theme for [World Hepatitis Day](#) is that "Hepatitis Can't Wait." That's why we're encouraging advocates to [request](#) proclamations from their local governments, governors, and state legislatures to help raise awareness of World Hepatitis Day and the impact of hepatitis on our communities.



Check out [NVHR's new toolkit](#) that explains what a proclamation is, how to request one, has sample language, and links for every state to get you started. You can also read a [recent blog](#) from NVHR advocate Debra Gainer about how she received a proclamation in honor of National Hepatitis Testing Day in Kentucky.

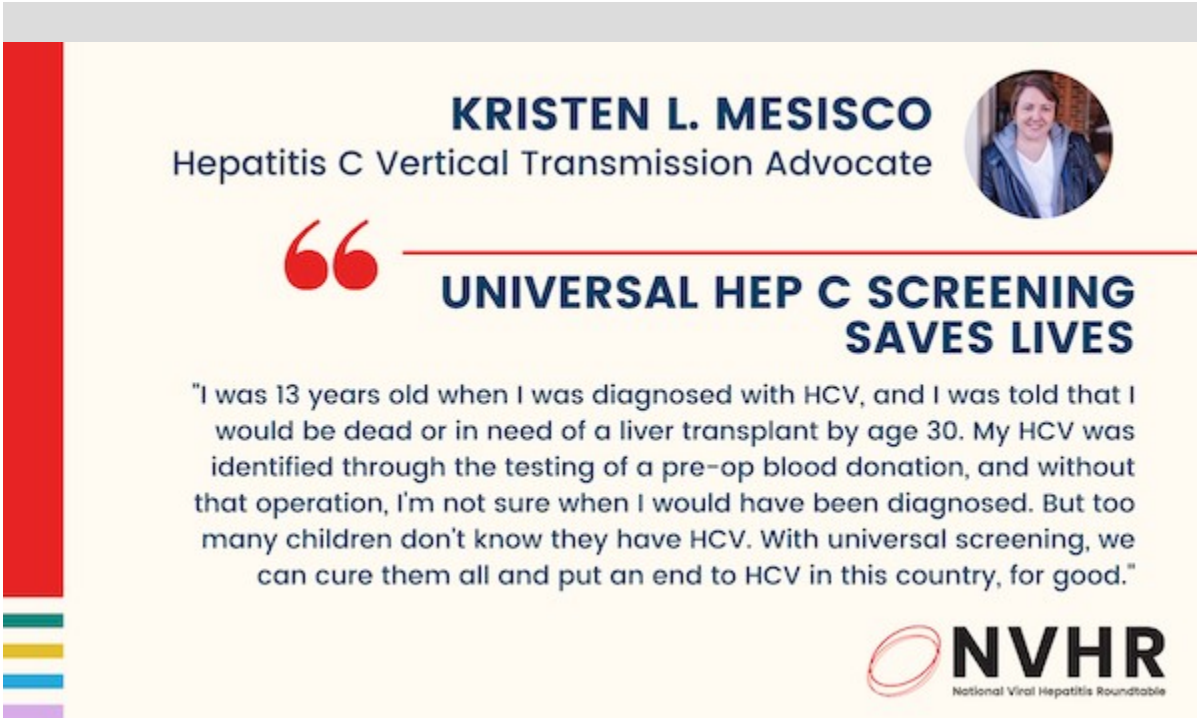
POLICY UPDATE

CDC recently released the latest [Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Report](#). The new surveillance data from the CDC shows that the hepatitis epidemic in the U.S. is worsening – despite the availability of vaccines, treatments, and cures. You can read NVHR's full statement encouraging the CDC and Congress to take action and address the sharp increases in viral hepatitis rates [here](#).


The Biden Administration released the FY 2022 budget proposal, which calls for \$8.7 billion for the CDC. The proposed budget includes \$19.5 million for the Infectious Diseases and Opioids Epidemic

Program, and only \$39.5 million for the Department of Viral Hepatitis. Read NVHR's [full response](#) to the proposed budget and call for Congress to increase funding to combat rising viral hepatitis rates.

HHS Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. Rachel Levine responded to the letter NVHR Provider Advocates [sent](#) to her in April. In the response, Dr. Levine outlines how the department is planning on implementing the 2021-2025 Viral Hepatitis Plan. Read the full response [here](#).




KRISTEN L. MESISCO
Hepatitis C Vertical Transmission Advocate



“ UNIVERSAL HEP C SCREENING SAVES LIVES ”

"I was 13 years old when I was diagnosed with HCV, and I was told that I would be dead or in need of a liver transplant by age 30. My HCV was identified through the testing of a pre-op blood donation, and without that operation, I'm not sure when I would have been diagnosed. But too many children don't know they have HCV. With universal screening, we can cure them all and put an end to HCV in this country, for good."



During Hepatitis Awareness Month, NVHR advocate Kristen Mesisco [shared her experience](#) of living with hepatitis C as a result of vertical transmission.

Check out Kristen's blog and learn about the impact of living with hepatitis C as a result of vertical transmission.

[Read the Blog](#)

FROM THE COMMUNITY



Hep B United Mini Grant Application Open

The 2021 Hep B United Mini-Grants Program Request for Proposals (RFP) is now available with an application deadline of August 9th. The Hepatitis B Foundation is offering mini-grants for one (1) year to Hep B United coalition partners working on hepatitis B education, screening, and linkage to care activities.

Hep B Foundation & Hep B United are hosting an informal coffee chat session to share information on the mini-grants application on **Wednesday, June 16**. [Register here.](#)

[Learn more about the mini-grant here.](#)



HARM: Hepatitis, Addiction & Stigma Reduction in Medicine

Join the Louisiana Department of Health and Ochsner Health System for an HCV elimination program virtual series on Hepatitis, Addiction & Stigma Reduction in Medicine.

Wednesday, June 16 at 1 pm ET

[Register Here](#)



Webinar: Medicaid Section 1115 Waivers for Substance Use Disorders

The National Health Law Program will be presenting a webinar about research on Medicaid Section 1115 Waivers for Substance Use Disorders.

Wednesday, June 16 at 3 pm ET

[Register Here](#)



NVHR Grassroots Advocacy Call

Please join us to learn about updates in viral hepatitis advocacy and to share progress in your jurisdiction. To add an item to the agenda, email info@nvhr.org.

Thursday, June 17 at 3 pm ET

[Register Here](#)



Abstracts Due for the 2021 AASLD Liver Meeting

The 2021 AASLD Liver Meeting will officially be a hybrid conference from November 12-15, 2021. AASLD is still accepting abstracts until **Friday, June 18 at 11:59 pm ET**. Make sure to [submit](#) today! More information will be available closer to the date.

[Learn More](#)



The True Cost of Discriminatory Hepatitis B Drug Tiering

Join the Community Health Training Alliance for a series of webinars in June to discuss the importance of HIV prevention, treatment, and justice against racial and social inequities in healthcare. On Monday, June 21st, 2021 from 11:30am -1:00pm ET, Michaela Jackson, M.S., MPH, Prevention Policy Manager at the Hepatitis B Foundation will present "The True Cost of Discriminatory Hepatitis B Drug Tiering." This session will discuss previous research on several states' 2019 and 2020 on-exchange insurance plans for FDA-approved treatments to illustrate adverse tiering practices.

Monday, June 21 at 11:30 am ET

[Register Here](#)



Save the Date - Webinar: Integrating Buprenorphine Treatment into Your Practice: Treatment for Persons with Opioid Use Disorder and HCV

Please join NVHR, the Empire Liver Foundation, and HepCure for a webinar with Dr. Margaret Lowenstein on prescribing buprenorphine in hepatitis care settings. This webinar will offer CE credits.

Please save the date and time for this important presentation. Additional

information and the registration link will be forthcoming.

Tuesday, July 13 at 4:30 pm ET

LATEST NEWS

HepVu: [CHLPI and NVHR on the State of Hepatitis C Treatment Restrictions](#)

STAT News: [Fewer state Medicaid programs are restricting access to hepatitis C medicines, but hurdles remain](#)

HEP Magazine: [Pregnant People Should Be Screened for Hepatitis C](#)

HEP Magazine: [Biden's 2022 Budget Includes \\$670M to Fight HIV, but What About Hepatitis?](#)

Quality Corner Show: [Quality Corner Show Talks with Adrienne Simmons, PharmD, MS, BCPS on Social Determinants of Health](#)



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