

Adrienne Simmons

From: National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR) <info@nvhr.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 10:05 AM
To: Adrienne Simmons
Subject: NVHR Newsletter: September is National Recovery Month



September is National Recovery Month, an annual month of observation and celebration of the gains made by those in recovery. Each September, Recovery Month works to promote and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the emergence of a strong and proud recovery community, and the dedication of service providers and community members across the nation who make recovery in all its forms possible. This year's theme is "Recovery is For Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community."

For many people living with chronic viral hepatitis, recovery is woven through their patient journeys. On August 31, 2021, President Biden [issued a proclamation](#) in observance of National Recovery Month, celebrating the millions of Americans who have achieved recovery while recognizing the work still to be done in making treatment and recovery support services accessible to all Americans, particularly for historically underserved communities.

To learn more about how you can get involved in National Recovery Month efforts, visit www.nationalrecoverymonth.org.



SEPTEMBER



NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH 2021

RECOVERY IS FOR EVERYONE:
Every **Person**
Every **Family**
Every **Community**

WWW.NATIONALRECOVERYMONTH.ORG

TAKE ACTION



I AM #HEPAWARE



Share your experience of living with, working with, or advocating for viral hepatitis. NVHR is looking to highlight positive experiences from the hepatitis community that demonstrate the importance of being #hepaware



Take Action TODAY!
Tell us about your support community or personal champion who has supported you

Tell Us How Living With Hepatitis Has Changed Your Life

NVHR continues to collect testimonials and stories from advocates in the hepatitis community about moments when they had a positive interaction with someone who is #hepaware. We want to hear about caretakers or providers who helped you get tested or treated without stigma or judgment.

throughout your experience with hepatitis, or share other positive outcomes that resulted from living with hepatitis.

Click Here to Submit
Your #HepAware
Story

POLICY UPDATES

NVHR's Monthly Grassroots Advocacy Call is TODAY! We hope to see you this afternoon from 3-4pm ET. This month's theme is "Build Your Own State Hepatitis Coalition; hear from Arizona, Hawai'i, Pennsylvania and Virginia leaders and organizers on strategies and tips for growing a statewide coalition. [Register for the call here.](#)

Minnesota's *State of Hep C Grade* Increased to A-. Minnesota has improved its access to hepatitis C medications and has achieved coverage parity between its fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care organization (MCO) policies, increasing its *State of Hep C grade* to an A-. With minimal changes to screening and counseling requirements, as well as considering waiving prior authorization, the state could increase access to HCV treatment for even more Minnesotans.

New Partnership Between NVHR, NASTAD and NACCHO Announced, Funded Through New CDC Agreement. NVHR, in partnership with the

National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), will establish a consortium of public health partners, community-based organizations, people with lived experience and healthcare providers, focusing on identifying and addressing the unmet needs of people who inject drugs to improve access to viral hepatitis education, prevention, testing, linkage to care and treatment. The 5-year award was granted to NASTAD via a new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cooperative agreement.

Assembly Bill 789 Passes California State Legislature and Awaits Governor's Signature. The bill, which requires health facilities in California to offer voluntary hepatitis B and C testing passes, passed the Senate and was subsequently presented to Governor Newsom on September 8. The governor has 30 days to sign the bill into law, before the bill becomes law by default. We encourage Governor Newsom to sign the bill, which will help close disparities in diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

Participate in WHO's *Values and Preferences Survey for People Living with Hepatitis C*. The WHO is updating their guidelines and has requested input on service delivery and models of care from people living with hepatitis C, affected communities, and providers. Please [complete the short survey](#) before **Wednesday, September 22**.

Request a hepatitis B awareness toolkit from the Asian Health Foundation. Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) comprise about 50% of chronic hepatitis B cases, but only make up 6% of the total U.S. population. This is due in part by a low level of understanding of hepatitis B among the AAPI population and healthcare provider community. Request AHF's free "I'll B There" toolkit to help raise awareness around hepatitis B in the AAPI community by emailing jjablonski@contacthmc.com.

FROM THE COMMUNITY



Webinar: How Patients Can Get Involved with AASLD The Liver Meeting

The Patient Advocates Group of AASLD is hosting a webinar discussing the AASLD Liver Meeting and opportunities for patients and advocates at the meeting. This is an open webinar and all are welcome to participate.

Wednesday, September 22 at Noon PT

[Register Here](#)



Global Liver Institute Advanced Advocacy Academy (A3)

This year's program will offer liver patients, caregivers, and professionals the opportunity to learn from experts in the fields of drug development, clinical trials, state and federal legislation, media and communications, and liver health and disease.

Tuesday, September 21 - Thursday, September 23

[Learn More and Apply Here](#)



CEI: Substance Use, Pregnancy and Parenting: A Harm Reduction Approach
As part of the Pregnancy & Opioid Use Disorder Series, CEI will cover the basic

principles of harm reduction, how to utilize Pregnancy and Harm Reduction: A Harm Reduction Approach, and explain harm reduction concepts within patient-provider interactions.

Thursday, September 23 at Noon ET

[Register Here](#)



2021-2022 Vu Fellowship Deadline Extended

HepVu has recently launched the Vu Fellowship, a year-long fellowship program focused on empowering new voices and researchers in the fields of viral hepatitis and HIV. **The deadline to submit applications for the fellowship has been extended to September 30, 2021 at 5pm ET.**

[Apply Here](#)



Hepatitis Community Collaborative

NASTAD and The AIDS Institute are hosting the second annual HC2, a one-day virtual convening of hepatitis and infectious disease advocates and patients from across the country to connect with each other and learn about what jurisdictions are doing to combat viral hepatitis in their communities, through informative presentations and authentic dialogue. NVHR will be presenting at the conference.

Tuesday, September 28 at 10:30 ET

[Register Here](#)

LATEST NEWS

(Opinion) Frankfort State-Journal: [Increasing Access to Hepatitis C Treatments is Imperative](#)

NPR: [Black Opioid Deaths Increase Faster Than Whites, Spurring Calls For Treatment Equity](#)

Forbes: [Another COVID-19 Calamity – More Deaths Due To Hepatitis C Infections](#)

HepMag: [COVID-19 Pandemic Led to Shortfall in Hepatitis C Treatment](#)

PLOS One: [Self-testing for HIV, HBV, and HCV using finger-stick whole-blood multiplex immunochromatographic rapid test: A pilot feasibility study in sub-Saharan Africa](#)



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