

## FACTS ABOUT TASK FORCE

### I. Introduction

- a. Who: We are the National Task Force on Hepatitis B: Focus on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. We currently have 133 emails/members.
- b. What do we do: We are a group of public, private, and nonprofit organizations committed to eliminate hepatitis B mortality and morbidity over the next generation.
- c. When: The Task Force started in 1997. It had CDC funding from 1997 to 2002. At first, the reason for the Task Force was to promote hepatitis B vaccination to children. Currently, the CDC continues to provide us support with a monthly conference call. The mission of the Task Force has expanded to include screening and a broader educational focus and a broader target age group, AAPI's of all ages.
- d. Where: We have a website [www.hepbtaskforce.org](http://www.hepbtaskforce.org)

### II. Accomplishments

- a. The Task Force started in 1997. The first Chair and Co-Founder was Dr. Moon Chen. The other Co-Founder was Dr. Gary Euler. The consultant administrator was Dr. Barbara Reilley. The Task Force had CDC funding from 1997 to 2002. At first, the reason for the Task Force was to promote hepatitis B vaccination to children. Currently, the CDC continues to provide us support with a monthly conference call. The mission of the Task Force has expanded to include screening and a broader educational focus and a broader target age group, AAPI's of all ages.
- b. Other early chairpersons included Dr. Ho Tran, Dr. Anthony Chen, and others.
- c. In 1998 and 2001, members of the Task Force contributed articles to the *AAPI Journal of Health*.
- d. From 1999-2001, the Chair was Christopher Jenkins. Our CDC adviser continues to be Dr. Gary Euler.
- e. In 2000, the Task Force presented a position paper to the American Cancer Society. As a result, in 2001, the American Cancer Society announced their recommendation to promote universal hepatitis B vaccination of all children to protect against liver cancer.
- f. From 2002-04, Dr. Son Do served as Chair. In 2004, the Task Force wrote its official screening recommendations for hepatitis B virus infection.
- g. In 2004 and 2005, the Task Force wrote letters to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The Task Force gave its input and recommendations on the new revised ACIP recommendations on hepatitis B. As a result, stronger language was added regarding screening of immigrants and their children for HBV infection.
- h. Since 2004, Dr. Samuel So has served as Chair. Since 2004, the Task Force has supported the Hepatitis B Bill.
- i. In 2008, the Task Force supported the Office of Minority Health Expert Panel and contributed to the Goals and Strategies Document.
- j. In 2008 and 2009, the Task Force supported World Hepatitis Day.
- k. In April 2009, the Task Force was listed as a resource in the BMS Hepatitis B Handbook.
- l. In August 2009, the following article was published. "Community-based hepatitis B screening programs in the U.S. in 2008," D.B. Rein, S.B. Lesesne, et al. *Journal of Viral Hepatitis*. Published online August 2009. The Task Force was a major resource for this article.
- m. The Task Force continues to be a good resource for over 100 Asian American and Pacific Islander members and/or health organizations throughout the nation. During the monthly conference call and everyday by email and website, members share resources (such as

educational materials, print and video, web, and translations) and support each other in their work. Every member works as an individual or as a representative of his or her own organization, but the members work together to fight hepatitis B and work together in their advocacy work for AAPIs. The Task Force has a national focus. There are also regional directors/representatives. The Task Force monthly calls provide opportunities for networking and advocacy on hepatitis B. The Task Force is a communications channel for hepatitis B advocacy and AAPIs.

- n. The Chair, coordinators, secretary, treasurer, and other representatives all work on a volunteer basis. All their time is donated. Any funding received goes to the domain name or hosting of the website, or is given out as small grants to others.
- o. The website includes a national calendar of events.

### **III. Conclusion**

- a. The Task Force invites anyone interested in hepatitis B and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The calls are open to anyone. If you would like to join the monthly conference call and get on the email list, please email Janelle at [Janelle@immunize.org](mailto:Janelle@immunize.org)
- b. Thank you!