

Wiping Out Hep C in New Mexico

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“...To live in a world
free of hepatitis C virus (HCV).”

...the Vision statement of The NMHCA

Have you ever given that idea any thought? Do you believe it can happen? Around the world, dedicated scientists, physicians and researchers are learning more and more about the hepatitis C virus. One day, the answers will fall into place, and future generations may not have to grapple with this Silent Epidemic the way this generation has.

We believe that everything we do as an organization should relate to the vision of “...living in a world free of hepatitis C...”, As members of The Alliance, we each need to contribute our share towards creating an environment that will foster this vision. Working to ensure that all people have equal access to the prevention, management and cure of HCV infection is one action we can take **right now**. Reducing harm is an action we can take **right now**. Supporting someone affected by hepatitis C is yet another action we can take **right now**. All these steps that we take individually and collectively bring us closer to our vision.

The Alliance adopted this vision last July at a Board of Directors Retreat. Upon reviewing our Strategic Plan, we realized that what we do and what we stand for can have a huge positive impact, not only on our hepatitis C community, but on the world at large for years to come.

To this point the Alliance has worked hard to create a basic infrastructure for the organization. We are finally visible to many individuals who need us and many who can join us. This year, in addition to doing more of the same, we have committed ourselves to developing better communication systems between The Board of Directors and our general membership. We plan to hold events throughout the year so that members can get to know each other in a relaxed setting. We also plan to put greater emphasis on media relations and fund raising. The former, so that we can tell the very real and compelling story of hepatitis C in New Mexico and what we are doing to combat it; the latter to guarantee that we have the resources available to implement our plans.

In the coming weeks, you may expect to hear from us directly. We want to know what we can do to better serve your needs. We also want to know if you have skills and talents you may want to contribute to our shared cause. This is YOUR Alliance and we want to make sure that you have a voice in shaping our future and the future of the hepatitis C epidemic in New Mexico.

Wishing you a wonderful fall season,

NM Hep C Quilt Project Gets Big Boost From Schering Plough

Thanks to the efforts of Jane Manz and Michael Wallace of Schering Plough, the 2008 NM hepatitis C Quilt Project can proceed immediately. The Company has donated \$1,000 to the Project. The 2007 Quilt is currently on display at UNMH on the fifth floor in the Medical Specialty Clinics area between Clinic B and C.

If you would like to make a square for the 2008 Quilt, please contact Gaviela de Boer at 505.918.7007 or at gavieladeboer@yahoo.com.



NEW MEXICO
HEPATITIS C
ALLIANCE

OUR MISSION:

To live in a world free of
hepatitis C virus (HCV)

OUR VISION:

To promote collaboration among
individual, community, state and
national policymakers to ensure
universal education and access
to prevent, manage & cure
HCV infection and support
all affected by hepatitis C

Wiping Out Hep C in New Mexico is published monthly September-June by the New Mexico Hepatitis C Alliance, Inc. The newsletter is also accessible on our website, www.nmhepc.org. The Alliance is organized and incorporated under the laws of the State of New Mexico as a non-profit corporation for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, without profit to any officer or director. Gaviela de Boer, President; Lucinda Yates, Vice President; R. Holly Taylor, Treasurer; Benjamin Corsey III, Secretary; Karen Gonzales; Yolanda Herrera, Kory Montoya, Julie Morrow; and Rachel Pacheco; To contribute an article or a letter to the editor, please email us at info@nmhepc.org or send to NMHCA, P.O. Box 6601, Albuquerque, NM 87197.

Annual Meeting Draws Attendees From Entire State

NMHCA's Annual Meeting last month, drew a record number of people from throughout New Mexico. Almost 70 members derived benefit from presentations on co-infection, harm reduction, hepatitis C in the American Indian community, current treatments for hepatitis C and advocacy tips.

For the second year in a row, the event took place at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and included breakfast, lunch and snacks. Participants also had an opportunity to play "Hopardy," a game much like the TV game show "Jeopardy," except that all categories have something to do with hepatitis C.

Three new board members were elected by the membership: Benjamin Corsey III, Yolanda Herrera and Kory Montoya. Corsey was subsequently elected to be Secretary of the Alliance, and Lucy Yates, a longtime board member was elected to the Vice Presidency following Stephani Patten's decision to step down for health reasons.

Fortunately, Stephani has agreed to continue to serve as a consultant to the Advocacy Committee, and manage the NMHCA website nmhepc.org for now.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Sponsors

Lydia Alvares and Glaxo Smith Kline for sponsoring a portion of the NMHCA Annual Meeting

Jane Manz, Michael Wallace and Schering Plough for sponsorship of the NMHCA 2008 Quilt Project

Silent Auction Donors

Tatiana and Tatiana Ltd for magnificent ceramics

Bruce Hale for free Balloon Rides

Patty's Salon and Spa for a free coupon

A Healing Approach Massage for a free coupon

Rachel Pacheco for a beautiful Turquoise Necklace

Weck's for four free breakfast/lunch coupons

Presenters

Sanjeev Arora, M.D.

Karen Gonzales

Bernie Leiving

Andrew Gans

Monica Olkowski

Stephani Patten

Julie Roberts

Cecile Town

Hepatitis Continues to Present Significant Threat to Global Health

Globally, approximately 418 million people are currently infected with hepatitis, and the unrecognized importance, danger, and costs of hepatitis in the 21st century cannot be understated or underestimated, according to *Global Hepatitis Strategies*, a new report by Kalorama Information.

Paradoxically, despite the obvious crisis, world governments are not taking the necessary steps to contain hepatitis. Yet the incidence and prevalence of hepatitis have begun to rise in certain parts of the global community, and even industrialized nations are lacking hepatitis control policies. Moreover, there is a greater crisis in hepatitis screening, diagnosis, and treatment emerging, particularly in those areas where HIV/AIDS is becoming more prevalent. Kalorama Information estimates that the theoretical global market for all hepatitis testing products and therapeutics in 2006, assuming that aggressive screening were to be conducted, would be \$3.3 trillion, with the western Pacific and southeast Asia showing the greatest need.

However, the estimated realistic market potential for the various global regions for 2006, based on their currently reported hepatitis status and pricing structure, fell far short, reaching just \$326 million.

"The strategic concept of hepatitis diagnosis and therapy is one of the most insufficiently recognized areas that the healthcare industry has ever seen," notes Kenneth G. Krul, PhD, the report's author. Governments, with the exception of a limited few, seem unable or unwilling to devise comprehensive hepatitis containment and prevention policies. In order to cope with the challenges and opportunities of hepatitis diagnostics and therapeutics, companies must think on a global basis, focusing on three points for the development of strategy: potential market, epidemiology (hepatitis patient trends), and technology."

Global Hepatitis Strategies focuses on the factors that influence policy aspects of hepatitis, the options presented, the factors associated with strategic market development of hepatitis diagnostics and therapeutics, and prospects for the future. The report analyzes strategic market effects of epidemiology, market potential and technology, trends in epidemiology, and social/political attitudes towards hepatitis.

This report can be purchased directly from Kalorama Information by visiting: <https://www.kaloramainformation.com/Global-Hepatitis-Strategies-1517677>.