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Hepatitis Alert

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"Why wait when a simple blood test could save your life?"

Helma King-Juel
Chairwoman

ADVANCES IN DEVELOPING A VACCINE FOR HCV

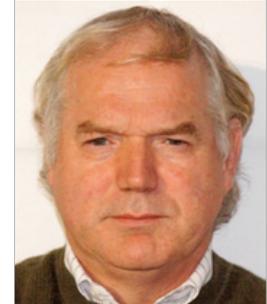
What Dr. Michael Houghton, who discovered Hepatitis C in 1989, has done in his new lab at the University of Alberta is to investigate whether the Novartis HCV E1E2 envelope glycoprotein vaccine was able to elicit viral neutralizing antibodies in a phase 1 clinical trial. *"My colleagues and I developed this vaccine when I was at Chiron/Novartis and showed that it was efficacious in animal models i.e., it reduced the rate of chronicity in animals that were vaccinated and then experimentally challenged with homologous or heterologous 1a virus isolates (note that 1a predominates in N.America). While at Chiron/Novartis, we then tested it with the National Institutes of Health in a phase 1 clinical trial."*

The vaccine was well-tolerated in the phase 1 trial and was good at producing T-helper cells and antibody responses as measured in ELISA assays (see S.Frey et al Vaccine 2010 for a report of this phase 1 trial).

"What we have now shown this year is that not only does the vaccine elicit viral neutralizing antibodies but that it elicits neutralizing antibodies against all of the major global HCV genotypes, even though it was derived from a single strain of virus."

Dr. Houghton says, *"This gives us great hope that this vaccine will work in humans and greatly encourages its continued development through phase 2 & 3 trials."*

Dr. Michael Houghton, PhD. is on the faculty at the University of Alberta, Department of Medical Microbiology & Immunology. He was awarded the Hepatitis Foundation International's Distinguished Service Award for his major contributions to the field of liver research and hepatitis.



NEWS ALERT: Infant Tylenol Recall

Johnson & Johnson is taking 574,000 bottles of Infant Tylenol off store shelves because of problems with the new dosage. The flow restrictor in the dosing syringe may not work correctly, making it difficult to measure the correct dose.

Parents and caregivers must exercise caution in giving Tylenol to infants and young children. Read the directions carefully as dosage varies significantly for infants and toddlers.

Because the concentration of Infant Tylenol is three times stronger than that in Tylenol for young children, it is critical that the appropriate doses are used. Giving too much Tylenol can result in serious liver injury, including acute liver failure.

NURSE PRACTITIONERS, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELORS LEAD THE WAY REACHING OUT TO BABY BOOMERS

Hundreds of midlevel healthcare providers, the gate keepers in outreach efforts to encourage Baby Boomers to be screened for viral hepatitis, sharpen their skills and knowledge by attending Hepatitis Foundation International's Viral Hepatitis Summits. Renowned experts in liver health and viral hepatitis provide cutting edge information on new treatments, diagnosis and management issues related to depression and side effects of treatment. In addition, attendees learn new motivational techniques to encourage individuals to participate in their own healthcare and management. "Our Baltimore Viral Hepatitis Summit was the best we have ever had on this critical issue," commented Elizabeth Bohle, MSN, APRN, Adult Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator (AVHPC) in Maryland.

Additional Viral Hepatitis Summits are being co-sponsored by State Health Department AVHPC's in Columbus, OH; Milwaukee, WI; Las Vegas, NV; Detroit, MI; Kansas City, MO; Boston, MA; Orlando, FL; and Miami, FL. It is a win – win situation for all involved. Just let us know if you are interested in have a Summit in your area. "These summits fill existing gaps in education providing unique and critically-needed communication techniques about viral hepatitis and the liver," wrote Dr. Kathleen Koechlin, AVHPC in Columbus, Ohio.

"Because 'baby boomers' have the highest prevalence for hepatitis C, a one-time screening is likely to identify a large number of infected individuals who without recognition and treatment are likely to develop serious, life-threatening liver disease, leading to premature death," said Dr. Raymond Koff, hepatologist at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and Vice-Chairman of Hepatitis Foundation International.

Join our efforts to encourage Baby Boomers to be screened for Hepatitis C to stop the spread of this insidious disease and to help them find renewed health with new and effective treatments.

2012 VIRAL HEPATITIS SUMMITS

COLUMBUS, OHIO - MAY 10, 2012

KANSAS CITY, MO - SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN - OCTOBER 11, 2012

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA - OCTOBER 22, 2012

ADDITIONAL SUMMITS PLANNED FOR THE FALL ARE:

BOSTON - DETROIT - MIAMI - ORLANDO

KUDOS TO JENNIFER KWAKYE

Congratulations to Jennifer Kwakye for receiving her Masters in Public Health specializing in Global Health Design, Monitoring and Evaluation from the George Washington University. Joining HFI as a University of Maryland intern in 2009, Jen has been a major contributor to the Foundation's outreach to health professionals across the nation, organizing Viral Hepatitis Summits, and promoting HFI through social networking. We are pleased to announce her promotion to Director of Programs at the Hepatitis Foundation International.

1 OUT OF 33 BABY BOOMERS IS INFECTED WITH HEPATITIS C ARE YOU THE 1 ??

Were you born between 1945 and 1965? Why not give yourself a **“Lifesaving birthday present”** today? Even if you feel fine you could be harboring hepatitis C viruses (HCV), which are silently killing liver cells: the employees in your personal chemical converter and power source--- your liver.

Did you know that liver cells act like computer chips responsible for jump starting hundreds of life maintaining body functions? Hepatitis C viruses invade liver cells, killing them and forming scar tissue, called cirrhosis. This could be going on for 20 – 30 or more years without your knowledge. Unfortunately, the liver does not have an early warning system to let you know this carnage is going on until your power plant starts to shut down. When your liver goes. . . so do you.

A simple blood test could be your personal **life preserver** and the best present you can give yourself. Check off the list of risks you may have taken over the past several decades.

- Had a blood transfusion before 1992
- Shared razors, toothbrushes, nail clippers, needles or other sharps
- Used IV drugs/ needles/paraphernalia
- Had dialysis treatments
- Had unprotected rough sex

No one but you and your doctor needs to know. If you are infected, treatments are available with an impressive cure rate.

Be your best friend and get tested today.

Happy NEXT birthday. I am sure your liver will be happy too. Call 1-800-891-0707 for confidential referral to specialists in your area. We are here to help.

GREAT WAY TO EDUCATE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Sherri Lowe, Internship Coordinator at Springbrook High School has arranged for HFI’s Emmy Awarded DVD *“Give Your Liver a Break”* to be shown to all their students through the school’s intranet communication system. Developed for adolescents, it is upbeat, with appealing 3-D animation highlighting liver health and why and how to avoid liver damaging behaviors.

This DVD is available for viewing on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VlujfZegPWM>) for easy access. Additional educational materials to enhance motivational messages promoting healthy lifestyle behaviors are available on HFIs website www.hepatitisfoundation.org

For additional information about Foundation for Decision Making training sessions and tips for helping children take responsibility for their own health care and management, call 1-800-891-0707 and ask for Thelma King Thiel, internationally known as The Liver Lady.

Another adult training DVD, *“The Invisible Threat”*, addresses blood borne pathogens, liver health, prevention of viral hepatitis, and substance abuse to comply with OSHA educational requirements. Evaluation questionnaires are available for your use in assessing the effectiveness of liver health education. Give us a call.

Hepatitis Foundation International

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