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Health Center
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Saturdays 10AM to 2PM
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Hep B Free Committee:

Dr. Rex Chiu, MD, MPH
Dr. Gabriel Garcia, MD
Dr. Samuel So, MD, FACS
Elizabeth Chao, PhD
Steven Lin

Pacific Free Clinic's *Hep B Free* program is a Stanford student-run campaign to provide comprehensive hepatitis B virus testing, vaccination, treatment, and education. We provide free hepatitis B medical services for all Asian and Pacific Islanders in East San Jose with low income, no health insurance, and low English proficiency.

Pacific Free Clinic's *Hep B Free* program is sponsored by the Stanford School of Medicine, the Asian Liver Center, and the Bay Area Schweitzer Fellowship.

For Immediate Release

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Hepatitis B virus strikes the poor and underserved in San Jose, Pacific Free Clinic comes to the rescue

First free clinic in San Jose to provide comprehensive hepatitis B medical services for all Asian and Pacific Islanders with low income, no health insurance, and low English ability.

San Jose, CA (June 29, 2007) – Students from the Stanford School of Medicine will launch the first clinic in San Jose to provide comprehensive hepatitis B medical services for all Asian and Pacific Islanders with low income, no health insurance, and low English ability. The campaign will open on Saturday, July 7th at the Pacific Free Clinic at 1835 Cunningham Ave in San Jose. All members of the press are invited to the press conference and ceremony from 11am-12pm.

Starting in July, the Pacific Free Clinic will offer free hepatitis B testing for anybody in the San Jose community, as well as free hepatitis B blood tests and liver ultrasound for patients already chronically infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV). In addition, this year-long campaign will provide low-cost vaccination, referrals, and antiviral treatment for HBV. Open to all regardless of ability to pay or immigration status, the clinic offers on-site medical interpretation services in Vietnamese and Chinese to help patients overcome cultural and language barriers to healthcare.

San Jose's Asian and Pacific Islander (API) residents make up 30% of the city's population and represent the third largest API community in the nation. APIs bear a disproportionate burden of chronic (life-long) HBV infection, the world's most common serious disease of the liver, which can lead to premature death from liver cancer. While about 1 in 1,000 people in the general U.S. population has chronic HBV, 1 in 10 APIs is living with chronic HBV. APIs are 100 times more likely to get chronic HBV than the rest of the nation. Most don't even know that they're infected.

“There are an estimated 25,000 APIs living in the city of San Jose with chronic HBV infection, and an additional 100,000 who are unvaccinated,” said Dr. Rex Chiu, the Director of the Pacific Free Clinic and Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at Stanford School of Medicine. “HBV is dangerous because there are often no symptoms until it's too late. One in 4 people with chronic HBV will die from liver cancer, but this can be avoided with proper monitoring and treatment.”

That's where Pacific Free Clinic comes in. For the first time, residents of San Jose will have a one-stop, comprehensive clinic for all medical services related to HBV, including free testing and monitoring, as well as low-cost vaccination



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and treatment. The two co-founders of the Hep B Free Campaign are Ms. Elizabeth Chao and Mr. Steven Lin, students at Stanford School of Medicine and 2007-2008 recipients of the prestigious U.S. Albert Schweitzer Fellowship.

“The mission of the Bay Area Schweitzer Fellows Program is to reduce disparities in healthcare today by developing leaders in service,” said Dale Ogar, the Director of the Bay Area Schweitzer Fellows Program, “Liz and Steve are two outstanding examples of young people who, like Schweitzer, show great reverence for life and are dedicated to helping the underserved in their communities. The work that they have chosen to do as part of their year-long fellowship is extremely important and will serve to influence and inspire others to follow their example.”

Pacific Free Clinic's Hep B Free Campaign was inspired by the recently launched San Francisco Hep B Free Campaign, the largest API-targeted healthcare campaign in U.S. history to make San Francisco the first city to test and vaccinate all Asian and Pacific Islanders for HBV. The Pacific Free Clinic is supported by the Stanford School of Medicine, the School Health Clinics of Santa Clara County, and the California HealthCare Foundation. The new Hep B Free Campaign is also supported by the Bay Area Schweitzer Fellows Program and the Asian Liver Center at Stanford.

“There are close to 400 million people in the world living with chronic HBV infection and 75% of them, about 300 million, live in Asia,” said Dr. Samuel So, the Lui Hac Minh Professor of Surgery and Director of the Asian Liver Center at Stanford School of Medicine. “This is a huge problem for Asian and Pacific Islanders, because most APIs are recent immigrants and their doctors have never tested them. For this reason, Pacific Free Clinic's Hep B Free Campaign’s revolutionary message to every API in San Jose is: *Be Sure, Be Tested, and Be Hep B Free.*”

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