



The Asian Liver Center at Stanford University



<http://liver.stanford.edu>

Tel: (650) 736-2280

Fax: (650) 723-0006

**For Immediate Release
June 10, 2008**

Contact:

Alena Groopman, MHS
Global Community Health Coordinator
Tel: 650-721-6630
E-mail: groopman@stanford.edu
Website: <http://liver.stanford.edu/>

The Asian Liver Center at Stanford University initiated a new campaign to raise funds for 200,000 hepatitis A vaccines to protect children affected by the catastrophic earthquake in the Sichuan province of China in May 2008.

Stanford, CA (June 10, 2008)- The Asian Liver Center (ALC) at Stanford University began its **hepatitis A vaccine campaign** less than a week ago after the recent earthquake on May 12, 2008 and aftershocks in the Sichuan province of China left **69,130 dead, 17,824 missing and 374,031 injured** (as of June 6, 2008).

Over **15 million** people have been displaced from their homes; many are living in tents or temporary housing in cramped and often unhygienic conditions. These living conditions expose the survivors to infectious diseases, particularly those spread through contaminated food or water such as hepatitis A.

Although the Chinese government has secured about 600,000 doses of hepatitis A vaccines to administer to children in the impacted areas closest to the earthquake epicenter, there are not any vaccines allocated for the displaced population living in equally vulnerable areas. According to the China Foundation for Hepatitis Prevention and Control, the Sichuan Center for Disease Control and Prevention needs approximately **400,000 doses** of pre-filled hepatitis A vaccines to protect children living in these areas further from the epicenter.

ALC is committed to raising \$1.3 million US dollars to procure at least **200,000 doses of hepatitis A vaccine** in hopes of reducing the potential hepatitis A burden in the region. Within the past week of the campaign's launch, the ALC raised over 2 million Yuan, over \$300,000 USD, from generous and concerned donors.

We are almost a quarter of the way to our goal. Please join us in our campaign to make hepatitis A vaccines available for children in the earthquake affected areas of China. For more information, please contact Alena Groopman at 650-721-6630 or by email at groopman@stanford.edu. Thank you for your support!

###

About the Asian Liver Center at Stanford University: The Asian Liver Center at Stanford University is the first non-profit organization in the United States to address the high incidence of hepatitis B and liver cancer in Asians and Asian Americans. Founded in 1996, the ALC has grown to become a national and international leader in fighting this global epidemic through outreach, education, advocacy, and research.