



For Immediate Release

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## **A Conspiracy for Liver Cancer in China: Hepatitis B and Aflatoxin**

Stanford, CA – On Tuesday, November 10, 2009, the Asian Liver Center at Stanford University is welcomes **Dr. John Groopman**, PhD, the Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health as the *HM Lui Guest Lecturer, who will present “A Conspiracy for Liver Cancer in China: Hepatitis B Virus and Aflatoxin.”*

### ***A Conspiracy for Liver Cancer in China: Hepatitis B Virus and Aflatoxin***

**Tuesday, November 10, 2009** (11:30am-1pm)

Munzer Hall, Beckman Building, Stanford University

Reception to follow.

Dr. Groopman’s research involves the development and application of molecular biomarkers of exposure, dose, and effect from environmental carcinogens. The environmental carcinogens studied include agents that are naturally occurring in the diet as well as those produced as a result of cooking practices. A major emphasis of the research has been in the elucidation of the role of aflatoxins, a common contaminate of the food supply, in the induction of liver cancer in high-risk populations living in Asia and Africa.

This work has led to the identification of a very strong chemical-viral interaction between aflatoxin and the human hepatitis B virus in the induction of liver cancer. These biomarkers have also been used in many collaborative molecular epidemiology studies of liver cancer risk and recently employed to assess the efficacy of a number of chemopreventive agents in trials in high-risk aflatoxin-hepatitis B virus exposed populations. This research is now being extended to develop genetic biomarkers of p53 mutations and viral alterations in human samples as early detection of disease biomarkers using a novel mass spectroscopy based method for genotyping developed in the laboratory. Thus, the research in the Groopman laboratory focuses on the translation of mechanistic research to public health based prevention strategies.

The **HM Lui Guest Lecture Series** represents a unique opportunity to support global health lectures with topics including the most neglected pandemic worldwide, hepatitis B. One in ten Asian and Pacific Islanders (API) are chronically infected with hepatitis B, which is the leading cause of liver cancer. HM Lui Guest Lecture Series offers the flexibility of supporting guest lectures in both the United States and internationally.

The HM Lui Guest Lecture at Stanford University is held in partnership with the School of Medicine, Stanford Cancer Center and Northern California Cancer Center.

For more information on this special event: <http://events.stanford.edu/2009/November/10/>

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**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 that addresses 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. Visit the ALC website for more information: <http://liver.stanford.edu/>