thank you.

the Asian Liver Center at Stanford University celebrates

the wonder YEARS
The story begins with the vision of one man, Dr. Samuel So. A practicing liver transplant surgeon at Stanford Hospital and Clinics, Dr. So became concerned about the disproportionately high rate of hepatitis B infection among his Asian and Pacific Islander liver transplant patients. Even more, he noticed how unfortunately many of these cases could have been prevented. He recognized the great lack of awareness of an illness that was so easily preventable - a safe and effective 3-shot vaccine has been available for over twenty years. The science and treatment was available and yet hepatitis B and liver cancer remained extremely prevalent among the API community.

With a generous donation from Dr. C.J. Huang, Dr. So transformed his vision into action on November 1996 by establishing the Asian Liver Center as the only non-profit organization in the United States that addresses this major health disparity. Using a three-pronged approach of outreach, education, and research for the global eradication of hepatitis B and liver cancer, the ALC continues to move forward, guided by the belief that small change can make big differences. We thank all of you for your support. Your continued generosity fuels our growth and brings us closer to our goal. In this fight against hepatitis B and liver cancer, the ALC’s spectacular journey has only begun.
Message from the Director

As we reflect on the past decade, I am filled with joy and gratitude for the hundreds of community organizations, foundations, private and public agencies, individuals, and volunteers who have brought our cause to life.

Although we want to commemorate the past ten years of Asian Liver Center history, I also want to take a moment to recognize the important advances we made in 2006. Internationally, we received a gift from the Zhehan Foundation (Hong Kong) that allowed us to expand our free HBV catch-up vaccination program into the remote and underserved areas of Qinghai province, China. Our educational and anti-discrimination campaign has improved immunization practices, and protected over 156,000 children in China from hepatitis B and liver cancer.

Nationally, we are making waves from coast to coast. We are proud to announce that Hawaii launched the “3 for life” low-cost HBV screening and vaccination program. On Capitol Hill, the first ever hepatitis B Congressional and Senate bills were proposed to the United States government. Although we have expanded our reach nationwide, we continue to serve the needs of the Asian and Pacific Islander American community in our San Francisco Bay Area. In May, we held our largest screening event at the San Francisco Asian Heritage Street Celebration, where we screened over 500 people in 5 hours. To end the year with a bang, we brought LIVERIGHT, our 2nd annual 5k run/walk event, home to Stanford University and raised community awareness about HBV, and $135,000 for the Jade Ribbon Campaign.

This special edition of our annual review is a commemorative look at the past ten years of Asian Liver Center history as well as our launching point for creating new landmarks in outreach, advocacy, research and prevention. We look forward to many more years filled with passion, commitment, and teamwork to unite against HBV.

Year in Numbers

The Family
- 2006: 1
- 2003-2005: 3

Program Managers
- 1

Administration
- 2

Coordinators
- 1

Outreach Interns
- 13
- 103

Youth Council Members
- 13

Volunteers
- 200

Media Coverage (International & Domestic)
- Newspaper & Magazines: 218
- Radio Interviews: 14
- Television Coverage: 12

Educational Outreach
- Health Seminars Conducted by ALC Staff: 31
- Conference Held: 11
- Cultural Fairs Attended: 11

Hepatitis B Screenings
- Bay Area: 763
- Nation-wide (by ALC partners): 2788

Hepatitis B Vaccinations
- 3 for Life Project: 4356
- China: 171,000

ALC Publications
- Silent Killer Brochures: 5 languages, 2001-2005
- Know HBV Brochures: 7 languages, 2006-present
- Hepatitis B and Moms-to-Be: 5 languages, 2006-present
- Physician’s Guide: 2 languages, 2004-present
- Annual Review: 1

Documentaries
- Average Website Visits: 140,000 per month since 2001

What have you done today to help us eradicate hepatitis B worldwide?
The beginning of health is to know the disease

- Spanish Proverb

Ten years ago, the Asian Liver Center started with one man who knew the truth about the silent dangers of hepatitis B and liver cancer in the API community. After recruiting the first program manager, the team of two started handing out hepatitis B information on the streets of San Francisco, Chinatown. It wasn’t easy, but we learned much from our growing pains. In four years, the Center grew to an entire family dedicated to starting a global health education campaign to fight hepatitis B and liver cancer.
Initial Outreach

Mission Statement
The center uses a three-pronged approach towards fighting hepatitis B through outreach, education, and research. Specifically, the Asian Liver Center spearheads educational outreach and advocacy efforts in the areas of hepatitis B and liver cancer prevention and treatment, serves as a resource for both the general public and health practitioners, and implements clinical and research programs.

Clinical Trials at the Stanford Comprehensive Cancer Center
In 1998, Dr. So established the Liver Cancer Program at Stanford University Medical Center to address one of the most common and deadliest cancers in the Asian community. Started with a single part-time registered nurse and a closet for an office, the program has grown into a model program that is housed at the new Stanford Comprehensive Cancer Center building.

Outreach Office: Hospital Basement
Also in 1998, the Asian Liver Center outreach branch opened its first "office" at the Stanford Hospital. Little did we know just how much magic would take place in the tiny but quaint space. A few years later, in 2001, we moved to the basement level of the Hospital, room 5075 where we acquired twice as much space. All of our materials are produced in our cozy little workshop by our dedicated and talented team.

Adopt-an-Intern Program

The intern program was my first, real introduction to hepatitis B, a health disparity that I had once overlooked. My eyes were opened that year. I was inspired by those around me. I learned. I grew. I gained skills that I use today. I taught. It was a unique opportunity to directly involve myself in serving the community. You don’t forget an experience like this.

- Eric Sue, intern 03-04

In 2000, the ALC launched the Intern Program, sponsoring seven undergraduate Stanford students who were dedicated to raising awareness. These students along with Program Manager, Charolette Wu, initiated multiple grassroots outreach events, created our first educational materials and developed the concept of the Jade Ribbon Campaign.

Since 2000, the Intern Program has grown substantially, offering approximately 20 undergraduate internship opportunities every year. These interns represent a diverse group of talented and passionate civil servants. Given the responsibility of programming, advertising, fundraising, and saving the world, they devote countless hours to initiating and executing all of our efforts to eradicate hepatitis B and liver cancer in the Asian and Pacific Islander community.

We invite you to partner with us by supporting our Adopt an Intern program. A contribution of $2500—less than $10 a day—can sponsor one intern for one year. You can provide opportunities for promising undergraduates to challenge themselves and make a difference.

"
Meet the First Family!
The ALC’s outreach efforts skyrocketed with the 2001 launch of the Jade Ribbon Campaign to fight hepatitis B and liver cancer. Today, with a bustling team of fifteen staff members and interns (and over 100 alumni), it is hard to believe the ALC began as two people on the streets of Chinatown. With the goal of eradicating hepatitis B through preventative education, the campaign expanded across the nation and the world, including New York, Hawaii, the Philippines and China.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure

- Benjamin Franklin
The campaign really inspires people from across the community, from young people working on the Youth Council or as interns, to community partners across the country and world even, to take on a committed leadership role in fighting against health disparities. It’s a true testament to the power and innovation embodied by the Jade Ribbon Campaign, which makes it not just a public health campaign that educates, but a campaign that empowers.

- Nina Sun, Outreach Coordinator 03-04

The Jade Ribbon Campaign launched outreach efforts by developing specific educational resources for the API community, like the Silent Killer brochures. But, in the past five years, we have expanded outreach to a much larger field. The multi-media campaign includes bus ads, public service announcements, and documentaries all of which are published in multiple Asian languages, making our information accessible to the diverse population we serve. The LIVERight jade bracelets act as both a fundraiser and also a way to raise awareness about our cause. What evolved from this campaign includes many programs that define the ALC today: grassroots community outreach, screening and vaccination events, annual Youth Leadership Conferences, China vaccination and anti-discrimination campaigns, and much more.
The ALC Gets Connected & Internet Savvy

Jade Ribbon videos are now being broadcast live on YouTube, the premier website for sharing videos online! In just 2 months, Another Life (our acclaimed documentary) has been viewed 120 times, the youth council documentary: 176 times, LIVERight 2006 slideshow: 460 times!

Each year, the Asian Liver Center increases the number of outreach events we attended. Over the years, we’ve participated in multiple health fairs, festivals, races, events, and conferences. From the Miss Asian America Beauty Pageant in San Francisco to Oakland’s International Dragonboat Festival and Cupertino’s Autumn Moon Festival, we dive right into the Bay Area Asian American community -- our goal never waivers - spread awareness about hepatitis B and liver cancer. From distributing goldfish to pinning jade ribbons upon unsuspecting festival-goers, to our latest Jade Ribbon balloons we consistently try to find new ideas to promote our message.

January/February: Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration and Vietnamese Tet Festival

2002-present: In celebration of the dawning of the New Year, the ALC heads out to educate the masses at festivals in San Jose, Oakland, and San Francisco. At these events, we reach out to the Chinese and Vietnamese populations and encourage them to get tested and vaccinated. With festive decorations and enthusiastic staff members, we lure festival goers over and impart them with gifts of stickers, balloons, ribbons, candy, red envelopes, and of course, HBV wisdom.

August: Annual Miss Asian America Pageant     2001-present

Each year, a new Miss Asian American queen is crowned in the Palace Theatre in San Francisco, and each year, the ALC is present to pin ribbons on audience members and pageant members. The main purpose is to spread awareness, brochures, and receive donations. At the 2006 pageant, we crowned the first ever, “Mr. ALC,” Eddie Huang.

September: Chinese Autumn Moon Festival    2002-present

With moon cakes galore (and jade ribbons too!) the moon festival arrives each year to Chinatown and Cupertino with ALC along to celebrate. Besides the typical distribution of surveys and brochures, the main attraction for crowds is goldfish prizes for adults and children alike, along with ribbons, stickers, and balloons.

You can’t help the community until you get into the Community.

- Dr. Samuel So

“T.V. & News Media

CBS (English)  Special Report (Cantonese)  KTSF News

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In spring of 2004, Chinese Woman's League and community leaders like Matthew Lee, Leland Yee and Mayor of Palo Alto line up after proactively fundraising $110,000 for the Jade Ribbon Campaign.

In celebration of Dr. So’s Lui Hac Minh endowed professorship at the Stanford School of Medicine, Dean Philip Pizzo presents the Dean’s Medal to Dr. Arthur Lui of the Lui Hac Minh Foundation. From left to right: Dr. David Stevenson, Dean Pizzo, Dr. Lui, and Dr. So.

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As Executive Director of the Hepatitis B Foundation, it has been my privilege to work with the ALC. The ALC and the JRC has made a difference in many communities in the Bay Area, as well as in other US neighborhoods and across the globe in China. We have been particularly proud to work on the National Hepatitis B Bill, the National Strategy to Eliminate Hepatitis B in the US and in the education efforts of our representatives in Congress about hepatitis B. The ALC has also been a gracious host to the HBF Patient Conference. As two organizations with a common mission, we look forward to continuing and strengthening our commitment to those who are affected by hepatitis B and protecting others from being exposed to the disease. But most of all we pledge our commitment to work together to ensure that hepatitis B not “B” Forgotten.

Molli Conti

Partners from the Vietnamese Cancer Foundation, American Liver Foundation and Vietnamese Physicians Association joined together to kick-off the South California Vietnamese Jade Ribbon Campaign.

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Adrian Elkins was only 20 years old when he passed away from liver cancer caused by hepatitis B. A competitive runner by training, Adrian founded the Answer to Cancer race in 2003 to raise money and awareness about this silent epidemic. In memory of Elkins’ story and his goals of HBV outreach, the Asian Liver Center partnered with the Answer to Cancer Foundation to host LIVERight 2005.

On April 28, 2005, in San Francisco Golden Gate Park, 440 runners, 151 volunteers and 14 ALC staff members made LIVERight a huge success. We educated over 500 people about hepatitis B and liver cancer; not to mention, we raised $51,000 for the Jade Ribbon Campaign!

This year, back by popular demand, LIVERight on the go! the 2nd annual 5K run/walk took place at Stanford University. Our mighty staff of 13 attracted more than 700 registered participants, 100 volunteers and raised $135,000 towards the fight against HBV and liver cancer.

The early morning of Saturday, November 11th, 2006 rained, in fact, it poured. Due to rather moist conditions, we were not permitted to setup on Sand Hill Fields. But no amount of rain could ruin our parade! Instead, we stalled out the ground floor of the parking garage and despite the dreary weather, the excitement and energy of everyone involved lifted the clouds away and motivated all to LIVERight. At 9:00am the sky was clear and our enthusiastic volunteers cheered on the runners as they ran through a virtual timeline of the HBV history. After the run, the participants were challenged to play in our “Jade Crusade” to win a Beanie Baby.

LIVERight has always been more than just another run. Our first run in 2005 gave us a great experience and enabled us to unite the community against HBV and liver cancer. The second run, in 2006, nearly doubled the audience we were able to educate, and not to mention, tripled our donations. Through this event, we’ve realized the potential of LIVERight as a mobilizing force that can push the issues of HBV directly into the public eye. As a testament to its success, on April 28th, 2007, LIVERight Boston will make our 5k run/walk a national event!

Join LIVERight on the go and live well!

- Kimberly Sue, Outreach Coordinator 06-07
Asian Liver Center

In September of 2004, the Asian Liver Center and the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) launched the San Francisco “3 for Life” program to provide affordable HBV screening and vaccinations to the API community. This successful campaign marked a groundbreaking collaboration between our two organizations in providing low cost health services to the San Francisco API community. SF is currently touting the highest incidence of liver cancer in the country, the ALC and SFDPH made it a goal to spread information and provide proper screening and treatment for HBV. Our goal was to raise awareness among the API community of the importance of being tested for HBV, vaccinated if unprotected, and monitored if infected with chronic HBV.

On the first and third Saturday of every month, for a year (2004-2005), we offered hepatitis A and B testing and vaccinations to the SF community. Over the course of 24 Saturdays, 72 clinic hours, and with the help of over 120 volunteers, the campaign proved more than successful by testing 1211 people. We identified 10% as chronic hepatitis B carriers and provided them with information on how to monitor their disease. 39% were already protected against HBV and in addition, we identified 51% of the people who were not protected from hepatitis B. Of those people, 89% completed the 3-shot vaccination series and gained immunity.

The widespread community participation indicated that accessibility, convenience of location, and the low cost of vaccines are important factors in an effective outreach and vaccination program. The success of “3 for Life” in San Francisco raised the need for further programs throughout the country. In January 2006, both UCSF and the Chinese Christian Herald Community Center of Los Angeles adopted “3 for Life.” More recently, in September 2006, Hawaii launched “3 for Life” in the densely populated city of Honolulu.

The Asian Liver Center at Stanford University has been a prominent model for outreach through this year-long project. We proudly lead the development of programs and partnerships around the world in fighting hepatitis B.

Working with the ALC has been inspirational and productive. It has expanded our ability to serve our community in ways we never imagined possible.

- Janet Zola, MPH

SFDPH Communicable Disease Control and Prevention
The education not only needs to be with our community, but the education needs to be also with the medical community, to educate them, to screen Asian American immigrants for hepatitis B.

- Lawrence Wong, College Board

On May 22, 2006, the ALC made history by screening over 500 people in 5 hours at the 2nd annual Asian Heritage Street Celebration. This unprecedented event, which was organized by the AsianWeek Foundation, drew more than 80,000 Asian Americans into San Francisco’s Sunset District. People from 37 different cities came to get tested, including San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and Congressman Mike Honda.

Over 12% of those tested had chronic hepatitis B, and 36% were unprotected and in need of vaccination. The ALC is currently working with community and government leaders in San Francisco to expand HBV screening for all Asians.

“My brother and I had the hepatitis B virus. And all these years I thought I was just a carrier, not a big deal. I had always been healthy every year. … Some of my relatives said, “You shouldn’t tell anybody that you have this because people are going to think you are sick.”

- Supervisor Fiona Ma, who tested positive, and pledged as a state Assemblywoman to increase statewide awareness and obtain insurance coverage for Hep B vaccinations.

“The message here is we need to constantly, constantly educate and screen on this issue. I am committed, if you give me that info, to pass it to throughout 57,000 families in our school district.”

- Norman Yee, School board president, where half of the students are Asian American.

“The next step after testing is to make sure our community can get the resources from our government, I rom the health plans to get the proper medical treatment if you have it, and get vaccinated if you are not protected. That is so critical to get it done.”

- James Fang president of AsianWeek and BART Director

Jade Ribbon Youth Council

The Jade Ribbon Youth Council was one of the most influential activities in which I participated during my high school career. I was able to collaborate with other students my age who were passionate about promoting liver health among our communities. We learned to work together creatively yet effectively, while at the same time gaining valuable experience in communication and public health in preparation for our future careers.

Established in May 2003, the Jade Ribbon Youth Council (JRYC) is composed of 13-15 high school students in the Bay Area. Their mission is to educate Asian-American and Asian Pacific Islander youths to become active leaders in the prevention and eradication of hepatitis B through outreach campaigns in their respective schools and communities.

Every year, the members are singularly selected from a pool of Bay Area applicants, for their leadership skills, motivation, creativity, and abilities to serve the needs of Asian communities. In joining the Asian Liver Center’s cause to promote community awareness of hepatitis B and liver cancer, the JRYC strategy to implement change is two-fold. They are dedicated to participating in local grassroots community events as well as establishing a more institutionalized network among API youth. In 2003, they developed the Asian Health Awareness Handbook (AHAI), a toolkit to help high school students start a Jade Ribbon club at school.

The Youth Council is an integral component of the Asian Liver Center: it serves to reach out to the youth community using effective, peer-to-peer methods. Since 2004, the Council publishes a quarterly newsletter, BeLined, keeping all previous Youth Leadership Conference attendees updated on the Jade Ribbon Campaign. The JRYC’s efforts will continue to create abundant influential interests in the API youths of today, who will mature to become tomorrow’s decision makers, paving the way for worldwide eradication of hepatitis B.

- Derrick Su, Youth Council Member 03-04

Council Members

2004-2007
Chen Fan, Catherine Chu, Mindy Chu, Cindy Guan, Daniel Kim, Dylan Kim, Michelle Kim, Charles Liu, Tsien Lui, Yuen Lui, Brandon Shih, Alina Wang, Lynn Xia, Lucy Yang

2005-2006
Jeffrey Biai, Sonal Balji, Michelle Chu, Mindy Chu, Kristin Dong, June Kim, Michelle Kim, Solomon Lee, Dustin Liu, Charles Liu, James Puk, Jennifer Tran, Michael Wang, Alina Wang

2004-2005
Jonathan Chen, Mindy Chu, Ali Ho, Catherine Hui, Bryan Hwang, June-Ho Kim, Jason Pan, Dino Park, Yvette Wang, Amanda Wang, Vivian Nguyen, Jeffrey Biai, Joyce Ho

2003-2004
Jeffrey Biai, Boris Chen, Cory Chen, Christina Chen, Helen Chiao, Joyce Ho, Vivian Nguyen, Derrick Su, Jessica Tsai, Wilbur Wang, Amanda Wang, Albert Yap

Youth Task Force 2002
Boris Chen, Cory Chen, Elisa Huang, Albert Yap, Christina Jain
Annual Youth Leadership Conference

In 2002, the Asian Liver Center held its very first Youth Leadership Conference on Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Health at Stanford University with the goal of harnessing the energy of today’s youth to inspire positive action in the community.

For four years, the Center for Disease Control and the American Cancer Society has generously sponsored this unique program. Although the aims of the program have not changed, the Annual Youth Leadership Conference has grown drastically since that first year with fifty California high school participants. By the second conference, participation increased to over 100 students and by the fourth conference, 137 students attended, some from as far as New York.

Each year’s speaker list featured prominent figures in the Asian American community. These role models included notable figures like Dr. Winston Wong, the Division Director for the Health Resources and Services Administration; Congressman Mike Honda of the 15th District of California; and we look forward to hosting Fiona Ma, California State Assemblywoman in 2007.

After intense outreach workshops, the students participate in an interactive “Team Challenge” that require teams to compete in against each other to develop the most effective outreach campaign. In this “real life” simulation, students are given the opportunity to implement the outreach tools acquired throughout the conference.

But the conference does not end when we bid the students farewell, each year, we encourage students to take what they learn and apply it to a real project of their own design in their local communities. As incentive, the Asian Liver Center offers four Jade Ribbon Scholarships to the students who take implement the most outstanding outreach events in the community. Over three years, we have awarded 12 scholarships to our young community activists and we look forward to seeing the latest projects.

To allow students more time for in-depth training and knowledge building, we are expanding the conference to 4 days over the summer. We are very excited to host the 5th Annual Youth Leadership Conference on August 9-12, 2007 at Stanford University.
The annual Hepatitis B Prevention & Education Symposium for Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Practitioners offers a unique opportunity for TCM practitioners to learn the most up-to-date information concerning HBV.

The symposium specifically targets TCM practitioners for two reasons: first, current physician education programs on HBV are unavailable for non-Western medicine practitioners, and second, most patients of TCM practitioners are Asian.

Every year, approximately 200 practitioners attend this full-day conference. In partnership with the California Acupuncture Medical Association (CAMA), the 3rd annual TCM symposium was held on June 18th, 2006. This year, participants represented over 9 different Asian countries with varying degrees of HBV knowledge. The main program featured a presentation by Dr. Samuel So to address prevention, transmission, diagnosis, and treatment of HBV, as well as new information and recent improvements in treatment.

After the presentation, the practitioners were broken down into smaller groups for workshops, and a screening. Practitioners also showed off their HBV knowledge through a fun and lively game of HBV Bingo. The results from the 2006 surveys showed that through our educational methods, we are accomplishing our goal of spreading awareness and increasing practitioner referrals to patients for hepatitis B testing and vaccination clinics. We are looking forward to hosting the 4th annual symposium in June 2007 at Stanford University.

In June 2001, the Asian Liver Center partnered with the Hepatitis B Foundation to sponsor “B Informed 2001: A Gathering of Friends,” the first meeting specifically dedicated to those living with or affected by hepatitis B.

Since then, this conference has been held annually and includes a variety of speakers to discuss the latest information in outreach education and management of hepatitis B. From the June 2001 conference of 40 people, to the June 2006 conference, of over 120 attendees, the forum has grown reaching hundreds of patients, families, and their loved ones.

Through presentations by experts, interactive question and answer sessions, personal testimonies and single-topic workshop sessions offered in multiple languages (English, Chinese, and Vietnamese), valuable information and support was given and shared. Distinguished speakers included Dr. Tom London, Director of the Liver Cancer Prevention Program at Fox Chase Cancer Center; Dr. Ken Rothstein, Medical Director of the Liver Transplant Team at Einstein Medical Center and the ALC’s own, Dr. Samuel So, Director of the Liver Cancer Program at the Stanford Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Throughout the years, attendees have learned from experts in the field about disability and the latest treatment, empathized with personal accounts of struggle and pain, and created support networks across a diverse community. We are proud of each conference that continues the momentum of building a strong and visible hepatitis B community of patients, families, health care providers and researchers. We are proud to announce that the 2007 conference will be held in Pennsylvania.
On September 14-16, 2006, the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) hosted a health summit to develop a national agenda for Asian American and Pacific Islander health for the next 20 years.

APIAHF invited the Asian Liver Center to organize the hepatitis B track which, for the first time, was included as one of the major health issues facing Asian and Pacific Islanders today. With the theme of “Unite Against HBV,” the unique program brought together the nation’s leaders in hepatitis B prevention to share outreach models and HBV resources in order to learn and grow from each other.

Dialogue was encouraged, and participants identified the goals and strategies for a national chronic HBV and liver cancer control plan. Keynote speakers included Dr. John Ward, Director of the CDC’s Division of Viral Hepatitis, Dr. Mindie Nguyen from the Stanford University School of Medicine, and Dr. So. Congressman Mike Honda (CA-13) and San Francisco City Supervisor Fiona Ma were among the workshop leaders. The hepatitis B track elicited widespread participation from representatives of over 20 organizations from diverse locations such as Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Maryland, New York, Seattle, and Washington D.C.

Hepatitis B Bill: The Asian Liver Center played a key role in the development of the very first piece of hepatitis B legislation, “The National Hepatitis B Act.”

H.R. 4550 was first introduced to the U.S. House of Representatives on December 15, 2005 by Congressmen Mike Honda (D-CA) and Charles Dent (R-PA). On June 22, 2006, we were excited to see Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Rick Santorum (R-PA) successfully introduce the Senate version of the bill (S. 3558). The ALC, along with our coalition of partners (including Hepatitis B Foundation, New York University Center for the Study of Asian American Health, Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations, Asian Liver Foundation, and Hepatitis International), continue to urge support of the bill through letter writing campaigns. Hopefully, the bipartisan legislation will lead to the establishment of a comprehensive prevention, education, research, and medical management program that will lead to reductions in liver cirrhosis and cases of liver cancer caused by chronic hepatitis B infection.
And that is exactly what we are doing: 6,500 miles away from home. With a big emphasis on education, The ALC initiated the China Hepatitis B Project in collaboration with the China Foundation for Hepatitis Prevention and Control and the China Centers for Disease Control (CDC). In 2005, the program started in two cities in the Guangdong province; Heshang and Zhongshan, providing hepatitis B education and free HBV vaccinations for 10,000 grade school students in the Sichuan Jiuzhai area, focusing on the largely rural underserved minority population.

In 2006 the project has expanded to the Qinghai province, high on the Tibetan plateau also focused on the rural underserved population. Providing the proper HBV education and prevention needed to reduce fear, increase understanding, and promote positive action, my partner Joy, and I traveled from school to school, county to county to give educate grade school children. In three months, over 56,000 children were provided the first two shots of the three shot series as a “catch-up”, closing the gap to protect those who missed the 2003 start of the national policy providing free newborn HBV vaccinations.

Currently, we are working on a toolkit for teachers, so that once we move on to a different part of the world, the educators of a region can continue spreading the awareness. We are delighted about the success and progress of the program made possible by the support of visionary donors who are committed to investing in and enhancing children’s lives, however there is much ground to cover if we are to eradicate HBV worldwide. With your support, we are looking forward to expanding the Project to the Jiangxi and Hunan provinces in 2007.

On November 16, 2006, Dr. So traveled to Chengdu to deliver the opening keynote address at the China Hepatitis Prevention and Control Conference. In his speech, Dr. So gave recommendations for a comprehensive national strategy to eliminate hepatitis B in China, emphasizing the need for an expanded immunization program that would provide free catch-up vaccination for unprotected children and adolescents. In addition, Sichuan University held its first Graduate Student Health Forum on November 17, 2006. The ALC was invited to introduce the Jade Ribbon, which was officially adopted to represent their anti-discrimination stance regarding HBV.

I may have only showered six times in three months, I may have eaten things that most Americans will never touch or even see in their lives, and it may be several degrees below freezing at 3,000 meters in altitude, but ready or not, I’m going back for round two. Needless to say, I, Jonathan Chen, am excited! :)

“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”

-Chinese Proverb
In 2006, the ALC embarked on the process of analyzing and publishing our data from over six years of outreach, education, and prevention of hepatitis B and liver cancer in the Asian/Pacific Islander American (APIA) community.

Over the last 6 months, we have completed three manuscripts and submitted them for publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals. Our research is centered on three prominent issues concerning the APIA community:

1. Poor knowledge about HBV and liver cancer
   We surveyed 199 adults in the San Francisco APIA community, and found low levels of knowledge and preventive activity (including screening and vaccination) against chronic HBV infection and liver cancer. For example, only 59% knew that HBV can be transmitted from mothers to newborn infants, and only 26% knew that HBV infection cannot be prevented by proper cooking methods. We also found that individuals with better knowledge about HBV were more likely to take preventive action against HBV, suggesting that education and outreach targeting the APIA community may help to prevent HBV transmission and liver cancer development. This study provides motivation for our ongoing efforts to improve HBV awareness and prevention among APIs.

2. High prevalence of chronic HBV infection
   We analyzed the combined results of 3,163 APIA adults who attended HBV screening clinics held throughout the Bay Area, and found that 8.9% were chronically infected with HBV, including 10.7% of those born in Asia or the Pacific Islands. Alarmingly, we found that two-thirds of chronically infected adults did not know that they were infected. Furthermore, among those who thought that they had been vaccinated, 20.3% were not protected and 5.2% were in fact chronically infected with HBV. Given the high prevalence of chronic HBV infection in the APIA population, combined with the high percentage of chronically infected adults who are unaware that they are infected, our findings support our call for all APIA adults to be screened for HBV infection.

3. Successful intervention model against chronic HBV infection and liver cancer
   We evaluated the impact of the Jade Ribbon Campaign by following up with APIA adults to whom we provided free HBV screening and education. Along with their test results, each participant received a detailed letter with recommendations for subsequent health actions based on their HBV infection status. After one year, we recontacted 309 of the 476 participants and found that the majority had followed our recommendations. Two-thirds of those with chronic HBV infection followed our advice to visit a physician for liver cancer screening; one person was even placed on the liver transplant waiting list. These results indicate that the combination of HBV screening, education, and tailored recommendations can be effective in improving HBV awareness and prevention in Chinese-American adults. Based on these findings, we believe that the frequent screening and education clinics held by the ALC are a valuable means of disseminating HBV knowledge and preventive practices across the APIA population.

In the coming year, we look forward to conducting new research to better understand differences between APIA adults who do and do not get vaccinated against HBV, as well as what motivates or deters them from being screened or vaccinated. With our findings, we hope to improve our programs to extend HBV knowledge and prevention throughout the U.S. and Asia.
Ten years and going strong. The Asian Liver Center is not about slow down in the coming year. In 2007, we are planning to launch a large scale “Hepatitis B-free San Francisco” campaign, the first large scale, high profile program in the country to address this major health disparity in the Asian American community. It will call for every adult Asian American living in SF, particularly those who are foreign born, to get screened for hepatitis B, to get appropriate monitoring and medical treatment if infected, and get vaccinated if not protected. We will spread the Jade Ribbon Champaign globally, and continue to hold a strong presence in China, becoming the focus of the Beijing National Health Summit.

It takes a virus to kill a virus. Spread the Jade Ribbon Champaign.

- Dr. Samuel So

2007 & BEYOND

looking ahead: the jade crusade continues

photograph by Jonathan Chen
calendar of events

january
ALC leads educational HBV Presentation and Screening in Santa Clara, CA at the River of Life Community Center, providing free screening for at least 250 Asian Americans.

february
ALC celebrates the Lunar New Year! Asian Liver Center holds educational booths at the Tet Festival in San Jose as well as at San Francisco Chinese New Year Festival and Parade.

march
Jade Ribbon Youth Council coordinates a Bay Area Hepatitis B Awareness Week. City officials will proclaim, Fremont, Sunnyvale, Palo Alto, Cupertino, San Jose, Saratoga, San Ramon, Milpitas, and Newark.

april
ALC in partnership with the city and county of San Francisco, the San Francisco Public Health Department, the Asian Week Foundation, and scores of community partners to kick-off “San Francisco: Hepatitis B Free Campaign.”

Dr. So speaks at the 4th Annual Unite for Sight Conference: International Health Conference at Stanford University.

may
Launch of the Jade Ribbon International website.
Asian Liver Center collaborates with Congressmen Honda and Dent to re-introduce the bi-partisan Hepatitis B bill to Congress.

june
Asian Liver Center in collaboration with the California Acupuncture Medical Association brings the 4th Annual Hepatitis B Prevention & Education Symposium for TCM Practitioners to Stanford University.

august
5th Annual Youth Leadership Conference on Asian and Pacific Islander Health at Stanford University expands to a 4-day summer conference for high school students from across the country.

september
Hepatitis B National Summit: Beijing, China

october
HBV Education and Blood Screening in Oakland and Millbrae
In April 2007, we plan to launch the Jade Ribbon Campaign website which will be an international forum to keep everyone involved with the Jade Ribbon Campaign connected.

Post blogs of Jade Ribbon anywhere and everywhere. With the launch of the new website will be the beginning of a new international challenge: Where’s JR? JR can travel the world visiting new cities and spreading our message. The Asian Liver Center will mail JR and you can take him along with you helping to promote preventative education.

My name is Amanda Wong, a sophomore at Cornell University and president of Cornell’s chapter of the Asian Liver Center. Two years ago, I tearfully bid the ALC family goodbye, believing that after three years of serving on the Jade Ribbon Youth Council, scooping out countless goldfish and forging unforgettable friendships, going to college across the country would bring my relationship with the Asian Liver Center to a close. Little did I know that the next summer, I would be interning in that small but mighty basement, and would become a president of Team HBV.

My first year at college was a whirlwind of new friends and lessons, but I felt strangely empty. I missed the feeling of working towards something that would affect more than just me, something to feel proud about. When Steven Lin, our beloved ALC Health Research Coordinator (aka Superman), approached me with the idea of creating ALC chapters, I was extremely excited.

The ALC family has been unbelievably supportive of Team HBV. I don’t believe Jian and I could have successfully established these chapters without their laughter, witty insults, and cheerful dedication to this cause. Happy 10th birthday, ALC!

My name is Jian Zheng, I am a junior at Duke University. I learned about HBV only when my young and seemingly healthy brother was diagnosed with chronic hepatitis B. Having experienced the fear of not knowing what’s going on and what would happen next, I want to educate others about the disease so that no other families would have to suffer needlessly. With education, testing, and vaccination, HBV can be prevented and even eradicated around the world. Why not start at Duke?

I’m very happy to be part of the Asian Liver Center, and to be able to work with such passionate, supportive, and friendly people! As the great anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, “Never underestimate the ability of a small group of committed individuals to change the world; indeed, they are the only ones who ever have.”
Meet the Family of 2007!
Acknowledgements

To all the generous friends who made charitable contributions to the Asian Liver Center in 2006, we offer our heartfelt thanks. With your support, we are gradually achieving our goal to eradicate hepatitis B and liver cancer worldwide!