



THE
HEALTH
FOUNDATION

Striving For A Healthier Pakistan

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015



The Health Foundation expands activities into interior Sindh and Punjab.

Alhamdulillah, after successful interventions in the Hepatitis Free Community Projects, Korangi (HFCP-Korangi) and Malir (HFCP-Malir); The Health Foundation (THF) has extended its scope of work to district **Sanghar** in interior Sindh and **Lahore** in Punjab.

It is widely accepted that the communities in rural areas like Sanghar are not very receptive; but in THF's case it was exactly the opposite. THF was well received by the community in Sanghar and they were very much interested regarding THF's Hepatitis B and C project. Awareness for Hep B and Hep C started in October 2014 followed by registration of each household for Hepatitis B vaccination. Since Sanghar is one of the highest prevalent areas for Hepatitis (prevalence of **Hep B is 2.8%** while **Hep C is 7.8%**), a vaccination plan was devised to cover the total population.

Registered as a national CSO, THF initiated its activities in Punjab. THF **Lahore Chapter** became functional in February 2015. Safe Sharp Waste Management programs were introduced at Sir Ganga Ram and WAPDA hospitals. THF is implementing this project in collaboration with Pakistan Medical Research Council (P.M.R.C), Sir Ganga Ram and WAPDA hospitals. This provided a window for THF to further collaborate, implement and expand its Hepatitis Free Community project (HFCP) in slum areas surrounding the selected hospitals. Thus UC 72, Anarkali, adjacent to SGR Hospital was taken as the first intervention site for introducing the HFCP.





THF is proud to be accepted as an affiliate member of CEVHAP.

The Coalition to Eradicate Viral Hepatitis in Asia Pacific (CEVHAP) established in 2010; as a multi disciplinary body to advocate for public policy reforms with particular focus on building capacity within the viral hepatitis healthcare sectors, and promoting greater education and awareness about that aim to reduce the burden of viral hepatitis in Asia-Pacific. The organization is committed to building partnerships with others who share the same goals including: governments, NGOs, the business sector, academic researchers, civil society and people themselves who are infected. **As of March 2015 THF is a proud member of this coalition.**



THF Joins hands with students of Ziauddin University

KaraHealth, a student run organization at Ziauddin University, in collaboration with The Health Foundation held multiple Hepatitis Awareness sessions for the local community of Sikanderabad, Kemari town. An interactive power point presentation on Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, provided by THF, was shared with the attendees. Student volunteers were first trained on how to deliver the presentation with special emphasis on important behavior change messages. The messages were delivered in Urdu and Pashto, followed by an interactive question answer session. People interested in getting them vaccinated against Hep B were also registered.



CSR Annual Conference

THF set up a stall at the **4th International CSR Summit, Awards & CSR Gallery** held in Karachi on 12th Feb 2015. Participants were sensitized about Hepatitis B and C using print and electronic media.



Partnering with CHEAF

The Health Foundation collaborated with CHEAF to vaccinate communities around 10 health centers being run through CHEAF support. All the medical and para medical staff and individuals from the neighboring locality received Hepatitis B vaccine.



Targeting specific High risk group

A special seminar held for **Beauticians** at Vocational Training Center (Government facility) of Korangi Town. Awareness regarding prevention and protection from Hepatitis B and C was given to the participants. The Principle of the Training Center appreciated the efforts of THF and was keen to hold such awareness session on regular basis.

Targets Vs Achievements of Hepatitis Free Community Projects - 2015

S.No	Project	Awareness Activity	Monthly Target For Vaccination per Month	Vaccination achievement
1	KORANGI	Total Sessions: 286 People Reached: 3776	1800	85 %
2	MALIR	Total Sessions: 220 People Reached: 5296	3600	84 %
3	SANGHAR	Total Sessions: 210 People Reached: 13,929	2735	85 %



Hepatitis in the News-Highlights!

Sovaldi - 'miracle' hepatitis C oral drug gets official nod. (Dawn News - Nov 21, 2014 by Asif Chaudhry.)

LAHORE: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has finally fixed price of the 'blockbuster' oral drug - Sovaldi – after its registration in Pakistan, giving good news to hepatitis C patients.

The decision taken in a meeting of DRAP's Drug Price Committee in Islamabad on Thursday.

Only one company was granted rights to sell and market this much-awaited drug in Pakistan at a price approximately Rs. 1,940 for each tablet. The company will make available a pack of 28 tablets for total price Rs. 55,000 after final approval by the federal government.

more at

www.dawn.com/news/1145916

Gilead Sciences USA cut Hepatitis C's tablet price by 40% for Pakistan. (Daily times - March 06, 2015 by Abrar Hamza.)

KARACHI: World's breakthrough cure for Hepatitis C, Sovaldi (Sofosbuvir 400 milligrams) would be available soon in Pakistan at reasonable price. Manufacturer of drug Gilead Sciences Incorporated United States of America (USA) has approved significant subsidized rate for Pakistan.

Subsequently a local distributor of this drug has slashed its price to Rs 1,357 per tablet from Rs 1,964 per tablet. The local distributor has voluntarily reduced maximum retail price of Sovaldi tablets (Sofosbuvir 400 mg) from Rs 55,000 per bottle of 28 tablets to Rs 38,000 per bottle while drug would be available within six weeks in markets.

more at

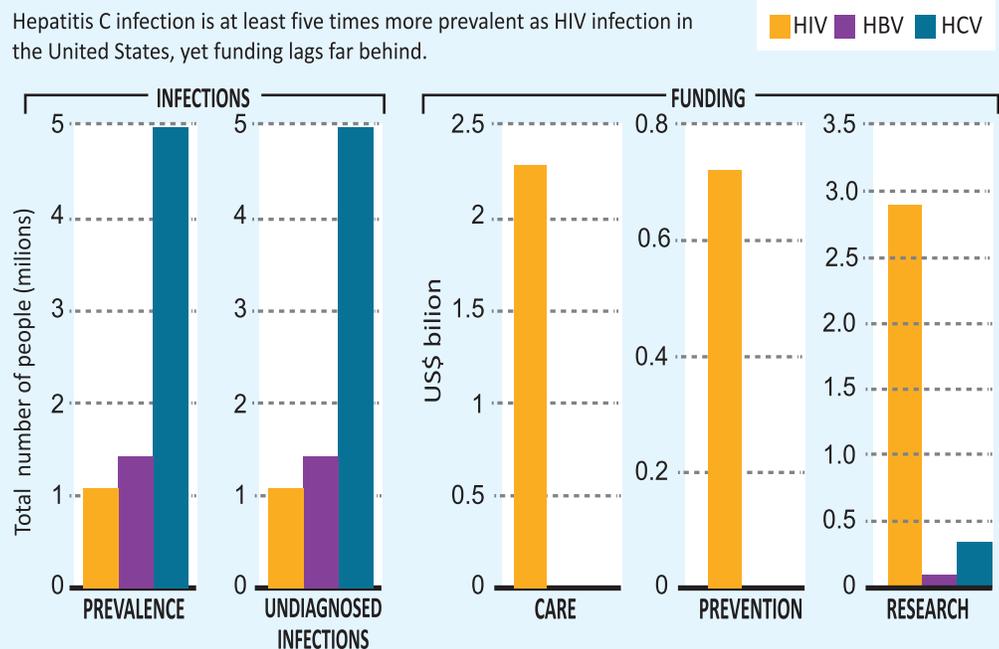
<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/business/06-Mar-2015/gilead-sciences-usa-cut-hepatitis-c-s-tablet-price-by-40-for-pakistan>

Global burden of Hepatitis C: Where challenge meets opportunity

Investment in viral hepatitis lags far behind

US RESPONSE TO HIV AND VIRAL HEPATITIS EPIDEMICS

Hepatitis C infection is at least five times more prevalent as HIV infection in the United States, yet funding lags far behind.



http://www.impactid.com/Portals/4/slideDecks/HEP/01_Thomas_READY.pdf

Oral Hepatitis B Vaccine Made From GMO Corn Shows Promise. (Hepmag - April 06, 2015)

A process of developing vaccines through genetically modified corn may lead to an oral vaccine for hepatitis B virus (HBV) that does not require refrigeration and costs under \$1 to manufacture. The biotech firm Applied Biotechnology Institute genetically engineered corn to produce an HBV-like particle that is not infectious. These findings will be presented at the American Society for Bio-chemistry and Molecular Biology Annual Meeting during Experimental Biology 2015.

“Even though an effective injectable hepatitis B vaccine was developed more than 30 years ago, high infection rates still persist in areas of the world where people cannot afford the vaccine or do not have reliable refrigeration,” ...

more at

http://www.hepmag.com/articles/GMO_corn_vaccine_2501_27053.shtml



Adopt A Patient Initiative - YOU need to get involved!!!

Taking into account the dire need of treatment and affordability, THF facilitates the treatment of non-affording patients. This initiative started in 2013 has continued to provide free treatment (including all mandatory lab tests) to the poor and marginalized population

THF seeks support from friends to contribute to this serious public health issue and shelter these individuals and their families from the awaiting horror of this painful, expensive and at most time's fatal disease.

Patients registered for free treatment till date

Total	Hepatitis C Patients	Hepatitis B Patients
2610	2304	306

Global , National and Provincial partnerships

Global Partners

A.P.P.N.A (Assoc. of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America)
 G.A.V.I Alliance (Global Alliance of Vaccination and Immunization)
 U.N.I.C.E.F (United Nation International Children Educational Fund)
 W.H.A (World Hepatitis Alliance)
 W.H.O (World Health Organization)
 CEVHAP (Coalition to Eradicate Viral Hepatitis in Asia Pacific)

National Partners

CSO Alliance (Civil Society Organization)
 P.M.R.C (Pakistan Medical Research Council)

Provincial Partners

E.P.I. Cell, Sindh
 C.D.G.K (City District Government Karachi)
 Chief Minister Hepatitis Control Program for Sindh
 J.P.M.C (Jinnah Post Graduate Medical Center)
 L.H.W Program (Lady Health Worker Program)
 Sir Ganga Ram, Hospital Lahore

Other C.S.O's (Aga Khan , H.E.L.P., CHIP , HANDS)
 P.M.A. Sindh (Pakistan Medical Association)
 Private Sector Hospitals (Indus Hospital, Patel Hospital, Chinoit Hospital & Jinnah Medical & Dental Hospital)

Today, estimated every 10th Pakistani is affected with Hepatitis B or C

LET'S JOIN HANDS
 TO MAKE PAKISTAN HEPATITIS FREE



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 Title of Account: The Health Foundation
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