



It's closer than you think

Don't ignore it. Hepatitis is a potentially fatal disease that affects 1 in 12 people worldwide, but there are rarely obvious symptoms.

This is hepatitis... Know it. Confront it. Get tested.

World Hepatitis Day: 28 July  
www.worldhepatitisday.info

# Hepatitis Health

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 3

OCTOBER 2012

## World Hepatitis Day

By April Crowley

The World Hepatitis Alliance planned a Guinness World Record attempt to observe World Hepatitis Day 2012 by having the largest number of people perform the “see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil” actions within 24 hours at multiple venues around the world. This theme was chosen to highlight that viral hepatitis is being ignored around the world.

In Tallahassee, Pam Langford, Executive Director of H.E.A.L.S. of the South (Hepatitis Education, Awareness and Liver Support), a local community-based organization, organized an event at the Senior Citizen Center on Saturday, July 28, 2012. Thirty people, including staff from the HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Program, participated in this World Record attempt. Educational materials and information about viral hepatitis were provided to the public during the event.

Other highlights included a proclamation from Governor Rick Scott and a statewide press release issued by the Department of Health (DOH) Communications Office.

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

**World Hepatitis Day** 1

**Black Men's Health Summit** 3

**Viral Hepatitis Summit** 4

**HCV Clinical Trials** 5

**HCV in Young Adults** 8

**New CDC HCV Screening Guidelines** 10



World Hepatitis Day participants in Tallahassee.



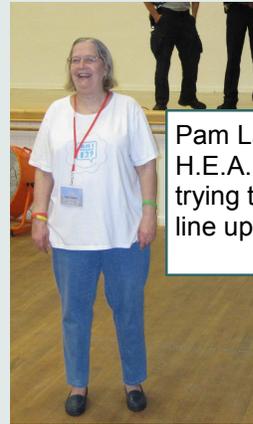
Witnesses left to right are: Sgt. Mike Reeves with the Leon County Sheriff's Office, Lt. Kenny Schultz from the Tallahassee Fire Department, Lt. Dewey Riou from the Tallahassee Police Department and Lynn Bannister from U.S. Senator Bill Nelson's office. More photos on page 2.



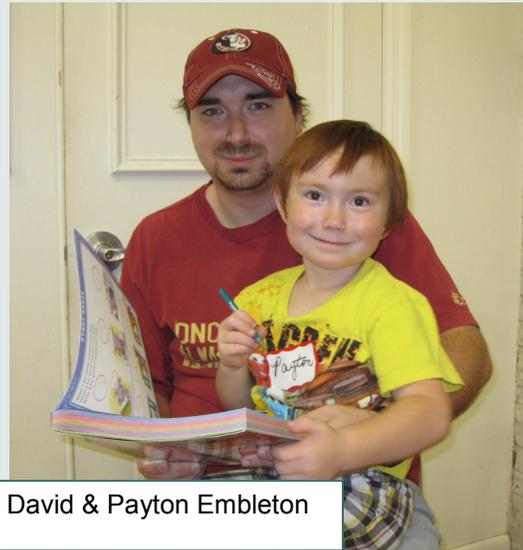
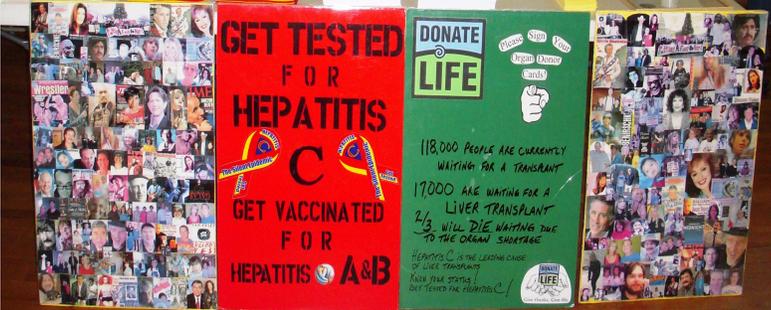
# World Hepatitis Day Photos Continued from Page 1



Miriam Altieri with H.E.A.L.S.



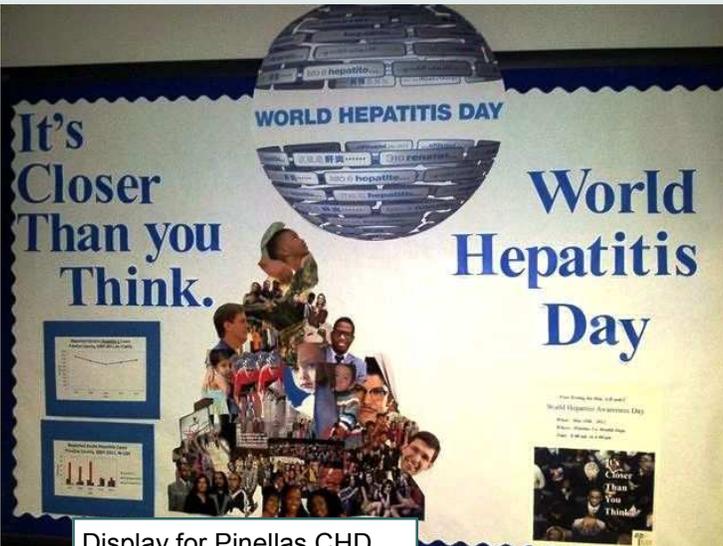
Pam Langford, with H.E.A.L.S., laughs while trying to get everyone to line up for the photo.



David & Payton Embleton



L to R: Phil Reichert, Jessi Embleton, April Crowley, Donna Wheeler & Adam Reichert.



Display for Pinellas CHD

**HEPATITIS PREVENTION PROGRAM**  
 Palm Beach County Health Department

**WORLD HEPATITIS DAY**

**PBCHD is Offering Hepatitis Testing and Vaccinations at No Charge.**

**Get Tested! Early Diagnosis can Prevent Permanent Liver Damage!**

**Friday, July 27, 2012**  
**10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.**

HIV & STD Testing Also Available.  
 (Must be 18 or older)

**Northeast Health Center**  
 851 Avenue "P"  
 Riviera Beach, FL 33404

*Come join us for refreshments courtesy of the Palm Beach County Hepatitis Coalition.*

**For more information, please contact:**  
 (561) 803-7351

Flyer for Palm Beach CHD

## Black Men's Health & Wellness Expo

By Lori Theisen, RN, BSN

The 16th Annual Black Men's Health Summit was held on June 16, 2012, at the Orange County Convention Center. The purpose of this expo was to improve the health status of African Americans and minorities and encourage them to take a proactive approach in the management of their health.

The Hepatitis Prevention Program at Orange County Health Department (CHD) worked with STD and Area 7 HIV staff to provide hepatitis, syphilis and HIV testing. The CHD screened 77 attendees for chronic hepatitis and provided educational information to many more participants. Men who are at risk were offered hepatitis A and B vaccines when they received their test results. The event was highly successful.



L to R: Ben KleKamp, OCHD EIS Officer, Sarah Matthews, OCHD EPI Manager and Debbie Tucci, Area 7 HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator (HAPC)



L to R: Lori Theisen & Albertha Nelson, MPH, a student/volunteer

## Congratulations to Susanne Crowe

Susanne Crowe is the new Bureau of Public Health Laboratories, Jacksonville Laboratory Director.

Susanne has a long history at the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories, having worked and provided leadership for 23 years in the areas of microbiology, serology, and immunology, working closely through the years with various DOH programs, including Hepatitis Prevention and STD. She is also one of the founding members of the Florida Viral Hepatitis Council, having previously served as the Department Co-Chair for that planning and advisory group.

Susanne received a Bachelor of Science from Berry College in Rome, Georgia and a Master of Health Administration from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. She has won several awards during her career: Prudential-Davis Productivity Awards (2009, 2010, 2011), the Homer D. Venters Award for young public health laboratorians (1997), Florida Public Health Association Presidential Awards (2000, 2001, 2002), and the Florida Public Health Association Robert D. May, M.D. Award (2009) for Outstanding Service in Public Health. She serves as the Epidemiology/Laboratory Section chair for the Florida Public Health Association, and has been a member-at-large.



Susanne Crowe

## World Hepatitis Alliance sets new Guinness World Record

[www.worldhepatitisalliance.org](http://www.worldhepatitisalliance.org)

The World Hepatitis Alliance announced on September 5, 2012, that a global record attempt which took place on World Hepatitis Day involving 12,588 people has resulted in a new Guinness World Record.



On July 28th, people gathered at 42 sites in 20 countries and two areas to mime the actions of the “See No Evil, Hear No Evil, Speak No Evil” proverb, also known as the three wise monkeys.

The attempt took place within a 24-hour period on July 28th to mark the fifth global World Hepatitis Day. Participants stood in rows covering their eyes, ears and mouths in sequence. Individual attempts which contributed to the record varied from modest to the enormous. In Nova Scotia, Canada, a collection of 224 volunteers held their attempt on a heliport overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, whereas in Tamil Nadu, India, 3,200 school children mimed the actions on their playground.

World Hepatitis Day provided an opportunity for communities all around the world to join together to raise awareness of hepatitis and promote actions to confront it. World Hepatitis Day is one of only four official world disease awareness days endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and its 194 member states.



HEPATITIS FOUNDATION  
INTERNATIONAL

...News / Events

The Hepatitis Foundation International (HFI) is sponsoring a **one-day education and training summit** for health professionals and others working with people who are affected by or infected with viral hepatitis. It takes place on **Friday, November 16, 2012, 9:00 AM – 3:45 PM**, at the **Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport**.

### Topics include:

- Liver Health --- Firing Up Prevention
- Hepatitis B- Chronic? Carrier? When and How to Treat
- Diagnosis and Treatment of Hepatitis C
- Sorting Out the Diagnostics
- Depression, Mental Health and HCV Infection
- Hepatitis and Substance Abuse



For more information, see the registration form on page 12 of this newsletter, or you can go to <http://www.hepfi.org/>.

# Division of Disease Control & Health Protection

## New National Hepatitis C Referral Resource Maps

By Andi Thomas

HealthPro Solutions has launched “Interactive Referral Resource Maps,” a nation-wide resource helping patients and providers locate important hepatitis C services. This new online resource is available for users all over the country and quickly pinpoints geo-mapped locations that provide the support and services most commonly sought by case managers, counselors, educators, and persons affected by hepatitis C.

This new tool was developed because hepatitis C patients, frontline workers, public health workers and medical providers need easier access to comprehensive referral information.

By clicking on one of the state flags on the main map page at: [www.healthpro-solutions.org/maps](http://www.healthpro-solutions.org/maps) users can see the map for their home state in a familiar and fully featured Google Maps display. All of the resource icons appear on the map initially but can then be filtered by resource type like the following.

- Health clinic
- Physician
- Support group
- Drug treatment
- Viral hepatitis coordinator



HealthPro Solutions is a 501(c)3 nonprofit with a mission to assist people, and organizations that serve them, in promoting health and reducing the burden of chronic disease. For more information, please contact me at: [info@healthpro-solutions.org](mailto:info@healthpro-solutions.org)

## HCV Clinical Trials

Living with hepatitis C (HCV) can be challenging, especially if you need treatment but don't have insurance. You may be interested in learning more about a clinical research study. The purpose of these studies is to test the safety and effectiveness of an investigational study medication in combination with other medications approved to treat hepatitis C.

The Infectious Disease Research Institute Inc. (IDRI) in Tampa conducts FDA approved clinical trials on new and promising drugs against hepatitis C. They also offer trials for HIV and AIDS.

Participants who qualify receive medications and laboratory tests at no charge in addition to research-related medical care provided by Bienvenido G. Yangco, MD, MPH, a board-certified Infectious Disease Specialist. For more information, call 813-875-4374 ext. 1.

Below is a list of additional organizations that are involved in various clinical trials.

- [www.centerwatch.com](http://www.centerwatch.com) and [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov)
- Orlando Clinical Research Center- 407-240-7878
- Miami Research Associates 305-598-3125
- University of Florida Center for Clinical Trials- 1-888-635-0763
- University of Miami Center for Clinical Trials- 305-243-5787
- University of Florida/Jacksonville- 904-633-0080





## Hepatitis C and the Serial Infector

By Phil Reichert



During a recent webinar, the viral hepatitis prevention coordinator from New Hampshire, Patricia Jackson, provided a presentation on the recent hepatitis C outbreak she has dealt with for several months, and which has a connection to several states.

David Kwiatkowski, a radiology technician at Exeter Hospital in New Hampshire, removed syringes meant for patients that were pre-filled with fentanyl (a powerful narcotic painkiller), injected himself, and then refilled those syringes with saline. Kwiatkowski was infected with hepatitis C, and because of his neglect and reuse of the needles on patients, he potentially exposed thousands of individuals in New Hampshire, as well as individuals in seven other states. He was recently arrested for tampering with needles. The 33-year-old Kwiatkowski has been called a “serial infector.”

Patricia Jackson recounted some of her work investigating this outbreak. She called the departments of health in several states, because Kwiatkowski worked for an agency that sent health care workers to hospitals and clinics all over the country. In the last two to four years, he worked in several hospitals in seven other states (Arizona, Georgia, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania). Each of those states launched investigations that include offering hepatitis C testing to patients who may have come in contact with Kwiatkowski while he worked there.

In a phone conversation in July, Jackson provided details of the investigation. She and other New Hampshire epidemiologic investigators called the viral hepatitis prevention coordinators in several states where Kwiatkowski may have lived and worked in the past. New Hampshire wanted our public health databases checked to see if his name showed up in any. While he was not entered into any Florida public health registries or lists, there was evidence he worked in Georgia after he became infected with hepatitis C.

There are currently 31 hepatitis C infections connected genetically to Kwiatkowski. He remains in custody.

In 2010, in Denver, Colorado, Kristen D. Parker, who was 27 years old at the time, was sentenced to 30 years in prison for stealing syringes filled with narcotics and practicing much the same behavior as Kwiatkowski. She, too, was a health care worker who had access to narcotics-filled syringes, injected herself and left the syringes to be used on patients. Her needle-swapping infected at least 18 patients.

In 2012, Steven Beumel, 49, a Jacksonville, Florida hepatitis C infected health care worker, was sentenced to 30 years in prison for stealing syringes with painkillers and replacing them with saline. These same syringes were then used on patients. Like Kwiatkowski, he was a radiology technician. After testing thousands of patients with whom Beumel may have had contact, it was determined that he infected at least two, one of whom died.

## Hepatitis C in Young Adults Enhanced Surveillance Project

By Beth Ann Eichler

Florida has seen an increase in the number of chronic hepatitis C cases in young adults, perhaps starting as early as 2005. The highest incidence rates of chronic hepatitis C infections still occur among persons 45 to 64 years old (the Baby Boomer generation). However, the rates for older adults have leveled off since 2008 while the rate for those aged less than 30 years has been steadily increasing (see chart on next page). This trend is of concern because while older adults were likely infected years or decades ago, hepatitis C infections in younger adults likely represent infections due to recent or current risk behaviors. Those behaviors can be targeted for intervention.



Beth Ann Eichler

In late 2011, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) received funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct enhanced surveillance and identify risk behaviors in young adults (age 18-30 years). Fourteen counties elected to participate: Alachua, Clay, Dade, Duval, Escambia, Hillsborough, Nassau, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Sarasota, Seminole, and St. Lucie. Staff from the Bureau of Epidemiology (BOE) worked with participating counties in an attempt to interview all cases of chronic hepatitis C among those aged 18-30 reported between March 1, 2012 and July 31, 2012.

There were 908 cases eligible for investigation in the 14 county project area as part of the enhanced surveillance protocol. A total of 317 interviews were completed.

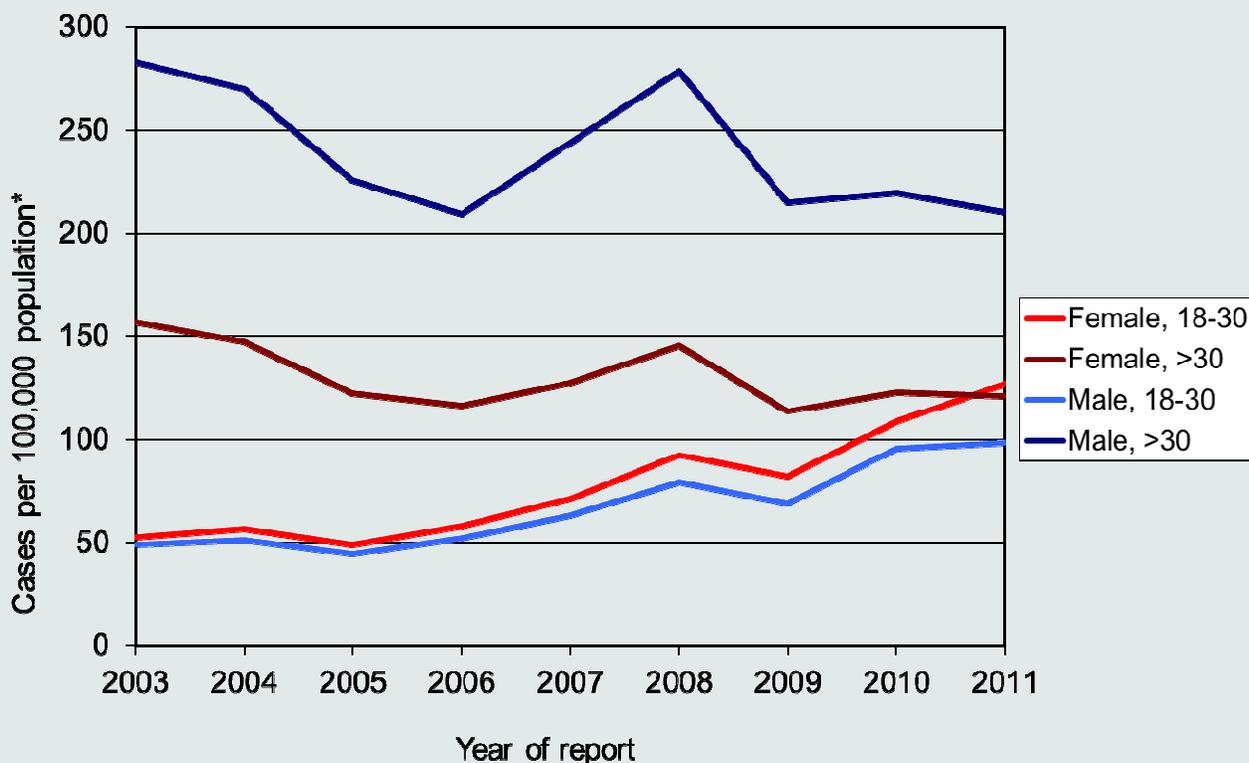
The most commonly reported risk factor was past street drug use, with 81% of those interviewed reporting ever using street drugs. Of those who used street drugs, marijuana/hash was most commonly reported (87%), followed closely by oxycontin/oxycodone (74%). Other risk factors include having a tattoo (78%), contact with a person with hepatitis C (45%), and a previous diagnosis with an STD (23%).

Of those who reported ever using street drugs (n=255), 76% reported ever injecting drugs (IDU). Of those who injected at least once in the past six months, 58% reported ever lending a used needle to someone else, and 64% reported ever using a needle previously used by someone else. Sixty-eight percent reported using a needle previously used by someone else under special circumstances, such as when sharing needles with a sex partner or someone they believe to be "clean." Ninety-five percent of recent IDUs reported reusing one of their own needles. Of those who reused one of their own needles, two-thirds (67%) reported ever losing track of which needle was theirs. Sixty-eight percent of recent IDUs reported ever using a previously used needle after cleaning it. Overall, 97% of recent IDUs responded affirmatively to at least one of the questions about needle sharing.

The most common risk factor found in this analysis was injection drug use. The most common drugs mentioned were prescription opioids (oxycodone, oxycontin, dilaudid).

**Note:** Beth Ann Eichler is an epidemiologist in the Surveillance Section of the Bureau of Epidemiology, in the Division of Disease Control and Health Protection. The full summary is available at: [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/epi/epi\\_updates/index.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/epi_updates/index.html)

### HCV in Young Adults



\*Reported cases of confirmed, probable and suspect chronic hepatitis C

### The Power of Support Groups

Lucinda K. Porter, RN

The *Hepatitis C Support Project* (HCSP) exists because Alan Franciscus wanted to attend a support group following a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis C virus infection (HCV). Living in the San Francisco Bay Area in the 1990's, Alan was aware of health-based support groups for people with HIV and breast cancer. Yet, there were none for people with HCV—the most common blood borne virus in the United States.

Recognizing the need, Alan started an HCV support group, and then another, and the rest, is as the saying goes, history. Alan's need for support led to so much more, bringing to mind words by Demosthenes, "Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises."

Support groups are still the backbone of the HCSP. In April, Alan posted two new guides—the *Hepatitis C Support Group Handbook* and *Hepatitis C Support Group Lessons*. Both of these documents are available at: [www.hcvadvocate.org](http://www.hcvadvocate.org).

These two manuals are breathtakingly informative. After reading them I thought, "Everyone who is newly diagnosed, HCV caregivers, and others wanting to know more about this disease would benefit from the *Lessons* publication. It reads like a gentle, reassuring voice whispering, "There is hope."

## New CDC Hepatitis C Screening Guidelines for Baby-Boomer Aged Cohort Released August 17, 2012

by Dena Hall

What follows is highlights from CDC's new guidance:

- The CDC recommends that all persons born between 1945 and 1965 be tested for chronic hepatitis C.
- This recommendation is intended to augment and not replace the 1998 HCV testing guidelines.
- This is a broad recommendation for the public and private medical practice arena.
- From 1999 to 2007, there was a substantial increase in hepatitis C mortality.
- Approximately 73% of the hepatitis C related deaths occur in persons between the ages of 45 and 64.
- The estimated prevalence in the baby boomer cohort is 3.25%, representing 75% of all adult chronic hepatitis C infections in the United States.
- By moving to age-group-based testing rather than risk-based testing, the proportion of HCV infected persons who are aware of their status will increase.
- Anticipated benefits include early identification, education, counseling, linkage to care and clinical evaluation as part of disease prevention interventions.



Dena Hall

This CDC supplemental MMWR issue can be accessed at this website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr6104a1.htm>



### **Hepatitis Prevention Section Guidance**

- The Hepatitis 09 Manual is being updated to include the CDC recommendations in Department of Health (DOH) policies.
- The current recommendation is to refer patients who fall in the 1945-1965 age group with no other risk factors to their private physician for testing. If the client has no insurance, county health departments can test for hepatitis and offer vaccines for those persons who test negative for hepatitis A and B.

If you have questions about the new CDC guidelines and their relation with DOH hepatitis prevention services, please email me at [cyndena\\_hall@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:cyndena_hall@doh.state.fl.us). Or, you may call me at 850-245-4444 Ext. 2589.

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.”—Albert Einstein



## FLORIDA VIRAL HEPATITIS SUMMIT

**WHEN:** Friday, November 16, 2012 9:00 AM - 3:45 PM (registration continental breakfast, exhibits open at 8:00AM)

**WHERE:** Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport 9300 Jeff Fuqua, Orlando FL

**WHAT:** Hepatitis Foundation International announces a 1 day professional education and training Summit for Health professionals and others working with people who are affected by or infected with viral hepatitis including:

- ✓ nurse practitioners
- ✓ physician assistants
- ✓ nurses
- ✓ counselors
- ✓ case managers
- ✓ others

### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- Describe how to discuss viral hepatitis transmission and prevention with patients/clients using simple and clear language in order to help them assess their own viral hepatitis risk behaviors and seek testing.
- Describe hepatitis B prevention and treatment including treatment monitoring, side effect management and support needs.
- Describe expectations for hepatitis C treatment evaluation, management, duration, and outcomes.
- Discuss common lab tests related to viral hepatitis and their interpretation
- Identify three recommendations for improved patient/client psychological outcomes for management of hepatitis C.
- Describe practice challenges in treating a patient co-infected with hepatitis C/ HIV and how this impacts HIV positive individuals

### CONTINUING EDUCATION:

- This program has been reviewed and it is approved for a maximum of 5.75 hours of AAPA Category I CME credit by the Physician Assistant Review Panel.
- **5.75 contact hours for Nurses** - This continuing nursing education activity is pending approval by the Maryland Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses' Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. **CEU credits for Addictions Professionals (5.75 hrs)** -The Hepatitis Foundation International is an approved education provider with the NAADAC Provider Approval System, #693.
- This program has been approved 5.75 contact hours for certified public health professionals by the National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE).

**HOUSING:** Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport Hotel Rate: \$109 plus tax per night if booked by 10/15/12  
For reservations, call (407) 825-1318 and mention group "Hepatitis Foundation"

**\*\*\*Registration includes all sessions, meals, educational materials, CEUs, and exhibits\*\*\***

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like CEUs for  Physician Assistants  Nurses  Addictions Professionals  Certified Public Health  None

Summit Registration Fee: \$65.00

Late Registration after Monday, November 5th, 2012: \$80.00

Payment Options:  Check  Visa  MasterCard PO# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ CVV (on back of card) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Hepatitis Foundation International  
 504 Blick Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904  
 Phone: 800-891-0707  
 Fax: 301-622-4702  
[www.HepatitisFoundation.org](http://www.HepatitisFoundation.org)

Visit HFI's website to register online or mail/fax this form to:

*Hepatitis Health* is brought to you by the HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Program, Bureau of Communicable Diseases, at the Florida Department of Health. Submit your articles and photos to: [April.Crowley@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:April.Crowley@doh.state.fl.us)