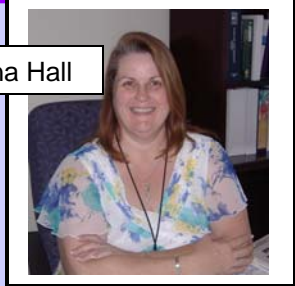


Pediatric Chronic Hepatitis C, Continued from page 1

In some cases, this may include avoiding an unplanned pregnancy by using condoms, referring to treatment via a patient assistance program and encouraging infected persons to avoid further liver injury by taking better care of themselves. It can also include effectively identifying co-infected individuals and making better use of resources, such as the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

In public health, it helps to remember that we frequently test for conditions that we cannot treat, but that does not relieve us of our obligation and our need to identify diseases and conditions, educate the patient, and refer them to resources that may offer treatment and preventative interventions. We encourage you to offer hepatitis testing for the sake of not only the mother, but for the sake of the unborn child. This testing is available through the Hepatitis 09 Program.

NOTE: Due to reporting limitations, reported chronic hepatitis C numbers are not considered reliable. The CDC rate of 1.6% for the general population is used to estimate infection rates. For the pediatric population, the estimated prevalence is based on unpublished CDC prevalence data as cited by the Committee on Infectious Diseases, American Academy of Pediatrics, Pediatrics, Vol. 101 No. 3 March 1998, pp. 481-485.



Dena Hall



Lydia McCorvey

Lydia McCorvey and the Hepatitis Prevention Program at the Escambia County Health Department participated in National HIV Testing Day on June 27, 2008. They tested 19 people for hepatitis A, B and C, and vaccinated five people for hepatitis A and B.



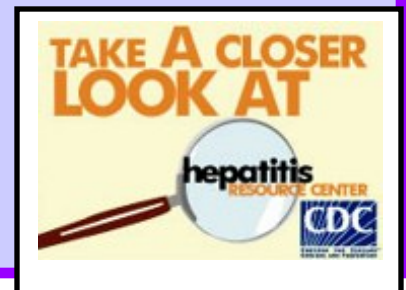
IAC Updates

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) recently revised two of its print resources: (1) "It's Federal Law! You must give your patients current Vaccine Information Statements (VISs)" and (2) the pre-teen hepatitis B brochure "Every Year, Thousands of People Are Infected with Hepatitis B Virus, Including Teens." The brochure was previously titled, "Every Day Teens Are Infected with Hepatitis B Virus."

The VIS issue dates listed on "It's Federal Law!" were updated and are available at : <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2027.pdf>

Substantive changes were made throughout "Every Year, Thousands of People Are Infected with Hepatitis B Virus, Including Teens." To access the revised brochure, go to: <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4100.pdf>

IAC's Print Materials web section has more than 175 FREE, ready-to-print resources for healthcare professionals and the public. For more details, visit their website at: <http://www.immunize.org/printmaterials>



SOS Conference



The **Sistas Organizing to Survive (SOS) Conference** took place June 20-22, 2008, in Orlando, Florida. Here in Florida, one in 68 non-Hispanic black women are known to be living with HIV/AIDS. This compares with approximately one in 1,281 non-Hispanic white women, and one in 472 Hispanic women. For over 15 years, HIV/AIDS has been the leading cause of death among black women aged 25-44 years in Florida. These rates are unacceptable and the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS has redoubled its efforts to reduce HIV/AIDS among Florida's black women.

The purpose of the conference was to educate black women on the impact of HIV/AIDS and to develop an action plan to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS and other diseases in Florida's black communities.



More pictures on page 4



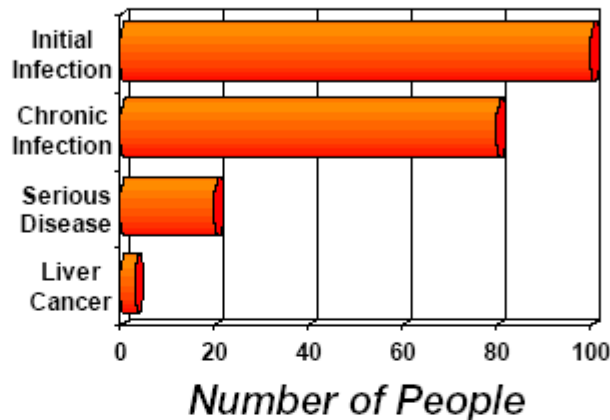
More SOS Conference Photos



EASY C FACTS

If 100 People Were Infected with Hepatitis C

100 People Infected with HCV



- ◆ About 55 to 80 people out of 100 who are exposed to HCV will develop chronic infection: The other 20 to 45 people who are infected with Hep C will clear the virus on their own. This is because the immune system of some people is able to fight off the virus naturally.
- ◆ About 10 to 20 people who develop chronic infection will have serious disease progression over decades: Only about 10 to 20 out of the original 100 people exposed to Hep C will develop serious life-threatening illness from Hep C. Hep C usually takes up to 10, 20, 30 or 40 years or longer to make the liver become really damaged.
- ◆ About 2-3 people who develop chronic hepatitis infection will develop liver cancer: Only 2-3 people develop liver cancer out of the original 100 people exposed to Hep C, which only happens after the liver develops lots of scarring called cirrhosis.

www.hevadvocate.org



Version 2.0, 2008

a series of fact sheets written
by experts in the field of liver
disease

Mother-to-Child Transmission

Alan Franciscus, Editor-in-Chief

It is estimated that approximately 240,000 children in the United States have been infected with the hepatitis C virus. Before blood was screened for hepatitis C in 1992, the majority of HCV transmission among children was caused by blood transfusions or blood products. Today, most new HCV infections in children occur in children born to HCV infected mothers.

Risk of Transmission

Although, the risk of HCV transmission from mother to child varies widely, most experts estimate the chance of an HCV positive mother transmitting the virus to her infant at about 4%. Some research has shown that the risk of transmission from the mother to the infant is higher if the HCV positive mother has a high viral load, but more studies are needed to confirm this. The chance of passing HCV from mother to child seems to increase if the mother is also infected with HIV. There is no evidence that the HCV genotype or the mode of delivery (vaginal vs. cesarean) increases or decreases the vertical, or "mother-to-child" transmission of HCV.

Breastfeeding

There is no evidence that breast feeding transmits hepatitis C. However, it is recommended that if a woman's nipples are cracked or bleeding that mothers refrain from breastfeeding their infants.

Testing

Testing an infant for hepatitis C is complicated since the mother's hepatitis C antibody will be passed to the child. In addition an infant is more likely than an adult to clear the virus on its own especially within the first year. Therefore, it is recommended that testing for the hepatitis C antibody should not begin for 12 to 18 months. If an earlier diagnosis is desired, a viral load test can be performed at 1 to 2 months after birth. However, caution should be used since it has been found that a baby's viral load may fluctuate in the early or acute phase of infection, and thus retesting may be required.

Risk to Pregnancy

Fortunately, if the mother has hepatitis C, it does not seem to result in a higher risk to the pregnancy.

Should Pregnancy Be Avoided?

Most experts would advise a woman that it is 'ok' to become pregnant, but counsel the woman that even though the risk is low, there is a possibility that the virus could be passed on to her infant.

Preventive Measures

Unfortunately, there are no preventive measures to reduce the risk of passing HCV from an HCV positive mother to her infant. Current medications to treat hepatitis C cause birth defects.

For more information about hepatitis C, hepatitis B and HCV coinfections, please visit www.hcvadvocate.org.

• *hcspFACTsheet* •
A publication of the Hepatitis C Support Project

<p>Executive Director Editor-in-Chief, HCSP Publications Alan Franciscus</p> <p>Design Paula Fener</p> <p>Production C.D. Mazoff, PhD</p> <p>Contact information: Hepatitis C Support Project PO Box 427037 San Francisco, CA 94142-7037 alanfranciscus@hcvadvocate.org</p>	<p>The information in this fact sheet is designed to help you understand and manage HCV and is not intended as medical advice. All persons with HCV should consult a medical practitioner for diagnosis and treatment of HCV.</p> <p>This information is provided by the Hepatitis C Support Project • a nonprofit organization for HCV education, support and advocacy • © 2008 Hepatitis C Support Project • Reprint permission is granted and encouraged with credit to the Hepatitis C Support Project.</p>
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 **HCV ADVOCATE**
www.hcvadvocate.org

Spotlight on Pat Simmons

By April Crowley

Pat Simmons works in the Prevention Section of the Bureau of HIV/AIDS in Tallahassee as the Counseling and Testing (CT) Field Representative for Areas 1, 2A, 2B, 3, 4 and 13. In the past, Pat oversaw a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that used Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) to look for people with acute (very early) HIV infection which shows up before a positive HIV antibody test. Currently, she provides OraQuick rapid HIV test trainings. Recognizing the need to integrate hepatitis services into HIV testing sites, Pat was recently appointed to serve on the **Florida Viral Hepatitis Council**.

Pat takes the meaning of “public servant” to heart by doing a lot of volunteer work in the community. She responds to disasters to assist with the rescue and sheltering of displaced animals, and does first response search and rescue (**SAR**) for lost people. She is director of the **Southeast K-9 Search and Rescue, Inc.**, a non-profit corporation and volunteer team dedicated to assisting law enforcement, other search agencies and disaster response teams.

I talked with Pat recently about her volunteerism efforts. I was so impressed and fascinated that I wanted to write a 10-page article! (But, as you can see, I kept it to two pages.)

According to Pat, SAR teams started in the 1700’s in Europe when people were found alive after being trapped in avalanches. The searchers noticed that if they had a dog with them, the dog would bark and dig where the person was buried.

SAR teams in the United States were created in the 1800’s to look for missing loggers in the mountains of Washington State. Today, the original American team is still active.

SAR teams are everywhere and are mostly all-volunteer! Southeast K-9 Search and Rescue, Inc., currently has 13 volunteers, and 15 canine partners all of whom are nationally certified or are in training. Southeast K-9 Search and Rescue partners with KlassKids, Inc., the Red Cross and other agencies such as Big Bend Disaster Animal Response Team (DART), which began after Hurricane Andrew. DART does so much for the community, like providing little air ventilators for local fire departments to use on pets rescued from burning buildings. Florida was the first state to have DART.

After Hurricane Katrina, Pat went to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where she volunteered to manage an emergency animal shelter for the Humane Society of the United States. For three months after Katrina, members of the search team volunteered across the Gulf coast to locate, rescue, and shelter displaced animals.

Pat’s **canine partner, Pete**, is a Walker Hound, which is a type of American Fox Hound. She adopted him from the local animal shelter when he was four months old and was sick with pneumonia. He recovered and grew up to be a certified “live find” trailing search dog that looks for people. In addition, Pete is training to look for missing pets. To be nationally certified to find missing pets, he will need to travel to California.

There are three disciplines of “live find” dogs: Trailing, Tracking, and Air Scent. Here is what Pete does. If a child becomes lost, the first searcher on scene is a scent-specific **trailing** dog like Pete. If the child’s last known location was at a picnic table, Pete will sniff it and then be able to tell which direction the child headed. Pete can trail a specific scent in an area where hundreds of people left their scent and can follow that specific scent for up to one mile. If direction of travel is lost to the training dog’s nose, **air scent** dogs are utilized to search a wider area.

Continued on page 8

Pat Simmons, continued from page 7

Tracking dogs are what the police and prisons use to determine the step-by-step travel of a missing person. Pete is different because he is trained to find a missing person as quickly as possible using scent from the air, on bushes and trees, along buildings, and on the ground.

The largest unit in Pat's team is Human Remains Detection or HRD. These are dogs and handlers trained to search for missing people presumed to no longer be alive. They are specific to land, water, forensic, graves, or large remains.

The team practices every week in wilderness, urban, water, or collapsed building environments. (Good grief, where does this woman find the time to do all this?) As far as searching (for people or animals), Pat says dogs do this naturally. You don't have to train a dog—you train the handler to speak "dog." Because you're constantly communicating with the dog, you need to be able to read their body language. Pat can tell when Pete has picked up the scent of a person, an armadillo or a snake (yikes!) and redirect his natural instinct to hunt whatever scent they are seeking.

To top everything off, Pat also volunteers as an educator and handler at the St. Francis Wildlife Association, Inc., a local, non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of native wildlife in north Florida and south Georgia. They rescue and rehabilitate sick, injured and orphaned wildlife. Check out the picture of the baby opossum!



Pete gives Pat Simmons a big, wet kiss!



Yep, they're cute when they're little.



Woof, Woof!



In addition to all of her other talents, Pat is also a gourmet cook.

Please see next page for an interview with Pete, the Hound Dog!

Interview With Pete “the Hound Dog” Simmons

Pete: Aren't I cute?

Elvis Presley singing “Hound Dog” to a hound dog!



April: By golly, you are the cutest!

Pete: Did you know I am a working dog?

April: I heard that rumor. What do you do?

Pete: I get paid in hugs, venison treats, and play time with my little stuffed duck when I search for missing people and find them. Pat gives me a treat if I search and don't find, too.

April: Cool. Why do you search if you get a treat anyway?

Pete: Because I am a **hound dog**, you silly person, that's what I DO!

April: Who do you search for?

Pete: Anyone Pat tells me to "Find!"

Elvis Crowley, Editor's son

April: Do you look for missing dogs? (Laughs)

Pete: Of course, you goofy person, I can search and find kids, grandpas and dogs.

April: Can you help me find my cell phone? I put it somewhere in here...



Pete: People are so crazy. No, I don't train to find articles, although Pat can train me to do so, if she wants. If I do find it, I would bring it to you because I bring things to Pat.

April: You do? Like what?

Pete: Every morning I bring in the paper and stuff from the trash and recycle cans. I can even bring Pat a stray shoe. One time I brought her a cat.

April: (Horrified) A CAT?!

An Elvis impersonator

Pete: Yeah, it was lost in the woods. I found her and brought her home. She was tired, but I did not hurt her.

April: How fantastic! Bet that kitty was happy you found her.

Pete: JEEZE, cats are never happy with **hound dogs**, silly person.

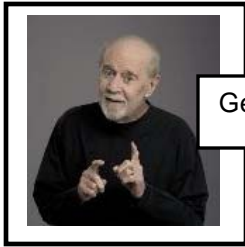
April: How come I can't quit singing “**You Ain't Nothin' But a Hound Dog,**” by **Elvis Presley**?



Pete: Because you are a foolish human being.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Hepatitis Health is brought to you by the Hepatitis Prevention Program, Bureau of HIV/AIDS in the Division of Disease Control at the Florida Department of Health. We want to know what you are doing in your community to prevent viral hepatitis. Please submit your articles and photos to: April.Crowley@doh.state.fl.us



George Carlin



Nurse Thompson

Congratulations to Kris Thompson, who oversees the Hepatitis Program at the **Lee County** Health Department, and recently graduated with an Associate Degree in Nursing! According to Kris's co-workers, he put many hours into clinicals at the local hospitals and Hope Hospice. They know he will make an excellent registered nurse (RN), as he displays genuine compassion for all those he cares for at work.

"'Older' sounds a little better than 'old,' doesn't it? Sounds like it might even last a little longer. ... I'm getting old. And it's OK. Because thanks to our fear of death in this country I won't have to die — I'll 'pass away.' Or I'll 'expire,' like a magazine subscription."

---George Carlin, 5/12/37—6/22/08



Dusty Hill

Answer to Trivia Question From Page 1

"Sharp Dressed Man" from the 1983 ZZ Top album "Eliminator"

In May of 2000, **ZZ Top bass player Dusty Hill** suffered from fatigue and was diagnosed with **hepatitis C**. A ZZ Top world tour was cancelled so Dusty could receive medical treatment for the disease. Today, Dusty appears to have made a full recovery and is back to doing what he does best and that is full throttle rock.

Music came early in Dusty's life in Texas. As a child, he often entertained his mother's friends with a rendition of an **Elvis Presley** song. By the time he was in his early teens, Dusty was playing bass in clubs in the Dallas area. Soon, he graduated to backing up big name blues musicians such as Freddie King and Lightnin' Hopkins.

Dusty and his brother, Rocky, formed their first band called The Warlocks, eventually recording and releasing two singles before moving on to form yet another band, The American Blues. It was at this time, Dusty met his future musical partner, drummer Frank Beard. The American Blues released two albums - "American Blues Is Here" in 1967 and "Do Their Thing" in 1969.

American Blues disbanded and Frank Beard auditioned for a Houston guitar slinger, named Billy Gibbons, that was forming a new band. Once Frank was on board, he suggested that his old friend Dusty Hill be given an audition as bassist. ZZ Top was born.

Article from: <http://web.telia.com/~u15521543/bio/dusty.html>