



Caring Ambassadors Hepatitis C Program
Monthly Medical Literature Review
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IN THE NEWS

Schering-Plough to develop new oral hepatitis drug

“As part of its long-term commitment to hepatitis C therapy, Schering-Plough is developing SCH 900518 (518), a next-generation hepatitis C virus (HCV) protease inhibitor. A Phase IIa study with 518, known as the Next-1 study, is currently ongoing. The company said that 518 has been shown to be 10 times more potent in-vitro than other protease inhibitors currently in Phase III development and has the potential for once daily dosing. The protease inhibitor also has shown decreased emergence of resistance in vitro. Given its pharmacokinetic profile, the company anticipates that 518 may be active against some HCV strains that are resistant to other protease inhibitors.” [Read more...](#)

Inside-out cells offer target for antiviral drugs

“An experimental drug cured guinea pigs infected with a fatal hemorrhagic fever virus, raising hope for its use in a broad range of viral diseases including influenza, hepatitis C, HIV, Ebola and others, U.S. researchers said on Sunday. ‘This is a whole new strategy for making antiviral drugs,’ said Dr. Philip Thorpe, professor of pharmacology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, whose research appears in the journal Nature Medicine.” [Read more...](#)

Indiana addresses viral hepatitis

“State health officials say between 3.5 to 4 million Americans are living with viral hepatitis. In 2006, there were 4,723 reported cases of chronic and acute hepatitis C in Indiana, as well as 80 cases of hepatitis B, 33 cases of hepatitis A, and one case of hepatitis E. To address the problem in the state, the Indiana Viral Hepatitis Advisory Council has released ‘Indiana's Strategic Plan for the Prevention, Care, and Elimination of Viral Hepatitis. ‘The purpose of the plan is to help our state move forward in raising awareness of viral hepatitis, to provide additional education and support for those living with the disease and their loved ones, and to ultimately reduce the burden of viral hepatitis in Indiana,’ said State Health Commissioner Judy Monroe, M.D.” [Read more...](#)

Study: Injection site saves lives, funds

“Canada's only supervised injection facility has extended lives of drug users and saved the healthcare system millions of dollars, a study indicates. When examining the cost-effectiveness of Insite, an injection facility in a Vancouver, British Columbia, neighborhood where about 5,000 injection drug users live, University of Western Ontario researchers said they found the facility saved about \$14 million in healthcare costs and added about 920 life-years during a 10-year period.” [Read more...](#)

FDA nixes state appeal to ban multi-dose vials

“The head of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has rejected an appeal from New York State's health commissioner to ban the manufacture of multi-dose vials, saying they are an important option for hospitals.

In January, state Health Commissioner Dr. Richard Daines and New York City's health commissioner, Dr. Thomas Frieden, sent FDA Commissioner Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach a letter calling on the FDA to eliminate the manufacture and distribution of multi-dose vials.” [Read more...](#)

CLINICAL TRIALS, COHORT STUDIES, PILOT STUDIES

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