

Students Vaccinate Against Hep B

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Taking healthcare to those who need it most is on display on the second Saturday of each month, when the San Francisco Hep B Collaborative provides free screenings and low-cost vaccinations for Hepatitis B at the Chinatown Public Health Center.



The Hep B Clinic is one of 12 community-based clinics in San Francisco. According to Albert Yu, MD, a clinical professor at UCSF, these clinics were largely born out of the community empowerment movement of the late '60's and early '70's, which supported initiatives that brought healthcare to the community. "It's a great way to expose students to the community and expose the community to UCSF," he says.



Yu, the director at the SFDPH Chinatown Public Health Center, gives a short presentation on the importance of getting vaccinated for Hepatitis B to a female-only CPR class. The Hepatitis B virus is one of the few clinical diseases that disproportionately affect Asian and Pacific Islander communities. HPV is spread mainly by exposure to infected blood or body secretions. "It's one of the few true diseases that has population selection," he says.



A student volunteer and translator from UC Berkeley hands Maggie Wong paperwork to fill out at the Hep B Clinic at the Chinatown Public Health Center, operated by the San Francisco Department of Public Health.



Lisa Lam, a pharmacy student at UCSF, checks in with Wong before her exam. "At UCSF it's important to give back to the community and interact with the community," Lam says.



From right, UCSF student David Ouyang, UC Berkeley translator Edna Cheung, Maggie Wong, and Nurse Cadelba Lomell-Lolbl walk down the hallway to test Maggie for HPV.



"I just want to learn more," Maggie Wong says about the Hepatitis B Virus. "I hear about it all the time." Maggie found out about the free clinic from a friend and decided to get tested.



Wong thinks it is important to learn more about the disease to raise awareness about how it is spread and to encourage others to get tested. "Who knows? We're getting older and our immune system will not be as strong. Anytime when you learn more it's always good."



A student volunteer translator walks back and forth from the check-in table to the waiting room at the Hep B clinic. "The Hep B collaborative is all student run," says Yu. "It's not just medical students. It's medical students, nursing students, pharmacy students, etc. so it really promotes inter-professional interaction."



Siu-Wei Huang, a translator from UC Berkeley, helps Fenmin Lin check in to the clinic. Along with other classmates from UC Berkeley who volunteer at the clinic, Huang provides interpretation for patients and providers. She is an interpreter for Mandarin-speaking patients and attends the clinic regularly. "I never thought the language divide was a problem with the healthcare system until I came to college," Huang says. "I think it's really important for people to understand the health care they need."



UCSF student Carrissa Chu vaccinates Fenmin Lin for Hepatitis B. Lin heard about the free service from Yu while attending a CPR class at the Chinatown Public Health Center, who encouraged him to get screened for the disease. He says it's important to get vaccinated because "Hepatitis B is the most common problem among Asian groups."



"I think that this is a great learning opportunity," says David Ouyang, the clinic coordinator at the center. The clinic "helps me learn about patient flow, practice phlebotomy and vaccinations, and it's a good opportunity to meet people from other schools." At the end of each session Ouyang gathers the UCSF students, faculty and UC Berkeley volunteers together to eat lunch and review the success or challenges of the day's events.

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