

**Response Form for the Final Performance Review Report—
Hepatitis B Foundation 2008F***

1. Name of Grantee: Hepatitis B Foundation
2. Year of Grant: 2008 Formula Grant

A. For the overall grant, briefly describe your grant oversight process. How will you ensure that future health research grants and projects are completed and required reports (Annual Reports, Final Progress Reports, Audit Reports, etc.) are submitted to the Department in accordance with Grant Agreements? If any of the research projects contained in the grant received an “unfavorable” rating, please describe how you will ensure the Principal Investigator is more closely monitored (or not funded) when conducting future formula funded health research.

The HBF has a documented oversight process for all health research grants and projects. Routine key personnel meetings ensure that goals and objectives are being met in a timely manner so that barriers to project success are overcome, and that all reports are submitted on deadline. Key personnel are monitored by the Principal Investigator, and the HBF Executive Director and President provide oversight to ensure that all Principal Investigators are monitored, as well. To date, HBF has met or exceeded all goals of projects funded through formula fund health research, and has submitted all annual and final progress reports.

For each research project contained in the grant, please provide a response to items B-D as listed on the following page(s). When submitting your response please include the responses for all projects in one document. The report cannot be submitted as a ZIP file, because the Department’s exchange server will remove it from the email. If the report exceeds 2MB, please contact the Health Research Program for transmittal procedures: 717-783-2548.

* Please note that for grants ending on or after July 1, 2007, grantees’ Final Performance Review Reports, Response Forms, and Final Progress Reports ***will be made publicly available on the CURE Program’s Web site.***

Project Number: 0863601

Project Title: Characterizing the Antiviral Activities of Small Interferon-Stimulated Genes against Hepatitis B Virus

Investigator: Cohen, Chari A.

B. Briefly describe your plans to address each specific weakness and recommendation in Section B using the following format. As you prepare your response please be aware that the Final Performance Review Report, this Response Form, and the Final Progress Report will be made publicly available on the CURE Program's Web site.

Reviewer 1:

1. Document career pathways/future progress of summer interns trained throughout the program.
2. Document presentation of research at poster sessions or similar venues by summer interns even if these were not in peer-reviewed formats.
3. Document why the lab research focused on both host genes and viruses that were not discussed in the original application.

Reviewer 2:

None.

Reviewer 3:

Despite the fact that some specific weaknesses were noted in the individual criteria, these do not detract from the project. The project basically consisted of a 10-week summer research project carried out by a young undergraduate investigator brought into the institution. These types of programs are critical for training the next generation of scientists. Therefore, the specific scientific goals and objectives were judged as secondary to this important broader goal, especially when considering the very small amount of funds available.

Response to Reviewer 1:

1. As the summer internship program is now in its 6th year, we have incorporated a long-term follow-up in the evaluation plan. We do reach out to all internship graduates through email and phone to see how their scientific careers are progressing. We are pleased that almost 100% thus far have continued with science, either through graduate school or entering the research field after college.
2. We do have documented records of all final student reports, presentations, and posters.
3. As stated in Specific Aim 1A, we proposed to "evaluate whether glucosidase inhibition results in the enhanced presentation of other viral and cellular glycoproteins that depend on calnexin...". As this project moved forward and based upon initial results, we chose to explore the idea that proteins that interact with calnexin would be susceptible to enhanced processing and MCH class 1 presentation when cells are treated with glucose mimetics. The HER2/Neu tumor antigen was chosen as the model to test this hypothesis, which,

while not specifically discussed in the original application, fell within the category of “other cellular glycoproteins,” as stated in the Specific Aim.

Response to Reviewer 3:

We appreciate these thoughts and wholeheartedly agree that we are offering an important and highly regarded training program for the next generation of scientists. Additionally, we are helping to keep intellectual property and entrepreneurship in Pennsylvania, which can only serve to benefit our communities into the future.

C. If the research project received an “unfavorable” rating, please indicate the steps that you intend to take to address the criteria that the project failed to meet and to modify research project oversight so that future projects will not receive “unfavorable” ratings.

Response: N/A.

D. Additional comments in response to the Final Performance Review Report (OPTIONAL):

Response: None.