



## Briefing: An Update on Hepatitis C in the U.S. Meet your Panelists:

### **Dr. John Ward: Director, Division of Viral Hepatitis, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

Dr. John Ward is responsible for planning and directing national and international research, surveillance and public health programs related to viral hepatitis prevention and control at The CDC. In addition to his work in viral hepatitis, Ward's experience includes 14 years in the field of HIV/AIDS conducting early studies of AIDS transmission, natural history and diagnosis, evaluating prevention measures to protect the blood supply and directing national HIV/AIDS surveillance. Ward has also served as Editor of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), CDC's primary health publication. Ward has authored over 100 scientific publications. He received his medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham with additional postgraduate training at the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service and the infectious diseases fellowship program at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle. He holds a clinical faculty appointment with the Department of Medicine, Emory University.

### **Dr. Michael Fried: Professor of Medicine & Director of Hepatology, UNC Chapel Hill**

Michael W. Fried, MD, is Professor of Medicine and Director of Hepatology at the University of North Carolina (UNC) in Chapel Hill. Dr. Fried completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at the State University of New York (SUNY) Health Science Center at Syracuse, where he also completed a fellowship in gastroenterology. From 1990 to 1993, while serving as Medical Staff Fellow in the Liver Diseases Section at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland, Dr. Fried performed clinical and laboratory studies of viral hepatitis. During his tenure at UNC, he has been the principal investigator on numerous clinical trials of antiviral agents for hepatitis B and hepatitis C. Dr. Fried is the primary author or co-author on over 150 original publications, reviews, and book chapters concentrated in the field of viral hepatitis. Dr. Fried serves on the Governing Board of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) and will assume the role of President of AASLD in 2019.

### **Dr. John Coster: Director, Division of Pharmacy, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services, CMS**

Dr. John M. Coster, Ph.D., R.Ph. is Director of the Division of Pharmacy at the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services within the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Prior to joining CMS, Dr. Coster was Senior Vice President of Government Affairs at the National Community Pharmacists Association, Vice President of Federal Affairs and Public Policy of Rite Aid Corp., and Vice President, Policy & Programs for the National Association of Chain Drug Stores. He served as a staff member of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging and was involved in the development of the Medicaid pharmaceutical rebate provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1990 and the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992. He holds a bachelor's degree from St. John's University College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions in New York, and received his master's degree and Ph.D. in Health Policy from the University of Maryland.

### **Mr. Allen Thompson: MedStar Patient living with Hepatitis C**

Mr. Allen Thompson is a Washington, DC resident who has had severe liver damage as a result of hepatitis C. He initially received interferon, which is administered through injection, but was unsuccessful in treating his hepatitis C. More recently he has undergone treatment with one of the new Direct-acting antivirals, which is administered orally, and has responded positively. Mr. Thompson is a patient at MedStar in Washington DC, who has helped in navigating his treatment and coverage in both Medicaid and Medicare.

### **Carl Schmid: Deputy Executive Director, The AIDS Institute (Moderator)**

Carl Schmid has been with The AIDS Institute since February 2004. He is co-chair of the AIDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition and a Convening Group member of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership. He is a former chair of the HIV Prevention Action Coalition, the Ryan White Reauthorization Work Group, and founding co-chair of an HIV Testing Reimbursement Work Group. He remains active in those coalitions and others that advocate for Medicaid, Medicare, and Healthcare Reform; the AIDS Drug Assistance Program; and hepatitis. He was a member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS from 2007-09, and chaired its Domestic Subcommittee. In 2010 he was named by POZ Magazine as one of the 100 most effective AIDS fighters and by Whitman Walker Health as one of the 25 individuals who have played prominent roles in the fight against HIV in DC. Mr. Schmid earned a B.A. in Public Affairs and a M.B.A. in International Affairs from the George Washington University in Washington, DC.