WaterFire Raises Awareness of Hep C

C is for Cure: A WaterFire Lighting for RI Defeats Hep C was held July 26th on World Hepatitis Day to raise awareness, help diminish stigma, and inspire people to get tested and cured. There was also a Hep C Information and Resource Fair on the College Street Bridge and information tents for the Rhode Island Blood Center, the Rhode Island Organ Donor Awareness Coalition and the Alpert Medical School.

Torchbearers included many members of the Rhode Island medical community, who ringed Waterplace Basin at sunset to begin the lighting of 80 braziers, in an evening sponsored by Gilead in recognition of the millions of Americans suffering from hepatitis C. The C Project by Festival Ballet Providence was performed on the Waterplace Basin Stage and Gendo Taiko of Brown University and RISD played five Taiko drumming pieces as part of the opening ceremony dedicated to the spirit of healing.

Cover photo by John Nickerson, Statehouse crowd by Jennifer Bedford, torchbearers by Emily Gauvin, all for WaterFire Providence

Right: The Torch procession leaders were Dr. Scott Holmberg, Chief of the Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, Division of Viral Hepatitis, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Dr. Lynn E. Taylor, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases at the Alpert Medical School and a Rhode Island Foundation Innovation Fellow. As part of her RI Defeats Hep C initiative, she compiled a series of articles for the July issue of the Rhode Island Medical Journal. http://www.rimed.org/rimedicaljournal-2014-07.asp