

## CONTENTS

# Liver Cancer: A Global Epidemic

Liver cancer, specifically hepatocellular carcinoma, has become a significant problem worldwide. Although fewer than 20,000 people in the United States will be diagnosed with HCC and other rarer forms of liver cancer in 2007, up to 700,000 liver cancer cases will occur around the world, most of which are the result of chronic hepatitis B and/or hepatitis C.

### Cases of Chronic Hepatitis C

**Worldwide:** 169.7 million

**North and South America:** 13.1 million

**Europe:** 8.9 million

**Eastern Mediterranean:** 21.3 million

**Africa:** 31.9 million

**Southeast Asia:** 32.3 million

**Western Pacific:** 62.2 million

### Frequency of Chronic Hepatitis B

**Worldwide:** 350 to 400 million

**Low** (less than 2 percent of the population): North America, Northern and Western Europe, Australia

**Intermediate** (2 to 7 percent of the population): Southern and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, South Central and Southwest Asia, the Russian Federation and most of Central and South America

**High** (8 to 20 percent of the population): Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, Eastern Mediterranean countries, South and Western Pacific Islands, certain parts of the Caribbean and the Amazon Basin

*SOURCE: National Cancer Institute and International Agency for Research on Cancer's GLOBOCAN 2002 (HCC incidence data); World Health Organization; Richard E.T. Smith, "Hepatitis C virus therapies," Nature Reviews Drug Discovery,*

*September 2006.*