World Hepatitis Day
How did you mark WHD 2017?

The World Hepatitis Day wedding

Wall of Stories
Once again the world joined forces on 28 July to mark World Hepatitis Day (WHD). We are overwhelmed by the sheer number of individuals and organisations who participated in the day and have shown their commitment towards the goal of eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030. In every corner of the globe, patient advocates, government officials, celebrities, healthcare professionals and the general public united to raise much needed awareness and demand change. Here in London, we were invited to appear on Sky News and joined the Hepatitis C Trust for their patient conference. Elsewhere hundreds of events took place all over the world – photos are already pouring in! Don’t forget to send us information and photos of your activities to be included in the WHD 2017 Global Summary Report.

We would like to thank you for supporting this initiative and hope you enjoy reading this special WHD edition of hepVoice!

We hope you enjoy reading!

Raquel Peck
Chief Executive Officer

Want to contribute?
We welcome your contributions so please get in touch at contact@worldhepatitisalliance.org to have your news included in future issues and feel free to share the magazine with your network

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On 28 July 2017 the world once again came together to mark World Hepatitis Day (WHD). This was a momentous occasion for patient organisations, governments, medical professionals and the general public to join forces to raise awareness and demand action in disease prevention and access to testing, treatment and care. The efforts from each and every organisation and individual mean that steps have been taken to transform the lives of the 325 million people living with the illness and eliminate hepatitis.

As well as events taking place in countries all across the globe, organisations and individuals worldwide used social media to raise awareness of the global burden of hepatitis.

- Thousands of people took part in the #ShowYourFace campaign with over 3,500 selfies added to the gallery
- #WorldHepatitisDay trended globally and in many countries and cities throughout the world
- One tweet to #WorldHepatitisDay every 6 seconds on 28 July
- The #ShowYourFace Thunderclap was signed by 357 organisations and individuals, helping the elimination message reach 15.6 million people
WORLD IN THE WORLD

ELIMINATE HEPATITIS

World Hepatitis Day 2017: Global day for local impact

Events took place all over the world to raise awareness and demand change. Here’s just a snapshot of activities that marked WHD 2017:

How WHA celebrated World Hepatitis Day

United Kingdom

WHA CEO Raquel Peck was invited to speak about the importance of the day on Sky News. She was joined by Michelle Tolley, a hepatitis C advocate and contaminated blood victim who shared her story. WHA were also invited to provide the global perspective on WHD at the Hepatitis C Trust’s WHD Patient Conference. Delegates at the conference also heard from fellow patients about their experiences living with hepatitis C and experts providing updates on the UK’s progress towards elimination.

Watch WHA CEO Raquel Peck on Sky News here.

Georgia

WHA President Charles Gore attended meeting organised by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for Europe. The event discussed lesson learnt from the Georgian Hepatitis C Elimination Programme and was an opportunity for WHA to announce that Georgia has become the first NOhep Visionary. The NOhep Visionaries Programme for Governments will be launched globally at the World Hepatitis Summit on 1 November.

Co-ordinating activity online

With WHD conversations happening on social media across the world, the WHA communications team was very busy initiating and engaging with discussions online as well as ensuring WHD events and activities were widely promoted.
WHERE IN THE WORLD

ELIMINATE HEPATITIS

World Hepatitis Day 2017: Global day for local impact

How WHA members marked World Hepatitis Day

Macedonia

WHA member Hepar Centar Bitola organised a number of activities to mark WHD. The Ministry of Health of Macedonia and Croatia joined forces with Hepar Centar Bitola, European Liver Patients Association (ELPA) and fellow WHA member Hepatos to hold a press conference in Zagreb where they discussed next steps to achieve elimination. Hepar Centar also held a concert with well-known bands in Macedonia to raise awareness and tested people in prisons, beaches and squares.

India

In India WHA member Rann Bhoomi Foundation organised a hepatitis B vaccination camp in the slums of New Delhi. Here they immunised 60 children against hepatitis B.
Where in the world

**Ворлд Hepatitis Day 2017: Global day for local impact**

**Mexico**
WHA member FundHepa worked with the Secretary of Health for Mexico City to organise a WHD event at “La Fuente” skate park. The event aimed to raise awareness about prevention and early diagnosis among young people.

**Nigeria**
WHA member Seham Health Care Foundation (SHECA) organised activities across Nigeria to celebrate WHD. This included free hepatitis B and C testing and free hepatitis B vaccination in cities such as Abuja, Kebbi, Enugu, Port Harcourt, Lagos and Ile-Ife. In the lead up to WHD, Nigerian celebrities, former politicians, royalty and medical experts participated in their ‘Eliminate Hepatitis pata pata by 2030’ campaign.
Where in the world

**World Hepatitis Day 2017: Global day for local impact**

How WHA members marked World Hepatitis Day

**Pakistan**

WHA member the Health Foundation marked World Hepatitis Day by organising an awareness raising walks and seminars across Pakistan. The activities also included a motorbike rally, which was joined by influential people from the community, members and other civil society organisations. With placards and loud speakers, the group raised awareness of the cause and emphasised that prevention is better than cure.

**China**

WHA member Inno Community Development Organisation celebrated WHD by designing emojis to share through social media. “Heppy”, the cartoon liver was created in a number of different situations to change negative and stigmatised impression of hepatitis among young people in China. A number of key opinion leaders in Chinese social media joined the campaign to co-launch Heppy on WHD.
World Hepatitis Day
How did you mark the day?

For a snapshot of other activities taking place across the globe, view the WHD 2017 Storify here.

We value your feedback so by completing our WHD 2017 survey, you will automatically be entered into a prize draw to win £50 worth of Amazon vouchers.

Please complete the survey by 21 August for your chance to win!

Win £50 Amazon vouchers

The full WHD 2017 Global Summary Report will be released in September. Make sure your activities feature in the report by completing this survey.

WHD 2017 marked the 1 year anniversary of NOhep. In that time thousands of people have signed up to the movement from over 120 countries. The NOhep:NOEXCUSE Pledge campaign has received over 600 pledges to date and over 130 medical professionals have joined the NOhep Visionaries Programme. But most of all NOhep has brought people together; people who want to make a difference, save lives and eliminate viral hepatitis.

To celebrate this, NOhep launched the “We Are NOhep” global documentary, which showcases the tireless efforts people from across the world are taking to battle against this disease.

Watch the documentary here
Together our stories can change the way the world sees viral hepatitis. The stories of those living with or impacted by viral hepatitis can help educate and raise awareness, provide support and inspiration, tackle stigma and discrimination, and highlight the true impact of this global disease. Share your story here.

**John and Chrissy, United Kingdom**

“They got married on World Hepatitis Day in 2008 with some 70 guests and organised an awareness campaign as part of the wedding reception.”

“Chrissy Semple carried the hepatitis C virus for 20 years without knowing it. She had become infected in 1980 after a blood transfusion in Germany following the birth of her youngest daughter. Doctors only discovered I had the disease in 2000 when I had what felt like “a four-day hangover” - but without the alcohol.”

Read John and Chrissy’s story here.

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**World Hepatitis Alliance Activities**

**World Hepatitis Alliance Annual Report 2016**

2016 will forever be remembered as a year of revolution for viral hepatitis. For all of us working in the field, 2016 was the year the world woke up from years of neglect and the year that after rallying together for the past decade, our efforts finally paid off.

Our Annual Report 2016 is an opportunity for us to reflect on last year’s achievements and examine how this is informing our work in 2017.

Read the World Hepatitis Alliance Annual Report 2016 here