New WHO report on Overcoming Barriers to access

Access to generics webinar

Egypt: HCV free by 2020, 1 million treated in 2016

World Hepatitis Day 2016

Global Summary Report launched
Elimination has been a hot topic all year but as the world begins to think about how we can turn the commitment into reality, the question of how large numbers of patients will access costly treatments is always at the fore. This month we’ve seen governments, international organisations and more start to offer tangible solutions to the issue: in Egypt over 1 million hepatitis C patients are set to receive treatment by the end of the year, the World Health Organization has released a unique new report to improve access worldwide and our webinar provided clear examples of how patients are accessing generic medicines.

October has also been a month to celebrate the unsung heroes of viral hepatitis. The publication of the World Hepatitis Day 2016 Global Summary Report profiles activities from organisations both big and small in almost every country in the world. We’ve also been utilising digital communications to reach new audiences including a webinar aimed at healthcare professionals and a Twitter chat raising awareness of liver cancer. Ensuring the patient voice is heard globally is central to our work so building a strong alliance of organisations is key. We were therefore delighted to welcome five new members to WHA this month. And with the upcoming elections, it’s crucial our members use their voice – it’s your opportunity to shape the WHA’s future!

We hope you enjoy reading and don’t forget to vote!

Raquel Peck
Chief Executive Officer
World Hepatitis Alliance
Where in the world...

**Egyptian Liver Day**

**Cairo, Egypt**

Coinciding with the 63rd World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, 4 October was celebrated as Egyptian Liver Day in Cairo. Historically, Egypt has suffered from the highest hepatitis C prevalence worldwide but the country’s high burden could soon be a thing of the past following the indisputable commitment from the Egyptian Government. At the Egyptian Liver Day event, the Minister of Health announced that since the beginning of 2016, more than 800,000 people have been treated for hepatitis C and the country aims to treat 1 million patients by the end of the year. The Ministry advanced its commitment to tackling hepatitis C by declaring that it expects the country to be hepatitis C free by 2020. WHO Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan, who was in attendance, praised Egypt for its efforts in combating viral hepatitis.

**WHO Access to Hepatitis C Treatment Report Launch**

**Geneva, Switzerland**

As the heated debate over the cost of hepatitis C treatments continues to dominate discussions around viral hepatitis and hinder the potential for elimination by 2030, improving access to new hepatitis C medicines has never been more important. In response to this, WHO held a press conference on 27 October to launch their new report ‘Overcoming Barriers to Access to Direct Antiviral Medicines: Global Update on Access to Hepatitis C Treatment 2016’.

The report illustrates experiences from 13 pioneering countries and shows that sound policy guidelines, combined with political will and smart strategies to reduce prices can enable hepatitis C treatment scale up.

Speaking at the press conference, WHA CEO Raquel Peck said “Right now 700,000 people are dying each year of a curable disease. This is not acceptable. We need to ensure that we fight those barriers and expand access to treatment, looking at it as key component of a comprehensive response to viral hepatitis – otherwise we will not eliminate this cancer causing disease by 2030”.

Want to find out more? Read the full report here.
Information on the intellectual property status of medicines is often hard to find, making it difficult to determine where generics are available and the means by which availability has been possible. To fill the void of information, the Medicines Patents Pool (MPP) recently launched a new database called MedsPaL (Medicines Patents and Licenses Database) and for the first time hepatitis C medicines are now included alongside HIV and tuberculosis drugs. The searchable database provides information on patents and licenses for generic production across 101 low- and middle-income countries.

Missed our webinar? Watch the recording here
World Hepatitis Day 2016 Global Summary Report

The numbers are in and with 174 countries taking part, 106 governments commemorating the day and over 1,100 events held worldwide, World Hepatitis Day (WHD) 2016 was undeniably the most successful WHD to date! This huge success has only been possible thanks to the fantastic efforts of WHA members, patient groups and civil society organisations across the globe. Events included screening and vaccination drives, public seminars, press briefings, marches, health fairs as well as more unusual events such as awareness-raising pop songs and the illumination of well-known landmarks.

Under the theme of elimination, WHD was also used to launch NOhep, a grassroots movement mobilising individuals and organisations to take action to ensure global commitments are met and viral hepatitis is eliminated by 2030. NOhep was launched in 77 countries on WHD, resulting in over 1000 people signing up from over 100 countries.

How did your country mark the day? Check out the World Hepatitis Day 2016 Global Summary Report here

Watch our NOhep launch video now!

174 COUNTRIES
106 GOVERNMENTS
183 WHA MEMBERS
1,100+ EVENTS
59 WHO COUNTRY OFFICES
NOHEP LAUNCH 77 COUNTRIES
**WEBINAR: NOhep: how providers and the community are key to the elimination of viral hepatitis**

On 18 October, Raquel Peck, WHA CEO, and Dr Su Wang, WHA Executive Board Member for the Americas Region, took part in a unique HepCure webinar, highlighting the central role healthcare professionals (HCPs) play in the elimination of viral hepatitis, with a focus on NOhep. With examples of great activities led by HCPs and a call for more collaboration with local patient groups, the webinar also offered a background on the current viral hepatitis landscape and ideas of testing initiatives.

**WHA PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS**

Calling all WHA voting members: don’t forget to have your say in the future of the organisation!

View all the WHA Executive Board candidates [here](#). You can cast your vote from 21 November so keep an eye on your inbox!

**AFRICA REGION CANDIDATES**
- Danjuma Adda (Nigeria)
- Kenneth Kabagambe (Uganda)
- Su Wang (United States)

**AMERICAS REGION CANDIDATES**
- Ammal Metwally (Egypt)
- Dr. Pe Thet Htoon (Myanmar)
- Dr. Pe Thet Htoon (Myanmar)

**EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN CANDIDATES**
- Ammal Metwally (Egypt)
- Dr. Pe Thet Htoon (Myanmar)
- Prof. R.P. Shanmugam (India)

**EUROPEAN REGION CANDIDATES**
- Aleksey Lakhov (Russia)
- Ivana Dragojevic (Serbia)

**SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION CANDIDATES**
- Prof. R.P. Shanmugam (India)
- Dr. De Lee (China)

**WESTERN PACIFIC REGION CANDIDATES**
- Dee Lee (China)
WHA Member updates from around the world

**Ghana**

As part of its 4 month-long community awareness programme, WHA member [Hepatitis Foundation of Ghana](http://example.com) organised an event in the Nadowli District, Upper West Region. The event used drama, music and dance to educate the community about viral hepatitis.

**United States**

In the United States October is celebrated as National Liver Cancer Awareness Month. As the second-leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide, greater awareness around liver cancer and its causes is greatly needed. To highlight this to new audiences, WHA member [NASTAD](http://example.com) (the National Alliance of State and Territorial Aids Directors) and representatives from Hep B United and the Center for Disease Control’s Division of Viral Hepatitis held a Twitter chat on 25 October. Tweeting under the hashtag #liverchat, over 40 organisations and individuals took part in the chat, including WHA members [Hepatitis B Foundation](http://example.com) and [Charles B Wang Community Health Center](http://example.com).

**Switzerland**

On 31 October, international and national experts met in Zurich, Switzerland for a public health symposium entitled ‘Hepatitis – the Elimination of a Viral Disease’. Organised by the Swiss Hepatitis Strategy, the meeting explored the possibility of eliminating viral hepatitis and addressed the changing picture of chronic diseases including presentations looking at hepatitis C as a systemic disease and the patient’s perspective. As well as a talk from WHA President Charles Gore, the meeting included presentations and input from WHA members [Swiss Experts in Viral Hepatitis (SEVHep)](http://example.com), [Arud Zentren für Suchtmedizin](http://example.com) and [Schweizerische Hepatitis C Vereinigung](http://example.com).

**New members**

The World Hepatitis Alliance continues to grow as we welcome five new member organisations: [Alliance Beninoise des Organisations de la Société Civile de Lutte Contre les Hépatites Virales (ABOSCHVi)](http://example.com), Benin; [Association de Lutte Contre les Hépatites (ALCH Maroc)](http://example.com), Morocco; [The Community Health Outreach Work to Prevent AIDS Project (CHOW Project)](http://example.com), USA; [Forum For The Study Of The Liver](http://example.com), Bangladesh; and [Northern Territory AIDS & Hepatitis Council](http://example.com), Australia. Our membership is now made up of 243 groups in 82 countries in every region of the world. Find out more [here](http://example.com).

We love to highlight the great work of our members, so get in touch with updates on your national activities.