Introducing WHA President-Elect

Present your ideas at the Summit

World Hepatitis Summit

Register now!
Happy New Year!

For all of us here at the World Hepatitis Alliance, 2017 is already off to an exciting start! The WHA Executive Board met to discuss implementation of the organisation’s Strategy for 2017 and to appoint the next WHA President (turn to page 4 to find out more). This will be a very busy year for all of us with many exciting projects, initiatives and events such as the World Hepatitis Summit. On that, we’re looking for innovative ideas to deliver elimination of viral hepatitis. These will be presented at the Summit so submit your work now! WHA members will also have an exclusive opportunity to learn more about the Pre-Summit, World Hepatitis Day and other projects in our upcoming members-only webinar.

Don’t forget to register!

We hope you enjoy reading!

Raquel Peck
Chief Executive Officer
World Hepatitis Alliance

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.
On 24-27 January the newly elected WHA Executive Board met in London, UK to select the next WHA President and subsequently conduct the annual WHA board meeting.

**INTRODUCING WHA PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Following a comprehensive selection process, we are delighted to announce that Michael Ninburg has been elected to serve as the next WHA President for the period 2018-2019.

Michael has served as Executive Director of the Hepatitis Education Project since 2001, a U.S.-based NGO dedicated to supporting hepatitis patients. Throughout his career, Michael has served as consultant to a variety of governmental agencies and multilateral organisations, including the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He has previously served as WHA Regional Board Member and has been recognised for his leadership by numerous organizations including the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the White House Office of National AIDS Policy and the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

We are delighted to have Michael on board and look forward to working with him.

For more information on the appointment, click [here](#).

**BOARD SETS DIRECTION FOR 2017**

The annual WHA board meeting is an opportunity for the Executive Board to discuss key elements of how the organisation functions, from reviewing internal processes to advising on WHA’s strategic goals. In particular, the WHA Strategic Plan 2017-2018 was assessed and actions for the year planned. Non-Executive Board Members including representatives from the World Health Organization, US Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for Disease Analysis and Hepatitis Australia were also present at the meeting and played a central role in identifying synergies and aligning plans for the year.
Preparations for the World Hepatitis Summit are underway and programme announcements will be made at the beginning of April.

The theme of the World Hepatitis Summit 2017 is ‘Implementing the Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis (GHSS): Towards the elimination of hepatitis as a public health threat’. The event will be unique in bringing together patient representatives, hepatitis programme managers, public health professionals, civil society groups, funding agencies and other key stakeholders to help countries effectively put in place interventions needed to tackle the disease and to address the challenges involved.

Keep an eye on the World Hepatitis Summit website for updates.

Call for Submissions

New and innovative ideas and concepts will be key to achieving the elimination of viral hepatitis so this year, the World Hepatitis Summit welcomes the submission of work that introduces original research and understanding to the field of viral hepatitis. The Summit has launched three categories under which you can submit work for consideration:

- Interventions for Impact
- Delivering for Equity
- Innovation for Acceleration

These categories are aligned with Strategic Directions 2, 3 and 5 of the Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis.

Submissions are now open and will close 1 May 2017.

A small number of scholarships will be offered to presenting authors of successful submissions – these will include financial support towards travel and accommodation.

Submissions will be accepted via the World Hepatitis Summit website here.
Ahead of the Summit, WHA members are invited to attend the second Pre-Summit Member Conference on 30 – 31 October 2017.

The purpose of the Pre-Summit Member Conference is to bring WHA members and other key civil society representatives together to strengthen the global, regional and national patient voice through information-enhancing exercises, capacity building sessions, and enabling the exchange of experiences.

ATTENTION WHA MEMBERS!

You have until 28 February 2017 to confirm your place at the Pre-Summit Member Conference and World Hepatitis Summit. After this date we cannot guarantee fully funded places for WHA Members.

Confirm your place now!

On 15 February we are offering WHA members a unique opportunity to learn about the WHA Strategic Plan and how the planned activities for the year support work carried out at a national level.

This one hour webinar will provide exciting World Hepatitis Day news and an exclusive update about the Pre-Summit Member Conference, along with information on a variety of campaigns and projects being launched in 2017.

Register here
MEETING WITH MONGOLIAN MINISTER OF HEALTH

ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

As one of the countries with the highest burden of liver cancer, tackling viral hepatitis is a priority for Mongolia. In May 2016 WHA hosted a meeting with the Mongolian Ministry of Health and Sports to discuss innovative financing options for viral hepatitis in the country. As a follow up to the meeting, WHA President Charles Gore met with the Minister of Health on 16 January to assess what still needs to be done to reach elimination. Following discussions around potential financing methods such as private-public partnerships and taxes, the meeting concluded with a call to develop an operational elimination plan.

HEPHIV 2017 CONFERENCE: HIV AND VIRAL HEPATITIS: CHALLENGES OF TIMELY TESTING AND CARE

MALTA

On 31 January – 2 February the World Hepatitis Alliance attended the HepHIV 2017 Conference: HIV and Viral Hepatitis: Challenges of Timely Testing and Care in Malta. The event brought together civil society representatives, medical professionals and public health specialists to address scaling up testing and care for HIV and viral hepatitis. Sessions included surveillance and monitoring for viral hepatitis, unequal access to hepatitis C treatment, European hepatitis strategies and the issue of stigma discouraging testing. WHA President Charles Gore moderated a session on affordability and cost-effectiveness of diagnostics.
ELIMINATION TO TAKE CENTRE STAGE

SHANGHAI, CHINA

15-19 FEBRUARY 2017

The 26th Conference of the Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver, set to take place in Shanghai, China this month, will bring together medical professionals, public health specialists and civil society organisations from Asia Pacific and beyond. The three-day meeting will provide the latest scientific and evidence-based research applicable to everyday clinical practice and this year in particular, sees a focus on achieving the goal of eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030.

On Wednesday 15 February, APASL, the Coalition for the Eradication of Viral Hepatitis in Asia Pacific (CEVHAP) and the World Hepatitis Alliance will co-host a forum entitled “Elimination Through Partnerships: Towards a World with NOhep”. The forum will address barriers to elimination, featuring case studies from the Asia Pacific region and aims to provide a platform for collaboration and exchange between NGOs and others working in viral hepatitis advocacy as well as building awareness of commitment to the recently launched global movement, NOhep. All APASL attendees will have the opportunity to hear findings from the forum in a report back session on Saturday 18 February.

To find out more about APASL 2017, visit www.apasl2017.org.

**WHA events at APASL:**
- Wednesday 15 February: 8:30am – 5:30pm – Elimination Through Partnerships: Towards a World with NOhep
- Saturday 18 February: 7:30am – 8:30am – NGO Forum Report

Click here for specific information on the programme including the events co-hosted by the World Hepatitis Alliance.

Brazil

Throughout 2016 WHA member ONG C TEM QUE SABER C TEM QUE CURAR ran an innovative testing programme called “Hepatitis C in the Cities”. The programme was conducted in 48 cities across the state of São Paulo, testing over 80,000 people for hepatitis C. The initiative was a huge success with over 1,700 found to be living with hepatitis C and helped to access treatment and care.

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