HCV Quest
Help raise the profile of HCV across the world

Campaign
Targets Tibetans in India

Seeking a world without viral hepatitis

Homie Razavi joins WHA Board
This month saw a lot of exciting developments at the World Hepatitis Alliance. We welcomed Homie Razavi as a Non-Executive Member to the Board and two new staff members joined. We also held our second webinar which discussed the use of surveys to drive advocacy and we led high-level meetings in Vienna and Barcelona.

This has been another month full of great activities which we hope you will enjoy reading about.

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.

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Where in the World...

HCV2020

BARCELONA, SPAIN

On 3-4 March, we co-chaired the HCV2020, an international forum for experts to exchange ideas about best-practice care for patients living with the hepatitis C virus (HCV).

At the meeting, a new global hepatitis C resource platform was launched by Deusto Business School: the HCV HUB Planning and Implementation website. This is a comprehensive database which includes global and national HCV data, action plans, interventions and tools, which can be used by advocates across the world. Sign up to it here.

59TH COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (CND)

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

At the CND meeting this month, we joined civil society groups from all over the world by supporting a statement condemning governments for failing to acknowledge the consequences of punitive and repressive drug policies. This statement comes ahead of the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) which will take place from 19-21 April. This is the first UNGASS meeting on the topic in 20 years and marks a critical moment for the future of global drug policy. If you would like more information about the CND meeting here’s a link to their blog: http://cndblog.org/
On 13 March, the National Liver Foundation of Bangladesh (NLFB) organised an awareness drive among Tibetan refugees, living in McLeod Ganj, Dharamshala, India. With the support of Bangladesh Cricket Supporters Association (BCSA), NLFB distributed hundreds of awareness leaflets among the Tibetan people.

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) is increasing in Tibetan community largely because of lack of education and vaccination. About 61% of Tibetans living in Nepal are infected with HBV which is mainly as a result of home-births and lack of awareness about vaccinations available for their newborns.

BCSA members travelled there to support the Bangladesh cricket team participating in ICC World T20 2016 in India.

In early March, more than 120 advocates visited Capitol Hill to lobby their representatives to increase funding for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Viral Hepatitis Division from $34 million to $62.8 million.

Dozens of people laid their hearts on the line and told their stories about how they, their families, and friends have been touched by hepatitis B and C. Today, an estimated 75% of people with hepatitis C and 65% of people with hepatitis B in the U.S. don’t know they’re infected often leading to late-stage diagnosis and inoperable liver cancer.

WHA member, Hepatitis B Foundation, supported the Hepatitis on the Hill campaign, which was organised by the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable.

We love to highlight the great work of our members, so get in touch with updates on your national activities.
To launch the HCV Quest Toolkit and the complete set of 22 national reports externally, we are organising a global media launch on 13 April, to coincide with the opening of the International Liver Congress taking place in Barcelona and we need your help to amplify the story!

As such we are asking you to adapt the template press release found in the HCV Quest Toolkit and send it to your local media on 13 April.

Doing this is easy: just look at the relevant data for your country and, in case your country report is not available, you can use the global data. You can access all materials through the HCV Quest Toolkit. Through our collective efforts, we can raise the profile of hepatitis C across the world. We hope that you will join us in doing so.

If you have any questions on how to launch HCV Quest to media in your country, feel free to contact us as we’d love to hear from you.

On 10 March, participants from 15 countries attended the second webinar in the Tools for Change series.

The webinar focused on the use of surveys as tools for effective lobbying and campaigning.

You can watch the webinar here.

Access the HCV Quest Toolkit here
WHA WELCOMES HOMIE RAZAVI AS A NON-EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

Homie Razavi joined the WHA Executive Board as a Non-Executive member. Homie, who is the founder and managing director at the Center for Disease Analysis (CDA) in Louisville CO, USA, brings a wealth of knowledge and insight to WHA. CDA specialises in studying complex and poorly understood diseases. Its main goal is to study and publish data to help educate stakeholders and support decision-making in different countries.

Since 2008, Homie has led a team of epidemiologists and modellers to quantify epidemiology of HCV and HBV and forecast the future impact of these infections. They have analysed HCV disease burden in over seventy countries and have helped countries develop national strategies. You can find out more here.

We look forward to working closely with Homie to help deliver the World Hepatitis Alliance Strategic Plan and to drive action towards elimination of viral hepatitis by 2030.

NEW WHA EMPLOYEES

March saw two new editions to the WHA team.

Jessica Hicks joined the team as a Project Manager. She will help deliver a number of projects for WHA and will drive the World Hepatitis Alliance Pre-Summit Member Conference, scheduled to take place in March 2017.

Jessica is a certified project manager with experience working for a membership organisation within the charity health sector. Her last role was at the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health where she led on a variety of member-focused projects. Jessica also has extensive experience in event management, having spent the last two and a half years coordinating a wide range of events; from specialist summits to national conferences.

Meg Collington joined the World Hepatitis Summit team as the Project Assistant.

Meg has a passion for international development events. In her last role she helped organise a learning event with Womankind Worldwide which focused on women’s political participation in developing countries. Meg recently completed a Masters in ‘Conflict, Security and Development’, which included a module on public health and security. She hopes to develop her public health experience working on the Summit.
Free materials from the CDC

This month we caught up with Cynthia Jorgensen from the Division of Viral Hepatitis at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), USA, to discuss some of the great campaigns they are running and free/downloadable materials they have available.

Know More Hepatitis, a national multi-media education campaign, is aimed at increasing testing among baby boomers so those who are infected can get linked to life-saving care. Free downloadable materials supporting Hepatitis C testing are available at the campaign website here.

Know Hepatitis B, a national communications campaign promoting Hepatitis B testing among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs). An estimated 1 in 12 AAPIs is living with hepatitis B, yet as many as 2 out of 3 people do not know they are infected. This multilingual campaign has materials in English, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese, and implements the campaign through a variety of multi-media in-language channels. Free downloadable materials in multiple different languages are available at the campaign website.

Follow the CDC’s viral hepatitis Twitter account @cdchep