World Hepatitis Day
Campaign Launch
Register Now

WHA Regional Advisor appointed

World Hepatitis Summit
Your involvement need

Showcase your NOhep activities

Register Now
World Hepatitis Day Campaign Launch
We will only eliminate viral hepatitis if we work together. We all know this, so this month we’re delighted to see greater co-ordination at all levels. Key international partners came together at meetings convened by WHO and CoalitionPlus while our global network expanded even further, welcoming four new groups. This year presents so many opportunities to continue collaborating on the journey towards elimination; our 2017 World Hepatitis Day campaign will highlight the role we all play to achieve this goal (don’t forget to sign up to the launch webinar!) while our World Hepatitis Summit will provide many opportunities for learning, sharing and working together.

Whether it’s successfully advocating for universal access to treatment or educating hundreds of schoolchildren about viral hepatitis, our members continue to inspire us. You too can inspire others by sharing your experiences on our Wall of Stories.

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.

Contents

This month

WHO STRATEGIC & TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 4
HCV INTERVENERS MEETING 5
WORLD HEPATITIS SUMMIT: YOUR INVOLVEMENT NEEDED 6
WORLD HEPATITIS DAY CAMPAIGN LAUNCH 8
WALL OF STORIES 9
WHA REGIONAL ADVISOR APPOINTED 10
SHOWCASE YOUR NOHEP ACTIVITIES 11
WHA MEMBER ACTIVITIES 12

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Where in the World...

**World Health Organization Strategic & Technical Advisory Committee on HIV and Viral Hepatitis**

**Geneva, Switzerland**

Following the adoption of the first global strategy on viral hepatitis, the first meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO) Strategic & Technical Advisory Committee on HIV and Viral Hepatitis (STAC-HIVHEP) took place in Geneva, Switzerland on 13-15 March. WHA joined international bodies including UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNITAID, the Gates Foundation and the US CDC and provided the patient perspective in discussions focused on achieving the targets outlined in the strategy and improving hepatitis prevention, testing and treatment. WHA President Charles Gore made a specific call for more NGO involvement in the global viral hepatitis response. The STAC was also an opportunity for the World Hepatitis Summit partners to meet and review the Summit’s progress.

**Strengthening the Impact of HCV Interventions**

**Geneva, Switzerland**

On 20 March, WHA joined key stakeholders in the viral hepatitis response at the meeting Strengthening the Impact of HCV Interventions, organised by CoalitionPlus. Attendees included WHO, UNITAID, FIND, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Drugs for Neglected Disease Initiative (DNDi), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Médecins du Monde (MdM), Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), Treatment Action Group (TAG), TreatAsia, Open Society Foundation, among others. The meeting aimed to foster synergies between existing hepatitis C programmes on service delivery, diagnostics and treatment as well as identify opportunities for increased collaboration. The meeting was also an opportunity to encourage participation from key partners at the World Hepatitis Summit.

Dr. Adele Benzaken, Director, Department of STI, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis, Ministry of Health, Brazil; Dr. Gottfried Hirnschall, Director, HIV/AIDS Department and the Global Hepatitis Programme (GHP), World Health Organization; and Charles Gore, WHA President meet at WHO STAC to discuss the progress of the World Hepatitis Summit.
Where in the world...

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Help us secure the attendance of your national hepatitis programme manager

The World Hepatitis Summit is a unique platform for civil society and governments to come together for the benefit of hepatitis patients and to effectively advance public health responses to the disease. To make this a truly successful event and to move further towards the elimination of viral hepatitis, it is vital that your national policy makers attend the event so do check with your government to make sure they have registered.

WHS programme announced

The theme for this year’s World Hepatitis Summit is ‘Implementing the Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis (GHSS)’. The event’s programme has been developed by civil society groups and experts in the field of hepatitis and takes this important strategy as its framework. Visit the Summit website to view the programme here.

Call for submissions

The World Hepatitis Summit has launched a Call for Submissions inviting WHA members and other organisations to outline their original contributions in the response to viral hepatitis within their region. Authors of successful submissions will be invited to present their work at the World Hepatitis Summit 2017 this November. Further details, including a promotional video that lists the three main tracks under which you may make a submission, can be found here.
Ahead of this year’s World Hepatitis Day, we would like to invite you to a WHD2017 launch webinar on **26 April** at 2pm BST / 9am EDT / 10pm JST. This is a great opportunity for you to get an overview of this year’s campaign and ask questions to World Hepatitis Day organisers!

Together our personal stories can change the way the world sees viral hepatitis. On 19 May, we will re-launch the Wall of Stories section on our website, showcasing how viral hepatitis has impacted people across the globe. To make the launch as impactful as possible, we want to hear from you! You can share your story in a number of ways – you can write a short story, create a poem, or pen a letter to hepatitis, or you can send us a short video or photo essay highlighting your experiences.

The WHD 2017 website will also be launched on **26 April** and you’ll be able to download a full suite of resources including fully customisable posters, infographics, toolkits, social media graphics and ideas for real-life activities and stunts.

**Website and campaign materials launch: 26 April**

**World Hepatitis Day webinar: 26 April**

**Social media campaign launch: 31 May**

**World Hepatitis Day: 28 July**

**Key dates for your diary**
WHA appoints Regional Advisor for the Americas region

We delighted to announce that Patricia Vélez-Möller, President and Co-Founder of Asociación Guatemalteca del Hígado (Guatemalan Liver Association), has been appointed as WHA Regional Advisor for the Americas region. Patricia brings a wealth of experience to the role, having organised and coordinated vaccination campaigns, led patient support groups and given lectures on viral hepatitis to health professionals for many years. Furthermore, as a medical doctor and university professor, Patricia possesses extensive knowledge of the viral hepatitis environment.

In the role of Regional Advisor, Patricia will aid Regional Board Member, Su Wang, with member communications, act as a bridge between English and Spanish speaking members and provide the Latin American perspective.

Showcase your activities in a NOhep Global Documentary

Are you taking actions to eliminate viral hepatitis? If so, then NOhep wants to hear from you!

On World Hepatitis Day, NOhep will launch its first NOhep mini-documentary to showcase the different actions people, governments and communities are taking to help eliminate of viral hepatitis by 2030 and to reaffirm that a global united effort is needed to meet the goal. If you have old footage or are planning an event in the next couple of months get in touch with the team at connect@nohep.org for further information.

Deadline for content: 5 May 2017
WHA Member updates from around the world

Italy

On 21 March, WHA Member EpaC Onlus participated in a meeting with the Italian Medicines Agency to discuss the potential of expanding access to DAAs in Italy. The meeting proved a huge success as the Italian Medicines Agency formalised 11 new treatment criteria resulting in universal access to new DAAs in Italy. They plan to treat 80,000 patients per year, placing Italy amongst the top 10 nations to have committed to providing DAAs to all patients. Furthermore, Italy became the first EU country to implement a three-year hepatitis C elimination plan. Find out more here.

New members

The World Hepatitis Alliance continues to grow as we welcome four new member organisations:

- Asociación Comunidad Hepatitis C, Uruguay
- Iran Hepatitis Network (IHN), Iran
- Rann Bhoomi Foundation, India
- Union Contre la Co-Infection (UNICO), Côte d’Ivoire

Our membership is now made up of 249 groups in 84 countries in every region of the world.

Are you interested in becoming a member of the World Hepatitis Alliance? Being part of this global network of patient groups provides many benefits to your organisation, including increased credibility, international visibility of your work, capacity building, and the opportunity to shape the strategic direction of WHA and thus influence the global health agenda. For more information on the membership requirements and how to apply, click here.

India

WHA Member Chennai Liver Foundation have been holding awareness events through March under the NOhep:NOEXCUSE campaign. They held an event at local hospital to emphasise the importance of knowledge and prevention of viral hepatitis amongst paramedics. They also organised a pledge event at a local school, encouraging over 200 children to learn more about viral hepatitis. The organisation has also offered free counselling and screening for both hepatitis B and C. Read more about the events here.

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