Mortality from viral hepatitis increasing

New WHO report

Mortality from viral hepatitis increasing

WHA at the International Liver Congress

World Hepatitis Day 2017

#ShowYourFace

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A monthly magazine from the World Hepatitis Alliance
This month all of us at the World Hepatitis Alliance have been particularly encouraged to see more and more people commit to the goal of elimination by 2030. Our efforts to share the NOhep message at the International Liver Congress succeeded in really turning the event green – the logo could be seen in presentations, posters and merchandise everywhere throughout the conference! The World Health Organization provided the essential starting point to measure progress towards achieving the 2030 elimination goal with the launch of their Global Hepatitis Report 2017 while on a national level, the United States confirmed that elimination of hepatitis B and C by 2030 is achievable. Ever keen to bring the elimination message to a wider audience, the theme for World Hepatitis Day will be ELIMINATE HEPATITIS and this month we launched the new campaign that aims to bring a human face to elimination. Yes, there’s no doubt: “elimination” is not only a buzz word. It is here to stay.

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.
Where in the World...

**INTERNATIONAL LIVER CONGRESS (ILC) 2017**

**AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS**

From 18 – 23 April we attended the International Liver Congress to ensure the patient voice was represented at one of the largest annual liver health events and to gather support for the NOhep movement and elimination goal. Throughout the event, we met with key partners and sponsors and used the congress to profile a number of new initiatives.

Raquel Peck, WHA CEO, spoke at the ILC Opening Ceremony to an audience of almost 10,000 people where she reinforced the important role medical professionals must play in the elimination of viral hepatitis and launched the NOhep Visionaries Programme for medical professionals.

Watch Raquel’s speech at the Opening Ceremony [here](#).

“Last year I stood in front of many of you as a patient. Today I am standing in front of you as a survivor, more determined than ever to see the elimination of this disease, so that every man, woman and child can experience the same hope I now have for the future.”

Raquel Peck, CEO, World Hepatitis Alliance

The WHA/NOhep booth proved popular with delegates with over 500 visiting the booth throughout the event. Delegates were able to sign up to the NOhep Visionaries Programme, have a selfie taken at the World Hepatitis Day #ShowYourFace pre-launch photo booth, collect free NOhep merchandise and learn more about other initiatives including the World Hepatitis Summit and WHO's Global Hepatitis Report, 2017. More info on these projects and reports throughout this month’s hepVoice.
WHERE IN THE WORLD...

WHO GLOBAL HEPATITIS REPORT, 2017

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Coinciding with the ILC, on 21 April the World Health Organization launched the first-ever Global Hepatitis Report. The report contains new baseline data on the impact of viral hepatitis, both regionally and globally, and aims to standardize understanding of the disease; an essential starting point to measure progress towards achieving the 2030 elimination goal.

The Global Hepatitis Report shows definitively, for the first-time that:

- Viral hepatitis causes 1.34 million deaths (a number comparable to annual deaths caused by tuberculosis, HIV and malaria).
- 325 million people live with viral hepatitis (approximately 4.4% of the world’s population).
- Only 9% of persons living with hepatitis B and 20% of persons living with hepatitis C have been tested and are aware of their status.
- Unsafe healthcare procedures and injection drug use are the leading causes of new hepatitis C infections, accounting for the majority of the 1.75 million new infections.

The report also shows that since 2000, deaths due to viral hepatitis increased by 22%, while deaths due to other diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, and HIV have been declining. The report therefore makes a clear call to action: If we are to reverse this trend, specific and urgent actions must be adopted at both a regional and national level.

READ THE WHO’S GLOBAL HEPATITIS REPORT, 2017 HERE

WHO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA LAUNCH STRATEGY

NEW DELHI, INDIA

On 10-12 April, key stakeholders working in viral hepatitis in the South-East Asia region met to discuss regional updates and launch the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO) action plan. With 100 million people currently estimated to be living with hepatitis B and 30 million with hepatitis C in South-East Asia, the response to viral hepatitis in the region is in need of urgent scale-up. The launch of the regional action plan is therefore encouraging and is a key step in meeting the global elimination targets.

READ THE REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR VIRAL HEPATITIS IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA, 2016–2021 HERE
World Hepatitis Alliance Activities

World Hepatitis Day 2017 campaign now LIVE

The theme of WHD2017 is “Eliminate Hepatitis” which gives us a perfect opportunity to demonstrate how everyone can play a part in the fight to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030. To encourage people to feel empowered, personally connected and understand their role in elimination, we are bringing the ELIMINATE HEPATITIS theme to life through the #ShowYourFace campaign.

To find out more about the campaign, visit the WHD website where you’ll be able to download a full suite of resources including fully customisable posters, allowing you to add your own photos and personal I AM statement. You will also be able to access infographics, toolkits, social media graphics and ideas for real-life activities and stunts.

For an overview about the campaign from staff at the World Health Organization and the World Hepatitis Alliance, check out the World Hepatitis Day webinar recording.

#ShowYourFace

NOhep Visionaries Programme

To achieve elimination, all stakeholders must play their part. The NOhep Visionaries Programme is a two-year pilot programme that engages governments, medical professionals and young people to raise awareness and scale up successful approaches. The NOhep Visionaries Programme for Medical Professionals was launched at the ILC with 6 imminent professionals who are spearheading actions in their country to achieve elimination. The launch proved a success with over 100 ILC delegates signing up to be part of the programme.

For more information on the NOhep Visionaries Programme and how to get involved, click here.
WHA Member updates from around the world

Nigeria

WHA Member LiveWell Initiative hosted a meeting entitled the Liver Health Conference (#LHC2017) on 26 April in Lagos, Nigeria. Discussion topics at the event included improving diagnosis, eliminating stigma and operationalising NOhep for greater impact. An important new initiative, Women in Hepatitis Africa (WIHA) was also launched at the event and will profile and promote women taking key actions to tackle viral hepatitis in the region.

USA

Throughout April, elimination has been a hot topic in the United States. A report supported by a range of government organisations, showed that hepatitis B and C can be eliminated, saving over 90,000 lives by 2030. To follow-up the report, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Foundation convened a public meeting in Atlanta, USA on 27-28 for various stakeholders to discuss the report and their roles in implementing the committee’s recommendations. A number of WHA members, including WHA’s president-elect 2018-2020, were in attendance and ensured collaboration was highlighted as essential to achieve elimination. Find out more about the Viral Hepatitis Action Coaliton Summit for the Elimination of Hepatitis B and C as Public Health Threats in the United States here.

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