Wall of Stories

“I became the person who exercised this crime against human rights”

What we learnt at WIPC 2017

Health is a human right
I pledge to protect Indigenous Peoples’ right to health

4 things to do before the World Hepatitis Summit
With less than two months to go until the World Hepatitis Summit, all our efforts here at the World Hepatitis Alliance are focused on final preparations for what is set to be a groundbreaking event. This month we’ve highlighted how you too can get ready for the Summit. Turn to page 4 for our tips. While August has been a month to prepare for one event, we’ve also been reflecting on another – on 8-9 August Indigenous peoples and hepatitis experts came together for the second World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Viral Hepatitis. The conference highlighted the disproportionate burden but was also an opportunity to hear from Indigenous communities making significant headway in eliminating viral hepatitis. Find out more on page 6.

We hope you enjoy reading this month’s hepVoice and we look forward to seeing you in São Paulo soon!

Raquel Peck
Chief Executive Officer

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.
In less than two months, the World Hepatitis Summit 2017 will bring over 900 delegates and 80 expert speakers from across the world to share a best-in-class programme, driven by key insights and research in how to implement the Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis.

Ahead of the event, here are three things to do to prepare yourself for the Summit:

1. **CHECK OUT THE SUMMIT PROGRAMME**
   As well as plenary sessions and workshops, this year the Summit programme also includes presentations and poster sessions from individuals and organisations on their original contributions to the field of hepatitis. There was an overwhelming response to the Call for Submissions with over 300 responses. More than 20 of these have been selected to present throughout the meeting and many others will be shown in poster sessions. For more information, view the Summit programme [here](#).

2. **GET TO KNOW THE EXPERTS**
   The World Hepatitis Summit will provide a platform to more than 80 high-level speakers, including Ministers of Health, public health specialists, hepatologists and civil society representatives, to promote advocacy, encourage the exchange of ideas and facilitate learning. Find out the current list of speakers [here](#).

3. **SECURE YOUR VISA**
   With over 900 delegates registered, the Summit is now fully booked. For those of you attending, don’t forget to start the visa application process for your trip to Brazil if you need to do so. There may be particularly lengthy visa processing times for some countries. If you require a visa letter or any other supporting documentation or advice, please do not hesitate to contact whs2017reg@mci-group.com.

4. **CREATE A BUZZ ON SOCIAL MEDIA**
   Join in conversations and stay up to date with the latest news around the event with the official Summit hashtag #HepSummit2017.
World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Viral Hepatitis

On 8 – 9 August the World Hepatitis Alliance and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium held the second World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Viral Hepatitis in Anchorage, Alaska. Coinciding with the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples, the event brought together over 150 delegates including Indigenous Peoples, clinicians, those working in Indigenous health and civil society organisations and provided a platform to profile and further the conversation on viral hepatitis in Indigenous communities.

Viral hepatitis disproportionately affects Indigenous Peoples and rates can be up to 10 times higher than in the general population:

- In Canada, hepatitis B rates are five times higher than the general population, and hepatitis C, three times higher.
- In Australia, indigenous people are four times as likely to contract hepatitis B and three times as likely to contract hepatitis C.

Some Indigenous communities have made significant progress towards eliminating viral hepatitis:

- The Cherokee Nation is on track to eliminate hepatitis C where around half of Cherokee Nation citizens aged 20-69 have been screened and a quarter of those thought to be infected have been cured.
- Alaska is a true success story on vaccination where universal vaccination has eliminated hepatitis B among young people and eliminated hepatitis A among the whole population.

There is growing commitment towards tackling viral hepatitis among Indigenous populations:

- At the second World Indigenous Peoples’ Conference on Viral Hepatitis, more Indigenous people came forward to share their experiences of living with viral hepatitis. This is a crucial step in ensuring the voices of all those impacted by the illnesses are heard. Read stories from Sandy-Leo from the First Nations Matis People in Canada, and Soma from the Jenu Kurba tribes of state of Karnataka, India.
- As a follow-up to the Anwernekenhe Consensus Statement at WIPC2014, delegates renewed and strengthened their commitment to eliminating viral hepatitis among Indigenous populations by adopting the Anchorage Consensus Statement.
- Both at the conference and through an online social media campaign, people highlighted that health is a human right and individuals took the NOhep pledge to protect Indigenous Peoples’ right to health.
URGENT

YOUR CHANCE TO INPUT INTO WHO’S HEPATITIS C TREATMENT GUIDELINES

The World Health Organization (WHO) are currently updating their hepatitis C treatment guidelines to include a possible ‘treat all’ recommendation. They are looking to hear from people living with hepatitis C and health care providers to understand the challenges and feasibility of implementing a possible ‘treat all’ recommendation. This is an important opportunity to contribute to a potentially life-changing recommendation. If you are/know someone living with hepatitis C or are a healthcare worker, please share or complete this short survey (5-10min).

SURVEY OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HEPATITIS C

SURVEY OF HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Wall of Stories Snapshots

Together our stories can change the way the world sees viral hepatitis. The stories of those living with or impacted by viral hepatitis can help educate and raise awareness, provide support and inspiration, tackle stigma and discrimination, and highlight the true impact of this global disease. Share your story here.

Dee Lee, China

“ I became the person who exercised this crime against human rights. I felt ashamed. I felt guilty. ”

Watch Dee’s story here
WHA Member updates from around the world

**Australia**

WHA member Hepatitis NSW ran a hepatitis B digital storytelling project that supported young people to create videos on hepatitis B. Check out the videos and vote for your favourite [here](#).

**India**

WHA member the Chennai Liver Foundation held a free hepatitis screening and awareness camp at Tamilnadu Special Policy battalion on 19 August. View the full set of photos from the event [here](#).

**Mexico**

WHA member Fundación Hepatos Aión published a statement on hepatitis C and the lack of political priority from the government. The statement was sent to the media and policymakers and called on the government to reverse the tragedy of hepatitis C in Mexico. Read their statement [here](#).

**Tanzania**

Executive Director of WHA member group the National Organisation for People Living with Hepatitis B and WHA Board Member for the African region Kenneth Kabagambe attended international conference TED Global 2017 where he featured as a panellist during a session on collaborative solutions to address barriers to tackle life-threatening diseases. Kenneth shared his experiences in community mobilisation and engaging key stakeholders in addressing viral hepatitis.

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