

hep VOICE

A monthly magazine from the World Hepatitis Alliance



**COCHRANE REVIEW:
COMMUNITY UNITES TO
DENOUNCE FINDINGS**



**WORLD
HEPATITIS
DAY**

**Can we count on
your support?**



**NEW REPORT: HEP C
CAUSES GREATEST HARM
AMONG PWID**

**"I'm cured of hepatitis C
but the story continues"**

WALL OF STORIES



With less than a month until World Hepatitis Day, the countdown is on. As the single most important date for the global hepatitis community to come together to raise mass awareness and influence real change, the more support we receive, the greater impact we can have. Findings published this month from the UNODC World Drug Report and the potentially harmful Cochrane Review show that there is still much to be done and just how important it is that we make the most of opportunities like World Hepatitis Day.

There are so many ways to get involved: organise an event in your local area, sign the Thunderclap, share your #ShowYourFace selfie or reach out to the media. Turn to page 4 to find out more and make sure we can count on your support!

We hope you enjoy reading!

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

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ELIMINATE HEPATITIS

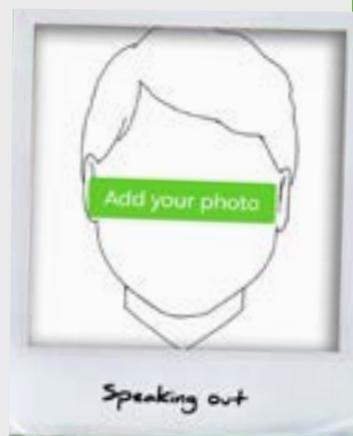


World Hepatitis Day 2017

World Hepatitis Day 2017 is our opportunity to come together to raise awareness of the global burden of viral hepatitis, influence real change in disease prevention and access to testing, treatment and care and transform the lives of the 325 million people living with the illness. With less than a month until WHD 2017, now is the time to promote your activities and help raise awareness and there are so many ways you can do that!

#ShowYourFace selfie tool

- Visit www.worldhepatitisday.org and click onto the #ShowYourFace selfie tool
- Take a selfie or upload your photo and add your own personal I AM statement
- Your #ShowYourFace selfie will be added to the gallery in the ELIMINATE HEPATITIS branding
- Share your selfie on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with the hashtags #ShowYourFace and #NOhep



Take a #ShowYourFace selfie [here](#)

Share graphics on social media

To help raise awareness of the burden and impact of viral hepatitis, we have created infographics and social media graphics based on the WHO Global Hepatitis Report, 2017. These are great to share on social media or even post them on your website or use at your events.

Download materials [here](#)

Join the #ShowYourFace Thunderclap

As part of the WHD campaign we have set up a Thunderclap - a fantastic tool that allows a single message to be mass-shared at a specific time and date and reach as many people as possible. By signing up to the Thunderclap, a message will be shared via your Facebook or Twitter on 28 July and you will join the collective voice on World Hepatitis Day. To create a buzz we're asking you to add your support and encourage your networks to take part too!

Sign up [here](#) today!

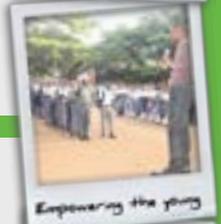
Learn top tips and boost your organisation's profile online

Watch the recording of our special webinar for an overview on this year's World Hepatitis Day social media campaign, ideas on using social media to promote your activities and tips on increasing engagement. The webinar also looks at how to make the most of patient case studies.

Watch the webinar [here](#).

Promote your activities

No matter how small or big, events are a great way to celebrate the day, raise awareness and effect change. Download our [Events Toolkit](#) for tips on organising an event. Don't forget to add your activities to the WHD [Events and Activities Map](#) This will let people know what you are doing and when, as well as build excitement and help share ideas.



COMMUNITY UNITES IN RESPONSE TO POTENTIALLY DAMAGING REVIEW ON HEPATITIS C DRUGS

At the beginning of June, the Cochrane Collaboration published a review on new direct acting antiviral (DAA) hepatitis C drugs, claiming that “the lack of valid evidence and the possibility of potentially harming people with chronic hepatitis ought to be considered before treating people with hepatitis C with DAAs”. This outrageous conclusion ignores the overwhelming evidence that DAAs do work. Several media outlets have also used the findings to question whether countries should fund the treatments. Concerned by the misleading findings and subsequent irresponsible media coverage, the hepatitis community has united to denounce the

review. We published a [rebuttal on our website](#) and an [open letter](#) was submitted to The Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology and featured alongside an [editorial](#) from the journal. The Hepatitis C Trust and leading experts in the UK co-authored a [letter](#) that was published in the Guardian and liver societies including [AASLD](#) and [EASL](#) also issued responses. As well as this, we received a number of responses from patients who emphasised how much their lives had changed since treatment with DAAs.

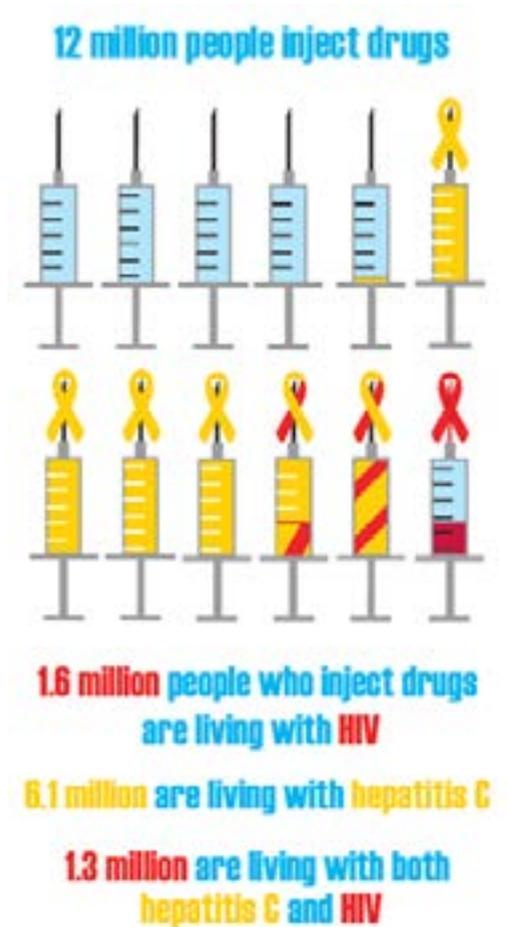
See the community’s response to the Cochrane Review [here](#).



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME WORLD DRUG REPORT 2017

In June the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime published the World Drug Report 2017 and revealed that hepatitis C is causing the greatest harm among the estimated 12 million people who inject drugs worldwide. Of this number, more than half (6.1 million) are living with hepatitis C while around 1.3 million are suffering from both hepatitis C and HIV. Overall, three times more people who use drugs die from hepatitis C (222,000) than from HIV (60,000). The report stresses that despite advances in hepatitis C medicines, access still remains poor among this key population.

Read the full report [here](#).

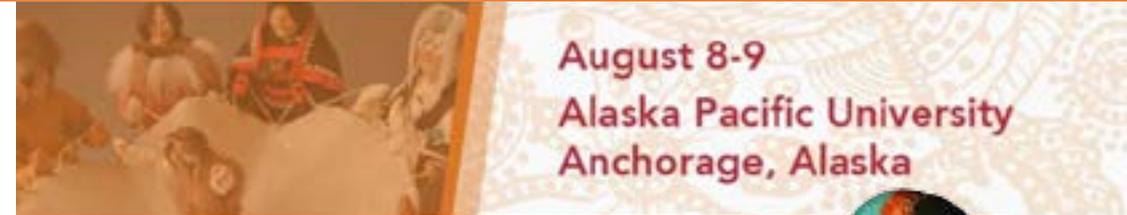


VIRAL HEPATITIS AND YOUR BODY - INTERNATIONAL TRAINING DAY

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

On 11-12 May community advocates across Croatia convened for the 'Viral Hepatitis and Your Body – International Training Day' to discuss how the viral hepatitis care continuum impacts the individual lives of patients. WHA Executive Board Member for the European Region, Ivana Dragojevic, delivered the keynote address, in which she presented on advocacy's role in

elimination, the NOhep movement and the WHD #ShowYourFace campaign.



WORLD INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CONFERENCE ON VIRAL HEPATITIS



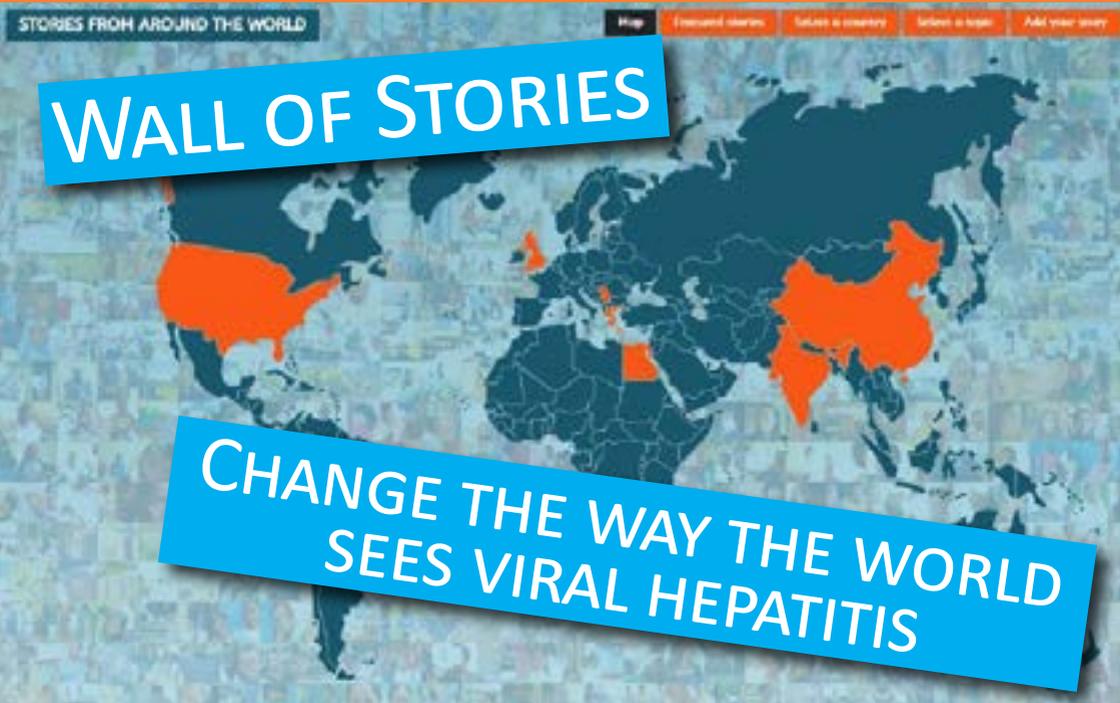
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, USA

The second [World Indigenous Peoples' Conference \(WIPC\)](#) will take place in Anchorage, Alaska, USA on 8-9 August to coincide with International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples! The event brings together Indigenous

peoples, policy makers and experts in the field to profile and further the conversation on viral hepatitis in Indigenous communities, and crucially give Indigenous peoples a voice. For more information and to register, visit the [WIPC website](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE [WORLD INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CONFERENCE ON VIRAL HEPATITIS WEBSITE](#)

WATCH WHA CEO RAQUEL PECK EXPLAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS EVENT [HERE](#)



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.

Help us raise awareness of viral hepatitis by submitting a contribution; 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. We accept entries in all languages!

Share your story [here](#).

WALL OF STORIES SNAPSHOTS

To highlight the true impact of viral hepatitis on individuals' lives, we profile a story from our Wall of Stories each month.

MARÍA JOSÉ, URUGUAY



“ I’m cured of hepatitis C
but the story continues ”

“My name is María José, I’m 45. I was diagnosed having Hepatitis C in 1995 by chance, for altered hepatic enzymes shock. I haven’t suffered because in those years, people didn’t talk about hepatitis C and so, I didn’t know how serious the disease was.”

[WATCH MARÍA JOSÉ’S VIDEO STORY HERE](#)

WHA MEMBER UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Russia

Patient organisations including WHA members [United Against Hepatitis](#) and [E.V.A.](#) sent an open letter to the Minister of Health of the Russian Federation asking for the government to develop and implement a national strategy. The organisations also held a press conference on ending the hepatitis C epidemic where patient advocates voiced the main issues faced by those living with viral hepatitis in Russia.



Nigeria

Throughout June the civil society coalition in Nigeria, made up of many WHA members including [Advocacy for the Prevention of Hepatitis in Nigeria \(APHIN\)](#), [Beacon Youth Initiative](#) and [Chagro-Care Trust](#), has been attending planning meetings with the Ministry of Health for the International Conference on Viral Hepatitis in Nigeria. Set to take place in September, the event will bring together Ministers of Health, patient organisations medical associations, academics and the private sector.



Australia

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

- [Liberia National Hepatitis Foundation](#)
- [APAHE Uruguay](#)
- [Hepatitis C Venezuela, A.C.](#)
- [Save The Liver Foundation, India](#)

Our membership is now made up of 253 groups in 86 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](#).

New members

WHA member [Hepatitis Queensland](#) attended Multicultural Youth Day in Inala where they hosted an information booth to raise awareness of hepatitis C.



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

*hep*VOICE

**World Hepatitis
Alliance**

www.worldhepatitisalliance.org