



Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board (VHPB)

Introduction



VHPB



**In 2022, 30 years active in the control and prevention of
viral hepatitis in Europe**

VHPB mission

■ Mission statement

The objective of VHPB is to contribute to the **control** and **prevention** of **viral hepatitides**:

- by drawing the attention to this important public health problem
- by issuing prevention and control guidance and catalyse the development of recommendations,
- by encouraging actions to improve control, prevention and elimination.

All activities are in line with **viral hepatitis elimination goals**
defined by **WHO** Global Health strategy

Focus audiences are, in first instance, opinion leaders, policymakers, public health and health care professionals



Way of Working

VHPB advisors

Intern. organisation



Antons Mozalevskis
WHO-Euro



Erika Duffell
ECDC



Marko Korenjak
ELPA



John Ward
Global task force



Maria Buti
EASL



CDC

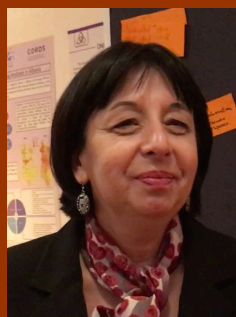
Public Health



David Goldberg
Scotland



Mira Kojouharova
Bulgaria



Silvia Bino
Albania



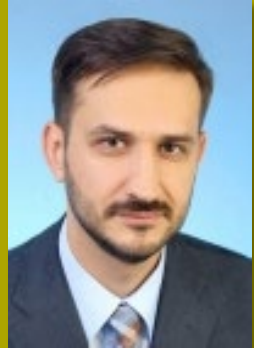
Sema Mandal
UK

VHPB advisors

Academic/University



Paolo Bonanni
Italy



Vladimir Chulanov
Russia



Angela Dominguez
Spain



Helène Norder
Sweden



Vana Papaevangelou
Greece



Mojca Maticic
Slovenia



Rui Tato Morinho
Portugal



Daniel Shouval
Israel



Pierre Van Damme
Belgium



Thomas Van Wolleghe
Belgium/The Netherlands

VHPB Honorary Advisors

- Prof. Dr. Selim Badur
- Dr. Hans Blystad
- Dr. Claire Cameron
- Prof. Dr. Pietro Crovari
- Dr. Nedret Emiroglu
- Prof. Dr. Alain Goudeau
- Prof. Dr. Peter Grob
- Dr. Nicole Guérin
- Priv.Doiz. Dr. Med. Habil. Johannes F. Hallauer †
- Prof. Dr. Med. Wolfgang Jilg
- Dr. Mark Kane
- Dr. Daniel Lavanchy
- Dr. Harold Margolis
- Dr. Eric Mast
- Dr. Elisabeth McCloy
- Prof. Dr. André Meheus †
- MSc. Tatjana Reic
- Prof. Dr. Lars Rombo
- Dr. Françoise Roudot-Thoraval
- Dr. Colette Roure
- Dr. Craig Shapiro
- Dr. Steven Wiersma
- Dr. Alessandro Zanetti

These honorary members are elected for a lifelong term and are invited to VHPB meetings on an ad hoc basis.

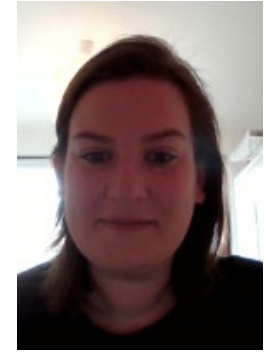
VHPB secretariat

Executive secretary

- Pierre Van Damme

Personnel involved

- Greet Hendrickx
- Sara Valckx
- Brenda Janssens
- Xenia Mikulla
- Dur-e-Nayab Waheed
- Alex Vorsters



All secretariat members have additional tasks in the VAXINFECTIO department of the University of Antwerp

Located within the facilities of the Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination (CEV), University of Antwerp

VHPB modus operandi



Two meetings per year

1. Technical meeting

- Discuss, review and issue guidelines or recommendations for critical issues in viral hepatitis focusing on public health impact

2. Country meeting

- Understand strategies and programs to control viral hepatitis in the country
- Monitor progress of countries in control of viral hepatitis, verify the WHO elimination goals
- Create a platform where people of the country involved in viral hepatitis can discuss and can start future initiatives
- Initiate or accelerate the development of a National viral hepatitis plan
- Draft guidelines to support countries based on lessons learned from other countries

Meetings - Way of working



Meeting topics- countries
Objectives – meeting outcome

Literature –web review



Draft agenda

Potential speakers

Potential participants





VHPB TECHNICAL MEETING
 +++Online+++

The impact of COVID-19 on the
(1) prevention of viral hepatitis
(2) 2030 WHO elimination goals

18 & 25 March 2021 – 16h30 until 20h00
 Draft MEETING agenda

MEETING OBJECTIVES

The impact of COVID-19 on the prevention of viral hepatitis

- Evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on National/regional vaccination and prevention programs for viral hepatitis
- Discuss how increasing vaccine hesitancy due to the pandemic may endanger the high coverage rates of hepatitis B vaccination
- Evaluate lessons learnt from existing catch up programmes
- Discuss the scale up of the public health needs to improve prevention and immunization of viral hepatitis which were negatively influenced by the pandemic

The impact of COVID-19 on the viral hepatitis elimination goals

- Evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on viral hepatitis, screening, control & treatment in Europe
- What is the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on the elimination goals, regionally and on country level
- Review the possible implementation of control measures, new prevention strategies and monitoring systems during and after a pandemic, lessons learnt
- Assess the (extra) needs to achieve the goal of eliminating viral hepatitis as a major public health threat in Europe by 2030 as defined by WHO's Regional office for Europe. Discuss successes, issues and the new challenges

part1 The impact of COVID-19 on the prevention and vaccination of viral hepatitis

Thursday 18 March 2021

Introduction of the participants

Chair: Greet Hendrickx

16:30-17:00

- Welcome and opening of the meeting
- Introduction of the participants

Session 1.1: COVID-19 impact on hepatitis prevention in risk groups

Chair: Monke Korenijk

17:00-17:40

How is the pandemic affecting harm reduction services working on HIV, hepatitis and STIs

Pre-recorded

[Discussion in HIV, hepatitis and STI services due to Covid](#)

Nicole **Sepp** (WHO)

EMCDDA

Impact of COVID-19 on harm reduction services

Live

Jane Mountney (head of public health EMCDDA)

Correlation Network

How harm reduction must go on – focusing on hepatitis

Pre-recorded

Eberhard Schutz (C-CHRN)

This is a draft version of the VHPB meeting agenda, not all proposed speakers confirmed yet

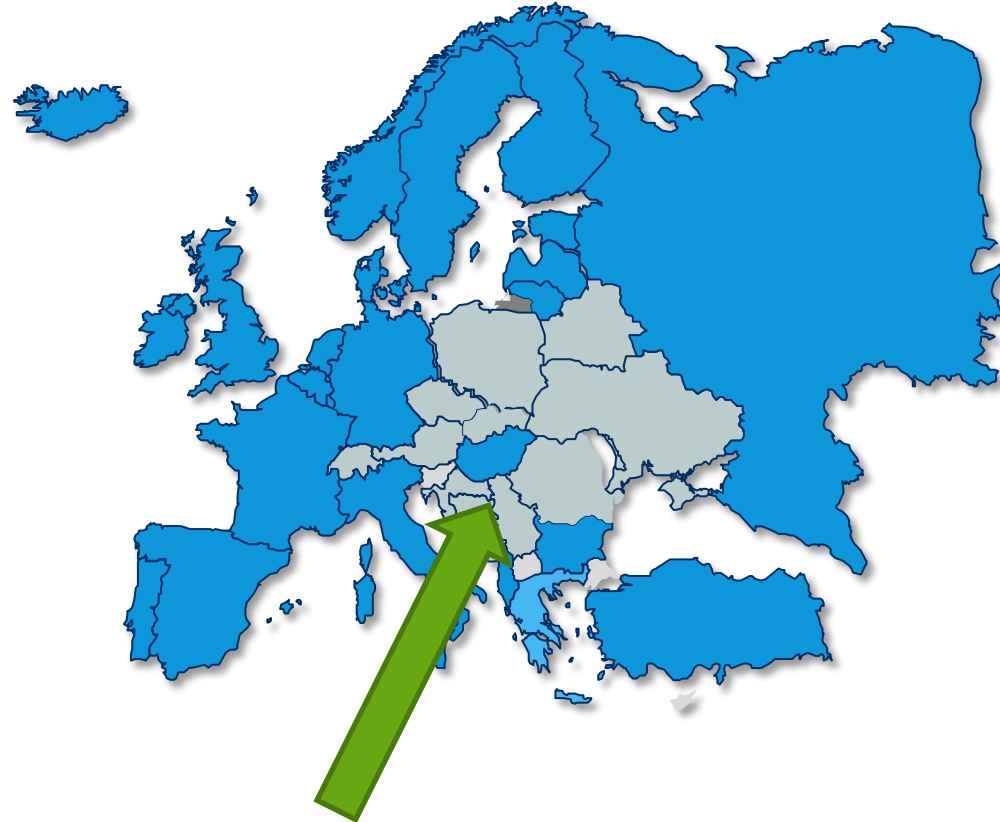
Broad range of topics covered in 30 years

- Hepatitis B vaccination
 - Universal Immunisation programs
(transition from risk group strategy to universal immunization)
 - Adolescent and new-born programmes
 - Safety issues
 - long term efficacy Surveillance best practice
 - Vaccine shortage
 - Non-responders
 - Occult hepatitis
 - Long term (+25y) HBV vaccination and treatment (2022)
- Hepatitis B and C asymptomatic infection and chronic carriage
 - Surveillance activities
 - Identification and management
 - Treatment of hepatitis C a public health challenge
 - Impact of treatment non-responders on public health
 - Perinatal transmission
- Treatment as Prevention (2020)
 - Of HCV in risk groups
 - Of HBV to prevent MTCT & progression of liver disease
- Injection safety and safe blood supply
 - Realization that ~50% injections unsafe in developing world
- HBV mutants and variants
 - Prediction “Escape mutants” would negate gains of immunization.
- Prevention and control of hepatitis in migrants and refugees
 - Increasingly important issue
- How to reach risk groups
- Hepatitis A and E
 - Hepatitis A: one dose (2020)
- Hepatitis D (2021)
- Economical analysis
 - A viral hepatitis free future: how to make it affordable
- The impact of COVID-19 on the prevention and control of viral hepatitis (2021)



Countries covered

- Italy (2002)
- Germany and the Nordic Countries (2003)
- France (2004)
- UK (2005)
- Spain (2006)
- Greece (2007)
- The Netherlands (2008)
- Turkey (2009)
- Portugal (2010)
- Bulgaria (2011)
- Arctic Region (2012)
- Israel (2013)
- Brazil (2014)
- Baltic states (2015)
- Albania (2016)
- Belgium – Luxembourg (2017)
- The Russian Federation (2018)
- Hungary (2019)



2022 BALKAN Meeting

VHPB Regional meeting 2022

Elimination of viral hepatitis in the Balkan countries: Lessons learnt and the way forward



27 & 28 October 2022
Skopje, North-Macedonia

Meeting Objectives

- provide an overview of the current viral hepatitis situation in the countries: surveillance systems, epidemiology, screening, burden, prevention, treatment and the cascade of care
- discuss achievements and challenges in the prevention and control of viral hepatitis, the possible implementation of new prevention strategies, control measures and monitoring system in the countries
- discuss the development and the implementation of a national hepatitis plans
- assess the needs to achieve the goal of eliminating viral hepatitis as a major public health threat by 2030 as set out in the renewed WHO Global Strategy and WHO Europe Action Plan, building on the UN Sustainable Development Goals' (SDG) commitments
- discuss successes, issues and barriers to overcome and the way forward

Intended Impact

- **Putting Prevention and control of viral hepatitis on the national public health agendas, list the most important challenges, opportunities, best practices and the way forward to eliminate viral hepatitis in the Balkan by 2030**