

# Intro

## Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board (VHPB)

Budapest, October 2019

More than **27** 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 hepatitis**:

- 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 strategy

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





# Way of working



# VHPB Advisors

## International organisation



Nedret Emiroglu  
WHO-Euro



Antons Mozalevskis  
WHO-Euro



Marc Bulterys  
WHO



Erika Duffell  
ECDC



Andrew Amato  
ECDC



John Ward  
CDC



Helena Pinto-Cortez  
EASL



Tatjana Reic  
ELPA

## Public Health



David Goldberg  
Scotland



Mira Kojouharova  
Bulgaria



Johannes Hallauer  
Germany



Silvia Bino  
Albania



Sema Mandal  
UK



# VHPB Advisors

Academic/University



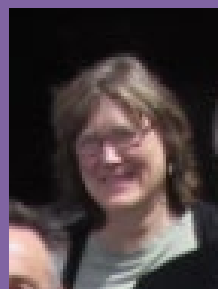
Paolo Bonanni  
Italy



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 Wolleghem  
Belgium/The Netherlands

# VHPB Honorary Advisors

|                 |           |                           |                   |
|-----------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Selim Badur     | Turkey    | Clair Cameron             | Scotland          |
| Hans Blystad    | Norway    | Eric Mast                 | USA               |
| Pietro Crovari  | Italy     | Elisabeth McCloy          | USA               |
| Alain Goudeau   | France    | Lars Rombo                | Sweden            |
| Nicole Guérin   | France    | Françoise Roudot-Thoraval | France            |
| Peter Grob      | Swiss     | Colette Roure             | France            |
| Wolfgang Jilg   | Germany   | Daniel Lavanchy           | Switzerland (WHO) |
| Mark Kane       | USA       | Alessandro Zanetti        | Italy             |
| Harold Margolis | Korea     |                           |                   |
| Steven Wiersma  | USA (WHO) |                           |                   |

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





# VHPB secretariat

## *Personnel involved*

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



## *Executive secretary*

- Pierre Van Damme



In total 2,1 FTE are working for VHPB activities, 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



HPV prevention and control board is embedded in the same facilities.





# Two meetings per year

1. Technical meeting: discuss, review and issue guidelines or recommendations for critical issues in viral hepatitis
2. Country meeting:
  - Understand strategies and programs to control viral hepatitis in the country
  - Monitor progress of countries in control of viral hepatitis
  - Create a platform where people of the country involved in viral hepatitis can discuss and can start future initiatives
  - Verify the WHO elimination targets
  - Initiate or accelerate the development of National viral hepatitis plan
  - Draft guidelines to support countries based on lessons learned from other countries



# 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)



# Broad range of topics covered in 25 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
- Hepatitis B and C asymptomatic infection and chronic carriage
  - Surveillance activities
  - Identification and management
  - Treatment of hepatitis C a public health challenge
  - Perinatal transmission
- 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
- Economical analysis
  - A viral hepatitis free future: how to make it affordable



# Web site [www.vhpb.org](http://www.vhpb.org)



## Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board

VHPB News | [About us](#) | [Meetings](#) | [Publications](#) | [Resources](#) | [Links](#) | [Contact us](#)

### Recent meetings

- 2019 April, Vilnius, Lithuania
- 2018, October, Moscow, Russia (RU)
- 2018, October, Moscow, Russia (EN)

### Recent publications

- Many European countries 'flying blind' in their efforts to eliminate viral hepatitis. Lazarus JV, Safreed-Harmon K, Colombo M, Schatz E, ; ACHIEVE Coalition. Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2017 Jul 26;14(8):445-446. doi: 10.1038/nrgastro.2017.98.
- Single-Dose Hepatitis A Immunization: 7.5-Year Observational Pilot Study in Nicaraguan Children to Assess Protective Effectiveness and Humoral Immune Memory Response.

### Recent newsletters

- Highlighting underserved groups for screening, prevention and treatment of viral hepatitis B and C in Europe
- Prevention and control of viral hepatitis in the Baltic States: lessons learnt and the way forward
- Towards a hepatitis-free Europe: how to make it feasible and affordable

### News - 2019 April, Vilnius, Lithuania

#### MULTI TOPIC meeting: the impact of viral hepatitis treatment and vaccination non-responders and occult hepatitis on public health.

The presentations, premeeting document and conclusions of the VHPB meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania are now [online](#).

[Read more](#)

### World hepatitis Day 2019

The VHPB endorses the annual [World Hepatitis Day](#) campaign: Find the missing millions.

Worldwide, 300 million people are living with viral hepatitis unaware. Without finding the undiagnosed and linking them to care, millions will continue to suffer, and lives will be lost. On World Hepatitis Day, 28 July, we call on people from across the world to take action and raise awareness on the prevention and control of viral hepatitis, aiming to find the "missing millions".

A World Hepatitis Day film has been made to raise awareness of viral hepatitis.

The VHPB not only draws the attention to viral hepatitis during the world hepatitis day, but continues to sensitize people and policy makers throughout the year, and year after year. The VHPB assists policy makers, health care providers and public health specialist and guides countries to prevent and control viral hepatitis:

- In October 2018, we discussed the management of viral hepatitis in Russia ([Moscow, Russia](#)); Prevention and control of viral hepatitis in the Russian Federation: Lessons learnt and the way forward.
- In April 2019 ([Vilnius, Lithuania](#)) a multi topic meeting was organized to discuss the impact of viral hepatitis treatment and vaccination in non-responders and occult hepatitis on public health.
- At present, we are preparing a country meeting in Hungary (Budapest, Hungary) to investigate the way Hungary is controlling, managing and preventing viral hepatitis: Elimination of Viral Hepatitis in Hungary: Lessons learnt and the way forward.



Older news items can be found in the [news archive](#).

**VHPB**

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- Vaccine & Infectious Disease Institute (Vaxinfectio)
- University of Antwerp
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**Executive Secretary**

- [Pierre Van Damme](#)

**Administrative and Scientific Secretariat**

- [Brenda Janssens](#) | ► [Greet Hendrickx](#)
- [Ina Lodewyckx](#)
- [Alex Vorsters](#)

**Follow us on** 

- [subscribe here for the VHPB e-mail service](#)
- For ordering publications: ► [Brenda Janssens](#)
- For information and comments on the web site: ► [Greet Hendrickx](#)
- This website is part of the ► [WHO vaccine safety net](#)

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Realisation: ► [Wide Open Windows](#)



# Output

## Website and social media:

- Newsletters
- Renewed membership of Vaccine Safety Network
- Twitter



# Publications in scientific journals 2019

## The Lancet Gastroenterology: Eliminating Hepatitis C in Europe

Correspondence

### Eliminating hepatitis C in Europe

Spurred by WHO's Global Health Sector Strategy (GHSS) for viral hepatitis and in the absence of

In 2018, the European Commission published a working document that catalogued past and present EU policies and action plans on HIV, viral hepatitis, and tuberculosis.<sup>5</sup> This document reaffirmed support

Office for Europe, and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction recently released a framework to help EU and European Economic Area countries monitor their implementation of hepatitis B

## Liver International

Eliminating viral hepatitis C in  
Belgium: the micro-elimination  
approach. (submitted)





Hungary hepatitis meeting

# **Elimination of Viral Hepatitis in Hungary: Lessons learnt and the way forward**

**BUDAPEST, HUNGARY**

30-31 October 2019





# Meeting Objectives

- *Provide an overview of the current viral hepatitis situation in Hungary: surveillance systems, epidemiology, screening, burden, prevention and the cascade of care*
- *Discuss achievements and challenges in the prevention of viral hepatitis, the possible implementation of new prevention strategies in Hungary*
- *Discuss the development, the implementation of a National hepatitis plan.*
- *Assess the needs to achieve the goal of eliminating viral hepatitis as a major public health threat by 2030 as set out in the 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

## INTENDED IMPACT

- Putting prevention and control of viral hepatitis on the national public health agenda, discuss the current situation and the way forward to contribute to Hungarian fight against hepatitis and to achieve the elimination of viral hepatitis as a public health problem by 2030



# output

- Presentations and background document on the Website
- Conclusion slides on the website
- Meeting report on website and distributed via newsletter



www.vhpb.org

