Introduction to the Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board

Brazil, 20 March 2014
More than 20 years of support to the control and prevention of viral hepatitis in Europe
• 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 guidance and catalyse the development of recommendations, and
- by encouraging actions to improve control and prevention.

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

- **VHPB advisory board** composed of independent experts in the field of viral hepatitis

- Honorary members

- Executive secretariat based at the VAXINFECTIO unit of the University of Antwerp
  - Emmy Engelen
  - Greet Hendrickx
  - Tinne Lernout
  - Alex Vorsters
  - Pierre Van Damme
## Composition of the advisory board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO</th>
<th>Academic/University</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nedret Emiroglu</td>
<td>WHO regional office for Europe, Denmark</td>
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<td>Stefan Wiktor</td>
<td>WHO Headquarter, Switzerland</td>
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<td>ECDC</td>
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<td>Erika Duffel</td>
<td>ECDC, Sweden</td>
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<td>CDC</td>
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<td>John Ward</td>
<td>CDC, USA</td>
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<td>ELPA (European Liver patient association)</td>
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<td>Tatjana Reic</td>
<td>ELPA, Croatia</td>
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<td>Public Health Institute</td>
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<td>Hans Blystad</td>
<td>Norway</td>
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<td>David Goldberg</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
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<td>Mira Kojouharova</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<td>Johannes Hallauer</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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These honorary members are elected for a lifelong term and are invited to VHPB meetings on an ad hoc basis.
Support and Grants

Supported by

- **unrestricted** grants from the vaccine industry GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, Sanofi Pasteur MSD, Sanofi Pasteur, Crucell, Merck, Gilead
- several universities and other institutions in Europe
- VHPB received in the past for their activities in CEE and NIS funds from GAVI fund, CVP at PATH, Unicef, CDC, WHO

![Financial and in kind support from different actors (2012)]
VHPB ACTIVITIES
2-3 meetings/year
(country-technical)
VHPB Meetings

**Country** – March
- 2012: Arctic Region
- 2013: Israel
- 2014: Brazil and Latin America

**Technical** – November
- 2012: How to reach health care workers (Barcelona, Spain)
- 2013: Public health aspects of hepatitis C (Split, Croatia)
- 2014 (13-14 Nov): 20 years VHPB (TBC)
Involvement in other meetings

- ECDC Technical Expert groups
- ETAGE (European Technical Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization)
- SAGE (Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization)
- Hepatitis B and C Public Policy Association
- Other scientific meetings
OUTPUT
Publications

Viral hepatitis

- 2 issues/ year
- Distributed:
  - PDF on website
  - Mailing to ± 3600 readers
- Replaced by shorter newsletter (2013)

N° 1, 1992

N° 23/1, 2013
Publications
Scientific publications

**Scandinavian Journal of Infectious Diseases**

**Prevention of viral hepatitis in the Nordic countries and Germany**

2005, Vol. 37, No. 8, Pages 549-560 (doi:10.1080/00365540510043294)


Guidelines for practice

Hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus and other blood-borne infections in healthcare workers: guidelines for prevention and management in industrialised countries

D FitzSimons1, G François2, G De Carli3, D Shouvet4, A Prüß-Ustün5, V Puro6, I Williams6, D Lavanchy7, A De Schryver8, A Kopka5, FNcube10, G Ippolito9, P Van Denme2

**Vaccine 31 (2013) 584–590**

Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

Vaccine

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/vaccine

Conference report

Hepatitis B vaccination: A completed schedule enough to control HBV lifelong? Milan, Italy, 17–18 November 2011

3 – 4 peer reviewed publications/ year
Website **www.vhpb.org**

**Content**

- Overview of the VHPB
- Shows all previous recommendations, guidelines and consensus statements
- *All Viral Hepatitis* issues as of 1996 can be downloaded
- Presentations of VHPB meetings are on-line since 2001 (>500 presentations and >600 documents)
- Formally approved by WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety
VHBP endorses the World Hepatitis Day (28 July 2013).

**Know it. Confront it.**

World Hepatitis Day established in 2010 by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in collaboration with the World Hepatitis Alliance (WHA) is marked to increase the awareness and understanding of viral hepatitis and the diseases that it causes. Viral hepatitis is the leading cause of cirrhosis and liver cancer worldwide. Approximately 240 million people being chronically infected with hepatitis B and around 150 million people being chronically infected with hepatitis C, and most of them do not know they are infected. In the WHO European Region 13 million people are chronically infected with HBV, and 15 million are chronically infected with HCV, compared with 1 6 million people living with HIV.

The World Hepatitis Day provides an opportunity to create awareness and focus on specific actions such as: strengthening prevention, screening and control of viral hepatitis and its related diseases; increasing hepatitis B vaccine coverage and integration into national immunization programmes; improve access to prevention and treatment and coordinating a global response to hepatitis.

More information and promotional material in different languages is accessible on http://www.worldhepatitisalliance.org/en/who-what-where-when-and-how.html

WHO launched their new global policy report on the prevention and control of viral hepatitis.

WHO global policy report on the prevention and control of viral hepatitis in WHO Member States, is a report based on findings of a survey performed by WHO in collaboration with the World Hepatitis Alliance, mid-2012 and responded to 128 countries. The survey asked Member States to provide information relating to the four axes of the WHO strategy. In particular, Member States were asked whether key prevention and control activities are being conducted.


The data is also presented on an interactive website of the World Hepatitis Alliance http://global-report.worldhepatitisalliance.org/en/

"Burden and prevention of viral hepatitis in the Arctic region, Copenhagen, Denmark, 22 23 March 2012" published in the International Journal of Circumpolar Health (Int J Circumpolar Health 2013, 72: 2165). A summary of the VHPB meeting entitled "Burden and prevention of viral hepatitis in the Arctic"
Website = rich source of information, including unpublished data

**Prevalence of anti-HCV in General Population, Plovdiv region, Bulgaria, 2010 (unpublished data)**

- **Bulgaria 1999-2000**: 1.28%
- **Plovdiv region 1999-2000**: 1.13%
- **Plovdiv region 2010**: 0.90%

*p > 0.05*

Country meeting Bulgaria, 2011
VHPB HISTORY
VHPB History

• Set up in 1992, first focus on hepatitis B as an occupational risk
• Broader scope from 1993 onwards, first to hepatitis B as a community health risk, and progressively including other viral hepatitis viruses
• Geographical focus initially on Western Europe, and then extended to include all 53 countries in the WHO/EURO. Recently interest of other WHO regions
VHPB History

1992
Hep B as occupational risk

1993
Hep B as community health risk

1994-95
Prevention hep A

1997
First country Meeting, Italy

2001
Hep C control

2002
Hep B immunization
VHPB/CDC/GAVI/Unicef/WHO

2003-04
Hep B vaccine safety & efficacy

2007
Focus on adolescents

2008
Role of advocacy groups

2009
Update hep A & E

2010
Chronic hep B

2013
Hep C treatment

National hep B vaccination programmes (WHO recommendation)
VHPB History
Why do we still exist after > 20 years?

- Multidisciplinary experts
- Multisponsored
- Group of committed colleagues with a common goal
If you want to go fast, go alone
If you want to go far, go together

Israel, March 2013