Introduction to the VHPB

Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board

VHPB
The Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board

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.
VHPB Structure

• **VHPB advisory board** is 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
  – Tinne Lernout
  – Greet Hendrickx
  – Alex Vorsters
  – Pierre Van Damme
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VHPB Advisors</th>
<th>Academic/University</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>Selim Badur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nedret Emiroglu</td>
<td>WHO regional office for Europe, Denmark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stefan Wiktor</td>
<td>Paolo Bonani</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO Headquarter, Switzerland</td>
<td>Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECDC</td>
<td>Angela Dominguez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marita Van de laar</td>
<td>ECDC, Sweden</td>
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<td>CDC</td>
<td>Wolfgang Jilg</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Ward</td>
<td>Helène Norder</td>
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<td>CDC Headquarter, Switzerland</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELPA (European Liver patient association)</td>
<td>Vana Papaevangelou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tatjana Reic</td>
<td>Françoise Roudot-Thoraval</td>
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<td>ELPA, Croatia</td>
<td>Greece</td>
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<td>Public health Institute</td>
<td>Rui Tato Marinho</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hans Blystad</td>
<td>Daniel Shouval</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Koen Van Herck</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Goldberg</td>
<td>Alessandro Zanetti</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mira Kojouharova</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johannes Hallauer</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Honorary Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pietro Crovari</td>
<td>Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alain Goudeau</td>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicole Guérin</td>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Grob</td>
<td>Swiss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Kane</td>
<td>USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harold Margolis</td>
<td>Korea</td>
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<td>Steven Wiersma</td>
<td>USA</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 and Merck
  – 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
VHPB ACTIVITIES
2-3 meetings/year
(technical - country)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country – March</th>
<th>Technical – November</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013: 14-15 March Israel</td>
<td>2013: 14-15 Nov Croatia</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014: 20-21 March Brazil</td>
<td>public health aspects of hepatitis C</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015: 19-20 March (TBC)</td>
<td>2014: 13-14 Nov (TBC) 20 years VHPB</td>
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<td>2015: 19-20 Nov (TBC)</td>
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Country meetings

- 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 2012
- Israel 2013
- 2 issues/Year
- Distributed:
  - PDF on website
  - Mailing to ± 3600 readers
Publications
Scientific publications

Has the time come to control hepatitis A globally? Matching prevention to the changing epidemiology

G. Hendrickx,1 K. Van Herck,1,2 A. Vuytsen,1 S. Wiersma,3 C. Shapiro,4 J. K. Andrus,5 A. M. Ripero,5 D. Shouval,6 W. Ward1 and P. Van Damme3

Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination, Vaccine and Infections Disease Institute, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium; 2Postdoctoral Fellow, Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO), Brussels, Belgium; 3Division of Viral Hepatitis, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, USA; 4Department of Immunizations, Vaccines & Biologicals, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland; 5Pan American Health Organization, Washington, DC, USA; and 6Liver Unit, MokshaHospita University Hospital, Jerusalem, Israel.

Summary. For the first time a global meeting on hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection as vaccine preventable disease was organized at the end of 2007. More than 200 experts from 46 countries gathered to investigate the changing global HAV epidemiology reflecting the increasing numbers of persons at risk for severe clinical disease and mortality from HAV infection. The benefits of childhood and adult hepatitis A (HepA) vaccination strategies and the data needed by individual countries and international health organizations to assess current HepA prevention strategies were discussed. New approaches in preventing HAV infection including universal HepA vaccination were considered. This introductory paper summarize the major findings of the meeting and describes the changing epidemiology of HAV infections and the impact of HepA vaccination strategies in various countries. Implementation of HepA vaccination strategies should take into account the level of endemicity, the level of the socio-economic development and sanitation, and the risk of outbreaks. A stepwise strategy for introduction of HepA universal immunization of children was recommended. This strategy should be based on accurate surveillance of cases and qualitative documentation of outbreaks and their control, secure political support on the basis of high-quality results, and comprehensive cost-effectiveness studies. The recognition of the need for increased global attention towards HepA prevention is an important outcome of this meeting.

Keywords: Global hepatitis A meeting, hepatitis A, hepatitis A vaccination, infectious disease control, public health, surveillance.

3 – 4 peer reviewed publications/ year
Web site www.vhpbo.org

- Web site
  - 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 (>527 presentations of in total >645 documents)
  - Formally approved by WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety
VHPB news

VHPB endorses the first official World Hepatitis Day (28 July) of the World Health Organization (WHO).

In May 2010 the World Health Assembly adopted the viral hepatitis resolution WHA 63.18, calling for an official WHO sponsored World Hepatitis Day. From now on this WHO sponsored World Hepatitis Day will take place Thursday 28th of July, Professor Baruch Blumberg’s birthday. This date is very appropriate to put viral hepatitis in the spot light as Professor Blumberg received in 1972 a chaired Nobel Prize for his research leading to the discovery of the hepatitis B virus and allowing the development of the hepatitis B vaccine.

The World Hepatitis Day provides the opportunity to increase the awareness, understanding and prevention of viral hepatitis and its related diseases in all WHO member states. With more than 20 years’ experience in increasing awareness of viral hepatitis among healthcare workers, policymakers and opinion leaders, the VHPB recognizes the importance and relevance of this initiative and fully supports the overall objectives of the World Hepatitis Day. We hope that the campaign “Hepatitis affects everyone, everywhere. Know it. Confront it. Protect yourself.” will have a major global impact on the general awareness of Viral Hepatitis.

More information and promotional material in different languages is accessible on www.worldhepatitisday.info
Involvement in other meetings

- ECDC Technical Expert group
- 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
VHPB History

- Since 1992, 20 years of experience
- 37 issues of Viral Hepatitis
- Meetings: 37 VHPB meetings, 3 EE/NIS meetings, 1 global HAV meeting
- Board members: 35 representing 17 different countries
- Peer reviewed publications: more than 80
PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF VIRAL HEPATITIS IN ISRAEL: LESSONS LEARNT AND THE WAY FORWARD
Meeting Objectives

– Provide an overview of surveillance systems for infectious diseases;
– Review the epidemiological situation on viral hepatitis;
– Give an overview of the current prevention and control measures on viral hepatitis;
– Discuss the progress achieved in hepatitis prevention;
– Review the possible implementation of new prevention strategies, control measures and monitoring systems;
– Discuss the successes, issues and barriers to overcome, and the way forward