Intro

Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board (VHPB)

Vilnius, April 2019
More than **26** years active in 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 and control guidance and catalyse the development of recommendations,
- by encouraging actions to improve control, prevention and elimination.

**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
- Hans Blystad
  Norway
- 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 Domínguez
Spain

Wolfgang Jilg
Germany

Helène Norder
Sweden

Vana Papaevangelou
Greece

Mojca Maticic
Slovenia

Françoise Roudot-
Thoraval
France

Rui Tato Morinho
Portugal

Daniel Shouval
Israel

Thomas Van Wolleghem
Belgium/The Netherlands

Alessandro Zanetti
Italy
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Pietro Crovari</td>
<td>Italy</td>
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<td>Alain Goudeau</td>
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<td>Nicole Guérin</td>
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<td>Peter Grob</td>
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<td>Mark Kane</td>
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<td>Harold Margolis</td>
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<td>Steven Wiersma</td>
<td>USA (WHO)</td>
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<td>Clair Cameron</td>
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<td>Eric Mast</td>
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<td>Elisabeth McCloy</td>
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<td>André Meheus</td>
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<td>Lars Rombo</td>
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<td>Colette Roure</td>
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<td>Daniel Lavanchy</td>
<td>Switzerland (WHO)</td>
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<td>Selim Badur</td>
<td>Turkey</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.
VHPB Structure

Personnel involved

– Brenda Janssens
– Xenia Mikulla
– Greet Hendrickx
– Alex Vorsters

Executive secretary

– Pierre Van Damme

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
Website and social media:

• Newsletters
• Renewed membership of Vaccine Safety Network
• Twitter
The Lancet Gastroenterology:
Eliminating Hepatitis C in Europe

Liver International
Eliminating viral hepatitis C in Belgium: the micro-elimination approach. (submitted)
VHPB Technical meeting
MULTI TOPIC meeting
The impact of viral hepatitis treatment and vaccination non-responders and occult hepatitis on public health

Vilnius, Lithuania
25-26 April 2019
3 topics - 1 aim

1. Treatment of hepatitis C, Non responders – relapse – reinfection
2. Hepatitis B vaccination Non-responders
3. Occult viral hepatitis B

Discuss the potential impact on public health
Multi topic meeting

**MEETING OBJECTIVES:**

- **Hepatitis C Treatment hurdles: non-responders - reinfection – relapse**
  - Define treatment failures based on scientific data (definitions)
  - Discuss the impact of treatment failure on the public health
- **Hepatitis B Vaccine Non-Responders**
  - Discuss the definition of a non-responder on hepatitis B vaccination
  - Discuss the (potential) impact of non-responders on public health
  - Review guidelines how to address hepatitis B vaccine non-responders
- **Occult Hepatitis B:**
  - Define occult infections for hepatitis and the incidence
  - Discuss the importance of occult infection on the effectiveness of the vaccination program
  - Discuss the different aspects of the importance of occult infection on public health and review existing guidelines how to address occult hepatitis B
INTENDED IMPACT

• If appropriate draft guidelines or highlight existing guidelines on how to address non-response to vaccination and treatment. Define unambiguously occult hepatitis and how to manage it.
- Presentations and background document on the website
- Conclusion slides on the website
- Meeting report on website and distributed via newsletter
Groups discussions

GROUPS DISCUSSION AFTER TOPIC
"And should there be a sudden loss of consciousness during this meeting, oxygen masks will drop from the ceiling."