Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board (VHPB)

Introduction
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

Antons Mozalevskis
WHO-Euro

Erika Duffell
ECDC

Marko Korenjak
ELPA

John Ward
Global task force

Maria Buti
EASL

David Goldberg
Scotland

Mira Kojouharova
Bulgaria

Silvia Bino
Albania

Sema Mandal
UK
VHPB advisors

Academic/University

- Paolo Bonanni, Italy
- Vladimir Chulangov, Russia
- Angela Dominguez, Spain
- Helene 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

<table>
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<th>Honorary Advisors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Dr. Selim Badur</td>
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<td>Dr. Hans Blystad</td>
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<td>Dr. Claire Cameron</td>
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<td>Prof. Dr. Pietro Crovari</td>
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<td>Dr. Nedret Emiroglu</td>
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<td>Prof. Dr. Alain Goudeau</td>
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<td>Prof. Dr. Peter Grob</td>
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<td>Dr. Nicole Guérin</td>
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<td>Prof. Dr. Med. Wolfgang Jilg</td>
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<td>Dr. Mark Kane</td>
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<td>Dr. Daniel Lavanchy</td>
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<td>Dr. Harold Margolis</td>
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<td>Dr. Eric Mast</td>
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<td>Dr. Elisabeth McCloy</td>
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<td>Prof. Dr. André Meheus †</td>
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<td>MSc. Tatjana Reic</td>
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<td>Prof. Dr. Lars Rombo</td>
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<td>Dr. Françoise Roudot-Thoraval</td>
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<td>Dr. Colette Roure</td>
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<td>Dr. Craig Shapiro</td>
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<td>Dr. Steven Wiersma</td>
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<td>Dr. Alessandro Zanetti</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 secretariat

**Executive secretary**
- Pierre Van Damme

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

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.
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
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