



HEPATITIS-C

Community Summit

Declaration on the importance of civil society involvement to eliminate hepatitis C

Amsterdam, April 2017

This is a historic moment for hepatitis C treatment. With the advent of direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) we can now massively reduce the harm from an infectious disease that affects millions of people and causes hundreds of thousands of unnecessary deaths every year. Interferon-free DAA regimes are short, highly tolerable and simple to deliver, with cure rates of over 90%. Today, one year after the first-ever World Health Organization Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis was approved, we call on stakeholders to work together to meet the strategy's ambitious goal of hepatitis C elimination as a public health threat.

Hepatitis C elimination will require sizeable scaling up in testing and treatment, along with comprehensive harm reduction services, including in prisons. There is an urgent need for policy-makers, health care providers, health insurance providers and the pharmaceutical industry to work in collaboration with the affected communities and their organization, as well as low threshold services, to achieve this scale-up. Communities and community representatives must participate in formulating and implementing hepatitis C prevention, testing and strategies for affordable treatment because these stakeholders have unique knowledge about what will be accessible, acceptable and effective. ***Without their close ongoing involvement, the effort to eliminate hepatitis C is likely to fail.***

The other essential requirement for achieving the elimination of hepatitis C is a sustained collaborative effort to combat the stigma, discrimination and criminalisation faced by people who inject drugs, and other priority communities, like migrants and men having sex with men. Again, community and civil society actors hold a vital key to succeeding in this effort.

Hepatitis C testing and treatment needs to be available in multiple accessible community settings, where it is known to be effective. Together, we can improve access to care for marginalized populations and hold governments accountable to their commitment be they national or set out in the Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis.



HEPATITIS-C

Community Summit

Initial signatories

- **CORRELATION NETWORK HEPATITIS C INITIATIVE**
- **EUROPEAN AIDS TREATMENT GROUP (EATG)**
- **EUROPEAN AFRICAN TREATMENT ADVOCATES NETWORK (EATAN)**
- **EUROPEAN NETWORK OF PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS (EURONPUD)**
- **EUROPEAN LIVER PATIENT ASSOCIATION (ELPA)**
- **INTERNATIONAL DOCTORS FOR HEALTHIER DRUG POLICIES (IDHDP)**
- **AFEW INTERNATIONAL**
- **APDES, PORTUGAL**
- **ALLIANCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, UKRAINE**
- **FIXPUNKT, BERLIN**
- **GAT, PORTUGAL**
- **HELLENIC LIVER PATIENT ASSOCIATION PROMETHEUS, GREECE**

CORRELATION HEPATITIS C INITIATIVE

tel. +31 20 570 7826 (direct)

c/o Foundation

De REGENBOOG GROEP

Droogbak 1d

1013 GE Amsterdam

The Netherlands

www.correlation-net.org

administration@correlation-net.org

Sponsors of the Hepatitis C Community summit: Abbvie, Gilead, MSD

www.hepatitiscommunitysummit.eu