

Eliminating viral hepatitis by 2030

Hepatitis Online Series

REGISTER

10 years left to eliminate viral hepatitis - what now, what next, for uptake in hepatitis C treatment in low- and middle-income countries?

Globally, an estimated 71 million people have chronic hepatitis C infection, with an important proportion developing cirrhosis or liver cancer. Direct-acting antiviral (DAA) medicines can cure more than 95% of patients. Still, access to diagnostics and treatments is low, especially in low- and middle-income countries, where most people in need of treatment live. The World Health Organization (WHO) Global Hepatitis Report published in January 2021 shows that in 2017, just 19% of people living with the hepatitis C virus (HCV) knew of their diagnosis, which represents around 13 million people globally. Access to DAA treatment lags behind.

The last eight years have brought an arsenal of tools in the fight against HCV. These include simplified diagnostics and quality DAA medicines with high cure rates, shorter treatment durations with fewer side-effects, simplified delivery and much lower prices than previous generation medicines. These tools have revolutionised the approaches to treatment of HCV and provided an unprecedented opportunity for widespread scale-up. **This session focuses on access to treatment and how to make best use of the tools available in national hepatitis C programs.**

Hosted by:

AGENDA

Introduction

Charles Gore - *moderator, Executive Director, Medicines Patent Pool*

Presentations

WHO's latest figures on HCV from the WHO Strategic Report HIV/hep/STI presented at the 74th World Health Assembly (May 2021)

Dr Meg Doherty - *Director of Global HIV, Hepatitis and STIs Programmes, WHO*

Tools for access - Unitaids' investments in HCV

Dr Philippe Duneton - *Executive Director, Unitaid*

The Rwandan journey to HCV treatment access

Dr Sabin Nsanzimana - *Director General, Rwanda Biomedical Centre*

Panel discussion with

Professor Olga Golubovskaya - *Head at the Department of Infectious Diseases, Bogomolets National Medical University of Kiev, Ukraine*

Dr Huma Qureshi - *Gastroenterologist and National focal point hepatitis, Pakistan*

Karin Timmermans - *Technical Manager, Unitaid*

Danjuma Adda - *President-elect, World Hepatitis Alliance*

Sonjelle Shilton - *Deputy Head HCV Access, FIND, the global alliance for diagnostics*

Sandra Nobre - *Head of Business Development, Medicines Patent Pool*

Craig McClure - *Senior Director, Viral Hepatitis, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)*

Closing remarks

Dr Meg Doherty - *Director of Global HIV, Hepatitis and STIs Programmes, WHO*

Charles Gore - *moderator, Executive Director, Medicines Patent Pool*