



FAST-TRACK CITIES

Workshop Warsaw Eliminating the Hepatitis C Epidemic in Urban Settings

22-23 February 2023 | Hilton Warsaw

This workshop is supported by a sponsorship from AbbVie, which had no control over the selection of the workshop's steering committee, faculty, participants, themes, or content.



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC) and Fast-Track Cities Institute (FTCI), I welcome you to the **Eliminating the Hepatitis C Epidemic in Urban Settings Workshop**.

Globally, an estimated 58 million people have chronic HCV infection, and a significant number of those will develop cirrhosis or liver cancer if undiagnosed and, thus, untreated. While there is currently no effective HCV vaccine, direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) can cure more than 95% of persons with HCV infection, reducing the risk of death from cirrhosis and liver cancer, but also facilitating cure as prevention (CasP). Yet, access to HCV diagnosis and treatment is critically low. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), only an estimated 10% of people living with chronic HCV infection know their diagnosis, and of those diagnosed, less than 10% have been treated with DAAs.

We are committed to assisting Fast-Track Cities to localize the WHO's global goal of eliminating HCV infections by 2030 by attaining a series of programmatic targets, notably diagnosing 90% of people living with HCV and treating 80% of those by 2030. Our objectives in this regard include:

- Diversifying healthcare provider cadres to facilitate HCV elimination
- Engaging with affected communities to prioritize HCV elimination
- Implementing primary and secondary HCV prevention interventions
- Screening and testing HCV unawares and improving their care coordination
- Facilitating access to harm reduction services for patients at increased risk for HCV
- Promoting prompt treatment initiation with DAAs for HCV-positive patients
- Maximizing patient engagement to achieve higher HCV cure rates and CasP
- Mitigating stigma as a barrier to accessing and utilizing HCV services
- Addressing health disparities contributing to suboptimal HCV service utilization
- Accelerating uptake of innovative public health policies to optimize HCV responses

During today's Workshop, you will engage in discussions about achieving HCV elimination within the context of the City of Warsaw's broader commitment to the goals, objectives, and targets enshrined in the *Paris Declaration on Fast-Track Cities*. We look forward to discussing innovative approaches to preventing new HCV infections and, as important, to ensure that more people living with HCV infection are screened, tested, and linked to successful treatment that leads to sustained viral suppression and, thus, a cure.



Dr. José M. Zuniga
President/CEO
IAPAC and FTCI



22 FEBRUARY 2023

12:30 – 12:45 **REGISTRATION**

12:45 – 13:45 **WELCOME LUNCH**

13:45 – 14:15 **OPENING REMARKS**

Mayor Rafał Trzaskowski*
City of Warsaw
Warsaw, Poland

FAST-TRACK CITIES - ITS COMMITMENTS TO ENDING VIRAL HEPATITIS

Gonçalo Lobo
International Association of Providers of AIDS Care & Fast-Track Cities Institute
Lisbon, Portugal

14:15 – 16:00 **ACHIEVING HCV ELIMINATION BY 2030**

Objective: At the end of the session, attendees should list their urban HCV elimination goals, pathways to achieve them, and stakeholders who should be involved.

MODERATOR

Andrzej Horban
Medical University of Warsaw
Warsaw, Poland

SPEAKERS

Minister of Health Adam Niedzielski*
Ministry of Health of Poland
Warsaw, Poland

Dr. Marcelo Naveira
World Health Organization
Copenhagen, Denmark

Dr. Alisa Pedrana
Burnet Institute – Monash University
Melbourne, Australia

Prof. Jeffrey Lazarus
Barcelona Institute for Global Health
Barcelona, Spain

Q&A AND DISCUSSION

WORKING GROUPS

16:00 – 16:30 *COFFEE-BREAK*

16:30 – 18:30 **MONITORING VIRAL HEPATITIS ON THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL**

Objective: At the end of the session, attendees should list the main indicators that they want to monitor at city level, agree on their definition and on how the data should be collected, and by whom.

MODERATOR

Prof. Krzysztof Tomaszewicz
Medical University of Lublin
Lublin, Poland

SPEAKERS

Deputy Minister of Health Maciej Miłkowski*
Ministry of Health
Warsaw, Poland

Dr. Erika Duffell
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
Stockholm, Sweden

Prof. Robert Flisiak
Medical University of Białystok
Białystok, Poland

Sindhu Ravishankar
International Association of Providers of AIDS Care & Fast-Track Cities Institute
Washington, DC, USA & Lagos, Nigeria

WORKING GROUPS

PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION OF EACH WORKING

19:00 – 21:00 *DINNER*



23 FEBRUARY 2023

9:00 – 9:15

WELCOME BACK & REFLECTIONS ON THE FIRST DAY

Gonçalo Lobo

International Association of Providers of AIDS Care & Fast-Track Cities Institute
Lisbon, Portugal

9:15 – 11:15

HCV MICRO-ELIMINATION: PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS AND PRISONERS

Objective: At the end of the session, attendees should list challenges faced in implementing HCV micro-elimination activities at city-level and potential strategies to overcome them.

MODERATOR

Agnieszka Świdorska
Social Education Foundation
Warsaw, Poland

SPEAKERS

Deputy Minister of Justice Michał Woś*
Ministry of Justice
Warsaw, Poland

Jerzy Jaroszewicz
Polish Association for the Study of the Liver
Bytom, Poland

Sebastian Gawlik
Foundation Javorska
Warsaw, Poland

Arkadiusz Nowak
Institute for Patients' Rights and Health Education
Warsaw, Poland

Q&A AND DISCUSSION

WORKING GROUPS

PRESENTATION OF EACH WORKING GROUP

11:15– 11:45

COFFEE-BREAK

11:45 – 13:00 **MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND DISPLACED PEOPLE, WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON UKRAINIAN REFUGEES**

MODERATOR

Tatiana Makarevich
World Health Organization
Warsaw, Poland

SPEAKERS

Barbara Pepke
Hepatitis Coalition & Star of Hope
Katowice, Poland

Justyna Kowalska
Warsaw Medical University
Warsaw, Poland

Q&A AND DISCUSSION

13:00 – 14:00 **LUNCH**

14:00 – 15:45 **BREAKOUT SESSIONS – THE UNMET GOALS: APPROACHES TO IMPLEMENTATION**

Objective: At the end of the session, attendees should have a broad outline of a strategic action plan on eliminating HCV in their cities, considering what was presented and discussed throughout the past two days. The first part of the session will focus on the specific topics below, and the second part will focus on integrating everything into a strategic and action plan.

- 1) Integrating HCV into an array of the existing HIV and other health services.

FACILITATOR

Urszula Jaworska
Foundation Javorska
Warsaw, Poland

- 2) Bridging the gap between formal healthcare facilities and communities at need

FACILITATOR

Magda Bartnik
Prekursor Foundation
Warsaw, Poland

- 3) Implementing micro-elimination activities for marginalized communities

FACILITATOR

Agnieszka Świdarska
Social Education Foundation
Warsaw, Poland

15:45 – 16:15 **COFFEE-BREAK**

16:15 – 17:15

PLENARY SESSION

Each group will have 10min to present their outcomes.

MODERATOR

Tomasz Prycel

Central and Eastern European Society of Technology Assessment in Health Care

Kraków, Poland

17:15 – 17:30

SUM UP & NEXT STEPS

Gonçalo Lobo

International Association of Providers of AIDS Care & Fast-Track Cities Institute

Lisbon, Portugal

**To be confirmed.*



www.Fast-TrackCities.org



www.IAPAC.org