

HIV in Europe Newsletter

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OptTEST

On **29 May 2015 the first annual meeting** for the OptTEST project was held in **Tallinn, Estonia**. One year into the three year-project period this first annual meeting provided an opportunity for project partners to meet face to face. Advisory Board members and collaborating partners participated to discuss progress, challenges and sustainability of the OptTEST project.



The OptTEST [partners](#) presented their work to date which includes survey development and data collection, setting up collaboration with sites ([WP5](#)) and an almost finalised literature review on linkage to HIV care ([WP4](#)). Further, the partners presented their plans for year two of the OptTEST project which were approved.

The International Liver Congress 2015

[At the International Liver Congress 2015](#) (April 22-26, Vienna, Austria) HiE Steering Committee member [Jeffrey V. Lazarus](#) presented results from a systematic review which [documents lack of information about hepatitis B and C testing](#) in many countries.

During the Conference a meeting on the "**Definition of late stage liver disease for public health purposes**" was held. A more final draft definition was agreed upon among the meeting participants and the group is now revising internally.

European HIV-Hepatitis Testing Week 2015

The 2015 European HIV-Hepatitis Testing Week will again take place during the last week of November from 20 to 27 November 2015.

This year the scope of the week has expanded to also include **viral hepatitis** to further strengthen the collaboration between the two fields of viral hepatitis and HIV and present a united and stronger front to respond to the serious public health concerns that these infectious diseases pose. Again this year, participating partners plan which activities they undertake, including whether they wish to include viral hepatitis in their programme.

Publications, presentations and up-coming events

In July the **Aids Impact conference** will be organised in Amsterdam from **28-31 July 2015**. The program draft can be accessed [here](#). On-site registration opened at 1 July- if interested in joining, then click [here](#) to register for the conference. Both [OptTEST](#) and [HIV in Europe](#) will be represented.

There is a **new article** out on "**HIV pre-test information, discussion or counselling? A review of guidance relevant to the WHO European Region**". In the context of a shift from exceptionalism to normalisation, the study examines recommendations/evidence in current pan-European/global guidelines regarding pre-test HIV testing and counselling practices in health care settings. It also reviews new research not yet included in guidelines. It can be accessed [here](#).

EACS is approaching and HIV in Europe will be well represented with side meetings and OptTEST abstracts submitted. There will be an HIV in Europe specific meeting, a European HIV-Hepatitis Testing Week meeting and an OptTEST meeting. Stay tuned for more specific information about this as EACS moves closer and we hope to see



The working group **met in London** on 10 June to discuss ideas and **next steps** for the European HIV-Hepatitis Testing Week and we are now working on updating the website and all materials. It is already now possible to **sign up** to take part this year. We look forward to sharing updates with you and to work with partners all across Europe again this year. To stay updated you can follow the European HIV-Hepatitis Testing Week on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



many of you in Barcelona.

HIV in Europe has been given the assignment to evaluate the [ECDC HIV Testing Guidance](#) and provide recommendations for next steps. The evaluation will take place during the rest of 2015 and HIV in Europe is excited to work with ECDC on this and undertake this important task.

HIV in Europe is now on social media! Find us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) and be social with us!

HIV in Europe Secretariat: CHIP (Centre for Health and Infectious Disease Research), Department of Infectious Diseases, Finsencentret, Blegdamsvej 9, DK- 2200 Copenhagen, Denmark, Tel: +45 35 45 57 57, Fax: +45 35 45 57 58.

E-mail: hie.rigshospitalet@regionh.dk

Website: <http://www.hiveurope.eu>

Twitter: [@HIVinEurope](#)

Facebook: [HIV in Europe](#)