

**4<sup>th</sup> HEPATITIS C**  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY  
GROUP  
**TAG Meeting**

# **INTRODUCTION OF TAG MEMBERS AND ROLE OF TAG**

Paul J. Weidle, PharmD, MPH  
Professor Margaret Hellard

# Technical Advisory Group

## Georgia Hepatitis C Elimination Program

### Roles

- To become familiar with the Georgia Hepatitis C Elimination Program including epidemiology, surveillance, prevention and control activities
- Advise
  - Implementation of priority activities and interventions
  - Ways to meet challenges in program activities
  - Key performance indicators and elimination goals
  - Guide partnership development and resource mobilization

# Collaborators

- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC)
  - South Caucus Office (DGHP)
  - Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP)
  - Division of Cancer Prevention & Control (DCPC)
  - Division of Global HIV & TB (DGHT)
  - Division of Health Informatics and Surveillance (DHIS)
  - Division of Viral Hepatitis
- Gilead Sciences
- Others
  - World Health Organization
  - EASL International Liver Foundation
  - Abbott Diagnostics
  - University of Bristol, UK
  - Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO)
  - Liver Institute & Foundation for Education and Research (LIFER)
  - Global Fund for AIDS, TB & Malaria
  - Foundation for New Innovative Diagnostics (FIND)
  - Blood Systems Research Inst.
  - CDC Foundation
  - Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET)

# TAG Chairs



**Paul J. Weidle, PharmD, MPH**  
Acting Director, Division of Viral Hepatitis  
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and  
Prevention  
Georgia, USA



**Professor Margaret Hellard**  
Deputy Director (Programs)  
Burnet Institute  
Melbourne, Australia

# TAG Members



## **Evan M. Bloch, MD, MS**

Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
Maryland, USA



## **Carlos del Rio, MD**

Hubert Professor and Chair  
Hubert Department of Global Health  
Emory University  
Georgia, USA

# TAG Members



## **Professor Graham Foster**

Professor of Hepatology

Queen Marys, University of London

London, UK



## **Professor Sharon Hutchinson**

Professor of Epidemiology and Population  
Health

Glasgow Caledonian University

Glasgow, UK

# TAG Members



## **Jorge Mera, MD**

Director of Infectious Diseases  
Cherokee Nation Health Services  
Oklahoma, USA



## **Antons Mozalevskis, MD**

Medical Officer  
WHO Regional Office for Europe  
Denmark



# TAG Members



## **Dr. Tatjana Reic**

President

European Liver Patients' Association,  
Belgium



## **Maha Talaat, MD, MPH, DrPH**

Regional Adviser, Infection Prevention Programs  
and Antimicrobial Resistance

World Health Organization, Eastern  
Mediterranean Region

Egypt



# TAG Members



**Anders Widell, MD**

Lund University

Sweden

# Thursday, November 29 Agenda

TIME	PRESENTATIONS	SPEAKERS
9:00-9:30	Welcome and opening remarks	David Sergeenko – Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia Mr. Ross Wilson, US Ambassador in Georgia Dr. Beth Skaggs, CDC South Caucus Office Mr. Gregg Alton, Gilead Sciences Dr. Marian Ivanusha, WHO Georgia Office Head
9:30-10:00	Introduction of TAG members and role of the TAG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose of the meeting and overview of agenda</li> <li>• Introduction of TAG members</li> <li>• Review 2017 TAG recommendations</li> </ul>	Dr. Paul Weidle, US CDC (Chair) & Dr. Margaret Hellard, Burnet Institute, Australia (Co-Chair)
10:00-10:30	Overview and progress of the HCV Elimination Program in Georgia	Dr. David Sergeenko, Ministry of IDPs from occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia
10:30-10:45	Media Coverage	
10:45-11:15	BREAK	

# Thursday, November 29 Agenda

TIME	PRESENTATIONS	SPEAKERS
11:15-11:30	Key issues and challenges for achieving HCV elimination in Georgia	Dr. Francisco Averhoff, US CDC
11:30-12:00	Decentralization and integration of HCV services in primary care, hospitals and harm reduction settings in Georgia—progress and challenges	Dr. Maia Lagvilava, MoLHSA
12:00-1:00	Activities to Improve HCV Surveillance and Program Effectiveness	TAG discussant/moderator: Dr. Antons Mozalevskis, WHO-EURO, Denmark & Dr. Maha Talat, WHO-EMRO, Egypt
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HCV Surveillance framework of HCV elimination program in Georgia: current situation, progress, challenges, and vision for future</li> </ul>	Dr. Amiran Gamkrelidze, NCDC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The interim impact and ongoing treatment requirements for achieving HCV elimination in Georgia</li> </ul>	Dr. Peter Vickerman, Bristol University, UK
	Discussion by TAG/Q&A	
1:00-2:00	LUNCH	

# Thursday, November 29 Agenda

TIME	PRESENTATIONS	SPEAKERS
2:00-3:20	Identify Persons Infected with HCV (and Linked to Care)	TAG discussant/moderator: Dr. Carlos Del Rio, Emory University, USA & Dr. Sharon Hutchinson, National Health Service, Scotland, UK
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>HCV screening TAG 2017 recommendations and key challenges in 2018</li></ul>	Vladimer Getia, NCDC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Screening of HIV, TB, and HCV at primary healthcare settings—A pilot project in Samegrelo-Zemo Stvaneti Region</li></ul>	Irma Khonelidze, NCDC
	Discussion by TAG/Q&A	
3:20-3:40	BREAK	

# Thursday, November 29 Agenda

TIME	PRESENTATIONS	SPEAKERS
3:40-4:40	Provide HCV Care and Treatment	TAG discussant/moderator: Dr. Graham Foster, University of London, UK & Dr. Jorge Mera, Cherokee Nation, USA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HCV care and treatment TAG 2017 recommendations, status of access to HCV care and treatment, key achievements, key challenges Simplified testing and cure strategies in decentralization of HCV services</li> </ul>	Dr. Tengiz Tsertsvadze, IDACIRC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on HCV screening, care and treatment in Georgia's Corrections System</li> </ul>	Tamta Demurishvili, Ministry of Justice of Georgia, Special Penitentiary Service
	Discussion by TAG/Q&A	

# Thursday, November 29 Agenda

TIME	PRESENTATIONS	SPEAKERS
4:40-5:40	Promote Advocacy, Awareness, Education, and Partnerships for HCV-Associated Resource Mobilization	TAG discussant/moderator: Dr. Tatjana Reic, European Liver Patients Association, Croatia & Dr. Margaret Hellard, Burnet Institute, Australia
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TAG 2017 recommendations describe current education efforts, channels of communication, target populations, key achievements, key challenges.</li> </ul>	Dr. Marina Topuridze, NCDC
	Round Table/ Discussion by TAG/Q & A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hepatitis C Cured Patient Association, Temur Radiani</li> <li>Maia Butsashvili, HRU</li> <li>Konstantine Rukhadze, GeCAB</li> <li>Maka Gogia, GHRN</li> <li>Konstantine Labartkava, New Vector</li> </ul>	
5:40-6:00	Summary of Day 1 and Closing Remarks	
6:30	Reception by FIND (Academy Lounge Restaurant)	

# Friday, November 30 Agenda

TIME	PRESENTATIONS	SPEAKERS
9:00-9:15	Opening Remarks, Review Day 1	Dr. Paul Weidle, US CDC (Chair) & Dr. Margaret Hellard, Burnet Institute, Australia (Co-Chair)
9:15-10:15	Prevent HCV Transmission i. Harm Reduction	TAG discussant/moderators: Dr. Margaret Hellard, Burnet Institute, Australia, Dr. Sharon Hutchinson, National Health Service, Scotland, UK
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TAG 2017 recommendations, update on prevention, screening and linkage to treatment of PWID</li> </ul>	Dr. Ketevan Stvilia, NCDC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decentralization of HCV screening, care, and treatment in harm reduction settings</li> </ul>	Dr. Maia Butsashvili, Health Research Union
	Discussion by TAG/Q & A	
10:15-10:35	BREAK	



# Friday, November 30 Agenda

TIME	PRESENTATIONS	SPEAKERS
10:35-11:15	Prevent HCV Transmission (continued) i. Blood Safety	TAG discussant/moderator: Dr. Evan Bloch, Johns Hopkins University, US & Dr. Anders Widell, Lund University, Sweden
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TAG 2017 recommendations, status of blood safety program in blood banks: successes, challenges, and plans to address challenges</li> </ul>	Dr. Eteri Kipiani, NCDC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blood bank assessments in Georgia</li> </ul>	Dr. Evan Bloch, Johns Hopkins University, US
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blood Bank screening quality assurance: Current practices and future directions</li> </ul>	Dr. Nazi Chitadze, NCDC
	Discussion by TAG/Q & A	
11:15-11:45	Prevent HCV Transmission (continued) i. Infection Control in Healthcare, Non-traditional Healthcare and Other Community Settings	TAG discussant/moderator: Dr. Maha Talaat, WHO-EMRO, Egypt & Dr. Antons Mozalevskis, WHO-EURO, Denmark
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key challenges (identified in 2017), 2017 TAG recommendations, 2017 progress/activities, gaps, key M &amp; E indicators</li> </ul>	Dr. Marina Darakhvelidze, MoLHSA
	Discussion by TAG/Q&A	

# Friday, November 30 Agenda

TIME	PRESENTATIONS	SPEAKERS
11:45-12:20	Improve HCV Laboratory Diagnostics	TAG discussant/moderator: Dr. Anders Widell, Lund University, Sweden & Dr. Evan Bloch, Johns Hopkins University, US
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2017 TAG recommendations, progress in implementation of the diagnostic component of HCV elimination strategy; role of diagnostics in decentralization of HCV services Improving quality of HCV testing in Georgia through National External Quality Assurance Program</li> </ul>	Dr. Maia Alkhazashvili, NCDC
	Discussion by TAG/Q & A	
12:20-1:20	Notes from the field: Progress in HCV Elimination	TAG discussant/moderator: Dr. Carlos Del Rio, Emory University, USA & Dr. Jorge Mera, Cherokee Nation, USA & Dr. Sergeenko
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Samegrelo Region</li> </ul>	TBD Speaker, Samegrelo local government representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adjara Region</li> </ul>	Zaal Mikeladze, Minister of Health and Social Care of Adjara
12:40-1:20	Round Table Discussion	

# Friday, November 30 Agenda

TIME	PRESENTATIONS	SPEAKERS
1:20-4:20	Lunch	
4:20-5:50	<p>TAG Recommendations and 2018 Priorities (5-minute presentations followed by 10 minutes of discussion for each section)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve HCV Surveillance and Program Effectiveness</li> <li>• Identify persons infected with HCV</li> <li>• Provide HCV care and treatment</li> <li>• Promote advocacy, awareness, education, and partnerships for HCV-associated resource mobilization</li> <li>• Prevent HCV transmission               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harm reduction</li> <li>• Blood safety</li> <li>• Infection control in healthcare, non-traditional healthcare, and other community settings</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Improve HCV laboratory diagnostics</li> </ul>	<p>Dr. Paul Weidle, US CDC (Chair) &amp; Dr. Margaret Hellard, Burnet Institute, Australia (Co-Chair) &amp; TAG members</p>
5:50-6:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing Remarks</li> </ul>	<p>Dr. David Sergeenko</p>

# 4<sup>th</sup> HEPATITIS C TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

## TAG Meeting



MINISTRY OF LABOUR  
HEALTH AND  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS