

Now more than ever we must advocate for people affected by liver disease around the world



Over the past year, COVID-19 has impacted all aspects of our professional and personal lives. We remain inspired by our many partners who continue to provide health services in what remain difficult circumstances.

During the trial and tribulations of 2020, a glimmer of hope has appeared: the power of science and international collaboration. Our knowledge of COVID-19 treatments has advanced at pace and several highly effective vaccines are being given to millions of people. Yet despite these advances, in Spring 2021 the global picture remains fragile. In most regions the vaccine rollout has been too slow, while there are stark inequities in access between rich and poor countries. This remains a global challenge and the international community must urgently look at addressing these disparities, ensuring fair access for all.

Vaccines and treatments—if delivered fairly to all—give cause for optimism that we can end the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. Yet the long-term impacts will last for several years to come. Ongoing care has been disrupted for numerous people living with liver disease while many more will suffer as a result of delayed diagnoses. In this edition of the Newsletter, Dr Sarah Blach provides an estimate of the impact of COVID-19 on global HCV elimination efforts. As we emerge from the pandemic, the global public health community must have a strong, united voice in calling for stronger health systems and global health security infrastructure.

For EILF, 2021 brings new and exciting challenges. As announced at the EASL Extraordinary General Assembly on December 10th last, EILF has now taken over the management of the Fellowship programme. The Foundation will continue to work closely with EASL as we are looking to increase the impact of the Fellowships and nurture future leaders in hepatology. EILF will continue its collaboration with the US Centre for Disease Control (CDC) on viral hepatitis elimination, including through the Centre of Excellence programme in Georgia. NAFLD will also remain a key

focus. Building on the momentum of the past two years, we will strengthen our current collaborations and expand our activities as we work to place this silent public health challenge on the radar of policymakers and practitioners. As EILF works with our partners to advocate for affected populations around the world, we welcome your support. Help us promote liver health and consider a donation to the Foundation.

Contact our secretariat to know how you can support our work.

Everyone deserves a healthy liver!

Stay safe and enjoy your reading