



EACS Newsletter - January 2020

Happy New Year !



Dear EACS members,

Happy New Year!

2020 marks a very special year with regard to HIV. In December 2013, the UNAIDS Program Coordinating Board called on UNAIDS to support country- and region-led efforts to establish new targets for HIV treatment scale-up beyond 2015. The ambitious 90-90-90 target was defined which aimed at having 90% of all people living with HIV knowing their HIV status by 2020. Moreover, by 2020, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection should receive sustained antiretroviral therapy and of those 90% should have viral suppression. Although these ambitious targets have been met by some countries, such as Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, there remain huge gaps particularly in Eastern and Central Europe. Therefore, there is still plenty to improve and enhanced efforts need to be undertaken to roll out and intensify community-based testing services, increase access to antiviral combination therapy, improve linkage to care and fight HIV-stigma.

Furthermore in 2020 it is not enough that people living with HIV are alive. They should also be living well. As the number of HIV-infected individuals above 50 years is increasing fast, and soon will be over half of all infected, new challenges in the clinical management will emerge. As the health care needs of people living with HIV continue to move beyond specialist services, good quality care, free from stigma and discrimination, is essential. EACS is trying to help with these new challenges by putting a special focus within their annually updated treatment guidelines on the management of comorbidities.

The newest version has just been released at the recent 17th European AIDS Conference in November 2019, in Basel. Please access our website at <https://www.eacsociety.org/guidelines/eacs-guidelines/eacs-guidelines.html> to download our new version 10.0.

We are also planning on having our next Standard of Care meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia in October this year. Clearly, by sharing best practices and ensuring broad guideline implementation we can all try to further improve HIV care in our region. We currently are planning our next HIV Summer School and also have opened up our medical exchange programme for applications. We really hope to meet you in one of our programmes.

Finally, let me thank you for all your support and enthusiasm in 2019. Let's continue to work together for an AIDS-free generation and no more new HIV infections.

Every Action Counts!

Best wishes,
Jürgen Rockstroh

President

EACS Secretariat

info@eacsociety.org / www.eacsociety.org



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