



The Federation of International Societies for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

President

Suporn Treepongkaruna

Secretary-Treasurer

Jenifer Lightdale`

Council members

Kyung Mo Kim

(APSPGHAN)

Way Seah Lee

(APSPGHAN)

Neelam Mohan

(CAPGAN)

Robert Bandsma

(CAPGAN)

Ulrich Baumann

(ESPGHAN)

Annamaria Staiano

(ESPGHAN)

Jose Spolidoro

(LASPGHAN)

Rodrigo Vazquez

(LASPGHAN)

Jenifer Lightdale

(NASPGHAN)

Vicky Ng

(NASPGHAN)

Nezha Mouane

(PASPGHAN)

Mohamed El Guindi

(PASPGHAN)

Nikhil Thapar

(Congress President)

Marina Orsi

(Immediate Past President)

Executive Director

Margaret Stallings

Office

714 N Bethlehem Pike, Suite 300,
Ambler, PA 19002, USA

Email: info@fispgha.org

Website: www.fispghan.org

ENDORSEMENT FROM FISPGHAN

The Federation of the International Societies for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (FISPGHAN) Supports the Global Effort to Eliminate Hepatitis C Infection in Children

Endorsement of the Statement from the Self-Selected Group of Pediatric Hepatologists

In recognition of **World Hepatitis Day**, FISPGHAN joins the global call to eliminate **hepatitis C infection**, particularly in children and adolescents, who are among the most underserved populations affected by this disease.

.....
To whom it may concern:

There are more than 3.2 million children in the world with hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection, the majority of whom acquired from their mothers. It is a tragic irony that although we now have highly effective and safe direct-acting antiviral agents capable of curing HCV in 8-12 weeks in children as young as 3 years of age, the vast majority of these children remain undiagnosed or untreated. Consequently, they face a high lifetime risk of chronic liver disease, cirrhosis, and liver cancer. Multiple studies have shown that eliminating HCV in young children is highly cost-effective, not to mention sparing these unfortunate children from suffering and stigma.

We are therefore recommending the following to

- A. Health departments—adopt the screening recommendations of the following:
 - 1) The American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and the Infectious Disease Society of America (2022) to do one-time screening of all subjects below 18 years of age at increased risk for HCV with anti-HCV antibody with reflex testing of HCV RNA.
 - 2) The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to test all perinatally exposed infants and children aged 2-17 months, with HCV RNA.
- B. Pediatric societies—educate and empower health care providers
 - 1) To perform this screening
 - 2) To treat all HCV-infected children 3 years of age and older
- C. Corporations – work with governments to provide the necessary therapeutics and testing at the most reasonable cost basis possible for children and adolescents.
 - 1) To developers of HCV—Real-Time PCR Testing for HCV
 - 2) To pharmaceutical companies have obtained FDA and EMA approval for their direct-acting antiviral agents for children



The Federation of International Societies for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

President

Suporn Treepongkaruna

Secretary-Treasurer

Jenifer Lightdale`

Council members

Kyung Mo Kim

(APSPGHAN)

Way Seah Lee

(APSPGHAN)

Neelam Mohan

(CAPGAN)

Robert Bandsma

(CAPGAN)

Ulrich Baumann

(ESPGHAN)

Annamarie Staiano

(ESPGHAN)

Jose Spolidoro

(LASPGHAN)

Rodrigo Vazquez

(LASPGHAN)

Jenifer Lightdale

(NASPGHAN)

Vicky Ng

(NASPGHAN)

Nezha Mouane

(PASPGHAN)

Mohame d El Guindi

(PASPGHAN)

Nikhil Thapar

(Congress President)

Marina Orsi

(Immediate Past President)

Executive Director

Margaret Stallings

Office

714 N Bethlehem Pike, Suite 300,

Ambler, PA 19002, USA

Email: info@fispgha.org

Website: www.fispghan.org

D. Foundations—work with the four groups below to achieve the elimination of HCV in children worldwide

- 1) UNICEF
- 2) GATES FOUNDATION
- 3) IMPAACT
- 4) CARTER CENTER

Drafted by the following members of the Group of Pediatric Hepatologists:

Kathleen B. Schwarz, MD, FAASLD, FNASPGHAN, Rady Children's Hospital/UCSD/ San Diego, CA, USA.
Yen-Hsuan Ni, MD, PhD, National Taiwan University, Taiwan
Anupam Sibal, MD, Group Medical Director, Apollo Hospitals Group, India
Giuseppe Indolfi, MD, PhD, University of Florence, Meyer Children's Hospital, IRCCS, Italy
Deirdre Kelly, MD, Children's NHS Foundation Trust, UK
Patricia D'Alia MD, Hospital General de Niños Pedro de Elizalde, Argentina
Carol Lezama Elecharri, MD, Hospital General de Niños Ricardo Gutierrez, Argentina
Carmen Esther Lopez Gudel, MD, Hospital J.M. de los Rios. Caracas.Venezuela.
Natascha Silva Sandy, MD, PhD, Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein, Brazil

FISPGHAN affirms its commitment to supporting these collaborative efforts aimed at **eliminating pediatric hepatitis C infection worldwide**, in alignment with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the WHO's hepatitis C elimination targets.

We call on all stakeholders to join us:

- **Governments:** Integrate pediatric hepatitis C elimination into national health plans and ensure equitable access to care for all children.
- **Healthcare professionals:** Screen at-risk populations and ensure prompt diagnosis and treatment.
- **Parents & caregivers:** Ask about hepatitis C testing, especially if there are risk factors. Early detection saves lives.
- **Global community:** Support efforts to eliminate pediatric hepatitis C for a future where no child suffers from this curable disease.

Featured Resources

- √ [FISPGHAN Campaign for World Hepatitis Day —[go to FISPGHAN World Hepatitis Day](#)]
- √ [Social Media Toolkit —[go to Media Toolkit](#)]
- √ [Watch hepatitis C video —[watch the video](#)]
- √ [Quick guide to hepatitis C for pediatric providers—[download PDF](#)]
- √ [Quick guide to hepatitis C for the public—[download PDF](#)]

Please join the FISPGHAN campaign and post on social media using [#EndPediatricHepatitisC](#), [#EliminateHepatitisC](#), [#FISPGHAN](#), and [#WorldHepatitisDay](#)

Together, we can and must act now to ensure that no child is left behind in the fight against hepatitis C.