

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PARTNERS IN SCIENCE PROGRAMME

Questions about the newsletter? Write to giorgio.barbareschi@eatg.org

What's New?

PiS AROUND THE WORLD: UPDATE ON CONFERENCES & EVENTS WE ATTENDED

PiS had an incredibly lively quarter, participating in several events. At **AIDS Impact**, we presented on the work of PROMise, discussing the importance of community in developing patient reported outcome measures included in clinical research. At **ICAR2023** and at an **EMA ACT EU workshop**, we showcased the aims and achievements of the BELONG project, advocating for people living with HIV to be included in non-HIV clinical trials. We were present at the **Patient Engagement Open Forum**, exploring how to enhance patient engagement in medicine research. Additionally, we provided the community perspective at an **EATRIS+ event**, supporting engagement in early research phases of personalised medicine.

RBDCOV: A VACCINE MISSION - A COMIC TO EXPLAIN HOW THE BIMERVAX VACCINE WORKS

Based on an idea by EATG, this comic strip infographic was created as part of the RBDCOV project to explain the functioning of the BIMERVAX vaccine against SARS-CoV-2. The comic, available in **English, Spanish, Catalan and Turkish**, features two main characters who guide readers through the vaccine's mechanism. With this comic, EATG wanted to highlight the **significance of community involvement in developing educational resources** that make the scientific process **accessible** and **relatable** to readers of all ages and backgrounds.

This comic will also be used to recruit participants for the ongoing trial involving children and adolescents in Spain since June 2023. Check it out here: <https://rbdcov.eu/rbdcov-a-vaccine-mission/>

EATG & RESPOND: A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF OUR ENGAGEMENT

RESPOND is a consortium that gathers data from different European sites to investigate specific topics related to HIV. EATG's presence has significantly expanded in the past months, with **10 members participating in key task groups**, including ageing, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) in PLWH, resistance in PLWH, long-acting ART and methodology. Furthermore, a small group of **4 members** has been actively involved in **26 reviews** for RESPOND since June 2022.

PiS WANTS YOU!
Want to join the **ECAB & Protocol Review Pools?**
Click here to apply!



WHAT'S NEXT?

- **ECAB & PiS PC F2F meeting** in Brussels: 13-16 September 2023.
- **Belong**: position paper translated in several European languages & infographic to be launched.
- **RBDCOV: F2F CAP Meeting** in Barcelona: 28-30 September 2023.
- **Shooting Sitges Documentary**: 30 September - 03 October 2023.
- **STEPS IX @ EACS 2023**: 18 October 2023, 10:00 - 12:30.

FOLLOW THE EUPATI OPEN CLASSROOM!

Want to learn more on medicines R&D? The **EUPATI Open Classroom** is a **personalised, flexible** and **on-demand e-learning platform** designed for patients, patient representatives and other stakeholders. And it is **free for EATG members!** Click on the logo or scan the QR Code to find out more.



SAVE THE DATE: EVENTS & CONFERENCES

- **EACS 2023**: 18-21 October 2023, Warsaw, Poland.
- **14th International Workshop on HIV & Aging HIV 2023**: 26-27 October 2023, Washington DC, USA & hybrid.
- **HepHIV**: 13-15 November, Madrid, Spain.
- **CROI 2024**: 3 - 6 March 2024, Denver, Colorado.

Meet the PiS Member: Grzegorz Jezierski

Who is Grzegorz Jezierski in a nutshell?

I am a Polish biologist living in Warsaw with a PhD in neuroscience. For over 10 years, I have been working in the medical devices field, currently managing marketing in Central Eastern Europe. I've been living with HIV since 2018 and one year after my diagnosis, I became involved in coordinating the "Buddy Polska" project, which provides support to people who have recently been diagnosed with HIV. I am one of the very few people in Poland openly speaking about my HIV status in the media. I'm happy to see that the perception of HIV is changing, especially among younger generations. However, there is still much work to be done and basically no support from the state.

What is that you like most about PiS and what is from your perspective one of the main achievements of the programme?

Being in PiS has been a steep learning curve for me. At first, I was intimidated, but slowly and with the guidance of my mentor Brian West, I began to understand more. Being a member of PiS requires self-motivation, active listening, and extensive reading. I first joined ECAB, then I became a protocol reviewer and I am now involved in the Belong project. The beauty of PiS is seeing the Community's impact on industry and regulatory bodies and the level of dialogue is unparalleled. To those considering joining PiS, my advice is to not overthink it. You will have time and space to catch up and to ask questions and PiS provides valuable insights into the latest research and empowers you to engage with stakeholders in your local environment. Joining ECAB could be a great starting point. From my perspective one of the main achievements of PiS is making us, patients, and our perspectives being heard. And I am proud to be a part of it.



EATG member since **2021**, Greg is currently a member of the **Partners in Science Programme Committee**.