

What's New?

BELONG: THE DOCUMENTARY ON THE SITGES MEETINGS WAS LAUNCHED

On **January 25th, 2024**, we premiered **"What We Wanted was What We Needed - Rebuilding a Community of Memories and Inclusive Advocacy"** a feature documentary on the Sitges Meetings, filmed between September 30th and October 2nd, 2023, in Sitges, Spain. Part of the **Belong** project advocating for the inclusion of people living with HIV in non-HIV trials, this production wants to **capture and preserve** an important moment of the history of the organisation's advocacy and **draw lessons** for impactful advocacy that can influence policies and clinical trials at a broader level. The documentary, available until the end of February on **EATG's YouTube Channel** (@EATGMedia), lays the foundation for replicating the Sitges Meetings Model in the **second phase of the Belong project** which aims to develop guidelines for the inclusion of people living with HIV in non-HIV clinical trials.

CONCLUDING CHAPTERS: REFLECTIONS ON THE EATRIS+ AND EHVA PROJECTS


In December 2023, two major projects concluded: **EATRIS+** and **EHVA**, each focusing on distinct advocacy areas. EATRIS+ developed **tools for patient engagement in medical research**, including coordinating the Patient Advisory Committee (PAC), establishing local nodes, and launching the Patient Engagement Resource Centre for Translational Researchers (PERC). EHVA served as a platform for **HIV vaccine research**, with EATG providing community feedback on trial design, participant materials, and project communication.

The extensive contributions of EATG and its members were widely appreciated in both projects.

2023: A YEAR IN PROTOCOL REVIEWS!

EATG members worked hard over 2023, providing input and community advice into **10 different reviews** of materials received from **ViiV**, **Gilead** and **WHO**. A total of **13 members** from our 'Protocol Review Pool' were engaged in the reviews of various study materials, such as clinical trial protocols, informed consent forms for participants, guidance documents on study methodologies, and participant questionnaires.

In 2024, we are off to a busy start, having already received **3 requests for reviews!** Are you interested in joining the 'Protocol Review Pool', but not sure if it is for you? You can join the first reviews as an observer, to learn the process and after completing two reviews, you can become a paid reviewer.

27 February 2024 15:30 CET 

ONLINE TRAINING FOR MEMBERS: THE SCIENCE BEHIND HIV & AGEING



Potential Mechanisms, Therapeutics, Lifestyle Factors, Biomarkers and Challenges.

With **Axel Vanderperre.**



[Click here to register!](#)



WHAT'S NEXT?

- **ECAB:** Next ECAB meetings planned for **25th - 26th April** in **Istanbul, Turkey.**
- **Community Breakfast Club** at CROI will take place on Zoom on **4th - 6th March, 15:00 CET.**
- **ReCAP - In Conversation with the RBDCOV Community Advisory Panel:** regular interviews with CAP Members to discuss community engagement, EU projects and inclusion in clinical trials.

THE SITGES MEETINGS: READ OUR CASE STUDY!

In December, we published **"What We Wanted was What We Needed" - A Model of Inclusive Community Advocacy: The Sitges Meetings.** This case study was conducted within the framework of the **Belong project** and documents experiences, results, and lessons learned from the Sitges meetings. Click on **the logo** or scan the **QR Code** to find out more.



SAVE THE DATE: EVENTS & CONFERENCES

- **CROI 2024:** 3 - 6 March 2024, Denver, Colorado.
- **IWHOD:** 21-23 March 2024, Vilamoura, Portugal.
- **IAS:** 22-26 July 2024, Munich, Germany.
- **HIV Glasgow:** 10-13 November 2024, Glasgow, Scotland.

Meet the New PiS Member: Nicoletta Policek

In January 2024, our Programme Committee welcomed three new members: **Nicoletta Policek**, **Arda Karapinar** and **Tamás Bereczky**. In this issue, we speak with Nicoletta Policek to learn more about her perspective and contributions to Partners in Science.

Who is Nicoletta Policek in a nutshell?

I am a change maker. My biography is embedded in 40 years of HIV activism. I have led projects and campaigns addressing HIV victimisation, stigma and discrimination, providing leadership and governance to different HIV charities. Currently, I am involved with BHIVA as a community representative on the BHIVA Guidelines. I am the Chair of UK CAB and the Chair of Sophia Forum, as well as the co-Chair of UK HIV Outcomes and a member of the Steering Group of Italy HIV Outcomes.

Why did you decide to join the PiS Programme Committee and what expectations do you have for your participation in it?

My passion for patients' involvement is my drive. I hope that through my membership to the PiS Programme Committee, I can facilitate opportunities for women treatment activists to find a space where we can share knowledge and expertise. The inclusion of women in epidemiological studies and clinical trials should be a matter of fact today, but, sadly, it is not always the case. My expectations are that through my involvement I can contribute to achieve medical knowledge better suited to women.



EATG member since **February 2023**, Nicoletta joined the **Partners in Science Programme Committee** in January 2024.