

# THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PARTNERS IN SCIENCE PROGRAMME

Questions about the newsletter? Write to [giorgio.barbareschi@eatg.org](mailto:giorgio.barbareschi@eatg.org)

## What's New?

### PROMISE: MULTISTAKEHOLDER MEETING IN AMSTERDAM

On July 2, 2024, EATG held a **multistakeholder meeting** in Amsterdam, with attendance from Brian West and Alain Volny-Anne (members of the PROMise Task Group) and Kevin Moody, academics, representatives from pharmaceutical industry and regulatory bodies. The discussion centred around **exploring which core domains should be prioritised for HIV R&D** and determining mechanisms used to **identify existing modular PROMs** that could be used to address specific product or patient characteristics. For a look at the work done so far in the project, you can visit our [PROMise Community Activist Toolbox](#).

### PROMOTING INCLUSIVE CLINICAL TRIALS: EATG'S BELONG WORKSHOP AT LIVING 2024

On July 20, 2024, EATG held a **community-led workshop** at the Living 2024 pre-conference in Munich, focusing on the inclusion of people living with HIV in non-HIV clinical trials. The session, built on EATG's work within the framework of the **Belong project**, addressed exclusion practices and emphasised the need for more inclusive and representative clinical research, particularly for **women and underrepresented groups**. Presentations by Brian West, Alain Volny-Anne, Memory Sachikonye and Luís Mendão, Members of the Belong Community Advisory Group, highlighted strategies to **enhance community impact, engagement, and equitable access** to healthcare advancements.

### RBDCOV PROJECT EXTENDED: NEW TRIALS AND STUDIES IN PROGRESS

The European Commission has granted a **fifteen-month extension** to the RBDCOV project, moving the completion date from May 31, 2024, to August 31, 2025. The HH-4 study with 240 participants with immunocompromising conditions is **complete**, and 241 volunteers have joined the HH-3 study so far to assess the BIMERVAX® COVID-19 vaccine in **adolescents aged 12 to 17**. The HH-6 study with **children aged 5 to under 12** will follow and it is set to begin in autumn. Meanwhile, EATG, in collaboration with Fundació Sant Joan de Déu, has launched a **psychosocial study** with 60 participants from the HH-4 trial to assess their motivation, satisfaction, concerns about trial participation, and knowledge of COVID-19 vaccine development, with **results expected in winter**.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

- **PiS PC F2F meeting & ECAB** with Gilead Sciences, ViiV Healthcare & Abbvie in Brussels: 25-28 September 2024.
- **STEPS 10 @ HIV Glasgow:** 10 November 2024.
- **Belong** - 40k EUR confirmed from **Gilead Sciences and Novartis**. Plans include a **community study and workshop** on the inclusion of women and other underrepresented groups in clinical research.

### ENDORSE EATG POSITION PAPER "WHY PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV MUST BE INCLUDED IN NON-HIV CLINICAL TRIALS!"

In 2022, EATG published "Why people living with HIV must be included in non-HIV clinical trials", now available in **14 European languages**. Support our stance by **endorsing our position paper** – individually and/or on behalf of your organization. Click the circle to fill the endorsement form!



### SAVE THE DATE: EVENTS & CONFERENCES

- **HIVR4P 2024:** 6-10 October 2024, Lima, Peru & virtual.
- **International Workshop on Clinical Pharmacology of HIV, Hepatitis, and Other Antiviral Drugs 2024:** 18-20 September 2024, Liverpool, UK & virtual
- **INHSU 2024:** 8-11 October 2024, Athens, Greece
- **Fast Track Cities:** 13-15 October 2024, Paris, France
- **International Workshop on HIV & Ageing:** 24-25 October 2024, Washington, USA & virtual
- **HIV Glasgow:** 10-13 November 2024, Glasgow, UK & virtual

## Meet the PiS Member: Richard Stranz

### Who is Richard Stranz in a nutshell?

I have dual nationality (UK-Germany) and have been living in France since the late 1980s. I have been involved at grassroots and then training levels first within AIDES, a French community-based and led NGO, and now at Coalition PLUS since 2020. For me, the response to HIV is a social combat. Getting the information out on how to best live with and prevent HIV must go hand in hand with ensuring zero discrimination against people's identities.

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

I joined PiS because I wanted to work on my 'weak link', which was pure HIV drugs science and research and be part of the community voices speaking directly to pharmaceutical companies. I believe this is the main achievement of PiS: bringing together individual voices from all over Europe and Central Asia to improve research and access to HIV drugs and prevention tools. And I would like to highlight the importance of such non-judgmental spaces where community members can ask questions and request help, a space that becomes a network flowing out to and around the members, not just towards the centre.



EATG member since **2016**, Richard is currently a member of the **Partners in Science Programme Committee**.