

Address

February 19, 2014

### Thank you and Follow-up!

#### National Strategy to Combat Chronic Viral Hepatitis

Dear Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (Title) .....

In the name of the Swiss Experts for Viral Hepatitis (SEVHep) and the Global Health Program (GHP) of the Graduate Institute of International and Developments Studies we would like to thank you again for participating at the Kick-off Meeting to develop a *National Strategy to Combat Chronic Viral Hepatitis*. Thanks to your highly valuable contributions we were able to build a first comprehensive inventory of cornerstones as well as political and institutional conditions that need to be considered when building such a strategy.

At your request we send you in the attachment the power point presentation from Beatriz Cebolla and a transcript from Michel Kazatchkine's speech. In reference to Ilona Kickbusch's remark to the current WHO Executive Board discussion you will find additional information's at the following link: [http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/EB134/B134\\_36-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB134/B134_36-en.pdf). Please let us know if you do have any further documents and links you would like to share with us and/or the other participants.

Based on the event results we perceived an increasing awareness of the disease and its importance in the current public health debate in Switzerland. Given this momentum many of you signaled their willingness to get personally involved in this complex project and to support us in our future activities. We are very thankful for that and feel even more encouraged to pursue our efforts to lead and move forward the launched initiative.

At its last board meeting from February 6, 2014, SEVHep decided to continue the collaborative and inclusive path taken so far. Based on the kick-off meeting results we will now elaborate a concept paper on a Swiss Hepatitis Strategy. This paper will be shared with all stakeholder groups. Subsequently we would like to transform that group in a national task force in order to work out and implement the strategy in the upcoming years. The important political and communication components will be specifically taken into consideration.

Needless to say that as participants from the very beginning you are our biggest asset in this long-term endeavour. It is our intention to keep you involved and informed as much as you allow us to do so. We send you in the attachment a revised participant list that includes all e-mail addresses. This will facilitate communication among us as well as between the members of this newly created network. Please let us know about changes of your coordinates in the future or if you want to be excluded from that list.

In this positive spirit we very much look forward working with you on this important public health project and hope to see or to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely,



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