

INHSU Community Networking Forum

Tuesday 6 September 2016

Hosted by:

- *proLAR and RIO - Norwegian drug user unions*
- *Supported by INHSU organisers and AIVL*

AIMS of the MEETING:

The aim of this meeting is to provide community member and advocates an opportunity to:

- Network and develop supportive professional relationships;
- Gain an understanding of the global hepatitis C (HCV) treatment landscape
- Learn from each other's perspectives and highlight the value of our peer to peer projects
- Discuss challenges and strategies for people working in community settings in linking people who use drugs to testing and treatment
- Provide opportunities for community stakeholders to support and mentor each other and to increase benefit from the conference. Create engagement, and take action!

Overview of the Day:

The organisers of the International Network of Hepatitis and Substance Users (INHSU) Conference for the 2nd year in a row have very generously funded 14 scholarships to a range of global community members, who have an ongoing interest or work with our community in any of the Hep C related programs in their country.

We have developed a half day forum prior to the main conference. The forum, aims to showcase peer based groups and activities in Norway and provide an opportunity for attendees to network, exchange ideas, and develop advocacy and supportive communication strategies for the INSHU conference.

Peer activists on the committee are able to offer with much pride and pleasure places to community members from the region to attend this unique event. proLAR will provide local members with the information they require.

We have an exciting and strategic agenda outlined for our time together, ensuring people are up to date with the latest treatments, research and programs currently targeting our community. Our time together provides an excellent opportunity for participants to discuss issues challenging them at home while also being exposed to different and transferable activities other peers are finding helpful in their workplace. A discussion on ways to deal with or overcome the practical issues relating to hep C prevention and treatment that are common across all our countries is an opportunity to be exposed to new creative ways of engaging our community and widening and enhancing our community's health literacy and ability to access services.

These discussions will simultaneously provide people with a global perspective of HCV as it relates to substance users which be of enormous use going into the conference. This will allow people to get straight into the main conference without having to backtrack on research and treatments.

Perhaps most importantly for us and our community is the fact that this day provides a tangible expression of INSHUs commitment to ensuring the affected community is front and centre of the discussions during the main conference, having had the opportunity to inform, educate and support each other before hand. This also allows for united strategic directions to pursue during the conference -for instance, advocacy positions we may wish to promote and particular messages we would like the conference participants to take home from the affected community. Another equally

exciting aim of this meeting is networking with people to discuss potential working relationships and partnerships globally.

We have three days together as a community with an audience of key supporters from across the world and we need to make the most of this extraordinary opportunity. This is an opportunity to connect our global community and be prepared and coordinated to ensure our community's voices are heard. The INSHU symposium is rare opportunity for us as a community to be an integral part of an important International discussion - we must use it to its best advantage.

International Network on Hepatitis in Substance Users: 5th International Symposium Peer Networking Forum

Date: 6. September 2016
 Venue: Radisson blu Scandinavian hotel, Holbergsgate
 Hosts: proLAR and RIO - with support from INHSU Organisers

Agenda		
12.00 PM	Registration and Lunch	proLAR/RIO
12.15 PM	Meeting opens Welcome to all peers/community members	<i>Ronny/Heidi</i>
12.45 PM	An overview of the conference and areas of particular relevance to our community	<i>Jason Farrell</i>
1.00 PM	Working on the Coal Face. HCV projects driven by user unions around the world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Greece, Portugal, Slovenia, Netherlands • Other country involvement; Australia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar, India 	<i>Presentation from each country, discussing peer involvement, and effectiveness in addressing HCV in their region. 10 min presentation.</i>
15.00 PM	<i>Break with fruits and coffee</i>	
15.20 What do we need for more involvement and better access to treatment? Information and discussion in preparation for the group session		Speaker Jude Byrne
16.40 PM	Group work sessions: (4 groups) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Stigma and discrimination</i> • <i>Barriers and solutions to working with Service providers</i> • <i>Increasing access to testing and treatments</i> • <i>HCV treatment out of traditional settings</i> 	<i>Each group led by 1-2 peers, who write down relevant points</i>
Group break individual		
17.30 PM	Report back from group work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues of most relevance and areas we need flagged for others attention. 	<i>Each group leader presents results from group session. Our voice, ours concerns and thoughts will be presented to INHSU at the end of the 3rd day. Ronnie Bjornestad and Angella Duvnjak will co present this section</i>
19.00 PM	Meeting Close	
20.30 PM – Dinner at local venue Free of charge ☺		