



AN AGE OF UNCERTAINTY: MENTAL HEALTH IN YOUNG PEOPLE

BY OLGA LUCÍA ANGARITA

According to this article by the Lancet, mental health in young people has seen unprecedented challenges of late. “Young people face a world with multiple crises and much uncertainty. A person born in 2006 will have gone through the great recession and the subsequent austerity measures, a pandemic with disrupted schooling and social isolation, a cost-of-living crisis, war in Europe, and a world coming to terms with the magnitude of climate change. There have been many tumultuous times in history, but evidence on the mental wellbeing of young people during those periods is scant.”¹Click [here](#) to read the entire article.

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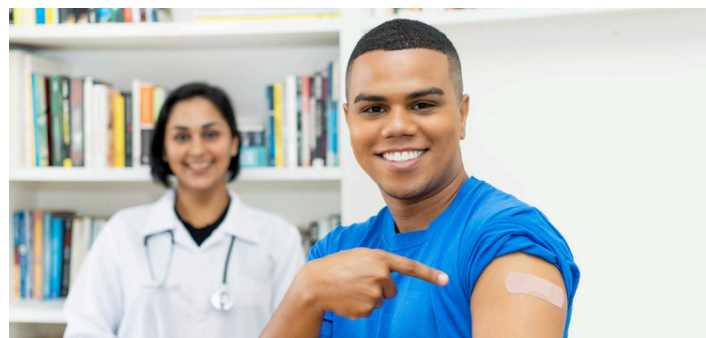
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VIRAL HEPATITIS ELIMINATION: A CHALLENGE WITHIN REACH

July 28 marked World Hepatitis Day. Hepatitis B and C are the two major forms of viral hepatitis, causing inflammation, damage to the liver, and sometimes cancer. Their burden is huge—more men acquired hepatitis B (890000 cases) in 2019–20 than HIV (720000 cases). In 2019 HIV caused 0.7 million deaths, whereas hepatitis B and C combined caused 1.1 million deaths. Despite these large numbers, there is cause for optimism. The past decade has transformed viral hepatitis care. The development of direct-acting antivirals that can cure chronic hepatitis C and the rollout of hepatitis B vaccines at birth to prevent vertical transmission have ushered in a new phase in eliminating these diseases.



WHO's new targets, announced in May 2022, aim to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030 by driving new infections and deaths down to half a million for both hepatitis B and hepatitis C, as well as reducing HBsAg in children under 5 years to below 0.1%.²

Continue reading [here](#).

INDIA AT 75 YEARS: PROGRESS, CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES



The pharmaceutical industry has seen remarkable contributions from our colleagues from India, and a large part of our Academy community either live and work in India, or are from there and have since relocated internationally. Additionally, India is set to become the world's most populous country in 2023.¹ As such, we are thrilled to share this editorial from the Lancet which celebrates a significant anniversary of the country, its 75th year of independence from British rule.

"India is poised to become the world's most populous country during 2023. The demographic dividend has resulted in an expanded young population, but fertility is now stabilizing. As a result, India has an opportunity, for a limited period, to reap the potential benefits."³

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NEWS FROM THE EMA: MEDICINES DEVELOPMENT FOR OLDER POPULATIONS

All professionals involved in the long process of medicines development are familiar with the fact that most clinical trials are performed in adult populations. Some 20 years ago both the EMA and the FDA, accepting the suggestions of many pediatricians and their scientific associations, made compulsory, for all new drugs, the execution of clinical trials also in the pediatric population. We are now left with another big issue: the collection of scientific evidence from clinical trials (and from RWE data) of the use of drugs in elderly and very elderly people.



Indeed, approximately two years ago, the EMA published some recommendations (non-compulsory) and addressed the issue of the development of drugs for elderly people: now, after two years, an international group of professionals in Medical Affairs wrote a commentary, in order to keep alive this important discussion, for the benefit of public health.⁴

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NEWS FROM THE FDA: REPORT ON THE STATE OF PHARMACEUTICAL QUALITY



Pharmaceutical quality is a must! We all know that, in the pharmaceutical world, we have three fundamental pillars: quality (outlined in the GMP guidelines), safety (which refers to GLP), and efficacy (based on GCP). With the opportunities offered by globalization, the responsibilities of both pharmaceutical companies and regulatory agencies have significantly increased, and audits and inspections of manufacturing sites represent a significant investment in time and human resources.

Every year the FDA prepares a report about pharmaceutical quality, outlining major changes in the manufacturing scenario, and key findings from their inspections performed both in the USA and abroad.

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THE NEED FOR AN URGENT RESPONSE TO PARKINSON'S DISEASE

The prevalence, burden of disability, and number of deaths associated with Parkinson's disease all more than doubled between 1990 and 2016. These increases are not entirely attributable to rising population age, and other potential contributing factors include greater exposure to risk factors and longer disease duration. The symptoms of Parkinson's disease are treatable but, in many areas of the world, access to therapy remains unacceptably low. Levodopa is listed as a WHO essential medicine and is less expensive than many other treatments but is still unavailable or unaffordable for many patients.

WHO launched a technical brief entitled "Parkinson Disease: a Public Health Approach" developed in consultation with experts from around the world, including people living with Parkinson's disease.⁵



[Click here to read the full article.](#)

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