

Empowering & mobilizing PAGs on COVID-19 (and long COVID), Prevention, immunization & treatments

EU workshop
14 October 2024 | Martin's Hotel Brussels
14:30 – 18:30

SPEAKERS' LIST

Mita Dhullipala, Stripe Communications



Mita Dhullipala is the Head of Health at Stripe Communications. She has a wealth of experience in the health sector and has worked extensively with a plethora of health sector stakeholder, including several top 25 biopharmaceutical companies such as Sanofi, Astellas, Novartis and Bristol Myers Squibb, for nearly a decade. She is a policy and advocacy specialist with expertise in corporate communications, crisis management, media relations, digital, and behaviour change. Mita has worked across therapy areas such as oncology, immunology, regenerative medicine, and infectious diseases. She previously held senior roles at GCI Health Brussels, Weber Shandwick, and MHP, and led the communications strategy for the LGBT 'People's Vote' campaign. Mita excels in developing strategic, insight-driven campaigns at national, regional, and global levels.

Bianca Ferraiolo, Cittadinanzattiva-Active Citizenship Network



Bianca Ferraiolo is the Head of the Representative Office to the EU of Cittadinanzattiva - Active Citizenship Network since its opening in March 2015 and works as Senior Manager European Affairs. She is involved in many activities at European level with a special focus on health and patient advocacy issues, liaising with all the relevant stakeholders as umbrella and national patient associations, private companies and the European Institutions and representing Cittadinanzattiva - Active Citizenship Network in several multi-stakeholder initiatives. She was responsible for the establishment and the secretariat of the Members of the European Parliament Interest Group "European Patients' Rights & Cross-Border Healthcare" (2015) and of the Inter-Institutional Group "SDGs for well-being and consumers' protection" (2021).

She is also actively involved in European project management, the organization and realization of important European initiatives as the “European Patients’ Rights Day”.

She is a certified Pharmacist, holds a Master’s Degree in Chemistry and a post-graduate Diploma in Marketing and Communications.

Aliya Kosbayeva, WHO Regional Office for Europe



Aliya is a medical doctor further specialised in Public Health with over 20 years of experience and worked in the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), UNICEF, and WHO and managed a wide range of programmes on delivering mother and child health, immunization, multi-drug resistant tuberculosis services, assessing environmental risks as well as impact of climate change on health.

Currently, she is coordinating the Long COVID project aiming to better understand this condition and develop policy advice.

Liudmila Mosina, WHO Regional Office for Europe



Dr Mosina as the Technical Officer, provides support and advice to Member States in the introduction of new vaccines of public health importance and strengthening hepatitis B control through immunization efforts. She also contributes to strengthening national decision-making on immunization by supporting national immunization technical advisory groups (NITAG), with a focus on introduction of new vaccines within the overall health systems context.

Dr Liudmila Mosina is a medical doctor with a MSc in Epidemiology and has over 20 years of national and international experience in immunization and communicable diseases. She has been working for WHO Regional Office for Europe as the Technical Officer on New Vaccines since 2007.

Between 2002 and 2007, Dr Mosina worked for Central Asian Programme of US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She provided support to central Asian countries in introducing hepatitis B vaccine and strengthening communicable diseases surveillance.

Dr Mosina has seven years of national experience in communicable disease prevention and control and led the immunization and vaccine-preventable disease control programmes in Belarus between 1996 and 2002.

Joanna Muller, Stripe Communications



Jo is an experienced communications and public affairs consultant specialising in healthcare, with a focus on innovative scientific developments, public health and health system change.

She has worked at leading agencies in London and in Brussels, engaging deeply with UK, European and US policy landscapes. Jo has managed global, UK, and European projects in oncology, fertility, vaccines, ADHD, public health and more, aiming to build corporate reputation, raise public awareness of health issues and influence health policy. Previously, she worked at MSD in External Affairs, covering strategic, internal, and digital communications, government affairs and policy.

Jo holds a BSc (Hons) in Biology from the University of Bath, focusing on immunology and infectious diseases.

Dragoslav Popovic, World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA)



Member of WFPHA Global Immunization Task Force. He has over 30 years of experience in international public health, out of which 20 years with UNICEF at Country, Regional and HQ level. His recent collaborations include The World Bank, WHO, UNDP, GAVI Alliance, Crown Agents, JSI and USAID. He has completed his Doctor of Medicine degree at University of Sarajevo; Master of Public Health (MPH) at University in Belgrade and a post-graduate course in Social Policy and Governance at University of Maastricht.

Daniela Quaggia, Cittadinanzattiva-Active Citizenship Network



Daniela Quaggia is a Senior Project Manager at Cittadinanzattiva/Active Citizenship Network (ACN), with extensive experience in managing EU-funded projects. She has been with Cittadinanzattiva for over 4 years, initially working in the Institutional Relations Office. Since January 2010, she has been part of the EU branch, where she manages projects focused on public health and the engagement of patients and citizens. Daniela is also responsible for coordinating networking activities with nearly 200 EU partners of ACN, facilitating the exchange of information, best practices, and collaborations in both projects and policy initiatives.

In addition to her project management experience, she has several publications in international peer-reviewed journals. Daniela is currently completing the EUPATI Expert Training Course for Patients, with her diploma expected on 24 October 2024.

Frank Angelo Spinelli, Pfizer



For over twenty years, Dr. Frank Spinelli has been a physician treating people living with HIV, hepatitis, and more recently COVID-19 in New York. With ten years of pharmaceutical experience, he has authored 30 abstracts and 5 manuscripts. As an advocate for HIV and survivors of sexual abuse, Dr. Spinelli brings to Pfizer in his role as global medical director an extensive background in patient engagement and advocacy.

Mariano Votta, Cittadinanzattiva-Active Citizenship Network



Mariano Votta is graduated in Political Science at University of Rome. He has a Master in European Public Relations and a Master in Corporate Social Responsibility.

Last July 2013 he was nominated Responsible of EU Affairs at Cittadinanzattiva and Director of Active Citizenship Network, the European interface of the Italian civic organization Cittadinanzattiva, responsible for the international relations with public and private stakeholders such as the European Commission, EU Parliament, EESC, companies.

He is a freelance journalist and programme manager too, with more than 10 years working in the field of citizens' rights, civic information, evaluation of quality standards in services provided by Public Administration and public companies. Between 2011 and 2012 he worked as consultant for the United Nations Development Programme in Colombia, to assert a new governance in the managing of Public Services and Health. In that Country, Cittadinanzattiva opened several Citizen Advisory Centre on Public Services and Health.

In 2015 he took the initiative to encourage and promote the MEPs Interest Group focused on patients' rights called "European Patients' Rights and Cross-border Healthcare" inside the EU Parliament.

Kinga Wójtowicz, RPP Group



Head of the RPP Brussels Office, a public affairs consultancy with a strong focus on healthcare. Within her work, she has supported various organisations in effectively channelling their messages to a wider audience. With a strong focus on healthcare stakeholders, she has gained a profound understanding of collaboration and information flow within the sector. Kinga led the team that developed the Recommendations on Covid-19 Patient Pathways. This collaborative effort incorporated valuable input from key stakeholders.

IN-PERSON PARTICIPANTS' LIST

Manuel Arellano, Federación Nacional de Asociaciones (ALCER), Spain



Manuel Arellano has been a chronic kidney patient since he was 4 but was diagnosed twelve years later. In less than three months, he underwent haemodialysis sessions until 1993, when he received his first kidney transplant. After that came many complications, two bilateral testicular tumours, operated in 2008, a non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, operated in 2009 and treated with radio and chemotherapy. In December 2014, he received his second kidney transplant. Over the past three years, he has also developed cardiovascular issues and osteoporosis. His education goes hand in hand with the disease. He started studying law, books and reports accompanied him during dialysis sessions. Then he obtained a master's degree in business management and marketing. These studies enabled him to work as a business consultant for almost 10 years. In 2010, a legal inability to work allowed him to collaborate with the association of renal patients in Navarra, his home town. A year later he was appointed president of the Association for Kidney Diseases of Navarra (ALCER). In 2013, the association joined COCEMFE Navarra, a Federation of Associations of People with Disabilities, of which he was appointed president six months later. The representation of this entity, which welcomes the largest number of disabilities in the area, made it possible for him to join CERMI Navarra, a Confederation of people with all types of disabilities representing all people with disabilities in Navarre, of which he has been vice-president since 2015. In 2018, he was also elected vice-president of the board of the Spanish Federation of Renal Patients (FNA ALCER). FNA ALCER is part of the Spanish Platform of Patient Organisations (POP) and at the October 2018 assembly he was proposed as vice-president. Since 2021, he has been a board member of the European Patient Forum (EPF).

Gertrude Buttigieg, Malta Health Network (MHN), Malta



Dr Gertrude A. Buttigieg, Patient Advocate. By profession is a licensed Speech Language Pathologist, she has a 2nd Masters in International Patient Advocacy Management at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart and Master Degree Health Management conferred by the University of Malta. On a full-time basis she works for the Office of the Commissioner for the Rights of persons with mental disorders. On a voluntary basis she serves as the Chairperson of the Malta Health Network (MHN) which is an umbrella organisation which brings together over 40 Health related organisations. Gertrude has participated as speaker and participant in several conferences in Malta and abroad. She is also currently the Chairperson of the Malta Council for the Voluntary sector where she was elected to represent the sector of health and disability.

Reneta Ilieva, Bulgarian Association for Patients' Defence (BAPD), Bulgaria



She has been in the team of BAPD for 6 years as an associate lawyer and projects' coordinator. She has a number of international participations in health forums and conferences in the EU. Until now she implemented several international projects in a consortium with the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) on air pollution: "Diesel and Health"; "Clean cities and clean air"; "Clean Transport". Provides legal advice on claiming responsibility from individual providers of medical services related to illegal actions to deprive patients of treatment in medical facilities, drug deprivation, delayed treatment, injuries and infections, medical incidents, refusal to pay for medical services rendered, clinical pathways, services and more. She is fluent in English and Spanish language, with a Masters degree in Law.

Jasna Karačić Zanetti, Croatian Association for the Promotion of patient rights, Croatia



Jasna Karačić Zanetti is the president of the Croatian Association for the Promotion of patients' rights. She has a Ph.D. in health diplomacy and she is also the Head of the Health Diplomacy Unit and director of Department of Health Diplomacy and Patient Rights at International chair in bioethics (Former UNESCO chair). She has an active mandate as an ombudsman at the International Council of the Patient Ombudsman. She is an associate lecturer at the diplomatic academy and medical law. She served as a diplomat during the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2020, delegated from the Ministry of Health. As a responsible person for patient rights, she holds consultative status with the United Nations. She got the Rector's Award for Achievements at the UNESCO level for human rights in medicine and the National Geographic Award for Justice in sustainable development goals. She was assigned "Young Leader" for health crisis management in 2021. She is EU Commission expert and associate editor for PLOS ONE journal.

Marta Kulpa, Institute for Patients' Rights and Health Education, Poland



Since 2009, she has been implementing training, education and community health projects at the Institute for Patients' Rights and Health Education (Instytut Praw Pacjenta i Edukacji Zdrowotnej, IPPEZ). She organizes trainings for representatives of patient organizations nationwide, and coordinates the work of the Patient Organizations' Support Centre at IPPEZ. Since June 2024, she has coordinated the work of the Alliance for Combating Infectious Respiratory Diseases. Poland Breathes Healthily.

Alen Novit, Kultlab Celje Society (DKC), Slovenia



Alen Novit was born in Maribor (Slovenia) and after 10 years moved with family to Celje and Trbovlje where he finished primary and high school, and later college in Ljubljana. With some years of experiences in business sector he has more than 20 years of experiences in CSO and NGO organizations from different fields - those experiences are mostly coming from the field of poverty and social inclusion while he has also significant experience on the field of human rights, volunteering, patient's rights and culture.

In frame of his work, he was included in many groups and events on national and international level - among them the most important are his participation in EAPN and FEBA working groups and events and on national level it is worth to mention his participation and involvement in the formulation and expression of views and proposals for changes of certain laws and decisions that was taken on local level or national level. Currently Alen Novit is a director of Slovenian foodbanks (SIBAHE), while he is still involved in other NGOs work (from different, already mention fields), and he is looking forward for new challenges in the future.

Maria Pechter-Parteder, Lower Austrian Patient and Nursing Advocacy, Austria



Since November 2019, Maria Pechter-Parteder is an associate of the Lower Austrian Patient and Nursing Advocacy. She works with a particular focus on patient rights, out-of-court settlement negotiations, patient representation at the arbitration board of the medical association, advice on and establishment of patient decrees and advice on and establishment of death decrees.

Stephen McMahon, Irish Patients Association, Ireland



Stephen McMahon is cofounder of the Irish Patients Association. He has been instrumental in coordinating a Patient-Centered Advocacy group. Its primary focus is to support patients and their families who have had negative experiences within the healthcare system. We advocate for their rights, improved patient safety, and accountability within the Health Care System. His experience encompasses various domains such as Patient Advocacy, Communications, Policymaking, Standard-setting, Regulation, Education, and Research. Some of his specialties include Individual and Collective Patient Advocacy, Patient Safety, Health Care Regulatory Experience, Crisis Management - Patients/Public Interests, Serious Incident Review, Board Room Conflict Resolution, Non-Government Organisations. He is a founding signatory on behalf of the IPA to ACN's European Charter of Patients' Rights.

Marleen Struss, EPECS & euPrevent, the Netherlands



Marleen Struss is an advisor for the board of EPECS, a foundation that aims at improving the quality and accessibility of (cross-border) healthcare, and strengthening transparency and the exchange of information, for and with citizens.

Furthermore, she works at euPrevent, a cross-border network of organizations committed to enhancing the quality of life for citizens living in the border area between the Netherlands, Germany, and Belgium.

Her line of work lies within the promotion and execution of cross-border initiatives, projects and activities that support public health and citizen participation.

ON-LINE PARTICIPANTS' LIST

Maria Teresa Flor-de-Lima, Portuguese Society for Health Literacy (SPLS), Portugal



Maria Teresa Flor-de-Lima is a Medical Doctor, specialised in anaesthesiology and pain medicine, with a Masters in palliative care.

She is Vice-President of the The Chronic Pain Patients Association of Azores (ADDCA), which is also a member of the Pain Alliance Europe (PAE). She is also a member of the Executive Committee of SIP (Societal Impact of Pain) Portugal and a member of SPLS (Portuguese Society of Health Literacy).

Konstantinos Grigoriadis, Institute of Research for Innovation and Development (IMKKA), Greece



Mr. Konstantinos Grigoriadis has carried out a variety of research activities in the context of EU-funded and national projects for civil society bodies, which address the fight against economic and social inequalities. He has specialised experience in legal and political research including GovRM-COVID19 of the Research Centre for Democracy and Law of the University of Macedonia, as well as prior experience in educational activities, through EU-funded and national projects. He holds a Master's in Political Science (Cum Laude) with a specialization in International Organisations, from Leiden University (The Netherlands).

Ana Paula Leon Aguila, Universidad del Paciente y la Familia (UPF), Spain



Dr. Ana Paula is a Surgeon with a master's degree in Psycho-oncology and Palliative Care from the University Miguel de Cervantes, Spain. She has participated in the coordination and management of training programs for health professionals, patients and caregivers in matters of advocacy, health literacy, patient experience and strategies of health communication. She has been a leader in the coordination of health projects directed to patients and relatives affected by a chronic or complex disease. Ana Paula has participated in academic activities, round tables, medical presentations, forums and scientific manifestos on the approach of patient center care. She is the Deputy Director of Universidad del paciente y la familia which is an innovation academic center that offers accredited education to patients, families, caregivers and volunteers, based in

Barcelona.

Paula Mouta, European Association for Educational and Preventive Health in Epigenetics (AESEP), Portugal



Paula Mouta is a Doctor in Traditional Medicine and Scientific Naturopathy. She has a Postgraduate in Biorhythm Physionutrition and Intestinal Inflammation, a Postgraduate in Clinical Naturology and Oncological Nutrition and a Bachelor's in Nutrition and Functional Aesthetics.

She is the President of the People's Health Observatory and the Director of the SER Unit | Integrative Epigenetics at Quantum Global Care in Lisbon; Trainer and Speaker on Well-being, Quality of Life, and Primordial Prevention. Her Clinical Specialties are: Nutrigenetics and Epigenetic DNA Assessment Integrative Naturopathy and Nutraceuticals Metabolic Detoxification Functional Aesthetics for the treatment of Acne, Melasma, and Surgical Keloids, Oncological Nutrition and patient support during treatment. "What inspires me is the possibility of helping each person restore their health through personalized changes, with healthy habits tempered by common sense. It is our choices that allow us to evolve, achieve great things, and meet the 'Sustainability of Being.'"

Lilyana Stefanova, The Innovations Institute, Bulgaria



Lilyana Stefanova is 35 years old and she lives in Sofia, Bulgaria. She is a passionate volunteer at the Innovations Institute. For over 15 years she dedicated her time to patient organizations, advocating for patients' rights and improving healthcare outcomes. She has a bachelor's degree in Management, which helps her combine her knowledge with her commitment to making a meaningful impact in the community.

Irene Schembri, National Patients' Organisation, Malta



The National Patients' Organisation Malta is an NGO managed by patients. The Organisation supports a policy of non-discrimination and encourage all to participate. Most of all, NPO-Malta encourages patients to

speaking for themselves and taking informed decisions. The aims of the National Patients' Organisation are to advocate and protect the interests of patients/custodians and to empower them so that they can speak for themselves and their family members.

NPO-Malta is continuously raising awareness of the Patients' Charter, providing support and information related to patients' rights, educating patients about their obligations and responsibilities, raising awareness on the cross-border health care directive, educating members on a healthy lifestyle and on the prevention and environmental health among others. The motto for NPO-Malta is "Working with not for patients".

Irene is the President of NPO-Malta and, in this role, she seeks to listen to patients' problems and advise them on the way forward. She reaches out to many patients through spaces offered in popular national radio phone-in programmes and others. She also writes letters to the Ministry of Health on some general issues, makes herself accessible to patients by inviting them to contact her to give them all the support they may need or advise them on issues that may arise and/or write letters with them to the relevant doctors. She attends meetings held in Malta, online or abroad to keep abreast of different medical and ethical issues.

Agnieszka Siedlarska, STOMAlife fundacja, Poland



The initiator of its creation. Financier, many years of practice in the field of financial management in international corporations. She has accounting qualifications granted by the Ministry of Finance.

She specializes in tax, legal and employment matters in Poland and the EU. While working as a financial director in the Polish branch of a global medical concern, she first encountered issues related to stomas. This experience prompted her to get involved in working for people with a stoma. Her personal sensitivity did not allow her to come to terms with the social exclusion of ostomates and the taboo associated with it. As she says, "the stoma cannot be seen, you can simply live with a stoma, but our ostomates still have to fight for a decent life." The result of these activities was the initiation of the social campaign "STOMAlife. Discover the stoma." She invited social organizations operating in this area to participate. The experience gained during the campaign resulted in the initiative to establish the Foundation. Agnieszka has been very active in the Foundation from the beginning. Her creativity resulted in the creation of many social campaigns, educational programs, training and publications addressed to ostomies, their relatives, but also the medical community and teachers. She co-creates the quarterly "Poprostu Żyj", in which ostomates show their everyday lives. Privately, she is a mother of three fantastic children, a lover of dogs and cats.

Constantinos Tsioutis, Cyprus Federation of Patient Associations (CyFPA - OSAK), Cyprus



Medical Doctor trained in internal medicine, infection prevention and control, and healthcare management. He is Assistant Professor at the European University Cyprus and leads the medical investigations clinic at Care Medical Institute, in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Since 2021 he is Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Cyprus Federation of Patient Associations (CyFPA-OSAK). He is also Scientific Coordinator of the European Committee on Infection Control (EUCIC), member of the Expert Group for the WHO Global AMR Research Agenda in the human health sector, the Scientific Council of the Greek Public Health Organization (EODY), and the Cyprus National Infection Control Committee. From 2020 to 2023 he was Head of the Cyprus National COVID19 Scientific Advisory Committee. Through his positions, he is engaged in the clinical and professional education of medical students and healthcare professionals and is involved in health policy making and patient advocacy. He has more than 85 peer-reviewed scientific publications and 3700 citations (h-index 29) in the field of infectious diseases and internal medicine.

Media Partners:



The event is realized thanks to the unconditional support of

