



PULMONARY HYPERTENSION Mariposa Journal

SUMMER 2025 • PHA EUROPE'S OFFICIAL JOURNAL • N. 34

World PH Day Edition



Sometimes
it's pulmonary
hypertension



early diagnosis • best treatment • better quality of life • finding a cure

PHAEUROPE & Global
PULMONARY HYPERTENSION ASSOCIATION

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Editor's memo

SUMMER EDITION • 2025

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Supporters,

Welcome to the Summer 2025 edition of Mariposa! This issue is fully dedicated to celebrating World PH Day 2025, a day when our community comes together to raise awareness and strengthen our voice for people living with pulmonary hypertension.

From Oslo to Lagos, Beijing to Washington, this year's events showed the extraordinary creativity and determination of our community. It is not possible to mention them all here, but let me share a few representative examples that reflect the diversity, spirit, and impact of World PH Day 2025. In Portugal, patients and families gathered in the historic town of Batalha for a weekend of connection, studies, and a neon walk. In Latvia, more than 130 people joined the Oxygen Festival for physiotherapy, health screenings, and open conversations in a "World Café." In the USA, advocates took their stories to Capitol Hill — and just one day later, a Congressman co-sponsored legislation to improve oxygen access, showing the impact of patient voices. In China, local groups combined baking and crafts with translated global stories, proving how solidarity crosses borders. In Austria, the Vienna Ferris Wheel and Ars Electronica lit up blue and violet, while Belgium's Blue Lips campaign turned a simple gesture into a symbol of recognition and hope. In North Macedonia, hundreds ran and then gathered for music in a show of unity, while in Ukraine, yoga, poetry, and youth advocacy reminded all that "we are more than PH." Bosnia and Herzegovina hosted the "Run for DAH" in Sarajevo, drawing 140 runners from across the Balkans. Meanwhile, in Norway, PH Norway joined the Coalition of Rare Diseases to push for faster access to precision medicine and clinical studies. And in Slovenia, Jona and Luka Kobler dedicated their record-breaking 102-hour sailing mission — an unofficial Guinness World Record — to raising awareness of PH, a feat that captured hearts and headlines. Alongside these national efforts, PHA Europe coordinated a major social media campaign under the slogan "Sometimes, it's PH."

Built around 73 patient stories, the campaign was translated into 15+ languages, paired with educational infographics and other visuals, and reached 6.1 million impressions with 25,000+ engagements — all organically. PHA Europe's pages gained 700+ new followers on Facebook/Instagram and 54 on LinkedIn, with a median engagement ~18% higher than similar organisations. The now-iconic Zebra video once again helped explain misdiagnosis in a simple, powerful way.

A highlight of this year's programme was the World PH Day webinar hosted at the Bel Air Center: "Pulmonary Hypertension and Climate Change." Featuring Dr. Simon Clark, Dr. Mona Lichtblau, and Dr. Lucilla Piccari, and moderated by myself, the session explored how rising temperatures, wildfires, and pollution affect people with PH. Already viewed by more than 2,200 people, it underscored that climate change is not a distant threat — it is already worsening symptoms and disrupting fragile care systems.

A heartfelt thank you to all our member associations, partners, and volunteers who made this World PH Day such a success. Your energy, creativity, and commitment continue to inspire. A special thank you also goes to Maleen and BCHUB for the flawless execution of the WPHD campaign, and to Dora and Maleen for bringing everything together for this Mariposa edition.

Enjoy this special issue of Mariposa, filled with the highlights of World PH Day 2025 — from local events to global advocacy.

Warm regards,
Hall Skaara
Project Manager

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BEL AIR CENTER



Bel Air Center has been a success since its grand opening in 2024, featuring a webinar by Prof. Marc Humbert and Prof. David Montani in connection with World PH Day on May 5th.

For those of you who are not familiar with our Bel Air Center, let me explain what it is:

Bel Air Center is a unique virtual PH conference center that employs the latest cutting-edge technology. It's open every day, year-round, catering to a global audience through our extensive translation features.

At its core, the platform offers engaging live presentations, along with a wide array of recorded presentations in multiple languages, accessible for viewing at any time.

Additionally, the center hosts a wealth of information and materials from PH associations worldwide and leading pharmaceutical companies.

For those who prefer auditory learning, we proudly feature the entire podcast series from PH Aware, including more than 500 episodes.

Moreover, you can browse our gallery showcasing artwork and contributions from PH patients, doctors, and various other stakeholders.

To foster connections, our social area allows you to chat and host video conferences with fellow members, creating a dynamic and interactive community.

Anyone can register to access the Bel Air Center. Simply go to the landing page: www.belaircenter.info and create a free account. Please provide as much information as possible during registration to help us tailor the platform and its content to your needs.

From our landing page, you can click on a link to access Bel Air Center. No password is required. You simply enter the email you provided during registration and request an access code. It will be sent to you within seconds, and you can then log in with your email address and the access code. (The use of an access code is only required occasionally for security reasons.)

The centre currently offers more than forty presentations covering various aspects of PH. One example is a talk by HTA specialist Neil Bertelsen, which provided an excellent introduction to the HTA process and how patient associations can get involved. This presentation is part of a series of three. Make sure to create your Bel Air Center user account to be notified about this and other interesting upcoming webinars.

Another feature of the presentation room is that some webinars have been dubbed into several languages. Simply click on the blue filter icon in the right-hand corner and select the desired language. The webinars available in that language will then be displayed. We will increasingly utilize this feature to make our excellent material accessible to a wider audience worldwide.

Welcome to Bel Air Center! Make sure to create your free account and explore the center. It is open 24/7!

Hall Skaara
Project Manager



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WPHD WEBINAR

Climate Change and Pulmonary Hypertension

On May 7, 2025, PHA Europe marked World PH Day with a webinar devoted to the urgent theme of climate change and its impact on people living with pulmonary hypertension. The event, held at PHA Europe's Bel Air Center, was moderated by Hall Skaara from PHA Europe and brought together an experienced panel: Dr. Simon Clark, who holds a PhD in atmospheric physics, and two PH specialists, Dr. Mona Lichtblau from the University Hospital Zurich and Dr. Lucilla Piccari from Hospital del Mar in Barcelona.

The discussion made clear that climate change is no longer a distant concern but a reality that already affects people with PH. Rising global temperatures and more frequent extreme weather events such as heatwaves, cold spells, and dust storms can worsen breathlessness, fatigue, and other PH symptoms. These environmental stressors are linked to more exacerbations, increased hospitalizations, and even higher mortality. Patients with PH often struggle to adapt physically to sudden changes in heat or humidity, and many find their ability to remain active reduced during periods of extreme weather.

Dr. Lichtblau and Dr. Piccari explained that pollution compounds these challenges. Airborne particles and chemical exposures not only worsen existing disease but also increase the risk of developing pulmonary vascular complications. They pointed out that climate-related infectious diseases, food insecurity, and forced displacement may further contribute to the global burden of PH in the coming years. Another issue highlighted was the fragility of access to healthcare: natural disasters and environmental

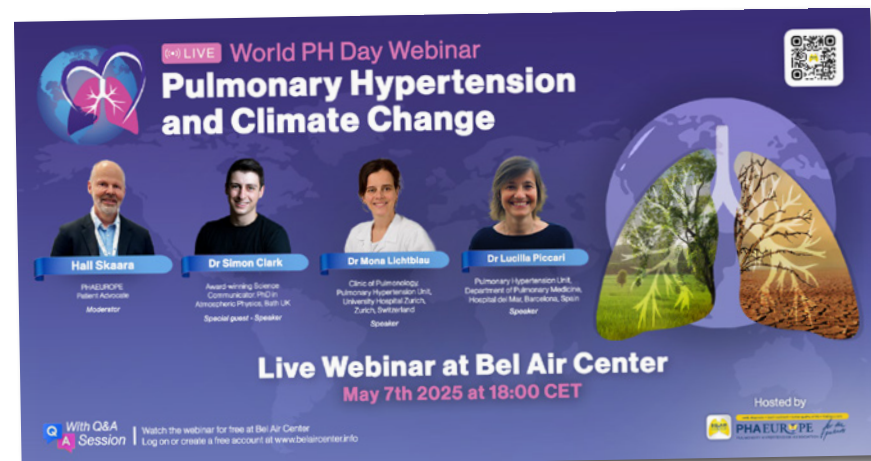
crises can disrupt the complex networks of care that people with PH depend on, leaving patients vulnerable when they most need stability.

Participants asked important and practical questions during the session. They wanted to know how PH patients can best cope with heatwaves or high pollution days, whether mental health is also affected by climate stress, and what role healthcare professionals and advocacy groups can play in helping people adapt. The panel emphasized that individuals could take steps, such as preparing for emergencies, paying attention to air quality, and protecting their mental health, but they also stressed that larger policy and advocacy efforts are essential.

The main conclusion of the webinar was that PH patients are and will continue to be affected by climate change. From direct effects on symptoms to indirect consequences through disrupted healthcare and environmental stress, the evidence is clear. For PHA Europe and the wider PH community, this is a call to raise awareness, strengthen advocacy, and ensure that the voices of patients are heard in the broader conversation about climate and health.

The webinar can be watched on demand in the presentation room at PHA Europe's Bel Air Center. A free Bel Air Center user account can be created via the landing page: www.belaircenter.info.

Hall Skaara
Project Manager



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PHA EUROPE – SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES



Sometimes
it's pulmonary
hypertension

WPHD 2025 reminded us that the most powerful awareness begins with personal stories. This year's campaign opened a window into the everyday reality of PH patients across the globe—offering a rare combination of global reach and deeply personal tone. Few campaigns manage to achieve both, but WPHD 2025 did exactly that. By turning shared struggles into a unified message of visibility and truth, the global PH community made this World PH Day not only impactful, but unforgettable. WPHD 2025 was a deeply personal and truly global milestone.

Under the slogan “Sometimes, it’s PH” this year’s social media campaign, lasting through May and June, drew on the powerful symbolism of the medical zebra, borrowing the slogan from the now famous video about PH and its misdiagnosis and diagnostic challenges—where rare and serious conditions, like pulmonary hypertension, are often mistaken for more common ones, just as a doctor, or anyone, might mistake the sound of hoofbeats from zebras, for those of horses. This theme echoed across more than 73 patient stories from almost every continent, revealing how often PH is misdiagnosed as anxiety, asthma, or simple fatigue, and how devastating those delays can be, only to later discover that “Sometimes, it’s PH”.



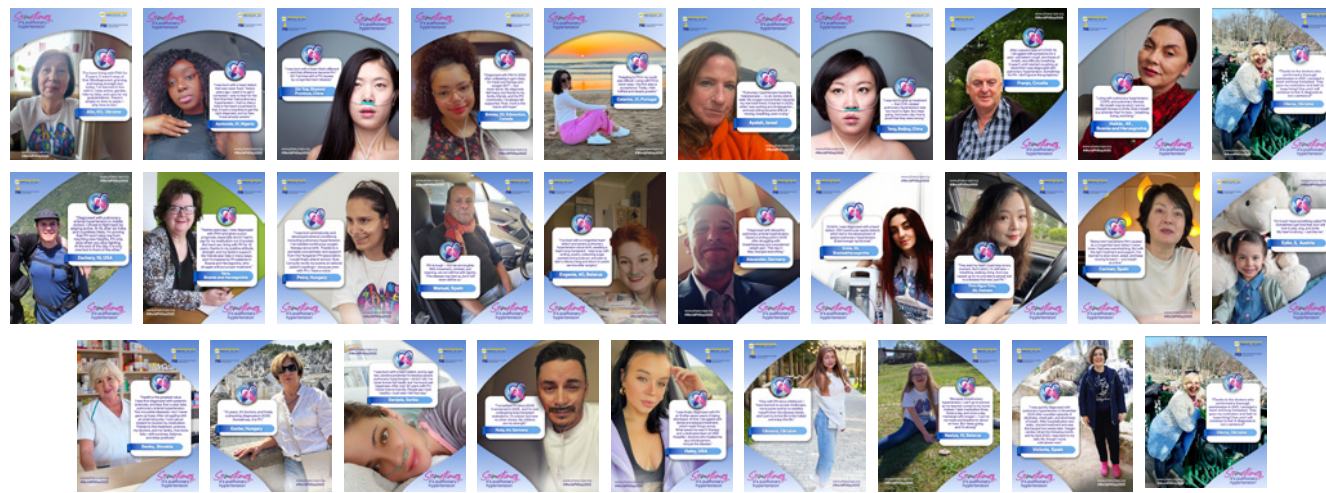
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- ❖ Inhaled moslicigat, Pulmovant's first investigational candidate, is a **potential first-in-class, soluble guanylate cyclase (sGC) activator** with a novel mechanism of action currently being evaluated in a global **Phase 2 PHocus trial** (NCT06635850) in pulmonary hypertension associated with interstitial lung disease (PH-ILD).



For more information about our company or ongoing clinical trial, visit <https://pulmovant.com> or <https://phocusstudy.com>
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More than a campaign, WPHD 2025 became a shared space for patients to speak openly about their long journeys to diagnosis, their moments of fear and courage, and the challenges of living with a disease that often remains invisible to others. For the first time, this was not only a global effort, but a profoundly personal one; centered on the real stories of real people living with PH.

PHAEUROPE led this initiative as the umbrella association for national PH associations across Europe, while also connecting beyond. But this year, the support and participation extended even further than before. Almost all major PH associations across the globe joined forces, including those from the USA, Canada, South America, Nigeria, Israel, China, Japan, Vietnam, and the entire European membership. Each association not only helped amplify the message, but also contributed their own patients'

voices—testimonies filled with resilience, pain, perseverance, and moments of clarity when the correct diagnosis finally arrived.

The campaign was built around three central pillars: patient stories, awareness and education posts, and visual engagement. At its core were 73 patient testimonials—powerful, candid accounts that shed light on the shared experience of being doubted, dismissed, or misdiagnosed, and the emotional weight of not knowing what's happening to your body. These stories, whether from young women navigating motherhood with PH, women in their middle age, men struggling to stay on their feet, or children and their parents facing the unknown, resonated across languages, regions, and generations. Though each was unique, many echoed the same confusion, the same fears, and, after countless wrong answers, the same final diagnosis: PH.



Complementing these stories were over 20 visual materials, including 9 educational infographics and 14 other informational posts and reels. The now-iconic Zebra awareness video was once again used to reinforce the message, helping global audiences understand that sometimes, what looks like something mild, is actually something much more serious. Translated into more than 15+ languages, all campaign materials were made editable and adaptable, allowing national associations to tailor them to their local context and ensure that the stories truly resonated with their communities.

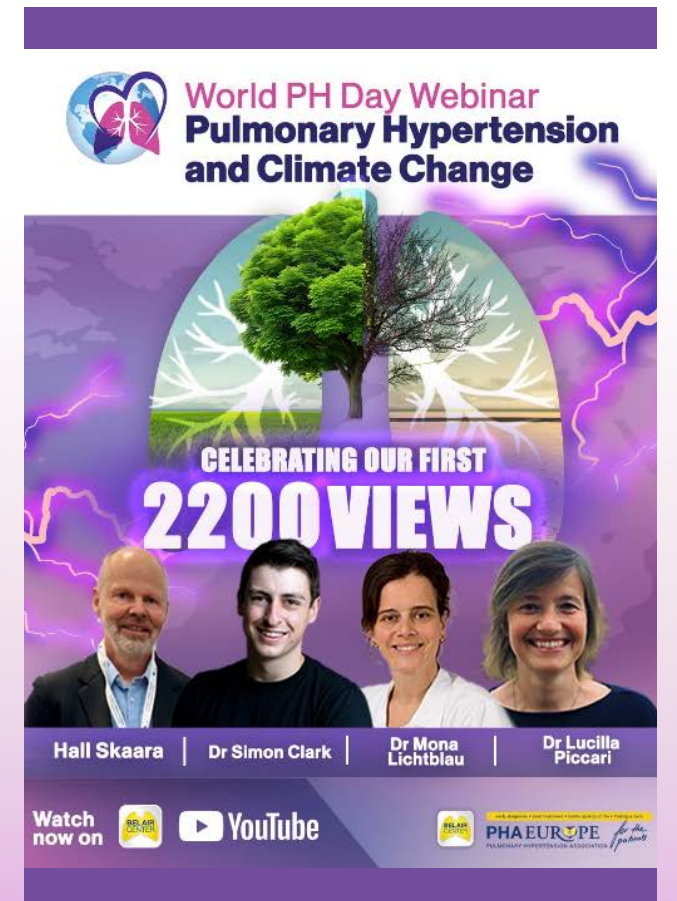
The impact of the 2025 campaign was extraordinary. With over 6.1 million impressions across platforms, more than 25,000 direct engagements, and an equal number of likes and shares, its reach extended far beyond social media, making this a campaign to remember.

In May and June alone, PHAEUROPE gained over 700 new followers on Facebook and Instagram, and 54 on LinkedIn, where it continues to lead as the most active PH page, boasting a median engagement rate of 8%, which is 18% higher than comparable organizations. On X, our organic reach climbed to 10,485 users, all without a single cent spent on promotion.



As is tradition, PHA Europe also hosted a dedicated WPHD webinar—but this year's topic broke new ground. The 2025 webinar, "Pulmonary Hypertension and Climate Change," featured Dr. Simon Clark, a well-known scientist, YouTube personality, and science communicator, alongside renowned PH experts Dr. Mona Lichtblau and Dr. Lucilla Piccari. The session was moderated by PHA Europe's Hall Skaara.

Already viewed by over 2,200 people on YouTube and still freely available via the Bel Air Center platform for the PH patients and stakeholders, the discussion explored the direct impact of environmental changes, such as rising temperatures, wildfires, and air pollution, on the lives and outcomes of people living with PH. The webinar underscored the urgent need for further research into these links and emphasized the importance of integrating climate risks into both clinical care and public health strategies.



The truth this campaign illuminated is simple, yet profound: sometimes, it's PH, and recognizing it can change, and save, lives. Thanks to the united voices of patients, caregivers, advocates, experts, and national associations around the world, WPHD 2025 became a movement defined by truth, solidarity, and deep emotional resonance.

PHAEUROPE is incredibly proud of our global community and everyone who supports the patients and patient associations along the way. What began as a campaign became a global movement—each voice unique, but all speaking the same urgent truth. Most importantly, the campaign empowered our community to speak up about their journeys, giving glimpses of authentic stories that remind all of us that behind statistics are faces. Patients deserve

to be heard, believed, and treated, no matter who they are, where they live, or how healthy they may look.

The unity, bravery, and honesty shown throughout this campaign are a testament to a growing global movement—driven by patients, caregivers, advocates, and experts alike. Together, we are not just raising awareness; we are reshaping the future of pulmonary hypertension.

Yes, PH patients are breathless. And those who advocate for them—who speak, organize, and raise awareness—may sometimes share that feeling of breathlessness, in their own way, too. But above all, we continue to breathe in unity, walking together toward a future where no one has to face PH alone or unheard.

Maleen Fischer and the Social Media Team
PHA Europe – For the Patients



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¹⁾ EU Medical Device Regulation (MDR) 2017/745
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Gossamer Bio is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on developing seralutinib, an investigational medicine for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) and pulmonary hypertension associated with interstitial lung disease (PH-ILD).

Our goal is to improve the lives of people with these rare diseases through innovative scientific research and support for patient advocacy groups.

For more information please visit:
www.gossamerbio.com

August 2025



ARGENTINA

REPORT ON HIPUA ACTIVITIES FOR WORLD PH DAY

At HIPUA, we celebrate every World Pulmonary Hypertension Day with special activities and new projects:

As every year on May 5th, the Government of the City of Buenos Aires illuminated the following historical monuments in violet

- Torre Monumental
- Planetario
- Palacio de la Libertad
- Palacio Lezama

The 4th National Meeting on Pulmonary Hypertension was held on May 6th.

A completely virtual space—accessible from anywhere in Argentina via Zoom—aimed at patients and their families. Renowned national PH experts participated:

• **Dra. Lorena Maldonado** (Hospital Británico de Buenos Aires) opened the meeting with an update on key concepts based on the 7th World Symposium on Pulmonary Hypertension.

• **Dra. Daniela García Brasca** (Hospital Italiano de Córdoba) presented current treatments and future therapies.

• **Dra. Paula Kaplan** (Ramos Mejía Hospital, Buenos Aires) focused on essential daily care for people living with PH.

• **Dr. Luis Lema** (Model Cardiology Institute, Córdoba) spoke about the link between PH and pregnancy: a new paradigm after the 7th World Symposium?

• **Dr. Luis Gómez** (Fernández Hospital) addressed, for the first time in our meetings, the relationship between PH and genetics.

It was an ideal day to learn, clarify doubts, and strengthen empowerment toward a better quality of life.

4° Encuentro Nacional de Hipertensión Pulmonar para pacientes y familiares

6 de Mayo
18:00 hs

Por plataforma



Vacantes limitadas.
Requiere inscripción previa.



4° Encuentro Nacional de Hipertensión Pulmonar para pacientes y familiares

Acercándonos a un mejor conocimiento de la Hipertensión Pulmonar

Dra. Lorena Maldonado

Neumóloga (Hospital Británico)



6 de Mayo 18:00 hs

Vacantes limitadas. Requiere inscripción previa.



4° Encuentro Nacional de Hipertensión Pulmonar para pacientes y familiares

Tratamientos actuales y futuros para la HP

Dra. Daniela García Brasca

Cardióloga (Hospital Italiano de Córdoba)



6 de Mayo 18:00 hs

Vacantes limitadas. Requiere inscripción previa.



4° Encuentro Nacional de Hipertensión Pulmonar para pacientes y familiares

Cuidados del paciente con Hipertensión Pulmonar

Dra. Paula Kaplan

Neumóloga (Hospital Ramos Mejía - CABA)



6 de Mayo 18:00 hs

Vacantes limitadas. Requiere inscripción previa.



4° Encuentro Nacional de Hipertensión Pulmonar para pacientes y familiares

Embarazo y HP. ¿Cambio de paradigma a partir del 7° Simposio Mundial de HP?

Dr. Luis Lema

Cardiólogo (Instituto Modelo de Cardiología de Córdoba)



6 de Mayo 18:00 hs

Vacantes limitadas. Requiere inscripción previa.



4° Encuentro Nacional de Hipertensión Pulmonar para pacientes y familiares

Hipertensión Pulmonar y Genética

Dr. Luis Gómez

Cardiólogo (Hospital J.A. Fernández - CABA)



6 de Mayo 18:00 hs

Vacantes limitadas. Requiere inscripción previa.



Social Media Campaign

As part of PHA EUROPE, HIPUA joined the initiative “Sometimes it’s Pulmonary Hypertension.” It’s not asthma or panic attacks... it’s PULMONARY HYPERTENSION! We would like to thank PHA EUROPE for including Eleonora a representative of Argentina.

“Breathing for Argentina”

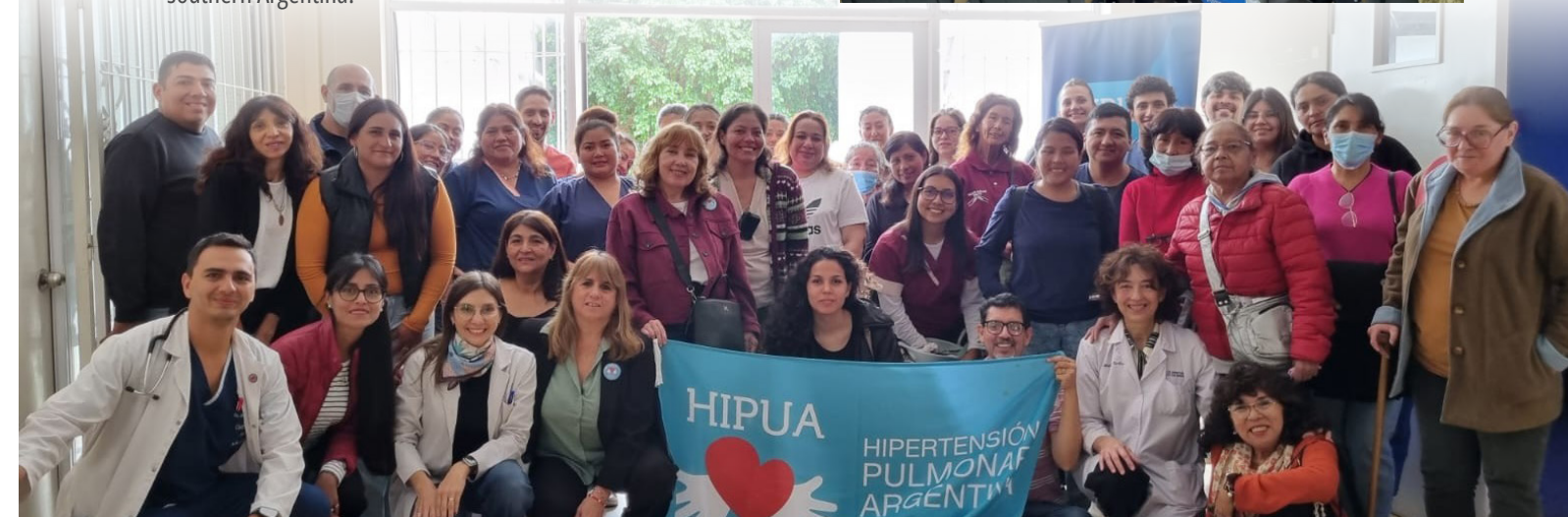
In May, and in the context of World Day, HIPUA launched this project, traveling across the country to raise awareness, inform, and support patients and families.

Pulmonary hypertension is a rare and complex disease that affects pulmonary circulation, compromising oxygenation and causing symptoms such as dyspnea, fatigue, chest pain, and fainting. In Argentina, diagnosis takes an average of 16 months from the onset of the first symptoms, as they are often confused with other common respiratory diseases (asthma, COPD).

The goals of this initiative are:

- Improve access to diagnosis, treatment, and emotional support;
- Strengthen a national support network;
- Promote the inclusion of PH in public health policies.

Recognizing that each province has its own specificities — in infrastructure and resources — the tour helps identify specific barriers to medical access and develop support strategies tailored to each region. The journey has already reached Tucumán and Salta and will continue through other provinces in central and southern Argentina.





As part of World HP Day, we also resumed our meetings called "I take five minutes... I take a break."

This initiative, available both in-person and virtually, promotes emotional well-being through workshops designed to:

- Avoid isolation, reducing anxiety and depression;
- Share experiences, fears, and frustrations with others facing the same reality;
- Strengthen self-esteem, especially during difficult times;
- Build friendships among people who understand and accept each other.

The purpose is for each patient to take an active role in their illness, regain balance, and strengthen decision-making, focusing on life rather than the disease.

In summary, at HIPUA we transform World Pulmonary Hypertension Day into an opportunity to:

- Stay updated on medical advances and innovative treatments;
- Raise disease awareness and demystify its symptoms;
- Offer support, companionship, and a sense of belonging across the country;
- Empower every person to take ownership of their story and find strength in community.



AUSTRIA

THE VIENNA FERRIS WHEEL, ARS ELECTRONICA, AND THE LAUNCH OF THE OLDTIMER GUIDE

On May 5, 2025, WPHD, World Pulmonary Hypertension Day, was observed worldwide. This important occasion aims to raise awareness of pulmonary hypertension, a rare, often overlooked, and life-threatening disease. It can affect people of all ages, including children.

PH Austria once again used this day to send a strong message of support to those affected and to increase public awareness. The goal is to help recognize symptoms early, speed up diagnoses, and give hope to those living with the condition.

This was the reason why, on the night of May 5th, two major landmarks were symbolically illuminated.

The Vienna Ferris Wheel – Thanks to Managing Director Nora Lamac, one of Vienna's landmarks, the Giant Viennese Ferris Wheel, shined bright in vibrant blue and violet.



ARS ELECTRONICA

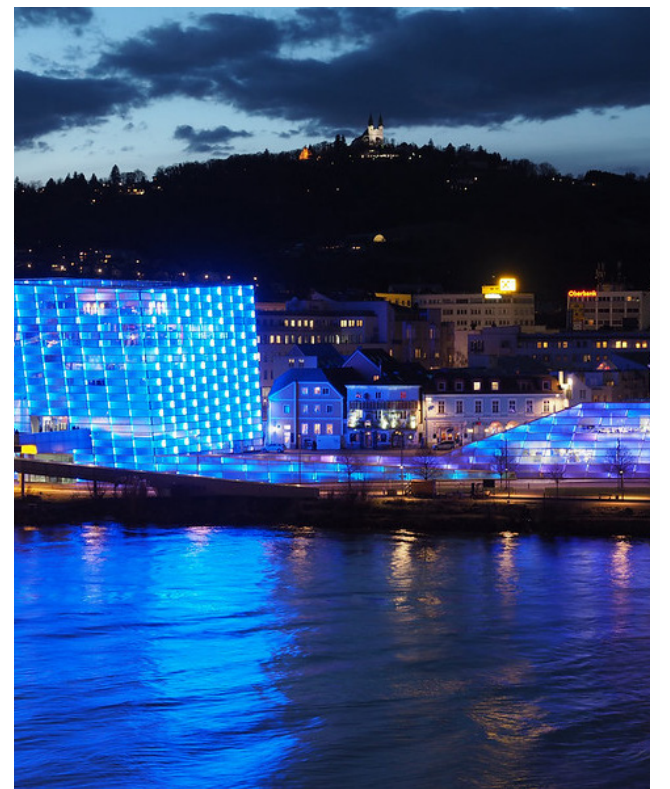
In the city of Linz, the **Ars Electronica Center** lit up in our colors of blue and violet on this day as well.

The light installations were intended as a visible sign of solidarity with all those affected, while also raising awareness of a disease that often remains hidden.

Numerous passers-by were moved and intrigued, with many stopping to take photos, aiming to learn more about the condition.

The illumination campaign was accompanied by information initiatives on social media and under the hashtag #WorldPHDay2025.

With actions like these, PH Austria sends a strong, high-profile message, giving an important voice to the roughly 900 people affected in Austria, as well as thousands more worldwide.



PH AUSTRIA AT THE LAUNCH OF THE OLDTIMER GUIDE 2025

On May 17, 2025, the 19th edition of the renowned *Oldtimer Guide* was presented in the impressive setting of Schloss Grafenegg during the Design Days, this year under the atmospheric motto “Made in Austria.”

The event uniquely combined automotive elegance, Austrian design, and social responsibility. Amid lovingly restored vehicles and exciting exhibitors, PH Austria was also present with its own information booth. Eva Otter and Benita Fischer took the opportunity to provide visitors with in-depth insights into the rare but serious condition of pulmonary hypertension and to raise awareness.

We were especially pleased by the personal conversations on-site, the great interest shown by visitors, and the openness toward such a complex topic.

A particularly special moment was the classic car auction held during the event. A portion of the proceeds was generously donated to PH Austria – a sign of appreciation that deeply moved us.

We would like to sincerely thank the organizers of the *Oldtimer Guide*, especially for the valuable opportunity to make our work accessible to a wider audience.

A big thank-you also goes to MSD for their much-appreciated support.



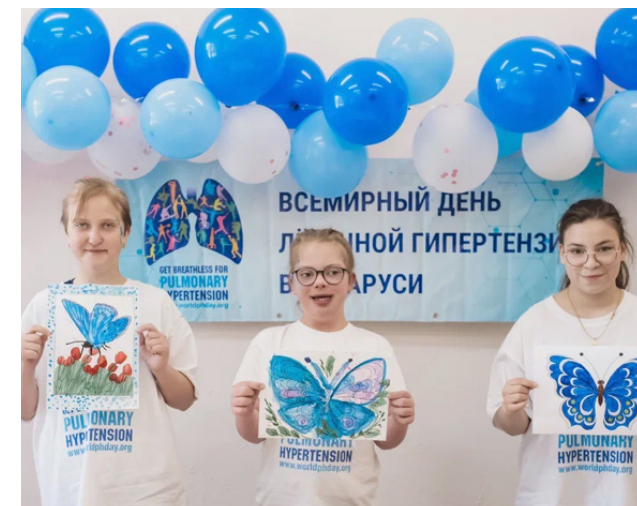
BELARUS

As part of World Pulmonary Hypertension Day, an educational and creative event was held at the Molotkovichi Special School, organized with the participation of the Public Association Assistance to Patients with Pulmonary Hypertension.

The aim of the event was to raise awareness about pulmonary hypertension — a rare but serious disease that affects respiratory function and quality of life for thousands of people worldwide.

Participants included:

- Patients and their family members
- Teachers and school staff
- Specialists in adaptive physical education and rehabilitation
- Representatives of the public association
- Invited volunteers and organizers



The program featured the following activities:

1. CREATIVE DRAWING WORKSHOP

Conducted by an art studio led by Yulia Myalik, participants created images of blue butterflies — the international symbol of pulmonary hypertension, representing blue lungs and respiratory insufficiency.

A special highlight was the participation of a young patient, Anastasia, whose personal contribution became an important part of the event's symbolic message.

2. EDUCATIONAL LECTURE

Asya Birillo, a specialist in physical rehabilitation, delivered a lecture covering:

- Signs and symptoms of pulmonary hypertension
- Physical activity considerations for those diagnosed
- The importance of early diagnosis and patient support

3. ADAPTED PHYSICAL WARM-UP

Led by a teacher of adaptive physical education, the session included exercises tailored to the limitations faced by patients, emphasizing the importance of a gentle and thoughtful approach to physical activity.





BELGIUM

ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD PULMONARY HYPERTENSION DAY – P.H. BELGIË

In May, in recognition of World Pulmonary Hypertension (PH) Day, we organized a series of initiatives to raise awareness about this rare and serious condition. Through both physical and online actions, we aimed to reach, inform, and connect as many people as possible around this important cause.

THE “TRIAL RUN” – 160 KM IN SUPPORT OF PH AWARENESS

On June 8th, a “Trial Run” took place: an impressive athletic feat in which a total of 160 kilometers was completed in relay.

The organizer, Lotje, first came into contact with Pulmonary Hypertension through the son of a colleague. It deeply moved her. As a colleague, she felt powerless to help—until the idea grew to combine action with something she could do: trail running.

With that in mind, she gathered 14 like-minded individuals—friends, colleagues, and sports enthusiasts with big hearts and strong legs. Some were seasoned runners, while others took on such a challenge for the first time. What united them was the drive to take action for people who have to fight every day just to breathe.



Together, they ran 100 miles in relay, from Hulst to Hamme, through the most beautiful trails, all the way to the headquarters of the patient association.

They didn't run just for sport, but for something much greater. With every mile, they aimed to raise awareness and collect funds for the patient association for people with Pulmonary Hypertension.

They ran for breath. For awareness. For connection. And for the difference we can make together.

For this initiative, we specially adapted our website to create

a fundraising page (<https://ph-vzw.be/2025/04/10/samen-lopen-voor-adem/>), which raised an impressive €2,755.85! In addition, we gained significant visibility through the organizers' Instagram page and social media, including posts from participants.



BLUE LIPS: A POWERFUL SYMBOL OF RECOGNITION AND HOPE

In May, we launched a special online campaign with the slogan: “Blue lips are not a beauty trend. They can be a warning sign.” With this message, we aimed to raise awareness in a visual and accessible way about the visible, and invisible, signs of pulmonary hypertension.

The call to action was simple yet powerful: take a photo with blue lips, share it on social media, and help bring attention to our condition. And it worked! Throughout the month, photos of people with blue lips appeared on Instagram and Facebook, shared by patients, family members, friends, and supporters.

Each week, we also posted informative content about symptoms, diagnosis, and personal stories from fellow patients. The response was heartwarming, and engagement was strong. Even the godchild of our chairperson gave a presentation about PH in her classroom, and our board members proudly joined in by sharing their own blue-lipped photos.

The blue lips became a powerful symbol of recognition, solidarity, and hope. Because no matter how small an action may seem, together, we can make a visible difference!



CONCLUSION

The combination of physical and digital actions resulted in a powerful awareness campaign. We are proud of the dedication shown by all volunteers, participants, and supporters, and we hope that our efforts have contributed to greater awareness, understanding, and support for people with Pulmonary Hypertension.

We remain committed to increasing visibility and thank PHA Europe for their continued support and international coordination!

*On behalf of VZW Pulmonale Hypertensie België,
Wendy Vansteenkiste
Chairwoman*

Des lèvres bleues, ce n'est pas une tendance beauté. C'est peut-être un signal d'alarme.

#CurePH #WorldPHDay
#HypertensionPulmonaire @PHBelgium

AANTAL
diagnoses van PAH en CTEPH*
500
350.000

GEZONDE LONGSLAGADER
VERNAUWDE LONGSLAGADER
doordat gladde spiercellen in de wand van de kleine haarvaten zich ongecontroleerd vermeerderen (PAH)
BLOKKADE LONGSLAGADER
door een bloedprop in de grote hoofdslader; CTEPH is de enige vorm van PH die mogelijk te genezen is

5 TYPES
• Pulmonale arteriële hypertensie (PAH)*
• PH als gevolg van linker hartaandoening
• PH als gevolg van longafwijkingen
• Chronische trombo-embolische PH (CTEPH)*
• PH met een onduidelijke oorzaak
*Zeldzame aandoeningen die een gespecialiseerde behandeling vereisen

SYMPTOMEN
13% hartkloppingen
15% duizeligheid/flauwvallen
21% gezwollen enkels
22% pijn op de borst
27% vermoeidheid
86% kortademigheid

Des lèvres bleues, ce n'est pas une tendance beauté. C'est peut-être un signal d'alarme.

DIAGNOSTIC
en moyenne 2 ans
L'ESPÉRANCE DE VIE
en moyenne 2,8 ans sans traitement
Un diagnostic précoce est fondamental pour améliorer la survie et la qualité de vie.

GEEN ONDERSCHIED
in leeftijd, ras of geslacht

Traitement
dans des centres spécialisés
Le traitement est complexe et coûteux (p. ex. une pompe qui délivre des médicaments dans le sang par un cathéter 24h/24). Un suivi strict et à vie est nécessaire. Parfois, une intervention chirurgicale (HTP-TEC) ou une transplantation (cœur-) poumons doit être réalisée.



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

RAISING AWARENESS OF PH IS A CONTINUOUS TASK

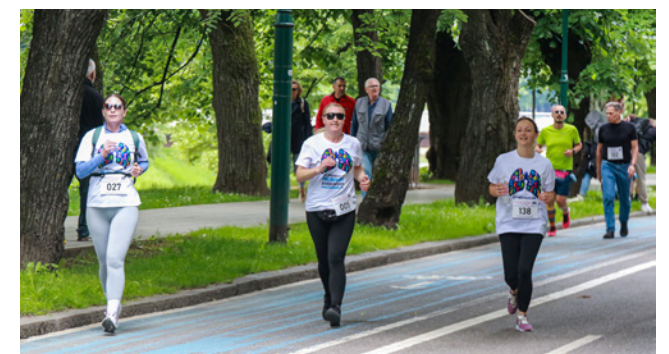
The commemoration of World Pulmonary Hypertension Day in Bosnia and Herzegovina began on May 5 with the publication of a video banner by the company „General Pro-Mark“, which featured visuals of the campaign dedicated to pulmonary hypertension on the occasion of this day. The visuals were shown on a video banner in the very center of the town of Zavidovići for the entire month of May. In this way, we continued our cooperation with the company „General Pro-Mark“, which provided us with this valuable space and thus supported those who live with this rare and serious disease every day. Our visual was not just a picture - it was a reminder that pulmonary hypertension is silent, invisible, but present, and that every support means a lot to us.

„INVISIBLE PULMONARY HYPERTENSION“ – OUR NEW INFORMATION PROJECT

In addition, on World Pulmonary Hypertension Day 2025, the Association of Citizens with Pulmonary Hypertension „Dah“ - in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the support of sponsors, implemented an important informative project. Thanks to sponsorship, two brochures and one leaflet entitled „Invisible Pulmonary Hypertension“ were printed. These information materials were created with the aim of raising public awareness of this rare but serious disease that often remains unrecognized.



The brochures and leaflet provide key information on symptoms, diagnosis, treatment options, and the daily challenges faced by sufferers. The materials are intended for the general public, but also for healthcare professionals, in order to improve understanding and strengthen early diagnosis. Our Association continues its commitment to making invisible pulmonary hypertension visible, providing support to sufferers and informing the community.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS MARKED WPHD 2025

Among other activities on World Pulmonary Hypertension Day (WPHD), we would like to highlight that students of grades II, III and V of the First Elementary School Zavidovići participated in an educational and creative activity dedicated to raising awareness of this rare and serious disease. The activity was realized thanks to the multi-year cooperation of the school and teachers with the Association of citizens suffering from pulmonary hypertension „Dah” - in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Under the guidance of teachers Samira Isić and Emira Skejić, the students watched the zebra video „Sometimes it's PH”, and, in a way adapted to them, they talked about what pulmonary hypertension is, how it affects the daily life of sufferers, and why the zebra, as a symbol of rare diseases, is important in promoting understanding and solidarity.

After the educational part, the children expressed their support and acquired knowledge through drawings on the topic „Pulmonary hypertension and zebras”. The creative and moving works of the students were published on the pages of our Association's social networks with the aim of spreading the message about the importance of early recognition and support for people living with rare diseases such as pulmonary hypertension.

The school, teachers, students, and their parents showed empathy, openness, and willingness to be a voice of support for those who struggle with pulmonary hypertension every day through knowledge and creativity.

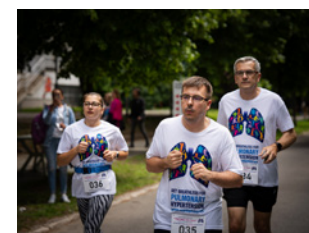


„WE RUN FOR BREATH” - WITH THE POWER OF STEPS FOR THOSE OUT OF BREATH

The central event marking WPHD 2025 in Bosnia and Herzegovina was the „Run for DAH” race, which was held in the beautiful surroundings of Wilson Promenade in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On May 10, 2025, runners from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Germany, Austria, and the USA participated with the aim of raising awareness about pulmonary hypertension.

More than 140 runners of all generations joined this humanitarian event, sending a strong message of support to people facing this invisible but serious disease. The race was not of a competitive nature - its goal was symbolic, to run for those who cannot. In the end, the best received symbolic awards.

The event was accompanied by an extremely positive atmosphere, with numerous additional contents for visitors - from a music program and workshops for children, to promotional stands with educational materials and oxygen saturation measuring.



The organizers from the Association „Dečki u plavom” and the Association of Citizens Suffering from Pulmonary Hypertension „Dah” - in Bosnia and Herzegovina are grateful to all participants, volunteers, and partners for their support, emphasizing that every such activity is a step closer to better information, earlier diagnosis, and a better quality of life for those suffering from it.

The race „Let's Run for DAH” showed how much unity and empathy can mean - because when a sufferer runs out of breath, there are runners to run for him. Of course, our Enes Ibrahimagić from Bihać was among the runners and thus added new kilometers to the list of over several hundred kilometers running out of breath for those suffering from pulmonary hypertension.



WE WERE ALSO PART OF THE PLJEŠEVIČKI TRAIL

We marked World Pulmonary Hypertension Day with the participation of Amar Čehajić, another of our runners from Bihać, in the II round of the Plješevička Trail League, which was held on May 17, 2025. Amar, who has run many kilometers for patients with pulmonary hypertension, this time, wore the symbols of the European PH community in the longest and most demanding race of the season. We must point out that in one day, two trail peaks with a length of 28 km with a total ascent of 1300 meters, were conquered. The strength and endurance of our runners, who got out of breath for pulmonary hypertension, left us out of breath this time as well. The significance and magnitude of such events is that a group of runners from Bihać does not run to raise awareness of our disease only during the WPHD celebration, but in all the races they participate in throughout the year, which deserves special respect from the entire PH community.

OUR STRUGGLE WAS HEARD THROUGHOUT BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

And finally, the Association of Citizens Suffering from Pulmonary Hypertension „Dah” - in Bosnia and Herzegovina is very pleased to point out the extremely successful media interest on World Pulmonary Hypertension Day. More than 30 announcements in just one day, May 5, in various media and on online portals throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, speak in favor of the increasing understanding and support that the public provides for our struggle.

This media response shows that our voice was heard - and that the common message of the patients, their families, doctors and friends reached the wider public. We are proud of this visibility, because we know how important it is in the fight for better treatment, timely diagnosis, and a dignified life for people living with pulmonary hypertension.

We would like to thank all journalists, editors, and media companies, who recognized the importance of this topic and gave us the space and opportunity to speak. This success further motivates us to continue with even greater energy and commitment.

Pulmonary hypertension does not have to be invisible - we proved that this May 5th!

Vera Hodžić,

president of the Association of citizens suffering from pulmonary hypertension „Dah” - in Bosnia and Herzegovina



BULGARIA BSPPH

PULMONARY ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION IS LIKE AN ICEBERG

On May 5, the world once again observed World Pulmonary Hypertension Day – a severe and often undiagnosed condition also known as „blue lips disease.” Approximately 500 people in Bulgaria live with this illness. In solidarity with patients, from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm on May 5, 2025 the facade of the National Palace of Culture in Sofia was illuminated in blue. Two more Bulgarian cities joined the initiative: in Burgas, the bridge in the Sea Garden was lit, and in Plovdiv, the Boris Hristov Cultural Center glowed blue.

SPORT OLYMPIC HALL FILLED WITH ENERGY, SPEED, AND SOLIDARITY

On May 17, the Racket Speed Club organized a badminton demonstration in support of patients with pulmonary hypertension. Participants were left breathless, showing solidarity with people living with this rare lung disease. 30 sports enthusiasts joined the „Breathless for PH” initiative of the Bulgarian society of the patients with pulmonary hypertension – an organization that has advocated for more than 13 years for those affected by this rare and insidious disease. Pulmonary hypertension impacts approximately 500 Bulgarians,

with nearly 150 living with the rarest form: pulmonary arterial hypertension. Known as the „blue lips disease” due to low blood oxygen levels, it often forces patients into isolation from active life and society. Participants donated their time and energy for a high-intensity badminton workout. The event was held with support from the hosts Sport Olympic, the Bulgarian Pickleball Federation, and the Bulgarian Lacrosse Federation.

„I’m happy you’re exercising for those who can’t climb even a few stairs, and whose lives remain hidden from society,” shared Natalia Maeva, chair of the patient organization and herself a transplant recipient, at the start of the session.

Special guest Irena Metodieva attended – whom we all believe will soon travel to the USA for a life-saving lung transplant. The session followed a high-intensity interval training (HIIT) format, which not only accelerates heart rate but activates hormonal and metabolic systems, promoting fat burning and muscle building. During peak exertion, heart rates reached 85–90%, with metabolism remaining elevated for hours afterward. Patients continue to highlight that

Bulgaria remains indebted to those with pulmonary hypertension and severe lung diseases. The country lags significantly in the following: adopting innovative therapies, access to lung transplants, as well as home oxygen therapy.





MORE THAN A GAME: FIGHTING FOR BREATH

For the first time ever, Bulgaria took part in the European Lacrosse Championship, held from July 10 to 20, 2025, in Wrocław, Poland. But this was about more than just sports.

The national team played with purpose—proudly supporting the Bulgarian Society of Patients with Pulmonary Hypertension (BSPPH). By raising their sticks, they also raised awareness for a rare and serious disease that deserves greater attention and solidarity.

The Bulgarian team —not only for their performance on the field but also for standing strong with the pulmonary hypertension community.

PATIENT WEBINAR “MYTHS ABOUT PULMONARY HYPERTENSION – MENTAL HEALTH”

The webinar was held on 21.05.2025. Dr. Lyubomir Dimitrov, an invasive cardiologist, Department of Paediatric Cardiology at the National Hospital of Cardiology and deputy chairperson of the Bulgarian Society of patients with Pulmonary Hypertension, spoke about the problems that doctors and patients with PH face. „All these patients should receive adequate medical care. We, I am talking about the doctors, the society, and the state, should provide them adequate treatment,” the expert said. A lecturer of the event was the psychologist Dr. Antonia Grigorova, who spoke more about the risk factors that affect the psychological state of patients with pulmonary hypertension. In addition, she spoke more about the risk factors that affect the psychological state of patients with pulmonary hypertension. She also offered a self-management program for patients with this rare disease, including how to build useful habits, how to solve problems, how to deal with anger, and how to communicate with family members.



BULGARIA PHA

EMPATHY WITHOUT BORDERS: HOW BULGARIA CELEBRATED WORLD PH DAY 2025

In a powerful demonstration of unity and awareness, the Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA) Bulgaria marked World Pulmonary Hypertension Day (WPHD) 2025 with a series of impactful events across gyms, conferences, and international forums. The message was clear: empathy is the first step to understanding, and no patient should feel alone.

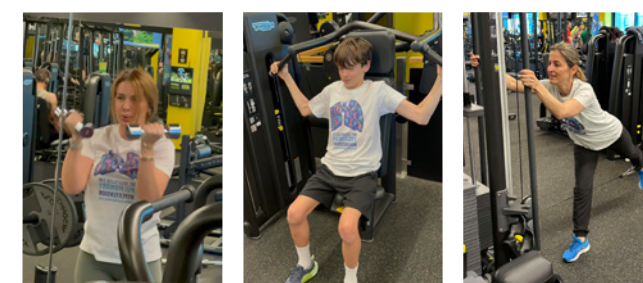
FROM FITNESS FLOORS TO ADVOCACY HALLS: RAISING AWARENESS WITH EVERY BREATH

To mark 5 May, we partnered with Pulse and Fly fitness centres in Sofia to promote empathy and awareness for people living with pulmonary hypertension (PH).

Visitors participated in short breathing simulation challenges and spoke with our volunteers about life with PH. Trainers and gym-goers shared messages of support for those living with rare lung diseases.

These events helped bridge the gap between the healthy public and the invisible daily struggles of patients with PH, reminding everyone that awareness begins with compassion.

The campaign was more than symbolic—it was experiential. Messages of solidarity poured in from participants who left with a deeper understanding of what it means to live with PH. The gym setting proved an innovative way to foster awareness and compassion in unexpected places.



SOLIDARITY IN THE RARE DISEASE COMMUNITY

PHA Bulgaria’s message didn’t go unheard. Several Bulgarian patient organizations extended heartfelt support, amplifying the campaign through their platforms. These included:

- Pulmonary Fibrosis Association Bulgaria
- Association of Kidney Disease Patients and Friends
- National Alliance of People with Rare Diseases
- Bulgarian Organization for People with Rheumatic Diseases
- Association of Patients Active in Healthcare

Their contributions reaffirmed the strength and unity of Bulgaria’s rare disease community—a testament to the power of empathy across conditions.

CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION: LEARNING AND SHARING IN FRANKFURT

Taking empathy global, PHA Bulgaria participated in the European PF Patient Advocate Forum in Frankfurt (24–27 April 2025), hosted by EU-PFF. While centered on pulmonary fibrosis, the event sparked important discussions that resonated with the PH community as well: delayed diagnoses, limited treatment access, and the emotional toll of chronic illness.

The forum created a vibrant space for idea-sharing and fostered promising new partnerships aimed at improving advocacy for rare lung diseases across Europe. The experience infused the Bulgarian team with renewed purpose and international support.



SCIENCE MEETS PATIENT VOICE: A STRONGER PRESENCE AT NATIONAL CONFERENCES

Partnering with the Pulmonary Fibrosis Association Bulgaria, PHA Bulgaria made waves at two major medical events:

• Second BGBIP Symposium (4 April 2025, Sofia)

Under the theme “Diagnostic and Therapeutic Potentials of Cryotechnique,” this conference brought together interventional pulmonologists and medical researchers. This specialized symposium allowed us to engage with pulmonologists and interventional specialists on the patient experience with diagnostic procedures, especially lung biopsies. The joint booth highlighted patient perspectives on diagnostic procedures such as lung biopsies. Medical professionals welcomed the insight, with many emphasizing the growing need for patient inclusion in research design and clinical practice.

• Fifth National Scientific Conference on Chronic Diseases (16–18 May 2025, Sofia)

Focusing on chronic lung diseases, the conference was another platform for raising awareness. Our booth attracted researchers, clinicians, and students. We shared educational materials and patient testimonies about PH and PF. This joint initiative visibly demonstrated a unified patient voice in the respiratory field and promoted better understanding of rare lung diseases in the scientific community.



THE TAKEAWAY: UNITED IN EMPATHY

From local gyms to international stages, PHA Bulgaria’s 2025 campaign showed that empathy is more than a feeling—it’s a force for change. As patients and professionals come together, the rare disease community grows stronger, louder, and more visible. PHA Bulgaria extends heartfelt thanks to PHA Europe and all partners for making this work possible. Together, we turn empathy into action and ensure that every patient voice is heard.

CHINA

WORLD PULMONARY HYPERTENSION DAY – SHARED VOICES, SHARED STRENGTH

This year, with the support of PHA Europe, we shared stories from PH patients around the world, bringing the Chinese PH community closer to the global conversation. Many found resonance: “I feel the same as her.” Others expressed curiosity: “Why do they seem healthier than us?” Some offered heartfelt wishes: “Good luck to him (who is on the waiting list for a lung transplant).” Regardless of a country’s level of development, misdiagnosis happens everywhere, connecting us as one family through shared challenges.

In China, the national centralized drug procurement program has lowered prices and expanded coverage for some patients, while others remain concerned about the effectiveness of generic medicines. Nationwide, equitable access to treatment remains a long-term challenge. In developed cities where access is better, mental health support has become a pressing need. Local patient groups have responded by organizing activities such as baking and handicrafts, offering comfort and connection to help relieve anxiety and sadness.

The photos from this year’s event feature international PH awareness materials translated into Chinese, alongside warm moments of patients baking and crafting together — showing that care and solidarity truly cross borders.



CROATIA

MARKING PULMONARY HYPERTENSION DAY IN CROATIA: THE POWER OF UNITY, EDUCATION, AND SUPPORT

Every year, May is specially recognized in Croatia as the month for raising awareness about pulmonary hypertension (PH). This rare but challenging disease demands the collective strength of patients, families, medical professionals, and everyone involved in the fight against it. This year, our PH community came together for several unforgettable events that demonstrated how connected we are and how vital education and mutual support truly are.

MAY 24: GATHERING AND LEARNING AT PLITVICE LAKES

The central event took place on May 24, in the stunning surroundings of Plitvice Lakes National Park. On that day, patients and their families gathered for an educational and social meeting. Pharmacist Sandra Pavić Drašković gave an engaging lecture on healthy nutrition, a key element in the daily support of PH patients. We learned how small changes in dietary habits can significantly impact overall health and quality of life.

After the educational part, we enjoyed a relaxed social gathering, and one of the most joyful moments was the **Paint and Breath** art workshop. Under the guidance of talented artist Mirjana Modrušan, we created beautiful images of the Plitvice Lakes — a symbol of our natural heritage and strength. This shared creative expression brought great joy and peace to everyone present.

MAY 25: „GET BREATHLESS FOR PH” RACE IN SABORSKO

The next day, the „Get Breathless for PH” race took place in Saborsko and partly along the Plitvice Lakes. Over 300 runners responded to the call to raise awareness of pulmonary hypertension and show

support for patients. The race was both a physical challenge and an emotional event that reminded us of the importance of unity, support, and health awareness.

VIA ADRIATICA: 1100 KM WALKING WITHOUT BREATH FOR PULMONARY HYPERTENSION

Beyond local events, this year, we also realized an extraordinarily successful international project — **Via Adriatica: 1100 km Without Breath**. Tomislav and Charles, our brave walkers, dedicated this monumental feat to people living with PH in Croatia. They began their journey on Easter, April 20, and completed it on June 6, walking throughout May. To date, only 25 people have completed the challenging, yet breathtaking Via Adriatica trail.



Through the **GoGetFunding** platform, funds were raised for the association Plava krila (Blue Wings), making their adventure a direct support for our community. Throughout the journey, they shared photos, videos, and stories on social media, spreading awareness about pulmonary hypertension and encouraging understanding and empathy.

The project attracted significant media attention, and we even appeared on a TV program, once again emphasizing the importance of supporting PH patients and the need for education and collective action.



A STORY OF HUMANITY, STRENGTH, AND SUPPORT

All of these activities are more than just calendar events — they are living proof of how powerful community strength can be. Pulmonary hypertension often affects women, frequently disrupting their daily routines and complicating life plans, but together, we show that facing these challenges is not impossible.

Through education, creativity, sports, and solidarity, we are building a network of support that offers hope and inspiration to us all. Thank you to everyone who participated, organized, ran, painted, and walked for pulmonary hypertension — you are proof that together we can achieve more.

We invite everyone affected by this disease, along with their loved ones, to join us in future activities, because the power of unity and support truly changes lives.



MEDIA LINKS

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AafxczEV/>

<https://www.mojportal.hr/magazin/bjelovarcanin-i-amerikanac-prehodat-ce-1100-km-svaki-korak-je-za-oboljele-od-plucne-hipertenzije/>

[<https://www.facebook.com/share/16PjLmHVHa/>]

<https://ckzg.hr/2025/05/26/crveni-kriz-zagreb-uz-one-koji-ostaju-bez-daha-ali-ne-i-bez-podrske/>

https://www.klikni.hr/aktualno/2025/06/06/hodali-48-dana-duz-hrvatske-obale-za-oboljele-od-plucne-bolesti/?fbclid=IwQ0xDSwKwMGRleHRuA2FibQlXMQABHsoGc9K_QuMg_DJx3Xp_rnCmlRbBMT_yWfzP4hsAV2lhk6w656lXbk11Tbjh_aem_be9IHu9q4WC8tQHASqVNW

https://www.mojportal.hr/magazin/conc-i-rooster-prehodali-1140-km-za-oboljele-od-plucne-hipertenzije-put-je-trajao-48-dana/?fbclid=IwQ0xDSwKwMX9leHRuA2FibQlXMQABHglOHrj94LPcKS7ckr4iwlGmgZxZ9oPVzN9Yxl_MoBxQjATAH_d1716v7es_aem_JdekLj7i56gMCYfUyYzCAw

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1BpYr6mQHH/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

<https://hrvatskakucadisanja.hr/novosti/>



CZECH REPUBLIC

The gathering for World PH Day 2025 took place at Vítkov Hill in Prague and brought together patients, their families, members of our association, and employees of MSD s.r.o. - a major Czech biopharmaceutical company focused on research and development of treatments for serious diseases. As part of the awareness campaign, MSD illuminated their main building in the color blue and even displayed lungs as a symbol of PH on the building.



Several other landmarks across the Czech Republic were lit up in blue too, including: The Dancing House (Prague), Janáček Theatre (Brno), Husa na Provázku Theatre (Brno), Omega Shopping Centre (Brno), and Olomouc Town Hall (Olomouc).

One of the activities during the event was a balloon exercise, which symbolized support for PH patients: healthy participants used straws to inflate balloons, simulating the experience of breathing with pulmonary hypertension. This activity aimed to raise awareness and understanding of the daily challenges faced by PH patients.



The MSD building



Omega shopping centre



The Dancing House



Husa na Provázku Theatre



Janáček Theatre



Olomouc Town Hall



GERMANY

FROM STRENGTH TO CREATIVITY: SABINE ROSSAT'S INSPIRING JOURNEY

In the quiet town of Kalbe/Milde, nestled in the heart of Saxony-Anhalt, Sabine Rossat, has transformed a personal battle into a powerful source of inspiration.

Since being diagnosed with pulmonary hypertension (PH) in 2019, a rare and serious lung disease, Sabine's life has changed dramatically. But instead of retreating, she leaned into creativity—and in 2024, opened her very own self-service hut: a charming little spot where locals and visitors alike can find her lovingly made crafts.



Her specialty? Handcrafted mugs, each one designed with care, warmth, and a touch of personality. They feature the zebra that highlights the uniqueness and rarity of PH and was also in the forefront of this year's World PH Day Campaign.

But mugs are just the beginning—her hut also features homemade candles and other unique creations, making it a small but mighty symbol of resilience and artistic passion.

Sabine's story is more than just about crafts—it's about finding purpose and beauty despite life's challenges.

And indeed, through every mug and every candle, Sabine continues to pour out a little hope, one creation at a time.



HUNGARY

As every year, we have been preparing hard for World PH Day and a month full of awareness. We were delighted that this year's campaign featured patient stories. 3 of our fellow patients



On April 26, 2025, we successfully hosted the National Meeting of PH Patients. We were happy that many people were able to participate, but we also thought with love of those who unfortunately could not manage to come. Fortunately, the recordings of the presentations were uploaded to YouTube, so everyone can recall/watch them.

<https://www.youtube.com/@tudoerverideo>

Once again, we heard interesting and useful information on many topics. Not only our president Eszter Csabuda, but also the mayor of Zugló, András Rózsa, gave a short welcome speech. We were very happy to introduce ourselves to the mayor, because the association is headquartered in Zugló (District XIV), although we are a national organization. He promised that he would talk about us at the Zugló health roundtable forum, so that as many people as possible would learn about our disease.

from Hungary shared their experiences of their PH diagnosis. The stories of patients from all over the world were also very touching, and our posts received a lot of views.



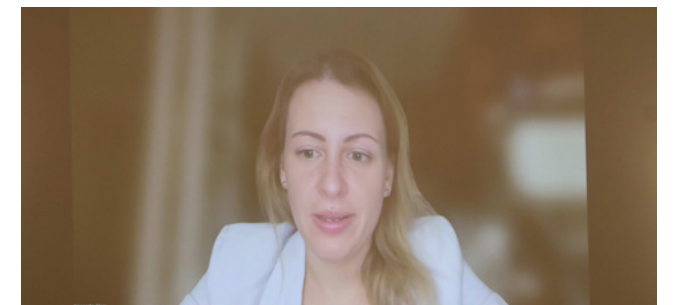
The introduction was about modern PAH treatments in the lecture of Dr. Kristóf Karlócai, Chief Physician. Fortunately, despite the fact that PH is a rare disease, there are quite a few treatments available, and we can hope for an expansion of the range.

Next came Professor Dr. János Varga, who spoke about the importance of breathing exercises for pulmonary circulation. This was a kind of introduction to the final program point, the breathing exercises.



Afterwards, we listened to the touching personal story of Mrs. József Szalai, Katika, about how she faced this shocking diagnosis and how she learned to live with the disease.

PH has many forms, and some patients develop it due to lung diseases. In this regard, Dr. Alexandra Nagy spoke about pulmonary hypertension in the video of lung patients, as she was running the kilometers as a member of the Ultrabalaton team that runs around Lake Balaton.



We celebrated World PH Day, so we heard from Dóra Erdélyi about the current 2025 campaign, the importance of patient organizations, and which websites we can access reliable information from the Tüdőér Egylet and PHA Europe. We got to know the Bel Air Center and received help with registration.



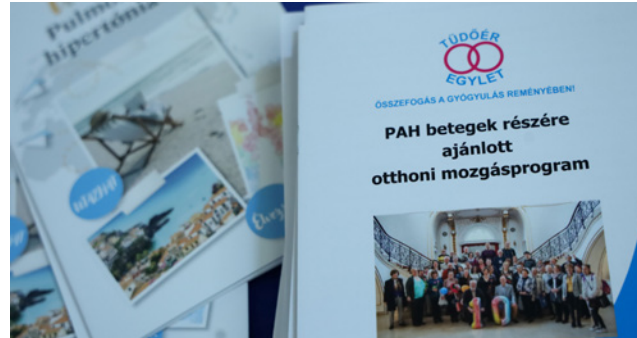
Finally, Dr. Vera Kardosné Major gave us some exercises and we received a small booklet with exercises that we can do at home.



All present received a booklet that shows the exercises we practiced at our meeting.

AOP Health has prepared a travel guide for us, which contains useful tips that can help you if you want to travel as a PH patient.

Folders were also handed out about the Bel Air Center.



We ended the event with a light lunch and a chat! We hope everyone had a good time and found our presentations and booklets useful.

The weather in early May was not really favorable for our outdoor programs, but we finally managed to hold our awareness-raising event in the City Park on May 13th.

We participated in a Spring-Welcoming Literary Walk organized by the Zuglő Health Development Office. The cardiovascular walking club meets once a month in the City Park, where we can

listen to poems and interesting information about the authors while we walk a leisurely distance in the greenery. We were very lucky, as it had been raining in Zuglő a few hours earlier, but by the time we left, the sun was shining brightly.

This time, we had the opportunity to talk about WORLD PH DAY, the symptoms of PH, and the importance of early diagnosis. We distributed informational materials to the participants.

We chose this poem to read because it expresses that even with a chronic illness, we should find unexpected joys amidst everyday challenges.

A Late Evening In May (extract)

It was late, I headed home, my soul
wrestling with thoughts of the day past,
I walked, along gardens and villas,
exhausted, sullen, downcast,
or was it my feet that carried me
dark branches looming overhead,
my two feet, two loyal servants
who by instinct my body led.

Suddenly a wave swept over me
on that late evening in May,
scents that hung heavy and dense
invisibly wafting away,
and in that sweet, exhaling darkness
the world adrift in vapors
surged toward me like an ocean of
lilacs, jasmine and acacias.

I lumbered slowly ahead,
tipsy, slightly wavering,
new seas sprang from the next garden,
new shrubs through the next railing,
and the scents permeated
my lungs, my heart, my mind,
I felt as though I'd grown wings
and left my weight behind.

How did I get home, I know not.
— My woes no fewer than before.
But since that day, I'd grown
to love life a little more,
amid work and troubles I await,
that it come, as I'm sure it might,
to brighten my weary moments,
some fortuitous delight.

Májusi éjszaka (részlet)

Késő volt, mentem haza, lelkem
az elmúlt nappal küszködött,
mentem, mogorván, kimerülve,
a kertek és villák között,
nem is én mentem, csak a lábam
vitt a fekete fák alatt,
két lábam, két hű állatom, mely
magától tudja az utat.

S egyszerre a májusi éjben
valami hullám megcsapott:
illatok szálltak láthatatlan,
sűrű és nehéz illatok,
a lélegző, édes sötétben
szinte párologott a világ
és tengerként áradt felém az
orgona, jázmin és akác.

És részegen és imbolyogva
indultam nagylassan tovább,
s új tenger dőlt a szomszéd kertből,
új bokor az új rácson át,
s az illattól már illatos lett
tüdőm és szívem és agyam,
egész testem elnehezült
s azt érezte, hogy szárnya van.

Hogy értem haza, nem tudom már.
– A gondom ma se kevesebb.
De azóta egy kicsit újra
megszerettem az életet,
s munka és baj közt mindig várom,
hogy jön, hogy majd csak újra jön
valami fáradt pillanatból
valami váratlan öröm.

https://www.magyarulbabelben.net/works/hu/Szab%C3%B3_L%C5%91rinc-1900/M%C3%A1jusi_%C3%A9jszaka/en/82113-A_Late_Evening_In_May





We were also invited by the MSD office to raise awareness of pulmonary hypertension among their colleagues. We talked about the disease, presented the path to diagnosis, and the life with PH through personal stories. We presented our association in detail, talked about our World PH Day programs, and our future goals. The Hungarian Transplant Association also gave a presentation, and we discussed future collaborations with them.

We gave the interested parties a task: they had to reach the buffet by stairs and, in order to experience what a PH person feels every day, they were given a straw and a nose clip to do so. (Afterwards, they admitted that many of them couldn't take it anymore after the 1st floor.)



Our running ambassador Gyuri was also active. He completed 7 km in our association's T-shirt in not very favorable weather conditions to draw attention to pulmonary hypertension. He felt what it was like to gasp for breath, which PH patients often experience in their daily activities.

Press releases also drew attention to our national patient meeting and World PH Day.

On June 19th, our treating specialist Dr. Kristóf Karlócai summarized the information about the disease and treatments in the morning radio program. As those affected, our patients were able to talk about, among other things, how the diagnosis is usually made, how it can be processed, how it changes life, what difficulties the disease causes, how the association can help, why the association was established, and what its future goals are in addition to continuing its current activities.

We also mentioned that the disease is currently incurable and that although Hungarian patients have access to all available treatments, new therapies are also needed to continue on the path to making PH a well-managed chronic disease and ensuring that patients' quality of life is close to normal.

Eszter Csabuda –Tüdőér Egylet
www.tudoer.hu | <https://www.facebook.com/tudoer.egylet>



ISRAEL

RAMBAM PATIENT CONFERENCE: KNOWLEDGE, HOPE, AND PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR LIVING WITH A CHRONIC LUNG DISEASE

On Thursday, May 29, as part of PH Awareness campaign efforts, the Israel Association for Pulmonary Hypertension, together with the Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa, hosted a special conference for patients living with chronic lung diseases, as well as for those undergoing evaluation for lung transplantation. The event brought together dozens of participants from across the country for a morning filled with enriching lectures, up-to-date medical information, and practical tools—all in one place.

Throughout the day, attendees heard from leading physicians and specialists in pulmonary Medicine, who spoke about the lung transplant evaluation process, respiratory rehabilitation, patients' rights, emotional support, and more. A strong emphasis was placed on providing practical strategies for managing advanced lung diseases, including innovative treatments and supportive technologies.

The conference was not only an opportunity to gain knowledge, but also a meaningful meeting point for patients, their families,

and healthcare professionals. Personal and professional experiences were shared, strengthening the sense of support and community among participants.

Between sessions, guests enjoyed a complimentary lunch, offering a moment of refreshment and informal connection. Attendance was free of charge but required prior registration—highlighting the careful planning and genuine commitment to making quality information accessible to patients.

The conference was a powerful example of the importance of combining medicine, knowledge, and community resilience—and it left participants feeling newly empowered and hopeful for the future.

POST-TRANSPLANT MEDICATION AND LIFESTYLE: PRACTICAL WEBINAR EMPOWERS LUNG TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS AND CANDIDATES

On Monday, April 21, 2025, a special webinar brought together over a hundred participants from Israel's transplant community for an informative and practical session focused on medications, supplements, and lifestyle considerations after lung transplantation.



The webinar, hosted by Lanshom – The Israeli Lung Disease Association and the Israeli Pulmonary Hypertension Association, in collaboration with the Pharmaceutical Association of Israel, was led by Dr. Ran Nisan of the clinical division of the Pharmaceutical Association.

Drawing from dozens of real questions raised by transplant recipients over the years, Dr. Nisan delivered a clear, structured, and accessible presentation designed to address common concerns and debunk persistent myths.

KEY TOPICS INCLUDED:

- When and how to take medications and how to safely integrate supplements
- Which supplements may be harmful to transplant recipients and which are beneficial
- Strategies to minimize side effects and avoid dangerous drug interactions
- Guidance on painkillers, sleep aids, nutrition, probiotics, and sun exposure

The session provided participants—lung, kidney, liver, heart, and bone marrow transplant recipients, candidates, and their families—with essential, up-to-date information in a supportive and welcoming format.

Held on Zoom and offered at no cost with prior registration, the event was part of an ongoing effort by patient organizations and medical professionals to empower transplant recipients with knowledge that supports long-term health and quality of life.

Feedback from participants emphasized the clarity and relevance of the content, with many expressing appreciation for the opportunity to receive expert advice tailored to their unique needs.



At ICS Beethoven in Casaluce (CE), the spotlight shines on pulmonary hypertension.

“ASD PALLAVOLO CASALUCE AND AMIP ODV”



On May 5th, the world comes together to celebrate World Pulmonary Hypertension (PH) Day — a day that goes beyond medicine, beyond statistics, beyond definitions. It is a day that speaks of real lives, of struggling bodies, of weary hearts, of breaths that become daily battles. It is a day with a single purpose: to shine a light on a rare, invisible, and often forgotten disease.

Pulmonary hypertension is a progressive disease that affects the blood vessels of the lungs. A condition that reduces autonomy, freedom, and quality of life. But what hurts most is the time that passes without answers — a diagnosis that arrives late, when the damage is already advanced. Symptoms that are confused, ignored, or underestimated. Silent signals, often lost in the noise of a fast-paced life.

Yet behind every diagnosis are real people. Women and men, children and the elderly, who face an invisible challenge with courage every single day. This day is a strong and urgent call — an invitation to look deeper, a chance to stop and listen to those who have no voice.

It is a call to medicine: to promote training for general practitioners, to encourage timely referrals to specialist centers, and to recognize the signs of the disease before it's too late.

It is a call to science: to continue advancing research, seeking innovative, sustainable, and accessible therapeutic solutions.



It is a call to politics: to place the health of rare disease patients at the center, investing resources, supporting orphan drugs, and guaranteeing social and employment protections.

Today is the time to look up.

World Pulmonary Hypertension Day teaches us that awareness is a collective responsibility. To learn, to speak, to share means saving time, energy, and lives. It means leaving no one behind and rejecting the idea that rarity equals insignificance.



Everyone living with pulmonary hypertension has the right to early diagnosis, appropriate care, psychological support, and recognition.

Because only together can we transform silence into listening. Only together can we turn fragility into shared strength. Only together can we build a world that is fairer, more inclusive, and more humane.

But let's also talk about how this beautiful day came to be. A special thank-you goes to our sports association “Pallavolo Casaluce” and to AMIP (Italian Pulmonary Hypertension Patients Association), represented by our coach, Lello.

A wonderful day of Sport, Fun, Inclusion, Reflection, and Hope.

Together, we can!

Maria T.
Gioia M.

JAPAN

The global campaign of "Sometimes, it's PH" has demonstrated that PH patients face the same challenge everywhere. Japan is no exception.

Kiyoko told her story that started in 2002. She was then first diagnosed with pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). Years later, in 2015, her diagnosis was updated to chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension (CTEPH). Despite the challenges, Kiyoko manages her condition with oral medication and oxygen therapy.

Now, she dedicates her time to supporting other patients,

offering hope and understanding from her own experience. Her quiet strength and commitment to helping others shine through every day.

The Japanese association is very busy organizing the 18th National PH conference that will take place on the 19th of October in Tokyo.

PHA Japan and the Japanese Circulation Society is also working on publishing the Lay Summary of Pulmonary Hypertension Guidelines in Japanese that will help patients to better understand this rare disease.

第18回 全国PH大会
最新の治療と患者のQOL
2025年10月19日 日
 時間：10:30～15:30
 (10:00 受付開始/10:30 開会)

講演テーマ

プログラム① 最新のガイドラインと期待される新薬(ソタテルセプト・マシテンタン75mg治療)
 ※共催セッション 田村雄一先生

プログラム② 期待される新薬(トレボスチニルDPI/PDGF受容体阻害薬)
 波多野 将先生

プログラム③ 小児 期待される新薬(ウブトラビ)
 福島 裕之先生

プログラム④ CTEPH 最新のガイドラインに基づいた患者の治療とQOL
 ※共催セッション 田邊 信宏先生

プログラム⑤ 将来期待される遺伝子治療
 平出 貴裕先生

※厚生労働省難治性疾患等政策研究事業「難治性呼吸器疾患・肺高血圧症に関する調査研究」班との共催です

ブース出展
 PAHの会の患者ブースや、様々な企業ブースの出展がごございます!!

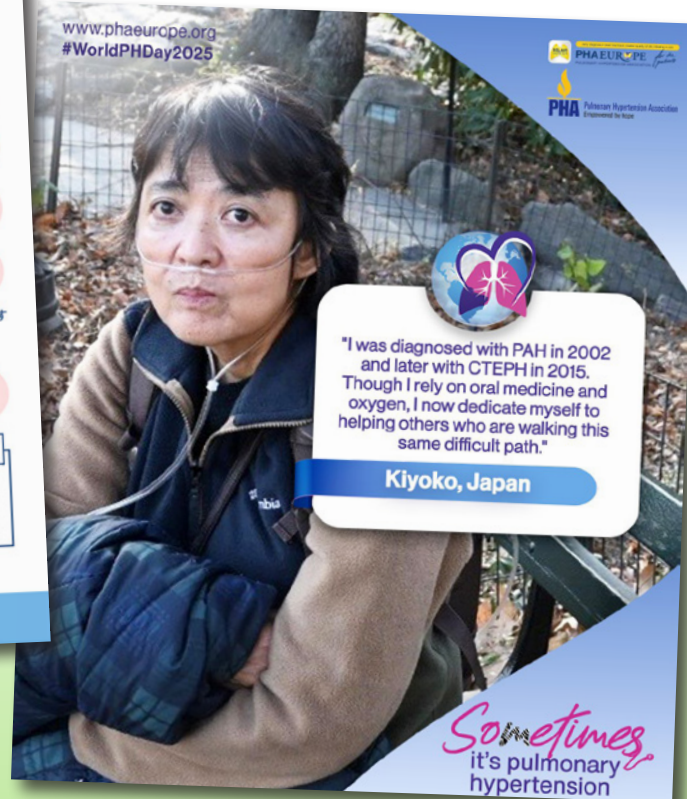
会場 慶應義塾大学病院 2号館 11階 大会議室/中会議室
 住所：東京都新宿区信濃町3-5

費用 会員 無料 一般 1,000円

お問い合わせ先：phajapankansai@gmail.com (PAHの会)

主催：NPO法人 PAHの会 協力：株式会社ピアハーモニー

お申込みはこちら



LATVIA

On May 9, 2025, in honor of **World Pulmonary Hypertension Day**, Pauls Stradiņš Clinical University Hospital hosted the **Oxygen Festival, which was attended by 135 participants**. The event was led by **Ieva Plūme**, Chairperson of the Board of the Pulmonary Hypertension Society. **Dr. med. Dace Žentiņa**, a Board member of Stradiņš Hospital, gave a warm opening speech.

During the session **"Exercise and breathe with a physiotherapist,"** physiotherapist **Līna Puga** taught the audience exercises to improve well-being in daily life and provided individual consultations. Our social mentor, **Inga Zonberga**, was always available for conversations with participants. Additionally, a tactile and informative session on discrimination against people with disabilities was conducted by **Ivars Balodis**, Head of the association of disabled people and their friends "Apeirons," as well as **Liena Eisaka**, the communications manager of "Apeirons".

In a new format for our association – the **World Café** – festival participants discussed hobbies and future dreams, encouraged each other, and shared experiences on improving

emotional health. The World Café moderators were Pulmonary Hypertension Association representatives **Linda Romanovska**, **Inga Zonberga**, **Līna Puga**, and **Arta Krūze**.

Līna Puga, physiotherapist, stated: "The physiotherapist's visit in a consultation format seemed to work well; we could both understand the patient's problem and provide advice. The World Café was a fantastic idea because people opened up, found common ground, and helped and encouraged each other – like in group therapy."

Throughout the day, medical assistants **Aiga Brazauska** and **Ilze Pūķe** performed over 100 express health tests, as there was significant interest in free tests from seniors, people with disabilities, hospital staff, and other interested individuals. Measuring oxygen saturation in the body and trying out oxygen therapy was available at the information booth of SIA "Miega slimību centrs".

Ieva Plūme gave several interviews to the media about pulmonary arterial hypertension, the severity of the disease and the need for earlier diagnosis, the Oxygen Festival's progress,



health literacy, and the necessity to educate seniors and people with disabilities about discrimination, as well as how to recognize it, and how to promote accessibility.

The festival organizers extend their gratitude to all staff and festival volunteers for their contribution and endurance: project manager **Marta Augucēviča**, event concept author Ieva Plūme, PHA representatives **Inga Zonberga, Linda Romanovska, Līna Puga**, and volunteers – **Ieva Arāja, Zane Lazdiņa, Arta Krūze**, and **Marks Plūme**! A special thanks to Pauls Stradiņš Clinical University Hospital for hosting and providing hospitality for the third Oxygen Festival!

Arta Krūze, Oxygen Festival volunteer, shared: “The Oxygen Festival was more than just an event – it was a moment of inspiration. For seniors and people with disabilities, it was an opportunity to check their health, learn about the association’s work, and simply be together. I was touched by the moment when people wrote their dreams on paper – such a seemingly small step, yet so significant.”



Environmental accessibility for people in wheelchairs was ensured at the event, with signs indicating event proceedings and the program. At registration, each interested person received information about the activities, and we explained the queueing order for express tests. Sign language interpretation was provided for people with hearing disabilities during the general part of the event, along with support for health tests and consultations.

This year, the World Pulmonary Hypertension Day 2025 event was supported by **Pulmonary Hypertension Association Europe, SIA “Hipnos”**, biopharmaceutical company **“Gossamer Bio Ltd.”** and **Skrīveru Pārtikas Kombināts**.



NIGERIA

WORLD PULMONARY HYPERTENSION DAY 2025 EVENT ORGANIZED BY CARDIAC COMMUNITY ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT INITIATIVE

On May 12th, 2025, A Pulmonary Hypertension (PH) Awareness Event was held to commemorate World Pulmonary Hypertension Day. The theme was ‘Sometimes, It’s Pulmonary Hypertension’. Organized by Cardiac Community the event focused on increasing public and medical awareness of Pulmonary Hypertension, a frequently underdiagnosed condition in Nigeria. The program brought together healthcare professionals, advocates, medical students, and the public to deepen understanding of PH

symptoms, management strategies, and the critical importance of early detection. We welcomed 107 participants. The opening speech was delivered by Mr. Agbaraojo. First Dr. Oyewole Kushimo (Consultant Cardiologist, Lagos University Teaching Hospital) talked about Understanding Pulmonary Hypertension. Next speakers were Dr. Peter Igoche (Pediatric Cardiologist, Limi Children’s hospital, Abuja) and Dr. Temitope Quaye (Hematology Department, Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), Idi-Araba, Lagos) . Then Ayotunde Omitogun, Founder of Cardiac Community, shared her personal journey living with PH in Nigeria, underscoring the importance of advocacy and support networks.



The event was concluded with an Interactive Q&A Session where participants could ask specific questions, clarify doubts, and engage directly with the speakers.

Two national media outlets: The Guardian Nigeria and Punch Newspapers reported about the event. We are proud that the Social Media Reach for WPHD Campaign was over 30,000 views on all platforms.

OBJECTIVE OF THE EVENT

- Raise awareness of PH symptoms, risk factors, and management
- Highlighting the intersection of pulmonary hypertension and sickle cell disease in Nigeria, where SCD prevalence is highest globally.
- Promote early detection, timely diagnosis, and appropriate treatment



'SOMETIMES IT'S PH' CAMPAIGN

WPHD as a global awareness campaign unites all PH patients across the globe. Mary and Ayotunde from Nigeria share their personal journeys with PH, joining patients worldwide in expressing the same feelings of fear and anxiety caused by misdiagnoses and dismissal, as well as the relief that comes with finally receiving a correct diagnosis.

Mary recalls how years of breathlessness and fatigue, often mistaken for asthma, made school life difficult. Only after a right heart catheterization did she finally receive the correct diagnosis of pulmonary hypertension. Today, she focuses her energy on writing and creative work, finding new ways to live fully.

Ayotunde, born with a congenital heart defect, sought surgery more than a decade ago but was instead diagnosed with severe pulmonary hypertension—a disease she had never heard of and never imagined could result from her heart condition. Her story reflects the challenges of delayed diagnosis and the urgent need for greater awareness in Nigeria.



NORTH MACEDONIA



This year, we continued a heartfelt tradition that has been part of our association for over a decade. In honor of all those living with Pulmonary Hypertension (PH), and in memory of those who have lost their courageous battle with the disease, we organized a meaningful day filled with movement, music, and togetherness.

The day began with our annual **10km awareness run**, drawing in participants of all ages and backgrounds. With every step taken, we celebrated the strength of patients living with PH and honored those we've lost. The energy, determination, and sense of unity among the runners was truly inspiring — a powerful reminder that our association stands together in the fight against this challenging condition.



As the evening approached, we shifted the rhythm from running to music, gathering at a local bar for a **small but vibrant concert**. The atmosphere was electric, with everyone proudly wearing our signature **"Get Breathless" shirts** — a symbolic gesture of empathy for those who live each day battling shortness of breath and other symptoms of PH. The shirts weren't just attire; they were a message. A call to raise awareness and show support.



This event is more than just a run or a concert — it's a reflection of over ten years of commitment, love, and advocacy. We're proud to be part of a community that continues to show up, speak out, and support one another, year after year.

We thank everyone who participated, donated, or simply helped spread the word. Together, we're making a difference — one step, one song, and one story at a time.



NORWAY

At the world PH day, we attended a meeting with the Coalition of Rare Diseases in a round table conference in Oslo.

The meeting was to advocate for and increase the understanding and availability of treatments for rare diseases with advanced therapies (ATMP) and other types of precision medicine.

Professionals and patients from the main University Hospitals, the central organisations for the main disability organisations (FFO), Medical companies (Roche, MSD, Novartis, Sanofil), and



Coalition of rare diseases and patient representatives, attended the meeting.

The goal of the meeting was to increase the cooperation between the private and public sector to make precision medicine more available for patients with rare diseases.

There were two main goals/objectives for the conference: one was to make access faster for patients with rare diseases to clinical studies in Norway, and the other was to gain faster access for patients with rare diseases to international studies.

Another goal was to connect these groups from public health, patient organisations, and industry and authorities, to get to know each other and know about each other, so that challenges and possibilities could be addressed.

Some national and international cooperations for paediatrics and cystic fibrosis fields were addressed with inspiring patients histories.

Ann-Kathrin Bruheim
PAH Norway



POLAND

WORLD PULMONARY HYPERTENSION DAY IN POLAND

For years, Poland has been trying to make information about our disease public. Unfortunately, we notice that many doctors are unable to diagnose the disease, and patients go to the hospital too late. That is why we are trying, with all our might, to speak loudly about pulmonary hypertension. We want to make our presence known on social media.

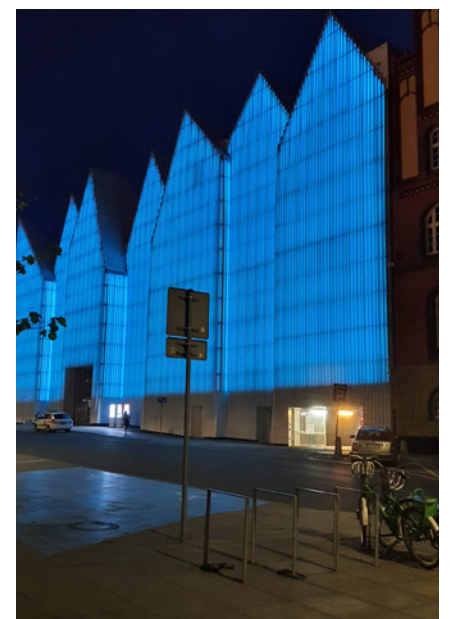
This year (like in previous years), we asked cities to light up their facilities in blue. Many cities joined the campaign. In the evening, some facilities lit up in blue in a gesture of solidarity with the sick. Our association went to the city of Bielsko Biala to stand on the bridge at 8 p.m., which was blue that day especially for us.

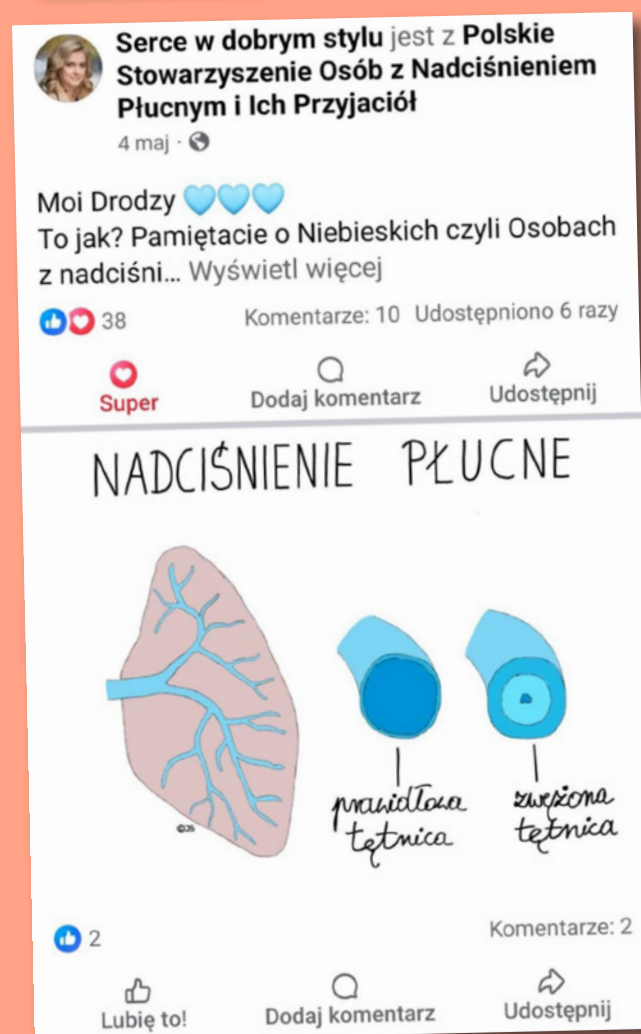
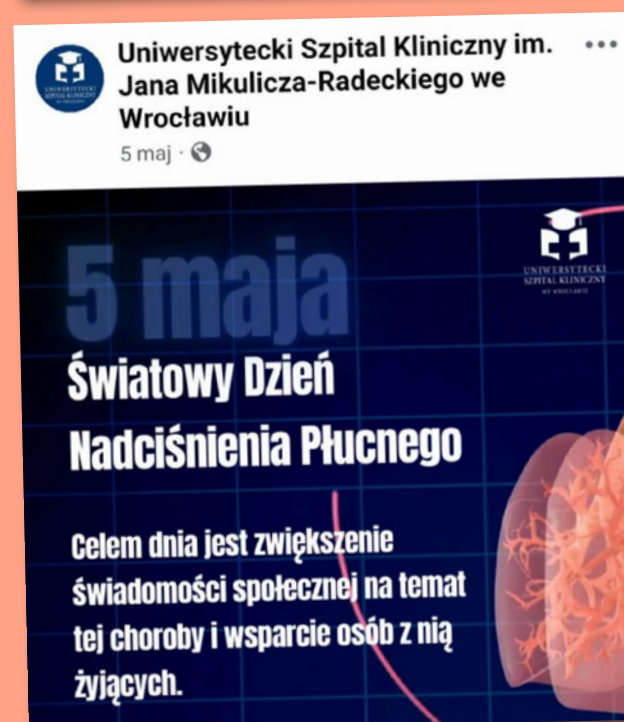
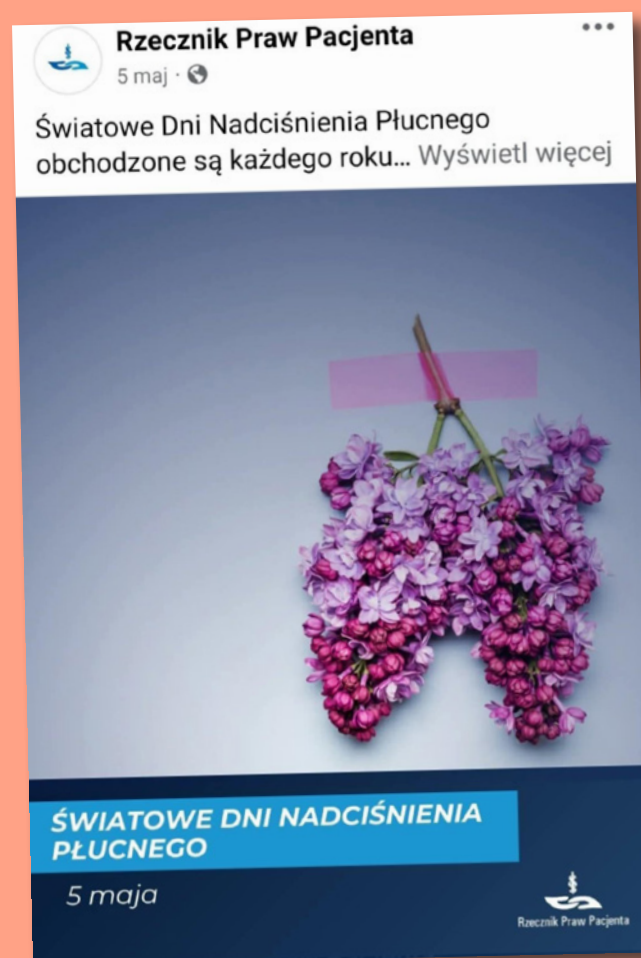
We tried to get many important people to write about us. The Patient Rights Ombudsman, Cardiologists, our doctors, our hospitals, city councilors, and cities joined the campaign. Our friendly associations, editors, who, at our request, wrote or shared our posts, educating the society at the same time, joined the campaign.

On the radio, at high noon, there was a programme dedicated to our disease, where the editor read information about pulmonary hypertension for a long time. In the city of Wagrowiec, in the cinema for a whole week, before each film screening, a board about the disease was shown. On the occasion of World PH Day, the car company AGP Polska donated water bottles with the association's logo. During the photo session in car showrooms, we told the employees about our disease.

On this important day for us, we signed an agreement with the badaniakliniczne.pl platform, so that our patients can have very quick access to new clinical trials, especially when the patient also has other diseases.

We also started a cooperation with the writer Kinga Fukushima from Poland, who has been living in Japan for years. Mrs. Kinga wrote a great book „Pozbawieni Oddechu”, where the main character suffers from pulmonary arterial hypertension. Mrs. Kinga asked our association to review the book before it was published.





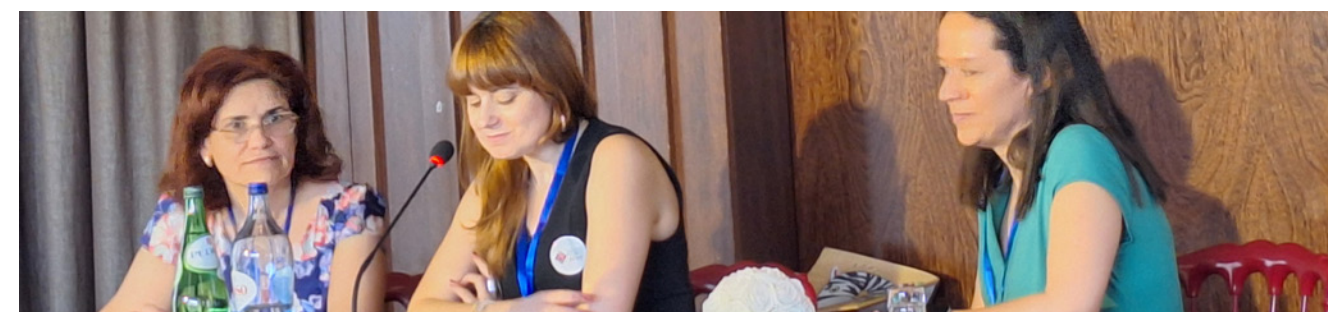
PORTUGAL

United in the "Battle" for PH – A Weekend of Connection, Awareness, and Hope

The weekend of May 17–18 began with a warm welcome in the town of Batalha (meaning Battle), where each participant received a folder containing informative literature, the full weekend program, and a piece of a puzzle. This puzzle served as an engaging icebreaker—each piece contributing to the construction of our WPHD (World PH Day) poster. The activity symbolized the power of unity: that only by working together can we build something meaningful and strong. It reminded us that every person plays an essential role in the fight against Pulmonary Hypertension.

Under the slogan United in Batalha/Battle for PH, the event brought together patients, families, friends, and healthcare professionals from five of Portugal's PH reference centers. The event was a remarkable success.

Key highlights included the presentation of two insightful studies: one on PH literacy in Portugal, and the other on the impact of PH on patients' lives. A heartfelt conversation between our President and author Cristina Terencio about her book offered comfort and inspiration. Cristina generously donated all May book sales to the association in support of our work.



A communal lunch gave participants the opportunity to relax, chat, and truly connect. That evening, we lit up the streets of Batalha with a vibrant neon walk, led by an athlete from the local sports club, an unforgettable moment of solidarity and visibility. Day two continued with more health-focused talks, another group walk, and a visit to the historic Batalha Monastery. A final lunch was held, where each participant received a souvenir, and PH patients were presented with a small but meaningful gift.

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive—from attendees and those following along through the growing media attention surrounding PH. The excellent collaboration between the association and healthcare professionals was also widely recognized. Strengthening and improving this partnership has been a long-standing goal, and we believe this event brought us closer than ever, reinforcing mutual trust and confidence in our mission.



Media & Awareness Initiatives in May

Several articles were published in health magazines and newspapers, both in print and online. Two television reports on national news were featured, a highlight in our PH awareness efforts.

Launch of “Ambassador of Hope” Programme

Our long term project “Ambassador of Hope” was soft-launched at WPHD. This programme is meant to empower patients, families, and healthcare professionals to become active advocates on a more regular basis for PH awareness. The participants are now being organized into three regional groups,- North, Centre and South,- each one aligned with the PH reference centers in their area. Their tasks include local awareness campaigns, fundraising, and event participation in community events. This ensures that awareness efforts are spread across the entire country, including less populated and rural areas, where visibility and access are often limited. The initiative has been met with great enthusiasm and strong attendance, and is already showing a meaningful impact.



ROMANIA

In May 2025, there were two events for the Romanian Association:

MAY 16TH - HTAP CONNECT

On May 16, a meeting between patients, doctors, authorities, and media representatives called „PHA Connect” was organized. The meeting took place in Bucharest.

Representatives of the National Health Insurance House, leaders of PH centers in Romania, representatives of the Association of Patients with Chronic Diseases in Romania, and the media responded to the organizers’ invitation.

The topics discussed were related to patient access to treatment and monitoring, early diagnosis possibilities, and PH in children.

Another important point was the presentation of the results of the study on the socio-medical needs of PH patients in Romania, conducted by COPAC and the PH patient association.

A deeply moving moment was the story of the first PAH patient present at the event, which was listened to with emotion by all those present.

The end of the day was reserved for discussions with patients, the presentation of special cases, and plans for organizing new meetings in cities where PHT treatment centers operate in Romania.





MAY 29TH - AER LA INALTIME

The AER project—Effective Access to Healthcare System Resources for Patients with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension—is an initiative of the Romanian Association of Pulmonary Hypertension Patients. The project aims to enhance the diagnosis process, improve access to innovative therapies, and promote sustainable care for patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH).

The exhibition featured ten expressive collages and hiking articles, illustrating the unseen challenges of people living with PAH.

Just as the right equipment is essential for setting out on a mountain trail, patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension need the right support, tools, and resources. The exhibition used the symbolism of mountain trails as a metaphor for the struggle for a normal life and equitable access to medical care.

„At over 8,000 meters in the Himalayas, thin air and extreme exertion are part of a conscious choice to take on a challenge. But here, at



sea level, these difficulties can be a daily reality for other people. For patients with pulmonary hypertension, climbing a few steps can be equivalent to climbing a peak. These people climb their own Everest every day, in silence. I believe that, beyond empathy, their suffering, which is often invisible, requires real action and concrete support,” said Alex Găvan, high-altitude mountaineer and collaborator on the AER project.

He emphasized to the Health Committee the importance of early diagnosis, access to modern treatments, and ongoing support.

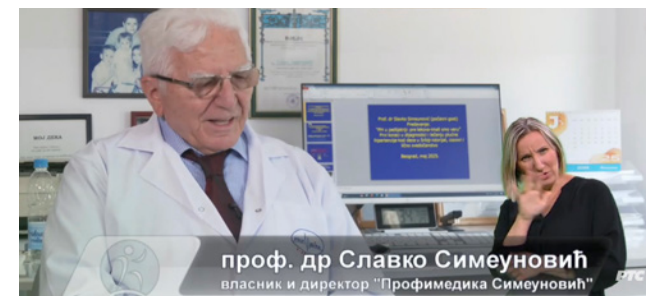


SERBIA

Belgrade marks World Pulmonary Hypertension Day and the 10th Anniversary of PH Serbia Association on May 26, 2025, hosting a remarkable conference dedicated to pulmonary hypertension (PH), symbolically marking both World Pulmonary Hypertension Day and PH Serbia's anniversary. The event gathered around 50 attendees from Serbia and the surrounding region, making it one of the most significant gatherings focused on this rare and complex disease.

Distinguished medical experts spoke at the event and were among the honored guests, including Prof. Dr. Slavko Simeunović, Prof. Dr. Arsen Ristić, Dr. Luka Babić, cardiac surgeon, and Prof. Jovan Matijašević, along with many others, whose presence enriched the event and contributed to the comprehensive scientific program.

A significant portion of the conference was devoted to innovative therapies, as well as the exchange of knowledge and experience in diagnosing and treating pulmonary hypertension. Special emphasis



was placed on a multidisciplinary approach and the everyday clinical challenges that healthcare professionals face. Guests from various parts of Serbia and the region were warmly welcomed as esteemed friends of the PH Serbia Association, which, thanks to the understanding and support of its donors, was able to host such an important event.

In addition to celebrating major anniversaries, this conference, once again, demonstrated the strength of unity and dedication in the fight against pulmonary hypertension.



SLOVAKIA

PHA Slovakia has been actively involved in the campaign for World PH Day this year. We were already actively preparing for the campaign in April. We published invitations to activities on social networks and athletes also supported us by participating in three running competitions.

The Rare Diseases Association, with which we have been cooperating for several years, prepared a podcast with President of the Slovak Society of Cardiology Milan Luknár on the issue of PAH. At the end of April, we launched a campaign on social networks using common graphics from PHAE.

On April 29, we prepared a press conference at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases in Bratislava. The chairwoman Iveta Makovníková reported on the activities over the past 15 years. However, a hot topic was the need for innovative treatment for patients with PAH. Specialists in the treatment of PH, the head of the institute, doc. Eva Goncalvesová and President of the Slovak Society of Cardiology Dr. Milan Luknár, also spoke about these issues. For patients with PAH, this treatment is extremely important for a better quality of life and its prolongation. The last option is lung transplantation, but there are still few donors. The head of the University Hospital in Bratislava, Dr. Marta Hájková, head of the Center for Pre-Transplantation Preparation, spoke about lung transplantation as the last option of treatment. The output from this press conference was published in several public media.



On the 15th anniversary of the association's founding, the opening of the traveling exhibition *Let's Breathe Together* took place, which followed up on wall calendars distributed to selected specialist clinics in Slovakia. The aim of the exhibition is to spread awareness about PAH and find people who still do not have a correct diagnosis. The project was prepared by ZPPH in cooperation with the Rare Diseases Association. The exhibition will travel to Slovak hospitals until the end of 2026.

On May 15th, our runners took part in the 375 km long Vltava run relay race wearing *Get breathless for PH* T-shirts with portraits of patients on their backs. In addition to this run, they also represented us at *Wings for life* and *Urban challenge*.

The main event for World PH Day was the long-term project „I will stand up for you“, in which we involve the general public. This year, we held the ninth annual symbolic climb to the mountain peaks in Slovakia. The climb to Veľký Javorník (1072 m) took place in the Slovak-Moravian Carpathians. Despite the rain and wind, 111 tourists of various age categories took part in the climb, starting from the young age of 1.5 years old. On the evening of the climb, an information seminar was traditionally held, which, this time, was dedicated to the activities of the association over the past 15 years. Lukáš, a PAH patient, who is waiting for a heart and lung transplant, spoke very emotionally about his desires. We also celebrated his 30th birthday.





SLOVENIA

REPORT ON EVENTS MARKING WORLD PULMONARY HYPERTENSION DAY



Pulmonary Hypertension Association of Slovenia organized an event on May 12, 2025 at Slovenski trg, Kranj. The event Every Breath Counts aimed to raise public awareness about pulmonary hypertension – a rare but serious disease that significantly impacts patients' quality of life. It took place in the city center of Kranj, between 1 PM and 6 PM, offering visitors the opportunity to:

- learn about the symptoms of the disease (shortness of breath, fatigue, dizziness),
- talk to doctors, patients, and members of the association,
- experience a simulation of breathing as a person with pulmonary hypertension through a modified six-minute walk test.



The event was supported by medical experts from the University Clinic Golnik:

- **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Boštjan Rituper, MD**, specialist in pulmonology
- **Asst. Prof. Dr. Barbara Salobir, MD**, specialist in internal medicine
- **Asst. Dr. Polona Mlakar, MD**, specialist in internal medicine
- **Anja Ilovär Bezjak, MD**
- **Andraž Jug, MD**

Through an interactive approach, we increased public recognition of the disease and encouraged reflection on the importance of early symptom detection. The event was well attended and received media coverage, further amplifying its impact.



The Pulmonary Hypertension Association of Slovenia participated in a free public health event organized by the Health Promotion Center of the Ljubljana Health Center on May 19, 2025. The event featured participation from various healthcare institutions and professionals offering:

- consultations on healthy lifestyles,
- preventive measurements and tests (blood pressure, blood sugar, etc.),
- individual advice tailored to different age groups.

Our presence focused on:

- raising awareness about pulmonary hypertension,
- engaging in discussions with visitors about symptoms and diagnosis,
- conducting an experiential simulation of breathing with "PH lungs" (using a nose clip and straws),
- encouraging the healthy population to understand the limitations faced by patients.

This event enabled us to extend our message to a broader audience, reaching people of all generations. By being part of a larger public health initiative, we contributed to greater recognition of pulmonary hypertension, even among those previously unfamiliar with the disease.



CONCLUSION

Both the organized event in Kranj and our participation in the broader public health initiative in Ljubljana were crucial to fulfilling the association’s mission: **awareness, education, patient support, and increasing understanding of the disease in society.**

Through direct engagement with the public and the support of medical professionals, we successfully presented pulmonary hypertension, its symptoms, and the challenges patients face — with the ultimate goal of promoting earlier detection and faster intervention.

MEDIA OUTREACH IN MAY 2025

In addition to organizing and participating in awareness-raising events, the Pulmonary Hypertension Association of Slovenia was highly active and remarkably successful in media engagement throughout May.

We appeared in various national and local media, including:

- Television and radio broadcasts,
- Print and online magazines,
- Collaborations with social media influencers.

Our television and radio appearances were designed as in-depth, advisory-style conversations, providing not only medical insights but also personal experiences and emotional support. These segments allowed for interactive participation from viewers and listeners, who could call in or submit questions, making the dialogue more meaningful and engaging.

Several influencers amplified our key messages by sharing our content across social media platforms, significantly

increasing our visibility and reach. This widespread media presence helped us engage a large and diverse audience, raising public awareness of pulmonary hypertension and improving the general understanding of the disease. Thanks to this strong media presence, we succeeded in delivering our mission to educate, inform, and support – not only through events but also through the power of public communication.

JONUKA400 – One Breathless Mission Succeeds: Jona and Luka Kobler Set (Unofficial for now) Guinness World Record

After 102 hours and 27 minutes of uninterrupted sailing, sixteen-year-old **Jona Kobler** and her father Luka Kobler have broken the **Guinness World Record** for the longest distance sailed by a double-handed dinghy crew – without external assistance and without setting foot on land. From Tuesday morning to Saturday afternoon, the duo covered **347 nautical miles** aboard their Beneteau First 14 SE, surpassing the previous record of **335 nautical miles**, set in 2021 by Uroš Kraševac and Maruša Močnik.

“We had an incredible few days on the boat. We were well organized, coordinated, and time flew by. Our goal was clear: to do something that held meaning – for us, for others, and for the message we wanted to share,” said Jona Kobler at the conclusion of the voyage.

More Than Just a Record

The **JONUKA400 – One Breathless Mission** carried a powerful symbolic message. The Koblers dedicated their feat to raising awareness about **pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH)** – a rare, life-threatening disease that leaves patients breathless, even with minimal exertion. Their days at sea brought this reality to life in a tangible way. Prolonged periods of calm winds forced them to sail longer than expected, with progress coming slowly – a fitting metaphor for those living with PAH.

“Patients with pulmonary hypertension face their own kind of ‘calm’ every day,” explained **Tadeja Ravnik**, president of the Slovenian Pulmonary Hypertension Society. *“The disease robs them of breath – a condition that can only be partially alleviated with timely diagnosis and proper treatment. It often makes it difficult to pursue even the simplest life goals.”*

A Story of Connection – And What Comes Next

For Luka Kobler, the mission was about far more than a world record:

“What continues to amaze me is how many people helped create this beautiful, inspiring story. It might sound strange, but I experienced the whole challenge as the ultimate adventure. And this success – it’s not just

ours, it belongs to the entire team.”
But the journey doesn’t end here. The **JONUKA400 project – One Breathless Mission** will continue in fall 2025, when former record-holder **Uroš Kraševac** takes on the legendary **Mini Transat**, a solo transatlantic race sailed in tiny 6.5-meter boats. Alone at sea, with no advanced navigation or communication systems, each sailor must rely entirely on their own skills and determination.

The Breathless Mission Lives On

The legacy of JONUKA400 is a story of courage, collaboration, and resilience. And as it continues, its mission remains clear: *to raise awareness about pulmonary hypertension – a disease that takes your breath away, but not your will to live.*



SPAIN ANHP

GET SENSITIZED: WE ARE PULMONARY HYPERTENSION

In the context of World Pulmonary Hypertension Day, commemorated every May 5th, the National Association of Pulmonary Hypertension (ANHP) has carried out an extensive awareness campaign throughout the month under the slogan “Get sensitized, we are Pulmonary Hypertension,” with the aim of raising awareness about this rare and serious disease that affects more than 5,000 people in Spain. As the organization behind the inaugural World PH Day in 2012, ANHP has upheld a strong commitment to raising awareness, supporting patients, and advocating for social and institutional change. This year’s campaign focused on emotional connection, community involvement, and education, running from May 1st to 31st and achieving significant impact locally, nationally and internationally.

HIGHLIGHTED CAMPAIGN ACTIONS

1. Symbolic Lightings Across Spain

On May 5th, dozens of cities and towns throughout Spain joined the “Shine a Light on Pulmonary Hypertension” initiative by illuminating iconic buildings, fountains, and monuments in purple light. This initiative, now a well-established tradition in our annual campaign, aims to spark public curiosity and create opportunities for conversations about the disease.

2. Immersive Experience. “Feel Pulmonary Hypertension”

The same day, we organized an event at the esplanade of La Paz University Hospital in Madrid. Attendees were able to symbolically experience what it’s like to live with PH through an interactive installation that simulated the breathing difficulties and constant tiredness associated with the disease.

3. Educational Sessions for Patients

We were involved in informative sessions held at Miguel Servet University Hospital (Zaragoza) and La Paz University Hospital (Madrid). On May 7th, we co-organized a workshop alongside the Pulmonary Hypertension Unit at Virgen de la Victoria Hospital (Málaga), aimed at patients and their families. Collaboration with healthcare professionals is a pillar for providing comprehensive support to patients.



4. Therapeutic Writing Workshop

On May 13th, an online emotional writing session was conducted by our psychologist. This workshop allowed patients and caregivers to express their experiences with the disease from a therapeutic perspective, helping to verbalize emotions and reinforce the feeling of community.



5. Member's Meetup in Madrid

On May 23rd, we organized a special social event for ANHP members, promoting the exchange of experiences and the reinforcement of mutual support among patients and families. During the gathering, we held a workshop on “Exercise for Patients with Pulmonary Hypertension” in collaboration with OXIMESA NIPPON GASES S.L., Carlos, the physiotherapist, helped us understand the importance of exercise for our condition, and we performed some exercises to improve respiratory muscle strength.



A MESSAGE THAT CROSSES BORDERS

Throughout the campaign, we have strengthened outreach on social media, digital platforms, and in the media, and actively supported the international campaign led by PHA Europe. As part of this network, we recognize the importance of coordinated and solidarity-driven action across the continent.

Pulmonary hypertension is a progressive disease, hard to identify and manage, affecting people of all ages- although it is more common in young women. The current average diagnostic delay ranges between 12 and 18 months, a delay that can seriously compromise prognosis. That is why we continue raising our voice to demand fair access to specialized centers across all the regions and to keep promoting awareness campaigns that inform society about the symptoms, impact, and real needs of those affected.

“Because Every BREATH Counts”

At ANHP, we believe that behind every diagnosis is a story of silent battle. Our 2025 campaign has been a demonstration of unity, visibility, and hope. We claim that every breath counts, which is why we will keep working every day so that pulmonary hypertension stops being an invisible disease.



SPAIN FCHP

WORLD PULMONARY HYPERTENSION DAY 2025

From the Spanish Pulmonary Hypertension Foundation (FCHP), we commemorated this special day with a full schedule of scientific, institutional, social, and digital awareness activities to raise the profile of the disease and strengthen support for patients and their families.



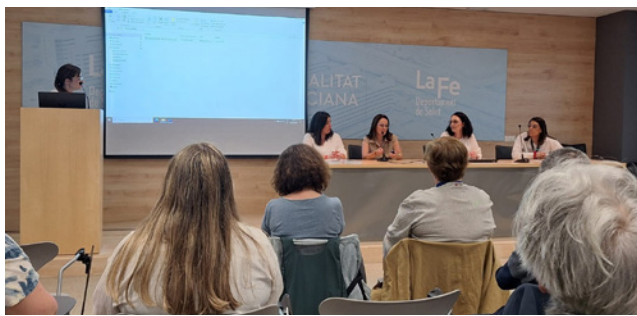
HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES:

- APRIL 29
 - Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital (Santander)
 - Patient sessions on Pulmonary Hypertension
- MAY 5 – WORLD PH DAY
 - La Fe University Hospital (Valencia)
 - La Paz University Hospital (Madrid)
 - Miguel Servet University Hospital (Zaragoza) Patient-focused educational sessions on PH
 - 8:00 PM -> Landmark buildings illuminated in cities across Spain
 - See map: https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1Tw5Trwj_e2z0Isx0gPo3xyxsTDX-B0M0&ll=41.65289790313028%2C-4.728733749999998&z=17



We also launched an awareness campaign on social media, sharing patient stories, expert voices, and key facts to raise understanding of life with Pulmonary Hypertension.

- **MAY 6**
 - Principality of Asturias
 - Institutional meeting with the Regional Minister of Health
- **MAY 22**
 - Clinical University Hospital of Salamanca
 - Patient session on Pulmonary Hypertension
- **JUNE 5**
 - Official grant award ceremony by FCHP
 - Dr. Eduardo Oliver (Spanish National Research Council - CSIC)
 - Awarded project: "New circulating biomarkers for diagnosis and therapeutic monitoring in patients with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension"



Thank you to everyone who took part, supported us, and helped raise awareness. We continue working together to promote research, visibility, and better quality of life for people living with Pulmonary Hypertension.



SPAIN HPE-ORG



HIPERTENSIÓN PULMONAR ESPAÑA ORG PACIENTES

"WITH A DISTINCT VOICE" - 5 MAY WPHDAY

On the occasion of the celebration of World Pulmonary Hypertension Day on 5 May, during the month of May, Hipertensión Pulmonar España Organización Pacientes has joined the Social Media campaign launched by PHA Europe together with PHA, and the entire Pulmonary Hypertension community worldwide, to raise awareness of this disease with the hashtags: [#pulmonaryhypertension](#) [#worldphday2025](#) [#pulmonaryhypertension](#) [#pulmonaryhypertensionspain](#) [#hpe](#) [#pulmonaryhypertension](#) [#worldpulmonaryhypertensionday](#) [#pulmonaryhypertension2025](#) [#pulmonaryhealth](#) [#rarediseases](#) [#visibilityhypertension](#)

In addition to the international campaign, HPE-ORG has run its own online social media campaign [#Convozpropia](#) ([#WithaDistinctVoice](#)), producing its own visuals and sharing the personal experiences of some of our partners and advice from the professionals who work with us on how to improve the quality of life for people affected by Pulmonary Hypertension through yoga, mindfulness and a healthy and balanced diet.

As in previous years, our organisation has involved our partners so that they are the ones who lead the implementation of face-to-face activities to give visibility to this disease in their own cities.



Thanks to this initiative, we have involved different city councils to illuminate buildings in blue in several cities in Spain, among them: the Fuente del Minero in Guardo, the Torre dels vents in Tarragona, the Cathedral of Sant Feliu de Llobregat, the House of Culture in Churriana de la Vega, the Hospital Universitario Clínico San Cecilio in Granada, and the Domus Vi residence in Lalín in Pontevedra. In all these cities, posters have been placed around the buildings, illuminated in blue, indicating the reason for the illumination to raise awareness about Pulmonary Hypertension.

Our members have also carried out activities in collaboration with other entities. Our partner Carmen Buján organised a pilates class in collaboration with the Victory gymnasium in Guardo (Palencia), held an exhibition on pulmonary hypertension and the importance of giving visibility to minority diseases such as pulmonary hypertension at the official language school in Guardo (Palencia), and organised a solidarity walk in support of patients with pulmonary hypertension, supported by the Guardo Town Council (Palencia).

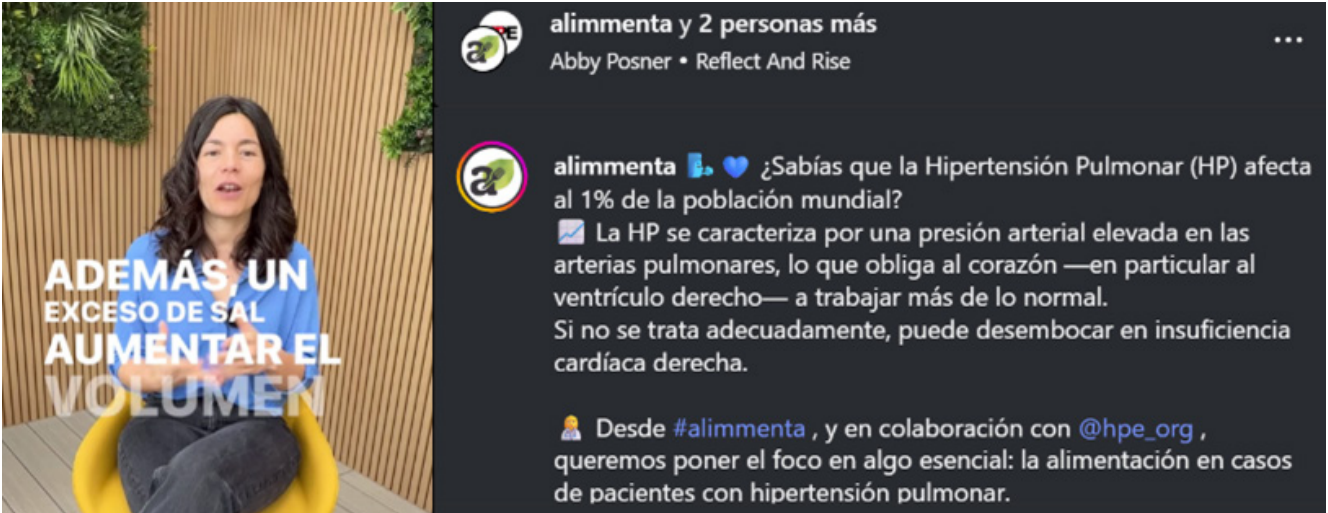
In addition, in Salamanca, our colleague Janeise Meneses organised a pilates class in collaboration with the AVIVA Foundation of Salamanca and a banner in favour of pulmonary hypertension was displayed during a basketball activity in collaboration with the same association. The AVIVA Foundation is a non-profit organisation whose aim is to defend the rights and improve the quality of life of people with disabilities and their families, oriented towards inclusion and participation in the community, who collaborate with HPE-ORG as we are united by disability. Finally, our colleague Lorea Ullibarriarana, affected by idiopathic PH, in active employment as a physiotherapist, once again dedicated the 5th of May to motivate her patients by celebrating the DMHP, turning her entire company to publicise and make PAH visible. She has carried out various handicrafts and activities in favour of PH together with the residents of the Domus Vi residence for the elderly in Lalín in Pontevedra.



Next to these activities, our colleague Maria was present at an information table provided by the City Council of Sant Feliu de Llobregat on the occasion of the celebration of 'La Fira' in this town, where she offered information about Pulmonary Hypertension and our association.

Among the activities carried out exclusively through social networks, we highlight the testimonies offered by our members about their experiences with pulmonary hypertension, and the advice on self-care offered by the professionals who accompany us on physical activity and breathing, mindfulness and healthy eating.

Furthermore, two free and open online workshops were offered, one on 'Digital Disconnection', which is so important nowadays, and one on the use of new culinary techniques to cook quickly without falling into bad eating habits.



Thanks to the valuable support of the organising association, the activities have been a success, both in their coordination and execution, as well as in the participation and reach achieved. The World Pulmonary Hypertension Day campaign has allowed us to experience a remarkable growth in our social media, especially in the level of interaction with our publications. This increase reflects our ability to reach new audiences and directly convey the reality of living with pulmonary hypertension.

Likewise, various organisations have joined in the dissemination, amplifying our messages and sharing our content, which has contributed to increasing the visibility of this little-known disease.

Finally, we would like to highlight the satisfaction we have received from the results achieved, and the involvement of all the participants throughout different cities. Yet another year, we have achieved that, by the end of May, more people know about Pulmonary Hypertension, became aware of the seriousness of this condition, and approached both our organisation and the services we offer.



#CONVOZPROPIA **Taller gratuito**



Desconexión digital
para mejorar tu salud mental

 Miércoles 4 de junio
 19:00h
 Plataforma Zoom



#CONVOZPROPIA



Taller gratuito
COCINA SALUDABLE
en tiempo récord

 Miércoles 11 de junio
 19:00h
 Plataforma Zoom




#CONVOZPROPIA 





Silvia Velasco
Paciente de
Hipertensión Pulmonar




#WordIPHDay2025

 **HIPERTENSIÓN PULMONAR**

5 DE MAYO DIA MUNDIAL DE LA HIPERTENSIÓN PULMONAR
Esta campaña existe gracias a ti!
Con voz propia



 **CENTRO MUNICIPAL DE CULTURA CHURRIANA**
CHURRIANA DE LA VEGA, GRANADA

 5 DE MAYO
 CENTRO MUNICIPAL DE CULTURA
 A LAS 21 H


EL CENTRO CULTURAL CHURRIANA SE ILUMINARÁ DE AZUL EN SOLIDARIDAD CON LOS AFECTADOS POR LA HIPERTENSIÓN PULMONAR

La Hipertensión Arterial Pulmonar (HAP) es una enfermedad rara, grave, progresiva, crónica y de manejo complicado, pudiendo ser diversos mecanismos fisiopatológicos, los que la desencadenan. La HAP se asocia con un importante incremento del riesgo de morbi-mortalidad cardiovascular y deterioro de la calidad de vida de los pacientes que la padecen, pues las personas afectadas se sienten cansadas, mareadas, con dificultad para respirar o que experimenten otros síntomas.


Ciertos cambios en las células que recubren las arterias pulmonares pueden causar que las paredes de las arterias se engrosen y endurezcan. Ello conlleva una reducción o bloqueo del flujo de sangre a través de las arterias pulmonares. Como resultado, la presión sanguínea en dichas arterias aumenta.

La hipertensión pulmonar puede afectar a cualquiera.
La HP no conoce fronteras.
Conoce los síntomas y ayuda a crear conciencia.


75%
DE LOS PACIENTES TIENEN UNA FORMAS AVANZADA DE HP AL MOMENTO DEL DIAGNÓSTICO


 AFECTA A MÁS MUJERES QUE A HOMBRERES. CADA 5 ENFERMOS POR 1 SON MUJERES




www.hipertension-pulmonar.com #WorldPHDay2025


 **HIPERTENSIÓN PULMONAR**




5 DE MAYO DIA MUNDIAL DE LA HIPERTENSIÓN PULMONAR
Esta campaña existe gracias a ti!
Con voz propia




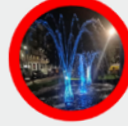
 **CENTRO VICTORY**
MASTERCLASS DE PILATES




 5 DE MAYO
 CENTRO VICTORY
 1ª CLASE A LAS 09:15 H
2ª CLASE A LAS 11:00 H


 **MARCHA SOLIDARIA POR LA HP**
POR LAS CALLES DE GUARDO, DESDE LA IGLESIA DE SANTA BÁRBARA A LA FUENTE DEL MINERO




 5 DE MAYO
 IGLESIA DE SANTA BÁRBARA
 A LAS 20:00 H

 **EL CENTRO VÍCTORY ORGANIZA UNA "MARCHA SOLIDARIA" POR LA HIPERTENSIÓN PULMONAR**
La marcha partirá desde la Iglesia Santa Bárbara hasta el supermercado "Lupa" para dar visibilidad a la Hipertensión Pulmonar

 **FUENTE DEL MINERO**
ILUMINACIÓN DE LA FUENTE DEL MINERO DE COLOR AZUL, COLOR DE LA HAP

 5 DE MAYO
 FUENTE DEL MINERO
 A LAS 21:00 H

 **ESCUELA OFICIAL DE IDIOMAS**
DARÁ SU CLASE DE INGLÉS CONCIENCIANDO DE LA HAP CON SUS CAMISETAS

 6 DE MAYO
 ESCUELA OFICIAL DE IDIOMAS
 A LAS 18:15 H

www.hipertension-pulmonar.com #WorldPHDay2025

SWEDEN

In May 2025, PAH Sweden organized a camp for patients with PAH and CTEPH for the seventh time. Every other year, we invite patients under the age of 50, and in alternating years, patients over 50. This year, it was the younger group who participated. For many of the participants, this was the first time they met and got to know others living with the same condition, and our evaluations show that the camp is highly appreciated. The camp takes place from Thursday to Sunday, and the days are filled with a mix of education, discussions, and excursions on the beautiful island of Fårö. We thank PH Europe for their contribution to the event!



UKRAINE PHA

On May 10, 2025, Ukraine joined the global community in marking World Pulmonary Hypertension Day. In Kyiv, at a picturesque riverside location on the Dnipro River, patients with PH, their families, and partners gathered to declare to the world: **"We are more than PH."**

This day became an empowering event that united people and transformed a diagnosis into a supportive community. During the gathering, a physical activity workshop was held by Iryna Sydorchuk — an experienced yoga instructor, and a person living with pulmonary hypertension. Her story is truly inspiring, as she continues to live an active life despite her diagnosis. In addition, Iryna presented her own book of poetry, written from her personal experience of living with PH. Her poems deeply moved the participants, offering a powerful emotional reflection of shared pain and hope.



At the same time, an emotional art master class took place, where participants expressed their dreams, feelings, and inner strength through painting. The day was filled with conversations, warm embraces, stories of treatment and perseverance — creating a truly heartfelt, sincere, and inspiring atmosphere.

A special part of the event was the presentation of the youth initiative "Orphan Youth of Ukraine" — a project by the Public Union "Rare Diseases of Ukraine" aimed at empowering young people to actively advocate for the rights of patients with rare diseases. The initiative was introduced by Maksym Byskubskyi, with active participants including PH Association youth representatives Yuliia Berebenets and Anna Kovalova.

This day, once again, proved: we are not alone. We are a community that lives, dreams, and takes action. And we are definitely more than PH.





UKRAINE PHURDA

WE ARE HERE, WE ARE TOGETHER, WE ACT

Despite the challenges of war and instability, the Ukrainian community of patients with pulmonary hypertension remains united and active. We held an online meeting for World Pulmonary Hypertension Day to remember the past, feel each other's support, and look to the future with hope. The online meeting brought together patients, activists, doctors and friends. It became a place where memories were reminisced, experiences were shared, and new goals were outlined.

The meeting was opened by Oksana Kulish, a leader of the PH patient community in Ukraine. She gave a presentation on how the Ukrainian community has been involved in celebrating World PH Day in previous years — from educational events and flash mobs to information campaigns and participation in international initiatives.

"I remember the first flash mob in the center of Lviv for PH Day," recalls Oksana. — It was a desperate cry and a desire to be seen and helped. We didn't come out for the sake of a picture then — we came out for life. And every year there are more of us, and we can't be ignored."

TECHNOLOGIES THAT BRING THE FUTURE CLOSER

In the second part of the meeting, pulmonologist and digital expert Vitaliy Poberezhets shared the possibilities of using artificial intelligence (AI) in medicine. He told how the latest technologies can already today support doctors in making decisions, help with data analysis and monitoring the condition of patients.



"AI is not a replacement for a doctor, but an extension of him. It is a tool that gives a chance to detect the disease earlier, choose more accurate treatment, and even psychologically support the patient," - Vitaliy noted.

This topic sparked a lively discussion among the participants — especially in the context of the challenges that Ukrainian medicine is facing during the war.

SMALL HEARTS - BIG SUPPORT

One of the most touching moments was the flash mob #BlueButterfly, which was joined by children from kindergartens and schools. They drew butterflies, created paper cutouts, shared

photos in social media, and even danced - all in support of people with pulmonary hypertension.

"We sincerely thank the teachers who helped the children not just create postcards, but touch on the topic of empathy. This is already educating the future society - more attentive and humane."

PULMONARY HYPERTENSION - IT CAN BE ABOUT YOU

To increase the visibility of the disease in society, our team created a series of city lights under the slogan: "Pulmonary hypertension: danger is hidden under the appearance." The posters were placed in public places in Lviv and aroused great interest among passers-by.

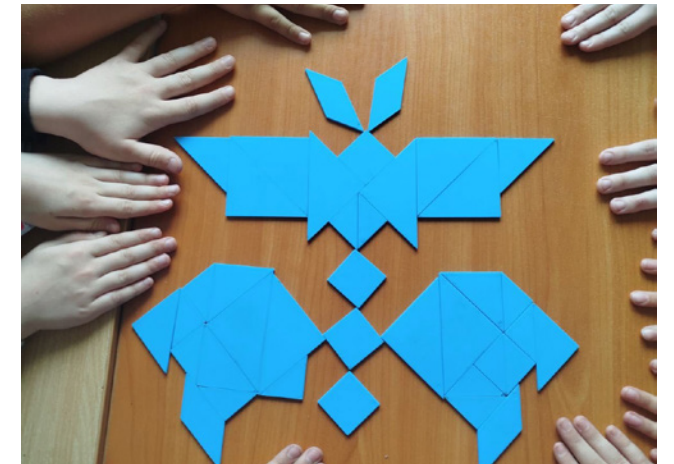
Also, Ukrainian patients became part of the pan-European PHA Europe campaign "Sometimes it's PH", becoming its faces and voices: "It is a great honor to be part of a campaign that changes perceptions. We are not victims. We are people with stories, experience and strength," shared one of the participants.

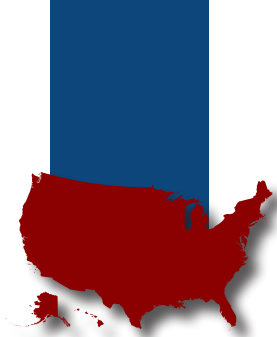
WHAT'S NEXT?

We are not stopping. The creation of educational videos, launching support groups, online consultations, campaigns for doctors, working with local communities, and international partners: all these are ahead.

Our goal is for every person with PH in Ukraine to know that they are not alone, and something is already being done for them.

We are grateful to everyone who was there. This is not just a fight against the disease. This is a fight for dignity, for the quality of life, for the future.





USA

NEWS FROM PH ASSOCIATIONS

PHA MARKS WORLD PH DAY WITH U.S. ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS EVENTS

The Pulmonary Hypertension Association joined this year's global World PH Day campaign, *"Sometimes It's Pulmonary Hypertension,"* to highlight the challenges patients face in receiving an accurate diagnosis. Led by PHA Europe, the campaign brought together PH organizations and advocates worldwide to coordinate efforts around awareness and education. To help spread the message online, PHA shared the Sometimes It's PH campaign video and released a downloadable World PH Day Toolkit with graphics and messaging for use on social media.

In the United States, PHA and its community of advocates observed World PH Day with a coordinated push for greater awareness and policy change. Participants shared personal stories with elected officials during virtual and in-person meetings on Capitol Hill, urging support for improved care and access for people living with pulmonary hypertension.

More than 30 patients, caregivers and health care professionals joined PHA's World PH Day on Capitol Hill event, meeting with U.S. lawmakers in Washington, D.C., on May 6 and engaging in virtual meetings on May 7. Advocates' requests included improving access to oxygen therapy, reducing out-of-pocket medication costs, preserving government health care funding and increasing federal investment in medical research.

One outcome came quickly: the day after meeting with PHA advocates, U.S. Representative Cleo Fields of Louisiana co-sponsored a proposed law to improve access to supplemental oxygen for people with severe lung conditions who rely on Medicare, a national insurance program.

Outside of its legislative efforts, PHA launched the "6-Minute Challenge," a virtual campaign inspired by the six-minute walk

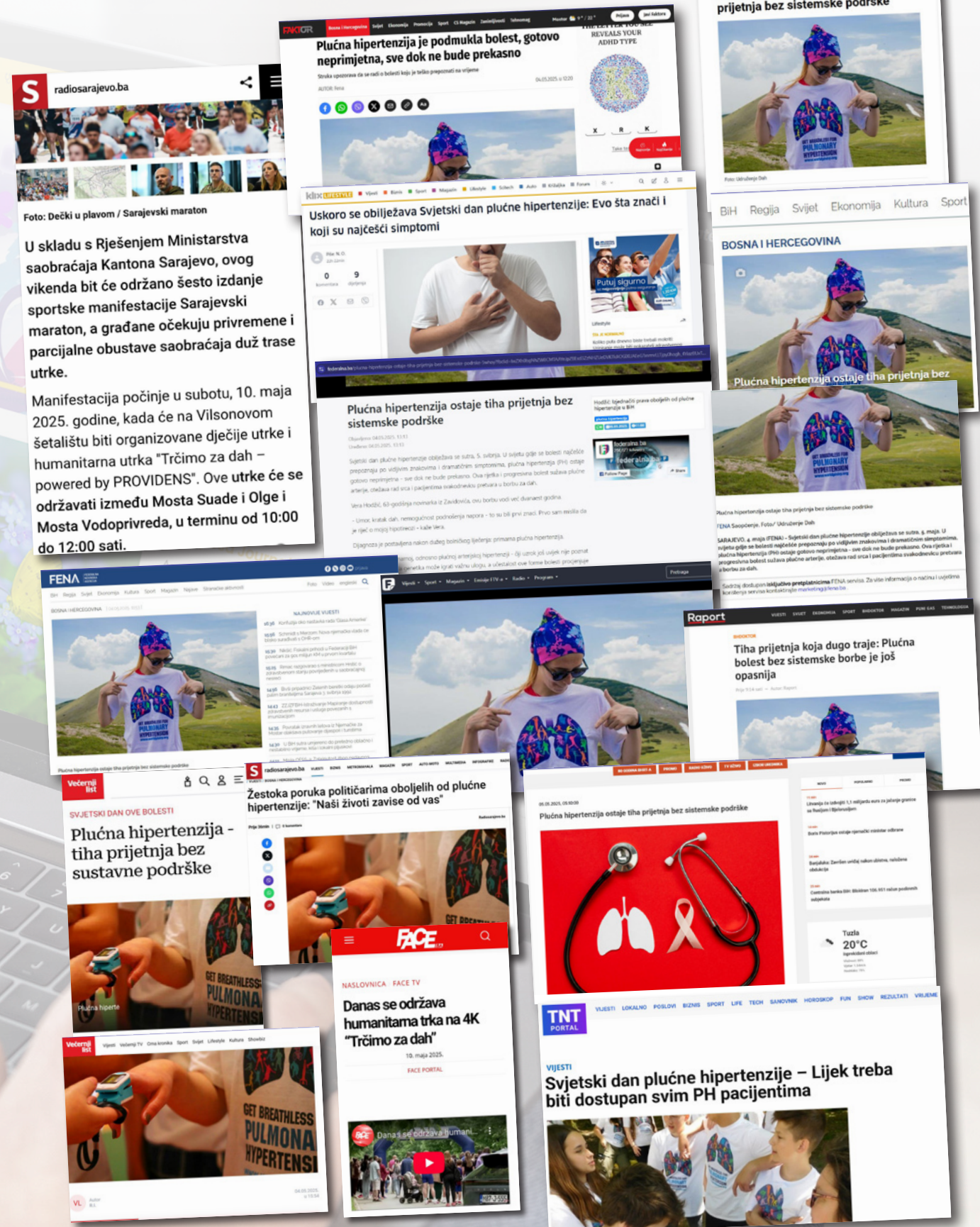
test used to assess PH severity. Participants were encouraged to commit to six minutes of activity each day throughout May, such as walking, stretching or low-impact exercise. The challenge was open to all fitness levels and aimed to promote movement and community engagement. On May 31, PHA recognized top participants, including individual fundraisers, team fundraisers and activity tracking champions, during a Facebook Live celebration.

PHA also hosted virtual support group meetings for people living with PH and their caregivers, with a focus on mental health and peer connection. The sessions offered a supportive space to share experiences, ask questions and connect with others who understand life with PH whether the participants were newly diagnosed or had been managing the condition for years.

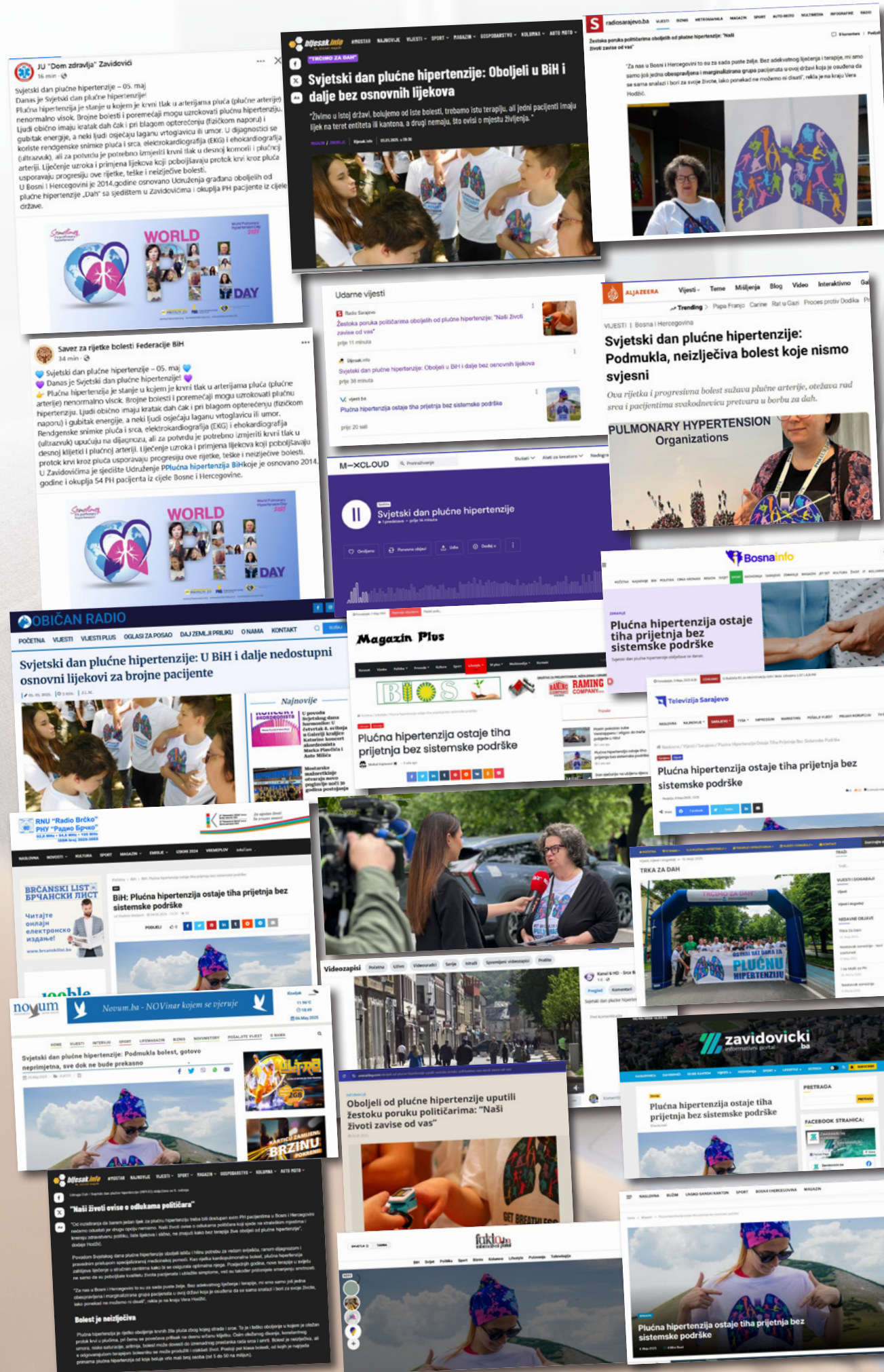


Through advocacy, community-building and global outreach, World PH Day 2025 brought attention to the challenges of living with PH and the need for timely diagnosis and equitable access to care.





Bulgaria BSPPH



Croatia



Potíže s dechem, suchý kašel a únava mohou být příznakem plicní hypertenze

ANNA DVOŘÁKOVÁ | 5. 5. 2025

Článek o plicní hypertenzi, který zdůrazňuje, že potíže s dechem, suchý kašel a únava mohou být příznaky této nemoci. Text je v češtině.

Svíjela se v křečích, omdlela: Denisu (40) nosil manžel do schodů kvůli nemoci plic

Článek o ženě s plicní hypertenzí, která má obtíže s dýcháním a závratě. Text je v češtině.

Vysoký tlak v plicích kradе dech i normální život

Článek o plicní hypertenzi a jejích příznacích. Text je v češtině.

Zloději dechu: astma či zákeřný plicní tlak. Mnozí netuší, že je dusa vážné nemoci

Článek o astmatu a plicní hypertenzi. Text je v češtině.

Modré nasvícení budov v centru Prahy upozorní na zrádnou nemoc

Článek o plicní hypertenzi a jejích příznacích. Text je v češtině.

Nemocní mohou žít lépe a déle – pokud se začnou léčit včas

Článek o plicní hypertenzi a jejích příznacích. Text je v češtině.

HYPERTONIA

Magazine cover with a woman's face and the title 'HYPERTONIA'.

EGYMIILLIÓBÓL ÖTVEN EMBERT FENYEGET, DE MELYIK ÖTVENET?

Article title in Hungarian about pulmonary hypertension.

A tüdővérnyomás

Article title in Hungarian about pulmonary hypertension.

EGYSZÉSGTÜKÖR.HU

Website header for Egyszésgtükör.hu.

Egy millioból ötven embert fenyeget

Article title in Hungarian about pulmonary hypertension.

Patika Magazin Online

Website header for Patika Magazin Online.

telex

Website header for telex.

אגודת הישראלית לרפואת ריאות

Website header for the Israeli Association of Pulmonologists.

SKĀBEKLA festivala

Logo for the Skābekla festival.

OXYGEN FESTIVAL IN LATVIA: MEDIA CLIPPING

Article title in English about the Oxygen Festival in Latvia.

Latvian text about the festival

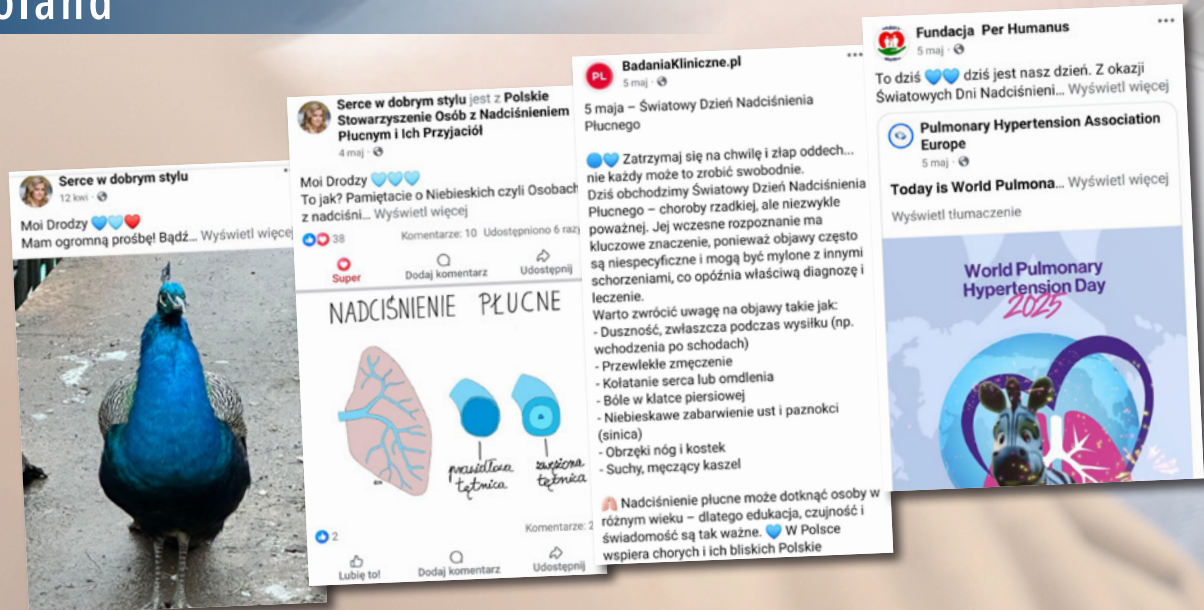
Latvian text about the Oxygen Festival in Latvia.



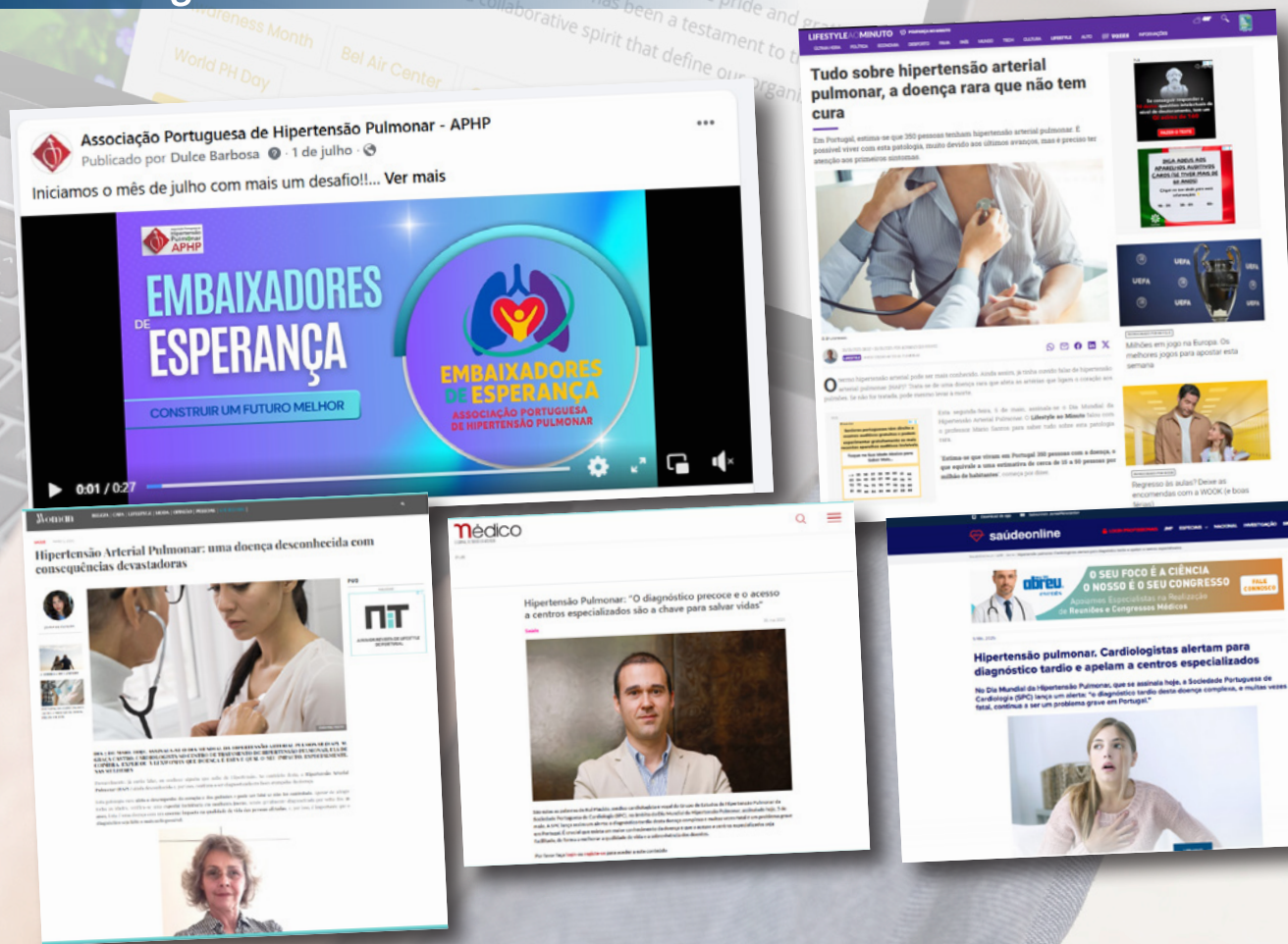
Nigeria



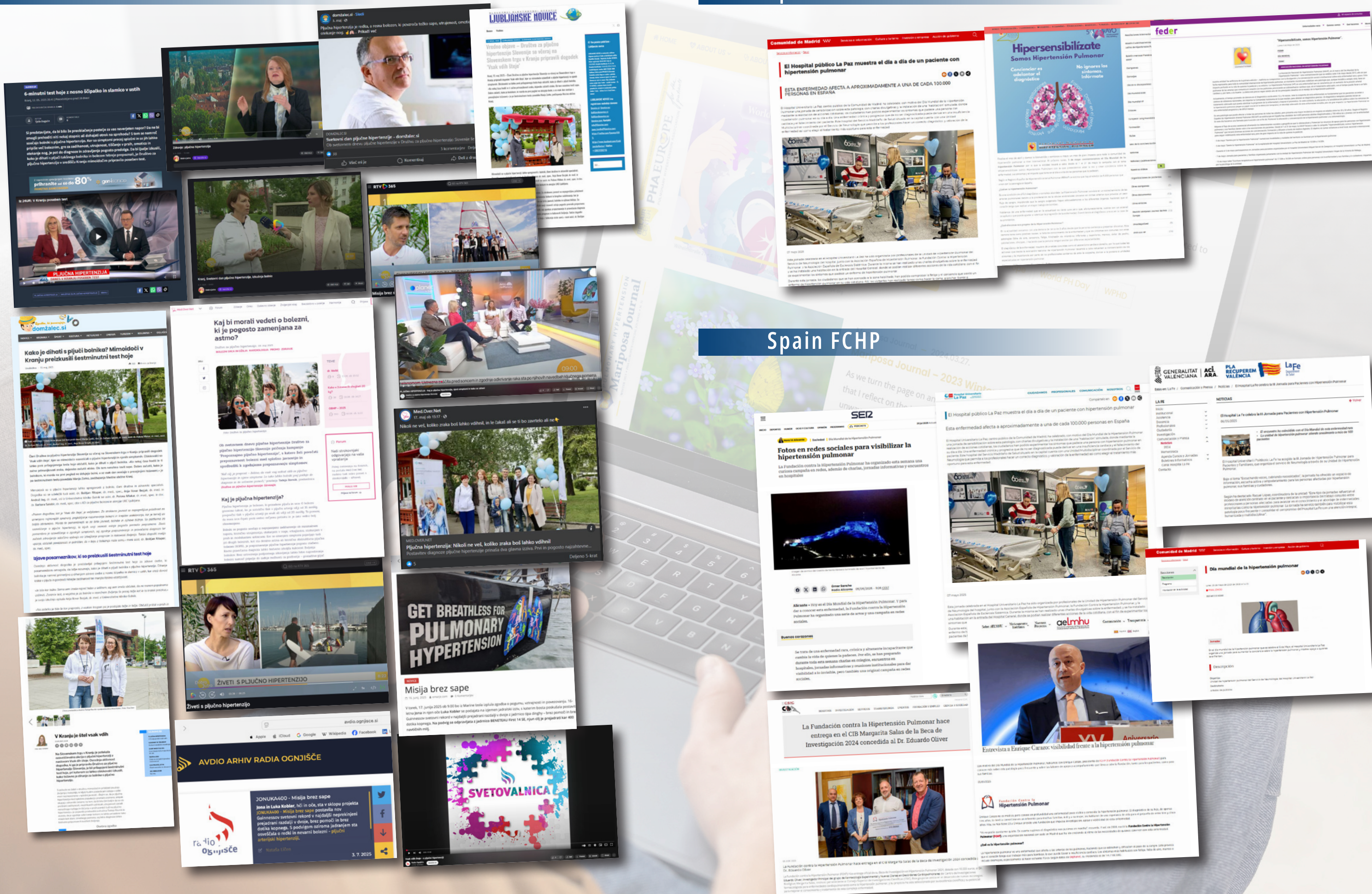
Poland



Portugal











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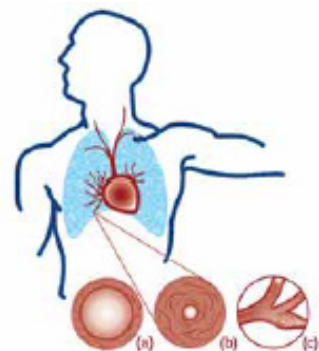


AIMS OF PHA EUROPE

Pulmonary arterial hypertension causes breathlessness and is a rare, progressive and currently incurable lung disorder. PHA EUROPE, European Pulmonary Hypertension Association, was founded in 2003 and is registered in Vienna, Austria as an international nonprofit organisation. PHA EUROPE is an umbrella organization bringing together Pulmonary Hypertension patient associations across Europe. The primary objective of PHA EUROPE is to establish a narrow cooperation between the members and the European institutions, international organizations, and public institutions worldwide and work towards achieving the best possible standards of care for all European pulmonary hypertension patients.

WHAT IS PULMONARY ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION?

In patients with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension, characteristic changes occur within the pulmonary circulation, which include thickening of the linings and obstruction of the small pulmonary blood vessels. They are both structurally and functionally abnormal. In severe cases, up to 80% of these very small blood vessels are rendered non-functional. As a result, the pressure in the pulmonary circulation rises well above normal, and this places strain on the right side of the heart. This strain can cause the heart to enlarge, and the patient may develop heart failure. This is a disease that can affect all ages and is more commonly seen in females. Pulmonary arterial hypertension has an estimated prevalence of about 50 per million population.



a) Cross section of normal pulmonary artery

b) Reduced lumen of pulmonary vessels due to cell proliferation and remodelling in advanced pulmonary arterial hypertension

c) Longitudinal section with pathological changes within the vessels (proliferation, deposition of blood clots, thickening) causing difficulties for the heart to pump blood through the lungs

TREATMENT OF PULMONARY ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION

Over the past decade, a number of evolving therapies that either use complex delivery systems such as 24-hour intra-venous or subcutaneous drug infusion, drug inhalation and, more recently, oral medications, have transformed the outlook for PAH patients. PAH is a condition that can be rapidly progressive and needs careful, ongoing expert care and management. The disease can be insidious in its onset, with unexplained breathlessness and tiredness as its two main symptoms. If undiagnosed and/or inappropriately treated, the average life expectancy for these patients is estimated to be around 2-3 years. For those patients who fail to respond to medical therapies, double lung, or in some cases, heart and lung transplantation, may be appropriate.

THE FUTURE FOR PULMONARY ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION

While a cure for this aggressive and life-threatening disease is still some way off, there is much to be optimistic about. There are an ever-increasing number of therapies available for the effective treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension, which improve the quality and length of life. The aim for the present should be to ensure that all patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension have access to centres of excellence in the diagnosis, management, and ongoing treatment of this disease.

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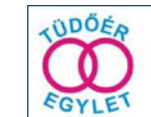
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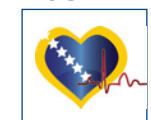
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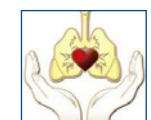
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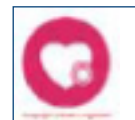
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<https://twitter.com/fundacionhp>
<https://www.instagram.com/fundacionfchp/>
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/fundaci%C3%B3n-contra-la-hipertensi%C3%B3n-pulmonar>

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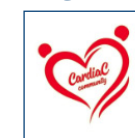
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