



# Update from The Hepatitis C Trust

bringing you the latest news and events

Issue 4, Feb 2012

This update aims to bring you the latest news and events from The Trust. If you do not wish to receive this email in future please [email me](#).

Read our very own Gemma Peppi's blog [Gone Viral](#) on the music and culture website [Who's Jack](#). Living with the virus and much more besides.



**Kirsty Peacock**, 20, has donated her hair to the Hepatitis C Trust to complete the work started by her mother in an earlier campaign.

*'My mum was diagnosed with hepatitis C in 2003 and I wanted to do something for the Trust because they do such good work in raising awareness of the virus as well as supporting those suffering with it.'*

You can still donate to Kirsty [here](#)



*Jim Conneely joins the Trust*

For more information on the van and to enquire if it can visit your area please email [leila.reid@hepctrust.org.uk](mailto:leila.reid@hepctrust.org.uk) or call 0207 089 6220

## Liver Transplants - your views needed

The Hepatitis C Trust, together with other liver patient support charities and liver disease charities have been meeting up with NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) to discuss proposals for a new liver distribution and allocation scheme.

There are several reasons for a new scheme being considered, please read [here](#) how the current system works and the changes proposed by the NHSBT. All the information cited has been taken from a report provided by the NHSBT Liver Transplantation: Organ Allocation in the United Kingdom: A report for Liver Disease Charities and Patient Support Groups, January 2012.

We are meeting up with the other liver patient support and disease charities on 27 February 2012 to discuss the review again. It should be noted that it may ultimately be decided not to change from the current system, and also there is the option of combining elements of any of the current or proposed models! We would welcome your views and opinions on this complex and potentially controversial and sensitive issue.

Let us know what you think – before our meeting on 27 February by emailing [Susan.McRae@hepctrust.org.uk](mailto:Susan.McRae@hepctrust.org.uk)

## Welcome to Jim

The outreach & testing van has taken on a new member of staff to manage its increasing workload as its first trip around the UK begins. We are really pleased to welcome Jim Conneely.

*'I have been entrusted with co-ordinating the Hep C Trust's testing van. I have worked in the Substance Misuse and Mental Health field since 2000. Having cleared hep C myself in 1999, I realised I had a lot to offer in terms of experience. I am a Londoner, and interested in people, and the wonderful diversity I see around me. I hope to bring an optimism and calming energy to this job and look forward to meeting you all.'*

In the few months that the van has been up and running we can attest that good social skills are a must. That and Jim's attention to organised detail make him a natural for this job. He will be taking the van to the Midlands from March – click [here](#) for booking information.

## The Trust welcomes new guidelines

A panel of the UK's leading experts have published the first British guidelines on using boceprevir and telaprevir, two revolutionary new treatments for hepatitis C. The consensus comes several months before NICE conclude their deliberations on whether to make the drugs accessible on the NHS but signal their introduction on the NHS in





**Telaprevir (top) and Boceprevir**

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**Helpline:** 0845 223 4424  
(from 10.30 - 16.30pm Monday to  
Friday, all calls are confidential)



The Hepatitis C Trust is a Registered  
Charity, registered in England No  
1104279 and Scotland No SCO39914.

Scotland.

These drugs are at the forefront of a new wave of cures for the disease, the cause of as many as a million deaths worldwide each year. Charles Gore, Chief Executive of the Hepatitis C Trust and President of the World Hepatitis Alliance says “We are delighted with these guidelines. They are very good news for patients and this approach offers unprecedented hope to tens of thousands of people in the UK with genotype 1 hepatitis C, the strain of the virus until now most difficult to cure.”

The new guidelines, published in the Journal of Alimentary Pharmacology and Therapeutics, recommend increased efforts in the battle against hepatitis C and stress the life-saving potential of the new generation of drugs: ‘in order to prevent the predicted increase in deaths from liver failure and hepatocellular carcinoma ... we need to continue to increase the number of patients treated and cured.’

“These new drugs represent a major therapeutic advance, with a significant increase in the chance of cure for many patients” said Dr. John Dillon, consultant hepatologist and gastroenterologist at NHS Tayside and a collaborating author of the guidelines commented. “The challenge for healthcare professionals and health boards is to identify the funding for them without reducing the numbers of patients we are treating and curing”.