

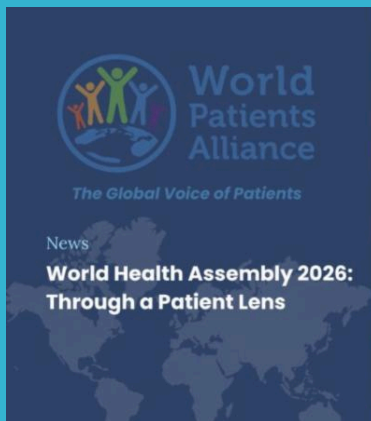


Patients' Voice

July 2026



NEWS



The **79th World Health Assembly**, held in Geneva from **18–23 May 2026**, brought WHO Member States together to address global health priorities, including universal health coverage, NCDs, mental health, health emergencies, the health workforce, digital health and AI. **WPA** welcomed the renewed focus on equitable and people-centred health systems but stressed that global commitments must lead to national implementation, meaningful patient engagement, safer care, equitable access and clear accountability.

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WPA welcomes the **joint continental Ebola preparedness and response plan** launched by **Africa CDC and WHO** to address the ongoing outbreak. Covering **June to November 2026**, the plan focuses on coordination, surveillance, testing, infection prevention, clinical care, community engagement and continuity of essential services. **WPA** calls for a patient-centred response that protects patients, families and health workers through timely safe care, trusted information, equitable access and meaningful community participation.

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3rd World Patients Conference Nairobi|Kenya 7-8 Nov | 2026

The countdown is on for the **3rd World Patients Conference**, taking place in **Nairobi, Kenya**, on **7–8 November 2026** under the theme, “From Voice to Action: Patients Shaping the Health System.” WPA members, partners, stakeholders, and participants are invited to register to join this important global gathering.

[Register Now](#)



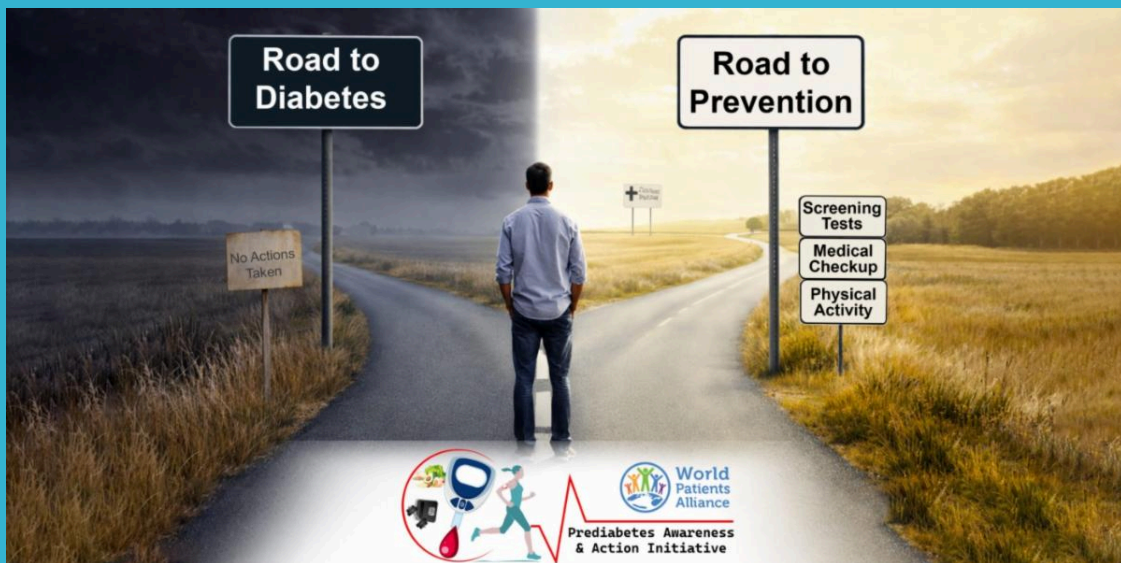
World Patient Safety Day 2026

WPA joins the global call to action for **World Patient Safety Day 2026**, marked on **17 September** under the theme “**Safe care for noncommunicable diseases**” and the slogan “**Safe care for life!**” The campaign highlights the need for safer, continuous, coordinated, and patient-centred care across the entire care journey.

[Click Here to Visit WPSD 2026 Campaign Page](#)

Applications are now open for **WPA’s WPSD 2026 grants**. Apply today to support local WPSD events and activities.

[Apply for WPSD Grant](#)



Prediabetes Awareness & Action Initiative

WPA has launched the **Prediabetes Awareness & Action Initiative**, a global awareness and advocacy campaign focused on early risk recognition, routine screening, patient education, and timely care. The initiative aims to support stronger public awareness of prediabetes and promote practical action within NCDs, primary health care, and universal health coverage.

Under this initiative, WPA has so far published a **Blog**, released an **Animated Educational Video**, issued a **Global Advocacy Letter**, and hosted an **Expert-Led Webinar** on early diagnosis and symptom awareness.

[Click here to visit the campaign hub webpage to access all resources on the Prediabetes Awareness & Action Initiative.](#)



Heart of Healthcare: Celebrating Our Nurses

Following the launch of **Heart of Healthcare: Celebrating Our Nurses**, WPA continues to advance this patient-centred campaign to recognise nurses' contributions to safe, respectful, compassionate, and high-quality care.

Under this project, WPA has so far published **Two Blogs**, **Two Advocacy Letters**, and **Patient Testimonials** to highlight nurses' role in care delivery and the urgent need to strengthen support for the nursing workforce. WPA is also running a **Yearlong Social Media Campaign** to amplify advocacy messages, highlight everyday realities and key workforce challenges, and reinforce the urgency of policy action.

[Click here to learn more about the campaign and access awareness and advocacy materials](#)



Prediabetes : The Critical Window for Early Action and Prevention



Blog by:
World Patients Alliance
Global Voice of the Patients

Featuring patient and community perspectives from different countries, the blog highlights the impact of delayed diagnosis and the importance of early awareness, routine screening, practical guidance and stronger health system support to help people manage prediabetes risk sooner.

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



Patients Stand With Nurses Beyond International Nurses Day 2026

Blog by:



Global Voice of the Patients



International Nurses Day 2026 gave the world an important moment to recognise and honour nurses. In this blog, WPA reflects on why patients stand with nurses beyond one day of recognition, and why nurse wellbeing, safe staffing, and nursing leadership remain essential to safer, more patient-centred care.

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



Heart of Healthcare: Supporting Nurses to Protect Patient Care

Author: World Patients Alliance



This blog introduces WPA's Heart of Healthcare: Celebrating Our Nurses campaign and explains why supporting nurses is essential to protecting patient care. It highlights the vital role nurses play in safe, respectful, and patient-centred care, while drawing attention to key workforce challenges such as staffing pressure, mental health and wellbeing, working conditions, and nurse retention.

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

WPA Participation in International Events



World Medical Association Expert Meeting on Health Data

Andrew Spiegel, WPA Chair, delivered a keynote address at the World Medical Association Expert Meeting on “Health Data: Who Wants to Use It and For What?”, held in São Paulo, Brazil, on 5–6 March 2026. He highlighted the need for patient trust, meaningful consent, privacy safeguards, transparency, accountability and patient representation in health data governance. The meeting contributed to the ongoing revision of the WMA Declaration of Taipei.

[Read More](#)



Patient Safety Forum 2026

Jolanta Bilińska, WPA Treasurer & Board Director, represented WPA at the Patient Safety Forum 2026 on 25 February. The Forum brought together healthcare leaders, policymakers, clinicians, researchers and patient advocates to discuss safety culture, digital health, AI, medicines safety and meaningful patient engagement. She held constructive discussions with patient safety leaders on potential collaboration, particularly around developing education and capacity building initiatives to empower patient advocates and patient organisations to contribute more effectively to safer care.

[Read More](#)



FOKUS Patient Future Days 2026

Jolanta Bilińska, WPA Treasurer & Board Director, represented, WPA at FOKUS Patient Future Days 2026, held in Stockholm, Sweden, on 16–17 March. Speaking during the session “Patient Safety: Wherever and Whenever You Receive Care,” she emphasised that safety must follow patients across hospitals, homes, digital platforms and community settings. She also called for stronger patient organisation leadership through education, system design and advocacy.

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Patient Engagement Open Forum 2026

Dr. Hussain Jafri, CEO of WPA, represented WPA at the Patient Engagement Open Forum 2026, held in Sevilla, Spain, from 2–4 June. He engaged with global stakeholders on embedding patient engagement in health policy, research, medicines development, digital health, data governance and healthcare decision-making. WPA’s participation reinforced the need to move beyond consultation and recognise patients as equal partners in shaping healthcare systems.

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High-Level Self-Care Roundtable

Dr. Hussain Jafri, CEO of WPA, represented WPA at the Global Self-Care Federation's High-Level Roundtable Dinner, held in Geneva on 20 May. He emphasised that self-care must remain patient-centred and be supported by health literacy, trusted information, affordable quality assured options, digital inclusion and professional guidance. He also called for equity and meaningful patient organisation involvement in developing prevention campaigns, self-care strategies, digital tools and policy frameworks.

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High Level Life-Course Immunization and NCD Prevention Event

Dr. Hussain Jafri, CEO of WPA, represented WPA at a High-Level World Health Assembly side event hosted by the World Federation of Public Health Associations in Geneva on life-course immunization and NCD prevention. In his presentation, he emphasised the role of immunization in preventing illness and protecting quality of life across all ages. He called for stronger integration of immunization into NCD strategies, expanded adult vaccination programmes, equitable access, greater investment in vaccine confidence and meaningful patient organisation involvement.

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Collaboration

World Patients Alliance (WPA)

Partnership with
International Pharmaceutical Federation



The WPA is pleased to announce a formal partnership with the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), marking an important milestone in advancing patient-centered care, patient safety, and collaboration between patients and pharmacy professionals.

[Read More](#)

WPA and EUPSF Formalize
Collaboration to Strengthen
Patient Centered Healthcare



The WPA and the European Patient Safety Foundation (EUPSF) have formalised their long-standing collaboration through a reciprocal affiliation and membership agreement. The agreement strengthens shared learning, knowledge exchange and joint engagement, supporting safer, more patient-centred healthcare and closer cooperation among patient organisations, patient safety experts, healthcare professionals and wider health system stakeholders.

[Read More](#)

WPA Webinars



Liquid Fasting Before an Operation:
Reducing Risk, Improving Care

Webinar

📅 Wednesday, 9 July 2026
🕒 9:00 AM EST / 3:00 PM CEST

🌐 worldpatientsalliance.org 🌐 eupsf.org



WPA and the European Patient Safety Foundation hosted a global webinar examining evidence-based pre-operative liquid fasting practices. Bringing together clinicians, nurses, patient advocates and patient safety leaders, the session highlighted the risks of unnecessarily prolonged fasting and the gap between guidance and practice. Speakers called for patient-centred protocols that improve hydration, medication adherence, safety and the overall surgical experience.

[Read More](#)

PHARMACISTS AND PATIENT SAFETY: BUILDING SAFER CARE WITH PATIENTS

DATE 30 JUNE

TIME 15:00 CEST

**FIP
D/GITAL
EVENTS**

UNITING
PHARMACY
AROUND
THE GLOBE



World
Patients
Alliance

In collaboration with: World Patients Alliance



WPA and the International Pharmaceutical Federation hosted a global webinar on the expanding role of pharmacists in preventing medication-related harm. Pharmacists, patient advocates, healthcare professionals and safety experts explored medication management, patient education, early risk identification and digital tools. The discussion emphasised patient empowerment, open communication, shared decision-making and collaboration as foundations for safer medication use and better outcomes.

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World Patients Alliance

Webinar: Equity and Access in Health

*Healthcare Without Barriers:
Fair Access for Every Patient.*



26 May 2026



08:00 AM (EST)



worldpatientsalliance.org



The WPA Asia Pacific Region hosted a webinar examining the barriers that limit timely, affordable, culturally appropriate and quality healthcare. Bringing together patient advocates, public health experts and healthcare leaders, the session explored how cost, distance, language, information and trust shape access. Speakers called for health systems designed with patients and stronger patient-led action to advance equity, accountability and continuity of care.

[Read More](#)



World
Patients
Alliance
Prediabetes Awareness
& Action Initiative

WEBINAR

Prediabetes Early Diagnosis and Symptoms Awareness

📅 30th April 2026 ⌚ 08:00 AM (EDT)

worldpatientsalliance.org



As part of WPA's Prediabetes Awareness & Action Initiative, this webinar brought together clinical, advocacy, caregiver and lived-experience perspectives on early risk recognition and prevention. Speakers highlighted that prediabetes can progress without obvious symptoms, making awareness and timely screening essential. The session encouraged practical lifestyle action, stigma-free communication, stronger patient education and supportive policies to prevent or delay type 2 diabetes.

[Read More](#)



World
Patients
Alliance

WEBINAR

Using **Artificial Intelligence** to Improve Fundraising

📅 31 March 2026
⌚ 8:00 AM EST



WPA hosted a practical webinar exploring how patient organisations can use artificial intelligence to strengthen fundraising. The session demonstrated applications across donor engagement, grant discovery, proposal development and performance analysis, while emphasising data privacy and human oversight. Participants were encouraged to begin with accessible, cost-effective tools that can save time, diversify funding and strengthen organisational sustainability and patient impact.

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Getting to Know WPA Team



In this edition, we spotlight **Francisco Freyría**| **WPA Advisory Board Member** from Mexico and General Director of Fundación Fomento de Desarrollo Teresa de Jesús (FUTEJE). For more than three decades, Francisco has supported nonprofit and health causes, with a strong focus on people affected by gastric and colorectal cancer. His commitment grew from witnessing the inequalities and hardships faced by patients, inspiring his work in prevention, timely detection, comprehensive support and patient advocacy across Mexico.

[Read More](#)

Members' Announcements

- **Global Colon Cancer Association Announces Global CRC Congress and 2026 Leadership Awards**| Awards Nomination Deadline: 15 July 2026
Congress Dates: 5–6 November 2026
- **European Patient Safety Foundation to Host European Patient Safety Conference 2026**| Date: 4 December 2026
- **Cambridge Rare Disease Network to Host RAREsummit26**| Date: 7 October 2026
- **Red Ribbon Istanbul Association to Host International Community-Led HIV Conference**| Date: 24 November 2026
- **South African Society of Stomates to Host 2026 National Wound & Ostomy Care Conference**| Date: 2–3 October 2026
- **International Alliance to Convene 2026 ALS/MND Allied Professionals Forum**| Date: 7 December 2026
- **Cure VCP Disease to Unite Scientific and Patient Communities at 2026 International Summit**| Date: 22–25 July 2026
- **AF Association to lead Global AF Aware Week 2026 to strengthen public understanding of atrial fibrillation**| Date: 16–22 November 2026
- **CHEN Patient Fertility Association to hold its third cooking workshop**| Date: 13 October 2026
- **Arrhythmia Alliance will host Heart Rhythm Congress 2026**| Date: 11–13 October 2026
- **Lil' Brave One Hrabriša to Organize RND Forum: Rare Neurotransmitter Diseases Conference**| Date: 21 December 2026
- **AF Association to host Patient Educational Day**| Date: 11 October 2026
- **STARS to host Patient Educational Day**| Date: 11 October 2026
- **HPV Cancers Alliance will host its inaugural Soirée**| Date: 19 October 2026

- **Hope & Courage International** to hold its annual flagship event in support of WPSD 2026| **Date: 12 September 2026**
- **Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation** to host two patient-focused regional symposia| **Dates: 19, 25 September 2026**

Members' News

- **Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Australia Marks World Sickle Cell Day 2026**
- **HOPE Qatar Centre Showcases Student Innovation at 20th Annual Science Exhibition**
- **MSNARIC Holds Third Congress of Nurses of Anesthesia, Reanimation and Intensive Care**
- **UNIDOS Strengthens Healthcare Professional Skills Through Online Hematology Course**
- **SPEM Opens New Cascais Facilities to Support Rehabilitation and Independence**
- **ECZEMA RDC Marks World Rare Disease Day in Goma for the First Time**
- **Lil' Brave One Hrabriša marked Rare Disease Day**
- **PID Care China Releases First National White Paper on Primary Immunodeficiency**
- **Association for Safety and Quality in Healthcare Organisations led advocacy effort to improve access to diagnostic services for homebound patients.**
- **The Chronic Viral Hepatitis Patients Association (B18) implemented the “Prevention of Hepatitis B in Newborns” project**
- **Stroke Care International Promotes Awareness and Prevention on World Stroke Day**
- **Gloria's Cancer Foundation Marks Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month with Community Hike**
- **Fundación Pompe Club Internacional hosted an educational webinar focused on hearing detection and care for people living with Pompe disease.**
- **The Peruvian League Against Cancer organised an educational session on the epidemiology and life cycle of human papillomavirus (HPV).**
- **Sostén Asociación Civil delivered a Spanish-language virtual training session for healthcare professionals on vaccine evidence, safety and clinical practice.**

Welcoming 42 New WPA Members

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T21 Families Support Organisation (Kenya) • Champions of Hope (Kenya) • Vitiligo Society of Kenya (Kenya) • Youth Thalassemic Alliance Trust, Vashi (India) • Macedonian Society of Nurses of Anesthesia, Reanimation and Intensive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions pour l'Entrepreneuriat et le Développement (Niger) • Young Energetic and Partnerships for Sustainable Actions (Kenya) • Aid and Hope Program for Cancer Patients Care (Palestine) • Association Jeunesse et Enfance de Côte d'Ivoire (Côte d'Ivoire) |
|---|---|

- Care (North Macedonia)
- Eminence Associates for Social Development (Bangladesh)
- Women of Africa (Zimbabwe)
- Zambia Heart and Stroke Foundation (Zambia)
- Divine Foundation Trust (Zimbabwe)
- Independent Cancer Patients' Voice (United Kingdom)
- Asociación de Afectadas por Cáncer de Ovario y Ginecológico (Spain)
- Accelerate Patient Safety and Quality Care Network (South Africa)
- Tanzanian Cancer Society (Tanzania)
- German Vitiligo Association (Germany)
- Association of Gynecological Cancer Patients in Finland (Finland)
- Associação Vivendo Além da Esclerose (Brazil)
- Ebenezer Women Social Entrepreneurship Trust (Zimbabwe)
- International Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals (United Kingdom)
- Association Togolaise pour la Promotion de la Santé et du Développement Communautaire (Togo)
- Human Health Aid Burundi (Burundi)
- Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Ireland (Ireland)

- Midrar Institute of Public Health (Somalia)
- Cure SMA Canada (Canada)
- Malaysian Rare Disorders Society (Malaysia)
- American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders (United States)
- Sweet Life Diabetes Community (South Africa)
- Youth Unite Against Cancer Initiative (Nigeria)
- AmBeautified Life Cancer Foundation (Nigeria)
- Centre for Social Economic Empowerment and Development in Sierra Leone (Sierra Leone)
- Associação de Doentes com Lupus (Portugal)
- Warriors With a Purpose (South Africa)
- Uganda National Health Users'/Consumers' Organisation (Uganda)
- Jordan Cancer Society (Jordan)
- Ghana Association of Persons with Albinism (Ghana)
- Globally Integrated Foundation for Thalassaemia (India)
- Lung Connect India Foundation (India)
- Centre Alliance for Rare Diseases (Rwanda)
- Zuzu Holding Hands Cancer Foundation (Namibia)

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