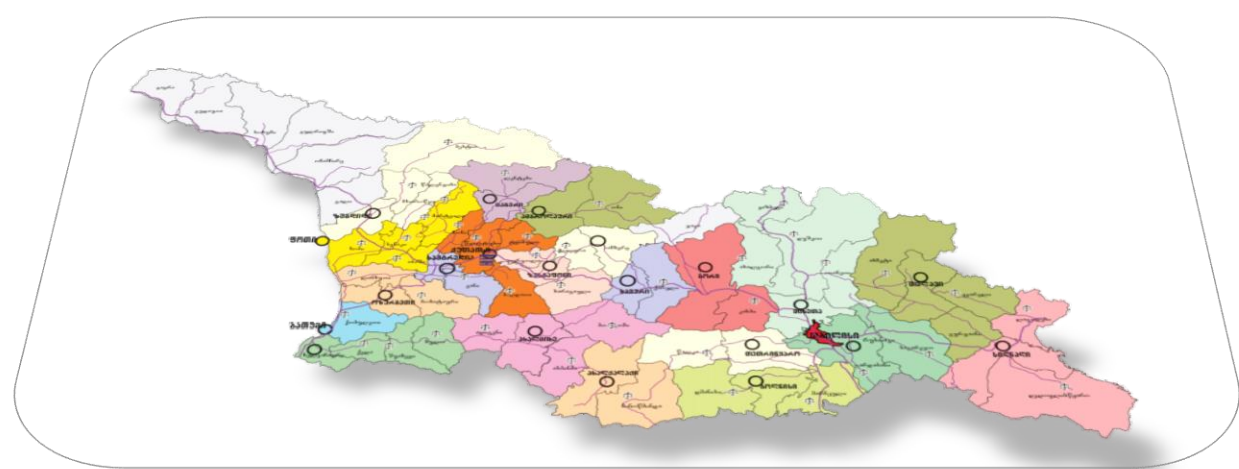


Hepatitis C elimination program in Georgia



MINISTRY OF LABOUR
HEALTH AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS



David Sergeenko¹, Valeri Kvaratskhelia¹, Amiran Gamkrelidze², Irina Tskhomelidze¹, Davit Baliashvili², Maia Tsereteli², Tengiz Tsertsvadze³, Lia Gvinjilia⁴, Juliette Morgan⁵, Muazzam Nasrullah⁶, Maia Butashvili⁷, Lali Sharvadze⁸, David Metreveli⁹, Francisco Averhoff⁶

Contact Information: Sofo Belkania **Email:** sbelkania@moh.gov.ge
Tel: [+995 599 223232](tel:+995599223232)

Background

Georgia, a country in the Caucasus region of Eurasia, considering serosurvey data (performed with technical support of US CDC) has a high prevalence of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection.

Characteristic	n	%	Estimated # nationwide ≥18 years
Anti-HCV+	425	7.7%	208,800
HCV RNA+	311	5.4%	150,300

In April 2015, Georgia government announced HCV as a priority and committed to eliminate the disease by 2020 and launched the unprecedented Hepatitis C Elimination Program, initially focused on treating HCV-infected persons with severe liver disease using curative regimens based on new direct-acting antivirals (DAAs). Starting in June, 2016, inclusion criteria were removed, expanding enrollment eligibility to include patients regardless of disease stage.

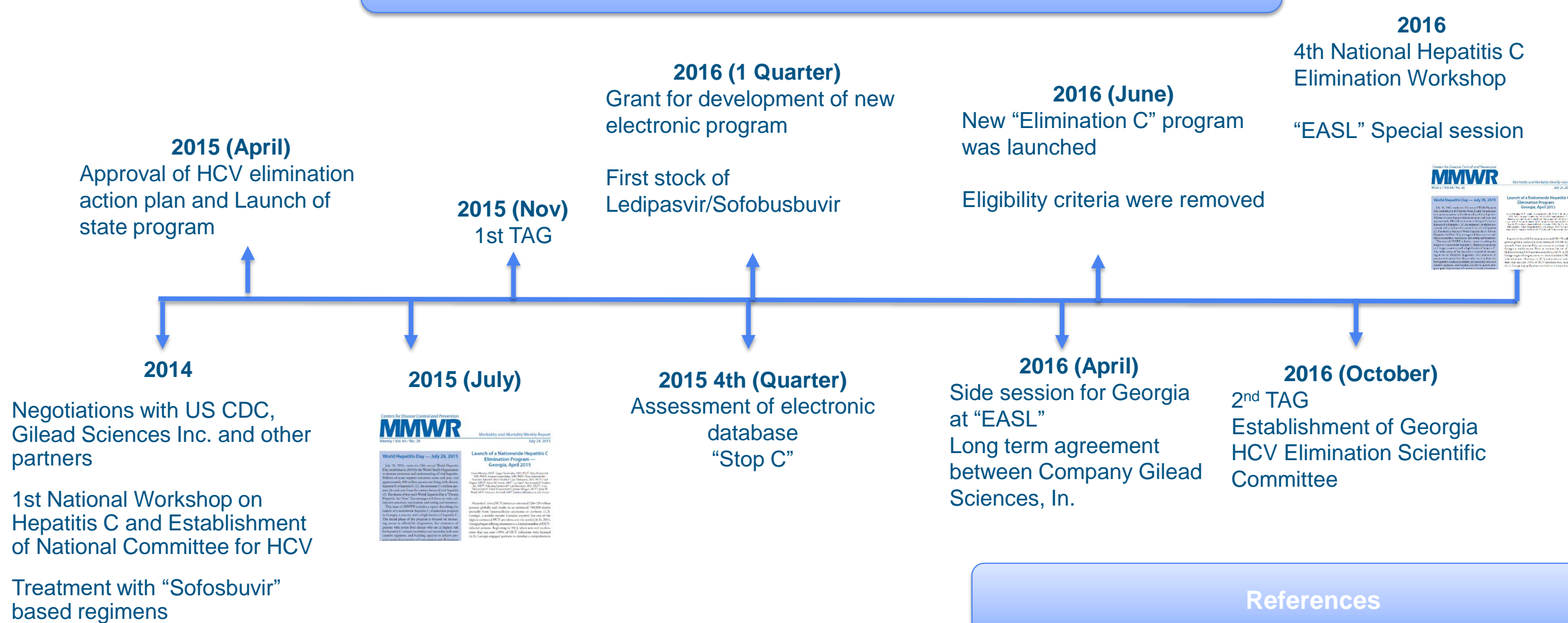
Why Georgia?

Features that made Georgia an ideal setting for eliminating HCV:

- High prevalence
- Small population
- Political will
- Diagnostic and human capacity
- Close partnership with US CDC and other organizations

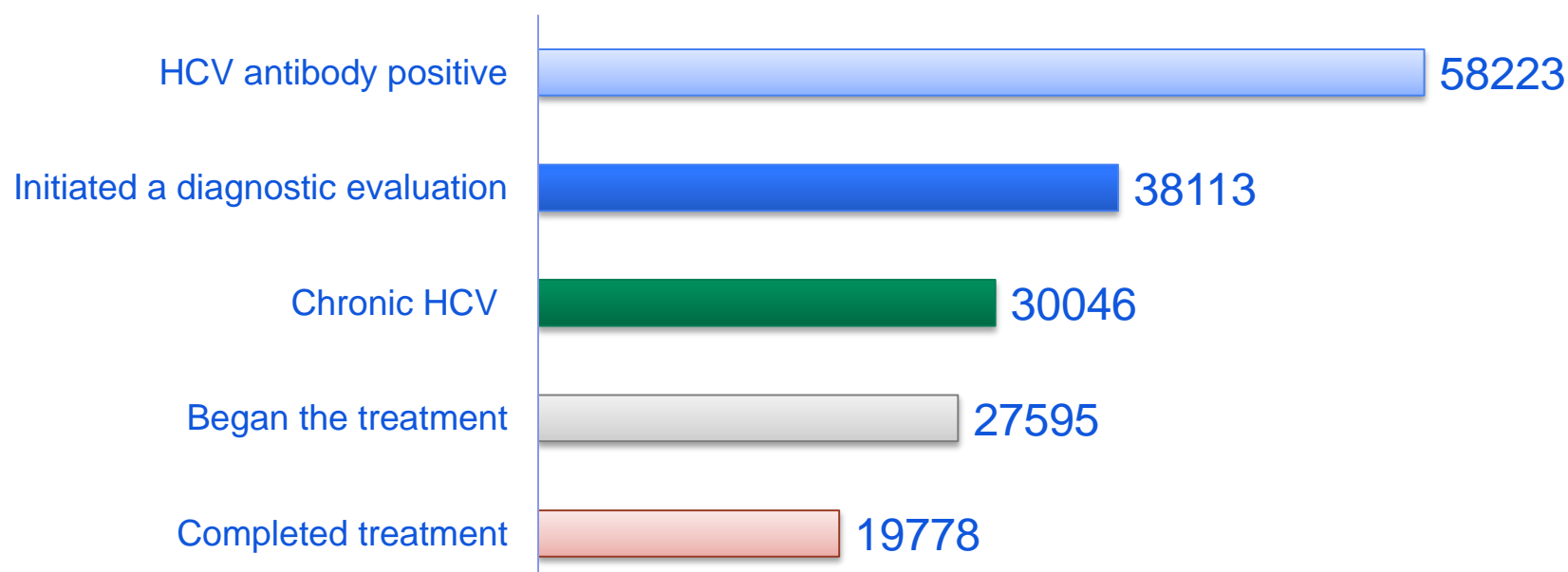
Substantial progress has been made to eliminate HCV infection in Georgia, and the country has demonstrated the ability for rapidly scale up of care and treatment services. To achieve elimination, there still some challenges remain, including increasing access to care and treatment services and implementing a comprehensive approach to prevention and control of HCV infection. Georgia's HCV elimination program could provide lessons for future programs to control HCV infection worldwide, particularly as treatment becomes more affordable and more countries seek to provide care and treatment services.

History and Overview of the HCV Elimination Program 2014-2016



References

Care cascade April 2015-December 2016



Of those who completed treatment and were assessed for sustained virologic response (SVR), 79.5% in sofosbuvir-based regimen group and 98.2% in sofosbuvir/ledipasvir treatment group attained SVR

- 1 Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia
- 2 National Center for Disease Control and Public Health of Georgia
- 3 Infection Diseases, AIDS, and Clinical Immunology Research Center, Tbilisi, Georgia
- 4 CDC Foundation
- 5 Global Disease Detection, Division of Global Health Protection, South Caucasus CDC Office, Tbilisi, Georgia
- 6 Division of Viral Hepatitis, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
- 7 Clinic "Neolab", Tbilisi, Georgia
- 8 Clinic "Hepa", Tbilisi, Georgia
- 9 "Medical Center Mrcheveli", Tbilisi, Georgia

Conflicts of Interests

No conflicts of interest to report.