

As family physicians, we know that medical education for better care is impossible without patients' participation. This is why we are trying our best to fulfill the criterias to get accredited and become a "Patients Included" forum.

Please read on to find out how we are meeting (and hoping to exceed) the expectations of each of the Charter's 5 clauses:

1. Patients or caregivers with experience relevant to the conference's central theme actively participate in the design and planning of the event, including the selection of themes, topics and speakers.

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[« patient activist » and leader of a patient organization.](#)

[She represents the patient voice within the scientific committee of the 4th Vasco da Gama Movement forum. She has been chosen because of her past works and research related to the expertise of patients. Here is an example of a work she did:](#)

[Gross O, Muller A, Rothan-Tondeur M, Verheye J-C. \[Patients, players in healthcare research\]. Soins. févr 2017;62\(812\):36-8.](#)

[Her contribution in the 4th Vasco da Gama Movement forum will be in the selection of topics for the plenaries, workshops and oral presentations. She also helped to find patients to participate to the plenaries.](#)

2. Patients or caregivers with experience of the issues addressed by the event participate[2] in its delivery, and appear in its physical audience

[Patients will be physically present during the forum and are invited to share their experiences related to the plenaries' topics:](#)

[-**First plenary** : *Ms Alice Rivières* \(Dingdingdong - Institute for the Coproduction of Knowledge about Huntington's Disease, Paris\). Alice Rivières advocates for Huntington's Disease that she carries in her genes. Through her travels, meetings with families and writings, she explores what she calls the Huntingtonland in order to make of this incurable and neuroevolutive disease a worth living experience.](#)

[-**Second plenary**: Vaccination](#)

[- *Ms Marion Mathieu*, scientific trainer, member of the association "Tous Chercheurs" . She is responsible of the part concerning patients associations. One of her work is:](#)

[An Innovative Lab-Based Training Program to Help Patient Groups Understand Their Disease and the Research Process](#)

[Marion Mathieu1*, Constance Hammond1,2,3*, David G. Karlin1* . PLoS Biol 13\(2\): e1002067.](#)

[doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.1002067](#)

- *Ms Annick Guimezanes*, immunologist, Inserm researcher at the immunology center of Marseille-Luminy (CIML), and member of ScienSAs' network which permit contact between researcher and patients associations.
- *Ms Catalano*, medical secretary and patient, she will share her opinion and point of view to decide on vaccination for herself and her children.
- *Professor Anne-Marie Moulin*, research director, doctor and specialist on infectious diseases, and science philosopher at CNRS.

3. Travel and accommodation expenses for patients or carers participating in the advertised programme are paid in full, in advance. Scholarships[3] are provided by the conference organisers to allow patients or carers affected by the relevant issues to attend as delegates.

The Saint-Exupéry Network is the french branch of the Vasco da Gama Movement. It is in charge of the organisation of the 4th VdGM forum in Strasbourg. The association guarantees that speakers' expenses will be entirely paid in advance. It concerns travel, accommodation, forum fees, and meals.

The forum is open to all patients or associations who would like to attend.

A specific fee for the forum is 50 euros instead of 100 euros for doctors.

If you are a patient and you want to get involved, please email forum@vdgm.eu

4. The disability requirements of participants are accommodated[4]. All applicable sessions, breakouts, ancillary meetings, and other programme elements are open to patient delegates.

The forum venue is the faculty of medicine of the city of Strasbourg. It has all the accommodation required for every kind of handicap. However we recommend you to contact us for specific requirements in advance of the event.

<http://www.en.unistra.fr/index.php?id=21304>

All sessions are open to all participants without exceptions.

5. Access for virtual participants is facilitated,[5] with free streaming video provided online wherever possible.

The Saint-Exupéry Network will broadcast the plenaries on internet by using Periscope or Facebook.

The forum can easily be followed on Twitter with the hashtag #4vdgmf. This way, patients not present at the forum venue can still participate by asking questions, or sharing their experiences.

A WIFI access is available for all participants in the faculty of medicine.



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