

NAFLD: Sounding the alarm on a global public health challenge



A collaboration between the EASL International Liver Foundation (EILF) & Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)



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Our mission

Increase the quality of life and reduce premature mortality for the greatest number of people by improving liver health.

Our programme pillars

**Fellowships &
Education**

**Viral Hepatitis
Elimination**

**NAFLD & public
awareness**

Research

EILF - Nurturing global collaborations for liver health

- EILF's core mandate is to work globally, establishing and nurturing collaborations with all regions around the globe.
- We do this by engaging with a wide range of individuals and organisations, from professional associations, clinicians and industry to leading think-tanks.
- Over the past 2 years, we have expanded our work on NAFLD, building a global network of experts and organisations.

- Lazarus, J.V., Colombo, M., Cortez-Pinto, H. et al. NAFLD — sounding the alarm on a silent epidemic. *Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol* 17, 377–379 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41575-020-0315-7>
- Lazarus, J.V., Mark HE, Huang T T-K, Demaio A. Let's envisage a new, better normal for all non communicable diseases. *BMJ Opinion*. (2020) <https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2020/06/11/lets-envisage-a-new-better-normal-for-all-non-communicable-diseases/>

EILF activities putting the spotlight on NAFLD

2019

European NAFLD policy review study

2020

Virtual dialogues on NAFLD models of care

Global NAFLD policy review with 102 countries

Wilton Park event “NAFLD the Silent Epidemic”

EIU workshop series in Asia, Latin America & Middle East

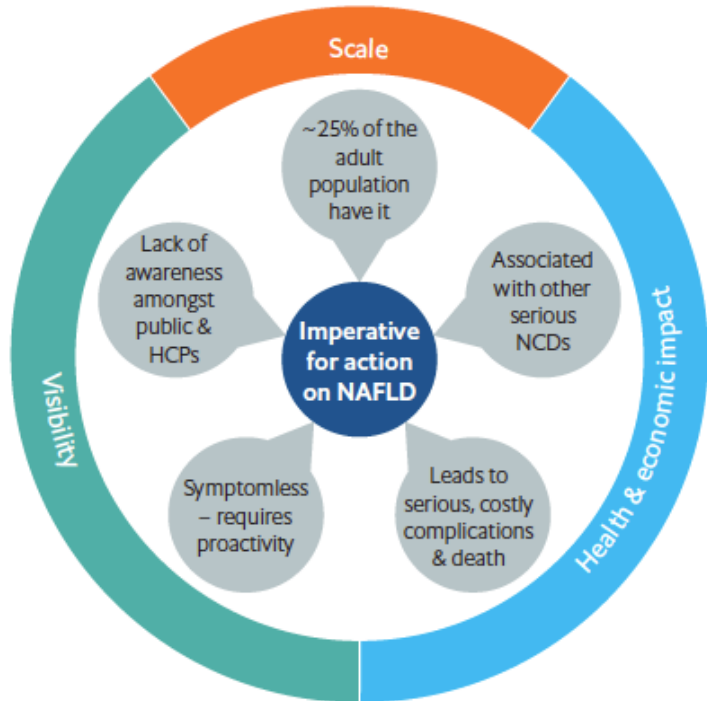
2021

NAFLD public health global consensus statement

NAFLD roadmap

EIU-EILF series ‘*NAFLD: Sounding the alarm on a global public health challenge*’

Figure 1: Imperative for action on NAFLD



- Despite the imperative for action, NAFLD has received little attention in national and global health agendas.
- EILF engaged EIU to hold a series of 12 workshops “*NAFLD: Sounding the alarm on a global public health challenge*”
- The series explored the opportunities and challenges for addressing NAFLD with a specific focus on the Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Middle East regions

EIU – EILF expert panel workshops

- The series of 12 workshops involved more than 50 experts, from liver disease and diabetes specialists to primary care providers and public health leaders
- The workshops explored a diverse range of topics from the diagnosis and care of affected populations to public health responses and the integration of NAFLD within the non-communicable disease agenda.
- Global and regional calls to action were developed based on the responses of the expert panel members.

Take home messages from the EIU-EILF series

- This series aimed to provide some strategic guidance around how to shape and deliver more comprehensive responses to NAFLD.
- The calls to action are the culmination of this process and cover a range of areas from diagnosis and treatment to broader public health and NCD policies.
- These are ambitious, yet achievable, and can hopefully inspire action.
- Delivering on these will require concerted efforts from a range of stakeholders, including healthcare providers, patient advocates and policymakers.
- We will need organisational and individual leaders to drive this process.

Global call to action

Global NAFLD call to action

Awareness



- Tailor awareness raising at a local level
- Identify liver health champions
- Conduct interdisciplinary, collaborative research
- Make the investment case

Risk stratification



- Articulate clear, written NAFLD care pathways
- Define efficient and effective risk stratification approaches
- Develop guidance for primary care management
- Promote identification of active cases in high-risk groups

Integrated care



- Integrate NAFLD into relevant clinical guidelines
- Prioritise patient-centred approaches to integrated care models
- Grow the evidence base through pilots and evaluation
- Share lessons learned to collectively develop new models of care

Global NAFLD call to action

Patient involvement



- Form and nurture patient groups where possible
- Engage existing diabetes and liver patient groups
- Involve patients in service design

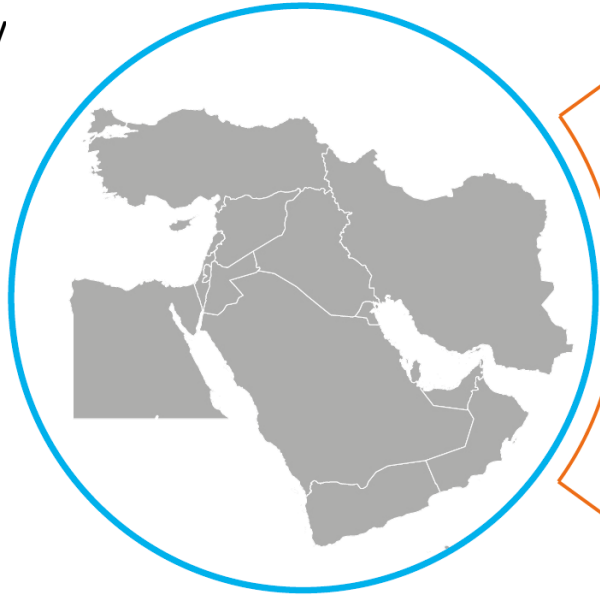
NCD integration



- Use existing policy levers to incorporate NAFLD in to the NCD movement
- Collaborate with existing NCD groups
- Create an evidence base to make the investment case
- Engage the “metabolic disease” family to create joint standards

Regional calls to action

- In addition to the global call to action—Middle East region
- These are the priority



Integrating screening into health check-ups for people with obesity and diabetes could improve the detection of NAFLD



Multi-disciplinary collaboration has been effective in raising awareness of NAFLD and should continue and be expanded



Social media presents a medium for mobilising and amplifying the patient voice, in place of patient groups

regions.
the

NAFLD: Sounding the alarm on a global public health challenge



Full report available at:

[https://
eiuperspectives.economist.com/
healthcare/nafl-d-sounding-alarm-
global-public-health-challenge](https://eiuperspectives.economist.com/healthcare/nafl-d-sounding-alarm-global-public-health-challenge)

What next for the NAFLD public health agenda?

- The EIU collaboration forms part of a larger EILF programme on NAFLD.
- In 2021 we are currently conducting the first NAFLD public health consensus statement with over 200 experts from around the world, which will be published in late 2021.
- The consensus statement and other EILF activities will form the basis for a NAFLD public health roadmap, which we are co-developing with a global coalition of experts and organisations.
- If you are interested in collaborating with us on this work, please get in contact.

Acknowledgements

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At EILF: Henry Mark

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