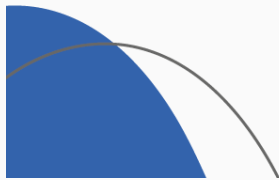


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Vitiligo International  
Patient Organizations  
Committee



## NEWSLETTER



14/02/2023

Happy new year!

2022 has been incredible for the vitiligo community. Opzelura was discovered as a treatment for vitiligo, and the Global Vitiligo Foundation hosted an excellent international symposium. We are also proud to welcome the Franco-Congalise Association, as the newest member of VIPOC.

On July 18, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved ruxolitinib (Opzelura) cream 1.5 percent as a treatment for the most common form of vitiligo, according to a statement by Incyte, the manufacturer of the drug. Ruxolitinib is the first medication that can restore pigment in patients with nonsegmental vitiligo. The FDA approved Incyte's ruxolitinib cream for adults and children ages 12 and up.

The Global Vitiligo Foundation recently hosted a successful symposium bringing together leading experts in the field to discuss the latest research and treatments for vitiligo. Attendees were able to hear from top doctors and researchers about the latest developments in the field, including the recent approval of the drug Opzulera for the treatment of vitiligo. We were honored

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to be part of such a wonderful event and look forward to continuing our work with them in the future.

And to start 2023 off with a bang, VIPOC is excited to welcome a new member to our organization: the Franco-Congolese Association. They are a vitiligo organisation situated in Lubumbashi and Kinshasa. They strive to inform and support vitiligo patients because vitiligo is not recognised by the Health Department in the DRC.

Some of their major projects include holding a press conference in the premises of the Ministry of Public Health of Haut-Katanga, in the presence of Dr François Kapamba (Head Director of the Ministry of Public Health), dermatologists, clinicians and many media (TV, radio, press), to provide information on vitiligo and the discrimination suffered by patients. They also held a flash mob in Kinshasa on January 14, 2023, with the participation of several people with vitiligo gathered around their tagline “I am vitiliginous, I break the silence”. we are happy to have them as part of the VIPOC Family!

Also ,the seventh phototherapy unit has finally been installed in Bhandara by the Shweta Association. Phototherapy is a highly effective method used in the treatment of vitiligo. The unit is the only one of its kind in the entire district and has been long awaited by the local community. On the 22nd of January 2023, the official inauguration of the phototherapy unit took place with great fanfare and was attended by a large crowd of people from all over the district. The community was very excited about the new addition to their healthcare facilities and expressed their gratitude towards the Shweta Association for their efforts in bringing this essential treatment to the district. With the installation of this unit, residents of Bhandara will no longer have to travel far to receive the phototherapy treatment they need.

As we continue to work towards finding a cure for vitiligo, it is important that we come together as a community to support one another. VIPOC is proud to be at the forefront of this effort, and we look forward to continuing to work together with our members and partners to make a difference for those living with vitiligo.

In conclusion, VIPOC is dedicated to making a big impact on the vitiligo community by organizing events, providing support and resources, and

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welcoming new members like the Franco Congolaise Association. ([Become a member here](#)). With the recent approval of Opzuleta, we are one step closer to finding a cure for this condition and we are excited to see what the future holds.



This approval is monumental,” says Daniel Gutierrez, MD, assistant professor of dermatology at NYU Grossman School of Medicine and dermatologist at NYU Langone Health in New York City. Read More [here](#)



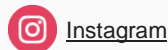
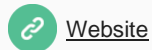
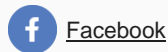
The Vitiligo International Symposium (VIS) brought together nearly two hundred people, doctors, researchers, dermatologists, the greatest vitiligo experts, laboratories, and patients representatives, from all over the world, around the theme: Unloading the burden of vitiligo. [Find Out More](#)

[Find Out More](#)



The President, Huguette Kalenga Fabiola, and the members of the Franco-Congolese Vitiligo Association have carried out several awareness-raising actions in Kinshas. Including a press conference ... [Read more here.](#)

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