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***World PI Week 2021: Will you be striking a “Y” to support the primary immunodeficiency cause?***

**Brussels, 22 April 2021** – Millions of people around the world are living with a compromised immune system due to a genetic defect. Together, we can make a difference in their lives by stimulating early diagnosis and access to care. This is the headline message of the 2021 World Primary Immunodeficiency (PI) Week campaign, starting today.

**Focus on what matters most to the community**

This year, World PI Week (22-29 April) embraces three themes that are all the more relevant in the COVID-19 context: patient safety and protection with a focus on vaccination; plasma availability; and quality of life.

There are more than 430 different types of primary immunodeficiencies (PIDs), affecting over 6 million people worldwide. Primary immunodeficiencies occur when a person’s immune system is absent or does not function properly, which leaves individuals more prone than other people to infections and predispose them to auto-immunity, allergy, malignancy, or inflammation. For this very reason, raising awareness of the defects of the immune system such as PIDs takes on an even greater significance amid COVID-19.

While across the world all eyes are on the COVID-19 vaccination progress, World PI Week 2021 aims to remind that by protecting each other with vaccinations, we protect people with a compromised or weak immune system, such as those living with PIDs – also, during routine immunization. Further, although the availability of plasma is essential to produce life-saving therapies for many patients, the pandemic has impacted supplies in many parts of the world. This is a reminder that during COVID-19 and beyond, plasma donation is vital.

The spirit of this global endeavour is all about collaboration, awareness, investment and action to ensure that research, early diagnosis and better access to treatment are given greater visibility and feature high on health policy agendas, in order to improve patients’ quality of life.

**Striking a Y together to drive momentum, mobilise and bring about change**

In solidarity with those living with primary immunodeficiency, thousands of people from all continents will connect digitally and show their support towards the PID cause, through virtual runs, online webinars and workshops, social media campaigns and TV/radio interviews; or by donating blood or plasma.

World PI Week is for everyone. Join the many patients, policymakers, healthcare professionals including immunologists and nurses, researchers, journalists, company representatives and other partners that come together on 22-29 April to shine the light on what living with a PID means, and how to deliver change.

Joining World PI Week 2021 means helping make a difference, in support of patients and their families around the world.

More information about World PI Week: [www.worldpiweek.org](http://www.worldpiweek.org)

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#### ABOUT PRIMARY IMMUNODEFICIENCY

Primary Immunodeficiencies (PI) are a large and growing group of more than 430 disorders caused by some form of deficiency of the immune system, increasing one's susceptibility to infections and predisposition to auto-immunity, allergy, malignancy, or auto-inflammation. Primary immunodeficiencies are generally recognised as rare disorders but some are more common than others, and it is estimated that six million people worldwide live with a PI. When left undiagnosed or misdiagnosed, the immune system remains defective, leaving the patient vulnerable to illness, physical disability, vital and permanent organ damage, or even death. Learn more information about primary immunodeficiencies and World PI Week efforts [here](#).

#### ABOUT WORLD PRIMARY IMMUNODEFICIENCY WEEK

World PI Week is a global movement to raise awareness of primary immunodeficiency and related challenges; promote quality of life for people with primary immunodeficiency, early diagnosis, availability and access to treatment and care worldwide; and stimulate communication and advocacy around primary immunodeficiency.

For more information, please visit [www.worldpiweek.org](http://www.worldpiweek.org), follow us on Twitter @WorldPIWeek.

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*Together, bringing about change for primary immunodeficiency patients worldwide!*

