


How it all started

- The first PH support groups emerged in the early 1990s
 - Why and what was happening around that time?
 - How did those events influence the rise of PH support groups?
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1967

A diet pill causes an “epidemic” of PH. First cases reported in in CH, DE, AUSTR centres and there were approx. 600 in total by 1985. This sparked a renewed interest in the condition.



1973

First PH symposium convened in Geneva, CH, sponsored by the WHO, focused on primary pulmonary hypertension (PPH, now idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension, and first PH classification



**World Health
Organization**

1981

First PH patient registry was set up by the National Institute for Health (NIH) in the USA: 187 patients included 1981-1985.



1982

Sir John R. Vane was awarded the Nobel Prize for the discovery of prostacyclin.



Mid-late 1980's

First pioneering proof-of-concept trials with epoprostenol (a prostacyclin analog), followed by first randomised trials.



1990s

Rise of internet: the World Wide Web goes public.



By the 1990s ...

- More knowledge about PH was available from pathology studies, NIH registry and clinical trials findings
- Approval of Flolan, first ever PH drug
- Start of research on new potential treatments
- All these events concurred to create an environment favourable to the patient movement
- First patient support group is founded in the USA

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