



Acting on Stroke and Noncommunicable diseases

Preventing and responding to stroke to work towards Universal Health Coverage

Join us between **10-12 October** in the Product Theatre (Exhibition Hall) during coffee breaks for 30 minute discussions about stroke and other noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) between a range of stakeholders within the stroke community. All sessions are taking place at the **15th World Stroke Congress, Toronto, Canada, 2023**.

NCDs, including stroke and heart disease, diabetes, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, and other mental and neurological disorders, share common risk factors and health systems challenges. The solutions to lowering NCD mortality exist within the successful implementation of NCDs prevention and care policy and the progressive achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) globally. UHC is a commitment stating that the highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental human right and ensures financial protection from high out-of-pocket healthcare payments and access to quality essential healthcare services, medicines and vaccines **for all**.

At the first UN High-Level Meeting (HLM) on UHC in 2019, the 2019 UN Political Declaration on UHC was adopted to accelerate progress on achieving UHC by 2030. On 21 September 2023, the global health community convened once more at the HLM on UHC to advance the UHC agenda. In the lead up to this HLM, the NCD Alliance community called on governments to uphold their commitments to UHC across the three dimensions of service coverage, financial coverage and population coverage. This call was centred around **four advocacy priorities**: 1) **Engage** people living with NCDs to keep UHC people-centred, 2) **Accelerate** UHC implementation by including NCD prevention and care services in national UHC health benefit packages; 3) **Invest** in the prevention and control of NCDs through adequate resources for UHC and 4) **Align** development and global health priorities to achieve UHC. The sessions within the 2023 Stroke and NCD Dialogue each focus on one of these **NCD Alliance UHC advocacy priorities** and aim to demonstrate the importance of moving from a single disease approach to an integrated service delivery approach across the continuum of care, in order to achieve the progressive realisation of UHC.

This NCD Dialogue is a timely opportunity for open discussions as we progress from the HLM on UHC and build momentum towards the next HLM on NCDs in 2025 at the national and global level. Join us for four interactive sessions with experts from across a variety of stakeholders and regions!

Tuesday, 10 October

SESSION 1

09:30-10:00 EDT

Meaningful engagement of People Living with Stroke: How can we ensure the involvement of stroke survivors and caregivers to keep Universal Health Coverage people centred?

NCD Alliance UHC advocacy priority: ENGAGE people living with NCDs to keep UHC people centered.

Governments alone cannot achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and opportunities should exist for different stakeholders to participate in developing, implementing and reviewing national health policy frameworks, financial protection strategies and essential health benefits packages. The systematic participation of all stakeholders, particularly communities and civil society, leads to a more transparent and people-centred health system. It is therefore imperative people who live with, and are affected by, noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as stroke, including carer's, are empowered to share their experiences of healthcare, stigma or discrimination and the daily challenges of living with or surviving chronic disease and shape their countries NCD and UHC response.

CHAIR

Patrice Lindsay

Lead of Engagement and Stroke Strategies, The Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada, Canada

SPEAKERS

Carole Laurin

Stroke Survivor, Canada

Joseph Rukelibuga

Chairperson, Stroke Action Rwanda, Rwanda

Rosie Murton

Partnerships and Membership Officer, NCD Alliance, UK

Wednesday, 11 October

SESSION 2

17:15-17:45 EDT

Including stroke and NCD prevention and care services across the continuum of care to achieve Universal Health Coverage: The role of Appendix 3 of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan.

NCD Alliance UHC advocacy priority: **ACCELERATE UHC implementation by including quality NCD prevention and care services in country UHC health benefit packages.**

Stroke is the second leading global cause of death and there is an undeniable link between stroke and other noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) as they share modifiable risk factors and stroke risks can be increased by the presence of other NCDs. Therefore, it is important to ensure that low-cost, population level stroke prevention strategies are prioritised in national NCD plans. The Appendix 3 of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan emphasises this through its identification of cost-effective policy across the continuum of care, including provision of essential NCD medicines and diagnostics in national essential medicines lists as well as preventative public health measures such as taxation on unhealthy products.

CHAIR

Liz Scanlon

Director, Health Systems and Provincial Mission, The Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada, Canada

SPEAKERS

Taskeen Khan

Department of Noncommunicable Diseases, WHO, Switzerland

Bo Norrving

Senior Professor of Neurology, Lund University, Sweden

Jeyaraj Durai Pandian

Professor and Head of Neurology and Principal/Dean, Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, Punjab, India

Thursday, 12 October

SESSION 3

09:30-10:00 EDT

Making the case for investment in quality chronic disease care: Reversing the rise of catastrophic out of pocket health expenditure to work towards Universal Health Coverage.

NCD Alliance UHC advocacy priority: **INVEST in the prevention and control of NCDs through adequate, predictable and sustained resources for UHC.**

The majority of people who have had a stroke live with one or more additional chronic condition(s), which is referred to as NCD comorbidities. NCD comorbidities expose individuals to exponentially increased financial burden. For example, in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) people living with NCDs are at high risk of catastrophic health expenditure, which is health spending that exceeds

40% of income. In some LMICs, more than 60% of people living with some NCDs are experiencing catastrophic health expenditure. This evidence supports the need to invest in NCD prevention and primary health care, to avoid tackling diseases in siloes and to extend financial risk protection against catastrophic health expenditure.

CHAIR

Stephanie Mohl

Vice President, American Stroke Association, USA

SPEAKERS

Gisele Sampaio Silva

Neurologist and Critical Care Physician, Brazil

Rita Melifonwu

Founder and CEO, Stroke Action, UK and Nigeria and Nurse Consultant in Stroke Rehabilitation

Arvind Sharma

Head - Department of Neurology & Stroke Specialist, Zydus Hospitals, Ahmedabad, India

SESSION 4

16:45-17:15 EDT

Achieving equality within access to stroke services: How can we ensure gender balance in treatment and care for people with stroke and NCDs in low- and middle-income countries?

NCD Alliance UHC advocacy priority: **ALIGN development and global health priorities to achieve UHC.**

People deserve access to care regardless of their financial situation, gender or background. Women face a disproportionate burden of stroke mortality and disability, where sex and sociocultural gender both contribute to differences in stroke assessment, treatment, and outcomes. Despite substantial progress in examining sex differences in stroke, significant research gaps remain, including improved understanding of the factors contributing to the worse outcomes from stroke amongst women. Widening across all NCDs, women face significant barriers to access of timely, adequate, or affordable NCD screening and care. A gender and UHC lens to NCDs is needed to understand the NCD burden among women so that inequalities are addressed.

CHAIR

Bo Norrving

Senior Professor of Neurology, Lund University, Sweden

SPEAKERS

Valeria Caso

Stroke Neurologist and Professor in Neurology, University of Perugia Stroke Unit, Italy

Amal Al Hashmi

Senior Consultant Neurologist and Founder and President, Oman Stroke Society, Oman

Ivy Sebastian

Neurologist, India and Fellow, Stroke, Foothills Medical Centre, University of Calgary, Canada

Scan the QR code to access: 'Acting on Stroke and NCDs, Preventing and responding to stroke to work towards Universal Health Coverage'. This policy brief provides key recommendations for healthcare providers, policymakers and civil society to improve the response to stroke and NCDs.



Scan the QR code to access: 'NCD Alliance Advocacy Priorities For the 2023 UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC)'. This UHC policy brief lays out NCD Alliance's four advocacy priorities to accelerate progress on the implementation of NCDs prevention and care policy globally to achieve UHC.



The Stroke and NCD Dialogue sessions will take place in the Product Theatre of the 15th World Stroke Congress 2023 Exhibition Hall. Follow @ncdalliance for more. #ActOnNCDs