



Acting on Stroke and Noncommunicable Diseases

Preventing and responding to stroke to work towards Universal Health Coverage

Join us between **26-28 October** in the Product Theatre (Exhibition Hall) during coffee breaks for informal and interactive discussions on stroke and other noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) between a range of stakeholders within the stroke community, taking place at the **World Stroke Congress 2022!**

The Stroke and NCD Dialogue is an interactive platform for open discussions on key topics in the field of stroke, NCDs and global health, as well as a space for networking with prominent experts and thought leaders, with an emphasis on partnership and collaboration.

NCDs, which include stroke and heart disease, diabetes, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, and mental and neurological disorders, share common risk factors and health systems challenges. They also share common solutions and, therefore, a united response for stroke and other NCDs.

Given the devastation caused by COVID-19 against the existing backdrop of high NCD mortality it is imperative that health systems reorient from a single disease approach to integrate care packages across diseases. This, the integration of NCDs into Universal Health Coverage (UHC), must be at the core of national and global preparedness for future health threats. UHC, a commitment stating that the highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental human right, ensures financial protection from high out-of-pocket healthcare payments and access to quality essential healthcare services, medicines and vaccines for all. Following the first 2019 UN High-Level Meeting on UHC, the UN Political Declaration on UHC was adopted to accelerate progress on achieving UHC by 2030. Key stakeholders will mobilise once more at the UN High-Level Meeting on UHC in 2023 to review 2023 targets set on UHC, including one billion additional people covered by UHC by 2023. In order to achieve UHC, it is essential that services across the stroke and NCD continuum of care are well integrated into UHC policies and packages.

The Stroke and NCD Dialogue will provide the opportunity to discuss current challenges in the global health arena, including achieving UHC, and other NCD topics in an open and engaging environment, with sessions dedicated to open and interactive discussion between participants and speakers from all backgrounds, regions, and sectors. Join us for four interactive sessions with experts!

Wednesday, 26 October

SESSION 1

09:30-10:00

Implementation of population-wide prevention strategies for stroke and NCDs: How can we prioritise population-based approaches through digital health innovation and investment in community health workers?

While working to ensure equitable access to quality stroke care remains a priority, prevention is always better than cure. There is existing evidence for population-wide prevention programmes that can reduce stroke incidence for those at low and medium risk where 80% of strokes currently occur. These include implementing digital and mobile technologies that can provide community health workers with preventative tools to identify health risks, monitor activity levels, track changes in health status and motivate behaviour change. At the population level, task-shifting from trained health professionals to community health workers can contribute to the prevention of up to 50% of stroke and cardiovascular disease events.

CHAIR

Michael Brainin

Emeritus Professor at Danube University, Krems, Austria

SPEAKERS

Valery Feigin

Professor of Neurology and Epidemiology and the Director of the National Institute for Stroke and Applied Neurosciences, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand

Michelle LA Nelson

Scientist, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute, Sinai Health System and Assistant Professor, Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, University of Toronto, Canada

Tazeen H Jafar

Tenured Professor of Health Services and Systems Research, Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, Singapore

Wednesday, 26 October

SESSION 2

15:00-15:30

Translating the global to the national: How can we ensure accountability for government action on international commitments on stroke and NCD prevention?

The importance of decisions made at global health high level meetings, including the World Health Assembly, need to be clear for all stakeholders involved in advocating for improved prevention and control of stroke and NCDs including civil society organisations, people living with stroke and NCDs and national governments, to implement those decisions on the ground. A WHO survey showed that only 38% of Member States had explicitly included stroke in their NCD response and preparedness plans. In a world where the burden of stroke is on the rise, governments, along with supporting NGOs, need to take bold action to implement global commitments on improving stroke and other NCD services.

CHAIR

Valeria Caso

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

SPEAKERS

Jeyaraj D Pandian

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

Rita Melifonwu

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

Hoo Fan Kee

Neurologist, General Physician and Senior Lecturer, University Putra Malaysia, Malaysia

Thursday 27 October

SESSION 3

12:40-13:10

On the road to achieving Universal Health Coverage: How can we ensure equitable access to quality stroke and NCD care is integrated into health systems, especially in low- and middle-income countries?

Universal health coverage (UHC) means that all people receive the health services they need without suffering financial hardship. This includes ensuring access to essential medicines and medical devices for patients presenting with stroke and other NCDs. Stroke units are available in 91% of high-income countries in contrast to 18% of low-income countries. Currently, acute stroke treatments are available in ~60% of high-income countries compared to 26% of low-income countries.

All acute patients with stroke have the right to access treatment at stroke units, evidenced based therapies, rehabilitation services and long-term support without facing financial barriers to treatment, highlighting the essential need for UHC.

CHAIR

Karen Furie

Chief of Neurology, Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital and Bradley Hospital, USA

SPEAKERS

Mayowa Owolabi

Professor of Neurology and Director, Center for Genomic and Precision Medicine, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Taskeen Khan

Department of Noncommunicable Diseases, WHO

Bo Norrving

Senior Professor of Neurology, Lund University, Sweden

Friday, 28 October

SESSION 4

09:30-10:00

Why do we demand multisectoral action? The importance of public private partnerships to address stroke and NCDs.

The investment case for NCDs is clear: if less than US\$1 per person per year is invested in cost-effective NCD measures, this could lead to 7 million lives saved and US\$230 billion in economic gains by 2030. This evidence highlights the essential need for multisectoral collaboration to increase the NCD investment case to tackle the NCD burden and advance public health goals. In the case of stroke, civil society organisations need to understand the importance of partnering with relevant private sector players to attract funding for stroke care so that access to care is improved in low- and middle-income countries.

CHAIR

Bo Norrving

Senior Professor of Neurology, Lund University, Sweden

SPEAKERS

Sheila Martins

Founder and President of Brazilian Stroke Network, Brazil

Thomas Fischer

Angels Project Lead and Co-founder, Boehringer Ingelheim

Stephanie Mohl

Vice President, American Stroke Association, USA

Scan the QR code to access the new policy brief: 'Acting on Stroke and NCDs, Preventing and responding to stroke to work towards Universal Health Coverage'.

This policy brief focuses on stroke as a major contributor to the increasing burden of NCDs in society and the urgent need to implement effective, affordable, and widely applicable strategies to prevent and treat stroke before, during and after its occurrence. It also provides key recommendations for healthcare providers, policymakers and civil society on advocacy and implementation to improve the response to stroke and NCDs. These recommendations are based on a comprehensive approach as part of working towards UHC.



The Stroke and NCD Dialogue sessions will take place in the Product Theatre of the World Stroke Congress 2022 Exhibition Hall.

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