

**Executive Board Members Section of Chief Dental Officers/FDI & All National Chief Dental Officers
Via Email**

31.08.2018

**Invitation to Side-Event “Oral Health & NCDs: Accelerating integrated global progress”
28 Sept 2018 in New York**

Your Excellency

On behalf of New York University's (NYU) College of Dentistry and College of Global Public Health we are pleased to invite you to actively participate in a side-event on Oral Health & NCDs on 28 September 2018, right after the UN High-level Meeting on NCDs in New York.

Title: Oral Health & NCDs: accelerating integrated global progress

Date: Friday 28 September 2018, 13:00-19:00 (including lunch and evening reception)

Venue: NYU Institute for Study of Ancient Worlds, 15 E 84th St. (between 5th & Madison), New York

During the first High-level Meeting on NCDs in 2011, NYU also hosted a successful side-event on oral health, co-sponsored by the governments of Tanzania, Sweden and Australia. Since then the international discourse and action around prevention and control of NCDs have advanced, though not at the required pace to meet the ambitious targets outlined in the Political Declaration on NCDs (2011) and the WHO Global Action Plan on NCDs (2013). Both documents recognize oral diseases, albeit briefly and without much detail.

The Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Studies have confirmed that untreated tooth decay is the most common disease of mankind and three major oral diseases (tooth decay, severe gum disease, oral cancer) rank among the ten most frequent health conditions worldwide. More than 3.5 billion people suffer from oral diseases and related psychological, social and/or economic consequences.

The objectives of the side-event are to:

1. Provide a snapshot of the burden and impact of oral diseases and challenges related to addressing them, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC);
2. Highlight evidence and pathways towards prevention of oral diseases integrated with NCDs and aligned with SDGs, including innovative country experiences and “best buy” interventions;
3. Present key aspects of an investment case for oral health, emphasizing the need to focus on simple preventive interventions in order to address the disease burden in LMIC; and
4. To garner support and momentum towards integration of oral health in all policies and health systems by providing arguments and evidence for advocacy, policy and action.

We would be pleased to welcome you to the event and the evening reception. The enclosed concept note provides further detail and a tentative agenda. The WHO Assistant Director-General Dr Svetlana Axelrod has confirmed to give the keynote lecture. As we are in the process of finalizing the agenda we encourage your respective UN delegation to join the event as co-sponsoring member state. Speaking slots for high-level members of your UN delegation are available to share country experiences and successes. We remain at your disposition to discuss all required details should your Ministry of Health be interested to support the event in this way.

The NYU College of Global Public Health and NYU College of Dentistry are committed to enhancing the global research, policy, training and implementation agenda building on the close relationships between oral health and NCDs. The NYU College of Dentistry is the only World Health Organization Collaborating Center on oral health in the Americas, aiming to foster policy dialogue and the translation of evidence into practice.

Please confirm your participation and your interest to sponsor the event directly with Dr. Habib Benzian (habib.benzian@nyu.edu) or register at the [event's website](http://www.dental.nyu.edu/oralhealthsideevent) (www.dental.nyu.edu/oralhealthsideevent).

Yours Sincerely,

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