

CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT, LIFE COURSE IMMUNIZATION, AND HEALTHY AGING IN EUROPE

December 10, 2024
9am-10:30am EST | 3pm-4:30pm CET

Meeting Link: [Join the meeting now](#)
Meeting ID: 242 543 415 822
Passcode: Py6iU3oo

Meeting Agenda

Background

Each year, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) account for 74% of all global deaths—over 41 million—resulting in significant and costly impacts on people of all ages, extending far beyond just health. As these impacts continue to increase in both cost and burden, driven by an aging global population, there is a growing need for innovative solutions to manage and prevent NCDs. One such avenue, often overlooked, is the role of preventable respiratory diseases as a highly modifiable risk factor for both the development and worsening of NCDs. The evidence supporting this is expanding. This offers a simple but underused opportunity for intervention: integrating adult immunization into NCD prevention and management strategies.

NCDs—including cardiovascular diseases (CVD), chronic respiratory diseases, cognitive decline, diabetes, and other age-related conditions—place a heavy burden on healthy aging. They are also a significant financial expense, both on healthcare systems and individuals, as well as the broader economy due to lost productivity. From 2011 to 2030, NCDs are projected to cost the global economy over USD \$30 trillion, making them the largest contributor to healthcare costs in OECD countries. As the global population ages rapidly, these costs are expected to increase, potentially at an exponential rate.

The primary objectives of NCD and chronic care management are to reduce risk, slow disease progression, and minimize complications. To improve individual health outcomes and alleviate the strain on healthcare and economic systems—including efforts to meet the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the Decade of Healthy Ageing—effective strategies to prevent and manage NCDs must be put in place. This is becoming more urgent as demographic aging progresses, with more than two-thirds of older adults living with multimorbidity—a figure that increases with age.

Addressing NCDs is both challenging and expensive for various reasons, particularly the complex interplay of genetic, environmental, behavioral, and physiological factors that contribute to these diseases. This complexity makes it difficult to identify a single, broad public health intervention. Furthermore, many modifiable risk factors for NCDs, such as poverty and poor air quality, require population-level action to improve individual health, creating additional logistical hurdles.

Given this, it is crucial to consider policies and practices—such as WHO’s Age-Friendly Cities initiative—that can be adapted at the individual level, where small-scale efforts to reduce the risk of NCDs can accumulate to create a larger, collective impact. Adult immunization is one such strategy with substantial potential benefits. Vaccines that protect against severe respiratory infections can not only help prevent the onset of new NCDs but also support the management of existing conditions, while reducing the severity and risk of vaccine-preventable respiratory diseases (VPRDs), which can have devastating consequences.

This private roundtable, which is organized by GCOA with funding from Pfizer, will bring together European and global experts from across noncommunicable disease areas (NCDs), life course immunization and vaccination, healthy aging policy, economic and fiscal policy, and patient advocacy for an interactive discussion.

The goal of the roundtable will be to arrive at expert consensus on a core set of priority actions to leverage immunization for adults as a strategy for NCD management, making healthy aging more accessible for adults across Europe. The themes and insights from the roundtable will be synthesized into a white paper report to accompany the written consensus statement.

Goals for the roundtable discussion include to:

1. Assess the growing body of evidence connecting NCDs and respiratory diseases;
2. Emphasize the urgency for health systems and governments to interrupt the rising trajectory of NCDs and support better NCD management and care amid the context of population aging;
3. Identify and explore available levers for individuals, healthcare systems, and governments across Europe to reduce the burden, impact, and economic costs of NCDs through life course immunization.

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions (5 min)

Michael Hodin, CEO, Global Coalition on Aging

Diane Thomson, Pfizer

Marie-Christine Truchet, Pfizer

Setting the Stage – Brief remarks from “thought-starters” to frame the topic and the associated challenges (15 min)

- **Dr. JP Michel**
- **Dr. Julio Ramirez**

Moderated Roundtable Discussion (45 min)

Moderator: **Michael Hodin**, CEO, Global Coalition on Aging

Guiding Questions for Discussion:

1. Amid aging populations and increasing NCD burdens, what is your reaction to the growing evidence linking respiratory diseases with the development and progression of non-communicable diseases (NCDs)?
2. How can this linkage be most effectively communicated to policymakers, healthcare providers, and the general public?
3. Where do you see barriers and opportunities for policies or practices to integrate adult immunization into existing NCD management frameworks at the national and local levels?
4. What are the most effective strategies for overcoming the logistical, financial, and societal barriers that hinder the widespread adoption of adult immunization as a tool for NCD prevention and management across Europe? How might these strategies be applied in other settings?
5. How do we help clinicians and policymakers understand the importance of preventing respiratory diseases in those with underlying NCDs and comorbid conditions?

One Big Idea (10 mins)

Conclusion and Next Steps (5 min)

Michael Hodin, CEO, Global Coalition on Aging

Participant Biographies



Paola Antonini, Chief Scientific Officer, Meditrial Europe

Dr. Paola Antonini is a goal-oriented leader with 30+ years' experience in guiding development on drugs, medical products, and research on diseases. She holds a Specialization in Clinical Pharmacology from University of Florence, and a Master's Degree in Medicine from University of Rome La Sapienza, Rome, Italy. A 2-year period of residency as Oncology Surgeon at the Institute of Tumors of Rome completed her education. Before joining Meditrial, Dr. Antonini provided high-level clinical research oversight through support of clinical scientists, leading clinical development activities and guiding teams and interfacing with regulatory authorities worldwide. Her key asset is the capability of leveraging her deep subject matter expertise to interpret, discuss and present clinical trial data for drugs, devices and IVD products.



Mario Barbagallo, Chair, International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics-European Region; Professor of Geriatrics and Director of the Geriatric Unit, University Hospital of Palermo

Dr. Mario Barbagallo is Full Professor of Internal Medicine and Geriatrics; Director of the Department of Medicine, University Hospital of Palermo; Director of the Post-graduate program in Geriatrics; President of IAGG-ER (International association of Geriatrics-European Region). Member of the Superior Council of the Italian Minister of Health. He is included in the list of the Top Italian Scientists (www.topitalianscientists.org). He previously worked in Parma and in Rome where he obtained the PhD, and in the US (at the Cornell University Medical Center, NY, NY, USA, and as a Fulbright Scholar and Visiting Professor at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, USA). He is an expert on clinical, social and biological problems related to aging, and to the prevention and treatment of aging-related diseases. He is member of numerous national and international scientific societies and appreciated speaker in Italy and abroad. Author of over 500 publications in scientific journals.



John Beard, Irene Diamond Professor of Epidemiology and Health Policy and Management, Columbia University; Director, International Longevity Center-USA

John Beard is Irene Diamond Professor and Director of the International Longevity Center-USA at Columbia University, New York. He was previously Director of Ageing and Life Course with the World Health Organization where he led major global initiatives including the World report on ageing and health and the Integrated Care for Older People program. In 2012, he established the Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities which now covers over 300 million people. He has worked extensively with the World Economic Forum and was commissioner on the US National Academy of Medicine Global Roadmap for Healthy Longevity.



John Deanfield CBE, FMedSci, BA Hons (Cantab), MB, BChir, FRCP, FESC, FACC, Professor University College London, Trustee of Our Future Health, Director, NICOR

Professor John Deanfield is a global leader in cardiovascular health and preventative medicine. His work has been pivotal in shifting the focus from treating established disease to preventing its onset.

He has championed the concept of “Investing in Your Arteries” based on his work describing the risk and benefit from cumulative exposure to risk factors and their treatment. As the UK government's first-ever Champion for Personalised Prevention, he has played a role in shaping national health strategies, advocating for a more proactive and individualized approach to healthcare. His work in this capacity has influenced policy decisions and helped set the stage for a new era of preventive medicine in the UK. John was made Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to the prevention and treatment of heart disease in 2021.

He founded and directed the National Institute for Cardiovascular Outcomes Research (NICOR) and championed the use of real-world data for both quality improvement and large-scale, clinical trials.

He has a number of leadership positions in the UK and internationally. He is Chair of the International Scientific Committee at the new Springer Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Center, Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, and helped develop the Our Future Health programme, for which

he is a Trustee. He is also a strategic advisor to the pharmaceutical and financial industries and has board positions at several early-stage companies.

A prolific researcher, Professor Deanfield has authored over 550 peer-reviewed publications in prestigious medical journals, including The Lancet and New England Journal of Medicine (h-index=157). He regularly presents at major international conferences.



Arunima Himawan, Senior Manager, Health Policy and Research, International Longevity Centre-UK

Arunima Himawan joined the International Longevity Centre 5 years ago as a Research Fellow. Since then, she has held other positions, including Senior Health Research Lead, and most recently Senior Health Policy and Research Manager. Himawan currently leads ILC's global health program of work and strategy and manages the ILC's prevention program. During her time at ILC she has led a number of other health projects, ranging from medication adherence to structural heart disease and adult immunization. She is on the Steering Committee of the Structural Heart Disease Coalition, a member of the ILC Global Alliance Long-term Care Working Group and a member of the ILC Global Alliance Gender and Ageing committee. In addition to global health, her interests include generational discourse, social inequalities, and financial wellbeing. Prior to ILC, Himawan worked at Goldsmiths College and the University of East Anglia in policy and research roles, influencing internal university policy to improve the student experience.



Michael Hodin, CEO, Global Coalition on Aging; Managing Partner, High Lantern Group

Michael Hodin is CEO of the Global Coalition on Aging, Managing Partner at High Lantern Group, and a Fellow at Oxford University's Harris Manchester College. He has spoken internationally on aging, including at G20, APEC, Davos, and the World Knowledge Forum. From 1976-80, Mike was Legislative Assistant to Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. He was a senior executive at Pfizer, Inc. for 30 years, where he created and led International Public Affairs and Public Policy operations. Mike holds a BA, cum laude, Cornell University, M.Sc. from The London School of Economics, and M.Phil and Ph.D. from Columbia University.



Joanna Laurson-Doube, Manager, Policy and Advocacy NCD Alliance

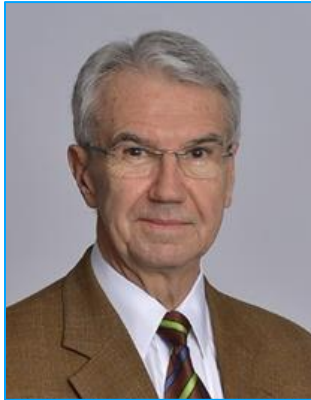
Joanna Laurson-Doube joined the NCD Alliance Policy and Advocacy team in November 2023 to lead on the care agenda, which focuses on cross-cutting NCD topics such as integration of NCDs into PHC, UHC and other global health initiatives. Laurson-Doube has a PhD in cell biology from University College London and has recently completed an Executive MBA at Kellogg-Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Most recently, she was working with the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation to improve access to healthcare for people with multiple sclerosis in low-resource settings. She worked closely with international neurological organizations to shape the World Health Organization Intersectoral Global Action Plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders. She was the program lead for a multi-year program aimed at including medicines for multiple sclerosis to the WHO's Essential Medicines List for the first time. WHO listed the proposed treatments in July 2023. She is a member of the GRADE working group on essential medicines. Previously, after leaving lab work, Joanna also worked in science engagement and communications at Cancer Research UK, supporting high-value fundraising for multi-million-pound proposals.



Paolo Magni, Professor of Pathology, Uni Università degli Studi di Milano; Board Member, Italian Heart Foundation

Dr. Paolo Magni is professor of pathology at the Università degli Studi di Milano (Milan, Italy), clinical researcher at IRCCS MultiMedica Hospital (Milan, Italy) and Coordinator of the scientific committee of the Italian Heart Foundation. His clinical and research activity is directed to molecular pathophysiology, prevention, and treatment of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases. He is also involved in the activities of the Italian Heart Foundation for the general public and for patients with heart diseases. Dr. Magni received a degree in Medicine and a post-doctoral degree in Endocrinology at the Università degli Studi di Pavia (Italy) and a PhD degree in Endocrinology and Metabolism at the Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy. He spent a 3-year fellowship at the University of Texas SW Medical Center in Dallas, TX and is currently professor of pathology at the Università degli Studi di Milano. He is involved in both experimental and clinical research. His research domains include the molecular pathophysiology of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases (atherosclerosis, dyslipidemia, structural heart diseases, obesity,

diabetes, metabolic syndrome) and the nutritional/nutraceutical modulation of cardiovascular and metabolic risk, aging and health-related issues. He is the coordinator of national and international research projects in the cardiovascular and metabolic area.



Jean-Pierre Michel, Director, IAGG-W Federation of Geriatric Education

Dr. Jean-Pierre Michel is emeritus professor of medicine and former head of the academic geriatric department at Geneva Hospitals and Medical University. He is also an honorary professor at Limoges University and Beijing University Hospital, as well as an adjunct professor at McGill University. He co-founded several important organizations, including the European Academy for Medicine of Aging, the Academia Latinoamericana de Medicina del Adulto Mayor, and the Asian Academy for Medicine of Ageing. He has served as an ambassador for the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics-World and is currently the Director of the IAGG-W Federation of Geriatric Education, which launched an international online training program in Gerontology and Geriatrics. Dr. Michel has received numerous accolades, including the City of Vienna Life Achievement Award and the China Foreign Friendship Award. He was recognized with a World Award at the 2013 IAGG-World Congress of Geriatric Medicine in Seoul for his global contributions to the field. He was elected President of the European Union Geriatric Medicine Society and served as editor-in-chief of its journal, "European Geriatric Medicine." He is currently an honorary editor-in-chief and an associate editor of "Aging Clinical Experimental Research." As a WHO expert on Aging and Life Course since 1992, he co-authored the first Global WHO report on Aging and Health in 2015. He co-founded the European Interdisciplinary Council on Ageing and currently serves on its executive board. He has authored over 500 scientific papers and book chapters, with significant readership and citations.



Jaber Oufkir, Liaison Officer, Public Health Issues, International Federation of Medical Students' Association

Jaber Oufkir, a medical student from Morocco, is currently the Liaison Officer for Public Health Issues at the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA). Founded in 1951, IFMSA represents over 1.5 million medical students across 130+ countries. Jaber has a strong interest in advancing global health, particularly in antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and other global health topics such as climate change and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). He has actively represented youth perspectives at prestigious high-level events like the 77th World Health Assembly (WHA77), where he was Morocco's first Youth Delegate, and the World Health Summit 2024. Jaber's work spans local, national, and global platforms, advocating for meaningful youth engagement in health policy and decision-making processes.



Julio Alberto Ramirez, Chief Scientific Officer, Norton Healthcare

Dr. Julio Alberto Ramirez is the Chief Scientific Officer at the Norton Infectious Diseases Institute at Norton Healthcare in Louisville, Kentucky. He is also an Emeritus Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the Infectious Diseases Society of America. Dr. Ramirez received his medical degree from La Plata National University School of Medical Science in Argentina. He completed a residency in internal medicine at Lincoln Medical Center, New York Medical College; and a fellowship in infectious diseases at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. He is board-certified in internal medicine and holds subspecialty certification in infectious diseases. Dr. Ramirez directs the research activities of the Norton Infectious Diseases Institute. His research has been funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense, and the National Institutes of Health. With more than 300 peer-reviewed publications, Dr. Ramirez has been recognized as one of the top 1% of researchers worldwide based on citation impact. He is the recipient of the 2013 European Respiratory Society Presidential Award, recognizing his outstanding contribution to research in the field of respiratory infections.

Dr. Ramirez serves as the Section Editor on pulmonary infections for the evidence-based clinical decision support system, UpToDate. He also has been a member of the Food and Drug Administration advisory committee

for the approval of anti-infective drugs. He currently co-chairs the ATS-IDSA national guidelines committee for the management of community-acquired pneumonia.



Diane Thomson. Senior Director, Global Business Policy and Public Affairs: Vaccines, Pfizer

Diane has extensive experience in public affairs. She is a senior member of the Global Business Policy and Public Affairs team where she supports the international vaccines business. She is also co-chair of the IFPMA Life Course Immunization Working Group.

Diane is committed to helping ensure vaccines, which are a core pillar of public health, are available to help protect millions of lives against vaccine preventable diseases across the life course.



Kenneth Thorpe, Professor, Health Policy and Management, Rollins School of Public Health

Dr. Kenneth E. Thorpe is the Robert W. Woodruff Professor in the Department of Health Policy & Management. He was the Vanselow Professor of Health Policy and Director, Institute for Health Services Research at Tulane University. He was previously Professor of Health Policy and Administration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; an Associate Professor and Director of the Program on Health Care Financing and Insurance at the Harvard University School of Public Health and Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Public Health at Columbia University. Dr. Thorpe has also held Visiting Faculty positions at Pepperdine University and Duke University. Dr. Thorpe was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Policy in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 1993 to 1995. In this capacity, he coordinated all financial estimates and program impacts of President Clinton's health care reform proposals for the White House. He also directed the administration's estimation efforts in dealing with Congressional health care reform proposals during the 103rd and 104th sessions of Congress. As an academic, he has testified before several committees in the U.S. Senate and House on health care reform and insurance issues. Dr. Thorpe has authored and co-authored over 120 articles, book chapters and books and is a frequent national presenter on issues of health care financing, insurance and health care reform at health care conferences, television and the media. He has worked with several groups (including the

American College of Physicians, American Hospital Association, National Coalition on Health Care, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, Service Employees International Union, AHIP and the United Hospital Fund) and policymakers (including Senators Wellstone, Corzine, Bingaman, Snowe, Feinstein, Cassidy, Carper, Clinton, Obama and Kennedy) to develop and evaluate alternative approaches for providing health insurance to the uninsured. He serves as a reviewer on several health care journals. Dr. Thorpe is chairman, Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease, an international coalition of over 80 groups focused on highlighting the key role that chronic disease plays in the growth in healthcare spending, and the high rates of morbidity and mortality. PFCD focuses as well on identifying best practice prevention and care coordination strategies and scaling them countrywide.



Marie-Christine Truchet, Director, Vaccines Global Policy and Public Affairs, Pfizer Inc.

In her role, Marie leads Global (ex-USA) Public Affairs strategy for Pfizer vaccines. She represents Pfizer in International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA) vaccines Committee.

Since 2001, she has worked in different positions of increasing responsibilities in Strategic Marketing, Market Access, and Policy.

Marie was trained as a chemical engineer in France, and has master's degrees in business administration and finance.



Mariano Votta, Director, EU Affairs and Active Citizenship Network, Cittadinanzattiva

Mariano Votta is the Director of EU Affairs and the Active Citizenship Network (ACN), the EU branch of Cittadinanzattiva, an NGO dedicated to protecting rights, supporting vulnerable populations, and promoting civic engagement. He has been with Cittadinanzattiva since 2001 and has led ACN since 2013. Votta holds an MSc in Political Science and postgraduate certifications in EU Public Relations and Corporate Social Responsibility. He is also a journalist and began his career as a Communication Officer with Cittadinanzattiva. His international experience includes consulting for the United Nations Development Program on public services and communication in Colombia. At ACN, Votta oversees advocacy, stakeholder engagement, and project management at the EU level, representing the organization with

European Commission Directorates-General and international stakeholders. He played a pivotal role in launching the MEP Interest Group on EU Patients' Rights and Cross-Border Healthcare in 2015 and the MEP Interest Group on SDGs for Wellbeing and Consumer Protection in 2021. Mariano's leadership extends to membership in the EU Consumer Consultative Group and the HERA Civil Society Forum, where he advises on European health emergency preparedness and response. He serves on the boards of Health First Europe, the European Movement-Italy, and the AMR Patient Alliance. An expert in health and consumer issues, Votta has over 20 years of experience and is widely published, with over 40 peer-reviewed articles to his name. He has received multiple honors, including the Efhre International University Excellence Award for his contributions to patient rights. Mariano resides in Italy, where he is married and has a daughter.