

Global surveillance, prevention and control of  
**CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASES**

**A comprehensive approach**



World Health  
Organization

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**WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data:**

Global surveillance, prevention and control of chronic respiratory diseases : a comprehensive approach / Jean Bousquet and Nikolai Khaltaev editors.

1. Respiratory tract diseases - epidemiology. 2. Respiratory tract diseases - etiology. 3. Pulmonary disease, Chronic obstructive - epidemiology. 4. Pulmonary disease, Chronic obstructive - etiology. 5. Risk factors. 6. Chronic disease - prevention and control. 7. Strategic planning. 8. Health policy. I. World Health Organization. II. Bousquet, Jean. III. Khaltaev, Nikolai. IV. Title: A world where all people breathe freely.

ISBN 978 92 4 156346 8

(NLM classification: WF 140)

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Printed in Switzerland

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This publication was produced under the overall direction of Jean Bousquet and Nikolai Khaltaev (Editors).

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Valuable inputs in the form of contributions, peer-review, suggestions and criticisms were received from Tim Armstrong, Michal Krzyzanowski, Doris Ma Fat, Salah-Eddine Ottmani, Annette Pruess-Ustun, Eva Rehfuess, Luminita Sanda and Kenji Shibuya (World Health Organization); Ali Ben Kheder, Paulo Camargos, Yu Zhi Chen, Alexander Chuchalin, Peter M. Calverley, Adnan Custovic, Habib Douagui, Wytske J. Fokkens, Amiran Gamkrelidze, Tari Haahtela, Suzanne Hurd, Abai Kabatayevich Baigenzhin, You-Young Kim, Ali Kocabas, Carlos Luna, Fernando D. Martinez, Sylvia Mavale-Manuel, Mário Moraes de Almeida, Paul O'Byrne, Solange Ouedraogo, James P. Kiley, Rogelio Perez-Padilla, Todor Popov, Jose Rosado-Pinto, Kazimierz Roszkowski-Pliz, Alkis Togias, Arzu Yorgancioglu, Mahamad Youssef and Osman Yusuf.

Editorial revision was done by Angela Haden and Pieter Desloovere.

Book: design and layout, Zando F. Escultura; cover: design and layout, Reda Sadki; pictures: Marko Kokic (cover), Patrick Szymshak (Pelé) and George Herringshaw (Rosa Mota).

Report development and production were coordinated by Pieter Desloovere who also was responsible for the web site version.

The Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases wishes to thank the following for their generous financial support: GlaxoSmithKline, Nycomed-Altana Pharma US, Inc., Chiesi Farmaceutici S.p.A, Merck & Co. Inc, Pfizer Inc., Schering Plough Corporation, Astra Zeneca R&D Lund, Boehringer-Ingelheim Int. GmbH, Novartis Pharma AG, Sanofi-Aventis and Stallergènes SA.

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# FOREWORD



Chronic respiratory diseases, such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, kill more than four million people every year and affect hundreds of millions more. These diseases erode the health and well-being of the patients and have a negative impact on families and societies. Women and children are particularly vulnerable, especially those in low and middle income countries, where they are exposed on a daily basis to indoor air pollution from solid fuels for cooking and heating. In high income countries, tobacco is the most important risk factor for chronic respiratory diseases, and in some of these countries, tobacco use among women and young people is still increasing.

WHO recently launched the Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases (GARD). Spearheaded by WHO, GARD brings together the combined knowledge of national and international organizations, institutions and agencies to improve the lives of millions of people affected by chronic respiratory diseases.

*Global Surveillance, prevention and control of chronic respiratory diseases: a comprehensive approach* raises awareness of the huge impact of chronic respiratory diseases worldwide, and highlights the risk factors as well as ways to prevent and treat these diseases.

I hope that this publication will serve not only as a source of information, but also as inspiration to those who want to join the battle against chronic respiratory diseases. By addressing this global epidemic, much suffering can be avoided and millions of lives can be saved.

**Dr Catherine Le Galès-Camus**

WHO Assistant Director-General,  
Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health

# SUPPORTING STATEMENTS

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Better surveillance to map the magnitude of chronic respiratory diseases with reference to needy persons and the disadvantaged is required. Chronic respiratory diseases which are preventable, especially affect the elderly and children. *Global surveillance, prevention and control of chronic respiratory diseases: a comprehensive approach* should be a practical guide on the good principles which can be followed by patients and the public at large. I extend my greetings and felicitations to all those associated with this mission and wish the Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases all success.

**A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**

Past-President of the Republic of India

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Reaching a major goal like conquering chronic respiratory diseases is similar to a marathon run: it's a big effort but with energy, knowledge, support and the will to win, it can be done. I am convinced that the Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases will win the battle against chronic respiratory disease, which kills four million people a year.



### **Rosa Mota**

Marathon runner and Olympic marathon champion, Portugal



I am happy to hear that the Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases is now in place as a global team. As a team, each member will contribute his or her unique strengths, just like in football. Together, the Alliance's teamwork will provide help

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