



## Global Challenge Statement

### Public Health Across the Lifecourse

The WUN Public Health Global Challenge emphasizes a life-course approach to opportunities for addressing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) especially in low and middle income countries and transitioning populations but also in developed societies where there are social disparities in risk. This focus is based on substantial evidence for the inextricable linkage between maternal, perinatal, infant, childhood factors and adult lifestyle factors that accumulate and contribute to the risk of developing NCDs later in life. It is recognised that some non-communicable diseases are linked to communicable disease and some have genetic predisposing factors.

Particular attention will be paid to both population- and individual-based approaches to increase access to education, to promote health literacy in children, adolescents and parents and to empowering women, both to reduce the burden of NCDs and to provide other benefits such as gender equality and promoting neurocognitive capacities.

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The importance of socio-demographic and environmental factors underlies the importance of links with ongoing global initiatives, in particular the Millennium Development Goals and the development of the new Sustainability Development Framework, which highlights the importance of maternal and child health, food security, climate change and sustainability to global public health.

Ageing populations and the concomitant growing burden of non-communicable disease are high on the agenda for health and social policy. WUN responds to this by bringing to bear its considerable strengths in lifecourse approaches. What are the early-life indicators of healthy ageing and what interventions can be introduced at an early age (gestation, pre-adolescence, adolescence) to best ensure healthy outcomes in later life?

## Value Proposition

- Brings together some of the world's leading experts to explore socioeconomic, cultural and behavioural solutions across the life-course.
- Emphasizes a life-course approach to opportunities for addressing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in LMI countries countries and transitioning populations but also in developed societies where there are social disparities in risk.
- Areas in focus are interdisciplinary and highly relevant to goals in the newly adopted UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Several group members are also experts engaged in advocacy work with high level international organisations .
- Potential for developing collaborative links with international organisations WHO and others

## Highlights & Achievements 2015/16

- Substantial contributions to the Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity (ECHO) report which will be presented to the World Health Assembly in May 2016
- In-FLAME network 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop in Marburg, Germany. Key in-FLAME achievements include 46 publications accepted or under review, 6 new grants won, 1 big EU H2020 application submitted (invited to submit stage 2) and 1 NIH application pending
- New awards and growth for the project - Lessons for Life: Innovating School Age Health Education Interventions for the Prevention and Control of NCDs – now including 13 WUN+ partners (Danone, Johnson&Johnson, UK Dep of Education, WHO and others)
- Inaugural meeting in San Francisco of the new WUN Optimal Pregnancy Environment Risk Assessment (OPERA) where 38 members attended

## Focus Areas 2016/17

### Public Health Across the Lifecourse

1. Health of migrants across the lifecourse
2. The resilience of adolescents and health workers in different cultural contexts
3. Schools as a setting for reducing risk factors associated with NCDs

## Priority Projects for funding: The WUN “Top Ten”

- Support a research fellow to work with WHO on a WUN-WHO collaborative working program on healthy ageing and preparing a workshop/policy meeting at the 2017 AGM

## Action Plan & Outcomes

- Policy meeting/workshop at the 2017 AGM on life-course approach in collaboration with WHO

# GC Public Health



## Steering Group

Name	University	Name	University
Professor Anne Christine Johannessen <b>(Chair)</b>	The University of Bergen	Dr Joel Negin	The University of Sydney
Professor Sian Griffiths	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Professor Andy Ness	The University of Bristol
Dr Hayley Christian	The University of Western Australia	Dr Kue Young	The University of Alberta
Professor Nanne de Vries	Maastricht University	Mr Bjørn Erik Andersen	The University of Bergen
Professor Mark Hanson	The University of Southampton	Ms Usha Bhatia	The University of Auckland
Professor Ngaire Kerse	The University of Auckland	Ms Eleonora Gandolfi	The University of Southampton
Dr Amanda Mason-Jones	The University of York	Dr Susan Jim	The University of Bristol