

# CHEERS TO A NEW YEAR!

## A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

As 2017 comes to a close, I remain resolute in our collective commitment to improve our world's attention to the prevention and treatment of NCDs in children, adolescents, and young people. There is much work to do and many opportunities to ensure young people's voices and our collective voices are heard in the coming year as we approach the 2018 high-level meeting and plan for next steps beyond that event.

The turn of the year is time for change within NCD Child, too. Dr. Mychelle Farmer has been elected our next chair and will take office in February. Mychelle, Amy Eussen, as chair-elect, a youth representative to be named, and I will serve as the Governing Council's Executive Committee for the next two years. We will also be electing new members in early February during our Governing Council planning meeting. Please watch this space for news from Dr. Farmer about our strategic plan for 2018 and beyond.

With best wishes to all for a safe, peaceful and healthy world,

Jon

Jonathan D Klein, MD, MPH  
Chair, NCD Child Governing Council 2014-17



## GLOBAL NCD ALLIANCE FORUM

Earlier in the month, 350 members of civil society from 68 countries gathered in Sharjah, UAE for the *Second Global NCD Alliance Forum*. Among the delegates were more than 20 youth advocates, selected from a competitive pool of 260+ applicants. The Forum, hosted by the NCD Alliance and Friends of Cancer Patients, was filled with energetic discussions, inspirational speakers, and fervent negotiations as the collective group worked to identify mutual priorities in the lead-up to the 2018 UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs (UNHLM).

The youth delegates participated in a pre-Forum workshop that resulted in a call to action, for youth and all stakeholders, with three guiding priorities in the nine months ahead of the UNHLM:

- Ensure universal and equitable access to high-quality, affordable, age-appropriate health care
- Scale up financing and resources for prevention, management, and treatment of NCDs across the life-course
- Raise awareness of children, adolescents, and young people, and sensitize government officials about the risk factors, prevalence, and impact of NCDs

To advance these priorities, the delegates are calling on all advocates, but especially youth, to:

- Deliver *youth-generated messages* on NCD awareness and advocacy priorities via social media, blogs, and other communication channels ahead of and during significant WHO/UN/Member State negotiations
- Create and disseminate *evidence-based policy resources* advocating for the inclusion of young people in health agendas and policy-making processes
- Develop *relationships with key government officials* to advocate for (1) the highest possible level of country representation; and (2) youth inclusion in national delegation at the UN High Level Meeting on NCDs
- Disseminate *simple, targeted messages* mobilizing NCD financing and resources, ahead of the Global Conference on Financing NCDs, hosted by Denmark and WHO, to encourage more young people to advocate for funding for NCD prevention and control

## YOUTH VOICES CONNECT

An online conversation among young advocates interested in getting more involved in non-communicable disease (NCD) advocacy for children, adolescents, and young people.

YOUTH INTERESTED IN GETTING MORE INVOLVED IN NCD ADVOCACY ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN NCD CHILD'S YOUTH VOICES CONNECT FACEBOOK PAGE!

