

# NCD Alliance Candidate Profile Booklet

## General Assembly 2023

### Candidates for 2023-2025 NCD Alliance President-Elect and Board of Directors

#### Background

The next General Assembly meeting of the NCD Alliance will be held virtually on 17th May 2023. At the General Assembly, Founding and Full members will elect the President-Elect and 8 members of the Board for the term 2023-2025. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document can be found [here](#), which outlines the nominations and shortlisting process, as well as background information on the size of the Board, and the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Directors and President-Elect.

This document presents the profile of all candidates for President-Elect and Board to inform NCD Alliance members for the election process. The information contained in each of the candidates' profile has been provided by the candidates themselves, and it is intended exclusively for NCD Alliance members.

A few important points to note:

- The NCD Alliance Board is composed of 14 seats, including the President and President-Elect. At the 2023 General Assembly meeting, there are 8 Board seats up for election. This does not include the four permanent seats of the Founding members (WHF, UICC, IDF and The Union), which are not up for election and are appointed by the Founding members themselves. The names of the appointed representatives of the Founding Members for the term 2023-2025 and biographies are provided in section 3 for information, so that members can consider these within the context of your decisions on voting for the other Board candidates.
- The Nominations Committee reviewed all nominations from members for President-Elect and Board of Directors, and have shortlisted a slate of candidates outlined in section 1 and 2 taking into consideration the criteria set out in the Nominations Policy, while also ensuring a balance of geographies, gender, and skills and expertise. In addition, the Committee also considered the need to balance continuity and renewal of Board of Directors. We received exceptional nominations, and it was a difficult task for the Committee as the quality and profile of nominees was outstanding.
- There are 2 candidates shortlisted for President-Elect and 13 candidates shortlisted for Board of Directors. Please note, both President-Elect candidates are also shortlisted as Board of Director candidates. During the General Assembly, the vote for President-Elect will be conducted first. This means that the candidate who is not elected President-Elect is still eligible to be on the Board of Directors if they have received enough votes.

# List of candidates for 2023-2025 NCDA President-Elect and Board

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## SECTION 1

### Candidates for NCD Alliance President-Elect



**Leslie Rae Ferat**

Executive Director, Global Alliance for Tobacco Control (GATC, formerly Framework Convention Alliance)

Canada

*NCD Alliance Board Member 2021-2023*

#### Why would you like to be NCD Alliance President-Elect?

Having served on the Board for the past two years, I have had the opportunity to gain much experience and knowledge of the functioning of NCD Alliance. As the President-Elect serves as an ex-officio Board member for two years, I would be able to further gain experience and continue to strengthen the presence of the alliance at the global level. I have worked alongside the NCD Alliance team and Board for several years and am very familiar with various aspects of the alliance such as the governance, membership, strategy and operations. As Executive Director of the GATC, we work closely with the NCD Alliance members at the global, regional and national levels, and collaborate on many programs such as financing for NCDs and prevention which will both be high on the agenda in the lead up to the High-Level Meeting for NCDs in 2025.

I am passionate about sustainable development, health and inequality issues and am very keen on advancing the NCD agenda to increase funding and attention for NCDs within the global health and development communities. I am very familiar with the UN system and the financing agenda and would be able to use my knowledge to help guide NCD Alliance through these important dialogues and agendas in the coming years. As I have seen with my own alliance, civil society has such an important role to play to ensure NCDs are high priority for years to come, and I am excited to continue working with the alliance to create a lasting impact.

#### What makes you a good candidate for NCD Alliance President-Elect?

I have previously served one term 2021-2023 on the NCD Alliance Board and am well placed to ensure continuity over the next term. As Executive Director of GATC/FCA, I lead our work on key policy issues such as financing, the SDGs and NCDs and also manage all of the day-to-day operations of the organisation.

I bring over a decade of leadership and management experience in cross-cultural, global teams managing budgets, human resources, governance and communications. I have extensive experience mobilizing resources, monitoring programs and fostering stakeholder relations and have proven capable of managing and

strengthening multi-stakeholder networks worldwide. I have ample experience managing governing bodies and participating in Board activities and am very familiar with the work involved as a Board member given my past and current experience.

The role of President-elect requires a great deal of skills that I believe I have acquired over the past years as the Executive Director of GATC/FCA and through my work on numerous boards and committees. I have a strong network in various communities, extensive experience with multi-stakeholder alliances and I am a strong advocate for effective policies that contribute to decreasing the burden of NCDs on people, communities and health systems. My passions and experience are very much aligned with the mission of NCD Alliance and I would like to use my skills gained over the years to support the work of the alliance by continuing to engage and connect the NCDs and tobacco control communities and contribute to pursuing sustainable development globally.

#### Biography

Leslie Rae Ferat is the Executive Director of GATC, a global civil society alliance working towards a world-free from the consequences of tobacco and tobacco use. She is currently on NCD Alliance's Board, is a member of the WHO Civil Society Working Group on NCDs and the Advisory Board and Scientific Committee for the WCToH.

Leslie has extensive international experience, mainly working with low and middle income countries to collect and use data to drive sustainable development and meet the SDGs. Before joining GATC/FCA, Leslie worked for several international organisations including the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data at the United Nations Foundation.

Leslie serves on numerous Boards, holds an MSc in International Development and is fluent in English and French.



**Kaushik L Ramaiya**

Honorable Secretary and CEO, Tanzania NCD Alliance (TANCDAA)

Tanzania

*NCD Alliance Board Member 2021-2023*

**Why would you like to be NCDA President-Elect?**

I have served one term on the Global NCD Alliance board, therefore have solid experience of all aspects of the organisation. I have extensive experience from national/regional NCD alliances, having been a founder and leader of the Tanzania NCD Alliance (TANCDAA) and East African NCD Alliance (EANCDAA). I have served leadership roles at one of NCDAs founding federations – the International Diabetes Federation (IDF)- as Chair of sub-Saharan Africa Region 2000 - 2006 and as a Vice-President (Global) 2007 - 2012. Therefore, I have worked with NCDA in many different ways since its beginning and believe my decades of experience would be of great value.

The sheer scale of NCDs and impact these diseases are having on communities and health and development is a clear motivation for me to work with NCDA. WHO's data shows that compared with advances against communicable diseases, progress in preventing and controlling premature death from NCDs has been inadequate. We need urgent action globally, and particularly in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs) where these diseases disproportionately impact. For this reason, I believe having leadership from LMICs would be of great value to NCDA.

I have dedicated my whole career to the global diabetes/NCD response, and believe NCDA and its strong membership is an important and unique leading force. In order to move the global NCD agenda forward, we need to work together, build partnerships and be global advocates for people living with NCDs. I feel I am the right candidate for NCDA President-Elect and it would be an absolute honour to serve on behalf of NCDAs members.

**What makes you a good candidate for NCDA President-Elect?**

Since 2012, I have been CEO of Shree Hindu Mandal Hospital in Dar es Salaam and have been a member of various national/international Boards and committees. My engagement in these Boards demonstrates my leadership, interpersonal and communication skills, knowledge of governance and finance, and above all confidentiality and neutrality which are essential for chairing a Board and particularly an alliance.

As a physician, researcher, advocate, CEO, and founder of alliances; having engaged at all levels of NCDA as a member and board member; and having deep experience of cross-sectoral partnerships positions me well for this role.

I have decades of experience and a track record across NCDAs strategic impact goals and roles. I have led advocacy at the regional level on issues such as prevention, UHC, financing and integration, and have established strong relations with East Africa Community, Africa Union and PEPFAR. I strongly believe in the power of integrating NCDs within communicable diseases and other global health priorities. As IDF Africa Chair and founder/leader of East Africa NCD Alliance, a major focus has been building capacity of CSOs, alliances and people living with NCDs. In my view, community engagement and coalition building is a must for the NCD response.

I would be stepping up as President-Elect and President during a critical moment for NCDA and NCDs, with the 2025 UNHLM on NCDs, the SDGs review, and expiry of NCDAs current Strategy. Having an experienced pair of hands to steer and provide leadership and vision, and listen to the needs and priorities of our membership from all regions will be essential during this period. I am deeply committed, motivated, and would be humbled to serve.

**Biography**

Kaushik is a Member of the Board of World Diabetes Foundation and Honorable General Secretary of Tanzania Diabetes Association (TDA) and Tanzania NCD Alliance (TANCDAA), President Elect for the East African NCD Alliance (EANCDAA), and member of the Board of the Global NCD Alliance.

At present, in addition to being the CEO & Consultant Physician at Shree Hindu Mandal Hospital, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Kaushik is working on several programs including those with children who have Type 1 diabetes; cardiovascular complications of antiretroviral drugs in HIV/AIDS and Diabetes/TB interaction. Together with National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) Muhimbili in Tanzania and Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), Kaushik is working on communicable disease and NCD Integration models (MOCCA Study) and will be overseeing metformin intervention in HIV patients with IGT (META Trial). He is also part of the Tanzania Diabetes Association team implementing the National NCD program at primary care encompassing NCD prevention & promotion, curative services in primary care, training, policy & legislations, monitoring & evaluation and operational research.

## SECTION 2

### Candidates for NCD Board of Directors



#### **Sawsan A.S. Al Madhi**

Advocacy Advisor, Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance; CEO and Founder, AlignnEfficient Health Consultancies CO LLC  
United Arab Emirates

#### **Why would you like to be on the NCD Board of Directors?**

NCD Alliance is an amazing umbrella organisation and has been doing tremendous work in pushing the agenda of UHC, providing recourses and uniting civil societies across the globe to support their advocacy work while supporting regional and national NCDAs.

NCD Alliance has created an unprecedented global movement for NCDs and they always tackle the right and real issues making sure that the voice of the NCD community is truly heard within any international platform.

These are only few reasons why I want to join the NCD Alliance Board of Directors but most importantly is to give a voice to my region (Middle East/EMR) as it has its own diverse and unique issues and challenges which is impacting its health systems, access to health, health equity and the need for better public health campaigns on NCDs.

We are all in this together to make sure we reach the SDGs by 2030, only with the proper inclusion of representatives from across the regions will this be possible.

#### **What makes you a good candidate for the NCD Board of Directors?**

I believe that with my 20 years experience and background working on NCD advocacy, patients access to treatment, health literacy, meaningful engagement of the patients voice and raising awareness within the community about public health issues and prevention both on a national level in UAE, regional within the EMR region and internationally, I can add great value to the amazing work the NCD Alliance is currently doing and support the expansions of such work in the EMR region through the regional NCD Alliance EMR and my network.

Since 2015 I have been supporting the NCD Alliance work by facilitating hosting its 1st (2015), 2nd (2017) and 3rd (2020) NCD Alliance conference in Sharjah as the former Director General of Friends of Cancer Patients (the hosting organisation). I have also been on the scientific committee of all these conferences and helped co-create many of the agendas and outcomes of such convenings.

As an MD doctor with such unique understanding of how civil societies work and operate, I always tried to bridge the gap between Civil societies and HCP's for the maximum benefit to the patients, which I believe there is still room for more work and progress in this area.

#### **Biography**

Dr Sawsan A. S. Al Madhi is a professional healthcare Leader and Consultant, Advocacy Advisor, Entrepreneur, honour class master's degree holder and an MD. With 20 years progressive leadership experience and skills in strategy, governance, operations and administration within the civil society and the not-profit charitable sectors, advocacy, and public health education & promotion within UAE and internationally.

Dr. Al Madhi has 20 years track record in patient's advocacy within the EMR region, with vast network regionally and internationally. Dr. Al Madhi managed to incorporate the patients voice in policy making and introduce meaningful patients engagement via her work as the former Director General for Friends of Cancer Patients in UAE and through her current role as an Advocacy Advisor within the EMR region and globally.



**Batool Al-wahdani**

Board Member, International Youth Health Organization; Speciality Training Doctor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, NHS England

Jordan

**Why would you like to be on the NCDA Board of Directors?**

As a health worker and youth advocate, I am driven by my passion to fight against NCDs and reduce health inequalities globally, particularly for youth, women, and girls. I witness the devastating impact of NCDs on my patients every day. Having worked with global health organisations such as the International Youth Health Organization and the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, I have come to understand the far-reaching effects of NCDs on young people and the challenges they face in holding decision-makers accountable for prevention and control.

Attending the Global NCDA Forum and meetings before, I was inspired by the dedicated members who lead the charge in this fight. By joining the NCDA Board of Directors, I hope to contribute to the mission of the organisation, leveraging my leadership skills to set strategic priorities, collaborate with members worldwide, and contribute to policy development. I deeply respect the value and impact of civil society groups in shaping global health policy and I am eager to learn from the NCDA community, interact with its members, and help shape the global NCD agenda, particularly in decision-making arenas such as the upcoming High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of NCDs in 2025.

I am confident that my personal experience will help me play an active role in driving a bigger focus on youth, girls and woman's health while serving as part of NCD Alliance board of directors.

**What makes you a good candidate for the NCDA Board of Directors?**

I believe that my background, skills, and experience make me a good candidate for the NCDA Board of Directors. As a junior doctor, a youth advocate and a board member of the International Youth Health Organization, I have a strong passion for youth health and addressing NCDs.

My experience as the Vice President for External Affairs and subsequently as the President of IFMSA has given me valuable skills and knowledge to effectively engage with NCDA members. Through these roles, I have gained hands-on experience in advocacy, partnerships, and communication. I have been accountable for over 125

local NGOs globally, and I have developed the skills to engage members in decision-making processes, set their priorities globally, and represent their voices on global health agendas.

As an engagement analyst at the World Health Organization, I was responsible for simplifying complex policy frameworks into communication products and training that supported engagement with non-State actors. Through my various previous roles at WHO, I was exposed to a magnitude of global health actors, which equipped me with the skills to actively engage with networks, initiate and lead global health collaborations and policy discussions.

Overall, with my professional experience, expertise in engaging youth groups, civil society involvement, and engagement in global health, I am confident that my contribution as a board of directors' member will bring a unique perspective and renewed energy to the NCD Alliance's efforts in advocating for action against NCDs, with a particular emphasis on youth, women and girls.

**Biography**

Dr Batool Al-wahdani is a board member at the International Youth Health Organization and a Specialty Training Doctor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the NHS, UK.

With a proven track record of leadership and advocacy, Batool has served in several posts in the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA), including IFMSA President in 2018/2019. Batool has experience engaging with youth groups and addressing their health challenges. She led advocacy efforts of medical students on UHC, NCDs, and the SDGs, representing youth and early career professionals in international meetings and working groups.

She also worked at the World Health Organization on the shortfall of health workers, youth engagement in health and most recently on due diligence and risk assessment for engagements with non-State actors. She is a Chevening Scholar with a MSc of Public Health degree from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



**Jennifer Bae**

Executive Director of Global Innovation, American College of Cardiology  
United States of America

### Why would you like to be on the NCDA Board of Directors?

I would be honoured to join the NCD Alliance Board in support of its mission to “unite civil society for action on NCDs..., leaving no one behind;” as I feel I can provide tangible value to the execution of the 2021-2016 NCDA Strategic Plan. With respect to Prevention and Care, I am currently leading the NCD Academy in partnership with NCDA which is designed to support equitable access to prevention, screening and care in the communities where people live and work. On Financing, I have experience with multilaterals and the US government, and can make a robust case for the inclusion of NCDs in funding as a part of an updated framework for pandemic preparedness. With respect to Community Engagement, my experience running global public health programs has taught me the importance of early engagement with a community to assure programs fit local needs and are sustainable. I have also learned when attention is paid to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, that diversity of lived experience supports broader thinking and better solution development. Much of the work I lead is dependent on Collaboration, with the need to communicate clearly to articulate a problem and then work together, valuing others’ unique contributions, to solve it. This articulation also supports Accountability, the ability to solve unforeseen problems, and to drive Results. I believe a position on the Board provides me a channel to bring my abilities to bear on the organisation’s strategic direction in support of a mission I deeply believe in.

### What makes you a good candidate for the NCDA Board of Directors?

I bring a unique combination of experiences that I believe will be helpful to achieving NCDA’s goals. I have fifteen years’ experience in global health, having developed national and global policy frameworks for pandemic preparedness capacity building, and collaborated with local partners and funders from third countries to achieve goals. I lived and worked supporting global health programs in Indonesia and China, and remotely led global program implementation in other regions, including some affected by a legacy of war and instability. I learned the importance of understanding the local culture and have a track record of respect, clear communication, aligning on shared priorities. I understand how the U.S. and other

governments think about global health security funding, and a have point of view on how that can be leveraged to include NCDs. I am also a woman in technology, having led the ACC’s Innovation Program, which is focused on the digital transformation of care delivery. That vantage point has taught me the importance of mentorship and inclusion of underrepresented groups to solve pressing problems. It has also filled me with optimism that technology, when thoughtfully constructed and equitably deployed, can be a powerful tool to expand the reach of clinicians and to engage patients in their care from their community. The combination of my experiences in policy, programs, financing, technology, expat living and partnership, and my focus on mentorship and development make me a unique candidate; I hope to leverage those experiences as a member of the NCDA Alliance Board.

### Biography

Jennifer Bae, MHSA, is the Executive Director of Global Innovation at the American College of Cardiology. She oversees the ACC Innovation Program, Global Programmatic work and manages ACC’s venture fund focused on digitally transformed health care. She has served on the Board of startup companies, emphasizing the development of technologies focused on the patient and clinician end user, prioritizing those that improve care outcomes and access to care.

Prior to joining the College, she worked for ten years in global health with a focus on pandemic preparedness, working across the US Government. She led direct public health capacity building and served on US delegations to multilateral meetings. She also has a background in health care consulting at the Advisory Board Company.

Jennifer holds a Master of Health Services Administration and Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Michigan. She has language skill in Spanish, Bahasa, and Mandarin.



**Beatriz Champagne**

Executive Director, Coalition for Americas' Health/Coalición Latinoamérica Saludable (CLAS)  
Argentina

**Why would you like to be on the NCDA Board of Directors?**

Having participated in many projects and campaigns with NCDA, I hope now to contribute as a member of the Board of Directors. I can be useful in several ways.

1. Using my knowledge of civil society governance, I hope to help NCDA continue to be an effective, respected global organisation, building capacity for NCD prevention and control, and meeting the needs of its members.
2. Having worked extensively in Latin America and the Caribbean, I believe I can be a good representative for my region. Examples follow. I have helped develop NCD advocacy networks that have contributed to the region's successes in policy change, such as front of package food labelling and tobacco control. I've supported the organisation of coalitions and alliances, at the national and regional level, to advance and defend health policies in different countries, address issues of industry influence, conflicts of interest, regional agenda setting, communication, and capacity building. CLAS seeks funding to support its members.
3. Having been chair of the Advocacy Committee for the World Heart Federation and a member of the accountability team with the WHO Civil Society working group on NCDs, I am sensitive to the complexities and diversity of situations across the globe. I believe I can encourage exchange with others to help us all learn and grow. For example, in Latin America we applied learnings from Thailand to reach high level politicians, and from Africa to reduce alcohol consumption. I hope to help others know about what we have learned in Latin America.

**What makes you a good candidate for the NCDA Board of Directors?**

I have contributed to the NCDA community for many years through CLAS, the Coalition for Americas' Health, which is the NCDA's regional member for Latin America (LA). As executive director, I am familiar with issues of governance, financial management, public relations, and membership engagement.

Accomplishments: 1st tobacco virtual network in LA, capacity building events to advance FCTC policies, presided over 5 regional tobacco or health conferences, policy research, 7 journalism contests, national smoking cessation strategy & training of healthcare professionals, researched tobacco economy in Argentina and illicit trade in Mercosur, PI CARMELA study of risk factors in LA, salt reduction Consortium. With partners, currently developing a Community of Practice for healthy and sustainable food systems called COLANSA. Policy Brief on Front of Pack Labelling and on Alcohol and Cardiovascular Diseases with World Heart Federation. Promoting finance-public health dialogue. Supporting population-based strategies in Universal Health Coverage. Previously I was Executive Director of the InterAmerican Heart Foundation 1995-2017.

This past year I have become even more committed to strengthening the voices and actions of persons that live with an NCD having supported my husband Tony through diagnosis, surgery and recovery from an aggressive cancer that turned both of our lives upside down. It has been a difficult path that has not yet ended.

My superpower: abundant energy and a work ethic that has helped me through many challenges. I hope to actively represent the NCDA and its members and be a responsible actor at Board meetings.

**Biography**

Beatriz Champagne has been dedicated to the prevention & control of NCDs in the Americas with the Healthy Americas' Coalition (CLAS). CLAS promotes & defends policies for good nutrition, physical activity, tobacco & alcohol control. CLAS has 200+ member organisations and provides a coherent response from civil society on policy issues. She is immediate past Chair of the World Heart Federation Advocacy Committee. Having been born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and having grown up there, Beatriz's roots and heart are in the developing world.

2009 Luther L. Terry Award for Exemplary Leadership in Tobacco Control, 2017 Sharjah NCD Advocacy Award, 2018 WHO World No Tobacco Day Award. BS summa cum laude U. of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, MS and Ph.D. Rutgers University, New Jersey.





**Marie Hauerslev**  
 Past-Chair, NCD Child  
 Denmark  
*NCD Alliance Board Member 2021-2023*

### Why would you like to be on the NCDA Board of Directors?

I would like to serve another term on the NCDA Board of Directors due to my passion for increasing youth participation in the NCD space and creating lasting change. As the only youth expert on the current board, I have been successfully advocating for children and youth throughout the past term. If re-elected, I will work hard to further engage, support and amplify young voices within both the NCDA and the broader global health landscape. I deeply understand what is needed to improve the status quo and shift the dial on NCD prevention and treatment. I will work to increase collaboration between the child and adolescent health and NCD agendas, where there are enormous opportunities to address structural drivers, risk factor behaviours and access to treatment and care for these groups around the world. For example, I would be excited to strategically support NCD Alliance's participation at the upcoming Global Forum for Adolescents 2023 and in related initiatives through my work on the inaugural WHO Youth Council. I would also be pleased to support program development, diverse and equitable participation, and intergenerational collaboration at the global NCDA Forum 2024 in Kigali. As a physician and researcher, I strongly believe in and advocate for evidence-based policies that protect the most at-risk populations who were left behind during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am a recognised leader in the field, and I have driven action and change to the NCD landscape through my various roles since 2013.

### What makes you a good candidate for the NCDA Board of Directors?

I possess a strong technical understanding of NCDs, in-depth knowledge and experience working on NCD advocacy, and strong networks across the global youth and global health communities. I feel a strong passion and sense of responsibility to share the platforms, opportunities and networks that I have with other young people. As such, I successfully developed, fundraised and launched NCD Child's Young Leaders Program (YLP), supporting 25 aspiring young leaders and advocates in

the NCD space, primarily from LMICs. I have a strong understanding of the dynamics and opportunities with the World Health Organization through serving on the first WHO youth council, my many years of collaboration and as a previous employee at the organisation. With NCDA's new status with the WHO, I can use my experience leading organisations in official relations with WHO to the Alliance's advantage. I have spearheaded advocacy campaigns that highlight the effects of NCDs on young people, and initiated the development of an important capacity building tool called the NCD Child Global Advocacy Course. As a paediatric doctor and researcher, I have also published on how COVID-19 affected obesity in children in the journal 'Obesity', childhood asthma, and on the need to address NCD risks as part of the pandemic response in 'Archives of Disease in Childhood'.

As a current board member, I can continue the momentum of our ongoing work, particularly on policy and programmes, and hit the ground running supporting many other NCD Alliance and member initiatives.

### Biography

Marie Hauerslev is a paediatric doctor, NCD Alliance board member and the past-Chair of NCD Child - the first young person elected for this position. As chair, Marie initiated the Young Leaders Program, secured a public workshop with the WHO Director General about NCDs, youth and COVID, initiated a COVID & NCDs campaign, and led the organisation's strategic planning process. Dr. Hauerslev is currently undertaking a PhD in childhood asthma. She serves on the steering committee of the WHO Youth Council and its NCD working group. Dr. Hauerslev is the Chair of the WHO GCM/NCD Lab on Youth and the Next Generation and a Commissioner on the Lancet Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Maltreatment of Young People. Previously, as Vice-President for External Affairs and Liaison Officer to WHO of the IFMSA, Dr. Hauerslev led IFMSA's external work. Dr. Hauerslev has worked at the WHO GCM for NCDs.



**Ishu Kataria**

Senior Public Health Researcher, Center for Global NCDs, RTI International  
India

**Why would you like to be on the NCDA Board of Directors?**

As a passionate advocate for prevention and control of NCDs, I am committed to bringing the perspective of both a researcher and an advocate for young people and PLWNCDs to the NCDA Board of Directors. I firmly believe that empowering young people as role models and change makers is essential in our fight against NCDs, but we must not forget those who are already living with these conditions, including young people themselves.

Through my continuous engagement with the WHO and my global networks spanning youth organizations and the health research community, I have been advocating for the meaningful inclusion of PLWNCDs in the NCD agenda. As a representative from a LMIC, I am well aware of the challenges faced by those who are living with NCDs, particularly in the SEA region.

I plan to utilize my skills as a researcher and civil society representative to translate context-based research into policy through effective evidence-based advocacy. By doing so, I hope to bring forth regional issues and priorities such as air pollution and voices of PLWNCDs within the UHC agenda, which is a major barrier to equitable and quality healthcare access in the region.

As we approach the high-level meeting on NCDs in 2025, it is critical that we seize this opportunity to set a long-term vision for 2050 and prioritize the prevention and control of NCDs everywhere. By focusing on the needs and experiences of PLWNCDs, we can drive action towards a more equitable and just future, leaving no one behind.

**What makes you a good candidate for the NCDA Board of Directors?**

As an experienced public health researcher, I have been actively involved in the field of NCDs both at the national and global levels. I have represented the youth at the World Health Organization (WHO) on NCDs and have been a youth ambassador on several occasions. My leadership in advocating for the inclusion of young people in the global NCD agenda has been recognized by my selection as a representative of WHO's Youth Council.

At the national level, I have collaborated with the Healthy India Alliance to develop the civil society agenda for NCDs in India. Through initiatives like Our Views, Our Voices, I have engaged with people living with NCDs and co-authored scientific pieces on topics such as the impact of high-fat, salt, and sugar (HFSS) foods on young people and the dual burden of COVID-19 and NCDs. I have also worked closely with the NCD Alliance to advocate for NCDs and train media personnel on NCDs.

My skills in technical, interpersonal, and strategic areas make me an excellent fit for this position on the Board of Directors. I aim to bridge the gap between global and national knowledge on NCDs and bring a LMIC perspective to the global NCD landscape.

**Biography**

Dr Ishu Kataria is a Senior Public Health Researcher at RTI International's Center for Global NCDs, with a PhD in Public Health and Nutrition from the University of Delhi. She specialises in NCD prevention and control, working both in India and globally. She has experience in developing and implementing programs focused on adolescent NCDs, mental health, and cancer prevention. Her interest in issues related to NCDs and young people led her to serve as a Special Advisor (Youth) to WHO for NCDs, where she now chairs the NCDs working group on the inaugural WHO Youth Council. Dr Kataria is the NCD focal point for the UN Major Group for Children and Youth and Global Coordinator for the Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network. She is also a commissioner on the Lancet Commission on Women and Cancer and has worked with the Government of India on their Integrated Child Development Services strategy. uerslev has worked at the WHO GCM for NCDs.



**Pamela Naidoo**

CEO/Extraordinary Professor, Heart and Stroke Foundation South Africa  
South Africa

**Why would you like to be on the NCDA Board of Directors?**

I have extensive experience in Senior Management roles and therefore understand the importance of the positive (and sometimes negative) impact of decision-making at this level. Given the high burden of NCDs in Africa and around the world and the increasing burden of co-and-multi morbidities, there has to be a strong and urgent call to action for the detection, treatment, prevention, development of progressive health policies, and care. I believe as a Board member I can contribute in constructively steering and mobilizing the NCDA to make multiple voices heard for NCDs and the associated funding required. Moreover, I do not only have “management and Board” experience, I am also an expert in the field of Public Health.

**What makes you a good candidate for the NCDA Board of Directors?**

I believe that the skills that I have acquired over the past 38 years stand me in good stead as a NCDA Board Member. My skills go beyond my academic and research qualifications. Over the years I have been involved in Senior Management Roles (including as a Board Member) and therefore understand the decorum and good, ethical governance processes that underpin a successful organisation such as the NCDA. Moreover, having lived experience as a person of color during apartheid South Africa, I continue to fulfil human rights mandates in any way possible by translating my qualifications and experience into advocacy work in the health sector. It is well established that health outcomes are not only reliant on individual factors but are also reliant on country-level and community level factors. I have a deep understanding of LMICs and believe that I can make a positive difference or impact by being one of the Board members that will help facilitate the mission and vision of the NCDA.

**Biography**

Professor Pamela Naidoo has a Masters’ Degree in Clinical Psychology and a Masters’ degree in Public Health. She also holds a Doctorate in Philosophy (Behavioural Medicine). Prof Naidoo is a registered Clinical Psychologist and as such, much of her work straddles public health and behavioural medicine. As a public health specialist, she has more than 35 years of experience in the health sector. Her key focus areas are on comorbidities between non-communicable diseases (NCDs), mental health and infectious diseases.

Prof Naidoo became a Full Professor in 2008. Her work experience embraces clinical practice, academia and research, including as a Research Director in the Psycho-social Well-Being and Behavioural Interventions programme at the HSRC. At present Prof Naidoo is the CEO of the Heart and Stroke Foundation South Africa and also holds Extraordinary Professorships at the Universities of the Western Cape, Stellenbosch and Cape Town. Professor Naidoo is a National Research Foundation (NRF) rated researcher. She is an active member on many research and health policy committees locally and globally. In her current role as CEO, she is also focused on financially sustaining the organisation. Prof Naidoo has an extensive stakeholder networks in South Africa, on the African Continent and Globally.



### **Eva Njenga**

**Founder Director, NCD Alliance Kenya (NCDAK); Consultant Physician/Endocrinologist, DIAMED Centre, Kenya Diabetes Study Group**

Kenya

*NCD Alliance Board Member 2021-2023*

### **Why would you like to be on the NCDA Board of Directors?**

I am committed to contribute positively in the fight against NCDs both nationally and globally. NCDA provides a good forum for me to work with like-minded people who advocate for the rights of PLWNCDS and lobby the policy makers at various levels in governments to prioritize the integration of NCDs in primary health care and in the implementation of UHC.

Having served on the board of NCDA in the last two years I have a good grasp of the vision and goals of the Board and I am committed to contribute to the achievements of these goals.

As a board member I have a big chance to contribute to issues that will impact on the empowerment of PLWNCDS which I am passionate about and have been championing in my country for the last 20 years. I believe NCDA is one of the strongest Civil Society in the world that has consistently put the needs of PLWNCDS first, fighting for affordable and equitable healthcare delivery to all especially to those living in Low and Middle income countries. I have experienced the benefits of being a member of NCDA through what we have managed to achieve in Kenya with the support of the NCDA grants awarded to Kenya NCD Alliance.

### **What makes you a good candidate for the NCDA Board of Directors?**

I believe I am a good candidate for the NCDA Board for a number of reasons; I am a strong advocate for PLWNCDS and a champion of NCDs in Kenya. As a past Chair of Kenya NCD Alliance I established a good rapport with the Policy makers in the country and is able to easily negotiate with them to prioritize NCDs in the various health policies and in Primary Healthcare. I have been nominated in various Government Technical working groups that have been tasked to come up with draft documents that have gone on to become policy documents in the ministry of health.

During COVID pandemic, as Chair of Kenya Medical and Dentists Council we were able to influence the Ministry of Health to come up with national guidelines that prioritized the care of PLWNCDS who had become stigmatized by the repeated announcements for them to keep away from hospitals which led to us losing a number of them who missed their regular medications and ended up with long term complications.

I am good in Networking with people and institutions that contribute to the welfare of PLWNCDS. I am of good moral standing in my profession, high integrity and respect those I work with in various disciplines.

### **Biography**

Dr. Njenga is a Physician/Endocrinologist and has been in practice for more than 20 years and holds a MMed from the University of Nairobi. She also has certificates in Social Medicine and Medical Anthropology from Harvard University and Certificate in Endocrinology and Diabetology from the University of New Castle Upon Tyne-UK. She has formerly worked at several Public Hospitals in Kenya, and been a lecturer in one of the Medical Schools in Kenya. Former Chair of Kenya NCD Alliance, Outgoing Chair of Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council.

She is a member of the American Diabetes Association, Kenya Medical Association and Kenya Association of Physicians Member of Kenya Diabetes Study Group, Former Vice Chairman of the Kenya Medical Women Association, Founder Director of Diabetes Management & Information Centre and a former member of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board. Currently a Member of the Board of Directors of NCDA.



### **Bo Norrving**

**Senior Professor in Neurology, Lund University and Past President and Past-President, World Stroke Organization (WSO)**

Sweden

*NCD Alliance Board Member 2021-2023*

#### **Why would you like to be on the NCDA Board of Directors?**

I have a long-standing interest in NCDs going back to more than two decades ago when epidemiologists and the WHO started to recognize the growing importance of NCDs on public health. Coming from the stroke field, I soon understood that collaboration and joining forces with other NCD NGOs were key to make any substantial impact.

My position as President of the World Stroke Organization (WSO) from 2008 to 2012 coincided with the global recognition of the emerging threat of the NCDs, the birth of the NCD Alliance, and the lead-up phase to the historic UN General Assembly in 2011. During my term, I formed many liaisons with other NCD NGOs, worked closely with the WHO, and established a broad network of contacts. I have continued in such functions also after my term as President. During recent years I have become increasingly involved with the NCD Alliance and I would like to deepen this involvement through a second term in a board position. I am passionate to work for the NCD case, and a position in the NCDA Board of Directors for one more period would be a privileged opportunity for me to serve in an organisation that plays a major role in influencing global health now and in the future.

#### **What makes you a good candidate for the NCDA Board of Directors?**

As the President of WSO from 2008 to 2012, I led the organisation through a very progressive phase. I have been a WSO representative at the WHO and the UN from 2011 to 2019, and I chaired the cerebrovascular group for the WHO ICD 11 revision. I was profiled in Lancet Neurology with the title "Bo Norrving – Putting Stroke on the World Map". I am a highly accomplished scientist in the stroke field. I have been involved with the NCDA since 2011. As a board member during the 2021-23 term, I have been very active

in the NCDA including the committees. I have participated in numerous NCDA events and has acted as chair and presenter. I attended the 2017 Sharjah Global NCD Forum. I have been involved in producing the NCDA/AHA – ASA/WSO Stroke and NCDs Policy Brief, and I have helped to organize and speak at NCD Cafés and Dialogues. I have a very long experience and strong skills in governance, public relations, and membership engagement, and extensive experience with all major aspects of the NCDs. I am hard-working, prestige free, and have good diplomatic skills. My network includes personal knowledge to many of the leaders in the field.

#### **Biography**

Bo is a Senior Professor in Neurology at Lund University, Sweden. He has made several pioneering contributions to clinical stroke research, with more than 600 publications. He led the world's largest study on stroke in the young and chaired Riskstroke, the world's 1st national quality register for stroke. He was President of the World Stroke Organization (WSO) 2008-2012 – a very progressive phase when WSO developed the World Stroke Campaign, advocacy by Stroke Support Organisations, educational programmes, and became active at WHO and UN stroke and NCDs activities. He has represented WSO at WHO and the UN in 2011-2019 and chaired the cerebrovascular group for the WHO ICD 11 revision. He has been active in the NCD Alliance since 2011, and I have served as board member 2021-2023. He has received the WSO Services to Stroke and WSO Leadership Awards, the ESO Presidential Award, the EAN Romberg Award, the AHA/ASA Sherman Award and several other recognitions. He is a member of the WHO Strategic Advisory Group on NCDs.



**Leslie Rae Ferat**

Executive Director, Global Alliance for Tobacco Control (GATC, formerly Framework Convention Alliance)

Canada

*NCD Alliance Board Member 2021-2023*

**Why would you like to be on the NCDA Board of Directors?**

As an accomplished international development specialist with over a decade of experience working in sustainable development and global health, I would welcome the opportunity to serve another term on the NCDA Board of Directors to continue to widen my experience and make a contribution in the field of NCDs. I am passionate about sustainable development, health and inequality issues and am very keen on advancing the NCD agenda and working to increase funding and attention for NCDs within the development community.

As Executive Director of the Global Alliance for Tobacco Control (GATC), formerly the Framework Convention Alliance for Tobacco Control (FCA), a global network of civil society organisations working towards a world free from the health, social and economic consequences of tobacco and tobacco use, I have extensive experience with multi-stakeholder alliances and partnerships and I am a strong advocate for effective policies that contribute to decreasing the burden of NCDs on people, communities and health systems. My passions and experience are very much aligned with the mission and focus of NCDA, and I would like to use my skills gained over the last two years on the Board and throughout my career to support the work of the alliance by continuing to engage and connect the NCDs and tobacco control communities and contribute to pursuing sustainable development globally.

**What makes you a good candidate for the NCDA Board of Directors?**

I have previously served one term 2021-2023 on the NCDA Board of Directors and am well placed to ensure continuity on the Board over the next term. As Executive Director of GATC/FCA, I lead our work on key policy issues such as financing for development, the SDGs and NCDs and also manage all of the day-to-day operations of the organisation. The work of GATC/FCA is very much aligned with the mission and focus of NCDA and I believe that she would continue to bring a number of essential skills to both the Board and alliance if re-elected.

I bring over a decade of leadership and management experience in cross-cultural, global teams managing budgets, human resources, governance and communications. I have extensive experience mobilizing resources, monitoring programs and fostering stakeholder relations and have proven capable of managing and strengthening multi-stakeholder networks of 200+ partners worldwide.

I have ample experience managing governing bodies and participating in Board activities and am very familiar with the work involved as a Board member given my past and current experience.

I am well-known within the international development and tobacco control community and in addition to serving on NCDA's Board, I am currently a member of the WHO Civil Society Working Group on NCDs, the Advisory Board and Scientific Committee for the WCToH, the Global Coalition for Circulatory Health and a member of many expert groups and committees. I have a great amount of experience with governance and boards as I serve as Vice-President and Board Member of two non-profit organisations in Canada.

I am good in Networking with people and institutions that contribute to the welfare of PLWNCDS. I am of good moral standing in my profession, high integrity and respect those I work with in various disciplines.

**Biography**

Leslie Rae Ferat is the Executive Director of the GATC, a global network of civil society organisations working towards a world-free from the health, social and economic consequences of tobacco and tobacco use. Prior to becoming Executive Director, she was leading the work on key policy issues such as financing for development, the SDGs and NCDs and managed the work programming, governance, fundraising and communications processes. She is currently a Board Member of the NCDA, a member of the WHO Civil Society Working Group on NCDs and the Advisory Board and Scientific Committee for the WCToH.

Leslie has extensive international experience, mainly working with low and middle income countries to collect and use data to drive sustainable development and meet the SDGs. Before joining GATC/FCA, Leslie worked for several international organisations including the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data at the United Nations Foundation.

Leslie serves on numerous Boards, holds an MSc in International Development (Poverty and Inequality) from the University of Birmingham and is fluent in English and French.



**Kaushik L Ramaiya**

Honorable Secretary and CEO, Tanzania NCD Alliance (TANCD A)

Tanzania

*NCD Alliance Board Member 2021-2023*

**Why would you like to be on the NCD A Board of Directors?**

I have been working with people with diabetes since 1986 when I was pursuing my master’s degree in Internal Medicine (M.Med) at Muhimbili National Hospital (University of Dar es Salaam). I have been one of the founder members of Tanzania Diabetes Association (TDA). I am currently clinician/ physician / diabetologist at Shree Hindu Mandal Hospital and teaching at Muhimbili University of Health & Allied Sciences (MUHAS).

With my other colleagues we started strengthening TDA and have established Tanzania NCD Alliance (TANCD A) and have hosted several international meetings and have been working with people with diabetes / NCDs to improve their quality of life, empower them and establish diabetes/ NCD services across the country. I have also been one of the founder members of East African NCD Alliance (EANCD A) and having gained experience in the National Alliance (TANCD A) and Regional Alliance (EANCD A), this is the right path to follow at the Global level.

I have been a member of the current Board of Global NCD Alliance and am seeking a second term to continue work at the Global level. With my experience, I have a lot to offer at the global stage.

**What makes you a good candidate for the NCD A Board of Directors?**

Since 2012, I have been CEO of Shree Hindu Mandal Hospital, Dar es Salaam and prior to that have been member of various national and international Boards and committees. My ongoing membership / participation in these Boards and committees proves my leadership ability, interpersonal skills, communication skills and above all confidentiality.

I have been Chair, IDF Africa Region from year 2000-2006. During that period, we worked towards establishing diabetes associations in countries which had no association, assisted to build their organisational and governance structures, and developed the first Africa Region Type 2 diabetes management guidelines and Diabetes educators training manual in English, French & Portuguese languages. I also initiated several training programs in diabetes and its complications in the Region including post-graduate training programs with European Association for Study of Diabetes (EASD) and supported

Pan African Diabetes Study Group (PADSG) and Pan African Diabetes Educators Group (PADEG) to expand their activities and convene regular scientific / training meetings We also produced “African Declaration on Diabetes” which was officially launched during the IDF Congress in Cape Town, South Africa in the year 2006.

From year 2007-2012, I was Vice -President in IDF Global and at that time participated actively in various task forces and working groups representing African Region.

I have served on the Board of the Global NCD Alliance for the period 2021-23.

I therefore believe that have all the necessary experience to be a good candidate for the NCD A Board of Directors.

**Biography**

Kaushik is a Member of the Board of World Diabetes Foundation and Honorable General Secretary of Tanzania Diabetes Association (TDA) and Tanzania NCD Alliance (TANCD A), President Elect for the East African NCD Alliance (EANCD A), and member of the Board of the Global NCD Alliance.

At present, in addition to being the CEO & Consultant Physician at Shree Hindu Mandal Hospital, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Kaushik is working on several programs including those with children who have Type 1 diabetes; cardiovascular complications of antiretroviral drugs in HIV/AIDS and Diabetes/TB interaction. Together with National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) Muhimbili in Tanzania and Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), Kaushik is working on communicable disease and NCD Integration models (MOCCA Study) and will be overseeing metformin intervention in HIV patients with IGT (META Trial). He is also part of the TDA team implementing the National NCD program at primary care encompassing NCD prevention & promotion, curative services in primary care, training, policy & legislations, monitoring & evaluation and operational research.



**Pubudu Amarajith Sumanasekara**

Executive Director and President, NCD Alliance Lanka, Sri Lanka; Consultant for RESET Alcohol Initiative, Vital Strategies  
Sri Lanka

**Why would you like to be on the NCDA Board of Directors?**

I have a passion to design and implement innovative activities for NCD prevention and control in the global level and I believe that NCDA Board is the most suitable place for me to share my ideas and experience. Hope I can add value to the NCDA through the experience I gained as an academic, professional and activist with my previous work in local, regional, and global level especially in the field of alcohol, tobacco and other drug control and prevention. I strongly believe that there will be an opportunity to design innovative activities to prevent deaths and disabilities caused by NCD when I become a Board member of NCDA by using my work experience of community interventions, research and policy advocacy. I will be able to strengthen NCDA Board with my ability to work in different sectors such as community-based organisations, government institutions and corporate sector which will enriched NCD programmes in the future. As a good team player, I am eager to share my knowledge and experience with other directors to strengthen the NCD control mission in the global level.

**What makes you a good candidate for the NCDA Board of Directors?**

I am excited to contribute to the NCDA vision to control NCD's in the global level by adding my last 30 years' experience of working towards NCD prevention and control. As a representative of a developing country who started NCD prevention work as a volunteer and as an activist in the Asian region I believe that I can contribute to face the challenge of NCDs in the region by introducing low cost-effective approaches. I strongly believe that I can add colour to the NCDA work in the future through the knowledge I gained by organizing public campaigns, developing audio visual and printed materials and appearing in media discussions in challenging environments.

I gained knowledge and experience working with different contexts, cultures, and communities. I will be able to strengthen the existing NCDA programmes and design new interventions in the future. The results I achieved specially conceptualization, designing and implementing targeting young people will be an added advantage to the NCDA work in the coming years. I have actively engaged in community activities, research, and policy advocacy in past many years in the local regional and global level. Through the achieved results in all the three areas I can contribute to improve the future interventions of NCDA.

**Biography**

Currently working as the consultant to the RESET Alcohol initiative for Sri Lanka And working as a visiting lecturer at the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka. Elected Vice president of the largest alcohol prevention network, Movendi International and a Board member of Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA). Closely engage with NCD alliance in Sri Lanka from the inception and currently act as the president. Completed the social work studies in India and Health promotion studies in Canada.

Have been actively engaged in NCD control work since 1990 and specialize in NCD control through tobacco and alcohol control. Experienced in developing audio visual and printed materials on NCD control for campaigns and behaviour change communication. Activities invented by my guidance received international awards and recognitions. Have experience in working with government institutions, corporate sector and extensively work with community-based organisations. Passionate worker in the community level research and policy advocacy.





**Laura Tucker-Longsworth**

Board Member, Healthy Caribbean Coalition; President, Belize Cancer Society  
Belizea

**Why would you like to be on the NCDA Board of Directors?**

I would like to work with the NCDA Board of Directors to complement and advance the work of the NCDA through strategic partnerships with the Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) and other key CARICOM organizations that have the responsibility for the control of NCDs for the Caribbean countries. It would be an honour to be associated with the work of the NCDA.

The stellar work of the HCC is recognized by CARICOM Heads of Government, PAHO/WHO and other regional and international agencies. The agenda utilizes strategies that include life course prevention, social inclusion and participation, looks at the development of people-centred, primary health care-based health systems for universal health, and advocates strongly for partnerships, networks, and resource mobilisation. As a member of the NCDA Board of Directors I will explore ways to increase NCDA's supporter base in the region, and explore opportunities for collaboration in key public health initiatives. In support of a region that is low resourced in human and financial capital, I can contribute to discussions on innovative initiatives to address the control of NCDs. Even as I seek to extend NCDA's influence in the Caribbean, NCDA will also benefit from the experience and best practices of the Caribbean, thereby strengthening its' global response to NCD control. I am well poised to fulfil my obligations as an NCDA Board Member.

**What makes you a good candidate for the NCDA Board of Directors?**

I consider myself a good candidate for the NCDA Board of Directors because of my experience working at clinical and policy levels. As a long serving director of the Healthy Caribbean Coalition, I have been engaged in major advocacy initiatives to address regional and national healthcare issues. This required an understanding of economic and social determinants of health affecting CARICOM countries, the political dimensions of corporations, and other factors that must be addressed

to garner support in our countries for prevention and control of NCDs. I have championed key initiatives related to the reduction of childhood obesity, halting of cervical cancer, and front of package labelling. I have a deep sense of community and fully understand the importance of dialogue with the community and persons living with NCDs.

As president of the Belize Cancer Society, I advocate tirelessly for an "all of society" approach to address the prevention and control of cancer and played a key role in sensitizing communities on HPV vaccines and other "end cervical cancer" initiatives. As speaker of the House of Representative I established the Belize Parliamentary Front against Hunger and Malnutrition. My experience in leadership, advocacy, and NCD prevention/control, will greatly contribute to achieving the objectives of the NCD Alliance.

**Biography**

Laura holds a Master's of Science degree in Nursing from the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing, Loyola University Chicago. She serves as the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee for the Nurses and Midwives Council of Belize. She was also chairperson of the National AIDs Commission, and championed an Equal Opportunity Bill to protect the human rights of vulnerable citizens. As a long serving president of the Belize Cancer Society, she collaborates with the Ministry of Health (Belize) on cancer related initiatives. She is on the Board of Directors for the Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC), and represents the HCC at regional and international meetings. She was the Speaker of the House of Representatives, joining the ranks of only two other women Speakers in Belize and also the recipient of several awards for her contribution to health and nursing.

## SECTION 3

### Appointed representatives of Founding Federations (not for election, for information)



#### International Diabetes Federation

##### Peter Schwarz

IDF President-Elect and Head of the Division of Prevention and Care of Diabetes at Universitätsklinikum Carl Gustav Carus  
Germany

#### Biography

Professor Peter Schwarz studied medicine in Germany and the United States. He is currently Professor of Internal Medicine, Prevention and Care of Diabetes at the Medical Faculty Carl Gustav Carus at the Technical University of Dresden. His research interests include the prevention of diabetes, genetic and clinical studies in diabetes mellitus and the deployment of digital technologies to improve care. He is coordinator of the evaluation of diabetes digital therapeutics in Germany. Professor Schwarz has lead and supported initiatives to develop national diabetes prevention strategies and programmes to improve diabetes care across different geographies, and has participated in multiple global diabetes research projects and diabetes training initiatives.

Peter is widely published, with more than 135 publications as a senior author and has been invited to speak more than 350 times at internationally established conferences. Beyond his research activities, Peter has an interest in business management and holds an MBA for international business. He enjoys translating evidence-based science into clinical and prevention practice and evaluating its success. Professor Schwarz is currently serving as President-elect of the International Diabetes Federation.



#### The International Union Against TB and Lung Disease

##### Guy Marks

The Union President and Executive Director  
Australia  
*NCD Alliance Board Member 2021-2023*

#### Biography

Prof Guy Marks is an honorary Professor of Medicine, University of New South Wales (Australia). He is a world-leading respiratory physician and epidemiologist, whose outstanding contributions to the fields of asthma, chronic lung disease, tuberculosis (TB) and air pollution have transformed the national and global responses to these health problems. His sustained research has been recognised by major awards from the NHMRC, the Thoracic Society, the Ingham Institute and UNSW Sydney. He leads a TB research programme with Vietnams National TB Programme.

Prof Marks first became involved with The Union at a Union World Conference in the early nineties. One of his major contributions to the organisation has been in his role as Editor in Chief (Lung Diseases) of the IJTLDD since 2012. He is also a former Chair of the Lung Health Scientific. He was appointed as President of The Union in 2019.



## **Union for International Cancer Control**

### **Saunthari Somasundaram**

Former UICC Board Member and President and Medical Director,  
The National Cancer Society of Malaysia

Malaysia

*NCD Alliance Board Member 2021-2023*

## **Biography**

With over 20 years' experience in cancer control, Dr Saunthari Somasundaram advocates for the awareness, prevention, early detection and survivorship of cancer. Within Malaysia, these initiatives are driven through the National Cancer Society of Malaysia (NCSM) - the nation's very first cancer ngo; in its education, care and support programmes. NCSM was acknowledged for its continuous work during the Covid 19 pandemic with the Overall Outstanding Vaccination Contribution by Healthcare Non-Governmental Organisation (Malaysia) Award for its support of PLWNCDs.

Dr Saunthari's work in local and international Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) control has enhanced global solutions and local sustainable initiatives. She has also implemented strategies on the collaborative potential of NCD control, apart from advocating change from singular entities, through her advisory capacity for the Malaysian Ministry of Health and uniting the voices of Civil Society Organisation's (CSO) in health and non-health sectors. Internationally, Dr Saunthari was a Board Member of UICC from 2014-2020, and committee member for McCabe Law Centre lending her voice regionally and internationally to the cancer control agenda.

Locally, Dr Saunthari started championing the NCD agenda in 2010, establishing the NCD Alliance Malaysia in 2018. She is a founding member and on the Board of the Malaysian Women's Action Tobacco Control and Health (MyWatch), working towards the adoption of the Generational Endgame (GEG) Tobacco Bill by Parliament. She is a principal member of the City Cancer Challenge, Greater Petaling. She is also strong patient advocate; working with cancer patients, empowering and providing medical counselling for better health and treatment journeys.

The accumulation of clinical, educational, operational and counselling skills, paired with vast experience has provided her a comprehensive picture of the benefits, challenges, needs and gaps of non-communicable diseases (NCD) and cancer control in ASEAN.

In recognition of her work in cancer and NCDs, in November 2020, she was conferred the Darjah Datuk Paduka Mahkota Perak award, carrying the title Dato' by His Royal Highness The Sultan of Perak.



## **World Heart Federation**

### **Liesl Zühlke**

WHF Board Member and Vice President, South African Medical Research Council

South Africa

*NCD Alliance Board Member 2021-2023*

## **Biography**

Professor Liesl Zühlke is the Vice-President of the South African Medical Research Council - Extramural Research and Internal portfolio (ER-IP), a paediatric cardiologist in the Division of Paediatric Cardiology at Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital and director the Children's Heart Disease Research Unit focused on family-centred research into Children's Heart Diseases of relevance in Africa.

Her research projects span Congenital and Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD), HIV in adolescents, Grown-up Congenital Heart Disease and cardiac disease in women of childbearing age. She is B2 NRF rated researcher (2023-2027). In addition to her medical degrees, Liesl holds an MPH in clinical research methods and PhD both from the University of Cape Town as well as an MSc in Health Economics, Outcomes and Management of Cardiovascular Sciences from the London School of Economics.

Prof Zühlke is a past-president of the South African Heart Association, past-president of the Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa, and outgoing chair and co-chair of the PASCAR PANPACH (Paediatric and Congenital Cardiology) and RHD Task Forces respectively. Internationally she serves as President of Reach (Rheumatic Heart Disease, Evidence, Advocacy, Communication and Hope), is a board member of the World Heart Federation, a medical advisory committee member of Children's Heart Link, an international advisory committee member of Global ARCH as well as an executive member of SAVAC, the global Strep A vaccine consortium.



**PROMOTE HEALTH. PROTECT RIGHTS. SAVE LIVES.**



#NCDs @ncdalliance