



PRESS RELEASE

At the 70th World Health Assembly, IFPA opens a new window for psoriasis advocacy in the global NCD Agenda

- *The International Federation of Psoriasis Associations (IFPA) organized a side event on psoriasis at the World Health Assembly, with support of the Permanent Missions of the Argentine Republic, Ecuador, Panama, Qatar and the Philippines.*
- *Psoriasis takes a heavy mental, social and economic toll on over 125 million people worldwide.*
- *To address the disease's impact, IFPA has officially kicked-off the Global Psoriasis Coalition to unite stakeholders across borders, disease areas and sectors.*
- *IFPA and the Global Psoriasis Coalition plan on reconvening in October at the WHO Global Conference on NCDs in Uruguay.*

Stockholm, 31 May 2017 – Last week, IFPA convened leaders in psoriasis and NCD advocacy, research and policy during the 70th session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland. The side event “Psoriasis in the NCD Agenda – the Road to 2018,” aimed to shed light on the ongoing need for action on psoriasis and called for its inclusion in global NCD discussions.

The side event opened with statements of support from the Permanent Missions of the Argentine Republic, Ecuador and Panama and a reminder to stakeholders of the 2014 milestone to improve the lives of people with psoriasis. *“Three years ago on this day, the WHO and its Member States unanimously adopted the Resolution on Psoriasis. This was a landmark moment that has driven action to improve the lives of people with psoriasis around the world,”* said Lars Ettarp, President, IFPA. *“But there is more to be done. Psoriasis patients still face significant challenges today. Stigma, poor understanding of psoriasis comorbidities and unequal access to medicine remain barriers to improved living conditions for the 125 million with psoriasis.”*

Additional presenters discussed the nature of the disease, the potential social return on investment in psoriasis and the need for a holistic, patient-centric view. An overriding theme of the session was that more can be done to address psoriasis, and inclusion in the WHO NCD agenda is a critical step to drive action. *“It is time to*



include psoriasis in the global response to NCDs,” said Jose Luis Castro, President, NCD Alliance. “At the NCD Alliance we are dedicated to working with IFPA and others to unite the NCD community in making NCD prevention and reduction a global priority. Psoriasis belongs in this movement.”

The side event also served as the official kick-off of the Global Psoriasis Coalition – a new IFPA programme that unites diverse voices under the slogan “We’re all in for 125 million.”

“While the WHO Resolution and the Global Psoriasis Report are excellent advocacy tools, they are not binding and their implementation is dependent upon the moral responsibility of the Member States. The Coalition recognizes the need for global psoriasis advocacy to take the next step, especially given the relationship between psoriasis and the ‘big four NCDs,” said Sophie Andersson, Executive Director, IFPA. “By including early screening of psoriasis patients for diabetes and cardiovascular diseases as one of the ‘best buys’ in the WHO Global NCD Action Plan, we move closer to preventing and reducing the burden of NCDs.”

The Global Psoriasis Coalition brings together stakeholders to cooperate across borders, disease areas and sectors to improve the lives of the 125 million people worldwide living with psoriasis. By uniting professional societies, non-governmental organisations, foundations, corporate partners and other relevant associations, the Coalition aims to center global health conversation on psoriasis, foster behavioral change and create opportunities to change the living conditions of people with psoriasis. Specific aims of the Coalition include managing psoriasis, fostering new cross-sectoral partnerships and driving the inclusion of psoriasis in comprehensive global and national NCD strategies, such as the WHO’s Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs (2013-2020).

The side event was co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of the Argentine Republic, Ecuador, Panama, Qatar, and the Philippines, whose efforts and commitment ensured high visibility of the event on the NCD Agenda. The event also featured guest speakers from the WHO, NCD Alliance members, as well as medical professionals and researchers.

IFPA and the Global Psoriasis Coalition will continue their efforts to drive action on psoriasis on the global and regional stage, and plan on reconvening in October 2017 at the WHO Global Conference on NCDs in Uruguay.



About IFPA

The International Federation of Psoriasis Associations (IFPA) is a non-profit organization made up of psoriasis associations from around the world. As the main global psoriasis patient organization, IFPA's goals are to empower its members, improve living conditions for people with psoriasis and/or psoriatic arthritis, raise awareness of the disease and cooperate with fellow stakeholders. Key IFPA actions include World Psoriasis Day (annually on October 29) and a scientific psoriasis conference every three years. Since its founding in 1971, IFPA has continuously sought to resolve the challenges facing over 125 million people with psoriasis worldwide.

Learn more about IFPA at www.ifpa-pso.com or contact IFPA's Executive Director, Ms Sophie Andersson, at Sophie.Andersson@ifpa-pso.com.