

# **The Young Professionals Forum for Action on NCDs: The Impact of International Trade on Health**

**Wednesday, July 9th, 8:30 am- 1 pm**

**Griffis Faculty Club, Weill Cornell Medical College  
521 East 68th Street, New York, NY 10065**

*The Young Professionals Forum for Action on Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) will bring together emerging leaders and established experts in the fields of health, law and economics, who are committed to global action for a healthy and equitable future, free from the social injustice levied by NCDs. Held alongside the United Nations (UN) Review on NCDs, this will be the second forum hosted by the Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network (YP-CDN)—the first coincided with the UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs in 2011, as a platform to address NCDs as a leading 21st century social justice issue.*

## **Trade & Health**

Free trade agreements can both improve and threaten a nation's health. Increased exports to foreign markets, added foreign investment, and targeted reductions in the price of imported goods can lead to economic gains, improved living standards, and long-term health gains. Trade agreements may also hinder national health progress, by driving up prices of life-saving medicines and increasing access to harmful products that perpetuate the NCD burden (i.e. tobacco, alcohol, and unhealthy foods). As a result, the national policy space for regulatory health action for such products may be restricted. The impacts of these agreements in terms of increased access to unhealthy products and their resulting risk are especially concerning in the context of improving 21<sup>st</sup> century health and development in low- and middle-income countries.

## **Objective of the Forum**

At this forum, we come together with the shared objective to protect health and promote equity in the face of international trade and investment deals. With the launch of the Young Professionals Declaration on NCDs and International Trade and Investment, together, we will stand up for health. We will stand up for provisions and flexibilities that mitigate NCD risk factors (e.g. tobacco control), and enable access to essential medicines. We will stand up for safeguards and regulations that put vested corporate risks in check.

Alongside established leaders from academia, the public sector, and civil society, we will unite diverse young professionals with an interest in the prevention and control of NCDs to discuss the complexities at the intersection of trade, NCDs, and development for the future. What will change? **How will the next generation move the conversation past rhetoric to leadership and measurable change?**

## Our Panelists & Moderators

### Panel 1: Navigating Trade and Investment Agreements and the 25x25 NCD Strategy



**Ariella Rojhani: Senior Advocacy Manager, NCD Alliance (NCDA)**

Based in New York City, Ms. Ariella Rojhani works to unite the efforts of NCDA's civil society network on non-communicable diseases with the priorities and activities of the UN system and Member States. Her primary focus is the design and implementation of NCDA's advocacy campaigns, including sustaining momentum from the 2011 UN High-level Meeting on NCDs and raising the profile of NCDs on the global health and development agendas. Prior to joining the NCD Alliance, she led communications and advocacy for the Global Alliance for Women's Health, as well as a position at NBC Universal on the interactive media product team. She is a graduate of New York

University and a proud member of the YP-CDN.



**Peter Maybarduk, JD: Director, Public Citizen**

Peter Maybarduk directs Public Citizen's Global Access to Medicines Program, which helps developing countries overcome patent-based and other pharmaceutical monopolies in order to promote access to medicines for all. His work has yielded major HIV/AIDS medicine price reductions, new state access to medicines policies, and global shifts toward anti-counterfeiting policies that safeguard generic competition. Maybarduk's analysis and advocacy have been instrumental in developing widespread opposition to measures in the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement that would harm public interests including health and internet freedom. Maybarduk studied law at the University

of California at Berkeley and anthropology at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. He also directs International Professional Partnerships for Sierra Leone (IPPSL), a non-profit dedicated to supporting public sector development in one of the world's least developed countries. Maybarduk is a composer and performer of music.



**Benn McGrady, PhD: Director, Initiative on Trade, Investment and Health, O'Neill Institute**

Benn McGrady directs the Initiative on Trade, Investment and Health at the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University Law Center, where he is also an Adjunct Professor. Among other publications, Benn is the author of the book *Trade and Public Health: The WTO, Tobacco, Alcohol and Diet* (Cambridge University Press, 2011) and a 2012 World Health Organization report entitled *Confronting the Tobacco Epidemic in a New Era of Trade and Investment Liberalization*. Benn has provided advice to public health bodies, foreign governments and intergovernmental organizations on various aspects of

public international law, including the law of treaties, international trade law and international investment law. Originally from Australia, Benn holds a Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Laws and a PhD from Monash University in Melbourne, as well as a Master of Laws from the Georgetown University Law Center. Benn is licensed as an Australian Lawyer and a Special Legal Consultant in the District of Columbia.

## **Panel 2: Allies for Change: Collaborating to achieve trade that prioritizes health for all**

### **Moderator**



#### **Keegan Hall: President, International Diabetes Federation Young Leaders**

Keegan Hall is the President of the International Diabetes Federation's Young Leaders in Diabetes Programme, as well as the Marketing and Communications Coordinator in the National Office of Diabetes South Africa. He has had Type 1 Diabetes for the past 9 years and has dedicated his life and career to the cause of improving the lives of people with Diabetes.

### **Opening Speaker**



#### **Anthony So, MD, MPA: Professor of the Practice of Public Policy and Global Health; Director, Program on Global Health and Technology Access, Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy**

Dr. Anthony So is Professor of the Practice of Public Policy and Global Health at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy, where he both founded and directs the Program on Global Health and Technology Access since 2004. The Program focuses on issues of globalization and health, particularly innovation and access to essential medicines and tobacco control in low- and middle-income countries. The Program also serves as the Strategic Policy Unit for ReAct, a global network dedicated to raising policymaker awareness of antibiotic resistance. He also oversees the Global Health Fellows Program, now in its tenth year, that brings future leaders in global health to Geneva for summer internships and an intensive, one-week course on globalization and health equity.

Previously, Dr. So had served as Associate Director of the Rockefeller Foundation's Health Equity program. While there, his grant-making shaped the foundation's work on access to medicines policy in low- and middle-income countries, particularly for HIV/AIDS; co-founded a cross-thematic program on charting a fairer course for intellectual property rights; and launched "Trading Tobacco for Health," an initiative that eventually spanned seven countries in Southeast Asia. He continues much of this work today as part of the UNDP Access & Delivery project, as Principal Investigator of a recently completed NIH Fogarty project on the political economy of tobacco control in Southeast Asia, and as a recipient of the Robert Wood Johnson Investigator Award in Health Policy Research.

He received his BA in philosophy and biomedical sciences and his MD in a six-year, combined program at the University of Michigan. He earned his MPA from Princeton University as a Woodrow Wilson Scholar, trained in general internal medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at UCSF/Stanford.

## Panelists



### **James Love, MPA: Director, Knowledge Ecology International**

Mr. Love is the Director of Knowledge Ecology International (KEI). Mr. Love is also the U.S. co-chair of the Trans-Atlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD) Intellectual Property Policy Committee, and the chair of the Essential Inventions board of directors. He advises UN agencies, national governments, international and regional intergovernmental organizations and public health NGOs, and is the author of a number of articles and monographs on innovation and intellectual property rights. In 2006, Knowledge Ecology International received a MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions. In 2013, Love received the EFF Pioneer Award, to recognize leaders who extend freedom and innovation in the realm of information technology. Knowledge Ecology International was created in 2006 as a separate entity to carry out work earlier done through the Center for Study of Responsive Law and Essential Information. Mr. Love was employed by the Center for Study of Responsive Law from 1990 to 2006. Mr. Love was previously Senior Economist for the Frank Russell Company, a lecturer at Rutgers University, and a researcher on international finance at Princeton University. He holds a Masters of Public Administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and a Masters in Public Affairs from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.



### **Gregg Haifley, JD: Director, ACS Cancer Action Network**

Gregg Haifley is Director of Federal Relations at the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) in Washington, DC where he handles U.S. Legislative and Executive Branch advocacy on tobacco, physical activity, and nutrition issues. He was part of the team that successfully convinced the U.S. Congress to pass the landmark Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act which gave the U.S. Food and Drug Administration the authority to regulate the manufacture, marketing and sale of tobacco products. Gregg was also involved in the Congressional passage of the 2009 increase of the U.S. federal tobacco tax – the largest ever increase in the federal tobacco tax. Gregg has a long history of health law advocacy. Prior to joining ACS CAN, he worked for several years at the Children's Defense Fund, where he was involved in Congressional passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) law which provides health care coverage to more than 6 million children who would otherwise have been uninsured for health care.



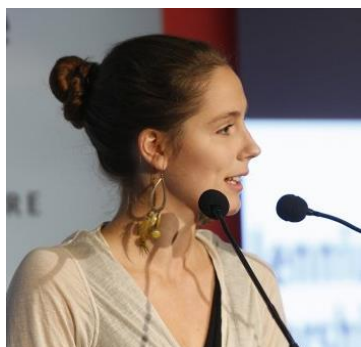
### **Ashley Schram, MSc: PhD Candidate, University of Ottawa**

Ashley entered the doctoral program in Population Health at the University of Ottawa in 2012. She is a co-investigator on a CIHR funded research project conducting a health impact assessment of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, specifically examining pathways between provisions within trade and investment agreements and key risk factors for noncommunicable diseases, including tobacco, alcohol, diet, and access to medicines. Her dissertation work includes a focus on how transnational food corporations, and agreement such as the TPP, impact the food supply and food regulatory policy space to protect and promote health diets in Canada. Ashley is a proud member of the YP-CDN.



### Panel 3: Concrete action for health in trade policy: the role of young leaders and the future of allies for change

#### Moderator



**Genevieve Bois, MD: Spokesperson, Quebec Coalition for Tobacco Control; Community Director, YP-CDN**

Geneviève trained as a doctor in Montréal, Canada, and is currently working in tobacco control, as the spokesperson for the Québec Coalition for Tobacco Control, and as YP-CDN Community Director. She spent a year with the Copenhagen School of Global Health working on projects for the NCDs unit, but also involved curriculum development for pre-departure training and global health ethics. Geneviève is passionate about NCDs, building healthy cities and using the urban environment to influence health. She is the past Vice-President of Internal Affairs of the world's largest medical student, the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) and she has served on

the Student Committee of the Global Health Education Consortium (GHEC) for over 2 years.



**Kavitha Kolappa, MD, MPH: Psychiatry Resident, Massachusetts General Hospital/McLean**

Dr. Kolappa is a third-year psychiatry resident at the Massachusetts General Hospital and McLean. She completed her undergraduate course in 2005 as a Robertson Scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has lived and worked abroad in several contexts including Havana, Cuba; Cape Town, South Africa; and Chennai, India. She matriculated at Johns Hopkins for medical school, and during her time there had a brief stint with the International Rescue Committee in Kibondo, Tanzania. After medical school she worked for Médecins Sans Frontières on severe malaria treatment policy and completed her Masters in Public Health at the Harvard School of Public Health. Her current

academic interests include global mental health policy, access to medicines, and the intersection between mental illnesses and other non-communicable diseases.



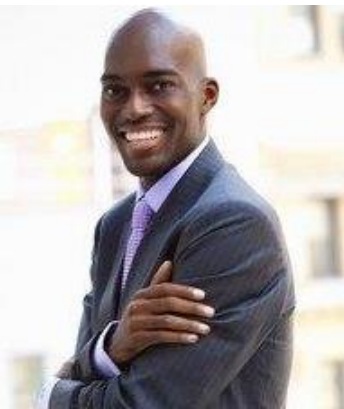
**Bryan Collinsworth: Executive Director, Universities Allied for Essential Medicines**

UAEM Executive Director Bryan Collinsworth has a broad background in advocacy, policy and communications. As the national student coordinator for STAND (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur) in 2006, Bryan mobilized student activism against global human rights violations. He subsequently served on the Capitol Hill staff of Congresswoman Betty McCollum, the founder of the Congressional Global Health Caucus, and as a communications and field operative on several high-profile congressional races. Most recently, Bryan directed online organizing and advocacy for the New York Working Families Party, running issue campaigns for economic justice and government and corporate accountability. Bryan studied global politics and history at Sarah Lawrence College, from which he holds a B.A., and UCLA.



**Divya Dhar, MBChB, MBA, MPA: Cofounder, P3 Foundation; CEO, Seratis**

Divya Dhar is the CEO and cofounder of Seratis, a team transparency and care coordination solution for healthcare providers. She is a MD from New Zealand who recently graduated with a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School and MBA from Wharton Business School on the Fulbright scholarship. Divya founded a non-profit, P3 Foundation, which aims to empower young people to end extreme poverty in the Asia Pacific region within a generation. P3 has grown to become the largest youth-for-youth nonprofit organization engaged in international development in New Zealand. Divya authored a policy proposal which was adopted by the government of New Zealand to prevent doctor emigration. She was honored as the inaugural Young New Zealander of the year in 2010.



**Seun Adebisi, JD: Founder/CEO, Nigeria Bone Marrow registry**

Seun Adebisi is a graduate of Yale University and the founder of the Bone Marrow Registry in Nigeria, the first accredited stem cell donor registry in Nigeria. In May 2009, just after graduating from law school at the age of 26, Seun was diagnosed with two rare and aggressive blood cancers. He needed a stem cell transplant to save his life, but learned that cancer patients of African descent have less than 17% chance of finding a donor. While undergoing intensive chemotherapy, Seun held dozens of donor drives in the United States and also organized Nigeria's first bone marrow donor drive. He eventually received a cord blood transplant in February 2010 and has been in remission ever since.

Seun has dedicated his "second chance at life" to advocating for other cancer patients, especially of African descent. He currently serves on the board of trustees for The Bone Marrow Foundation and speaks at universities and conferences about harnessing the enthusiasm of youth to drive social change in Africa. He is also working to create a pan-African network of registries to address the critical need for stem cell donors of African descent.

A lifelong athlete, Seun is also the founder of the first Winter Olympic sports federation in Nigeria, and hopes to represent Nigeria in 2018 as her first-ever Winter Olympian.