

## UPDATE ON WHO FCTC AND MPOWER

Date: 18 March 2015

Time: 16:00-17:30

Room: Conference Hall A

### Tri-plenary 4 title: Toxicity and Health Effects of Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking: Current State-of-the-Science and Funding Opportunities

**Description:** Since the release of the WHO Advisory Note on Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking in 2005, waterpipe research has received important attention, and resulted in new evidence and facts and in the bridging of many research gaps. Meanwhile, new fashions on waterpipe use have been developed, such as adding various flavours and additives to the tobacco used in waterpipes. Even the tobacco industry now gives some attention to the use of waterpipes and started investing in its production.

Waterpipe use accounts for a significant and growing share of tobacco use globally. Its use is most prevalent in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, but it is a rapidly emerging problem in other continents such as Europe, North America and South America. Specifically, in the US, the decreasing prevalence of cigarette smoking as a result of decades of tobacco control efforts has coincided with the emergence of relatively unregulated cigarette alternatives such as smoking flavoured tobacco *via* waterpipe (hookah). Similar experiences have been observed in several countries where waterpipe use has not been traditionally common.

A typical waterpipe tobacco smoking session may deliver over 20 times the smoke volume of a single cigarette. A strong science base is needed, especially in the areas of tobacco product surveys, standardisation of methods for testing product toxicity in laboratory and natural environments, and discovery of new intermediate markers of biological effects. Building a science base is paramount in order to help countries in drawing appropriate and suitable science-based regulations where use of waterpipe is prevalent.

#### Objectives of the tri-plenary:

Objective 1: This plenary is designed to summarize the state of the science on waterpipe tobacco smoking from standardization of laboratory methods for evaluation of toxicant emissions and human exposure to real-time tobacco smoke toxicant sampling in natural environments to biological assays of health effects of hookah smoking. This science is of great importance to inform the regulators about effects of actual and secondhand exposure to waterpipe smoke.

Objective 2: This plenary seeks to improve information regarding funding opportunities to study emerging tobacco products other than cigarettes.

**Chair 1** Dr Wedad El Madoor, Director, Tobacco Control, Ministry of Health, United Arab Emirates

**Chair 2:** Dr Ghazi Zaatari, Chair of WHO Study Group on Tobacco Product Regulation, Lebanon

#### 16:00-16:10

*Presentation 1: Emerging global trend on waterpipe tobacco smoking*

Speaker 1: Ms Gemma Vestal, World Health Organisation Tobacco Free Initiative, Switzerland

**16:10-16:20**

*Presentation 2: Real-time waterpipe tobacco smoke toxicant sampling in the natural environment*

Speaker 1: Dr Alan Shihadeh, Assistant Professor, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

**16:20-16:30**

*Presentation 3: Laboratory methods for evaluating waterpipe smoke emissions and exposure*

Speaker 1 : Dr Pamela Clark, Department of Behavioural and Community Health, University of Maryland, USA

**16:30-16:40**

*Presentation 4: Funding opportunities for waterpipe research*

Speaker 1 : Dr Rachel Grana, Program Director, Tobacco Control Reserach Branch, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, National Cancer Institute, USA

**16:40-17:25**

**Panel Country Experience and Communications Campaign**

Panelist 1: Dr Feras Hawari, Head, Tobacco Control Department, King Hussein Cancer Centre, Jordan  
Waterpipe epidemic in the Middle East

Panelist 2 : Dr Tania Cavalcante, Instituto Nacional de Câncer, Brazil  
Imported waterpipe epidemic: situation on the ground

Panelist 3 : Dr Jawad EL Lawati, Advisor to the Minister of Health, Oman  
Tobacco regulatory goals

**17:25**

Conclusions and summary by Dr Wedad El Madoor and Dr Ghazi Zaatari