



**Media Advisory – For Immediate Release**

**Free Online Congress ‘WSC Spotlight: Maternal and Neonatal Sepsis’ - September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**World Sepsis Day – September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

## **World Sepsis Day 2017 – Preventable Maternal and Neonatal Sepsis a Critical Priority for WHO and Global Sepsis Alliance**

**WORLD-SEPSIS-DAY.ORG** – Undetected or poorly managed maternal infections have led to alarming rates of preventable sepsis, death or disability for both the mother and infant, during pregnancy and at the time of birth. According to the Global Sepsis Alliance (GSA), infections leading to sepsis are responsible for about one fifth of the world’s annual 2.7 million neonatal deaths, and in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, about 25 per cent of all neonatal deaths.

In an effort to reduce the global burden of preventable sepsis, the GSA and the World Health Organization (WHO) are co-hosting the ‘*World Sepsis Congress Spotlight: Maternal and Neonatal Sepsis*’ on Tuesday, September 12 -- one day before the sixth annual World Sepsis Day on September 13.

Sepsis, one of the most prevalent but misdiagnosed, deadly diseases, was established as a global priority by the WHO in May when it adopted the resolution to improve, prevent, diagnose, and manage sepsis through a series of actions directed at developed and developing countries around the world. The resolution urges the 194 United Nation Member States to implement appropriate measures to reduce the human and health economic burden of sepsis by 2020.

The online conference will bring together international experts and health care authorities, renowned clinical scientists, researchers, NGOs, policy makers, patients, patient advocate groups, and pioneers in maternal and newborn care. Experts will report on a number of issues at the World Sepsis Congress Spotlight; specifically, that under-reporting of sepsis and poor recognition of sepsis symptoms result in a significant underestimation of the burden of maternal and neonatal death from sepsis. In the Western world, an increase in invasive group A streptococcal infections is attributed to the higher rates of sepsis, while susceptibility to infection is further complicated by increasing rates of caesarean section and obesity.

In developing countries, the increase in vaccination compliance has averted the deaths of over seven million children annually, according to a report to be

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Founding Organizations

**World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine**

**World Federation of Pediatric Intensive and Critical Care Societies**

**World Federation of Critical Care Nurses**

**International Sepsis Forum**

**Sepsis Alliance**

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presented at the Congress by Dr. Anuradha Gupta, Deputy CEO, of Switzerland's GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance.

Sepsis, commonly referred to as 'blood poisoning', is the life-threatening condition that arises when the body's response to infection results in organ dysfunction or failure. Sepsis is often confused with other conditions in its early stages, with delayed recognition of the signs and symptoms quickly leading to multi-system organ failure and ultimately death.

## QUOTES

"Every year, sepsis kills around 6 million people, including 1 million newborn babies. The tragedy is that most of these deaths could have been prevented," said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, who will open the Congress.

"The significance of the WHO's resolution to improve, prevent, diagnose, and manage sepsis is a quantum leap in the international fight against sepsis," said Dr. Konrad Reinhart, Chair of the GSA. "Worldwide, sepsis is one of the most common deadly diseases, and it is one of the few conditions to strike with equal ferocity in resource-poor areas and in the developed world."

"Sepsis can be prevented to a considerable degree by vaccination against the underlying infections, better sanitation, maternal and neonatal care, and clean delivery," said Dr. Konrad Reinhart, Chair of the Global Sepsis Alliance. "Sepsis induced organ dysfunction and shock require urgent supportive therapies in addition to the measures to eradicate the inciting infection. The odds of surviving sepsis can be dramatically improved by early recognition, appropriate treatment with antimicrobials, and supportive emergency care measures."

### For more information:

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### For registration and program, go to:

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