

## Media release

Issued by: UK Health Forum

Date: 14 August 2013

For immediate release

### New tool to strengthen global collaboration against non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

This week, the UK Health Forum (UKHF) launched a new online platform for public health advocates working to prevent NCDs, [ncdlinks.org](http://ncdlinks.org). It is a unique new tool to strengthen global collaboration between professionals and advocates working in countries around the world through the exchange of information and expertise and networking between communities of action on topics including tobacco control, nutrition and physical activity.

The platform currently hosts three existing networks connecting 2,000 individuals working to tackle the global crisis in non-communicable diseases, their risk factors and determinants:

- **Panacealink** connecting those working in nutrition and physical activity
- **Globalink** connecting the tobacco control community
- **CARIBAPAN** connecting civil society organisations and others in the Caribbean in alcohol advocacy and prevention

The benefit of this new parent platform is that it allows users to easily navigate between different networks, conversations and virtual meetings. Small and large networks linked via [ncdlinks.org](http://ncdlinks.org) will be able to co-ordinate their activities, collect and share information in one place and make important connections with peers and colleagues around the world working on similar issues.

Introducing the new platform, Helena Korjonen, director of information research services at the UK Health Forum said: *“The public health workforce is diverse and not always well linked to the tools needed or to others working in the field. Enabling dedicated global networking is vital in building and supporting capacity in public health – making better use of scarce resources and sharing intelligence effectively.”*

Looking ahead, [ncdlinks.org](http://ncdlinks.org) will be expanded to accommodate other NCD-related areas such as alcohol harm reduction, prevention of vascular dementia and environmental factors such as air quality.



The networks on [ncdlinks.org](http://www.ncdlinks.org) are moderated and to protect their integrity membership is subject to eligibility criteria. Joining is free of charge. To register, visit <http://www.ncdlinks.org/>

**Notes to editors:**

The UK Health Forum is a charitable alliance of professional and public interest organisations working to reduce the risk of avoidable non-communicable diseases by developing evidence-based public health policy and supporting its implementation through advocacy and information provision. For more information visit: [www.ukhealthforum.org.uk](http://www.ukhealthforum.org.uk)

Copies of logos for the UK Health Forum and [ncdlinks.org](http://www.ncdlinks.org) (shown here) are available on request.



**Contact:**

Dr Helena Korjonen at the UK Health Forum, London, UK. T: +44 (0) 20 3077 5953  
[helena.korjonen@ukhealthforum.org.uk](mailto:helena.korjonen@ukhealthforum.org.uk)

Alternative contact:

Jane Landon at the UK Health Forum, London, UK. T: +44 (0) 20 7831 7420