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## Deadly Sepsis a Global Priority but Dismissed by Majority of Health Systems Worldwide – World Sepsis Day September 13<sup>th</sup>

**World Sepsis Day, Sept 13<sup>th</sup>** – The Global Sepsis Alliance says not nearly enough is being done to curb sepsis, one of the most prevalent but misdiagnosed, deadly diseases, and designated a global priority by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2017.

In spite of the unanimous resolution in May 2017 by the Executive Board of the WHO and the World Health Assembly to improve, prevent, diagnose, and manage sepsis through a series of actions directed at developed and developing countries around the world, the majority of countries still have not implemented comprehensive educational programs on sepsis prevention, recognition, and care.

“We are appealing to the United Nation Member States and the WHO to take immediate action on their commitment to prioritize the devastation caused by sepsis worldwide, to issue a report on the prevalence and consequences of sepsis, and to support its member nations globally in the prevention, diagnosis, and management of this preventable global health issue,” said Prof. Dr. Konrad Reinhart, Chair of the Global Sepsis Alliance and Senior Professor at the Center for Sepsis Control and Care at Jena University Hospital and Charité Berlin, Germany.

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. Sepsis needs to be treated as an emergency because every delay in administration of antimicrobials and other appropriate measures increases mortality rate on an hourly basis.

“The WHO shares our goal to have the incidence of sepsis, the leading cause of preventable deaths, decrease by at least 20 per cent by the year 2020,” added Prof. Reinhart. “Together, all nations can achieve this by actively promoting good hygiene and hand washing, clean obstetric care, and improvements in sanitation, nutrition, and delivery of clean water. It is also vital that nutrition and vaccination programs be stepped up immediately for at-risk patient populations in resource-poor areas.”

On the occasion of World Sepsis Day on September 13<sup>th</sup>, the Global Sepsis Alliance is urging all nations, with active support of the WHO, to coordinate and align

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practices in infection control and prevention, as well as reduce the incidence of antimicrobial resistance. While anyone can get sepsis, newborn babies and children are especially at risk.

“Neonates and children are disproportionately affected by sepsis,” said Prof. Dr. Niranjana “Tex” Kishore, Vice Chair of the Global Sepsis Alliance, and Vice President Medical Affairs at BC Children’s Hospital and Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children. “Simple measures such as perinatal care for mothers, sanitary birth practices, early breast feeding, and immunizations are so effective and easily delivered, if a priority is placed on the prevention, diagnosis, and management of sepsis.”

The Global Sepsis Alliance is hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Sepsis Congress on September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. It is accessible to all countries and clinicians through a simple internet connection by clicking on [www.worldsepsiscongress.org](http://www.worldsepsiscongress.org). Over 15,000 organizations and individuals – mainly medical professionals – from around the world are expected to take part in the free online conference, which precedes *World Sepsis Day* on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

In resource-rich countries with strong health systems, sepsis inflicts between 500 - 700 per 100 000 population, according to new data from the United States and Europe, higher than the annual incidence of new cases of cancer. The majority of deaths from sepsis are preventable and can be reduced by 50 per cent with appropriate measures.

“There are very few countries that have implemented effective national programs in sepsis management,” said Prof. Reinhart. “But in these countries, death from sepsis has decreased from over 40 per cent to below 20, whereas in high-income countries without programs, sepsis mortality is still above 40 per cent. In low- and middle-income countries, sepsis mortality ranges between 50 and 70 per cent.”

In the USA alone, sepsis causes or contributes to 35% of all deaths in hospitals and is the leading cause of annual hospital costs, at over 24 billion USD per year. The Global Sepsis Alliance is calling on the WHO to allocate more resources to member states to implement their sepsis resolution. Sepsis, in spite of the lives it claims every year, is mostly unknown and poorly understood by the public, no matter where you live.

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**2<sup>nd</sup> World Sepsis Congress / Global Sepsis Alliance**

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