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PRESS RELEASE FOR WORLD COPD DAY 2019

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a preventable and treatable disease that causes breathlessness, chronic sputum production and cough, there are 300 million current cases of COPD in the world. COPD is currently the 3rd leading cause of death globally and is highly prevalent in low resource countries. Exposure to tobacco smoke and other inhaled toxic particles and gases are the main risk factors for COPD, although recent research has identified that suboptimal lung growth before and after birth can also increase the risk of COPD later in life.

World COPD Day has been organized by GOLD in collaboration with the World Health Organization each year in November since 2002. The goal of World COPD Day is to raise awareness and present new knowledge and novel therapeutic strategies for COPD worldwide. This year, the 18th annual World COPD Day will take place on November 20, 2019. This year's theme, "All Together to End COPD" emphasizes the fact that many people are involved in the fight to end COPD. At every stage and at any age, there is an opportunity to prevent or treat COPD. From care providers, families and patients, to policy makers and employers – everyone can make an impact.

Initiatives to reduce the burden of COPD are taking place worldwide, including smoking-cessation programs, fighting against both indoor and outdoor air pollution, as well as examining childhood disadvantage factors. Although there is no current cure for COPD, action can take place at any stage of the disease by a variety of individuals in many types of settings. Employers can strive for safe breathing environments, citizens can be good stewards of air cleanliness, and both patients and families can help advocate for more research and better access to care. Providers and policy makers can work together to improve access to spirometry, essential medications, and other treatments like pulmonary rehabilitation, in addition to furthering research to improve patient outcomes.

The GOLD Committee invites everyone to participate the World COPD Day events on the 20th of November 2019. Further information about GOLD and World COPD Day can be found at www.goldcopd.org .

References

1. GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR THE DIAGNOSIS, MANAGEMENT, AND PREVENTION OF CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE (2020 REPORT)
2. Projections of Global Mortality and Burden of Disease from 2002 to 2030. Mathers CD, Loncar D. PLoS Medicine. 2006 Nov 28; 209–224.