

# A GLOBAL CONSENSUS

## for achieving a dental cavity-free future

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## Endorsement Statement

**Caries is the world's most prevalent non-communicable disease. Caries and cavities affect sufferers right across the life course, and globally are responsible for the largest burden of all disease.**

Untreated caries and cavities can adversely impact the quality of life of sufferers in multiple ways. In addition to this, untreated caries creates sizeable economic challenges with huge global costs. Caries is a widespread problem and has the largest impact of any issue within oral health, yet the burden and pain caused by caries and cavities are largely preventable. By tackling caries at the early stages, we can avoid cavities. This can not only lead to improvements in oral health but can also, through common risk factors, go a long way towards tackling other major (and costly) non-communicable diseases for wider health benefits.

Despite this evidence, caries is typically ignored in health policy. Previous global policy recommendations have not explicitly mentioned dental caries, and caries is not currently visible in global or national NCD strategies. This means that it is invisible to health policymakers and does not come with available resources.

We can demonstrate that a cavity-free future is possible, and also widely desirable. With a shared international vision for this over the last decade, **we are now at a turning point**, with dental authorities around the world united in this vision, speaking with one voice to push for change. Making progress with caries requires both WHO-level global policy agreements and country-level policy implementation. [The ACFF 'Making Cavities History' Taskforce](#) has worked to create global consensus on appropriate policy recommendations to ensure international level agreement and buy-in, as well as locally suitable frameworks for initiating effective policy and healthcare systems development.

**We, the undersigned, join together in calling upon policymakers to consider the 'Making Cavities History' [policy recommendations](#) in order that a concerted, global effort can be made to create a future free from dental cavities.**

The Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future  
World Federation of Public Health Associations  
International Association for Dental Research (IADR) Malaysian Section  
Penn Dental Medicine (Mark S. Wolff) (USA)  
School of Dental Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia (Malaysia)  
Faculty of Dentistry, Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) (Malaysia)  
Faculty of Dentistry, SEGi University (Malaysia)

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*To add your organisations endorsement to this set of documents, please email [admin@acffglobal.org](mailto:admin@acffglobal.org) with the following information completed:*

*'I confirm that **[insert name of organisation here]** endorses the 'Making Cavities History' Consensus Paper and Policy Recommendations. I confirm that I have authority to speak on behalf of the organisation.'*



**Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future**  
Stop Caries NOW for a Cavity-Free Future