Global Future Council on Healthy Ageing and Longevity
2020-2021 Term

The World Economic Forum’s Network of Global Future Councils is the world’s foremost interdisciplinary knowledge network dedicated to promoting innovative thinking on the future. The Network provides thought leadership on key global challenges and the impact and governance of emerging technologies with representation from business, academic, public, and civil society.

Mandate and Objectives

Remarkable gains in life expectancy, declines in fertility, and the progression of relatively large-sized cohorts to older ages have led to an ageing global population. However, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has highlighted the vulnerability of older adults, many with co-morbidities resulting in seriously diminished functional ability and mortality. At the same time, concerns are intensifying about further detrimental effects of on older adults’ well-being caused by measures taken to mitigate the transmission of the virus.

To address these and other challenges for older adults, the Global Future Council on Healthy Ageing which comprises of experts from across the public and private sector will engage stakeholders to accelerate progress and drive collective action towards promoting healthy ageing, combating ageism, and developing communities that promote the abilities of older persons.

For 2020/2021, the work of the Council will be carried out in the context of COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on the following thematic areas: social isolation and loneliness, innovation and technology, regional perspectives, and cross-generational angle.

Workstreams:

- Raise awareness and drive action on healthy ageing and longevity on the World Economic Forum’s Agenda
- Raise awareness and drive action on healthy longevity and on the global agenda
- Generate and disseminate new content and insights

Proposed Council Deliverables 2020-2021

- Support the implementation of the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing
- Contribute to regional dialogues on healthy ageing and longevity to highlight regional context, opportunities, and challenges
- Engage youths to drive dialogue on healthy ageing and longevity to provide a cross-generational perspective
Council outputs 2020/2021 term

Address by Prof Klaus Schwab for International Day of Older Persons, 1 October 2020

Podcast

- Meet the Leader, Deb Whitman on Scaling Empathy: how empathy can help tackle big programs such as the deployment of a special training program at banks and credit unions to help prevent financial exploitation of those 50 and older. Listen to Scaling Empathy on Spotify, Apple, and Acast

Published on the World Economic Forum Agenda Blogs:

- GFC members contributions on health ageing and longevity:
  - How can we best engage older workers in reskilling efforts? (20 May 2021)
  - Early healthcare investment is our best chance at healthy ageing (09 Apr 2021), by John Ataguba, Associate Professor and Director, University of Cape Town, David E. Bloom, Clarence James Professor of Economics & Demographic, Harvard School of Public Health, Andrew J Scott, Professor of Economics, London Business School
  - What is the biggest benefit technology will have on ageing and longevity (30 Mar 2021)
  - How to help an ageing population stay wealthy for longer (26 Jan 2021), by Alyaa AlMulla, Head, National Happiness Strategy and Policy, Office of the Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates
  - Time for the world to invest in healthy ageing (25 Jan 2021), by Alana Officer, Unit Head, Demographic Change and Healthy Ageing, World Health Organization
  - It’s high time we stopped undervaluing older adults (07 Dec 2020), by David E. Bloom, Clarence James Professor of economics et al.
  - We’re living longer – but how can we ensure we stay healthy, too? (02 Nov 2020), by Kazumi Nishikawa, Director, Information Technology Industry Division, Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry of Japan
  - Why organisation need to care about caregiving (23 Oct 2020), by Alyaa AlMulla, Director of Wellbeing and Longevity, Office of the Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates
  - Safer, cheaper, and healthier: it’s time to look again at home care for older people (13 Oct 2020), by Pang Sze-Yunn, Global Future Council on Longevity Member

- GFC members contributions on COVID-19:
  - COVID-19 is only adding to the woes of older people in Brazil (03 Nov 2020), by Alexandre Kalache, President, International Longevity Centre-Brazil
  - COVID-19 has worsened ageism. Here’s how to help older adults thrive (28 Oct 2020), by Sofiat Akinola, Lead, Health and Healthcare, World Economic Forum

- Other publications by GFC Council on Healthy Ageing and Longevity members
  - COVID-19 vaccine success can enable universal healthcare – here’s how (28 Apr 2021) by David Walcott, Managing Partner Novamed,
  - Beyond hearts and minds to anti-ageism actions in the Global South (11 Feb 2021), by Alexandre Kalache, President, International Longevity Centre-Brazil
  - How new models of vaccine development for COVID-19 have helped address an epic public health crisis (4 Feb 2021), by David E. Bloom et al.
  - Shift to digital during the pandemic could enable universal health coverage (11 Dec 2020), by David Walcott, Managing Partner Novamed, & Sofiat Akinola, Lead, Health, and healthcare
  - How to mitigate the economic impact of infectious diseases (05 Nov 2020), by David E. Bloom, Clarence James Professor of economics et al.

For more information on the Global Future Councils visit:

- Hashtag: #wefgfconlongevity
- Handle: @globalfuturecouncilonlongevity
Council Members

Co-chairs

Debra Whitman,
Chief Public Policy Officer, AARP USA

Victor Dzau,
President, National Academy of Medicine, USA

Members

Isabella Aboderin,
Perivoli Chair in Africa Research and Partnerships; Professor of Gerontology, University of Bristol, United Kingdom

Amal Abou Rafeh,
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), United Nations

Stephanie Allen,
Global and Australian Health Leader, Deloitte

Alyaa Al Mulla,
Director, National Program for Happiness and Well-Being, Office of the Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates

John Ataguba,
Associate Professor and Director, University of Cape Town

Jane Barratt,
Secretary-General, International Federation on Ageing

David E. Bloom,
Clarence James Gamble Professor of Economics and Demography, Harvard School of Public Health

Terezinha da Silva,
Social Activist, Forum of the 3rd Age

Jisella Dolan,
Chief Strategy Officer, Home Instead Inc.

Linda P. Fried,
Dean and DeLamar Professor of Public Health, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, USA

Maliha Hashmi,
Executive Director, Health and Well-Being, Biotech, NOEM

Peggy Hicks,
Director, Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures, and Right to Development Division, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Alexandre Kalache,
President, International Longevity Centre-Brazil

Arun Maira,
Chair, Board of Trustees, Help Age International, HelpAge International

Rahul Malhotra,
Assistant Professor, Health Services and Systems Research (HSSR); Head, Research, Centre for Ageing Research and Education (CARE), Duke-NUS Medical School

Abla Mehio Sibai,
Interim Dean and Professor, American University of Beirut

Adrienne Mendenhall,
Director of Business Development, ACCESS Health International

Paul Murray,
Head, Life and Health Products, Swiss Re

Alana Officer,
Senior Health Adviser, Ageing and Life Course, World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva

Hans Christian Hansson,
Director and Global Health of Obesity and NASH Policy, Novo Nordisk Foundation

Andrew J Scott,
Professor of Economics, London Business School

Nidhi Singhvi,
Senior Director, Optum, UnitedHealth Group

Dubravka Šuica,
Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, European Commission

Sanskriti Thakur,
Special Advisor to CEO, Medable

David Alexander Walcott,
Managing Partner Novamed, World Economic Forum Young Global Leader

Katie Wood,
Director, Arup Group

Fellow

Nathalie Giroud,
Research Group Leader, University of Zurich

Council Manager

Sofiat Akinola,
Lead, Health and Healthcare, World Economic Forum