

## **Cigna Sponsors U.N. Discussion on Women and Non-Communicable Diseases**

BLOOMFIELD, Conn., 14 March, 2017 - Cigna will sponsor “Women and NCDs: Debunking Myths and Taking Action” at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 1-3 p.m. March 16 as part of the UN’s 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Dr. Christina Stasiuk, senior medical director for Cigna and expert on health disparities, will be among the speakers.

The purpose of the event is to increase awareness about how to reduce the impact of NCDs by empowering girls and women, and is organized by the Taskforce on Women & NCDs and the NCD-Alliance in collaboration with UN Women, International Alliance of Women, and Conference on NGOs. Women’s health advocates, policymakers, heads of delegations, female world leaders, and women from throughout the global business community are expected to attend.

“We’re calling for increased action on prevention programs for women and girls. NCDs impact women uniquely as patients, mothers and caregivers, and NCDs have a huge economic toll on families and communities,” Dr. Stasiuk said. “As key decision-makers, women lead efforts towards healthy living. To further empower women, they need support and access to information about health and NCD prevention. Companies, NGOs and health systems must encourage women to take care of their own health with regular health check-ups, NCD testing and early screening,” she said.

Dr. Stasiuk will be part of a panel on “Social Mobilization and Taking Action,” moderated by Nalini Saligram, CEO and founder of Arogya World, co-chair of the Task Force on Women and NCDs and a Cigna Foundation World of Difference partner.

Dr. Stasiuk is the clinical leader for Cigna's Health Equity Council, and in 2012 she accepted the Surgeon General’s Medallion on behalf of the Council in recognition of its exceptional achievements to advance the cause of public health and medicine. Dr. Stasiuk is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, the Minority Health Committee of the American College of Osteopathic Internists, and the Philadelphia Medical Society. She joined Cigna full time in 2003 after 14 years of solo practice in internal medicine and clinical consulting, and works closely with employers, health care professionals and other stakeholders to improve the quality of health care while controlling costs and engaging individuals to help improve their health.

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