



Stop Caries NOW for a Cavity-Free Future  
Canada-United States Chapter

**Dental caries is a neglected epidemic** in many countries—this widespread chronic disease and its consequences is a major public health burden to all countries. Caries continues to consume significant resources for treatment, and contributes to human suffering with loss of quality of life. Unhealthy diets rich in sugars and poor oral hygiene are the most important causes of dental caries; additionally, dental caries is linked to social inequality. Meanwhile, many dental professionals and public health leaders know how to prevent caries using both “upstream” and “downstream” methods.

**Focus on translating knowledge into action:** Research evidence about caries prevention must therefore be implemented globally in both public health and clinical practice.

**Caries is a disease continuum** with a series of stages from small initial lesions that might develop into gross cavities. Better understanding of the disease process, better training and collective action using health promotion and better integrated disease prevention from a broad range of personnel can change the course of this global “epidemic”.

**A comprehensive approach to prevention and management is required** in order to **STOP** caries from starting (caries initiation) wherever possible and also to **STOP** any small lesions that do occur from enlarging (caries progression) to ever become cavities.

**Worldwide experts have joined together to create a global Alliance**—experts from the dental and public health professions are promoting integrated clinical and public health action in order to stop caries initiation and progression in order to move towards a **Cavity-Free Future** for all age groups. The Canada-US ACFF Chapter as well as the other 24 ACFF Chapters support the ACFF’s Global goals.

### **The Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future:**

- Has agreed to the **Declaration** below,
- Has produced a **Web-Based Resource** (with future additions planned) to facilitate the comprehensive prevention and management of caries for communities, groups and individuals,
- Is catalyzing a global **Social Movement** to **Stop Caries NOW for a Cavity-Free Future**.

---

## **ALLIANCE FOR A CAVITY-FREE FUTURE—DECLARATION**

---

“Global collaborative action is needed to challenge global leaders and other stakeholders—including country and community leaders, health and dental health professionals, public policy and education

communities, and the public—to learn the importance of caries as a disease continuum and to participate in action toward the delivery of comprehensive caries prevention and management that can positively influence the continuing problem of caries.

This action should:

- Ensure that primary prevention with appropriate fluoride strategies are in place, and
- Promote the preventive control of initial caries lesions through education to change human behavior and the use of appropriate, evidence-based technologies

We call upon interested individuals to join the Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future and make a collective commitment to take action and elevate the importance of caries prevention and management as a global health issue.”

---

### Specific GOAL of the Canada-US Chapter:

- Within 5 years of the Chapter launch, we will facilitate inter-professional collaboration for caries prevention and management, for example by increasing the number of medical offices that routinely recommend brushing a child’s teeth with fluoridated toothpaste, a healthy diet and the use of fluoride varnish.

The Canada-US ACFF Chapter, as well as the other 24 ACFF Chapters, support the goals of the Global Alliance.

---

Dr. Nigel Pitts, ACFF Global Chairman  
Kings College London Dental Institute

---

Dr. Alice Horowitz, ACFF Global Expert Panel  
University of Maryland

---

Dr. Alyssa Hayes  
Canada-US Chapter Co-Chair  
University of Saskatchewan

---

Dr. Margherita Fontana  
Canada-US Chapter Co-Chair  
University of Michigan

### Alliance for a Cavity-Free Future Supporters

“As an individual, I support the principles of the movement and am committed to learning more about the caries continuum and will foster dialogue with other stakeholders in my constituency in order to support these principles however we can.”

---

Dr. Burton Edelstein  
Columbia University

---

Dr. Carlos Quinonez  
University of Toronto