



GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE LUNG DISEASE (GOLD)

The **Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD)** was launched in 1997 in collaboration with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, USA, and the World Health Organization. Its objective is to work with health care professionals and public health officials around the world to boost awareness of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and decrease the morbidity and mortality caused by this respiratory illness.

- An Executive Committee, comprised of leading COPD experts, is the main governing body. It encourages dissemination and adoption of the reports on COPD management through utilization of existing health care structures in individual countries and promotes international collaboration on COPD research.
- A Scientific Committee evaluates new scientific evidence about COPD care, and prepares updates to scientific reports on COPD diagnosis, management, and prevention.
- A Dissemination Committee has the responsibility of enhancing dissemination of the content of COPD management and prevention reports and ensuring that all those concerned with the care of those with COPD are knowledgeable about the recommendations.
- A network of Launch Leaders, which includes COPD opinion leaders in countries throughout the world, who share ideas and progress in implementation of GOLD COPD programs.

The GOLD Global Strategy for COPD Diagnosis, Management, and Prevention is presented in:

- *GOLD Workshop Report, Global Strategy for COPD Diagnosis, Management, and Prevention (2001)*, a compilation of scientific information about COPD diagnosis, management, and prevention.
- *GOLD Pocket Guide for COPD Diagnosis, Management, and Prevention (2001)* with key information about patient diagnosis and management is a quick reference guide for physicians and nurses.
- *GOLD Patient Guide: What You and Your Family Can Do About COPD (2002)* is for patients with modest reading skills and is intended for easy translation and adaptation for a wide range of patient audience.
- *GOLD Teaching Slide Set* for use in presentations to physicians, the scientific community, health ministry officials, and others

- *GOLD Workshop Report Executive Summary*, which has been translated into several languages and was published in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*.

These publications, available from the GOLD Website (<http://www.goldcopd.com>), include information about COPD epidemiology, pathogenesis, prevention, and socioeconomics as well as a four-part COPD management plan that includes recommendations for treatment and health education programs that can be adapted to various health care settings. The Workshop Report includes specific citations from the scientific literature. All of the GOLD documents have been translated into multiple languages.

Dissemination of the materials and implementation of COPD education programs at the national and local levels is being undertaken through an ongoing series of launch activities and workshops held throughout the world as part of the GOLD effort to link COPD experts with public health officials, primary care physicians, patients, and their families. GOLD is currently launching its program in approximately 50 countries throughout the world, and is a primary organizer of World COPD Day.