Dr. Catherine Le Galès-Camus earned her PhD in Economics from the University of Paris in her native France in 1981. She joined the French National Institute for Health and Medical Research the following year. Before joining WHO, she was a scientific adviser to the Director-General of Health in France, where she was responsible for defining French public health objectives for 2004–2008. She was appointed Assistant Director-General of WHO’s Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health cluster of departments in July 2003.

Noncommunicable Disease and Mental Health (NMH) addresses the group of diseases and conditions that affects the most people, and presents the largest and fastest growing health burden for the greatest number of countries worldwide.

This group includes chronic diseases - heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes among others - as well as mental health disorders and substance abuse, injuries and violence, and nutrition-related issues, as well as the health risks associated with these diseases and conditions, such as tobacco use and obesity.

These diseases, conditions and risk factors account for more than two-thirds (70%) of all deaths globally, but more significantly, are responsible for an unacceptable amount of premature death, illness and disability, with the resulting burden on individuals, families, communities and nations.

They represent a growing threat to the security and well-being of people, economies and countries, particularly in developing and emerging countries.

For more information, please see:
www.who.int/nmh

For a downloadable photo of Dr. Le Galès-Camus:

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