



UNC  
CENTER FOR HEART  
& VASCULAR CARE

THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

160 DENTAL CIRCLE  
CAMPUS BOX 7075  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-7075

T 919.966.5201  
F 919.966.1743  
[www.uncheartandvascular.org](http://www.uncheartandvascular.org)

May 18, 2017

The World Health Assembly  
World Health Organization  
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Delegates to the World Health Assembly,

It is with pleasure that I write in support of the candidacy of Dr. Sania Nishtar to be the next Director-General of the World Health Organization.

I have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Nishtar during the past two decades on a variety of initiatives designed to forward to cause of improving global health especially in relationship to cardiovascular disease. In addition to her strong academic qualifications and knowledge of the issues, Dr. Nishtar has a proven record of success with programs in developing countries, such as her native Pakistan with the NGO Heartfile, where the burden of disease is greatest.

Her accomplishments as Chair of the UN Secretary General's Independent Accountability Panel for the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health; Co-Chair of the WHO Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity, and Federal Minister, Government of Pakistan provide testimony to the broad experience and leadership expertise which she can bring to the position of Director General of the World Health Organization if so chosen.

I believe that Dr. Sania Nishtar is an ideal candidate for the position of Director-General of the World Health Organization and give her my strongest recommendation and support for this position.

With Best Wishes,

Sidney C. Smith, Jr. MD MACC, FAHA, FESC, FACP

Professor of Medicine  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Past President, American Heart Association  
Past President, World Heart Federation