

## **Global youth competition linking urban design and health: winners announced**

***'Fit City Five' beat around 200 hopefuls to participate in global conference on  
impact of environment on chronic disease***

(London) The Oxford Health Alliance (OxHA) has today announced the winners of its Fit City competition, an international competition for young people designed to provoke thought and discussion about the impact that urban environments have on our health. The five winners – Christa Clark Jones (USA), Barry Crisp (Japan/ UK), Joy Kwong (USA/ Philippines), Zdravko Trivic (Serbia) and Ferdie Langdon (UK) were selected by an international judging panel for the originality of their photos, videos, poems, stories, etc. and their understanding of the interaction between the urban environment and human health, particularly in relation to lifestyle diseases.

These “Fit City Five” triumphed over nearly 200 entrants from 42 countries, including China, Kenya, Chile, Greece and New Zealand to win a trip to Sydney, Australia. They will be given the opportunity to present their work at the annual summit of the Oxford Health Alliance in February, during which the role of the environment in stemming the epidemic of chronic disease will be discussed and debated.

The winning submissions were (in no particular order):

- 'A Bicycle Story', video: C. Clark
- 'Heartbeat', poem: B. Crisp
- 'Community in the Philippines', video: J. Kwong
- 'Hospitalisation of Public Space', photo: Z. Trivic
- 'Car Free Day: London', video: F. Langdon

Professor Stephen Leeder from the University of Sydney and one of the competition judges, said, “The global response to Fit City – not to mention the incredibly high standard of all the entries – proves that the link between the built environment and health is an area our younger generation is very passionate about. From China to Uganda, and many places in between, there is a growing understanding that our cities are making us sick and that by making changes, not only can we become a healthier society but, in many cases, a greener society too.”

In addition to submitting a competition entry, the winners were also asked to contribute to the ‘Sydney Challenge’, a global call to action to inspire all parts of society, including corporations, governments, financial institutions, donor agencies, and others, to build a healthy future. The Challenge calls on society to:

- Make cities and towns healthy places;
- Make healthy food affordable and accessible;
- Make business policies and practices healthy policies and practices; and
- Make economic and social policy match rhetoric

Zdravko Trivic, one of the competition winners remarked, “The Sydney Challenge is a remarkable opportunity to share individual comments on global health issues. As an international challenge, it provides a solid foundation for further understanding of the sensitive cultural issues that must be addressed in order to improve the state of health of both people and the environment. Bringing young people into this challenge is crucial, as they are more likely to change their attitudes and actions than older generations.”

Everyone is invited to contribute to the Sydney Challenge, which can be accessed via the following link: [www.3four50.com/challenge](http://www.3four50.com/challenge)

To see the winning entries and find out more about the competition, visit the Fit City website at [www.fit-city.org](http://www.fit-city.org).

## **ENDS**

To request further information, please contact Marisa Pulaski, Communications Manager, on +44 (0)207 637 4330 or email at [marisa.pulaski@oxha.org](mailto:marisa.pulaski@oxha.org).

### ***Notes to editors***

The Oxford Health Alliance (OxHA), London, is a public-private partnership committed to finding innovative solutions to the world’s largest preventable health problem - the global epidemic of chronic diseases - by addressing the risk factors of unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and tobacco use. OxHA brings together a cross-section of society to determine the role employers, governments, NGOs, businesses, urban planners, economists and young people can play in helping to make the healthy choices the easy choices. For more information: [www.oxha.org](http://www.oxha.org)