

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**World Mental Health Seminar Convenes in Norway  
Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland to Receive Special Honor  
President of Parliament Tone Wilhelmsen Trøen to Open Proceedings**

**Lilleström, Norway, 25 September 2019** – [Clubhouse International](#), a global organization working to end social and economic isolation for people with mental illness, will co-host **The Clubhouse International World Seminar 2019** from September 28 through October 3, 2019, in Lilleström, Norway. The event is co-hosted with our two Norwegian partners, [Fontenehus Norge](#) and [Fontenehuset i Oslo](#).

The five-day Seminar will be held at the Thon Arena Hotel in Lilleström Norway. It is expected to draw participants from more than 20 countries, 25 U.S. states and 100 community mental health programs known as “Clubhouses.” The Seminar will provide an opportunity for education, dialog and sharing of best practices developed by Clubhouse International’s Clubhouse community over the past 75 years, which are aimed at helping people living with mental illness around the world regain a respected place in society through work, education, wellness and community.

The Clubhouse model for psycho-social rehabilitation is an evidence-based practice with a 75-year history of offering successful and cost-effective solutions for people living with mental illness. Today, there are over 300 Clubhouses operating on all six continents. The Norwegian Clubhouse Community, known as [Fontenehus Norge](#), has 14 Clubhouses, and plans to open at least six more in coming years. [Fontenehuset i Oslo](#), is one of two Clubhouses operating in Oslo.

Why Mental Health? The World Health Organization estimates that *more than 450 million people worldwide suffer from some kind of mental or neurological disorder. And by 2020, behavioral health disorders will be the #1 cause of disability worldwide, surpassing all other illnesses.* Although mental illness is prevalent in all societies, reaching as many as one in four people, there is a serious gap between the number of people living with mental illness and the number of people actually receiving treatment and support.

The Seminar organizers are honored to welcome [Mrs. Tone Wilhelmsen Trøen](#), President of the Norwegian Parliament, to address the opening session. In her remarks, Mrs. Trøen is expected to discuss recent developments and the support for work to improve mental health in Norway.

In addition, and as a special honor, [Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland](#), former Prime Minister of Norway and Director-General Emeritus of the World Health Organization, will be the very first recipient of the prestigious **Rudyard n. Propst Award**, conferred by



Clubhouse International in recognition of individuals who make extraordinary contributions to improving the lives of people with mental illness. Dr. Brundtland is a longtime advocate for better mental health services worldwide. She has been a supporter of Clubhouse programs for many years.

The award is named after Rudyard n. Propst, the founder and first Executive Director of Clubhouse International, who first created Clubhouse programs as an international movement and evidence-based practice.

The Clubhouse International World Seminar 2019 has received generous support from: Lucy Høeghs Stiftelse; Sunovion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Alkermes plc; and Delta Air Lines, Inc.

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For more information about Clubhouse programs, visit <https://clubhouse-intl.org/what-we-do/overview/>.

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