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***Canadian Takes Depression and Addiction Message to Greece;  
Bigger Economic Stakes in Preventing Mental Disabilities  
and Suicide than AIDS and Infectious Disease***

*“Suicide, not war, not murder, not terrorism is  
the leading cause of violent death in Europe and North America today.”*

THESSALONIKA, GREECE, March 28, 2007 – The world’s stake in preventing the disabling and deadly effects of mental illnesses and substance abuse is acute and growing.

Roundtable Co-Founder and CEO, Bill Wilkerson tells a conference of scientists in the historic city of Thessaloniki in northern Greece that efforts to improve the dual diagnosis and concurrent care of depression and addictions are urgently needed.

These conditions can be linked in “cause and effect” and contribute significantly to compounded rates of disability, hospitalization and suicide.

Noting that more than a million people take their own lives worldwide each year, he says “suicide, not war, not murder, not terrorism, is the leading cause of violent death in Europe and North America.”

Citing the famous Harvard University Burden of Disease study done for the World Health Organization, Wilkerson says more productive years of work are lost due to mental illnesses and concurrent addictions than AIDS and traffic accidents.”

“A global strategy to prevent the preventable – that is, the disabling effects and risks of early death associated with addictions and depression will pay huge economic dividends worldwide,” Wilkerson said.

“These conditions are concentrated among men and women in their prime working years and corporations worldwide – having awakened to their stake in preventing AIDS in some countries – must now awaken to their stake in preventing depression and addictions in virtually all countries in which they operate.”

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