Science to tackle non-communicable diseases in South Asia and beyond in the SDG era

23- 24 January 2020, Colombo, Sri Lanka
The Academy of Medical Sciences is the independent body in the UK representing the diversity of medical science. Our mission is to promote medical science and its translation into benefits for society. The Academy’s elected Fellows are the United Kingdom’s leading medical scientists from hospitals, academia, industry and the public service. We work with them to promote excellence, influence policy to improve health and wealth, nurture the next generation of medical researchers, link academia, industry and the NHS, seize international opportunities and encourage dialogue about the medical sciences.

The National Academy of Sciences Sri Lanka is a non-governmental body of eminent scientists of Sri Lanka that provides independent advice on policy matters to the Government and the public in general on all matters of national importance relating to science and technology. The NASSL also promotes the advancement and dissemination of scientific knowledge. The Mission of the Academy is to be the foremost resource in the country for expert advice on matters of national importance involving science and technology.

This workshop is funded by the Academy, through the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF).
Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are chronic and often slow progressing diseases that result from a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental and behavioural factors. It is estimated that an increasing global prevalence of NCDs is the cause of up to 41 million deaths worldwide each year, representing 71% of all deaths. However, NCDs disproportionately affect people in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). More than three quarters of NCD deaths (32 million) occur in LMICs, 40% of which are categorised as ‘premature deaths’ (between ages 30 and 69 years). For high-income countries this figure is closer to 26%.

Countries in South Asia and beyond face a double burden of diseases, both from infectious diseases and from the growing prevalence of NCDs. In Sri Lanka, NCDs are estimated to account for 75% of total deaths. Tobacco use is especially high for adult men and the consumption of salt is 2-3 times higher than recommended. Many people living in rural areas are often not aware of the risks posed by tobacco use, alcohol consumption and a sedentary lifestyle. To complicate the issue further people often only seek help from healthcare facilities once complications have arisen, usually meaning the condition has progressed from easily treatable to something more serious.

The rise of NCDs threatens the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The global economic burden of NCDs between 2010 and 2030 is estimated to lie at more than $47 trillion dollars. In Sri Lanka, 19% of the working-age population has at least one NCD, reducing their chance of employment and labour earnings compared to the rest of the population.

NCDs are driven by rapid unplanned urbanisation, unhealthy lifestyles (including unhealthy diets, tobacco use, the harmful use of alcohol and a lack of physical activity) and population aging. Research to identify and understand NCD risk factors is essential to develop approaches including natural, social and health sciences, alongside the arts and humanities. Furthermore, all sectors including health, finance, transport, education and agriculture need to be involved to effectively prevent and manage NCDs. An integrated approach will also help tackle to growing problem of multimorbidity.

The objective of this workshop is to consider the status of NCDs in South Asia, with respect to relevant SDG targets. The aims are to identify approaches that could accelerate progress in implementing existing tools, identify innovations that could be disruptive, and review opportunities to support increased research leadership and capacity. In addition, the workshop will aim to impact policy uptake, specifically through the use of science and investment in research and research leadership.

To find out more about the Academy’s GCRF policy workshops and to download previous workshop reports visit our website: https://acmedsci.ac.uk/gcrf

Please note: we are unable to share email addresses of other participants due to EU data protection regulations. Please ensure you exchange contact details at the event for anyone you wish to keep in touch with.
Steering Committee Membership

**Workshop co-chairs:**

**Professor Vajira Dissanayake FNASSL**, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Professor Liam Smeeth FMedSci**, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom

**Members:**

**Professor Nishi Chaturvedi**, University College London, United Kingdom

**Professor David Hunter**, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

**Dr Oommen John**, The George Institute, India

**Dr Mahesh Rajasuriya**, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Professor Catherine Sudlow**, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

**Dr Champika Wickramasinghe**, Ministry of Health & Indigenous Medicine, Sri Lanka
Speakers

Dr Pamod Amarakoon, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
Dr Deepika Attygalle, South Asia region, World Bank, Sri Lanka
Professor Balram Bhargava, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India; Indian Council of Medical Research, India
Dr Andrew Crawford, Medical Research Council, UK
Professor David Hunter, University of Oxford, UK
Professor Tazeen Jafar, Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore
Dr Ranil Jayawardena, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
Professor Vivekanand Jha, the George Institute for Global Health, India
Dr Oommen John, The George Institute for Global Health, India
Professor Dame Anne Johnson DBE FMedSci, Academy of Medical Sciences, UK
Dr Prasad Katulanda, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
Dr Viswanathan Mohan, Dr Mohan's Diabetes Specialties Centre, India
Professor Jeyaraj Durai Pandian, Christian Medical College (CMC), India
Dr Ajith Pasqual, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
Professor Vikram Patel FMedSci, Harvard Medical School, USA
Dr Razia Narayan Pendse, World Health Organization, Sri Lanka
Pooja Pillai, Emmanuel Hospital Association, India
Professor C S Pramesh, Tata Memorial Hospital; National Cancer Grid, India
Dr Yamuna Rajapakse, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
Professor Upul Senarath, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
Dr Nishan Siriwardena, Health Informatics Society of Sri Lanka; University of Colombo; National Cancer Institute, Sri Lanka
Dr Chaminda Weerabaddana, Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine; Health Informatics Society of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka
Day 1: Progress and challenges towards achieving the NCD SDG target in South Asia and beyond

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30-09:00</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Morning tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:00-09:05</td>
<td>Welcome and Introductions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Room: Ivy Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professor Priyan Dias FNASSL, Vice President, National Academy of Sciences Sri Lanka and Professor Dame Anne Johnson DBE FMedSci, Vice President (International), Academy of Medical Sciences UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:05-09:15</td>
<td>Aims, Objectives and Format of the Workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meeting co-chairs: Professor Liam Smeeth FMedSci and Professor Vajira Dissanayake FNASSL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:15-10:00</td>
<td>Session 1: NCDs, South Asia and the SDGs – setting the scene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Session chair: Professor Vajira Dissanayake FNASSL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This session will aim to set the context for the meeting by summarising the progress made in tackling NCDs in South Asia. The focus of this session will be on SDG, 3.4: by 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Progress towards SDG 3.4 in South Asia: where are we and where do we need to be?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Razia Narayan Pendse, World Health Organization, Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:15</td>
<td>Refreshment break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15-12:00</td>
<td>Session 2: How can research be applied to address the NCD disease areas to achieve SDG target 3.4?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Session chair: Professor Nishi Chaturvedi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The speakers will present examples of how research including multidisciplinary research has been applied to better understand the different NCD disease areas, including existing mechanisms and approaches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Dr Jeyaraj Durai Pandian, Professor of Neurology; Principal/Dean, Christian Medical College (CMC), India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Dr Viswanathan Mohan, Chairman &amp; Chief Diabetologist, Dr Mohan’s Diabetes Specialties Centre, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Dr Prasad Katulanda, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Medicine and Consultant Endocrinologist/Diabetologist, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Professor Vivekanand Jha, Professor of Nephrology; Executive Director, the George Institute for Global Health, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Dr Yamuna Rajapakse, Consultant Chest Physician &amp; Interventional, Pulmonologist, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Professor Vikram Patel FMedSci, The Pershing Square Professor of Global Health and Wellcome Trust Principal Research Fellow, Harvard Medical School, US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Professor David Hunter, Richard Doll Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine; Director, Translational Epidemiology Unit, University of Oxford, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00-13:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Day 1: Progress and existing challenges towards achieving the NCD SDG target in South Asia and beyond

13:00-14:45  **Session 3: Identifying challenges and barriers to addressing the burden of NCDs in South Asia**

During this session, participants will be broken up into 5 breakout groups focusing on different disease areas. Participant will be asked to share the current ‘state of play’ for the disease research in their country and identify the challenges and barriers facing research on this topic.

The questions that will be addressed include:

- What is the current ‘state of play’ for research for your breakout topic in your country and are research disciplines integrated/connected?
- Are the regional causes, drivers and disease progressions and how these interplay understood? What are the predominant risk factors?
- Are there success stories of interventions being used to address the growing burden disease and NCDs in general?
- What barriers and challenges exist to address the burden of disease?

The five breakout groups:

a) **Cardiovascular disease and Stroke; Ivy Room**
   - Chair: Professor Liam Smeeth FMedsci; Facilitator: Professor Nishi Chaturvedi

b) **Diabetes; Ebony Room**
   - Chair: Dr Oommen John; Facilitator: Dr V Mohan

c) **Chronic kidney disease; Teak Room**
   - Chair: Professor Vajira Dissanayake FNASSL; Facilitator: Professor Tazeen Jafar

d) **Respiratory disease; Aspen Room**
   - Chair: Professor Newell Johnson FMedSci; Facilitator: Professor Neil Pearce FMedSci

e) **Mental health; Cedar Room**
   - Chair: Dr Mahesh Rajasuriya; Facilitator: Ms Pooja Pillai

14:45-15:15  **Refreshment Break**

15:15-17:30  **Session 4: Identifying strategies to address NCDs in South Asia and beyond and Presentation development**

Participants are asked to discuss the opportunities for research, discovery & development and implementation science to address the group topic in South Asia and to consider whether there are key delivery actions and what the priority areas should be.

Considerations should be given to structural and behavioural interventions that promote maintenance of healthy lifestyles, such as moderate caloric intake and avoidance of tobacco, in the context of socioeconomic development. In addition, groups should also consider health care infrastructure and systems that best provide low-cost and effective detection and treatment of NCDs.

**Session Outcome**

Groups will be provided with a PowerPoint template to record their discussions. Each group will create a 10-minute presentation to give on Day 2 and nominate a presenter.

**Questions:**

- Are there possible strategies to address the identified barriers and challenges including:
  - (a) health service actions
  - (b) policy measures
  - (c) research structure and funding

18:00  **Drinks Reception and Dinner**
Day 2: Strengthening NCD research capacity & leadership and setting research priorities and actions to achieve SDG target 3.4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00-09:05</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meeting co-chairs: Professor Liam Smeeth FMedSci and Professor Vajira Dissanayake FNASSL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:05-10:00</td>
<td>Session 5: Breakout Group Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Session Chair: Professor Nishi Chaturvedi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Each breakout group lead will report back to the rest of the participants on the responses to these questions. Discussions will continue in the afternoon plenary group work to identify ways forward (10 minutes).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a) Cardiovascular disease and Stroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) Diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c) Chronic kidney disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d) Respiratory disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>e) Mental health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:30</td>
<td>Refreshment Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30-12:00</td>
<td>Session 6: Spark Session – Technical Innovations to address NCDs in South Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Session chair: Professor Vajira Dissanayake FNASSL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The panellists will give short 5 min talks on an example of a technical innovations to address NCDs in South Asia. They will cover the problem that the innovation sought to address, why it is novel, what has worked, what the have been challenges and what they are planning to do next. Following the presentations there will be a panel discussion about how technical interventions are currently evaluated, implemented and reviewed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Cloud Based ECG Visualization and Annotation Platform ScioCardio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Ajith Pasqual, Department of Electronic &amp; Telecommunication Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stroke App- Establishing a stroke clinical care pathway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Jeyaraj Durai Pandian, Christian Medical College, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Digital Health Interventions for NCDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Oommen John, The George Institute, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Detection of CKD and risk stratification of CVD and ESKD-integration in primary healthcare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professor Tazeen Jafar, Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Community Mental Health Innovations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pooja Pillai, Emmanuel Hospital Association, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Digital Health Intervention for Monitoring Malnourished children in Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Pamod Amarakoon, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Collecting countrywide NCD data through a single platform – Sri Lanka’s eIMMR System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Chaminda Weerabaddana, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Innovations for the National Cancer Care Grid in India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr C S Pramesh, Tata Memorial Hospital, National Cancer Grid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Digital Health Interventions to Strengthen Cancer Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr Nishan Siriwardena, Apeksha Hospital (National Cancer Institute), Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Day 2: Strengthening NCD research capacity & leadership and setting research priorities and actions to achieve SDG target 3.4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session/Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00-13:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00-14:15</td>
<td><strong>Session 7: NCD research leadership and capacity in South Asia</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Session Chair:</strong> Professor Liam Smeeth FMedSci&lt;br&gt;This session will focus on the challenges, opportunities and solutions to help support and build research leadership, capacity and expertise. The session will particularly focus on the experience of early career researchers (ECRs) and the challenges they face. It will be an opportunity to highlight existing opportunities for ECRs including funding opportunities and discuss potential solutions to address current barriers.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Speakers:</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Setting up multi country South Asia research capacity networks&lt;br&gt;  <strong>Professor Upul Senarath</strong>, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka&lt;br&gt;• Challenges and priorities for research leadership – an upcoming researchers perspective&lt;br&gt;  <strong>Dr Ranil Jayawardena</strong>, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka&lt;br&gt;• Mentoring&lt;br&gt;  <strong>Professor Dame Anne Johnson FMedSci</strong>, Academy of Medical Sciences, UK&lt;br&gt;• NCD funding opportunities/structures&lt;br&gt;  - <strong>Dr Deepika Attygalle</strong>, World Bank South Asia region, Sri Lanka&lt;br&gt;  - <strong>Dr Andrew Crawford</strong>, Medical Research Council, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:15-15:00</td>
<td><strong>Session 8: Identifying key next steps to tackle NCDs in South Asia</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Meeting co-chairs:</strong> Professor Liam Smeeth FMedSci and Professor Vajira Dissanayake FNASSL&lt;br&gt;During this session, the participants will discuss the opportunities for action and change in the short- (1-2 years) and long- (2-10 years) term to address the burden of NCDs in South Asia. The outputs from this session and the workshop as a whole will be jointly owned by all workshop participants along with agreement that they will be actioned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00-15:15</td>
<td><strong>Conclusions from across the two days and workshop outputs</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Meeting co-chairs:</strong> Professor Liam Smeeth FMedSci and Professor Vajira Dissanayake FNASSL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:15</td>
<td><strong>END</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vidya Jyothi Professor Vajira H. W. Dissanayake FNASSL

Chair and Senior Professor of Anatomy; Director, Human Genetics Unit; Chairperson, Specialty Board in Biomedical Informatics, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Biography

Vidya Jyothi Prof. Vajira H. W. Dissanayake is the Chair and Senior Professor of Anatomy; the Director of the Human Genetics Unit; and the Founder Chairperson of the Specialty Board in Biomedical Informatics at the University of Colombo. He is a Medical Geneticist. He was the President of the Sri Lanka Medical Association in 2012 and the President of the Health Informatics Society of Sri Lanka from 2009 to 2019. He was the President of the Commonwealth Medical Association from 2016 to 2019. He has been an Executive Board Member of the Global Genomic Medicine Collaborative (G2MC) since 2015; a Board Member of the Steering Committee of the Forum for Ethical Review Committees in Asia and the Western Pacific (FERCAP) since 2009; and a Member of the Founding International Advisory Board of Lancet Digital Health since March 2019.

He graduated with MBBS from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo in 1996 and read for his PhD at the University of Nottingham in UK. Since returning to Sri Lanka in 2004, Prof. Dissanayake has been spearheading the development of Genetics, Genomics, Bioethics and Biomedical and Health Informatics in Sri Lanka. His team at the Human Genetics Unit is recognised as one of the leading teams in the developing world that is implementing Genomic Medicine. He has over 135 publications in peer reviewed journals. He has supervised projects of 8 PhD, 8 MD and 60 MSc graduates.

He has elected a fellow of the National Academy of Science of Sri Lanka in 2013. He was conferred the national titular honour of ‘Vidya Jyothi’ in 2019.
Professor Liam Smeeth FMedSci

Professor of Clinical Epidemiology, Department of Non-communicable Disease Epidemiology, Faculty of Epidemiology and Population Health, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK

Biography

Liam Smeeth is Professor of clinical epidemiology and Dean of the Faculty of Epidemiology and Population Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He also undertakes clinical work as a general practitioner in north London, and is involved in a range of activities for the NHS more widely. He is a Trustee of the British Heart Foundation and a member of the Steering Committee of UK Biobank.

His broad interests include disease aetiology, drug effects, genetics and non-communicable diseases in low income settings. Much of his research is based on making better use of computerised clinical data for research, and he leads a large group at LSHTM (http://ehr.lshtm.ac.uk/).
Steering Committee Biographies

**Professor Nishi Chaturvedi**

Director, MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing, University College London, UK

**Biography**

Professor Chaturvedi obtained her first degree in medicine at London University in 1985, and then went on to specialist training in general medicine, public health and epidemiology. Her post-doctoral positions were held at the Department of Epidemiology at UCL, specialising in the epidemiology of diabetes. Professor Chaturvedi was appointed to a chair of clinical epidemiology in the National Heart & Lung Institute at Imperial College London in 2000. She returned to a chair in clinical epidemiology in the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences at UCL in 2013, and was awarded Directorship of the MRC Lifelong Health and Ageing Unit at UCL in 2017.

**Professor David Hunter**

Richard Doll Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine; Director, Translational Epidemiology Unit, University of Oxford, UK

**Biography**

David Hunter studied medicine at the University of Sydney, before moving to Harvard University for 33 years where he was the Vincent L. Gregory Professor of Cancer Prevention. He is the Richard Doll Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine, and director of the Harvard-Oxford Program in Epidemiology. His early research was on HIV transmission in East Africa, and subsequently he was involved in collaborative studies of nutrition and HIV pathogenesis, while also studying diet and cancer etiology in large scale prospective studies and founding the Pooling Project of Prospective Studies of Diet and Cancer.

As Director of the Harvard Center for Cancer Prevention he developed a sample handling and genotyping laboratory to explore genetic associations with cancer, and gene-environment interactions. He founded the Program in Genetic Epidemiology and Statistical Genetics at Harvard. He was co-chair of the steering committee of the NCI Breast and Prostate Cancer Cohort Consortium (BPC3) between 2003 and 2012, was co-director of the NCI Cancer Genetic Susceptibility Markers project focused on genome-wide association studies, and was an Eminent Scholar at the NCI between 2004 and 2009.

From 2009-16 he was Dean for Academic Affairs at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, and in 2015-16 he was Acting Dean. He is one of about 3000 “highly cited researchers” worldwide according to Thomson-Reuters.
Steering Committee Biographies

Dr Oommen John

Senior Research Fellow, The George Institute for Global Health; Secretary, Asia Pacific Association for Medical Informatics, India

Biography

Oommen John is specialized in Internal Medicine and Business Management. He leads a programme of research at George Institute India that involves designing and implementing health systems strengthening interventions for NCDs. His interests and expertise are in areas of applying design thinking, developing and evaluating digital health innovations. He leads the quality improvement partnership with the Govt of Andhra Pradesh. He serves in advisory capacity to World Health Organization on health information systems and is a member of the WHO Digital Health Guidelines Development Group; He also serves on the International Advisory Board of the Commonwealth Centre for Digital Health and Foundation for Innovative Diagnostics, Geneva.

Dr Mahesh Rajasuriya

Senior Lecturer, Department of Psychiatry, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Biography

Mahesh Rajasuriya has graduated from Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, and currently works as a Senior Lecturer at Department of Psychiatry at the same University. He gives his services as an honorary consultant psychiatrist at the university psychiatry unit at National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo. He is a member of the Expert Committee on Tobacco, Alcohol, and Illicit drugs of Sri Lanka Medical Association. Mahesh Rajasuriya is the founding Director of the Centre for Combating Tobacco at Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo. He is the Chairman of Alcohol and Drug Information Centre (ADIC), and a vice-patron at Nest Sri Lanka.
Steering Committee Biographies

**Dr Champika Wickramasinghe**

Deputy Director General (NCD), Ministry of Health & Indigenous Medicine, Sri Lanka

**Biography**

Dr (Mrs) Shiranee Champika Wickramasinghe is working as Deputy Director General of Non Communicable Diseases in the Ministry of Health Sri Lanka. She is a consultant in public health working as a senior medical administrator for nearly 20 years. Dr Wickramasinghe has worked in many capacities ranging from posts in public health to senior administrator posts in periphery and line ministry. She is working in the area of Non Communicable Diseases for the past four years. The scope of her responsibilities were for Non Communicable Diseases, mental health and cancer control.

Dr Wickramasinghe was also the project director for health sector development project and second health sector development project of World Bank and the JICA project for improvement of drugs capacity of State Pharmaceutical Cooperation and improvement of four Base Hospitals. She is currently actively involved in reorganization of Primarycare Organizations mainly for NCDs.

Dr Wickramasinghe is involved in the Postgraduate training programmes in medical administration and community medicine. She has supervised more than 20 dissertations and two MD Thesis.

She has many publications to her name and is a member of the research committee of the Ministry of Health.
Dr Pamod Amarakoon

Lecturer, Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Biography

Dr Pamod Amarakoon is a lecturer attached to Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. He has pursued his postgraduate career in the fields of Biomedical Informatics, Health Administration, Public Health and Medical Education. His special interests lie in the field of Public Health Informatics where he has extensive experience in implementing public health information systems in Sri Lanka and countries in the Asian region. He also serves as a global resource person in training programmes in public health information systems, especially on DHIS2 platform. He is a council member of Sri Lanka Medical Association and also serves in the capacity of executive vice president in Health Informatics Society of Sri Lanka.

Dr Deepika Attygalle

Senior Health Specialist, Health, Nutrition and Population, South Asia region, World Bank, Sri Lanka

Biography

Dr Deepika Attygalle works as Senior Health Specialist in Colombo Office with World Bank South Asia region. She joined the United Nations as a National Program Officer at UNICEF country office Colombo, and as Health Specialist in Kabul, Afghanistan. She also served as the regional coordinator for the South-South program for UNICEF South Asia region. She carries more than 20 years of experience in public health with a vast stronghold of knowledge in managing public health, development and nutrition programs in routine and emergency settings, in diversified populations as well as in reconciliations and development context. She has experience in working in the Ministry of Health Sri Lanka for about 20 years in various capacity at national and district level managing maternal newborn and child health programs.

Deepika is a medical professional specialized in public health (MD in USSR), MSc and MD (Public health in Sri Lanka). She obtained her master’s in community medicine in 1998, and the doctoral (MD) community medicine from the University of Colombo in 2002. In 2003, she followed her post-doctoral as an Assistant Research Professor at the Center of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, University of Albuquerque, USA.
### Dr Andrew Crawford

Programme Manager, Medical Research Council, UK

**Biography**

I studied Biochemistry at the University of Bath (UK) before moving to Bristol to collect data and process biological samples for UK Biobank and then for the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children. I then started a PhD in Genetic Epidemiology at the University of Bristol looking at whether genetic markers could predict who would respond badly to antidepressant drugs. I was a postdoctoral researcher for four years working at the MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit (University of Bristol), the Centre for Cardiovascular Sciences (University of Edinburgh) and the Cortisol Network consortium with the aim of identifying genetic variants associated with the stress hormone cortisol and determining whether cortisol causes adverse health outcomes. I now work at the Medical Research Council (MRC) as a Programme Manager for Endocrinology in the Population and Systems Board (PSMB) overseeing research on obesity, diabetes, renal and metabolic medicine, reproductive health and the microbiome.

### Professor Tazeen Jafar

Professor Health Services & Systems Research, Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore

**Biography**

Tazeen H Jafar is Professor Health Services & Systems Research at Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore, Visiting Consultant, Renal Medicine, Singapore General Hospital, and Professor of Global Health Duke Global Health Institute, Durham USA. She has 15+ years track record of leading large multi-country trials including the Control of Blood Pressure and Risk Attenuation (COBRA)-BPS trial in South Asia. Research focus: implementation research on prevention and management of hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and chronic kidney disease, especially in low resource settings.
Biography

Dr Ranil Jayawardena is a senior lecturer in the Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka and a visiting fellow of the Queensland University of Technology, Australia. He is also a leading clinical nutrition practitioner in Sri Lanka with over a decade of experience as a specialist who treats patients with obesity, diabetes and other metabolic diseases.

His research interests include non-communicable diseases, epidemiological aspect of dietary habits, clinical trials on herbal and dietary supplements and body composition. He has over 70 full paper publications in international peer-reviewed journals and numerous abstracts. He has authored four books and a book chapter. He has a H-index of 24 and over 2000 citations. According to the UGC research performance scheme, Dr Jayawardena is one of the youngest to reach the “Tier 4 star” (highest rank) in the Sri Lankan university system.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements as a researcher and a scientist, he has received many national, university and professional level awards including presidential awards/NRC Merit awards consecutively since 2010, the Senate Awards in 2016 and 2017, and CVCD Excellence Award in 2018. He was named as the “Top Outstanding Young Person in Medical Research” in 2014 by the Junior Chamber International. In 2018 he won the world “TWAS Prize – Sri Lanka” for Young Scientist by the World Academy of Science, Trieste, Italy.

Professor Vivekanand Jha

Executive Director, the George Institute for Global Health, India
Professor of Nephrology, University of Oxford, UK

Biography

Professor Vivekanand Jha is the Executive Director at The George Institute for Global Health, India, and a James Martin Fellow at The George Institute for Global Health at the University of Oxford, and the President of the International Society of Nephrology.

Vivek did his Internal Medicine and Nephrology training at PGIMER, joined its faculty and was the Professor of Nephrology. He set up a basic science research lab including the Stem Cell Research Facility and was Head of the Department of Translational and Regenerative Medicine and Officer-In-Charge, Medical Education and Research Cell.

Prof Jha is recognized as a global expert on kidney disease, and focuses on emerging public health threats globally and in India. He currently leads research projects operating in >20 countries. He is particularly interested in using multi-disciplinary approaches and innovations to address the system level health and economic challenge posed to humanity by NCDs. He enjoys teaching and mentoring young colleagues.

He has published >280 peer reviewed papers, many in the most prestigious journal in the world and >40 book chapters. He has held leadership positions in many organizations, is a member of Task Forces and Scientific Advisory Committees of the Department of Science and Technology of Govt of India, an Advisor to the WHO, has been on Editorial Boards of major journals and has been Section Editor of The Oxford Textbook of Clinical Nephrology.
Biography

Dame Anne Johnson is Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at University College London. After training in medicine in Cambridge and Newcastle Universities, she specialised in Epidemiology and Public Health. Her career has focused on research into the epidemiology and prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted infections as well as other infections such as influenza, Ebola, and antimicrobial resistance.

She co-directed the Medical Research Council, UK Centre for Co-ordinating Epidemiological Studies of HIV from 1985 until 1999. She was principal investigator on the 3 decennial National Surveys of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (Natsal). She is an investigator on the UK i-sense programme, studying point-of-care diagnostics and digital pathways for infectious disease detection.

She co-founded UCL’s Institute for Global Health and has advised many national and international science organisations. She chaired the UK Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS) Working Group on Improving the Health of the Public by 2040 and is a former Governor of the Wellcome Trust. She is currently Vice-President International of the AMS.

Dr Prasad Katulanda

Senior Lecturer in Clinical Medicine and Consultant Endocrinologist/Diabetologist, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Biography

Dr Prasad Katulanda is Senior Lecturer in Medicine, at University of Colombo, and Honorary Consultant Endocrinologist at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka. Prasad has a MBBS from University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, a MD from the Postgraduate Institute in Medicine, Sri Lanka and a DPhil (Diabetic Medicine) from University of Oxford, UK. Prasad research portfolio includes the Sri Lanka Young Diabetes Study (SLYDS), Sri Lanka Diabetes and Cardiovascular Study (SLDCS) and, currently, he is the Principal Investigator of Sri Lanka NCD Survey (SLNCDS), PROGRESS Study and iHealth-T2D, an European Commission funded project.
**Speaker Biographies**

**Dr Viswanathan Mohan**

Chairman & Chief Diabetologist, Dr Mohan’s Diabetes Specialties Centre, India

**Biography**

Dr V. Mohan is Chairman and Chief of Diabetology at Dr Mohan’s Diabetes Specialities Centre at Chennai in South India which is a WHO Collaborating Centre for Non-communicable Diseases Prevention and Control. Dr Mohan oversees 52 diabetes centres across India with 480,000 registered diabetes patients. He is also President of the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, Chennai.

Dr Mohan has published over 1250 papers in peer reviewed journals, including 800 original articles, 265 review articles and invited editorials and 158 chapters to text-books. His research has attracted over 93,500 citations and has a ‘h index’ of 120.

Dr Mohan has trained over a large number of physicians/diabetologists, nurses, educators. He received Dr B.C. Roy National Award by the Medical Council of India and the Dr B. R. Ambedkar Centenary Award from the Indian Council of Medical Research, the highest award for Biomedical research in India. In 2012, he was conferred the Dr Harold Rifkin Distinguished International Service in the Cause of Diabetes Award by the American Diabetes Association.

For his extensive contribution in the field of diabetes, Dr Mohan was awarded the prestigious Padma Shri by the Government of India in 2012, one of the highest Civilian Honours.

**Professor Jeyaraj Durai Pandian**

Professor of Neurology; Principal/Dean, Christian Medical College (CMC), India

**Biography**

Dr Jeyaraj D Pandian is a Professor of Neurology and the Principal (Dean) of Christian Medical College (CMC), Ludhiana, Punjab, India. He is the Vice-President of World Stroke Organization (WSO).

He served two terms as a board of Director of WSO from Asia/Oceania region for 6 years from 2008, and he was the past Chair of World Stroke Campaign International Working Group of WSO.

He is a member of the Stroke Research and the WSO Policy committees. He is also in the editorial board of International Journal of Stroke, Journal of Stroke and European Stroke Journal.

He organized the Xth World Stroke Congress in Hyderabad in the year 2016. Dr Pandian has made significant contribution to stroke care services in low and middle-income countries. He is the National PI for the newly created Indian Stroke Clinical Trial Network (INSTRuCT). He has developed stroke unit model for LMICs, stroke surveillance population-based stroke registry and also stroke care pathway from villages. He has received several grants from ICMR, NIHR UK, NHMRC Australia, Department of Biotechnology and NIH USA.
**Speaker Biographies**

**Dr Ajith Pasqual**

Senior Lecturer, Department of Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

**Biography**

Dr Ajith Pasqual is a senior lecturer in the Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering at the University of Moratuwa (UoM) since 2001. From 2012 to 2015, he was the head of the same department and was the Director of Center for Information Technology Services (CITEs) at UoM during 2005–2015. He received his B.Sc. Eng. from UoM and M. Eng and PhD degrees from the University of Tokyo in 1993, 1998, and 2001 respectively. He has founded a startup company Paraqum Technologies (Private) Limited, working in HEVC based Video Compression and Hardware Accelerated Network Analytics products in 2016 and is the CEO of the company. He is a visiting Senior Lecturer at SLTC since 2016.

---

**Professor Vikram Patel FMedSci**

The Pershing Square Professor of Global Health and Wellcome Trust Principal Research Fellow, Harvard Medical School, USA

**Biography**

Vikram Patel co-leads the Global Mental Health@Harvard initiative. His work has focused on the burden of mental disorders, their association with social disadvantage, and the use of community resources for their prevention and treatment. He holds Honorary Professorships at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, the Public Health Foundation of India, and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (where he co-founded the Centre for Global Mental Health and the Mental Health Innovations Network). He is a co-founder of Sangath, an Indian NGO which won the MacArthur Foundation’s International Prize for Creative and Effective Institutions in 2008 and the WHO Public Health Champion of India award in 2016. He is a co-founder of the Movement for Global Mental Health. He is a Fellow of the AMS and has served on several WHO expert and Government of India committees, including the Committee which drafted India’s first National Mental Health Policy and the WHO High Level Independent Commission for Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health. He has been awarded the Chalmers Medal (Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, UK), the Sarnat International Prize (US National Academy of Medicine), an Honorary Doctorate from Georgetown University, the Pardes Humanitarian Prize (the Brain & Behaviour Research Foundation), an Honorary OBE from the UK Government and the John Dirk Canada Gairdner Award in Global Health in 2019. He was listed in TIME Magazine’s 100 most influential persons of the year in 2015.
Dr Razia Narayan Pendse

Representative to Sri Lanka, World Health Organization, Sri Lanka

Biography

Dr Razia Pendse took over as WHO Representative to Sri Lanka in May 2017. Dr Pendse, who is a national of India, has been with WHO since 2004. She has held various positions at WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia and WHO headquarters in Geneva. She has over 20 years of experience working in the development sector, is passionate about promoting health and wellbeing for all and aspires for an equitable, peaceful and sustainable world where no one is left behind.

Dr Pendse received her Doctor of Medicine (MD) in Pediatrics from the University of Rajasthan, India; and Masters in Public Health (MPH) from the University of London, UK.

Pooja Pillai

Project Manager - Project Burans, Emmanuel Hospital Association, India

Biography

I am a project manager and mental health professional working in North India among low resource communities. I have been working with Project Burans for four years under the mentoring of Dr Kaaren Mathias. I am passionate about learning more on how gender affects mental health and am especially keen to work with women who have experienced mental health issues as a result of gender based discrimination and violence. I have lived and studied in both Uganda and India, and have experienced life as an insider and outsider in both communities. I am looking forward to doing more research with people with psychosocial disability and am learning something new every day from my entire team and the community based in Dehradun.
**Speaker Biographies**

**Professor C S Pramesh**

Director, Tata Memorial Hospital; Convener, National Cancer Grid, India

**Biography**

Dr C S Pramesh is the Director of the Tata Memorial Hospital and the Professor and Head of Thoracic Surgery at the Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai. He is the convener for the National Cancer Grid, a large network of over 190 cancer centres in India. The mandate of the National Cancer Grid is to provide uniform standards of cancer care across the country. Pramesh is highly committed to efforts towards reducing inequities in cancer care and making cancer treatment accessible to all geographic regions and strata of society. He is also a visiting professor at the Division of Cancer Studies, King’s College London and the Institute of Cancer Policy, King’s Health Partners, London.

His clinical interests include the management of esophageal and lung cancers and minimally invasive surgery. He is the Secretary of the Indian Society for Diseases of the Esophagus and Stomach (ISES). He is the Principal Investigator in several investigator-initiated research studies including randomized trials on cancer screening, surgical techniques, neoadjuvant and adjuvant treatment of thoracic cancers.

Prof Pramesh has strong interests in clinical trial designs, surgical trials, comparative effectiveness research, promoting collaborative research and cancer policy. He has completed the Post Graduate Diploma in Clinical Trials offered by the LSHTM. He is keen on promoting training in clinical research methods and conducts several courses on clinical research methodology, biostatistics and scientific writing. He serves on the advisory boards of several national and international research organizations and granting agencies.

**Dr Yamuna Rajapakse**

Consultant Chest Physician & Interventional Pulmonologist, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

**Biography**

Dr Yamuna Rajapakse graduated from the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura in 2003. She trained as Registrar in General Medicine at the Professorial Medical Unit Peradeniya and obtained her MD Medicine in 2011 from the University of Colombo. Her post MD specialist training was in Respiratory Medicine at the Central Chest Clinic, Colombo and National Hospital Sri Lanka (NHSL). Thereafter, she completed her postgraduate foreign training at the department of Thoracic Medicine, Royal Adelaide Hospital, Australia, where she developed a special interest in Interventional Pulmonology and Lung Cancer.

Following her post MD training she was Board Certified as a Consultant in Respiratory Medicine in 2014, after which, she served as Acting Consultant Chest Physician at the Central Chest Clinic, MRI, Colombo. Dr Yamuna Rajapakse joined the Department of Anatomy as Senior Lecturer in 2016. Her research interests are mainly in the areas of Lung cancer genetics and interventional pulmonology.
Professor Upul Senarath

Professor in Community Medicine, Specialist in Community Medicine, Chairperson Community Stream, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Biography

Upul Senarath is a Professor in Community Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, a Board Certified Specialist in Community Medicine, and an expert in Public Health Nutrition. He has over 20 years of experience as a scholar, researcher and an expert in the area of Public Health with special interests in maternal and child health, nutrition and non-communicable disease. He obtained his MBBS from the Faculty of Medicine and his MSc and MD from Postgraduate Institute of Medicine of the University of Colombo. He is also the honorary President of the South Asia Infant Feeding Research Network of Sri Lanka. Professor Senarath is the author of over 65 scientific publications, and over 100 conference presentations. His latest research is focused on designing and testing a mHealth nutrition and lifestyle intervention to reduce risk of cardiovascular disease among Sri Lankan adults.

Dr Nishan Siriwardena

Executive Vice President, Health Informatics Society of Sri Lanka; Senior Registrar in Health Informatics, Post Graduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo; National Cancer Institute, Sri Lanka

Biography

A Health Informatician with 23 years’ experience in the Sri Lankan health care system. Worked in the capacity of clinician & medical administrator in curative & preventive sectors. At present, work at the National Cancer Institute Sri Lanka as a senior registrar in health informatics. Initiated design & development of Hospital Information Management System (HIMS) for the Ministry of Health in 2012 & implemented in 12 tertiary care institutions in Sri Lanka. The implementation of HIMS resulted in digitalising many functionalities including Admission, Discharge, Transfer (ADT), Radiology, Pharmacy & the Outpatient Department with a minimum expenditure delivering maximum benefit to the patients and the staff of the hospital.
Dr Chaminda Weerabaddana

Senior Registrar (Health Informatics), Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine; Honorary Secretary, Health Informatics Society of Sri Lanka

Biography

I am a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) qualified Medical Officer working for the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine Since 2003. Though my field of study has been biological sciences, my passion has been to utilize information technology to solve the varied problems that I have come across.

I have successfully completed the post graduate studies in MSc (Biomedical Informatics) and MD (Health Informatics) from the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

I am also certified in Enterprise Architecture from The Open Group Architecture Framework (TOGAF) and in Picture Archiving and Communication Systems Administration by the Radiological Services Training Institute, Solon, OH 44139, USA.
Cardiovascular disease & stroke group

Participants

Professor Liam Smeeth
FMedSci (Chair)
Professor of Clinical Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK

Professor Nishi Chaturvedi (Facilitator)
Director, MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing, University College London, UK

Dr Nisha Arunatilake
Director of Research, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka
@ArunatilakeN

Professor Rajiv Chowdhury
Associate Professor in Global Health, Cardiovascular Epidemiology Unit (CEU) University of Cambridge, UK

Professor Sailesh Mohan
Professor, Public Health Foundation of India; Joint Director, Centre for Chronic Conditions and Injuries, India

Professor Jeyaraj D Pandian
Professor of Neurology; Principal (Dean), Christian Medical College; Vice-President, World Stroke Organization, India

Dr Ajith Pasqual
Senior Lecturer, Department of Electronic & Telecommunication Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

Professor C S Pramesh
Director, Tata Memorial Hospital; Professor, Department of Surgical Oncology, Tata Memorial Centre, India
@cspramesh

Professor Mujibur Rahman
Professor & Head, Department of Medicine, Dhaka Medical College, Bangladesh

Dr Rulli Rosandi
Internist-Endocrinologist, Staff Endocrine Metabolic & Diabetes Division, Saiful Anwar Hospital, University Malang, Indonesia
@rulliendo

Professor Upul Senarath
Professor in Community Medicine, Chairperson Community Stream, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Professor Abhinav Vaidya
Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Kathmandu Medical College, Nepal
@Abhinav_Vaidya
Participants

Diabetes group

Dr Oommen John (Chair)
Senior Research Fellow, The George Institute for Global Health; Secretary, Asia Pacific Association for Medical Informatics, India

Dr V Mohan (Facilitator)
Chairman & Chief Diabetologist, Dr. Mohan’s Diabetes Specialities Centre; Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, India

Professor Kishwar Azad
Project Director, Perinatal Care Project, Ibrahim Medical College; BIRDEM Hospital Bangladesh

Dr Andrew Crawford
Programme Manager, Medical Research Council, UK

Dr Ranil Jayawardena
Senior Lecturer, Department of Physiology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Dr Prasad Katulanda
Senior Lecturer, Consultant Endocrinologist/ Diabetologist, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Dr Rajeev Kumar
Former Director NCD, Government of India, India

Dr Feisul Mustapha
Consultant Public Health Physician and Deputy Director (NCD), Disease Control Division, Ministry of Health, Malaysia

Dr Suraj Perera
Consultant Community Physician, National Cancer Control Programme, Sri Lanka

Tina Rawal
Co-Investigator, Consultant, HRIDAY, India

Dr Nishan Siriwardena
Exec Vice President, Health Informatics Society of Sri Lanka; Senior Registrar, Health Informatics, University of Colombo; National Cancer Institute, Sri Lanka

Dr Chaminda Weerabaddana
Senior Registrar (Health Informatics), Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine; Health Informatics Society of Sri Lanka
Chronic kidney disease group

Professor Vajira Dissanayake (Chair)
Chair & Senior Professor of Anatomy; Director, Human Genetics Unit, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Professor Tazeen Jafar (Facilitator)
Professor, Health Services & Systems Research Programme, Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore

Professor Fazal Akhtar
Professor of Nephrology, Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation, Pakistan

Dr Pamod Amarakoon
Lecturer, Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Dr Sakarn Bunnag
The Director of the Institute of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

Dr Nalika Gunawardena
National Professional Officer (NCD), World Health Organization, Country Office, Sri Lanka

Dr Chula Herath
Consultant Nephrologist, Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital, Sri Lanka

Professor Vivekanad Jha
Executive Director, George Institute for Global Health, India

Dr Thilanga Ruwanpathirana,
Epidemiologist, Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka

Professor Dibya Singh Shah
Head of Nephrology and Transplant Medicine, Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, Nepal

Dr Champika Wickramasinghe
Director, Health Information Unit, Ministry of Health & Indigenous Medicine, Sri Lanka
Respiratory disease group

Participants

Professor Newell Johnson
CMG FMedSci (Chair)
Professor of Dental Research, Cancer Research Centre, Griffith Health Institute, Australia

Professor Neil Pearce
FMedSci (Facilitator)
Department of Medical Statistics, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK

Dr Zohaib Akhter
Senior Instructor (Research), The Aga Khan University (Department of Medicine)
@Szakhter

Dr Rohith Bhagawath
Social Scientist, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, India
@Rohithbhagawath

Dr Amitha Fernando
Consultant Respiratory Physician, Central Chest Clinic, National Hospital, Sri Lanka

Professor David Hunter
Richard Doll Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine; Director, Translational Epidemiology Unit, University of Oxford, UK

Dr Palitha Mahipala
South East Asia Coordinator, World Health Organisation

Hassan Mohamed
Deputy Director, Head, Non-Communicable Disease Control and Health Promotion Division, Health Protection Agency, Ministry of Health, Maldives

Dr Paba Palihawadana
Deputy Director General of Public Health, Ministry of Health & Nutrition

Dr Yamuna Rajapakse
Consultant Chest Physician & Interventional Pulmonologist, Senior Lecturer, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Dr Prihandriyo Sri Hijranti
M.Epid, Chief, Section of Vascular Disease, NCDs Prevention and Control Directorate, Ministry of Health, Indonesia

Dr Kalwinder Singh Khaira
Consultant Physician, Department of Medicine, Sarawak General Hospital, Malaysia
Mental health breakout group

Participants

Dr Mahesh Rajasuriya  
(Chair)  
Senior Lecturer, Department of Psychiatry, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Pooja Pillai (Facilitator)  
Project Manager, Project Burans, Emmanuel Hospital Association, India

Dr Deepika Attygalle  
Senior Health Specialist, Health, Nutrition and Population, South Asia region, World Bank, Sri Lanka

Dristy Gurung  
Research Coordinator, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO), Nepal @DG_Nep

Dr Rizwanul Karim  
Associate Professor of Epidemiology, Program Manager of mental health and disability, Directorate General of Health Services, Bangladesh

Prof Catherine Law CBE  
FMedSci  
Prof of Public Health & Epidemiology; Vice Dean (Research), UCL; Chair of UK Medical Research Council’s Global Health Group, UK

Dr Aliyah Naheed  
Scientists & Head Initiative for Noncommunicable Diseases, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases, Bangladesh

Professor Vikram Patel  
FMedSci  
The Pershing Square Professor of Global Health & Wellcome Trust Principal Research Fellow, Harvard Medical School, USA

Dr Guna Nidhi Sharma  
Senior Health Administrator, Ministry of Health and Population, Government of Nepal @dr__gunish

Dr Rahul Shidhaye  
Senior Research Scientist, Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences, India

Professor Athula Sumathipala  
Professor of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, Keele University, UK

Professor Shehan Williams  
Professor in Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka