

In-person event

Bridging evidence and policy in global health: Lessons from Southeast Asia, Mozambique, Nepal, and Peru on strengthening health systems for non-communicable (NCDs) and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)

Date: 11th June 2026

Location: Campus Biotech, Room H8-01-D, Chemin des Mines 9, Geneva

Time: 16:30

Registration link:
<https://forms.gle/5hnmclhQPENH42Av9>

Agenda

- **Welcome and introduction** (*Dr. Maria Amalia Pesantes*, Assistant Professor, Dickinson College, United States).

SHORT PRESENTATIONS

- **COHESION-I Project: From funding to implementation of a multi-country health systems strengthening project addressing NCDs and NTDs in four LMICs** (*Dr. Maria Lazo Porras*, Investigator of the COHESION-I Project, Associated Researcher at CRONICAS-UPCH Peru).
- **Targeting NCD and NTD burden by introducing innovations within health systems: Experiences from Nepal** (*Dr. Sanjib Kumar Sharma*, Professor of Internal Medicine and Consultant Cardiologist and Nephrologist at BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Nepal).
- **From Pilot to Population Impact: Lessons from Scaling Up a Community-Based CVD Prevention Program in Indonesia** (*Dr. Praveen Deversetty*, Global Strategic Priority Lead - Better Care and Director of Primary Health Care, George Institute for Global Health, India).
- **Shaping the Chronic Disease Agenda in Mozambique: A Pioneer's Journey from Evidence to Action** (*Dr. Albertino Damasceno*, Full Professor of the Faculty of Medicine, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Mozambique).

DISCUSSION

- **Panel discussion:** Q&A between the panelists and the audience.
- **Closing remarks**
- **Aperitivo/networking**

Meet the moderator and panelists

Dr. Albertino Damasceno is a full professor of the Faculty of Medicine of Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique. Previous head of the Cardiology Department of the Maputo Commission on Hypertension, International Society of Hypertension, South African Heart Association, and the Pan African Society of Cardiology, and president of the African Heart Failure Association. He was also a member of the WHO Strategic Technical Group for Noncommunicable Diseases.

Dr. Maria Amalia Pesantes is Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology at Dickinson College, USA. She is a Peruvian medical anthropologist whose research focus on the experiences of people affected by chronic conditions. She explores the relevance of the health systems people use, their gender identity, and the role of families in the complex process of managing a chronic condition. Dr. Pesantes also studies Amazonian Indigenous approaches to health and healthcare and the role of grassroots initiatives in ensuring Indigenous medical knowledge and practices are recognized by the public health system.

Dr. María Lazo Porras is an Associated Researcher at CRONICAS Centre of Excellence in Chronic Diseases, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, and a Senior Researcher at the Universidad Científica del Sur (UCSUR) in Peru. She holds a PhD in Global Health from the University of Geneva and a background in Medicine and Epidemiology at UPCH. Since 2013, she has been actively involved in chronic disease research, serving as principal investigator and co-investigator on national and multi-country projects funded by NIHR, MRC, and other international funders.

Dr. Deversetty Praveen is the Global Strategic Priority Lead - Better Care & Director for Primary Health Care at the George Institute for Global Health. He is a conjoint Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine, at the University of New South Wales, Sydney. He serves as the Director of the NIHR-funded Global Health Research Center for NCDs and Environmental Changes, as well as the Director of the Primary Health Care Research Consortium Secretariat. He is the elected Co-Chair of the Hypertension Research Program within the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases.

Dr. Sanjib Kumar Sharma is a Professor of Internal Medicine and Consultant Cardiologist and Nephrologist at BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Dharan, Nepal. Prof. Sharma is actively involved in a variety of international research projects, collaborations, and partnerships, as well as clinical trials related to cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, snakebite, and non-communicable diseases. He is an active collaborator in PEN and PEN Plus programs in Nepal. His primary research interest is in the prevention of non-communicable diseases, particularly within communities and among disadvantaged populations. He also leads the KHDC program, a community outreach initiative focused on the prevention, early detection, and management of kidney disease, hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases. Prof. Sharma is an active participant in numerous national and international scientific and technical organizations. He has published over 175 research articles and contributed booklets and chapters to various medical books.