

Global Alliance for Chronic Disease

Cristina Rabadan-Diehl, PhD, MPH
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

April 19, 2010



Global Alliance for Chronic Disease



- The Global Alliance for Chronic Disease (GACD) is the first collaboration of major international biomedical research funding agencies to address the specific needs of chronic noncommunicable diseases.
- Announced June 15, 2009

GACD current members (March 2010)

- Australia: National Health Medical Research Council
- Canada: Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- China: Ministry of Health in association with the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences
- India: Indian Council of Medical Research
- Qatar Biomedical Research Institute
- South African Medical Research Council
- UK: Medical Research Council
- U.S: National Institutes of Health

GACD partner organizations

- Pan American Health Organization, Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Department
- World Heart Federation, and
- National Institute of Medical Research, Tanzania

- WHO is represented on the Alliance Board as an official observer
- Canada's International Development Research Centre will host the Alliance secretariat in Ottawa, subject to IDRC board approval.

GACD Goals

- Coordinate research activities that address the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases on a global scale
- Collectively seek to identify common approaches to guide policy, develop and share best practices for fighting chronic diseases.
- Build capacity in research, training, and healthcare delivery in low- and middle-income countries and among low-income and indigenous populations of the more developed countries

[The Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases -- Daar et al. 324 \(5935\): 1642 -- Science](#)

GACD initial priorities

- New Delhi Meeting- November 2009
- Priorities:
 - Lowering hypertension
 - Reducing Tobacco use
 - Reducing indoor pollution caused by crude cooking stoves

GACD initial priorities (2)

The research must, among other things:

- Involve local policymakers from the outset, with a commitment to scale up successfully tested programs
- Measure clinical outcomes – for example, a reduction in the incidence of stroke, not just a drop in the incidence of hypertension
- Ensure that human and other resources are not diverted from local health care systems
- Create a tool-kit to be used later to scale up and replicate successfully tested programs
- Include a training / capacity building component.

GACD additional goals and priorities

- Alliance members have agreed to commission several scoping initiatives to prepare future joint research into obesity and diabetes
- The Alliance expanded its mandate to include mental illnesses because of their link to CNCs and the rising toll they take globally. Alliance members agreed to fund a program to identify the world's "Grand Challenges in Mental Health"

GACD upcoming activities

- Currently working on the release of a funding opportunity focused on hypertension reduction
- At the invitation of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, China will host the Alliance's next scientific and Board meeting in October 2010.