Dr. Sarah Rylance, newly appointed Medical Officer, NCD Management Unit at WHO, Geneva, will officially join the GARD Executive Committee starting January 3, 2021. We welcome Dr. Rylance to the GARD family!

Dr. Rylance is a consultant paediatrician with an interest in respiratory medicine and global health. Since graduating from Nottingham University Medical School in the UK in 2000, she has worked as a clinician for 20-years, including 8-years in sub-Saharan Africa. Her experiences as a doctor, researcher and teacher in Tanzania (2005-2007) and Malawi (2010-2011, 2017-2020) fuel her interest in developing approaches to improve the management of chronic respiratory diseases, relevant to low-income settings and consistent with the principles of Universal Health Coverage.

Dr. Rylance completed her PhD research in Malawi, exploring the interplay between chronic respiratory symptoms, lung function and air pollution exposure in both children and adults, and evaluating a task-shifting intervention to improve long-term asthma care [https://youtu.be/nNRCUwdn4K0]. She has also led the ACACIA study (Achieving Control of Asthma in Children In Africa) in Malawi: a schools-based asthma project exploring the barriers to achieving good asthma care in young people.

[https://www.linkedin.com/in/sarah-rylance/]
[https://twitter.com/sarah_rylance]

Important Announcement
Coming soon – Virtual GARD General Annual Meeting in January 2021

Upcoming National/International Conferences

1-2 May 2021, Victoria, Australia (Full Virtual)
Australia and New Zealand Society of Respiratory Science And The Thoracic Society Of Australia and New Zealand Annual Meetings (TSANZRSRS) [https://www.tsanzsrs2021.com/]

8-10 April 2021, Canada (Full Virtual)
Canadian Respiratory Conference 2021 [https://cts-sct.ca/crc/]

23-25 April 2021, Tokyo, Japan
Japanese Respiratory Society 61st Annual Meeting [https://www.jrs.or.jp/jrs61/]

6-8 May 2021, Dublin (TBD)
IPCRG 10th World Conference [http://www.ipcrg2021.org/home]

14-19 May 2021, San Diego, USA (Hybrid)
ATS International Conference [https://conference.thoracic.org/]

10-12 July 2021, Madrid and Krakow (Hybrid)
Annual Congress of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) [https://www.eaaci.org/eaaci-congresses/eaaci-2021]

4-8 September 2021, Barcelona, Spain
The ERS Annual Congress [https://erscongress.org/]

24 – 27 Oct 2021, Vancouver, Canada
CHEST Annual Meeting [https://www.chestmeeting.chestnet.org/]

**Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare** (THL) organized a year ago (December 3-4, 2019) an international conference ‘Europe That Protects: Safeguarding Our Planet, Safeguarding Our Health’ in collaboration with the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Research and Innovation under the auspices of the Finnish Presidency of the European Union. Based on the presentations and discussions during the conference, Helsinki Declaration was formulated and published in two high level international journals:


**PUBLICATIONS BY GARD COLLEAGUES**


**What this paper adds**

- A majority of smokers who attempt to quit do so without help from quitlines or health professionals, including utilization of pharmacotherapies and/or behavioural treatment. Among the over 300 million smokers in China, approximately 30 million are attempting to quit. Of Chinese smokers attempting to quit, a large majority are not receiving assistance.

- Little is known about Chinese ex-smokers who attempt to quit unassisted. Few studies have investigated unassisted smoking cessation in community settings. No studies have explored how exposure to secondhand smoking and tobacco advertising can impede efforts by smokers to quit without assistance.

- This study shows that an estimated 97.6% of Chinese urban male smokers, attempting to quit, receive no assistance. Exposure to secondhand smoking and tobacco advertising impedes the success of the urban male smokers who are attempting to quit unassisted. Findings support the need for increasing the emphasis in health education messaging of the adverse health effects of secondhand smoking, for banning tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, and for a universal comprehensive smoke-free law.

**Fostering research with open sciences.** Balli Fabio. 2020. ISSN 2563-5905. https://sciencesouvertes.hypotheses.org

**Validation of a game controller to assess the peak expiratory flow against conventional spirometry in children: A cross-sectional study.** Chelabi Khadija, Balli Fabio, Bransi Myriam, Gervais Yannick, Marthe Clement, Tse Sze Man. Preprint of JMIR Serious Games. https://doi.org/10.2196/preprints.25052
OTHER RESOURCES

IPCRG Autumn Newsletter:  

IPCRG Winter Newsletter:  
https://mailchi.mp/56b35310251f/ipcrg-winter-2020-newsletter-8183768  
For more details, contact Nicola Connor at businessmanager@ipcrg.org

GAN (Global Asthma Network) Winter Newsletter:  

New Zealand Adolescent and Adult Asthma Guidelines 2020  
https://www.nzrespiratoryguidelines.co.nz/adultguidelines.html

Updated NZ Child Asthma Guidelines 2020  
https://www.nzrespiratoryguidelines.co.nz/childguidelines-654716.html

AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS/APPOINTMENTS

Congratulations to Dr. Arzu Yorgancioğlu who was presented the Turkish Thoracic Society’s Science Award. This prestigious award was presented during the society’s annual congress in recognition of Dr. Yorgancioğlu’s achievements in national and international science, including her involvement with ERS, GARD, GINA and ATS. Congratulations!

Dr. Cherian Varghese, Unit Head of NCD Management, who has taken responsibility for GARD since 2015 to now, is named Cross-Cutting Lead for NCD and special initiatives in NCD, cervical cancer, primary health care and health systems at WHO, Geneva. Congratulations!

Dr. Bente Mikkelsen formerly Director, Division of Noncommunicable Diseases and Promoting Health through the Life-course at WHO Regional Office for Europe is the current Director, NCDs in the division of UHC/Communicable and Noncommunicable diseases, WHO Headquarters. Dr Mikkelsen’s current focus is on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through the reduction of premature deaths from NCDs, and working across sectors with multistakeholders, within and beyond the health sector using innovation, implementation research, health literacy and new technologies. Contact info - Email: mikkelsenb@who.int; Twitter: @MikkelsenBente_

“The Smoke Monster” - a film made after FRESH AIR was a finalist in the World Illustration Awards Scientific and Technical section (https://theaoi.com/award-category/science-technology/). The film has been successful (https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/primarycare/fresh-air/teaching-resources) and is widely used in Africa.
Romanian Society of Pneumology held an online Conference on Management of Chronic Diseases on July 1-2, 2020. The program was very attractive and successful with more than 350 participants. The conference was also attended by various specialties including internal medicine, labor medicine, allergology and general practice. The 2-day conference included a variety of topics and sessions from profile of severe asthma, ILD, TB, COPD, to asthma treatment in the COVID-19 pandemic etc.

The September three-day EURFOREA Allergic Rhinitis webinar Master Class series, attracted over 6,500 registrants with a total of over 5,000 individual stream session viewings. An audience from 56 countries from across the globe joined to view the education series which along with lectures in respect of latest breaking developments and insights from a global faculty also saw the introduction of the EURFOREA new treatment algorithm for Allergic Rhinitis. EURFOREA (https://youtu.be/TeKCxPzGfk4) are pleased to announce details of how to view the recorded ‘on demand’ materials, information can be found on the events section of the EURFOREA website www.euforea.eu

GARD Executive Committee, Planning & Regional Groups wish you and your loved ones a Joyous holiday. Have a wonderful holiday break and all the best in 2021!

https://gard-breathefreely.org/

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Contact us at: gardbreathe@gmail.com