

Important Announcement

Mark your calendar –
GARD Annual General Meeting
Virtual, Oct 2021, details TBD



Upcoming National/International Conferences

16 June 2021 13.00-14.30 CEST, A WHO and IPCRG Webinar - The importance of tobacco cessation in primary care
The importance of tobacco cessation in primary care
(<https://www.ipcr.org/conferences/the-importance-of-tobacco-cessation-in-primary-care>)

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/>)

19-22 October 2021, virtual
52nd Union World Conference on Lung Health. <https://theunion.org/our-work/conferences/52nd-union-world-conference-on-lung-health>

24 – 27 Oct 2021, Vancouver, Canada
CHEST Annual Meeting
(<https://www.chestmeeting.chestnet.org/>)

30 Oct – 1 Nov 2021, Centre des Congrès Avignon, France
XXV World Congress of Asthma
(<https://interasma.org/interasma-congresses/>)

GARD Newsletter

Volume 4 | No. 1 | June 2021

On March 8-9, 2021, GARD hosted a two half-day virtual meetings. The webinar on March 8th was titled “Chronic Respiratory Diseases in the COVID era”, with 204 individuals registered to attend. The 2-hour webinar consisted presentations from 3 renowned speakers (Drs Bin Cao, Soumya Swaminathan and Paudula Siribaddana) and a 7-member discussion panel (Drs Digambar Behera, Sandra Gonzalez Diaz, Yuanlin Song, Lan Le Thi Tuyet, Arunas Valiulis, Siân Williams). The webinar was moderated by Dr Arzu Yorgancıoğlu. For those who missed the webinar, you can view the recording following this link: <https://bit.ly/3vvd16Y>

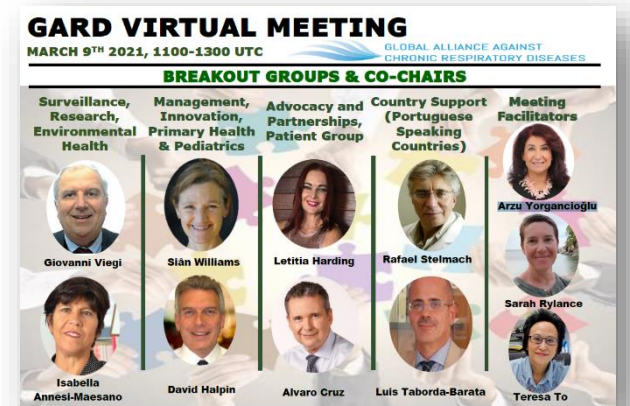


GARD WEBINAR GLOBAL ALLIANCE AGAINST CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASES
Chronic Respiratory Diseases in the COVID era
MARCH 8TH 2021, 1100-1300 UTC

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS







Chronic respiratory diseases and the long-term effects of COVID-19	COVID-19 variants and vaccines	COVID-19 and digital health
 Prof Bin Cao Vice President of China-Japan Friendship Hospital, Director of Department of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, China-Japan Friendship Hospital	 Dr Soumya Swaminathan Chief Scientist at WHO and WHO's Deputy Director-General for Programmes	 Dr Paudula Siribaddana Senior Lecturer in Medical Education/Medical Informatics at the Postgraduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka and an Honorary Fellow of the Commonwealth Centre for Digital Health

The webinar continued on March 9th with 4 breakout group discussions on: surveillance, research, environmental health; management, innovation, primary health & pediatrics; advocacy and partnerships, patient groups; and country support (Portuguese speaking countries). The breakout groups were led by GARD members and the overall meeting was moderated by Dr Sarah Rylance.



GARD VIRTUAL MEETING GLOBAL ALLIANCE AGAINST CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASES
MARCH 9TH 2021, 1100-1300 UTC

BREAKOUT GROUPS & CO-CHAIRS

Surveillance, Research, Environmental Health	Management, Innovation, Primary Health & Pediatrics	Advocacy and Partnerships, Patient Group	Country Support (Portuguese Speaking Countries)	Meeting Facilitators
 Giovanni Viegi	 Siân Williams	 Letitia Harding	 Rafael Stelmach	 Arzu Yorgancıoğlu
 Isabella Annesi-Maesano	 David Halpin	 Alvaro Cruz	 Luis Taborda-Barata	 Sarah Rylance
				 Teresa To



- **Health technology as commons: trustable, affordable, adaptable** (available in Français, Español, Português, русский, 中文, हिंदी, বাংলা, العربية). Balli F, Matringe M, le Couedic C, Schull J, Gautam S, Jandard P, Kellner E, Anastasaki A, Serada K, Brahmachari SK, Winter L, Lonchamp P, Schoeller F, Krishnakumar A, Greshake B, Lhoste K, Parot C, Jeanmaire G. *Geneva Health Forum Open Village*; 2020 Nov 16-18; Geneva, Switzerland. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4327587>.
- **Household pollution and COVID-19: irrelevant association?** Urrutia-Pereira M, Mello-da-Silva CA, Solé D. *Allergol Immunopathol (Madr)*. 2021 Jan 2;49(1):146-149. doi: [10.15586/aei.v49i1.48](https://doi.org/10.15586/aei.v49i1.48).
- **Air pollution and indoor settings.** Rosário Filho NA, Urrutia-Pereira M, D'Amato G, Cecchi L, Ansotegui IJ, Galán C, Pomés A, Murrieta-Aguttes M, Caraballo L, Rouadi P, Chong-Neto HJ, Peden DB. *World Allergy Organ J*. 2021 Jan 7;14(1):100499. doi: [10.1016/j.waojou.2020.100499](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.waojou.2020.100499).
- **Software and Hardware Freedom in Health Public Policy.** Sandler K, Balli F, Groh A, Falcon L. *FOSDEM*; 2021 Feb 7. <https://fosdem.org/2021/schedule/event/healthpublicpolicy/>.
- **Improving lung health in low-income and middle-income countries: from challenges to solutions.** Meghji J, Mortimer K, Agusti A, Allwood BW, Asher I, Bateman ED, Bissell K, Bolton CE, Bush A, Celli B, Chiang CY, Cruz AA, Dinh-Xuan AT, El Sony A, Fong KM, Fujiwara PI, Gaga M, Garcia-Marcos L, Halpin DMG, Hurst JR, Jayasooriya S, Kumar A, Lopez-Varela MV, Masekela R, Mbatchou Ngahane BH, Montes de Oca M, Pearce N, Reddel HK, Salvi S, Singh SJ, Varghese C, Vogelmeier CF, Walker P, Zar HJ, Marks GB. *Lancet*. 2021 Mar 6;397(10277):928-940. doi: [10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)00458-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)00458-X).
- **UV, ozone, and COVID-19 transmission in Ontario, Canada using generalised linear models.** To T, Zhang K, Maguire B, Terebessy E, Fong I, Parikh S, Zhu J, Su Y. *Environ Res*. 2021 Mar;194:110645. doi: [10.1016/j.envres.2020.110645](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2020.110645).
- **Antibiotic use in children and youths with asthma: a population-based case-control study.** Fong I, Zhu J, Finkelstein Y, To T. *ERJ Open Res*. 2021 Mar 15;7(1):00944-2020. doi: [10.1183/23120541.00944-2020](https://doi.org/10.1183/23120541.00944-2020).
- **Management of anaphylaxis due to COVID-19 vaccines in the elderly.** Bousquet J, Agache I, Blain H, Jutel M, Ventura MT, Worm M, Del Giacco S, Benetos A, Bilo MB, Czarlewski W, Abdul Latiff AH, Al-Ahmad M, Angier E, Annesi-Maesano I, Atanaskovic-Markovic M, Bachert C, Barbaud A, Bedbrook A, Bennoor KS, Berghea EC, Bindslev-Jensen C, Bonini S, Bosnic-Anticevich S, Brockow K, Brussino L, Camargos P, Canonica GW, Cardona V, Carreiro-Martins P, Carriazo A, Casale T, Caubet JC, Cecchi L, Cherubini A, Christoff G, Chu DK, Cruz AA, Dokic D, El-Gamal Y, Ebisawa M, Eberlein B, Farrell J, Fernandez-Rivas M, Fokkens WJ, Fonseca JA, Gao Y, Gavazzi G, Gawlik R, Gelincik A, Gemicioğlu B, Gotua M, Guérin O, Haahtela T, Hoffmann-Sommergruber K, Hoffmann HJ, Hofmann M, Hrubisko M, Ienallario M, Irani C, Ispayeva Z, Ivancevich JC, Julge K, Kaidashev I, Khaitov M, Knol E, Kraxner H, Kuna P, Kvedariene V, Lauerma A, Le LT, Le Moing V, Levin M, Louis R, Lourenco O, Mahler V, Martin FC, Matucci A, Milenkovic B, Miot S, Montella E, Morais-Almeida M, Mortz CG, Mullol J, Namazova-Baranova L, Neffen H, Nekam K, Niedozytko M, Odemyr M, O'Hehir RE, Okamoto Y, Ollert M, Palomares O, Papadopoulos NG, Panzner P, Passalacqua G, Patella V, Petrovic M, Pfaar O, Pham-Thi N, Plavec D, Popov TA, Recto MT, Regateiro FS, Reynes J, Roller-Winsberger RE, Rolland Y, Romano A, Rondon C, Rottem M, Rouadi PW, Salles N, Samolinski B, Santos AF, Serpa FS, Sastre J, Schols JMGA, Scichilone N, Sediva A, Shamji MH, Sheikh A, Skypala I, Smolinska S, Sokolowska M, Sousa-Pinto B, Sova M, Stelmach R, Sturm G, Suppli Ulrik C, Todo-Bom AM, Toppila-Salmi S, Tsiligianni I, Torres M, Untersmayr E, Urrutia Pereira M, Valiulis A, Vitte J, Vultaggio A, Wallace D, Walusiak-Skorupa J, Wang DY, Wasserman S, Yorgancioglu A, Yusuf OM, Zernotti M, Zidarn M, Chivato T, Akdis CA, Zuberbier T, Klimek L. *Allergy*. 2021 Apr 2. doi: [10.1111/all.14838](https://doi.org/10.1111/all.14838)
- **The Finnish Allergy Program 2008-2018: Society-wide proactive program for change of management to mitigate allergy burden.** Haahtela T, Valovirta E, Saarinen K, Jantunen J, Lindström I, Kauppi P, Laatikainen T, Pelkonen A, Salava A, Tommila E, Bousquet J, Vasankari T, Mäkelä MJ; Allergy Program Group. *J Allergy Clin Immunol*. 2021 May 5:S0091-6749(21)00559-5. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33965232/>.
- **Immunological resilience and biodiversity for prevention of allergic diseases and asthma.** Haahtela T, Alenius H, Lehtimäki J, Sinkkonen A, Fyhrquist N, Hyöty H, Ruokolainen L, Mäkelä MJ. *Allergy*. 2021 May 6. doi: [10.1111/all.14895](https://doi.org/10.1111/all.14895).
- **Does Exposure to Air Pollution Increase the Risk of Acute Care in Young Children with Asthma? An Ontario, Canada Study.** To T, Zhu J, Terebessy E, Zhang K, Fong I, Pinault L, Jerrett M, Robichaud A, Ménard R, van Donkelaar A, Martin RV, Hystad P, Brook JR, Dell S, Stieb D. *Environ Res*. 2021 May 18:111302. doi: [10.1016/j.envres.2021.111302](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2021.111302).
- **Effects of allergen immunotherapy in the MASK-air study: a proof-of-concept analysis.** Pfaar O, Sousa-Pinto B, Devillier P, Canonica GW, Klimek L, Zuberbier T, Fonseca J, Bousquet J. *Allergy*. 2021 May 24. doi: [10.1111/all.14955](https://doi.org/10.1111/all.14955).
- **The Essential Guide to Antibiotic Use during COVID-19.** Yousser Mohammad and Basim Dubaybo. *EC Pulmonology and Respiratory Medicine* 10.6 (2021): 08-10.

OTHER RESOURCES

Scientific brief

19 April 2021



WHO Scientific Brief: Asthma and COVID-19

This WHO scientific brief summarized the results of a rapid review of evidence on COVID-19 and asthma on the following questions:

- Is asthma associated with increased risk of acquiring SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 disease?
- Is asthma associated with hospitalization with COVID-19?
- Is asthma associated with the severity of COVID-19 outcomes?

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-2019-ncov-sci-brief-asthma-2021.1>



The WHO Package of Essential Noncommunicable Disease Interventions (WHO PEN)

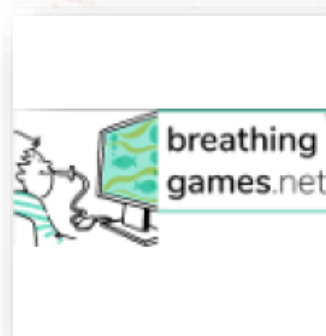
In May, the WHO launched the WHOPEN application, which is developed as a tool to facilitate the implementation of essential Non communicable diseases (NCD) interventions for primary health care. This is intended to be used by a health provider and not by individuals. It contains materials from the WHO package of essential noncommunicable (PEN) disease interventions for primary health care. Geneva, World Health Organization; 2020. The WHOPEN App brings together the guidelines and protocols that are adaptable to local settings and able to empower primary care physicians, as well as allied health workers, to contribute to NCD management. WHOPEN is not meant to be exhaustive or prescriptive, but rather to be an important first step for integration of NCD management into primary health care. Tools for adapting the package to primary health care and capacity building materials such as slides, and posters are also included. The app can be downloaded from Play Store (search WHOPEN) <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.who.WHOPEN>



IPCRG May Newsletter:

<https://mailchi.mp/4148d8299f7d/ipcrg-may-2021-newsletter>

For more details, contact Nicola Connor at businessmanager@ipcrg.org



Breathing Games:

- **Validation of a portable game controller to assess peak expiratory flow against conventional spirometry in children.** Chelabi K, Balli F, Bransi M, Gervais Y, Marthe C, Tse SM. Canadian Respiratory Conference; 2021 Apr 9; Ottawa, Canada. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ht2sVoU6gXo>
- **Méthodes mixtes, jeux, matériel ouvert et traduction en santé.** Balli F, Jeanmaire G, Chelabi K, Kellner E, Gingras S, Gervais Y. Colloque méthodes mixtes francophonie; 2021 May 6; Montréal, Canada. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4719734>

- **Favoriser le soin autonome : encourager les jeunes vivant avec la mucoviscidose à partager leur expérience à travers la création de jeux collaboratifs.** Kirszenbaum M, Lustre A, de Beauvais N, Hauterive M, Wenk N, Gervais Y, Claricia M, Frangos M, Gomez V, Burgel PR, Sermet-Gaudelus I, Valette J, Balli F. Réseau Mère-Enfant de la Francophonie; 2021 Mai 18; Lyon, France. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4730416> - Video of events: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zam1gvAwqEc>
- **WSIS Stocktaking Series: The Coronavirus Response – ICT Case Repository.** Penjore S, Morenets Y, Balli F, Ekyarisiima C, Stankovic V. World Summit on the Information Society; 2021 Mar 23. <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2021/Agenda/Session/215>

Researchers interested to join the Breathing Games international pilot research, please contact Fabio Balli (info@fabioballi.net).

AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS/APPOINTMENTS



Dr. Digambar Behera – The American Thoracic Society has awarded the **ATS Public Service Award** to Professor Digambar Behera, Senior Professor and Head, Department of Pulmonary Medicine at Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India. This award recognizes contributions to public health related improvement of indoor and outdoor air quality, eradication of tobacco usage, prevention of lung disease, improved management of communicable respiratory diseases or improvement in the ethical delivery, and access to healthcare in areas related lung diseases, sleep disorders and critical care.

EVENTS/ACTIVITIES IN GARD COUNTRIES

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES:

- 12 July 11:00 – 12:00 CET, Virtual: EAACI - GARD Sister Society Session - Chronic respiratory diseases in COVID-19 era (<http://scientific.eaaci.org/site/programme/?a=eaaci2021#!>)
- 25 September, World Lung Day 2021 - <https://www.firsnet.org/news-and-events/news-article/161-world-lung-day-2021-care-for-your-lungs>
- 17 November, World COPD Day 2021 - <https://goldcopd.org/world-copd-day-2021/>

PAST ACTIVITIES:



The **Romanian Society of Pneumology** together with the Section of Somnology and Non-Invasive Ventilation, the Association for Sleep Disorders in Children and Adolescents, the Medical Association for Prevention through Healthy Lifestyle, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Carol Davila and the Medical Students' Society of Bucharest organized on 19th of March 2021 an event for **World Sleep Day**. This year's slogan was "*Regular sleep, healthy future*"

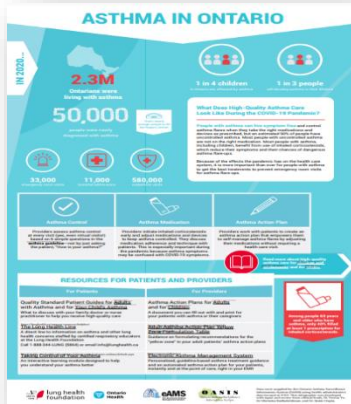


GARD-Italy - In April 2021, the 9th General Assembly of GARD-Italy was held in Rome, under the coordination of the Italian Ministry of Health. The Assembly adopted the new Strategy of the National Alliance and the programmatic lines proposed for the two-year period 2022-2024. The Strategy document is in line with the nine voluntary objectives of the WHO "Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013-2020" to reduce the mortality of NCDs and with the aim to support the 17 "Sustainable developing goals-SDGs", adopted by the UN in 2015 with the 2030 Agenda. Preventing and reducing the burden of NCDs, including respiratory diseases, represents a challenge for Italy and requires intersectoral strategies, according to the principles of "Health in all policies". Use this link to see more details: <https://drive.google.com/file/GARD-Italy-Newsletter>



GARD-CPLP (Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries) held a webinar on May 28, 2021 entitled "*COVID and respiratory chronic diseases: preparing for the future*". The overall objective of the webinar was to reduce inequalities in the provision of health care. Specifically, the webinar aimed to assess the impact of COVID-19 in CRD in Portuguese-speaking countries, and also optimize the recovery of COVID-19 in terms of the prevention and treatment of respiratory diseases in future. Use this link to view the webinar (in Portuguese): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byCBXS5fEWQ>

GARD-Angola partnered with the Angolan Society of Pulmonology (SAPN) hosted the *first International Asthma Symposium*, Luanda, Angola on May 29, 2021, where experts and researchers from Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Portugal participated. The aim of the Symposium was to bring together national and international experts and researchers with experience to work on overcoming challenges of providing and standardizing best practices of asthma and to help Angolans understand the problem of asthma in Angola. The topics covered in the symposium included: epidemiological studies of asthma; guidelines: are they necessary; asthma diagnosis and treatment; and asthma in the emergency room. See details at <https://sapn.ao/>



Ontario Asthma Surveillance Information System, Canada, partnered with Ontario Health and the Lung Health Foundation released statistics on the burden of asthma on World Asthma Day, May 5, 2021 (<https://lunghealth.ca/world-asthma-day-spotlight-asthma-in-ontario/>)



Video put together by GINA on World Asthma Day Activities Around the World. To view, please use this link: https://ginasthma.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/WAD-Slideshow-2021.mp4?_1



<https://gard-breathefreely.org/>

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