



# 15th World Congress on Public Health

3-7 April 2017 Melbourne Australia [www.wcph2017.com](http://www.wcph2017.com)

## Non-communicable diseases in low and middle-income settings and in Indigenous Australians

Tuesday 4 April, 1330 - 1530, Plenary Hall 1

Sponsored by the International Epidemiological Association

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Lead	Professor Dame Valerie Beral, University of Oxford
Speakers	Professor Dame Valerie Beral, University of Oxford Professor Henrique Barros, University of Porto Alison Price, Malawi Epidemiology and Interventions Research Unit Dr Vendhan Gajalakshmi, Chennai Epidemiological Research Centre Dr Raglan Maddox, University of Canberra & Toronto Robert Beaglehole, University of Auckland

You are most welcome to attend what promises to be a stimulating and informative session about non-communicable diseases in low and middle income settings. The similarity of premature mortality rates in Indigenous Australians and in some low-income countries will also be discussed.

You are likely to learn a few things you didn't know before from the international panel of eminent epidemiologists. They will describe the impressive advances that have occurred in reducing premature mortality in most parts of the world over the last few decades and why non-communicable diseases are now emerging as important causes of death in low-income and middle-income countries

In the 21st century mortality rates in low and middle income countries have, with few exceptions, fallen by some 15-30% every 10 years. The reasons for the decline vary from country to country and from age to age. Nevertheless, the control of infectious diseases has made one of the largest contributions to the decline. Non-communicable diseases, particularly stroke, heart disease, and cancer, which are the main causes of premature death in high-income countries are now comprising an increasing proportion of premature deaths in middle and low income countries.





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Valerie Beral, President of the International Epidemiological Association, will chair the panel discussion, which will focus on the magnitude of the contribution of non-communicable diseases to premature deaths and the extent to which the classic risk factors in western developed countries are relevant in different settings around the world, and where priorities lie in the future.

Raglan Maddox will show that premature mortality rates in Indigenous Australians today are almost as great as rates seen in some low and middle income countries and illustrate that the extremely high levels of smoking among Indigenous Australians make a substantial contribution to the large mortality rates they experience in middle age.

Henrique Barros will describe life-course methodology being used in Angola and Mozambique; Alison Price will discuss research she is doing in Malawi to help understand the reasons for the high incidence of stroke in that country; and Vendhan Gajalakshmi will describe findings from a large cohort study on the role of smoking and alcohol consumption on cause-specific mortality in Chennai, India.

Robert Beagle hole will then describe priorities for non-communicable diseases in low and middle income countries.

