

Overview

South Asia Forum 2021

The highly successful Inaugural South Asia Forum for Innovations in Clinical Development hosted by RemediumOne and University of Kelaniya, in Colombo, Sri Lanka in December 2019 was attended by leading researchers, regulators, academics and senior personnel representing multilateral organizations from USA, UK, Europe, South East Asia, South Asia and Australia.

South Asia Forum, an invitation-only event brings together eminent global clinical researchers, regulators, and business leaders from both public and private sectors, to explore innovative collaboration models and partnerships for building new frameworks to increase their contribution to society and science. Hosted under the Chatham House Rule, the organisers hope to encourage candid discussions amongst key stakeholders.

South Asia Forum for 2021, co-hosted by DUKE-NUS, Singapore, RemediumOne and Kelaniya University, promises to build on this success. Presented through a webinar this year's forum will focus on innovation in affordable and scalable delivery of community based public health interventions to improve blood pressure control centered around a recently concluded pivotal study conducted in South Asia.

South Asia Forum for Hypertension Control and Cardio-Metabolic Risk Reduction

It is a series of webinars hosted jointly by Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore and the lead institution in each partnering country in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, these forums are a part of planned activities to disseminate findings of the COBRA-BPS (Control of Blood Pressure and Risk Attenuation – Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka) trial and stimulate discussions for scale-up with key stakeholders in the region and global agencies. Discussions will also include ways to address comorbidities and safe delivery of care during COVID-19 and/or other potential pandemics.

The first in the dissemination webinars series will be organized in collaboration with the University of Kelaniya and Remediumone in Sri Lanka. The subsequent ones will be hosted in partnership with researchers and relevant government entities in Pakistan and Bangladesh. The discussions' focus would be to include the COBRA-BPS intervention model in primary care services.

Innovations in Clinical Development South Asia Forum 2021

Hypertension Control and Cardio-Metabolic Risk Reduction

Colombo, Sri Lanka | 25 January 2021

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Presented by



UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR



Prof. Tazeen Hasan Jafar

Professor of Health Services & Systems Research at Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore
Research Professor at Duke Global Health Institute, Durham, USA

COUNTRY INVESTIGATORS



Prof. Asita de Silva

Senior Professor Pharmacology University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka



Prof. Anuradhani Kasturiratne

Professor of Public Health University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka



Dr. Aliya Naheed

Head of Initiative Non Communicable Diseases, Health System and Population Division at icddr,b, Bangladesh



Dr. Imtiaz Jehan

Associate Professor Community Health Science Aga Khan University, Pakistan



Prof. Aamir Hameed Khan

Professor of Cardiology Section, Department of Medicine Aga Khan University, Pakistan

CO-INVESTIGATORS



Prof. Eric Finkelstein

Professor of Health Services & Systems Research Duke-NUS Medical School Singapore



A/Prof. Mihir Gandhi

Head of Biostatistics Singapore Clinical Research Institute Singapore

SRILANKAN STAKEHOLDERS



Dr. Vindya Kumaripeli

Director of Division Non-Communicable Diseases Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka



Prof. Nalika Gunawardena

National Professional Officer & Focal Point NCDs at WHO, Sri Lanka



Dr. Deepika Attygalle

Senior Health Specialist World Bank, Sri Lanka



Prof. Shah Ebrahim

Honorary Professor Public Health at London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine United Kingdom



Dr. Abdul Ghaffar

Executive Director Alliance for Public Health and Systems Research World Health Organization Geneva

Monday 25th January 2021

USA 8:30 am **EST**
Pakistan 6:30 pm **PKT**
Sri Lanka 7:00 pm **IST**
India 7:00 pm **IST**

Bangladesh 7:30 pm **BST**
UK 1:30 pm **GMT**
Singapore 9:30 pm **SGT**

The main findings from COBRA-BPS were published in NEJM

<https://www.nejm.org/medical-articles/original-article>

Innovations in Clinical Development South Asia Forum 2021

25 January 2021

Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker/ Discussion Lead
07:00 – 07:10pm (IST) ¹ 09:30 – 09:40pm (SGT) 08:30 – 08:40am (EST) 01:30 – 01:40pm (GMT) 07:30 – 07:40pm (BST) 06:30 – 06:40pm (PKT)	Welcome address	Prof Asita de Silva
07:10 – 07:29pm (IST) ² 09:40 – 09:59pm (SGT) 08:40 – 08:59am (EST) 01:40 – 01:59pm (GMT) 07:40 – 07:59pm (BST) 06:40 – 06:59pm (PKT)	COBRA design and main findings	Prof Tazeen Jafar
07:29 – 07:36pm (IST) ³ 09:59 – 10:06pm (SGT) 08:59 – 09:06am (EST) 01:59 – 02:06pm (GMT) 07:59 – 08:06pm (BST) 06:59 – 07:06pm (PKT)	Economic analysis	Prof Eric Finkelstein
07:36 – 08:01pm (IST) ⁴ 10:06 – 10:31pm (SGT) 09:06 – 09:31am (EST) 02:06 – 02:31pm (GMT) 08:06 – 08:31pm (BST) 07:06 – 07:31pm (PKT)	Reflections on COBRA-findings & panel Q and A	Prof Asita de Silva; Prof Anuradhani Kasturiratne; Dr Aliya Naheed; Dr Imtiaz Jehan; Prof Aamir Hameed Khan; A/Prof Mihir Gandhi; Prof Eric Finkelstein; Prof Tazeen Jafar
08:01 – 08:16pm (IST) ⁵ 10:31 – 10:46pm (SGT) 09:31 – 09:46am (EST) 02:31 – 02:46pm (GMT) 08:31 – 08:46pm (BST) 07:31 – 07:46pm (PKT)	Perspectives from the Sri Lankan community and health systems leaders, funding agency representatives	Dr Vindya Kumaripeli, Director, Division for Non-Communicable Diseases, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka Prof Nalika Gunawardena, National Professional Officer & Focal Point for NCDs, WHO, Sri Lanka Dr Deepika Attygalle, Senior Health Specialist, World Bank, Sri Lanka
08:16 – 08:26pm (IST) ⁶ 10:46 – 10:56pm (SGT) 09:46 – 09:56am (EST) 02:46 – 02:56pm (GMT) 08:46 – 08:56pm (BST) 07:46 – 07:56pm (PKT)	Panel Discussion on the findings with regard to its implications for South Asian and other low- and middle-income countries	Dr Abdul Ghaffar, Executive Director of the WHO Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research
08:26 – 08:30pm (IST) ⁷ 10:56 – 11:00pm (SGT) 09:56 – 10:00am (EST) 02:56 – 03:00pm (GMT) 08:56 – 09pm (BST) 07:56 – 08:00pm (PKT)	Closing remarks	Prof Asita de Silva & Prof Tazeen Jafar

¹ Nepal time: 7:15 – 7:25pm NPT ² Nepal time: 7:25 – 7:44pm NPT ³ Nepal time: 7:44 – 7:51pm NPT ⁴ Nepal time: 7:51 – 8:16pm NPT ⁵ Nepal time: 8:16 – 8:31pm NPT ⁶ Nepal time: 8:31 – 8:41pm NPT ⁷ Nepal time: 8:41 – 8:45pm NPT