

CNCDN contributes to the 1st National NCDs Conference, Bangladesh



Date: 26-28 January 2022

The first National Conference on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Bangladesh was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 26 to 28 January 2022 at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.

The conference was organized in collaboration with the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), the Bangladesh Non-Communicable Disease Forum (BNCDF), the Clinical Research Platform Bangladesh, and the Bangladesh Health Reporters' Forum (BHRF). BRAC JPGSPH, BRAC University, was a conference partner. The conference's scientific sessions were organized around four cross-cutting themes: 1. NCD epidemiology; 2. Health systems and NCDs; 3. Current best practices; and 4. NCD prevention and control innovation.

Prof Dr Malay Kanti Mridha, Director of the Centre of Excellence for Non-Communicable Diseases and Nutrition (CNCDN), served on the organizing committee, scientific subcommittee, and jury panel for conference presentations. On 27 January, as an invited speaker, he delivered a speech on South Asia Biobank. Additionally, Prof. Mridha moderated the conference's opening session. During the inaugural session, Mr. MA Mannan, Honorable Minister (Ministry of Planning), Md. Helal Uddin, Additional Secretary and Joint Chief (Planning Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare), Sir Gorge Alleyne, Director Emeritus (PAHO), and other NCD experts spoke.

A group of 50 members from BRAC JPGSPH registered for the conference. A total of 14 abstracts submitted from CNCDN were published in the conference abstract book. Among them, five abstracts were chosen for oral presentations and three for poster presentations.

At the conference, Drs. Tanmoy Sarker, Aysha Anan, Abhijeet Roy, Farzana Tamanna Umme Shaon, and Mr Abu Ahmed Shamim delivered oral presentations. Dr Sarker's presentation on the availability of NCD services and the readiness of the health system was featured on national television channels.

Ms Fahmida Akhter, Dr Sakib Rahman, and Dr Priscilla Khyang presented posters and were also selected for the conference's eight best posters.

The abstracts presented by Ms. Fahmida Akhter, Dr Sakib Rahman, Ms Shahnaz Sharmin, Dr Tanmoy Sarker, Dr Aysha Anan and Dr Abhijeet Roy have been further reviewed, and they have been invited to submit the full manuscript for a special issue of *Frontiers in Public Health* titled "Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health Experiences Before and After the COVID-19 Pandemic."

