BACKGROUND

Cardiovascular disease (CVD), which includes heart attack, stroke and heart failure, is the leading cause of death in the world today, with an estimated 17.5 million deaths per year. Four out of five people who die from CVD are killed by heart attack or stroke, and many of these deaths occur before the age of 70.

Eighty percent of CVD deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. In these resource-limited settings, many people are not aware that they are at risk for CVDs, and poor health outcomes are increasing. The significant differences in survival between high-income and other countries can be attributed to lack of accessible and affordable health care. The economic costs of CVD and hypertension due to premature death, disability, health care costs, and income and productivity losses are enormous. Health costs for CVD in many low- and middle-income countries account for nearly 20% of total health expenses.

Global progress to improve the management of CVD is possible and can be strengthened through standardized and coordinated action, including surveillance and epidemiology.

Today’s symposium will highlight the growing global burden of CVD and the powerful evidence generated from population-level surveys and studies. The session is structured to explore the leading causes of death, including tobacco use, obesity, diabetes, and hypertension; main risk factors that have a direct impact on CVD morbidity and mortality. Discussion will focus on answering the question—can worldwide rates of premature death from CVD be cut in half?

For more information about CTSU, please visit: https://www.ctsu.ox.ac.uk
SESSION 1 | CHAIR: TOM FRIEDEN

8:45am-8:50am  Welcome
Hamid Jafari, CDC

8:50am-9:00am  CDC’s Perspective on Global CVD Control Strategies
Dr. Tom Frieden, CDC

9:00am-9:20am  Epidemiology and Trials: Meta-Analyses
Sarah Lewington, Oxford

9:20am-9:40am  Primary and Secondary Prevention
Sir Richard Peto, Oxford

9:40am-10:00am  Discussion of Strategies
Dr. Tom Frieden, CDC, and Sir Richard Peto, Oxford

10:00am-10:05am  Presentation of the CDC Foundation Hero Award
Dr. Judy Monroe, President and CEO, CDC Foundation

10:05am-10:20am  Risk Factors for Adult Mortality in India: New Evidence
Vendhan Gajalakshmi, Chennai

10:20am-10:35am  Blood Pressure, Adiposity and Stroke Type in China: New Evidence
Ben Lacey and Zhengming Chen, Oxford

10:35am-10:50am  Break

SESSION 2 | CHAIR: SARAH LEWINGTON

10:55am-11:10am  Diabetes and Death in Mexico: New Evidence
Jesus Alegre and Pablo Kuri, Mexico City, and Jonathan Emberson, Oxford

11:10am-11:25am  Diabetes Control in Mexico: Recent and Future Actions
Pablo Kuri Morales, Mexico City

11:25am-11:40am  Alcohol and Death in Russia: Recent Evidence
David Zaridze and Alex Boroda, Moscow

11:40am-11:55am  Tobacco: Evolution of the Epidemic in the US and China, Old and New Data
Michael Thun, Atlanta, and Zhengming Chen, Oxford

11:55am-12:10pm  Smoking, Drinking and Death in Cuba: New Evidence
Nurys Armas and Alfredo Dueñas, Havana

12:10pm-12:25pm  Large-Scale Population Studies in Low and Middle-Income Countries
Sir Richard Peto, Oxford

12:25pm-12:30pm  Addressing the Challenge
Dr. Judy Monroe, President and CEO, CDC Foundation

SIR RICHARD PETO

Sir Richard Peto, Fellow of the Royal Society, is Professor of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology at the University of Oxford, and co-director of the Clinical Trial Service Unit and Epidemiological Studies Unit (CTSU). He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of London in 1989 for introducing meta-analyses of randomised trials, was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1999 for services to epidemiology, and received the Cancer Research UK Lifetime Achievement Prize in 2010, and the BMJ Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011.

Richard Peto, along with others in the Oxford CTSU, have substantially increased the estimated importance of blood lipids, blood pressure and smoking as causes of premature death through their large randomised trials, large prospective studies, and worldwide meta-analyses. Peto has recently collaborated in major studies of alcohol in Russia and of malaria in Africa and India. His investigations into the worldwide health effects of smoking and benefits of stopping at particular ages have helped to communicate effectively the vast and growing burden of disease from tobacco use; have helped change national and international attitudes about smoking and public health; and have helped many smokers to stop. He was the first to describe clearly the future worldwide health effects of current smoking patterns, predicting one billion deaths from tobacco in the present century if current smoking patterns persist, as against ‘only’ 100 million in the 20th century.

CDC Foundation Hero Award

The CDC Foundation advances the mission of CDC through philanthropy and public-private partnerships that protect the health, safety and security of America and the world. The CDC Foundation Hero Award recognizes an individual’s significant contribution to improving the public’s health through exemplary work in advancing CDC’s mission. Sir Richard Peto will receive this honor today, for his efforts to save countless lives worldwide by uncovering the root causes of CVD and cancer and bringing data to bear on public policies. He is the ninth recipient of the award.