

## Annual Scientific Meeting: Frequently Asked Questions

---

Last updated: May 2026

---

### What is the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases?

The Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD) is an alliance of public research funding agencies from around the world which together represent 80% of global public funding for health research. GACD's mission is to reduce the burden of chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in low- and middle-income countries, and in underserved populations in high-income countries, including Indigenous communities, by building implementation science evidence to inform national and international NCD policies and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals under section 3.4.

GACD proactively supports networking and collaboration between investigators, implementers, and other team members working on projects funded through a GACD funding call.

---

### What is the Annual Scientific Meeting?

Every year, the GACD hosts its flagship event, the Annual Scientific Meeting. Exclusively for researchers and implementing partners working on GACD-funded projects past and present, and invited funding agency representatives, the Annual Scientific Meeting is a major knowledge sharing and networking event.

It is a unique opportunity for the GACD community to meet, share knowledge and best practice, develop new collaborations, and socialise. Unlike traditional conferences – which can end up being a unidirectional provision of information – the Annual Scientific Meeting creates an empowering learning environment.

The aims of the Annual Scientific Meeting are:

- To provide a platform for information flow from individual GACD projects and relevant experts to the wider Research Network and Associate Members.
- To facilitate knowledge sharing between projects, Research Programmes, and working groups.
- To facilitate introductions, networking, and collaboration between researchers.

It normally takes place as an in-person event over two to three days towards the end of the calendar year.

It is organised by the GACD secretariat and often jointly hosted with a nominated Associate Member.

---

### Who can attend?

#### For active GACD projects

In the first instance, two people from each GACD project are invited to attend. At least one should be from a low/middle-income country or a member of an Indigenous community. We strongly encourage early-career researchers to attend.

In addition, a third delegate place is open to project teams who wish to bring a policymaker as part of their project representation. We will be encouraging participation of policymakers in the ASM.

Project teams should draw funds from their project budgets for travel and accommodation.

Closer to the date of the ASM, the GACD team reviews registrations and, pending numbers, will open registration to allow project teams to send more than two delegates.

### **For completed GACD projects**

Members of the GACD community whose projects have ended who wish to participate in the Annual Scientific Meeting are welcome to register at no cost; however, they must secure their own funding for travel and accommodation.

### **For GACD-CONNECT alumni**

Following the successful pilot in 2025, GACD-CONNECT alumni will be invited to apply to attend. Up to 10 alumni from GACD Schools and Masterclasses, who have no other connection with GACD, will be selected. Selected alumni must secure their own funding for travel and accommodation.

---

### **Who else is invited?**

- Two delegates from each GACD-funded project team.
- Representatives from GACD [Associate Members](#) (funding agencies).
- Invited guests, including external speakers.

---

### **Is there a registration fee?**

There is no registration fee for delegates, speakers, and invited guests. GACD covers lunches and break time refreshments during the event. Typically, GACD will also cover some evening meals as part of the social programme.

---

### **What other costs are associated with attending?**

Delegates will need to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements, but there is money available to cover these costs. The designated funds are included in the total project budget that each project team has received via their funding agency.

Delegates are responsible for obtaining and paying for the relevant visas or travel permissions to enter the country of the event.

Delegates are strongly encouraged to purchase personal travel insurance.

---

### **Do you have any travel bursaries?**

There is designated funding specifically for attending the event included in the total project funding received from the relevant funding agency. There are no additional travel bursaries available from GACD.

---

### **Can I bring my husband/wife/partner/other?**

We do not expect any 'plus ones' to join in the Annual Scientific Meeting sessions or socials. The event is for members of the Research Network and invited guests, and this extends to the sessions, refreshments, and meals.

Occasionally, we can accommodate a 'plus one' to a dinner or social event. However, in this situation we cannot confirm (either way) until the last minute when we know if there is a space or not. Please note we cannot accommodate under 18s.

This policy does not preclude you travelling with your husband/wife/partner/other, them sharing your room, or spending your free time with them – this is at your discretion but may fall under your institution’s travel policy.

---

### **How do I provide feedback on the programme?**

Delegates are invited to feedback on early drafts of the programme via the registration form. In addition, any member of the Research Network is welcome to share comments and suggestions via email with the [GACD Research Capacity Manager](#).

In addition, delegates can opt in to an agenda review group. Members of the Research Network at any stage of their career are welcome to be involved and we particularly encourage early-career researchers to volunteer. This group is invited to provide quick-turnaround feedback as the programme develops.

---

### **I want to be a speaker/presenter/facilitator at the event, how do I do that?**

In the first instance, you can nominate yourself via the registration form. We recommend including any initial ideas on the topic and aims of your proposed session, and how it is relevant to the broader GACD Research Network.

If it is closer to the event, you can email the [GACD Research Capacity Manager](#) to discuss your ideas.

---

### **Will there be photography at the event?**

Photography and filming take place at GACD in-person events, such as the Annual Scientific Meeting. It is likely that images and videos containing your likeness (‘identifying personal data’) will be used for GACD communications. We seek consent from attendees via the registration form to use their likeness in our communications and promotional activities (social media, website, print, and other reasonable materials).

Images are stored in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018.

---

### **Will the event be recorded?**

The Annual Scientific Meeting is not recorded and is not a hybrid event (i.e., it is not possible to join online). The two exceptions to this are the Annual Scientific Meetings held in 2020 and 2021, which were delivered online. The recordings can be accessed [here](#).

The online satellite event of the Annual Scientific Meeting – the Research Programme workshop – usually takes place two to three weeks in advance. This workshop is open to all members of the Research Network to discuss their project progress and is recorded. The recording is made available exclusively to members of the Research Network.