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**Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases welcomes New Zealand as new member**

New Zealand’s Health Research Council has joined the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases.

This new collaboration with New Zealand’s key research funder will further strengthen the GACD research network in the region.

“Welcoming New Zealand to our expanding network of funders and research programmes will expand the reach of non-communicable diseases health research for vulnerable populations in the region. By joining the GACD, New Zealand join a unique network of global funders that jointly support research, providing evidence to influence policy.”

*Prof. Glenda Gray, chair of the GACD*

With three active research programmes on hypertension, diabetes and lung diseases underway and the GACD’S largest call to date on mental health due to launch towards the end of the year, HRC New Zealand join the alliance at an interesting time of expansion.

“We welcome the opportunity to join a unique collaboration of the world’s largest health research funders. Through the alliance, New Zealand’s researchers join a unique network of researchers in the field of implementation science, benefitting from cross collaborations and capacity building.”

*Kathryn McPherson, Executive Director HRC, New Zealand.*

**Background**

HRC, New Zealand. manages the Government’s investment in health research. They invest in a broad range of research on issues important to New Zealand and support the development of health research careers.

New Zealand become the GACD’s 14th alliance member

The Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD) is a collection of the world's largest public health research funding agencies. We fund joint programmes into lifestyle related or chronic diseases (cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, certain cancers, lung diseases and mental disorders).

The alliance coordinates and supports research activities that address the prevention and treatment of chronic non-communicable diseases, on a global scale. These conditions account for 60 percent of deaths globally. Our multi-country, multi-disciplinary research focuses in particular on the needs of low- and middle-income countries, where 80% of deaths from chronic diseases occur. We also focus on research with vulnerable populations of more developed countries.

The GACD is the first collaboration of major research funding agencies to specifically address
chronic non-communicable diseases. Together, the members of the alliance represent over 80% of public health research funding worldwide. Members of the alliance are:

- Australia’s National Health and Medical Research Council
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences
- The U.K.’s Medical Research Council
- The U.S.’s National Institutes of Health
- Indian Council of Medical Research
- South African Medical Research Council
- European Commission’s Health Directorate in the Research & Innovation DG
- Mexico’s National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition Salvador Zubirán
- Thailand’s Health Systems Research Institute
- Argentina’s Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation
- The Japanese Agency for Medical Research and Development
- Brazil’s São Paulo Research Foundation FAPESP
- New Zealand’s Health Research Council

**For more information**

For further information please visit the GACD website: [www.gacd.org](http://www.gacd.org)

Press contact: gacd@ucl.ac.uk

FAPESP is a public foundation, funded by the taxpayer in the State of São Paulo, with the mission to support research projects in higher education and research institutions, in all fields of knowledge.