



PRESS RELEASE

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UNIVERSITAS PADJADJARAN HOSTS MEETING TO COMBAT RESPIRATORY DISEASE

World-leading experts gather in Bandung to share the latest in respiratory research from across the globe

Respiratory conditions are responsible for one in five deaths globally. Today, world-leading researchers are gathering in Bandung for the NIHR Global Health Research Unit on Respiratory Health (RESPIRE)'s Annual Scientific Meeting to further collaboration and showcase the breadth of research being undertaken to prevent the burden of respiratory disease in Asia.

RESPIRE's Annual Scientific Meeting takes place from the 26th to 28th September 2023, and is the research unit's first time convening in Indonesia since its inception in 2016. Universitas Padjadjaran and Universitas Gadjah Mada welcome RESPIRE partners from across South Asia and the UK to Bandung, highlighting the need for further investment into respiratory health research in Indonesia.

The three-day meeting includes an External Showcase on the 27th September 2023, where honoured guests from the West Java Health Office and World Health Organization will reflect on priorities to tackle respiratory health. Research teams will present the latest from their studies during poster display and digital showcase sessions.

Funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), RESPIRE aims to deliver low-cost, scalable policy and clinical interventions through collaboration with partners based in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. RESPIRE's research programmes cover infectious diseases - for example tuberculosis and pneumonia, non-communicable diseases - including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and preventable risk factors - such as air quality and tobacco usage.

Respiratory health in Indonesia

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that in Indonesia, Tuberculosis (TB) and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) were the 4th most common cause of death for women and men respectively in 2019. Exposure to poor air quality is a growing concern, with estimates showing that 66% of children aged 13-15 and 51% of adults are regularly exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke. In August 2023, Jakarta topped global charts for poor air quality – prompting media attention on the impact of air quality on respiratory health.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic positioning respiratory health as a key public health concern, there is an ongoing need for local and regional research to provide the evidence needed to implement best practice and care. With the support of collaborations like RESPIRE, governments and policy makers can draw on findings to inform policy to improve respiratory health for all.

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Notes to editors

About the NIHR Global Health Research Unit on Respiratory Health (RESPIRE)

RESPIRE aims to reduce the number of deaths and wider health and societal impacts from respiratory diseases in South Asia.

Co-led by the University of Edinburgh and Universiti Malaya, RESPIRE partners based in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka collaborate to deliver low-cost, scalable policy and clinical interventions to reduce respiratory disease and death in Asia.

Our world-leading Unit will:

- Build research capacity in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)
- Ensure research is driven by the needs/priorities of LMIC populations
- Build equitable/respectful partnerships
- Engage stakeholders, including communities
- Strengthen capacity to translate research findings into impact

RESPIRE is funded by the UK National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) (Global Health Research Unit on Respiratory Health (RESPIRE); 16/136/109 and NIHR132826) using UK aid from the UK Government to support global health research. The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NIHR or the UK Government.

Learn more at www.ed.ac.uk/usher/respire/ or @RESPIREGlobal on Twitter/X and Facebook

The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR)

The NIHR is the nation's largest funder of health and care research. The NIHR:

- Funds, supports and delivers high quality research that benefits the NHS, public health and social care
- Engages and involves patients, carers and the public in order to improve the reach, quality and impact of research
- Attracts, trains and supports the best researchers to tackle the complex health and care challenges of the future
- Invests in world-class infrastructure and a skilled delivery workforce to translate discoveries into improved treatments and services
- Partners with other public funders, charities and industry to maximise the value of research to patients and the economy

The NIHR was established in 2006 to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research, and is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care. In addition to its national role, the NIHR supports applied health research for the direct and primary benefit of people in low- and middle-income countries, using UK aid from the UK government.