**Mandate**

The overall goal of the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases is to tackle the burden of chronic non-communicable diseases in low and middle-income countries by systematically building the evidence base for sound policymaking. GACD is a collection of the world’s biggest publicly funded research agencies and their first collaboration to specifically address chronic non-communicable diseases.

The initial strategy is directed at:

1. Coordination - To build increasing levels of research collaboration across the member agencies
2. Awareness - To create a platform for raising general awareness and conducting outreach beyond the original founding members
3. Capacity-building - To develop and maintain global knowledge-sharing platforms in the conduct and management of chronic non-communicable diseases research in low and middle-income countries.

**Founding document**

There are two levels of engagement in GACD:

- A Memorandum of Understanding between the Chair of the GACD (on behalf of all member organisations) and the University College London (UCL) hosting the GACD International Secretariat.
- A Funding Agreement between all member organisations, in which member organisations commit to jointly define and fund common R&D topics and support cooperation between funded researchers.

**Membership**

GACD’s member organisations are publicly funded research agencies, currently from eight BRICS and developed countries, namely:

- Australia’s National Health Medical Research Council
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- China’s Ministry of Health in association with the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences
- The U.K.’s Medical Research Council
- The U.S.’s National Institutes of Health, specifically its National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the Fogarty International Centre (FIC), the National Cancer Institute, and the National Institute of Mental Health
- The Indian Medical Research Council
- The Medical Research Council of South Africa
- The European Commission

Together, the members of the alliance represent 80% of public health research funding worldwide. WHO and University College London are affiliated to GACD as observers.

**Governance**

Board of Members
Management Committee
Joint Technical Steering Committee (JTSC)
International Secretariat

**Diseases and technologies covered**

Research activities that address the prevention and treatment of lifestyle related NCDs or chronic non-communicable diseases.

Technologies: medicinal products (drugs, vaccines) as well as healthcare delivery (including diagnostics) or health systems related research and innovation.

Disease areas: non-communicable, chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, lifestyle related cancers, lung disease and mental health

**Funding**

To finance the GACD International Secretariat in London, member organisations pay annual cash contributions. To support collaborative R&D activities, member organisations make pledges for directing funding for jointly agreed topics through coordinated or joint calls for proposals. GACD’s focus is on launching jointly agreed funding opportunities in intervention research and implementation research with special consideration for how these interventions impact vulnerable populations in both low and middle-income countries (LMICs) as well as indigenous and low-income populations in developed
| **Experience in funding and managing R&D** | Funding R&D: GACD aims for the alignment of R&D funding flows with common objectives and jointly agreed calls for proposals on lifestyle-related or chronic diseases. The alliance coordinates and supports research activities that address the prevention and treatment of NCDs or chronic NCDs on a global scale. 
Managing R&D: GACD does not perform R&D activities or manage R&D projects, but supports the collaboration and coordination of researchers and R&D activities jointly funded by GACD member organisations. |
| **Criteria to distribute funding publicly available** | Each GACD research programme begins with a decision on the focus of each programme. This decision is made by the GACD Board. The GACD Board may request the support of a Scientific Advisory Task Force. All participating GACD Members will then work together and develop a joint call for applications, which will be announced by the GACD and each funding agency. The review process and the decision on the research projects that will be awarded funding are the responsibility of the funding agencies. Once all applications have been reviewed and the successful research projects have been identified, it will be announced by the GACD and all participating Members. |
| **Minutes of governing body meetings publicly available** | Not available on the website. |
| **Website** | [http://www.gacd.org/](http://www.gacd.org/) |