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A 'Global We' to Take On Cardiovascular Disease

An interview with **Population Health Research Institute** researchers:

Salim Yusuf, Cardiologist, Executive Director

Sonia Anand, Cardiologist

Darryl Leong, Cardiologist

and **Jackie Bosch**, Occupational Therapist

Salim Yusuf

Cardiovascular disease is the number one killer in the world. Most people do not know that 80 percent of cardiovascular disease occurs in low and middle income countries, yet practically no research is done there.

In Canada or the US or the UK, mortality from cardiovascular disease has decreased by 75 percent. This advance has come through collaborative work between different sectors in the community. The academics are important. The epidemiologists are important. The basic scientists are important. And industrial support, because they are smarter than anybody else in producing innovative and effective drugs.

Sonia Anand

Here at the Population Health Research Institute, we work very closely as a team centrally, but we have a tightly knit network, around the world, of investigators, many of whom we've worked with for more than 30 years.



Darryl Leong

This is very satisfying both from a personal perspective - being able to relate with how people in many, many different countries live and work - and also on a professional level in that we really capture the characteristics of multiple populations around the world. This is a really unique opportunity.

Jackie Bosch

We can we get ahead of the wave on this? How can we actually start to look at means to prevent cardiovascular disease? There is no doubt that public health initiatives are essential. Physical activity, nutrition, smoking cessation top the list, but that doesn't mean we don't need additional treatments when these fail or people are finding it difficult with these measures. We do need to do something to curb this issue, and we being a global we.