



PARALLEL SESSION 2.5

BEST BUYS, WASTED BUYS AND CONTROVERSIES IN NCD PREVENTION



| BACKGROUND

The world is facing a spectre of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which will diminish the length and quality of life, interact with existing health conditions, raise household and public health expenditures, and increase the burden of care on family members. A number of policies have been implemented to fight NCDs and studies have shown some interventions to be 'best buys' whereas others are 'wasted buys'. Most NCDs can be preventable and, given the generally lower cost and simpler delivery of preventive interventions, a move towards preventive rather than curative interventions could be attractive. Another approach that is gaining prominence in discussions of NCDs is 'do-it-yourself' or DIY interventions. NCDs are by definition not contagious or infectious and people develop them over the course of their lives for many reasons including those to do with lifestyle. As such, they can be prevented if people modify their lifestyles (i.e., in DIY interventions). At present, there is no definitive collection of evidence on 'best buys', 'wasted buys', and DIY interventions for the prevention of the NCD burden that governments, health professionals, NCD program managers, and healthy lifestyle promotion personnel can use.

| OBJECTIVES

This session will introduce an upcoming information package which aims to provide details on Best Buys, Wasted Buys, and DIYs in NCD prevention focusing on cardiovascular diseases (heart disease and stroke), diabetes, chronic lung disease and cancers. This work is not intended to offer a one-size-fits-all approach for making recommendations on NCD prevention. It seeks instead to identify how different systems can create and utilize information for identifying interventions offering best value for their populations.





Moderator

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Anthony J Culyer is emeritus professor of economics at York (England); Senior Fellow at the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto; Visiting Professor at Imperial College London, and Chair of the International Decision Support Initiative. He was the founding Organiser of the UK Health Economists' Study Group. For 33 years he was the founding co-editor, with Joe Newhouse, of *Journal of Health Economics*. He was founding Vice Chair of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). For many years he was chair of the Department of Economics & Related Studies at York and, for six of them, was also deputy vice-chancellor. He has received many honours, including Founding Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences (1998), Commander of the British Empire (CBE) (1999), Honorary Doctor of Economics, (Stockholm School of Economics, 1999), Fellowship of the Royal Society of Arts (1999), Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of London (2003). Honorary Membership of the Finnish Society for Health Economics (2013), Baxter Foundation's William B. Graham Prize for Health Services Research (2015), Emmett Hall Laureate and Hall Lecturer (2015), and the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) Avedis Donabedian Outcomes Research Lifetime Achievement Award (2015). He has published widely, mostly in health economics. The third edition of his *The Dictionary of Health Economics* (Edward Elgar) came out in 2014. A collection of his non-technical essays called *The Humble Economist* is available on-line free of charge. He has been an amateur church organist, choir director and music composer.