Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is prevalent in low- and middle-income countries, with most patients remaining undiagnosed. This symposium will address the difficulties related to diagnosis, in particular the varying definition of COPD and the limitations inherent to low-resource settings. Therapeutic challenges include avoidance of risk factors, primarily smoking, and access to appropriate drugs. Finally, the control of chronic respiratory disease in resource-limited settings will be addressed globally.

**Target audience**
Physicians, nurses, programme managers in respiratory health care, and other health care practitioners involved in managing respiratory diseases.

**Objectives**
1. To present propositions to improve recognition of patients with COPD
2. To discuss therapeutic challenges in low- and middle-income countries
3. To open new avenues to improve the global management of chronic respiratory diseases

**Keywords**
COPD; chronic respiratory diseases; diagnosis; tobacco; drug therapy; low-and middle-income countries

**Coordinator(s)**
Jean-william Fitting (Switzerland)

**Chair(s)**

**Presentations**

14:00 - 14:15 Despite a high disease burden and financial cost, why does COPD continue to be so neglected?

14:20 - 14:35 Diagnosing COPD in resource limited-settings

14:40 - 14:55 Targeting smoking cessation in patients with chronic respiratory diseases

15:00 - 15:15 Choice of drugs for COPD patients

15:20 - 15:35 Access to non-communicable disease essential medicines

15:40 - 15:55 Control of chronic respiratory diseases in resource limited settings