



**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES**  
ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

P R O F E S S O R I A L   I N A U G U R A L   L E C T U R E

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# PROFESSOR TERENCE SEEMUNGAL

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE

## The Rise of Non-communicable Diseases: definitely not a breath of fresh air!

Human disease is classified as communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Even though NCDs cause 63% of global deaths WITH 80% occurring in the developing world, they account for less than 3% of global health aid. NCDs are: diabetes, cardiac disease, common cancers and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The major cause of COPD is smoking but in the developing world, there is a significant component of non-smokers. COPD patients are subject to periodic acute deteriorations of their symptoms called COPD exacerbations caused by viruses or bacteria and lead to deterioration in quality of life and daily symptoms. Several interventions have been shown to improve quality of life or decrease COPD exacerbations. A recent study has showed that low dose erythromycin decreased exacerbations by 35%. Exercise, high fibre diets and the giving up of smoking have been shown to decrease the risk of COPD.

**Thursday 10th November, 2011, 5.30 p.m.**

The Learning Resource Centre  
UWI, St. Augustine Campus

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