

# Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Comorbidities

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**Norbert Berend, AM MB BS MD FRACP MAICD**

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Sydney, Australia**



## About the speaker

Professor Berend holds visiting and honorary professorships at 3 Chinese universities. He has a strong research background with the latest NHMRC grant being conducted entirely in China. His administrative experience extends to having been Head of the Department of Respiratory Medicine at the Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney, Executive Director of the Royal North Shore Hospital, and serving as Director of the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research for 12 years, a position from which he retired in June 2012. He is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He has been heavily involved in national and international respiratory societies having been President of the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand and the Asia Pacific Society of Respiriology. He has also served on the Council of the European Respiratory Society and has been a member of the Board of the American Thoracic Society. In 2003, Norbert was made a Member of the Order of Australia for service to respiratory medicine as a researcher, administrator and educator. In 2011, he was Chairman of the Forum of International Respiratory Societies. In 2012, Norbert was given an Award of Merit and made an Honorary Member of the European Respiratory Society in recognition of outstanding contributions to the development of respiratory medicine.

## About the lecture

It is known that Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is associated with increased hypertension, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, osteoporosis, muscle weakness and a number of other conditions. These comorbidities have traditionally been regarded as coexistent medical conditions but increasingly they are now being regarded as causally related to COPD. These comorbidities have an important effect on the quality of life, morbidity and mortality of COPD and are having an effect on disease management and treatment outcomes. The link between COPD and comorbidities may be through systemic inflammation which opens up new treatment options.

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