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Time for a change: anticipating the diagnosis and treatment of COPD

Alvar Agusti^{1,2}, Bernardino Alcazar ^{2,3}, Borja Cosio ^{2,4}, Jose Maria Echave⁵, Rosa Faner², Jose Luis Izquierdo^{6,7}, Jose Maria Marin ^{2,8}, Juan Jose Soler-Cataluña⁹ and Bartolome Celli ¹⁰, on behalf of the Scientific Committee of the ANTES programme

Affiliations: ¹Respiratory Institute, Hospital Clinic, Univ. Barcelona, IDIBAPS, Barcelona, Spain. ²Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red Enfermedades Respiratorias (CIBERES), Madrid, Spain. ³AIG de Medicina, Department of Respiratory Medicine, Hospital de Alta Resolución de Loja, Loja, Spain. ⁴Hospital Universitario Son Espases, Universitat de les Illes Balears, Palma de Mallorca, Spain. ⁵Hospital Universitario Quirónsalud Madrid, Madrid, Spain. ⁶Departamento de Medicina y Especialidades, Universidad de Alcalá, Madrid, Spain. ⁷Servicio de Neumología, Hospital Universitario de Guadalajara, Guadalajara, Spain. ⁸Hospital Miguel Servet, University of Zaragoza and IIS Aragón, Zaragoza, Spain. ⁹Department of Respiratory Medicine, Hospital Arnau de Vilanova-Llíria, Valencia, Spain. ¹⁰Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA.

Correspondence: Alvar Agusti, Respiratory Institute, Hospital Clinic, Villarroel 170, 08036 Barcelona, Spain. E-mail: aagusti@clinic.cat



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COPD is often not diagnosed, or is diagnosed too late. It is time for a change that anticipates both diagnosis and treatment. <https://bit.ly/2BrDSv1>

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COPD is a major public health problem because of its high prevalence (about 10% of the adult population), rising incidence (likely related to the ageing of the population), associated morbi-mortality (it is currently the third leading cause of death globally), and personal, social and economic costs [1]. The traditional way to address this problem has been to reduce smoking exposure, the main environmental risk factor for COPD [1]. Although this was, is and will be, a key public-health strategy, we argue here that it is not enough. If we want to eradicate COPD [2], it is time for a change that anticipates the diagnosis and treatment of the disease.