ISPM **Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine**
BIHAM **Berner Institut für Hausarztmedizin**
CTU **Clinical Trial Unit**

UNIVERSITÄT BERN

Thursday Seminar

Dr Rajiv Chowdhury works as an Associate Professor in Global Health, leads the Global Health theme of the Cardiovascular Epidemiology Unit of the University of Cambridge, and serves as a Country Expert in the IHME/WHO Global Burden of Disease study. Dr Chowdhury is the lead Principal Investigator (PI) of the 16,000-participant BRAVE case-control study of acute CHD in Bangladesh, the 50,000-participant population-based BELIEVE prospective cohort study in Bangladesh, the 10,000-participant population-based SHINES cohort study in Sri Lanka, and the 10,000-participant MAVERIK case-control study of acute CHD in Malaysia. He also serves as the joint PI and Scientific Director of the CAPABLE Global Health program in Cambridge, which was earlier underpinned by a £8.4M global health grant from the Research Councils UK. Professionally, Rajiv is a qualified physician who also obtained an MPhil in Cardiovascular Epidemiology (as a Commonwealth scholar) and a PhD in Global Public Health (as a Gates scholar) from the University of Cambridge, UK. He has also received advanced training in Nutritional Epidemiology at the Imperial College London, in Clinical Trials at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and in Genetic Epidemiology at the Netherlands Institute of Health Sciences. Rajiv has published extensively in areas related to NCDs and presently has ~100 peer-reviewed publications (including those in premier biomedical journals: Science, Nature, NEJM, Lancet, JAMA and BMJ). He has received significant global media attention for his research on the environmental and nutritional basis of CVDs, and for his Global Health initiatives. He has been elected a Fellow of the European Society of Cardiology and a Fellow of the UK Royal Society for Public Health. In 2013, Rajiv received the Bill Gates Senior Award for contributions to global health.

«The value of large-scale global health research: the Cambridge experience in South(east) Asia»

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) including cardiovascular conditions remain the single leading cause of death and disability worldwide. The majority of all premature NCD deaths, however, tend to occur in low- and middle income countries. While the traditional cardiovascular risk factors remain relevant to these settings, the significant high risk observed in these non-Western populations may further be explained by local, but yet-to-be-characterized, unique risk factors. It is, therefore, essential to investigate how individual and joint roles of local environmental, biological, and genetic factors might influence the NCDs in non-Western populations. To do this, Dr Chowdhury's team at the University of Cambridge has established several large-scale, ongoing collaborative studies which are examining potential synergistic roles of unique environmental and hereditary determinants among South(east) Asians, and their likely adverse health consequences.

Join the seminar on Thursday, November 22, 2018 at 4:00 pm in room 324!