



Sonu Goel

Candidate - Member Delegate representing Africa, Asia, Oceania and Latin America

Prof. (Dr.) Sonu Goel is one of India's foremost experts in tobacco and nicotine research, whose career has been dedicated to advancing evidence, shaping policy, and strengthening regulatory capacity for tobacco control. With over 15 years of sustained work in the field of tobacco control, he has consistently addressed the evolving challenges of tobacco use, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where the burden of tobacco-related disease remains highest.

As **Professor at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh**, and **Director of the WHO Regional Director-General Awardee Resource Centre for Tobacco Control (RCTC)**, Prof. Goel has spearheaded research on tobacco cessation, WHO FCTC Article 5.3, and product regulation. As the **convenor** of the

Scientific Support Group established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, to strengthen the implementation of the WHO FCTC Articles 9 and 10 in India, guiding regulatory science, capacity building, and evidence-based policymaking to reduce tobacco-related harm nationwide. He has been instrumental in India's progress in regulatory science, particularly under Articles 9 and 10 of the WHO FCTC, by guiding the strengthening of the National Tobacco Testing Laboratories (NTTLs). His leadership at RCTC has provided technical support to policymakers, civil society, and academia, creating a strong evidence base for tobacco control in India.

Prof. Goel's research portfolio includes over **270 peer-reviewed publications**, policy briefs, and technical reports. His scholarly impact is reflected in **an i10 index of 90, hindex of 31, over 3,524 citations**, and a ResearchGate (RG) score of 2,580, demonstrating the significance and global outreach of his ongoing work. He has conducted pioneering research across multiple dimensions of tobacco control, addressing both demand- and supply-side interventions. His work integrates evidence generation, policy analysis, and regulatory science to inform effective strategies for reducing tobacco use, strengthening cessation services, and countering industry interference at national and global levels.

At the international level, Prof. Goel is **currently leading the MPOWER Research Group of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union)**, where he advances collaborative research on tobacco regulation, cessation, and surveillance. He has also served as **Vice Chair and Chair (2019–2024) of the Tobacco Control Section of The Union**, shaping global research and advocacy efforts. As **Member of the Global Alliance for Tobacco Control (GATC) Expert Group 2.1**, he contributes to examine and develop "forwardlooking tobacco control measures". As **Country Coordinator for the South Asian Regional Consortium Centre for Capacity Building in Tobacco Control (SARCCCT)**, he leads monitoring of tobacco industry tactics in India and supports governments in responding with evidence-based regulation.

A hallmark of his work has been the **translation of research into policy and programmatic action**. In the last five years, he has led numerous extramural projects including trials on shared decision-making for tobacco cessation (DST-SERB), capacitybuilding and MPOWER implementation (The Union), impact reviews of electronic nicotine delivery systems (WHO), and state-level enforcement assessments of tobacco legislation. He has also directed departmental and PGIMER led projects on behavioral interventions for tobacco cessation and integrated health program evaluations, while ongoing research includes national capacity building initiatives, strengthening NTTLs and FCTC implementation (MoHFW), and training community health officers in Odisha (NHM).

In recognition of his scholarly excellence, Prof. Goel has been named a 2024 Top Scholar by ScholarGPS, placing him in the top **0.5%** of scholars worldwide for his outstanding research performance, impact, and quality of contributions. Through more than 15 years of sustained leadership in tobacco and nicotine research, Prof. Goel continues to shape global tobacco control by advancing regulatory science, countering industry interference, and translating high quality evidence into meaningful public health action.

2025/2026 SRNT Disclosure of Competing Interest Form

Name: Prof. (Dr.) Sonu Goel Date: 18.10.2025

Please provide the name of all sources of funding or salary support from any of the following sources during the past 5 years. Please write the name of the source in the box that best represents the type of funding received or the nature of your relationship. If you have no relationship in a given category, check the "No relationship" box.

Type of Relationship	Commercial Tobacco Product (vape, chewable, etc.) <u>Manufacturer</u>	Nicotine Product <u>Manufacturer</u> (Pharmaceutical Company)	Gov't Agency Private Foundation	Advocacy or Public Health <u>Organization</u>	Any Other
<u>No Relationship</u> ✓ ✓ ✓ X ✓ X ✓	relationship	No relationship	relationship	relationship	No relationship
Full or Part Time	Full time employment	No relationship	No relationship	No relationship	<u>relationship</u> No relationship
<u>Employment</u> <u>Consultancy</u> ¹		No relationship	relationship	No relationship	No relationship
<u>Honoraria</u> ²		No relationship	No relationship	<u>relationship</u> No relationship	relationship
Research grant, or contract	No relationship	No relationship	No <u>relationship</u>	No relationship	No relationship
Ownership of stock shares or equity ³	No <u>relationship</u>	No relationship	No relationship	relationship	No <u>relationship</u> No relationship
Paid expert testimony	No <u>relationship</u>	No relationship	No relationship	No <u>relationship</u> No relationship	No <u>relationship</u> No relationship
<u>Patent</u>	No relationship	No relationship	No <u>relationship</u>	<u>relationship</u> Research Grants	No relationship
Receipt of product or database for research	No relationship	No relationship	No <u>relationship</u>	No relationship	<u>relationship</u> No relationship
No relationship	No relationship	No <u>relationship</u>	No relationship	No	relationship

Indirect	No relationship	No relationship	No relationship	No	No	No	No
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funding of any sort				relationship	relationship	relationship	relationship
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Other relationship (specify on following page)	No relationship	No relationship	No relationship	No relationship	No relationship	No relationship	No relationship
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¹Consultancy is defined a payment from an organization for providing advice or expertise on a topic.

²Honoraria are payments for making a presentation to scientists, clinicians, administrators, the press, etc.

³Does not include ownership of mutual funds that may include stocks in these industries.

For every funding source listed in the table on page 1, specify the nature of the relationship and ANY potential conflict:

Please list future funding sources that are either in process or approved but not yet in force:

List of the Research Grants

Name of Project Sponsoring Agency

Strengthening National Tobacco Testing Laboratories and Articles 9 and 10 of the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in the Indian Subcontinent
Bolster Tobacco Control in India through capacity building, networking, and partnerships, comprehensive MPOWER implementation and stopping Tobacco Industry Interference (TII)
Advancing Primary Healthcare of Odisha through undertaking capacity building of Community Health Officers (CHOs)
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

Vital Strategies

National Health Mission, Odisha

International Public Health Management Development Program Indian Technial and Economic Cooperation, Ministry of External Affairs,
Government of
India

Efficacy of shared decision making for tobacco cessation at primary care level – randomized controlled trial DST-Science & Engineering and
Research Board

Impact assessment of LaQshaya in Haryana Haryana State Resource Centre
Advancing Tobacco control at National and Sub-National level through (ENDS) on health and its efficacy and safety on tobacco cessation
capacity building, MPOWER implementation and support to National International Union Against TB and Lung Diseases (The Union)
Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) (Phase-II) Conducting an World Health Organization
umbrella review on impact of Electronic Nicotine Delivery system

Evaluation of National Tobacco Quitline Services World Health Organization
Strengthening Management of Hypertension Services through capacity of Tobacco Users attending Non
Building, Media and Communication, and Stakeholders Engagement in Communicable Clinics of Punjab. (Phase II)
the State of Punjab.(Phase II) Global Health Advocacy Incubator.
Advancing Tobacco control at National and Sub-National level through International Union Against TB and Lung Diseases (The Union).
capacity building, MPOWER implementation and support to National State Tobacco Control Cell, Dept. of Health and Family Welfare, Punjab
Tobacco Control Program (NTCP). (Phase II) Intervention on Behavior

Efficacy of behavioral change intervention package for tobacco cessation in tertiary healthcare
setting Randomized Controlled Trial. (Phase II)

PGIMER
Research scheme

