



Workshop

Broad-spectrum anti-viral therapeutics:

a key tool for
pandemic preparedness

Speakers

Brussels, 22-23 November 2022



Stephan Becker

Professor and Chair

Philipps-Universität Marburg,
Institut für Virology

Stephan Becker, PhD, is Professor of Virology and Director of the Institute of Virology at Philipps University Marburg. His research focuses on emerging viruses such as the Ebola virus, the Marburg virus and the MERS coronavirus. In addition to basic research on the biology and pathogenesis of the aforementioned viruses, his laboratory is involved in translational research to develop antivirals and vaccines against emerging viruses, from early preclinical steps to immune monitoring in clinical trials. He is a Fellow of the National Academy Leopoldina and Deputy Spokesperson of the Emerging Infections Section at the German Center for Infection Research (DZIF, www.dzif.de/en). Stephan Becker coordinates a Collaborative Research Center funded by the German Research Foundation (www.sfb1021.de/home.html) and a government-funded Center for the Identification of Targets to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases (<https://www.loewe-druid.de>). He has published over 170 research papers with an h-index (Google Scholar) of 79 and over 25,000 citations. In 2014/2015, his laboratory supported the four phase 1 clinical trials of the VSV-ZEBOV vaccine as part of the WHO-led VEBCON consortium.



Sanjay Bhagani

*Consultant Physician and
Associate Professor*

Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust
and UCL

Sanjay Bhagani is an Infectious Diseases specialist in London. His team were at the forefront of delivering clinical trials in hospitalised patients with COVID-19 during the first three waves of the pandemic in the UK. He is a member of the Expert Panel for the Joint Access Advisory Mechanism for the European COVID-19 Adaptive Platform Trials. He was previously a member of the Scientific Advisory Group of the AGILE platform and Early Phase trials for the COVID-19 Therapeutics Advisory Panel, UK.



Eeva Broberg

Principal expert
ECDC

Eeva Broberg works as a principal expert in microbiology at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in Stockholm, Sweden. Currently, she coordinates European COVID-19 laboratory and influenza reference laboratory networks and SARS-CoV-2 virus characterisation working group. She is involved also in influenza, COVID-19 and RSV surveillance activities. In 2020-2021, she was the laboratory topic team lead in ECDC's COVID-19 response team. Earlier, she has focussed on external quality assessment for ECDC disease programme laboratory networks, coordinating the genetic epidemiology work at ECDC and other microbiology activities at the Centre. In her role as the deputy head of the influenza and other respiratory viruses disease programme, she focussed on surveillance and threat detection of all respiratory diseases incorporated in the programme, chiefly influenza and RSV. Docent Broberg has a MSc in biochemistry and a PhD in virology and immunology from the University of Turku, Finland, where she was also involved in virologic diagnostics. She has completed two post-doctoral fellowships, one at Harvard Medical School and one at University of Turku.



Cristina Cassetti

Division Deputy Director
NIH, NIAID

Cristina Cassetti is the Deputy Director of the Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (DMID) at the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), a component of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Cassetti has a Ph.D. in virology from the University of Rome, Italy. For over a decade she conducted research on virology and vaccine design at the NIH, Rutgers University and Wyeth (now Pfizer). In 2003 she joined NIAID as a Program Officer for extramural research programs on several emerging viral diseases of global health importance including influenza and dengue. In 2016, she was appointed to coordinate the Zika research response in extramural NIAID and shortly thereafter as Chief of the Virology Branch in DMID. In 2019 she became the Deputy Director of DMID where she shares responsibilities with the director for the overall scientific direction, administration and management of the largest extramural Division at NIAID. Her responsibilities include leading key components of the research response to the COVID pandemic and of the design and implementation of the NIAID Pandemic Preparedness Plan.



Miguel Castanho

Head of Department

Instituto de Medicina Molecular,
University of Lisbon

Miguel Castanho (ORCID 0000-0001-7891-7562) graduated in Biochemistry (1990; University of Lisbon) and obtained a PhD in Molecular Biophysics (1993; Technical University of Lisbon).

The goal of Miguel Castanho's group is to unravel the physical principles that govern interactions at the molecular level of clinically relevant compounds with model cell systems, with the objective of developing new drugs, as well as improving the understanding of the mechanism(s) of action of established drugs. Miguel Castanho has expertise in the design and study of membrane-active peptides with activities ranging from Antiviral, Antimicrobial, Anticancer, Analgesic and Drug delivery using a wide variety of experimental methods, as well as structural biology approaches. One of the main focuses of his research group is the study of antiviral peptide drugs able to transigrate across the Blood-Brain-Barrier (BBB) and target enveloped viruses in the Central Nervous System (CNS). He is the coordinator of the project NOVIRUSES2BRAIN: 'One size fits all' unique drug to eradicate multiple viral species simultaneously from the central nervous system (European Innovation Council ; FET-OPEN, Grant 828774).



Marco Cavaleri

*Head of Health Threats and
Vaccine Strategy*

European Medicines Agency

Marco Cavaleri is Head of Office, Health Threats and vaccines strategy. He is the Chair of EMA COVID-19 Task Force (ETF) and responsible for EMA activities for emergent pathogens, vaccines and AMR. Marco Cavaleri is a Pharmacologist who spent several years in industry in R&D mainly in the area of anti-infectives covering different positions in preclinical and clinical development. In 2005 he joined the EMEA as Scientific Administrator in the Scientific Advice Sector, specifically being in charge of anti-infectives and vaccines scientific advice procedures. In 2009 he was appointed as Head of Section for Anti-infectives and vaccines in the Safety&Efficacy Sector, Human Medicines Development and Evaluation Unit.



Kelly Chibale

Professor

University of Cape Town

Kelly Chibale is a full Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Cape Town (UCT) where he holds the Neville Isdell Chair in African-centric Drug Discovery & Development. He is also a Full Member of the UCT Institute of Infectious Disease & Molecular Medicine, a Tier 1 South Africa Research Chair in Drug Discovery, founding Director of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) Drug Discovery & Development Research Unit at UCT, the Founder and Director of the UCT Drug Discovery and Development Centre (H3D) and the Chairman and CEO of the H3D Foundation. Kelly obtained his PhD in Synthetic Organic Chemistry from the University of Cambridge in the UK (1989-1992). This was followed by postdoctoral stints at the University of Liverpool in the UK (1992-94) and at the Scripps Research Institute in the USA (1994-96). He was a Sandler Sabbatical Fellow at the University of California San Francisco (2002), a US Fulbright Senior Research Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine (2008) and a Visiting Professor at Pfizer in the UK (2008).



Magda Chlebus

*Executive Director Science
& Regulatory Policy*

EFPIA

Magda Chlebus is Executive Director Scientific & Regulatory Affairs at the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA), representing the R&D-based pharmaceutical industry in Europe. Magda and her team are in charge of following policy and legislative developments that influence the research and regulatory environments for the healthcare industry in Europe. This includes public private collaborations (inter alia the Innovative Medicines Initiative and Innovative Health Initiative), the interface between new science and technology and regulation, data and digital policies. She joined EFPIA in 1995. Her experience covers public and government affairs at EU level, on a range of legislative and non-legislative files in the area of research, development and access to medicines and enabling technologies. Magda, a Polish national, holds a Master Degree in Applied Linguistics from the University of Warsaw.



Catherine Decouttere

Research Manager

KU Leuven

Catherine Decouttere holds a Masters in Engineering (KU Leuven) and a PhD in Business economics (KU Leuven) and builds on strong industrial experience in food innovation (soy-based natural products) and human-centered design (product/service/business model). Catherine's research over the past ten years has been oriented towards developing systems design methods grounded in human-centered design, innovation management, and systems thinking with applications in health system design for immunization, HIV control, and pandemic preparedness. Catherine currently manages the Access-to-Medicines Research Centre at the faculty of Economics and Business at KU Leuven which provides decision support for health systems stakeholders towards sustainable One Health impact based on transdisciplinary research covering health impact, product development, manufacturing, distribution, and service delivery.



Jacques Demotes

Director General

ECRIN

Jacques Demotes, MD-PhD, is a neurologist and professor of Cell Biology. After a first career in clinical neurology and neuroscience, he was appointed as head of a clinical research centre and, with the objective of facilitating multinational trials in Europe, he developed ECRIN as a pan-European infrastructure for clinical research, and became its Director General in 2013.



Evelyn Depoortere

Policy Officer

European Commission, RTD

Evelyn Depoortere is a medical doctor, trained in tropical medicine and international public health. She has over 20 years of experience in emergency response and field epidemiology, working in humanitarian emergencies, contributing to many outbreak investigations and response activities, and doing operational research. Evelyn joined the European Commission end of 2015, where she continues working in the area of epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, with a focus on research policy.



Ruxandra Draghia-Akli

Global Head, Global Public Health

Johnson & Johnson

Ruxandra Draghia-Akli, is Global Head, Global Public Health R&D, where she and her team advance global public health into the next era of innovation through discovery, development, and technology capabilities. Under her leadership, GPH R&D adds value and generates new external innovation opportunities. Ruxandra is a cross-sector leader with experience in industry, government, and academia. She led Medical and Scientific Affairs for vaccines at Merck, and worked for the European Commission overseeing research and innovation initiatives, leading public-private partnerships, global programs, and development of novel research financial instruments, while contributing to the Commission's strategy for improving public health.

Ruxandra has a track record of unlocking innovation in biotechnology as both a founder and head of research. Ruxandra holds a M.D. from Carol Davila University, Romania, and a Ph.D. in human genetics from the Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences. She undertook doctoral training at University Rene Descartes (Paris, France) and a postdoctoral training (Houston, Texas), with a focus on rare diseases, molecular biology, gene therapy and novel vaccines.



Gabriella Fesus

Head of Unit

European Commission, INTPA

Gabriella Fésüs is head of unit in charge of health, demography, social inclusion and social protection and the centre of expertise for inequalities at the European Commission, Directorate-General for International Partnerships.

She is a member of the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and alternate member of the Board of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Prior to that, Ms. Fésüs was in charge of the political and interinstitutional coordination unit and has been policy assistant to the Director General in the Directorate General for Regional Policy. She has worked at the Hungarian Ministry of Health on strategic planning of investments and on health and social programs in Sub-Saharan Africa and Central America. She holds a PhD in public health from the University of Debrecen and Masters degrees from the Budapest University of Economics and from the College of Europe in Bruges.



Rachel Glennerster

*Associate Professor
of Economics*

University of Chicago

Dr Rachel Glennerster is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago. She joins the University from her previous post as the Chief Economist of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and member of the FCDO Executive Committee.

Prior to her appointment at the FCDO, she was the Chief Economist of the Department for International Development (DFID) and from 2004-2017, she was Executive Director of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), a research centre in the Economics Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that seeks to reduce poverty by ensuring policy is informed by scientific evidence.

Dr Glennerster's work has spanned reform of the international financial system, debt, promoting innovation, education, health, financial regulation, and women's empowerment in Russia, Africa and South East Asia. In addition to FCDO, DFID and MIT, Dr Glennerster has held positions at the International Monetary Fund, Her Majesty's Treasury and the Harvard Institute for International Development.



Fadima Haidara

Head of Department

CVD-Mali

Fadima Haidara is a medical doctor working in clinical research at CVD-Mali for over fifteen years. She received her MD degree from Faculté de Médecine, de Pharmacie et d'Odonto-Stomatologie, Bamako, Mali. She has been responsible for the daily operations of the Advanced Primary Health Care Research and Clinical Trials Department of CVD-Mali since 2015. During her tenure at CVD-Mali, she has assisted in running trials of the MenAfrivac vaccine sponsored by Meningitis Vaccine Project and of the live, oral, pentavalent rotavirus vaccine (Rotateq) vaccine sponsored by Merck. During the Ebola Outbreak in Mali, she headed the Technical Operation of the Center of Emergencies Operations of Mali in 2014 and headed the first Ebola Phase 1 trial in Mali. Recently, she is working on Azithromycin in pregnant women on SANTE study and infants in LAKANA study sponsored by BMGF.



Siri Hauge

Policy Officer

European Commission, HERA

Medical doctor and epidemiologist, with 15 years' experience in public health, infection control, pandemic preparedness, surveillance and infectious disease epidemiology from national and international organizations.



Marjolein Hensgens

Medical doctor in infectious diseases

UMCU

Since 2020 I work as an infectious diseases specialist at the University Medical Center in Utrecht, the Netherlands. Besides my training in internal medicine and infectious diseases, I am registered as a clinical epidemiologist and I have finished a PhD in 2013. Currently, I am involved as senior researcher in the REMAP-CAP trial concerning the best treatment options for community associated pneumonia, and the EPOXI trial concerning treatment with tecovirimat in monkeypox disease. Since REMAP CAP was designed to prepare for a pandemic, and EPOXI was initiated during a pandemic, both of these experiences can be of value to the meeting.



Isabel Holmquist

Policy Officer

European Commission, HERA

Isabel Holmquist is a policy officer in the research and industry team of the medical countermeasure unit of the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority. She has worked for several years in public health policy including on pharmaceuticals, substances of human origin and tobacco control. Isabel Holmquist joined the European Commission in 2012 and holds a PhD in genetics from Imperial College London.



Christopher Houchens

Director, Division of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Medical Countermeasures

BARDA

Chris Houchens, PhD, is the Director of the Division of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Countermeasures within the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), a component of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. His primary role is building and managing a diverse product portfolio focused on the advanced research, development and procurement of novel vaccines, prophylactics, therapeutics, diagnostics and devices as medical countermeasures against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats. In this role, Dr. Houchens conducts outreach with industry to identify new partnership opportunities and participates on numerous interagency working groups across the US government with the goal of strengthening the ability and capacity of the United States to rapidly respond to naturally occurring and intentionally engineered threats to public health.



Timothy Jinks

Head, Infectious Disease Interventions

Wellcome Trust

Timothy Jinks was appointed the Head of Infectious Disease Interventions in 2021 where he leads Wellcome's work in advancing R&D for therapeutics and diagnostics, alongside research to support solutions for antimicrobial resistance. In his previous role, he designed and led Wellcome's strategic priority area for combatting drug-resistant infections, deploying a budget of over £250 million. Before that, he was responsible for a portfolio of Wellcome projects to support early-stage product development, which covered therapeutics, diagnostic and devices across several therapeutic areas, particularly infectious diseases and oncology. He is a Member of the CARB-X Joint Oversight Board, Executive Board Member of VALUE-Dx, Member of the Longitude Prize Committee and Representative Member to the US Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria. Prior to joining Wellcome in 2012, he gained over a decade of industry experience in biologic therapeutic R&D and latterly as a consultant providing business development, licensing and commercial research services.



Robert Johnson

Director of Medical Countermeasures Program

BARDA, ASPR, HHS

Dr. Robert Johnson is the Director of Medical Countermeasures Program (MCMP) for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA). BARDA invests in the innovation, advanced research and development, acquisition, and manufacturing of medical countermeasures (MCM) – vaccines, drugs, therapeutics, diagnostic tools, and non-pharmaceutical products needed to combat health security threats. As MCMP Director, Dr. Johnson is responsible for MCM development efforts across BARDA.

Dr. Johnson joined BARDA in November of 2017 as Director of the Influenza and Emerging Infectious Diseases Division, focusing on advanced development and manufacturing capacity of vaccines and therapeutics against pandemic influenza and emerging infectious diseases. As the BARDA Incident Commander for the COVID-19 response, he established BARDA's initial COVID-19 MCM portfolios prior to serving as vaccine project coordination team (PCT) lead for Operation Warp Speed, then Chief Operating Officer for its successor, the COVID-19 Countermeasure Acceleration Group. Prior to BARDA, Dr. Johnson worked for 14 years at NIH supporting development of infectious disease vaccines and therapeutics.



Bola Jones

Lead, Therapeutics Project

CEPI

A Scientist trained in Biochemistry (BSc, Surrey Univ, UK), Pharmacology (PhD, Cornell Univ, New York) and Public Administration (MPA, New York Univ), Bola has 22 years of experience across global health and pharmaceutical drug development. This includes Phase I-IV trials across the US with GSK, Phase 3 development of an innovative Daiichi Sankyo/Astrazeneca Oncology portfolio in Europe and registration trials for infectious diseases across low and middle income countries. At the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the 2000s, Bola emigrated from New York City to KwazuluNatal, South Africa where she engaged with local communities to implement access to care programmes for people living with HIV. This progressed to Columbia University's Earth Institute in New York, developing partnerships with African institutions for the UN Millennium Development Goals. Bola currently leads on Emergency Preparedness for Evidence Generation as part of the Therapeutics Project at CEPI, developing global collaborations to facilitate adaptive platform clinical trials across low and middle-income countries. A British-born Nigerian and naturalised American, Bola currently resides in London.



Robert Jordan

Senior Program Officer

Bill and Melinda Gates
Foundation

Robert Jordan is a Senior Program Officer at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Prior to joining the BMGF, Robert was Vice President of Research and Development at Meissa Vaccines Robert worked at Vir Biotechnology and also at Gilead Sciences as a Director of Biology where he has contributed to the development of presatovir (GS-5806) a phase 2 clinical candidate for treatment of RSV infection and remdesivir (GS-5734), a clinical stage compound with broad antiviral activity that has been licensed for emergency use to treat SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19) infections. Prior to joining Gilead, Robert worked Viropharma Inc, and then Siga Technologies, where he co-discovered and developed Tecovirimat (ST-246), a novel, orthopoxvirus (smallpox, monkeypox) egress inhibitor, that was approved by the FDA in 2018 through the FDA “animal rule”. Robert received his Ph.D. in biochemistry from the Johns Hopkins Blumberg School of Public Health and completed postdoctoral training in virology at Harvard University. Robert has over 80 publications in peer reviewed journals, is on the editorial board of Antiviral Research, and has held adjunct faculty positions at Oregon State University and Drexel Univ.



Charu Kaushic

Chair

GLOPID-R

Charu Kaushic, PhD, FCAHS, is the Scientific Director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)-Institute of Infection and Immunity. She is a tenured Full Professor in the Department of Medicine at McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada. In her role at CIHR-III she is responsible for making decisions nationally and internationally for CIHR’s strategic investments. She is currently Chair of GloPID-R, a global consortium of funders in pandemic preparedness and emergency response research. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she has been involved in shaping CIHR’s research response to the pandemic and served on Canada’s COVID-19 National Immunity Task Force and Health Canada’s Variants of Concern Leadership Group. Dr. Kaushic manages a large interdisciplinary research program in women’s reproductive health, specifically basic, clinical and translational research examining susceptibility and immune responses to sexually transmitted viruses, HIV-1 and HSV-2. She has received numerous national and international awards for her research and leadership. Recently she was inducted into the Government of Canada’s Women of Impact Online Gallery and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.



Barbara Kerstiens

Head of Unit

European Commission, RTD

Barbara Kerstiens, MD, MPH is the Head of Unit in the unit responsible for 'Combatting Diseases' in the PEOPLE Directorate of the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation at the European Commission.

She has a long experience in international public health, working for Médecins Sans Frontières, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public health and DG Development and Cooperation of the European Commission prior to joining DG Research and Innovation in 2012 where she has consistently worked in medical research and funding.



Saye Khoo

*Professor, Institute
of Translational Medicine*

University of Liverpool

Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at the University of Liverpool/Honorary Consultant Physician in Infectious Disease at Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Saye leads a research programme in antiviral therapy and is CI for the international DoIPHIN consortium and AGILE. Research interests include optimisation of antivirals to treat or prevent HIV including in special populations such as pregnant women and newborn infants. This work is underpinned by highly sensitive drug measurement in his GCP-accredited laboratory and mathematical modelling to predict drug exposure within body compartments and between people. The study of drug-drug interactions has led to development of the Liverpool Drug Interactions Prescribing Resource for HIV, hepatitis, cancer and in 2020 for experimental COVID-19 therapies. These are widely accessed and used by treatment guidelines worldwide, returning 18M searches in the past 3 years. He has served in expert advisory groups and guideline committees for - British HIV Association, WHO, British Infection Society, UK Home Office, British Transplant Society, European Society for Organ Transplantation and the International AIDS Society.



Jens Lundgren

Professor

Rigshospitalet, University of Copenhagen

Jens D. Lundgren.

MD, DMSc, Professor, Senior Consultant, Academic Chair, Director
Department of Infectious Diseases, Rigshospitalet, University of Copenhagen.

Director of Centre of Excellence for Health, Immunity and Infections (CHIP)

Centre Leader of Danish National Research Foundation Center of Excellence PERSIMUNE.

Initial focus in carrier on HIV. In recent years, focus expanded to include respiratory infections (e.g. influenza and recently SARS-CoV-2), and infections in patients with other types of immune dysfunction (incl. transplantation, oncology, haematology, and treated patients with autoimmune disease).

Current research grant awards: Danish National Research Foundation (PERSIMUNE), European Commission (CARE (Horizon 2020)), NIAID, NIH (INSIGHT, TICO, VATICO and STRIVE) and several other funders.

Mentors several younger colleagues in their research development.

Authored 817 publications in peer-reviewed medical journals; cited 45,688 times, H-index of 97.

<https://www.webofscience.com/wos/author/record/1894988>



Ágnes Molnár

Acting Head of Unit

European Commission, HERA

Dr Agnes Molnar is currently leading the unit on intelligence gathering, analysis and innovation at the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority. She joined the European Commission in 2014 and has worked on social and environmental determinants of health, preparedness and response to serious cross-border health threats and global health security.

Agnes holds a degree in medicine, law and a PhD in health sciences in the field of public health and preventive medicine. She pursued post-doctoral research in health policy and systems and health impact assessment.



Johan Neyts

Professor of Virology

KU Leuven

Johan Neyts is full professor of Virology at the University of Leuven (KU Leuven) Belgium. His lab has a long-standing expertise in the development of antiviral strategies against emerging and neglected viral infections and is intensively involved in the search for antiviral strategies against SARS-CoV2. A second focus is the development of a novel vaccine technology platform technology based on the yellow fever virus vaccine as a vector; this includes among other, vaccines against rabies and SARS-CoV2. The team developed the PLLAV (Plasmid Launched Live Attenuated Virus) technology, which allows to rapidly engineer highly thermostable vaccines against multiple viral pathogens. He is past-president of the International Society for Antiviral Research (www.isar-icar.com). Four classes of antivirals discovered in his laboratory have been licensed to major pharmaceutical companies (two on HCV, one on dengue and one on rhino/enteroviruses). He published >610 papers in peer reviewed journals, has given ~300 invited lectures and provides content to a larger audience via lay-press. www.antivirals.e



Irene Norstedt

Director - People Directorate

European Commission, RTD

Irene Norstedt works at the European Commission where she is the Director responsible for the People Directorate within the DG for Research and Innovation.

The People Directorate works towards the development of a healthy, safe, more equal, free, open and fair society, where the voice of the citizen and different communities are better heard.

Irene has been at the European Commission since 1996, and has worked on various aspects of research in life sciences and particular health research throughout her career in the Commission. Areas of particular interest have been the set up of the public private partnership the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) and the International Rare Diseases Research Consortium (IRDiRC),

Prior to joining the European Commission, she worked for the Swedish life science company Biacore AB and at the Swedish embassy in London.

Irene studied at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm and University of Sussex and holds a Master of Science (MSc) in Chemical Engineering.



Bernadett Pályi

Head of Reference Laboratory

Nemzeti Népegészségügyi
Központ

Bernadett Pályi studied microbiology and immunology at the Eötvös Loránd University in Hungary. Now she is the head of the Reference Laboratory for Highly Pathogenic Viruses at National Biosafety Laboratory, Nemzeti Népegészségügyi Központ (National Public Health Center), Budapest. The National Biosafety Laboratory is part of ERINHA, which is a pan-European distributed Research Infrastructure dedicated to the study of high-consequence emerging and re-emerging pathogens. Her research focus has been on Nipah virus and Ebola virus animal models to characterize natural history, immunopathogenesis and long term persistence, testing potential vaccine candidates and therapeutic or prophylactic based medical countermeasures. In addition to laboratory work, he also worked in the field during the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. Since the start of the COVID19 pandemic she is heading the SARS-CoV-2 variants characterization and genomic surveillance program in Hungary.



Marisa Peyre

*Deputy Head of Integrated
Health Research Unit (ASTRE)*

CIRAD

Marisa Peyre (Eng. , Ph.D., HDR) is an epidemiologist specialized in the evaluation of surveillance and control programs in animal health and One Health. She is currently the deputy director of ASTRE, the integrated health research unit in CIRAD. She has been working for CIRAD (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development) since 2006. She graduated in 1998 in biotechnology engineering (Bordeaux, France), obtained her PhD in 2005 in Immunology (London, UK), and her habilitation to direct researches (HDR) in the field of health evaluation in 2019. She has worked for the past 15 years on the evaluation of animal and zoonotic diseases surveillance and control both in developed and developing countries (Influenza, Ebola, MersCov...) and on the strengthening of public-private partnership. She provides expertise for international organizations such as OIE, FAO, World Bank. Her key expertise is on the design and evaluation of One Health systems (surveillance and control) participatory epidemiology and public-private partnerships. She is a co-founder of the PREZODE initiative (Preventing Zoonotic Disease Emergence) and she coordinates this initiative for Cirad.



Wolfgang Philipp

Director, Deputy Head of HERA

European Commission, HERA

Mr Wolfgang Philipp is Deputy Head of the new Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) in the European Commission. HERA's mission is to prevent, detect, and rapidly respond to health emergencies. HERA works to ensure the development, production and distribution of medicines, vaccines, and other critical medical countermeasures in case of health emergencies.

He holds a PhD in microbiology of the University of Paris, France, and has been working in tuberculosis research at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, at the Universities of Bern and Basel and was a Member of the Basel Institute of Immunology, Switzerland, before joining the European Commission in 2001.



Peter Piot

*Special Advisor
to the EC President and EU Chief
Scientific Advisor Epidemics*

European Commission

Peter Piot MD PhD is the Handa Professor of Global Health and former Director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (2010-2021). He is Special Advisor on COVID-19 to the EC President, and EU Chief Scientific Advisor Epidemics. He was the Executive Director of UNAIDS and Under Secretary-General of the United Nations (1995-2008). He lives in Brussels.



Tajudeen Raji

*Head of Division of Public Health
Institutes and Research*

African Union/Africa CDC

Tajudeen is a Medical Doctor with postgraduate qualifications in Pediatrics and Public Health. A Fellow of the West African College of Physicians and African Public Health Leaders Fellow of the Chatham House Royal Institute of International Affairs, UK. He has years of senior level experience in Child Health, Health System Strengthening, Health Diplomacy, Maternal and Child Health, and Health in Humanitarian Emergencies. He is currently the Head of Public Health Institutes and Research at the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He coordinates the establishment and strengthening of National Public Health Institutes across the 55 African Union Member States. He coordinates the Africa CDC Health Workforce Development portfolio, and oversees the public health research agenda of the Africa CDC. Tajudeen heads the healthcare preparedness and countermeasures section of the Africa CDC COVID-19 response and co-chairs the case management technical working group of the Africa Taskforce on COVID-19. He leads the Africa CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Programme.



Nahoko Shindo

*Unit Head, Epidemic Forecasting
and Infectious Disease Strategies*

World Health Organization

Prof. Shindo serves as Head of Secretariat for WHO's Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Infectious Hazards (STAG-IH); an overarching expert advisory group for the programme on epidemics and pandemics since its establishment in 2018. She also served as the Chair of WHO COVID-19 Publication Review Committee (2020-21).

As Senior Advisor in the Department of Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention at the Headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, she oversees scientific and technical contents of the programme and reports to the senior leadership of the organization.

Prof. Shindo's background is in medicine, infectious diseases, emergency & intensive care, and public health. She trained at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, St. Thomas' Hospital in London, Radcliff Infirmary in Oxford and Jikei University School of Medicine Hospital in Tokyo, where she also earned her PhD in Medical Science (microbiology and immunology). She worked at the Infectious Disease Surveillance Centre of the Japanese National Institute of Infectious Disease as Senior Research Manager before joining WHO in 2002.



Eric Snijder

Professor of Molecular Virology

Leiden University Medical Center

Eric J. Snijder (1962) is professor of molecular virology and head of the Section Research of the Department of Medical Microbiology of Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), the Netherlands. His research focuses on the molecular biology and evolution of viruses with a positive-stranded RNA genome, in particular nidoviruses like the coronaviruses that cause SARS, MERS, and COVID-19. The replication of these viruses and their (molecular) interactions between these viruses and their host cell have been a central theme in his studies over the past 35 years. He has recently coordinated the EU-funded SCORE project (on antiviral drug development for SARS-CoV-2) and his lab also participates in the IMI CARE project (<https://www.imi-care.eu/>) that aims to develop antiviral therapy for coronavirus infections at large.



Nathalie Strub Wourgaft

*COVID 19 and Preparedness
Director DNDi - PANTHER general
Delegate*

DNDi - PANTHER

Dr Nathalie Strub-Wourgaft joined the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) in 2009 and is a member of its Global Executive Team as the COVID-19 Response & Pandemic Preparedness Director. She holds over 35 years' of experience in R&D and more recently public health since the past 12 years.

As Director of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) since 2018, Dr Strub-Wourgaft provided strategic and technical oversight to a wide portfolio of R&D and access plans for therapeutic areas covering Sleeping Sickness, Chagas disease, Cutaneous and Visceral Leishmaniasis, Filaria, Mycetoma.

Since March 2020 Dr Nathalie Strub-Wourgaft leads DNDi's response to COVID-19, as Coordinator of the ANTICOV study Consortium and one of the initiators of the COVID 19 clinical research coalition.

Dr Strub Wourgaft is now Delegate General of PANTHER (PANdemic preparedness platform for Health and Emerging infections' Response). Prior to her current appointment, Dr Strub-Wourgaft created and held the Medical Director position at DNDi, where she notably developed the organisation quality, pharmacovigilance and regulatory activities.



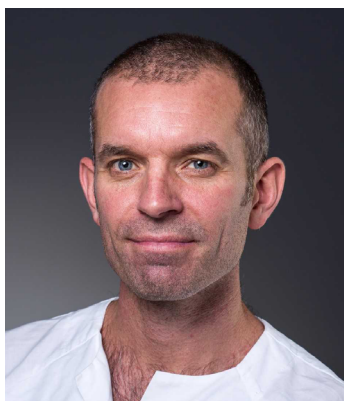
Edit Szepessy

Policy Officer

European Commission, HERA

Edit Szepessy Policy Officer – Intelligence gathering, analysis and innovation, Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA).

Edit joined the European Commission in 2016 and worked mostly on the clinical trial file in DG SANTE. She was associated to the files dealing with the Clinical Trials Regulation and its Implementing Regulation for safety assessment cooperation. She coordinated the development and revisions of the COVID-19/clinical trials guidance. She joined HERA in May 2022, where she has been active on the innovation, production pipeline monitoring files in addition to her involvement in the monkeypox and ebola outbreak-responses. She is a board certified pathologist with a Ph.D. in cell and molecular biology. Prior to the European Commission, she worked at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and then at the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC).



Marius Trøseid

Professor and Senior consultant

Oslo University Hospital

Professor Marius Trøseid is specialized in internal medicine and infectious diseases, currently working as senior consultant at Section of Clinical Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Oslo University Hospital, Norway. His research interests include clinical trials and translational research within COVID, HIV, immunology and microbe-host interactions. Trøseid has been actively involved in national treatment strategies throughout the pandemic, he is currently leading the pan-European platform trial EU SolidAct, and is member of the High-Level Expert Group on COVID-19 for WHO Europe.



Charles is a physician with postgraduate training in epidemiology, evidence-based health care, and vaccinology. He is a Senior Director at the South African Medical Research Council, Director of the South African Cochrane centre, Extraordinary Professor of Global Health at Stellenbosch University, and an Honorary Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Cape Town. Charles is a Co-Chair of GloPID-R as well as a member of numerous South African, African, and global scientific and strategic advisory committees.

Charles Shey Wiysonge

Senior Director

South African Medical Research
Council
