

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research & Innovation: Addressing Africa's Regional Priorities

Speakers

1 September 2016

Cape Town, South Africa

Glenda Gray

Cape town, South Africa

President, SAMRC

Glenda Gray is the President of the South African Medical Research Council. Gray, who trained as a Medical Doctor and Paediatrician at the University of the Witwatersrand, co-founded and led the Perinatal HIV Research Unit, based in Soweto.

She has expertise in mother-to-child transmission of HIV, HIV vaccines and microbicides.

She is the Co-PI of the HIV Vaccine Trials Network and Director of the HVTN International Programs. She is a member of the Academy of Science in South Africa, the Institute of Medicine, the National Academies and the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD).

Her research work has earned her the Order of Mapungubwe, granted by the president of SA for achievements in the international area, which have served South Africa's interest.



Malebona Precious Matsoso

Pretoria, South Africa

Director General, Department of Health, NDoH

Malebona Precious Matsoso is the Director General of the National Department of Health since June 2010 to date. She has more than 20 years work experience at executive management level. She has held leadership positions at national and international level for large international organizations in key strategic leadership positions, covering areas of public health policy and program development, ethics and research. She has extensive knowledge and experience with developing countries, the United Nations system, high levels of governments, and other key institutions.

She was the Director at the World Health Organisation (WHO) responsible for the implementation of the Global Strategy and Plan of Action. Prior to this she was the Director of Technical Cooperation for Essential Drugs and Traditional Medicine. She has published various articles and authored book chapters. She has been appointed to various advisory bodies both nationally and internationally. She has been a member of the WHO Executive Board and the current chairperson thereof. She was recently appointed as a member of a High Level Panel on Health Technologies of the United Nations. This panel comprise of eminent leaders from the public and commercial worlds, tasked with making recommendations to the UN on how the future of Health Technologies innovation can be balanced with access for all in line with SDG3.



Marc Sprenger

Geneva, Switzerland

Director, Antimicrobial Resistance Secretariat, WHO

Dr Marc Sprenger is Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) secretariat for antimicrobial resistance. Marc and this secretariat focus on coordination of an Organisation-wide approach to antimicrobial resistance, working with WHO programmes carrying out technical activities required for the implementation of the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance.



Prior to joining WHO, from 2010 Dr Sprenger was Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in Stockholm, Sweden. Before that, he was Director-General of the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) in Bilthoven, the Netherlands. A national of the Netherlands, Marc is a medical doctor, medical microbiology specialist and has a PhD in epidemiology.

Manica Balasegaram

Geneva, Switzerland

Director, Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP)

Dr Manica Balasegaram, who is a medical doctor by training, started his career in internal and emergency medicine in the UK and in Australia, then joining Médecins sans Frontières as a field physician in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. He was later appointed Head of the MSF Manson Unit, before initially joining DNDi as Head of Leishmaniasis – a position he left four years ago to become the MSF Access Campaign's Executive Director. His experience spans clinical and public health practice in neglected and infectious diseases, clinical trials and drug development, international work on health policy and access to medicines and involvement in a variety of expert technical committees. He rejoined DNDi in June 2016 as Director of the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership, a joint DNDi-WHO initiative.



Francis Ndowa

Zimbabwe

International health consultant

Dr Francis Ndowa has international experience in public health, prevention, and control of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV, chest diseases, rheumatology, and dermatology in the UK and Zimbabwe. Dr Ndowa attended medical school at University of Birmingham in the UK and holds postgraduate Diplomas in Dermatology and Genito-urinary Medicine.



In 1996, he joined the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) before working as Coordinator for the WHO Controlling Sexually Transmitted & Reproductive Tract Infections Team. Currently, Dr Ndowa works as an international consultant on surveillance and control of STIs and antimicrobial resistance in *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. He is also a Member of the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance; Chairperson of the Board of Management of Harare Central Hospital (Zimbabwe); Executive Member of the International Union against STIs (IUSTI); and co-Director and Specialist Venereologist of the Skin and GU Medicine Clinic.

Marc Mendelson

Cape Town, South Africa

Professor, Groote Schuur Hospital, UCT

Marc Mendelson is Professor of Infectious Diseases and Head of the Division of Infectious Diseases & HIV Medicine at Groote Schuur Hospital, University of Cape Town (UCT). He studied Medicine at St Mary's Hospital, London and specialised in Infectious Diseases at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, where he attained his PhD. He moved to The Rockefeller University, New York in 2001 and subsequently to UCT to work on tuberculosis and innate immunity.



Marc is Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance, the South African lead for Antimicrobial Resistance on the Global Health Security Agenda, co-chair of the South African Antibiotic Stewardship Programme, and co-author the South African Antimicrobial Strategic Framework. He is the current President of the Federation of Infectious Diseases Societies of Southern Africa, and President-Elect of the International Society for Infectious Diseases. His focus is on national and international policy around access, appropriate use and innovation to combat antimicrobial resistance.

Mirfin Mpundu

Kenya

ReAct (Action on Antibiotic Resistance) Africa Coordinator

Mirfin Mpundu is the Executive Director of the Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN), Coordinator for the Action Against Antibiotic Resistance (ReAct) Africa Node and Program Manager for the Empowerment, Engagement and Network (EEE) Program of ReAct. He is a registered pharmacist in the USA and public health specialist.



He is a frequent participant and presenter on current pharmaceutical global issues including antibiotic and antimicrobial resistance. Mirfin holds a Master's Degree in Public Health, Masters in Business Administration and a Degree in Pharmacy.

Monique Wasunna

Nairobi, Kenya

MD, Director, DNDi Africa

Dr Wasunna joined DNDi in 2003 and coordinates DNDi's activities throughout Africa. She is a founding member and former Chair of the Leishmaniasis East Africa Platform (LEAP), promoting clinical research for leishmaniasis and capacity building in the region.



Dr Wasunna is a physician and an infectious disease and tropical medicine specialist. She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree from the University of Nairobi. Her postgraduate training in medicine was sponsored by WHO-TDR at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London, where she obtained an MSc and a PhD in medicine and a diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from the Royal College of Physicians of London. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, a member of the Kenya Medical Association and Kenya Association of Physicians.

In 2008, Dr Wasunna was appointed by the Director General, UNESCO, as a member of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), a position she held until 2015. She was a rapporteur and a vice Chairperson of IBC. She is a member of the National Bioethics Committee and a member of Kenyatta National Hospital and University of Nairobi Scientific and Research Ethics committee.

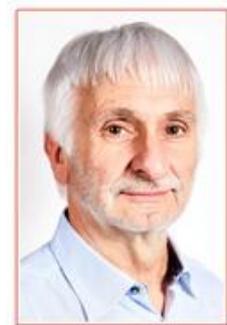
Dr Wasunna's research interest is primarily focused on clinical trials in visceral leishmaniasis, malaria, and HIV. She has been a principal investigator in many clinical trials that have attracted funding from WHO and other international organizations. She is a member of the Expert Committee of Clinical Trials of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board and the founding Chairperson of the Leishmaniasis East Africa Platform (LEAP). LEAP is a clinical research platform that brings together scientists and institutions in Eastern Africa to develop clinical trial capacity to bring new treatment options to neglected visceral leishmaniasis patients in the region. Dr Wasunna co-ordinates all LEAP activities in the region supported by DNDi. She is well published in peer review journals.

Bernard Pécoul

Geneva, Switzerland

MD, MPH, Executive Director, DNDi

Dr Bernard Pécoul has led the Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DNDi) since its foundation in 2003. Under his guidance, DNDi – a not-for-profit research and development organisation – with hundreds of public and private partners, has delivered six new treatments for the most neglected diseases (leishmaniasis, sleeping sickness, and Chagas disease) and for malaria. It has developed a robust portfolio of projects spanning from discovery to implementation for these diseases as well as filaria, paediatric HIV, mycetoma, and hepatitis C.



Prior to DNDi, Dr Pécoul was Director of the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Campaign for Access to Essential Medicines from 1998 to 2003, a position he took on after that of Executive Director of MSF-France. While working with MSF, Dr Pécoul carried out field missions in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. In 1988, he co-founded Epicentre, an MSF-affiliated NGO specialised in epidemiology.

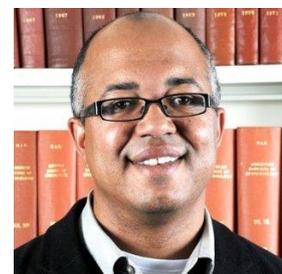
After obtaining his medical degree at the University of Clermont-Ferrand, France, Dr Pécoul earned a master's degree in public health at Tulane University, USA. In 2012, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree by the University of Dundee, UK. Bernard Pécoul is member of the Joint Coordination Board of the Special Programme for Tropical Disease Research (WHO/TDR) and a board member of UNITAID's Medicines Patent Pool.

Chikwe Ihekweazu

Nigeria

Public health physician, NigeriaHealthWatch/ EPIC Africa

Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu is an epidemiologist and consultant public health physician. He is the Editor-in-Chief of Nigeria Health Watch and also the Managing Partner of EpiAfric. He previously held leadership roles at the South African National Institute for Communicable Diseases and the UK's Health Protection Agency. Dr Ihekweazu has undertaken several short term consultancies for the World Health Organisation. He is on the board of the NGOs; Public Health Foundation of Nigeria, Society for Family Health, and Education as a Vaccine. Chikwe is a TED Fellow and co-curator of TEDxEuston and TEDxAbuja.



Ranmini Kularatne

Johannesburg, South Africa

Head, Sexually Transmitted Infections Section, Centre for HIV & STIs, National Institute for Communicable Diseases



Dr Ranmini Kularatne heads the Sexually Transmitted Infections Section of the Centre for HIV and STIs at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) in Johannesburg, South Africa. Core surveillance activities of the STI Section include periodic aetiological surveillance of STI Syndromes at sentinel sites in the nine provinces of South Africa, in order to validate and update current syndromic management guidelines. Additionally, antimicrobial resistance profiles of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* isolates are monitored in order to detect multi- or extensively drug resistant clones that will not respond to currently recommended therapy, and have the potential for national and international spread. The laboratory also serves as a reference centre for STI diagnostics, and offers WHO-funded technical support to SADC countries, in order to increase capacity building for regional surveillance activities.

Prior to taking up this post at the NICD, Dr Kularatne headed a diagnostic Microbiology laboratory, at a tertiary academic (university-affiliated) hospital in Johannesburg, which offered diagnostic services to academic hospitals, district hospitals and community health centres. She chaired the hospital Infection Control Committee and the Antimicrobial Sub-committee, and was involved in healthcare worker training and guideline drafting and implementation for hospital infection prevention and control as well as antimicrobial stewardship. She is a consultant in the Department of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, and lectures both undergraduate and postgraduate student at the Health Sciences faculty.

Glaudina Loots

Cape Town, South Africa

Director, Health Innovation, Department of Science and Technology, DST



Glaudina Loots is Director of Health Innovation at the South African Department of Science and Technology. Her fields of interest are discovering and evaluating new drug and treatment regimes, developing new vaccines and new robust diagnostics for the identified diseases or conditions, as well as the development of medical devices.

Amongst others, Glaudina serves on the South African National Health Research Committee and is a Board member of JEMBI Health Systems and The Biovac Institute.

Richard Gordon

Cape Town, South Africa

Executive Director, SAMRC



Richard joined the SAMRC in April 2013. He used to work for the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) as a Senior Investment. He has also spent 10 years at BioFocus, a UK based pharmaceutical drug discovery Contract Research Organisation. During this time, he held international positions in setting up research collaborations in target discovery, high throughput screening, medicinal chemistry, ADMET and pharmacology. Richard was the global head of Business Development and Marketing overseeing teams in the US, EU and Asia Pacific. Richard also represents Medicines for Malaria Venture in Africa. He completed his PhD at the University of Cape Town and his post doctoral fellowship at the University of Cambridge. He is also a chartered marketer.