

## Speaker Biographies

### Syexwalia (Ann Whonnock)



Syexwalia /Ann Whonnock is an First Nations Health Authority Knowledge Keeper & Elder from Squamish Nation with strong Indigenous worldviews, ancestral knowledge and traditional teachings, widely respected and acknowledged for her work and energy commitment to her community.

### Bonnie Henry



Dr. Bonnie Henry was appointed as British Columbia's provincial health officer February 1, 2018 following three years as the deputy provincial health officer. Preceding this, Dr. Henry served as the interim provincial executive medical director of the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and was the medical director of Communicable Disease Prevention and Control and Public Health Emergency Management with the BCCDC and medical director for the provincial emerging and vector-borne diseases program as well as a provincial program for surveillance and control of healthcare associated infections.

She joined Toronto Public Health in September 2001 as associate medical officer of health where she was responsible for the Emergency Services Unit and the Communicable Disease Liaison Unit. In 2003, she was the operational lead in the response to the SARS outbreak in Toronto. Dr. Henry has worked internationally with the WHO/UNICEF polio eradication program in Pakistan and with the WHO to control the Ebola outbreak in Uganda.

She is a specialist in public health and preventive medicine and is board certified in preventive medicine in the U.S. She graduated from Dalhousie Medical School, completed a Masters in Public Health and residency training in preventive medicine at University of California, San Diego and in community medicine at University of Toronto.

### Shabir Madhi



Dr. Shabir Madhi is Professor of Vaccinology and Director of the Medical Research Council Respiratory and Meningeal Pathogens Research Unit at University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. He is also a Research Chair in Vaccine Preventable Diseases for Department of Science and Technology/National Research Foundation. He completed his undergraduate and post-graduate studies at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa and is certified in Infectious Diseases. He has been involved in vaccine-related epidemiological and clinical development studies for the past 21 years.

His research focus is on the leading causes of pneumonia, diarrhoea and neonatal sepsis. Most recently, his research has expanded to interventions aimed at reducing morbidity and mortality due to infectious causes during early infancy and delineating the role of infectious as causes of stillbirths. He has led multiple studies on vaccines in pregnant women; including phase III efficacy studies on influenza vaccine, large efficacy trial, the first phase Ib/IIa studies on investigational multivalent Group B streptococcus conjugate vaccine; and phase IIb/III studies on maternal respiratory syncytial virus vaccine. He has co-authored over 400 publications in the field of childhood vaccines, pneumonia, neonatal sepsis and maternal vaccination; including on the impact of HIV-infection and HIV-exposure on vaccine immunogenicity and efficacy.

### **Philipp Lambach**



Dr. Philipp Lambach, MD, MBA, is the Maternal Immunization Focal Point for the WHO Initiative for Vaccine Research. In this function he is leading implementation research related to the implementation of current and future maternal vaccines, such as tetanus, influenza, RSV and GBS vaccine. As part of his activities, he is required to provide a better understanding of the factors contributing to the optimal service delivery of current vaccines during pregnancy in low resource settings (MIACSA project) and to identify research gaps affecting future vaccine introduction Advancing Maternal Immunization to reduce infant morbidity and mortality from respiratory syncytial virus (AMI). Dr Lambach is leading a collaborative effort between

LSHTM and WHO that aims to develop and widely disseminate a comprehensive value proposition for Group B Streptococcus (GBS) vaccination for pregnant women, based on a thorough assessment of the preventable burden of disease and the costs and gains expected through vaccination of pregnant women, particularly in low, middle and high-income contexts. Dr Lambach has recently been awarded with leading the WHO Vaccine Research Initiative's activities on HCW vaccination and with managing the organization's activities related to influenza vaccine development and implementation.

### **Deshayne Fell**



Dr. Deshayne Fell is a perinatal epidemiologist, appointed as an Assistant Professor in the School of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Ottawa, Canada, and as a Scientist in the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute. Her research uses large, linked population databases and registries to improve our understanding of factors affecting maternal and infant population health. Her current focus includes influenza and pertussis immunization during pregnancy and their relationship with birth outcomes and longer-term pediatric health outcomes; safety and effectiveness of maternal immunization; and epidemiological research methods.

## Sarah O'Neill



Dr. Sarah O'Neill obtained her PhD in Social Anthropology at Goldsmiths College, University of London in 2013. Her PhD research was concerned with local people's opposition to the national ban on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Fouta Toro, northern Senegal. The thesis was awarded the Audrey Richards Prize of the African Studies Association of the UK in 2014. Since then she has also worked on African men's involvement in FGM/C in Belgium, the Netherlands and the UK in the context of a Daphne funded project (Men Speak Out). Dr. O'Neill has also worked as a consultant on FGM/C for the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). Recent fieldwork has been

undertaken at an FGM specialist clinic in Brussels. Other research in the context of a postdoc position at the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp (ITM) was concerned with malaria clinical trials, research ethics, health-seeking behaviour and neonatal health at the Medical Research Council in the Gambia and on intra-vaginal practices and reproductive health in Tanzania. While at ITM, she obtained a grant from the Flemish Government for a 3 year interdisciplinary study aiming to contribute to the identification of the cause of Nodding Syndrome/Epilepsy (Cameroon, Tanzania and Uganda). Dr. O'Neill is a Medical Anthropologist at the School of Public Health, Free University of Brussels (Université Libre de Bruxelles).

## Maria Aliva-Aguero



Dr. Maria L. Avila-Aguero is a doctor of Pediatric Infectology at the Hospital Nacional de Niños, "Dr. Carlos Sáenz Herrera", San José, Costa Rica. She served as Head of the Department of Infectology from 2000-2006, and has currently filled this role once again since September of 2011. She is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Universidad de Costa Rica. She also serves as Director of Post Graduate Studies in Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the Universidad de Costa Rica. Dr. Avila-Aguero served as Minister of Health for Costa Rica from May of 2006 to August of 2011. Prior to her role as Costa Rican Minister of Health, she was the Director of the Committee of Nosocomial Infections (1999-2005), and Director of the Committee on Epidemiological Surveillance (2000-2005). Dr. Avila-Aguero has received several awards, among them was named one of the 50 most influential

women in Central America by Forbes 2014. Since 2014 coordinates the GREEN initiative (Advisory Board of the Latin American Pneumococcal Disease Consortium). Member of various scientific and academic organizations including SLIPE (Latin American Society of Pediatric Infectious Diseases). Since 2016, she is Member of the Council of International Society for Infectious Diseases. Member of REKAMLATINA (Latin America Kawasaki Disease Network). Since 2018 she is Affiliate Researcher, Center for Infectious Disease Modeling and Analysis (CIDMA), Yale University. She is a frequent speaker, and has published numerous articles in the field of Pediatric Infectious Diseases.

## Rolando Ulloa-Gutierrez



Dr. Rolando Ulloa-Gutierrez is a Pediatric Infectious Disease Attending specialist at the Hospital Nacional de Niños “Dr. Carlos Sáenz Herrera”, in San José, Costa Rica. He obtained his medical degree at the University of Costa Rica, did his Pediatrics Residency at the Hospital Nacional de Niños and University of Costa Rica, and completed a Pediatric Infectious Disease Fellowship at British Columbia’s Children’s Hospital & University of British Columbia in Vancouver. He has received different international and national awards for his research and academic achievements in Canada, the United States, and Costa Rica. He is a member of the Costa Rican National Academy of Medicine and PIDS, IDSA, ASM, ESPID, WSPID, and SLIPE societies. He has authored and co-authored more than 75

publications in peer-reviewed journals, published 5 chapters in medical textbooks, and served as a peer-reviewer for 21 journals. He has presented 157 abstracts at international meetings and conferences, and has given 147 international conferences in 26 countries. Main research interests include Kawasaki disease, vaccine-preventable diseases, pediatric invasive infections, and viral respiratory infections. He coordinates REKAMLATINA network, the largest multinational multicenter network studying the epidemiology, clinical aspects and treatment of children with Kawasaki Disease in 20 Latin American countries.

## Serese Marotta



Mrs. Serese Marotta is the Chief Operating Officer for Families Fighting Flu, a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to saving lives and reducing hospitalizations by protecting children and their families against influenza through education and advocacy. Mrs. Marotta originally came to Families Fighting Flu in 2010 following the loss of her five-year-old son, to the flu in 2009. She served on the Board of Directors for the organization for six years before coming on-staff in May 2016 as the COO. Prior to joining Families Fighting Flu, she worked as an environmental scientist for 16 years at a consulting firm conducting ecological and human health risk assessments for hazardous waste sites. She now works tirelessly to raise awareness about the seriousness of flu and the critical importance of annual flu vaccination for everyone six months and older.

## John Tsang



Dr. John Tsang leads a laboratory focusing on systems immunology at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH). He also co-directs the NIH Center for Human Immunology (CHI) and leads its program in systems human immunology. Dr. Tsang trained in computer engineering and computer science at the University of Waterloo and received his Ph.D. in biophysics from Harvard University. Before the NIH, he conducted systems biology and bioinformatics research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Merck Research Laboratories. Dr. Tsang has won several awards for his research, including NIAID Merit Awards for the development of a data reuse and crowdsourcing platform [OMiCC](#) and for leading a system biology

study of human immune variability and influenza vaccination, which was selected as one of the [top 20 NIAID Research Advances of 2014](#). He has served as a scientific advisor on systems immunology and bioinformatics for a number of programs and organizations including ImmPort (the clinical and molecular

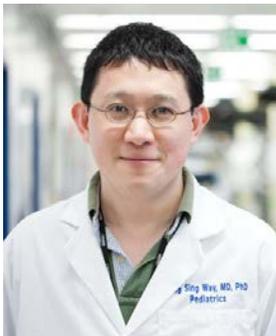
data repository for NIAID), the Committee on Precision Medicine for the World Allergy Organization, the NIAID Modeling Immunity for Biodefense Program, the Allen Institute, the Immuno-Epidemiology Program at the National Cancer Institute, and the Human Vaccines Project.

### **Madeleine Jennewein**



Ms. Madeleine Jennewein is a PhD candidate at Harvard University in the Virology program. She studies the antibody characteristics that govern trans-placental transfer of antibody functionality.

### **Sing Sing Way**



Dr. Sing Sing Way is an infectious disease pediatrician at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. He received his MD, PhD training at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and was later mentored by Dr. Christopher Wilson during post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Washington and Dr. Marc Jenkins at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Way's research investigates the immunological mechanisms responsible for shifts in infection susceptibility during reproduction and throughout postnatal development with the goal of more effective therapeutic and preventative strategies. He is an elected member of the American Society for Clinical

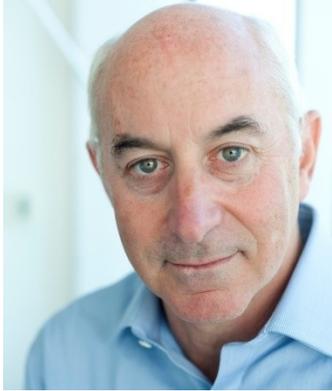
Investigation, and recipient of numerous research awards including the March of Dimes Basil O'Connor award, Society for Pediatric Research E. Mead Johnson award, Gale and Ira Drukier prize in children's health research, and the NIH Director's Pioneer award. Dr. Way's current research is supported by the US NIH-National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, March of Dimes Foundation, Burroughs Wellcome Fund, and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Faculty Scholars Program.

### **Tobias Kollmann**



Dr. Tobias Kollmann completed his MD and PhD at the Albert of Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx NY, followed by a residency in pediatrics and fellowship in infectious diseases at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA, where he also conducted a post-doctoral fellowship under Dr. Chris Wilson. He served as division head of the pediatric infectious disease at BC Children's Hospital, UBC, in Vancouver, Canada until recently. His expertise centers around newborn infectious diseases, immune ontogeny and early life vaccine responses employing cutting edge technology (systems biology) to extract the most information out of the typically small biological samples obtainable in early life.

## David Goldblatt



Dr. David Goldblatt is Professor of Vaccinology and Immunology and Head of the Immunobiology Section at the Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, University College London (UCL) where he also holds the role of Institute Deputy Director for NHS Engagement. He is a Consultant Paediatric Immunologist at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (GOSH) where he is also Director of Clinical Research and Development. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, his Paediatric qualifications from the Royal College of Physicians (London) and a PhD in Immunology from the University of London, United Kingdom. He was awarded NIHR Senior Investigator status in 2012 which was renewed in 2016.

He has a long-standing interest in the immune response to vaccines and infectious diseases. He has an active research programme studying bacterial conjugate vaccines in the young and the elderly, the ontogeny of the immune response to bacterial carriage and infection, evaluation of functional immunity to *S. pneumoniae* proteins, the development of new pneumococcal vaccines and the development of functional assays for evaluating immunity to bacterial candidate vaccines including Group A and Group B Streptococcus.).

## Pierre Van Damme



Dr. Pierre Van Damme is an MD who obtained his PhD in epidemiology and social medicine in 1994, University of Antwerp. He is currently full professor at the University of Antwerp, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences where he had chaired the Vaccine & Infectious Disease Institute (VAXINFECTIO, University of Antwerp) from 2007 till 2018, and now became vice-dean of that Faculty. VAXINFECTIO is a WHO Collaborating Centre for the WHO European Region for the control and prevention of infectious diseases. Pierre Van Damme founded the Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination (CEV) in 1994, which he chairs since 1994.

The centre conducts research in 4 main areas: (1) (sero-) epidemiology and diagnostics of infectious diseases; (2) vaccine trial studies including assessment of safety, protective efficacy and immunogenicity of preventative as well as therapeutic vaccines; (3) injection and diagnostic device research; (4) kinetics of vaccine-induced antibodies, including passive transfer of maternal antibodies and maternal immunization.

Dr. Van Damme has authored more than 400 peer-reviewed papers and conducted more than 380 vaccine trials within the trial unit of the CEV. In May 2014, he was awarded with the prestigious Bill Marshall award of the ESPID society. In October 2017 he was awarded by the ACRP (Association of Clinical Research Professionals) with the European Outstanding Leadership Award; and end of 2017 with the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

He has been for more than 10 years a regular advisor for national and international organizations, including the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group, and the World Health Organization (European Regional Office and Headquarters). He has been appointed as chairman of the European Technical Advisory Group of Experts on communicable diseases and vaccines for the WHO European Region (ETAGE) (2005-2015). He is a member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine since 2008, and of the board of Unicef Belgium (2010-2018).

## Stephanie Schrag



Dr. Stephanie Schrag is the Epidemiology Team Lead in the Respiratory Diseases Branch, Division of Bacterial Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Since 2000, she has led CDC's program on prevention of group B streptococcal (GBS) disease and the agency's domestic and international efforts to prevent the broader problem of neonatal sepsis. Domestically, she leads CDC's GBS policy activities and serves as subject matter lead for CDC's active surveillance for group B streptococcal invasive infections in 10 states. She also served as CDC lead of a maternal immunizations working group for the Advisory Council on Immunization Practices (ACIP). In the international context she served as co-Principal Investigator on the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-funded

Aetiology of Neonatal Infections in South Asia (ANISA) study, as well as co-PI on a similar study in South Africa and has provided technical assistance to a range of neonatal sepsis and GBS-specific projects in Central America, Africa and Asia. She has also contributed to recent systematic reviews and meta-analyses of the global GBS disease burden and has served as a consultant for the World Health Organization regarding considerations for GBS vaccine development, licensure, and disease burden assessment. Before her current position, Dr. Schrag was an Epidemic Intelligence Service Fellow and an American Society for Microbiology fellow at the CDC and a post-doctoral fellow in population biology at Emory University. Dr. Schrag received her bachelor's degree in biology in 1989 from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island and her doctoral degree in zoology in 1993 from Balliol College, University of Oxford, where she was a British Marshall Scholar. Dr. Schrag is the author of more than 120 publications.

## Padmini Srikantiah



Dr. Padmini Srikantiah is a Senior Program Officer in Global Health at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In her role, she serves as the RSV and Influenza initiative lead, as well as the lead for the foundation's cross-cutting Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) strategy. Prior to joining the foundation, Dr. Srikantiah was with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a Senior Medical Epidemiologist, and led CDC's AMR platform in India, encompassing efforts to strengthen AMR surveillance and reduce key healthcare associated infections, and also served as the CDC-India lead for infectious disease surveillance.

Dr. Srikantiah has previously served as medical officer for HIV treatment in the WHO South East Asia Regional Office where she led the HIV Drug Resistance Surveillance and Prevention program and provided extensive technical assistance on antiretroviral therapy scale-up and evaluation in numerous countries in Asia. She is board certified in infectious diseases from the University of California, San Francisco, served in the Epidemic Intelligence Service at CDC in the Foodborne & Diarrheal Diseases Branch, and received an MPH in epidemiology at the University of California, Berkeley.

## Marta Nunes



Marta Nunes is a Senior researcher at the Vaccine Preventable Diseases Unit/Respiratory and Meningeal Pathogens Research Unit (RMPRU), South Africa. She is an infectious disease and vaccine focused epidemiologist. Her research at RMPRU has been focused on reducing under-5 childhood morbidity and mortality from leading causes of death. This includes evaluation of pneumococcal conjugate vaccines in a high HIV-burden setting, epidemiology of respiratory viral associated-pneumonia, and the impact on the neonate of vaccination during pregnancy.

Dr Nunes also has expertise in influenza and pertussis vaccines and in quantifying the full public health value of vaccines including implementation issues. From a policy and implementation perspective she has collaborated with the South African Department of Health and the South African National Institute for Communicable Diseases. She has served as a technical consultant for the WHO and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on maternal immunisation. She serves as a member of the African Leadership in Vaccinology Expertise (ALIVE), an initiative at the University of the Witwatersrand with the objective of building vaccinology expertise in Africa and fostering South-to-South collaborations.

She has been involved in developing vaccinology expertise on the African continent, by way of mentoring post-graduate students at the Masters and Doctorate level, and by being involved in the establishment of the first Advanced Vaccinology Course in Africa (Afro-ADVAC), first held in 2016.

## Nasamon Wanlapakorn



Nasamon Wanlapakorn is a pediatrician and a researcher at the Center of Excellence in Clinical Virology, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. She completed her medical degree with first class honor from Chulalongkorn University in 2006, and pediatric residency program from King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital in 2013. Dr Wanlapakorn received her doctor in philosophy degree in infection and immunity, a joint PhD program between Chulalongkorn University and the Institute of Infection and Global Health, University of Liverpool. Her thesis was on the immunity after pertussis vaccination including the impact of maternal Tdap immunization on the development of infant immune responses to acellular and whole cell pertussis vaccine.

She is a faculty member of the Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University and continues her research on the long-term immunogenicity of childhood vaccine following maternal Tdap immunization in Thailand.

## Ajoke Sobanjo-ter Meulen



Ajoke Sobanjo-ter Meulen is a Senior Program Officer with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and leads the global maternal immunization strategy and its implementation through industry, academic and global health partners. She manages a broad portfolio of investments comprising vaccine research and development, epidemiology, vaccine implementation research projects.

Previously, Ajoke was Cluster Head at Novartis, Cambridge, where she managed the maternal immunization clinical development program for Group B streptococcus vaccine. Further, Ajoke served as Associate Director Vaccine Clinical Research at Merck Research Laboratories where she was a development leader in several vaccine programs in discovery through phase 3.

Before joining industry, she coordinated the Child Health and Neglected Diseases program at the German bilateral agency (GIZ).

Ajoke completed her residency in pediatric and adolescent medicine at the University of Wuerzburg, Germany, and did her pediatric infectious disease fellowship at Mount Sinai Medical School, New York. She holds a M.D. degree from the University of Berlin, a Dr. med. degree from the Institute of Tropical Medicine at the University of Hamburg; and a M.Sc. degree in Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Ajoke is an affiliate associate professor of Global Health at the University of Washington.

## Ruth Karron



Dr. Ruth Karron, is a Professor of International Health in the Bloomberg School of Public Health with a joint appointment in the Department of Pediatrics in the School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Karron is a pediatric infectious diseases physician, virologist, and vaccinologist, and is Director of the Center for Immunization Research and the Johns Hopkins Vaccine Initiative. Dr. Karron has substantial experience in the evaluation of respiratory virus vaccines in adult and pediatric populations. Dr. Karron's research interests also include the development of immune responses to respiratory viral infections in early life, the epidemiology of RSV and other respiratory viral diseases in low resource settings, and public policy and ethical issues related to vaccine development and

distribution. Most recently, she co-lead the Pregnancy Research Ethics for Vaccines, Epidemics, and New Technologies (PREVENT) Working Group, which released *"Pregnant Woman & Vaccines Against Emerging Epidemic Threats: Ethics Guidance for Preparedness, Research and Response"*, a guidance document with specific actionable recommendations to ensure that pregnant women are no longer excluded from receiving vaccines against emerging infectious diseases. Dr. Karron has served on a number of national and international vaccine advisory committees and panels, including the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and the FDA Vaccine and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC), which she chaired from 2006-2008. She is currently a member of the WHO Product Development for Vaccines Advisory Committee (PDVAC).