

## BactiVac 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Network Meeting

### 04 – 07 November 2024

### Speaker Profiles



#### Dr Aída Alonso-del Valle

Vaccine Development Manager, VAXDYN, Spain

Dr Aída Alonso-del Valle is a bacteriologist with expertise in the ecology and evolution of antibiotic-resistant enterobacteria, her earlier work delved into plasmid-mediated carbapenem resistance in Klebsiella.

She earned her MSc in Microbiology Applied to Public Health and Infectious Diseases Research from Universidad de Alcalá in 2016 and completed her PhD from Universidad Complutense de Madrid in 2023. She has conducted research at both the Centro Nacional de Biotecnología (CNB-CSIC) in Madrid, Spain, and the Institut Pasteur in Paris, France, which has earned her several publications in high impact journals (ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5154-5778>) and numerous communications at international conferences.

In 2023, she joined Vaxdyn as Director of Vaccine Development to lead the technical team and strengthen research efforts in the development of the different vaccines in the company's pipeline.



#### Ms Aastha Arora

Public Health Consultant, Asian Development Bank, Philippines

Aastha Arora is a passionate public health professional with over 15 years of experience leading transformational health initiatives across South Asia. She is currently a Senior consultant with the Health Sector Group at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Headquarters, where she brings extensive expertise in advancing intersectional health projects across the region.

Aastha has worked with prominent institutions such as the World Bank, the Government of India, and UNICEF, focusing on policy design, large-scale programme implementation, and monitoring.

Aastha is a key team member of the Bangladesh Vaccines, Therapeutics, and Diagnostics (VTD) Manufacturing and Regulatory Strengthening Project, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at establishing domestic manufacturing capacity for vaccines and therapeutics, while enhancing regulatory frameworks. The project, supported by ADB financing of \$340 million, is crucial in building sustainable vaccine manufacturing infrastructure in Bangladesh.

Her work contributes directly to the global agenda of strengthening vaccine preparedness and ensuring equitable access to essential vaccines. Aastha's expertise in navigating the complexities of health and nutrition systems, coupled with her focus on vaccine and regulatory strengthening, positions her as a pivotal figure in discussions on vaccine development and public health resilience in the region.



## Professor Peter Borriello CB

Trustee of Safe Medicines for Animals - regulatory training (SMArt), UK  
*BactiVac Board Member*

Professor Peter Borriello CB was Chief Executive, Veterinary Laboratories Agency from 2008 until April 2011 when it merged with the Animal Health agency. He was appointed Chief Executive Officer, Veterinary Medicines Directorate in September 2011. He has received numerous awards and prizes for both human and animal health, the most prestigious of which was the Queen's Honours award of Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) for contributions to international animal health and to antimicrobial resistance.

He is currently a member of the UK Food Standards Agency Science Council, member of the BactiVac Network Advisory Board, and Chair of the Independent Scientific Advisory Group for RUMA (Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture). He also provides consultancy to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on improving animal medicines regulation in low- and middle- income countries, and is a short-term consultant to the World Bank.

His previous roles include: Director, Health Protection Agency, Centre for Infections; Director, Public Health Laboratory Service, Central Public Health Laboratory; Founding Director, Institute of Infections and Immunity, University of Nottingham; Head, Medical Research Council Hospital Infection Group and Microbial Pathogenicity Research Group.



## Dr Alain Bouckenooghe

Head of Research & Development, Hilleman Laboratories, Singapore  
*'Translational Workshop by Hilleman Laboratories'*

Dr Alain Bouckenooghe is currently the Chief Scientific Officer at Hilleman Laboratories where he is leading the R&D department of this biotech company. He has been working in the pharmaceutical industry over 20 years, mostly in vaccine R&D but also in regulatory and medical affairs. Alain obtained his Medical Degree at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. Upon graduation as MD he worked for several years in a rural assignment as a District Medical Officer under the Ministry of Health of Zambia. Subsequently, he completed his residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Texas, Houston. He has a Master of Public Health degree from the UT School of Public Health, Houston TX, and completed a Fellowship in Adult Infectious Diseases at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston TX. Alain held several academic positions during this time in the Department of Medicine at Baylor College.

After initial industry experience with MSD and GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, he joined Sanofi Pasteur in December 2006 to 2018, covering various responsibilities over time, including Regional Head of Clinical R&D Asia Pacific, Regional Head Medical Affairs, and R&D Partnership lead in Asia. Alain joined MSD in 2018 as Associate VP leading the respiratory franchise in Global Clinical Development.

With the Hilleman Laboratories team we are aiming to provide effective and affordable vaccine and biologicals solutions for Global Health problems especially those impacting lower and middle income countries.

## Professor Jeremy Brown

Professor of Respiratory Infection, University College London, UK



I am an academic respiratory consultant with a subspecialty interest in lung infection. I lead a team at University College London investigating the pathogenesis and mechanisms of immunity for pneumonia with projects on *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Acinetobacter baumannii*. In addition, I conduct translational research into patients with bronchiectasis, pneumonia, and COVID. My clinical practice includes caring for patients with a range of clinical respiratory infection problems, including bronchiectasis, aspergillosis, and pneumonia in immunocompetent and immunocompromised patients. I am co-head of the UCL Respiratory department, leading a group of ten investigators with research groups investigating a range of lung conditions. Since 2018 I have been a member of the UK Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisations, contributing to national decisions on vaccine policy for multiple pathogens including COVID, *S. pneumoniae*, influenza, and RSV.

## Professor Adam Cunningham

Professor of Functional Immunity, University of Birmingham, UK  
**BactiVac Network Co-Director**



Professor Adam Cunningham gained his PhD from Southampton University for studies on antibody responses to Chlamydia pneumoniae. After a short-term position in The Gambia, funded by the WHO, he had his first post-doctoral position in Birmingham studying the cell wall of Mycobacterium tuberculosis. From here, he started work in Prof. Ian MacLennan's group examining how antibody responses develop and are regulated. During this time, he incorporated the use of Salmonella and its component antigens into this work, leading to an independent position as a RCUK Roberts Academic Fellow, studying how immune responses develop to pathogens and vaccines. He was made Professor of Functional Immunity in August 2011 and his research is focused on how adaptive immunity to pathogens and their component antigens are induced, maintained and function. These studies help us understand why some responses are protective, whilst others are not or can even be harmful.

## Dr Jo Dean

BactiVac Network Operations Manager, University of Birmingham, UK  
**BactiVac Board Member**



Jo was awarded her undergraduate degree in Microbiology & Virology and then went onto complete her PhD in molecular virology at the University of Warwick. Jo worked as a Research Fellow at Warwick and at Birmingham University, after which she went into the commercial sector working as a Transition Project Manager at IBM for 4 years. Jo then returned to the academic sector and undertook various management roles, including management of the Birmingham Clinical Trials Unit, the School of Cancer Sciences, the Birmingham CRUK Centre and the Institute of Microbiology & Infection at the University of Birmingham.

Jo is now the BactiVac Network Operations Manager and works closely with the admin team to deliver all the operational aspects of the Network's activities.



### Professor Kirsty Le Doare

Professor of Vaccinology and Immunology, St George's, University of London, UK  
*BactiVac Board Member*

Kirsty Le Doare is a clinician scientist with skills and experience that bridge clinical practice, disease prevention and the fundamental understanding of the immunological mechanisms of infectious disease. She is also an honorary consultant in paediatric infectious diseases and immunology at St. George's, University of London and is the co-director of the Centre of Excellence in Maternal and Neonatal Vaccines at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. She is currently seconded to the World Health Organisation as the lead for Group B Streptococcal Vaccines. The work of the Centre of Excellence includes maternal vaccine trials and seroepidemiological studies to understand how vaccines can prevent mortality and morbidity in East and Southern Africa. Her work is funded by MRC, Wellcome, NIHR and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She is a member of the WHO Defeating Meningitis by 2030 Taskforce and convenes the WHO Technical Advisory Group for Group B Streptococcal Vaccines. She is a UKRI Future Leaders Fellow.



### Dr N Erlyani Abd Hamid

Assistant Director, Business Strategy & Programme Management, Hilleman Laboratories, Singapore  
*'Translational Workshop by Hilleman Laboratories'*

Dr Erlyani Hamid's career spans science and academia to strategic corporate leadership in global health. Trained as a stem-cell biologist, she made significant contributions in pioneering cutting-edge techniques like high-throughput single-cell transcriptomics, collaborating with the University of Cambridge and working at the Genome Institute of Singapore. Her journey towards broader impact in global health led her to Hilleman Labs where she now plays a central role in shaping the strategic outlook for the company, developing affordable vaccines for low- and middle-income countries to improve public health outcomes. She also leads strategic initiatives in partnership with charitable foundations and NGOs, working to catalyse positive change in global health.

Dr Hamid is a proud champion of women's leadership and role in science and global health, having previously co-founded a diversity workgroup around empowering women in STEM and driving dialogues with women leaders in global health. Dr Hamid is committed to advancing global health initiatives and improving the lives of millions around the world.



### Associate Professor Ngo Thi Hoa

Head of Zoonoses Group, Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, Vietnam

Hoa is head of the zoonoses group at OUCRU. She completed her PhD at the University of London, UK and pursued postdoc training at Yale University. She then returned to Vietnam to join OUCRU.

Her group has employed an interdisciplinary One-Health approach with conventional microbiology, molecular tools, genomics and qualitative tools to study bacterial zoonotic pathogen's infections and impact of antimicrobial usage on farms to the development of antimicrobial resistant bacteria, including pathogens, in food producing animals, in farmers and community. She also concurrently leads the Microbiology and Parasitology Research Unit at the Center for Biomedical Research, Pham Ngoc Thach University of Medicine which focuses on fungal infections.



### **Ms Kay Hunsberger**

**Executive Director, Merck Sharp & Dohme Inc., USA**

***'Translational Workshop by Hilleman Laboratories'***

Kay Hunsberger is an Executive Director of Vaccines External Development leading and coordinating key activities with external strategic partners with MSD for vaccine development and manufacturing, life cycle management, and pandemic readiness, as well as driving operational excellence internally. As the Strategic CMC Liaison foster strong partnerships and facilitate collaboration to drive scientific advancements and global access of vaccines and drugs. Collaborate with MSD internal stakeholders in Discovery, Clinical, Commercial Manufacturing, Regulatory Affairs and Legal to develop a robust plan for pandemic/epidemic preparedness. This includes assessing and addressing potential risks, implementing mitigation strategies, and ensuring that the company is well-prepared to address such challenges from vaccine CMC perspective. Act as the CMC representative for external collaborations with government agencies and NGOs for pandemic/epidemic preparedness. Ms. Hunsberger's experience spans over 30 years in the development, technical transfer and commercial manufacture of live and recombinant vaccine and biopharmaceutical products. Kay led the development effort for the Ebola vaccine and her team produced the Emergency Use supplies that supported Ebola outbreaks from 2016-2020. She most recently led an effort in partnership with IAVI to produce a Sudan vaccine for the recent outbreak in Africa. Across her career she has been involved in the development and commercialization of most Merck vaccines. She received her B.S. in Biology/Biochemistry and a B.A. in Marine Science from East Stroudsburg University.



### **Dr Evelyne Kestelyn**

**Head of the Clinical Trials Unit, Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, Vietnam**

Dr Evelyne Kestelyn is a public health specialist and clinical trialist with over 20 years of experience implementing and overseeing research programs in low- and middle-income countries. She started her career in Rwanda where she spent over ten years managing research projects in collaboration with multiple institutions such as the Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development (AIGHD), the university of Liverpool and Emory University to name a few. Her main focus was on conducting clinical trials on HIV prevention such as microbicides studies and investigating issues surrounding prevention, diagnosis and treatment of HIV infection and other reproductive tract infections.

She joined OUCRU (Oxford University Clinical Research Unit) in January 2016 as Head of the Clinical Trials Unit (CTU). The CTU manages research operations and governance for OUCRU, which includes Units in Viet Nam, Indonesia and Nepal. It manages annually over 85 active research projects at 65 collaborating institutions, run by hundreds of research staff; it leads and shares trial management systems, and contributes to clinical trials legislation. Evelyne has a strong interest in Research Ethics and as an Ethox research associate, she explores and addresses ethical issues in clinical research around equitable data sharing, informed consent, human challenge models, research in ICU settings and SWATs. Evelyne leads the OUCRU data access committee and the data governance working group and has set up the OUCRU Women Leaders in Science (OWLS) working group to advance and support female leadership and careers.



## Dr Jerome Kim

Director General, International Vaccine Institute, South Korea

Jerome H. Kim, M.D., is the Director General of IVI and an international expert on the development and evaluation of vaccines.

Prior to IVI, he served as the Principal Deputy, US Military HIV Research Program and the Chief, Laboratory of Molecular Virology and Pathogenesis at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research; and the US Army Program Manager for HIV vaccines. He led the Army's RV144 Phase III HIV vaccine trial that showed efficacy in the prevention of HIV-1.

Dr. Kim is an Adjunct Professor, Department of Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, USA; Adjunct Professor, Graduate School of Public Health, Yonsei University, Republic of Korea; and an Honorary Professor, University of Rwanda. He was named a Distinguished Visiting Professor, Seoul National University in 2022. He has authored over 350 publications.

Dr. Kim is a graduate of the University of Hawaii with high honors in History and highest honors in Biology, received his M.D. from the Yale University School of Medicine, and trained in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases at Duke University Medical Center.

Dr. Kim has received numerous awards: John Maher Award for Research Excellence, Uniformed Services University (2013); Department of the Army Research and Development Achievement Award for Technical Excellence (2013); Asia Pacific Vaccine Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award (2021); Medal of Honor for Civil Merit from the Government of the Republic of Korea (2022).



## Dr Pei-Yin Lim

Manager, Preclinical Research & Development, Hilleman Laboratories, Singapore

*'Translational Workshop by Hilleman Laboratories'*

An experienced virologist and a vaccine expert, I have worked on various vaccine platforms, including viral vector, conjugated vaccine, virus-like particles and RNA based vaccine. I have been involved in early stages of the vaccine development pathway starting from vaccine design, process development, analytical development, preclinical animal studies and filing for IND studies.



## Professor Cal MacLennan

Senior Program Officer, Bacterial Vaccines, Global Health - Enteric & Diarrheal Diseases, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USA

Senior Clinical Fellow and Group Leader, Jenner Institute, University of Oxford, UK

Professor of Vaccine Immunology, University of Birmingham, UK

Consultant Immunologist, Oxford University Hospitals, UK

**BactiVac Network Director**

Cal MacLennan, BactiVac Director, is Senior Program Officer for Bacterial Vaccines in the Enterics, Diagnostics, Genomics and Epidemiology (EDGE) team at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In relation to vaccine development, the team aims to end diarrheal disease deaths in children under five years and to eliminate typhoid as a public health problem globally. His responsibilities focus on bacterial vaccine product development, specifically against Shigella, Typhoid and other Salmonellae. After qualifying in medicine from Oxford, he studied for a doctorate in neurosciences before developing an interest in infectious disease immunology. During his higher specialist training in clinical immunology, Prof MacLennan spent time at the Wellcome Trust Major Overseas Programmes in Kilifi, Kenya and then Blantyre, Malawi investigating immunity to invasive Salmonella disease, work which led to insights that could be translated into vaccine development. From 2010 to 2014, he was Head of the Exploratory Programme at the Novartis Vaccines Institute for Global Health, in Siena, Italy. There his programme developed new candidate vaccines against Salmonella, Shigella and meningococcus, and was involved in the development of the WHO-prequalified typhoid conjugate vaccine, TyphiBev. Following a sabbatical at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Prof MacLennan returned to Oxford in 2015 to the Jenner Institute, before moving to the Gates Foundation in 2017. His ongoing work at the Jenner Institute focuses on vaccine development against gonorrhoea. He is a consultant immunologist at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Professor of Vaccine Immunology at the University of Birmingham from where he directs the BactiVac Network. He sees bacterial vaccines as having huge potential for global health benefit and is excited about the opportunities that BactiVac has to advance this important area of vaccinology.



## Dr James E. Meiring

Senior Clinical Lecturer, University of Liverpool and Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust Programme, UK/Malawi

James Meiring is currently a senior clinical lecturer at the University of Liverpool, based at the Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust programme in Blantyre, Malawi. He is also an infectious disease clinician. His research interests focus on the epidemiology of enteric fever and prevention through vaccination. James has myriad experience both in large-scale epidemiological studies and targeted clinical vaccine trials, the latter ranging from phase one trials to assessments of post-production impact.



### Dr Francesca Micoli

Senior Project Leader and Director of the Innovation Academy, GSK Vaccine Institute for Global Health, Italy  
**BactiVac Board Member**

PhD in industrial organic chemistry awarded at the University of Florence, Italy, in 2006.

From 2007 working in the field of vaccines, focusing her research on the development of effective and affordable vaccines for neglected diseases in impoverished communities. Involved in the development of vaccines against *Salmonella* Typhi, *Salmonella* Paratyphi A, non-typhoidal *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, Group A Streptococcus, *klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Neisseria meningitidis*. She has been Technology Platform Head at GVGH, working on two main technology platforms, glycoconjugation and Generalised Modules for Membrane Antigens (GMMA). From April 2020, Senior Project Leader (leading the programs for vaccines development against *Shigella* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*); from 2021 also Director of the Innovation Academy, focused on innovative technologies (nanoparticles, monoclonal antibodies, mRNA, adjuvants, alternative delivery systems) for vaccine development. Author of more than 100 scientific publications and several patent applications, with many collaborations in place with academic and industrial partners.



### Dr Laurence A. Mulard

Research Director, INSTITUT PASTEUR, France

Laurence A. Mulard graduated as an engineer from the Ecole Supérieure de Physique et Chimie de la ville de Paris (ESPCI, Paris, France). She obtained her PhD in Chemistry from the Université Pierre et Marie Curie (UPMC, Paris, France). After a post-doctoral stay at the National Institutes of Health (NIH, Bethesda, MD, USA), she joined the Organic Chemistry Laboratory at Institut Pasteur (Paris, France). She was appointed Head of the Chemistry of Biomolecules Laboratory in 2008. Whether involving peptide science or glycoscience, her research interests deal with the development of chemical tools and bioactive compounds aimed at studying and interfering with molecular phenomena governing infectious diseases. Focus is on peptide/carbohydrate-based diversity-oriented synthesis, sustainable chemistry, synthetic glycans as surrogates of bacterial polysaccharides, bioconjugates, and on advancing synthetic carbohydrate-based conjugate vaccines up to clinics.





## Dr Duy Pham

Head of Molecular Epidemiology Group, Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, Vietnam

Dr Duy Pham is a Wellcome International Training Fellow and Head of the Molecular Epidemiology group at the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit in Vietnam. His research group is dedicated to studying the evolution, molecular epidemiology, and clinical implications of drug-resistant bacterial infections in Vietnam and Asia. His research approach is multidisciplinary, combining genomics and molecular techniques with epidemiological and clinical studies to gain insights into how bacterial pathogens evolve resistance to drugs and spread within different populations and settings, and how they impact human health. His focus is on addressing local and regional public health challenges driven by the proliferation of drug-resistant bacteria. Since 2008, Dr Duy Pham has been conducting research on typhoid fever (*Salmonella* Typhi and *Salmonella* Paratyphi A) and diarrheal diseases (diarrheagenic *E. coli*, *Shigella* and *NTS*). Recently, he has expanded his interests to include bloodstream infections (extraintestinal pathogenic *E. coli* and *K. pneumoniae*) and nosocomial infections (*A. baumannii* and *K. pneumoniae*). His ongoing projects are characterized by their multidisciplinary nature and cutting-edge methodologies. A key project, supported by Wellcome, integrates genomics/transcriptomics, macrophage assays, evolutionary experiments within a clinical trial framework. This comprehensive approach is instrumental in unraveling the emergence and impact of azithromycin-resistant *Salmonella* Typhi in South Asia.

Furthermore, his research portfolio encompasses diverse multidisciplinary projects aimed at understanding the impact of antibiotic therapy on the human gut microbiome, horizontal plasmid transfer and drug resistance evolution. He is currently delving deeply into various investigations on the genomic epidemiology, ecological and evolutionary dynamics of virulence and antimicrobial resistance in *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. In collaboration with University of Oxford, he has started a new project exploring humoral and cellular responses to *Klebsiella pneumoniae* protein candidates among patients with bloodstream infections.



## Associate Professor Nguyen Ngoc Phuoc

Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Fisheries, Hue University, Vietnam

Dr. Nguyen Ngoc Phuoc is a fish pathologist with wide experience in developing vaccines for fish and evaluating their immune responses. Currently, he is advancing his research on bacterial diseases (within existing and emerging aquatic animal production systems) affecting fish, aiming to enhance sustainable aquaculture practices in Vietnam. His research focuses on the development of the Group B streptococcus (GBS) vaccine in

Tilapia.

Dr. Phuoc has played a pivotal role as a PI or collaborator in numerous projects funded by GCRF, IVVN, and BactiVac. (e.g. Of Fish and Men – Public Health Risks Posed by GBS in Aquaculture in Southeast Asia; Proving the feasibility of field-enabled pathogen detection in fish farms in Vietnam; Development of immunological tools for monitoring the immune response of Nile tilapia; Development of an oral vaccine to protect farmed tilapia against *Streptococcus agalactiae* (Group B Streptococcus) infections; Immunogenicity of Group B streptococcus (GBS) in fish following vaccine delivery via pH-responsive vaccine carriers within the feed). These projects include significant research such as assessing public health risks linked to GBS in Southeast Asian aquaculture, validating pathogen detection methods in Vietnamese fish farms, creating immunological tools to track Nile tilapia's immune responses, and formulating oral vaccines to shield farmed tilapia from *Streptococcus agalactiae* infections. His work also explores the immune response of fish to GBS vaccines delivered through pH-sensitive carriers in their feed.

With a background in adhering to UK research governance and animal experimentation standards, Dr. Phuoc has contributed his expertise to the FAO-RAP, addressing the issue of GBS disease transmitted through fish in Southeast Asia. He oversees an experimental aquatic facility dedicated to GBS vaccine research and challenge trials. Furthermore, Dr. Phuoc maintains a close partnership with tilapia farmers affected by GBS in Vietnam's southern and central regions, ensuring that the vaccines developed meet the practical needs of the end-users.

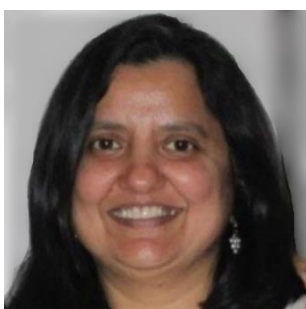


## Professor Sir Andrew Pollard

**Director of the Oxford Vaccine Group at the University of Oxford and a consultant paediatrician at the Oxford Children's hospital, UK  
*BactiVac Board Member***

Sir Andrew is Director of the Oxford Vaccine Group at the University of Oxford and an honorary consultant paediatrician (infectious disease and immunology) at Oxford Children's Hospital. He received a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2021 for services to Public Health and the Order of Medical Merit from the Federal Republic of Brazil in 2022.

His research includes the design, development and clinical evaluation of vaccines including those for typhoid, meningococcus, Haemophilus influenzae type b, pneumococcus, plague, pertussis, influenza, rabies, coronavirus and Ebola. His work on pneumococcal and meningococcal vaccines has been used in global public health policy. His studies on typhoid both using the human challenge model and in field sites supported the WHO prequalification of a new typhoid conjugate vaccine and WHO recommendations for its use in countries with a high burden of disease with more than 50 million vaccinated since 2021. He was the chief investigator for the clinical trials of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine in 2020 in 24,000 participants in UK, South Africa and Brazil, which led to authorisation of the vaccine for use in more than 180 countries with over 3.5 billion doses distributed and award of the Copley Medal by the Royal Society in 2022. He has supervised 50 PhD students and his publications includes over 700 manuscripts. He chairs the UK Department of Health and Social Care's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, was a member of WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (2016-2022).



## Dr Rama Raghunandan

**Scientific Director, PATH, USA**

Dr Rama Raghunandan is a vaccine scientist with a 24-year career marked by a rich tapestry of experiences in vaccine development for a diverse range of viral vaccine candidates, propelling vaccine candidates from preclinical to clinical trials.

In her current role as a scientific director in PATH's Center for Vaccine Innovation and Access, Dr. Raghunandan leads a diverse portfolio of projects in vaccine infectious disease and bacterial and parasitic disease programs. This includes but is not limited to GBS, COVID-19, HPV, MR-MAP, and Nipah. Her role encompasses a broad spectrum of responsibilities, from project leadership and partnership management to vaccine R&D and clinical serology assay leadership.

She received her postdoctoral training in Immunology and biomedical research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the US Food and Drug Administration and obtained her Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India.



## Dr Paul W. Rhyne

Bioassay Lead, Gates Medical Research Institute, USA

Dr Paul Rhyne is a bioassay leader at the Gates Medical Research Institute where he is responsible for the development and validation of bioassays used to support multiple vaccine and therapeutic clinical studies conducted by the Gates Medical Research Institute since 2020. Paul has more than 25 years of scientific leadership in the design and use of bioassays for measuring clinical biomarkers, biologics, anti-drug induced immunogenicity, and vaccine-induced immunogenicity. He is a well-recognized industry expert with experience in multiple pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and contract research organizations. Paul is an active contributor to the scientific community with many peer-reviewed publications and key industry white papers and is an active member of numerous scientific organizations.



## Dr Tarun Saluja

Head of Clinical Development, International Vaccine Institute, South Korea

Dr Saluja is the Head of Clinical Development at International Vaccine Institute (IVI), whose mission is to discover, develop and deliver safe, effective, and affordable vaccines for Global Health. He has 20 years of experience working in industry, academia and resource-limited settings in both patient care and clinical research. He joined IVI in 2017 and his main areas of research includes epidemiology studies, pre-clinical research, and vaccine clinical trials (phase I-IV). In his current role, he is responsible for capacity building in terms of trainings and infrastructure in low- & middle-income countries, designing clinical trials, grant writing, regulatory interactions, overseeing departmental activities like medical writing, study startup, study execution, regulatory submissions, pharmacovigilance and impact evaluation. He has many publications in national and international Journals to his credit. Dr Saluja has received many awards & recognitions from academia and industry alike.



## Dr Nupur Sengupta

General Manager, Global Alliance Management, Biological E Ltd, India

Nupur Sengupta is a seasoned professional with a wealth of experience in the field of vaccines and biopharmaceuticals. With a PhD in Structural Biology and an MBA, she has dedicated her career to advancing the course of Global Health.

Throughout her career, Nupur has held various positions that have allowed her to contribute to the development and distribution of vaccines. Her journey began at Shantha Biotechnics Ltd, A Sanofi Company, in Hyderabad-India, where she served as a Scientist in the Analytical R&D leading the Biochemistry Team and played a crucial role in developing vaccines like HPV, Cholera, Typhoid conjugate, Rotavirus, and Penta- & Hexavalent combination vaccines.

Nupur's expertise in vaccinology and biopharmaceuticals led her to her current role at Bio E-Vaccines., a company specializing in vaccines primarily for LMICs. As the General Manager of Global Alliance Management, she has been responsible for managing strategic partnerships and driving business objectives, ensuring the success of alliance initiatives. She has been playing a key role in managing collaborative and externally funded projects, coordinating and facilitating support between internal project teams and external organizations, for the flawless execution of tech-transfer and in-licensing of projects, ensuring that vaccines are developed and delivered efficiently.



## Professor Dr Annelies Wilder-Smith

Team Lead for Vaccine Development, World Health Organisation, Switzerland

Dr Annelies Wilder-Smith is Team Lead for Vaccine Development at the World Health Organization (WHO). In this role, she is responsible for all WHO policy recommendations on COVID-19 vaccines and dengue vaccines. She also leads the vaccine pipeline for Shigella, iNTS, typhoid and paratyphoid and Group B Streptococci.

She is Honorary Professor of Emerging Infectious Diseases at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Past President of the International Society of Travel Medicine (ISTM), and Editor-in-Chief of ISTM's Journal of Travel Medicine. Annelies specializes in travel and tropical medicine, as well as emerging viral diseases such as COVID-19, Zika, dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever, influenza, and SARS. In 2003, she was at the forefront of the SARS epidemic in Singapore. Throughout the pandemic, she served as the Focal Point for the SAGE vaccine policy recommendations for COVID-19. She also led the SAGE Working Group on vaccine policy formulation for the TAK-003 vaccine (Qdenga) which was endorsed during the SAGE meeting in September 2023.

With a career spanning almost three decades, she has led and co-led various clinical trials, published more than 380 scientific papers, edited and co-edited textbooks and travel medicine books, served on various editorial boards and scientific committees, including as Editorial Consultant to The Lancet. Her awards include the Myrone Levine Vaccinology Prize, the Honor Group Award for exemplary leadership and coordination in determining and communicating global yellow fever risk presented at the CDC Award Ceremony, the Mercator Professorship award by the German Research Foundation and the Ashdown Oration Award by the Australian College of Travel Medicine. She was the Principal Investigator of an EU funded international consortium called "ZikaPLAN" and also completed another 4-year research project on dengue, also funded by the European Commission.



## Dr Dang Thi Thanh Son

Head of Veterinary Hygiene Department, National Institute of Veterinary Research, Vietnam

Dr Son is senior researcher and has worked as coordinator/member of a number of research projects at the funded by Vietnam government or international projects in the fields of livestock waste management, foodborne pathogens, drug-resistant bacteria and food safety (sponsored by Danida, UK, Cirad). Dr Son is also an invitational lecturer for graduation/Master at the Faculty of Food Technology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine- VNUA, and PhD course at NIVR. Dr Son has conducted a number of training courses (theory and practice in the lab) to transfer knowledge on foodborne pathogens, AMR, and sanitation, to local staffs at Sub-Departments of animal health, district stations, and livestock owners.

Dr Dang Thi Thanh Son is a national consultant in the field of food microbiology, antibiotic resistance, and biosecurity according to international standards. She is a Technical Consultant Fleming Fund (AMR lectures), Traffic on Zoonoses and Biology Conservation, and Specialist STC- MARD's team of Food safety risk assessment. She is a member for Technical Working Groups under OHP and/or High-Level Meeting for MARD, MOH, MONRE (2020-2021-2022-2023). She is also member of the National advisory group of the Antimicrobial Resistance Bacteria Monitoring Program in Agriculture (NAP 2021-2025); Particularly, Dr Son is a key Technical consultant for IFC-WB to work on optimize Biosecurity system, including vaccination, ABs prudent-used and target virus disease monitoring to support commercial pig company's enterprises to ensure international standards following the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) for export purposes.



## Mr Rajinder Kumar Suri

**Chief Executive Officer, Developing Countries Vaccine Manufacturers Network International (DCVMN), India**

As CEO-DCVMN International is responsible for providing leadership, shaping strategic vision, governance and overall operational excellence of DCVMN. Rajinder has been appointed as committee delegate on GAVI-PPC effective 1st January 2024, is a member of GAVI's Vaccine Investment Strategy (VIS) Steering Committee 2024, a permanent member of CEPI's Joint Coordination Group (JCG), 2023-24 and a member of PAVMs Talent Development WS as well as Steering Committee member of the Regional Vaccine Manufacturing Collaborative (RVMC).

In response to un-precedented challenge posed by COVID-19, Rajinder has actively participated in global strategic initiatives alongside COVAX partners-WHO, GAVI, CEPI, UNICEF and various other international organizations and industry associations.

Rajinder has contributed as a member of several advisory expert groups including COVAX Manufacturing & Supply Chain Task Force Leadership Team, G-20 Health Working Group and Market Design and Demand Intelligence pillar of PAVM. He is on the Governing Board of Life Sciences Skill Development Council (LSSSDC).

With over 25 years of top management experience in the industry, Rajinder has served on the Board of Directors of the Indian subsidiary of Sanofi Pasteur and held the position of CEO-Panacea Biotec. Rajinder has served earlier as Member-GAVI-PPC as well as Vice-President, DCVMN Executive Committee from 2014-16. He has played a lead role in negotiations & interactions with Ministry of Health, Government of India, UN agencies and other Global organizations.



## Professor Christoph Tang

**Professor of Cellular Pathology, Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, UK**

I am a clinician scientist with expertise in host pathogen interactions in obligate human pathogens, and vaccine development. My PhD was on the fungal pathogen *Aspergillus fumigatus*, but since then my research has focused on bacterial pathogens which are restricted to the human host. My group studies pathogenic *Neisseria* spp. and *Shigella* spp. As obligate endosymbionts, these organisms have developed specific adaptations to survive in microenvironments in the human body and exquisite mechanisms to evade the immune responses. We apply our understanding of disease mechanisms for vaccine development and therapeutic interventions.



## Dr Ha Nguyen Thanh

Post-Doctoral Researcher, Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, Vietnam

I am a postdoctoral researcher in the Social Science and Implementation Research Department at the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit. I am currently working on “studies within trial” which explore various aspects of the implementation process of clinical trials. I have PhD in public health at the University of Oxford that examines the socio-cultural factors shaping vaccine views and practices in rural areas of Vietnam. My research interest focuses on improving health literacy and access to health services for marginalized communities.



## Professor Guy Thwaites

Director, Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, Vietnam

Professor Guy Thwaites, MA (Cantab) MBBS Ph.D. FRCP FRCPath FMedSci MBE, is the Director of the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit Vietnam & Wellcome Africa Asia Programme, Professor of Infectious Diseases, University of Oxford, Honorary Consultant in Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology at Guy’s and St. Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust and Honorary Professor, MRC Clinical Trial Units at University College London.

Professor Guy Thwaites qualified from Cambridge University and the United Medical and Dental schools of Guy’s and St Thomas’ Hospitals and trained in Infectious Diseases and Microbiology in Brighton, the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit (OUCRU) in Vietnam, Imperial College London, and the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London.

His research interests focus on the management of severe bacterial infections, especially those involving the central nervous system. He sits on advisory boards for the WHO and the Australian and UK governments.