

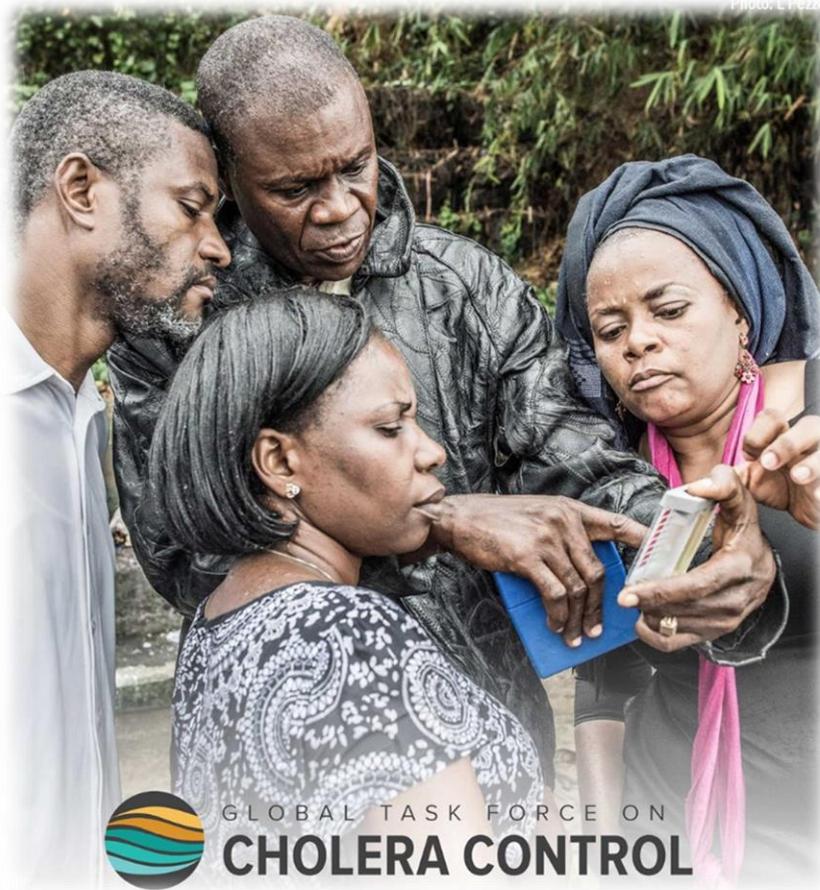


GLOBAL TASK FORCE ON
CHOLERA CONTROL

2021 GTFCC World Health Assembly Side Event

20 May 2021

Biographies: Speakers and Moderators



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- Excellence Monsieur le Ministre de la Sante, Dr. Jean-Jacques Mbugani Mbanda
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Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Position: Director-General

Institution: WHO

Country: Switzerland



Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was elected WHO Director-General for a five-year term by WHO Member States at the Seventieth World Health Assembly in May 2017. In doing so, he was the first WHO Director-General elected from among multiple candidates by the World Health Assembly, and was the first person from the WHO African Region to head the world's leading public health agency.

Born in the Eritrean city of Asmara, Dr Tedros graduated from the University of Asmara with a Bachelor of Biology, before earning a Master of Science (MSc) in Immunology of Infectious Diseases from the University of London, a Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) in Community Health from the University of Nottingham and an Honorary Fellowship from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Following his studies, Dr Tedros returned to Ethiopia to support the delivery of health services, first working as a field-level malariologist, before heading a regional health service and later serving in Ethiopia's federal government for over a decade as Minister of Health and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Prior to his election as Director-General of WHO, Dr Tedros held many leadership positions in global health, including as Chair of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, Chair of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, and Co-chair of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Board.

Dr. Frew Benson

Position: Chairperson
Institution: GTFCC Steering Committee
Country: South Africa



Dr. Frew Benson is the former Chief Director of Communicable Diseases for the National Department of Health in South Africa and is currently a Senior Clinical Executive in Gauteng Province. He obtained his qualifications in South Africa: MBBCh (Stel), DTM&H(Wits), PDHSM(UCT), MSc(Med) in Child Health (Wits), and PhD in Public Health (Wits).

As Chief Director, he led the country's efforts to prevent and control several epidemic-prone diseases, including the fight against the country's cholera epidemic in 2008-2009.

He has represented South Africa at several international fora, including the WHA and AU.

He is chair of the GTFCC since 2017, and Chair of the Steering Committee since its inception.

Dr. Seth Berkley

Position: Chief Executive Officer

Institution: Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

Country: Switzerland



The President, CEO and founder of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), Dr Berkley is a Harvard-trained physician, CDC-trained epidemiologist and a leading global vaccines advocate.

Dr Berkley brings to GAVI a wealth of experience as an entrepreneurial CEO and fundraiser and a proven ability in building coalitions around a common vision. Under his leadership, IAVI implemented a global advocacy programme that assured that vaccines receive prominent attention in the media and in political fora such as the G8, EU and the UN. He also oversaw the creation of a virtual vaccine product development effort involving industry, academia, and developing country scientists.

Prior to founding IAVI in 1996, Dr Berkley was an officer of the Health Sciences Division at The Rockefeller Foundation where he managed programmes on vaccines, AIDS, reproductive health and public health training in Africa, Asia and Latin America. His past experience also includes work at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the Task Force for Child Survival at the Carter Center where he served as the Ministry of Health Epidemiologist in Uganda. Dr Berkley has been featured on the cover of Newsweek magazine and recognised by TIME magazine in 2009 as one of the "100 most influential people in the world."

Dr. Christopher R. Braden

Position: Deputy Director, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

Institution: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Country: United States



Dr. Christopher Braden serves as the Deputy Director, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases at the CDC.

Prior to 2016, he was the Director of the Division of Foodborne, Waterborne and Environmental Diseases. Previously, he served as the Associate Director for Science in the Division of Parasitic Diseases, and Chief of Outbreak Response and Surveillance in the Division of Foodborne, Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases. Dr. Braden has served on incident management teams for multiple national and international CDC responses.

Dr. Braden received his Bachelor of Science from Cornell University, and his MD at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency in internal medicine, followed by a fellowship in infectious diseases at Tufts New England Medical Center in Boston, MA. He is Board certified in infectious diseases. He joined CDC as an EIS Officer in 1993. He is a retired commissioned officer in the US Public Health Service, and a member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

He has authored over 70 peer reviewed publications and textbook chapters. His major areas of interest include molecular epidemiology of infectious diseases, infectious diseases surveillance and outbreak investigation and national programs in food safety.

Dr. Godfrey Bwire

Position: Head of the Division of Public Health Emergency Preparedness and the Focal Point for Cholera Prevention

Institution: Ministry of Health

Country: Uganda



Dr. Godfrey Bwire (MBCHB, MPH, PhD) is a Ugandan physician, researcher, and public health specialist with over 20 years of experience. Dr. Bwire focuses on public health approaches to prevent and control infectious diseases, particularly cholera, diarrhoeal diseases, Ebola, and other haemorrhagic fevers.

Between 2005-2016, Dr. Bwire was the Head of Control of Diarrheal Diseases (CDD) within the Republic of Uganda's Ministry of Health (UMoH). Since 2017, Dr. Bwire heads the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Division of the UMoH.

Dr. Bwire believes in teamwork and collaboration. He is currently galvanising stakeholders' efforts to eliminate cholera in Uganda by 2030.

Mr. Emanuele Capobianco

Position: Director, Health & Care Department
Institution: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
Country: Switzerland



Emanuele Capobianco (@ecapobianco) is the Director of Health and Care at the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). He leads the IFRC's Global Health and Care Team, which provides strategic and operational support to 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around the world in the areas of community health, emergency health and water/sanitation. He currently leads the IFRC's global response to COVID-19 and the IFRC's response to the Ebola outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Before joining IFRC, Emanuele was the Deputy Executive Director of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health. He has also worked with the Global Fund, the World Bank, UNICEF and the World Health Organization at country, regional and headquarter levels. Emanuele holds a Medical Degree from Italy, a Master's in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University and an Erasmus Mundus' Master's in International Humanitarian Action.

Ms. Simone Carter

Position: Lead, Integrated Outbreak Analytics
Institution: UNICEF Public Health Emergencies
Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo and
Switzerland



Simone is a social epidemiologist working in public health and emergency response for the past 10 years. She is currently living between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Geneva, Switzerland.

Simone focuses on bringing together different data sources; integrating social sciences, programme data and epidemiological data to better understand and explain outbreaks and their impacts for improved preparedness and response. Simone leads the GOARN Analytics for Outbreaks Working Group, which brings together different actors to support this at a global level.

She is also focused on developing and using guidelines to reinforce and improve comprehensive age, sex, and gender data collection, analysis, and use in real-time outbreak analytics.

Mr. Wiseman Chimwaza

Position: Cholera Focal Point

Institution: Ministry of Health

Country: Malawi



Wiseman Chimwaza serves as the Cholera Focal Point within Malawi's Ministry of Health. His work focuses on identifying and implementing sustainable approaches to cholera control, thus putting an end to the frequent cholera outbreaks that occur within Malawi.

Ms. Pamela Mwelala Chisanga

Position: Country Director

Institution: WaterAid

Country: Zambia



Pamela has served as the Country Director of WaterAid Zambia since January 2016. Pamela previously worked as WaterAid's Head of Policy and Programmes from 2002-2005. Pamela is a development practitioner with over 20 years of experience in the development sector. She has worked with various organisations, including Oxfam, Plan International, ActionAid, and the Children in Need Network.

Pamela is a Sociology and Public Administration graduate of the University of Zambia.

Dr. Marc Gastellu-Etchegorry

Position: Deputy Director

Institution: Epicentre

Country: France



Dr. Marc Gastellu-Etchegorry, an epidemiologist and public health specialist, joined Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) in 1986.

His work on epidemics has oriented his professional career toward the poorest people and the victims of epidemics: measles, meningitis, cholera, etc. Serving as the Deputy Director of Operations in Paris, Medical Director and then International Secretary at MSF, as well as his position as Director of the International and Tropical Department at the Institut de veille Sanitaire (now Santé Publique France), reinforced his conviction to master simple and functional surveillance systems.

Simultaneously, the importance of coupling programs with research to make care more accessible to people living in extreme poverty was forged. This conviction led him to Epicentre, the entity created by MSF in charge of epidemiological and research studies, where he is currently the Deputy Director.

Christine Marie George, PhD

Position: Associate Professor
Institution: Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health
Country: United States



Dr. Christine Marie George is an Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health in the Department of International Health. She is an epidemiologist and environmental engineer whose career focuses on identifying transmission routes for environmental exposures and the development of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions to intervene upon these identified transmission routes.

Her interdisciplinary research portfolio spans infectious disease epidemiology, genomics for outbreak investigation, and behavioral interventions. She has been working on WASH projects domestically and internationally for 15 years, including directing five randomized controlled trials of WASH interventions.

Dr. Myriam Henkens

Position: International Medical Coordinator

Institution: Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)

Country: Belgium



For more than 10 years, Dr. Henkens has worked in field positions in several African and Asian countries with MSF. After completing a Master of Public Health degree at Johns Hopkins University, she became the Director of the Medical Department at MSF's Brussels office, and she now leads all of MSF's international medical coordination efforts. In addition, Dr. Henkens continues to be involved in several medical topic areas, including meningitis, cholera, and vaccines, including outbreak response and treatment/prevention.

Dr. Henkens represents MSF within several interagency platforms, including the Global Task Force on Cholera Control, the GOARN Steering Committee, and the international coordinating groups of meningitis, cholera, and vaccination. She also leads MSF's inputs to the WHO Essential Medicines List and coordinates the intersection team for the quality assurance of medicines, medical devices (including diagnostic tests), and therapeutic foods.

Dr. Chikwe Ihekweazu

Position: Director General

Institution: Nigeria Centre for Disease Control

Country: Nigeria



Dr. Chikwe Ihekweazu is the Director General of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). Dr. Ihekweazu trained as an infectious disease epidemiologist and has over 20 years' experience working in senior public health and leadership positions in several National Public Health Institutes, including the South African National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), the United Kingdom's Health Protection Agency, and Germany's Robert Koch Institute (RKI).

Dr. Ihekweazu has led several short-term engagements for the World Health Organization, mainly in response to major infectious disease outbreaks around the world including the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Dr. Fred Kapaya

Position: National Cholera Elimination Coordinator

Institution: Zambia National Public Health
Institute/Ministry of Health

Country: Zambia



Dr. Fred Kapaya is a Medical Doctor and holds a MSc in Epidemiology. He has also completed the Advanced Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP), which resulted in his appointment as the National Cholera Elimination Coordinator, tasked with spearheading the cholera elimination agenda in Zambia.

Dr. Kapaya is a dynamic, motivated, and accomplished public health specialist with over 15 years of experience in both private and public health sectors. He has a proven record of success in building health systems, including the development and management of projects from concept to completion at district, province, and national levels. Dr. Kapaya is particularly skilled at building and managing multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral teams.

Dr. Firdausi Qadri

Position: Senior Scientist and Head, Mucosal Immunology & Vaccinology Unit, Infectious Diseases Division

Institution: icddr,b

Country: Bangladesh



Dr Firdausi Qadri, PhD, Senior Scientist & Head, Mucosal Immunology & Vaccinology Unit, Infectious Diseases

Division, at icddr,b, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Her work includes basic and applied immunology of infectious diseases but also clinical and large field-based studies on enteric vaccines and has been co-authored for 468 peer-reviewed publications including reviews, book chapters.

Special interests are infections caused by *V. cholerae*, *Shigella*, *ETEC*, *Salmonella* spp and *Helicobacter pylori* under grants from Sida, NIH, BMGF, USAID, University of Oxford and EU. The results have produced an impact in the field of enteric diseases specifically in the area of immunological and genetics and genomic mechanisms, proteomics, metagenomics, diagnostics and vaccine development.

She has been elected fellow of many societies including ASM, AAM, TWAS, IDSA, BAS, INSA and serves on advisory boards including the ISDB science, biotechnology and innovation board.

Dr. Aninda Rahman

Position: Deputy Program Manager

Institution: Communicable Disease Control, Directorate
General of Health Services, Ministry of Health
and Family Welfare

Country: Bangladesh



Dr. Aninda Rahman is an epidemiologist and medical graduate that currently serves as the Deputy Program Manager of Communicable Disease Control, located within Bangladesh's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

In this role, Dr. Rahman serves as the Program Manager for the National Diarrhoea Control Program in Bangladesh, which includes work on food and water borne diseases, including cholera. Dr. Rahman is motivated by working in challenging public health contexts, and hopes to become a top epidemiologist and contribute to the improvement of infectious diseases, both in Bangladesh and abroad.

Dr. John Pasquale Rumunu

Position: Director-General, Preventive Health Services

Institution: Ministry of Health

Country: Republic of South Sudan



Dr. John Rumunu (MB.BS, MPH, FFPH, MSc-EMDM) is a public health specialist with various qualifications in medicine, health service delivery, disease surveillance, monitoring & evaluation, community health, and disaster management. He currently serves as the the Director-General of Preventive Health Services in the Ministry of Health, Republic of South Sudan.

Dr. Rumunu is an alumnus of the European Master of Disaster Medicine (EMDM, 2018) and a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health (FFPH) at the United Kingdom's Royal Colleges of Physicians, awarded with distinction in June 2015. He also holds a Master of Public Health degree from Leeds University's Nuffield Institute of Health (2001), and a MB.BS from the University of Juba, Khartoum (1993).

Dr. Rumunu has held numerous positions in public health and medicine, and has authored and co-authored several papers, reports, and publications in various areas of public health.

Stephen Sosler, PhD, MPH

Position: Head, Vaccine Programmes

Institution: Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

Country: Switzerland



Stephen Sosler is Senior Technical Advisor and acting Head of Vaccine Programmes at the Gavi Secretariat providing guidance and expertise on Alliance supported routine and stockpiled vaccines for 17 infectious diseases.

Before joining Gavi, Dr Sosler held key positions at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, seconded to the World Health Organization in India and the WHO Central Africa Inter-country Support Team in Libreville, Gabon. Dr Sosler has a PhD and Master of Public Health in International Health-Epidemiology from the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

Dr. Duncan Steele

Position: Deputy Director and Strategic Lead:
Enteric and Diarrheal Diseases

Institution: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Country: United States



Dr. Duncan Steele (PhD) is the Deputy Director and Strategic Lead for Enteric and Diarrheal Diseases at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He leads a team managing a portfolio of vaccine development for cholera, rotavirus, *Shigella* and typhoid fever. The team also supports efforts on the epidemiology and burden of the enteric and diarrhoeal diseases program and includes assessment of disease burden for future vaccine impact evaluation.

Dr. Mable Carole Tevi Benissan

Position: Technical Officer

Institution: World Health Organization

Country: Switzerland



Dr. Tevi Benissan works at the World Health Organization's headquarters, within the *Essential Programme on Immunization* Unit of the Immunization Vaccines and Biologicals Department. Prior to working at the WHO, Dr. Tevi Benissan worked at the WHO Regional Office for Africa on new vaccine introductions, including Meningitis, Human Papillomavirus, Inactivated Polio Virus, Pneumococcal Conjugate and Rotavirus vaccines.

She currently works within the Life Course and Integration team, where she focuses on supporting new vaccine introductions, including for Typhoid conjugate vaccine. Dr. Tevi Benissan also supports the "Defeating Meningitis by 2030 Global Roadmap," as well contributing to the Yellow Fever strategy. Dr. Tevi Benissan works closely with the WHO's cholera emergencies team, discussing opportunities for integration of preventive oral cholera vaccine campaigns with other activities, such as water, sanitation and hygiene.

Dr. Stuart Vallis

Position: Program Officer

Institution: SDC/HA Bern

Country: Switzerland



Dr. Stuart Vallis is a Program Officer at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, focusing on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), as well as health. He has over 20 years of humanitarian experience, including 23 field missions focused on WASH, Emergency Response, Project Management, Energy, Environment, and Logistics.

Dr. Vallis has been with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation since 2010. During this time, he has also been seconded to UNICEF, UNHCR, and IOM. Prior to 2010, he worked on humanitarian issues with Médecins Sans Frontières and The World Bank.

Dr. Vallis holds a PhD in Physics from the University of Glasgow and a Masters in Renewable Energy and Sustainable Building Technology from the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwest Switzerland.

Mr. Tim Wainwright

Position: Chief Executive Officer

Institution: WaterAid

Country: United Kingdom



Tim Wainwright became Chief Executive of WaterAid UK in May 2017, succeeding Barbara Frost.

Tim believes water, sanitation and hygiene underpin all progress in development and is committed to WaterAid's global strategy to transform lives by ensuring everyone, everywhere is reached with services that last. What's more, all people need access to essential and dependable water services to protect them in the ongoing fight against Covid-19, as well as future diseases and the impact of climate change. In today's challenging world, this requires renewed energy and collaboration with partners from civil society, governments and the private sector.

Before joining WaterAid, Tim spent six years as Chief Executive of ADD (Action on Disability and Development) International, an NGO working to promote independence, equality and opportunity for disabled people in poverty in Africa and Asia. Tim also served as the chair of Bond, the consortium of UK international development agencies.

Dr. Charlie Weller

Position: Head of Vaccines

Institution: Wellcome Trust

Country: United Kingdom



Dr. Charlie Weller is Head of the Vaccines Priority Area at Wellcome, with a focus on the development of new and improved vaccines, as well as strengthening the connection between research and decision making to ensure better use of vaccines. Dr. Weller's team has a primary focus on epidemics and pandemics, due in part to Wellcome's status as a founder of funder of CEPI.

Charlie joined Wellcome in 2014 and has over 16 years of research experience in both academic and pharmaceutical environments. She holds a BSc in Genetics from Birmingham University, and a PhD in Immunology from Imperial College London.