



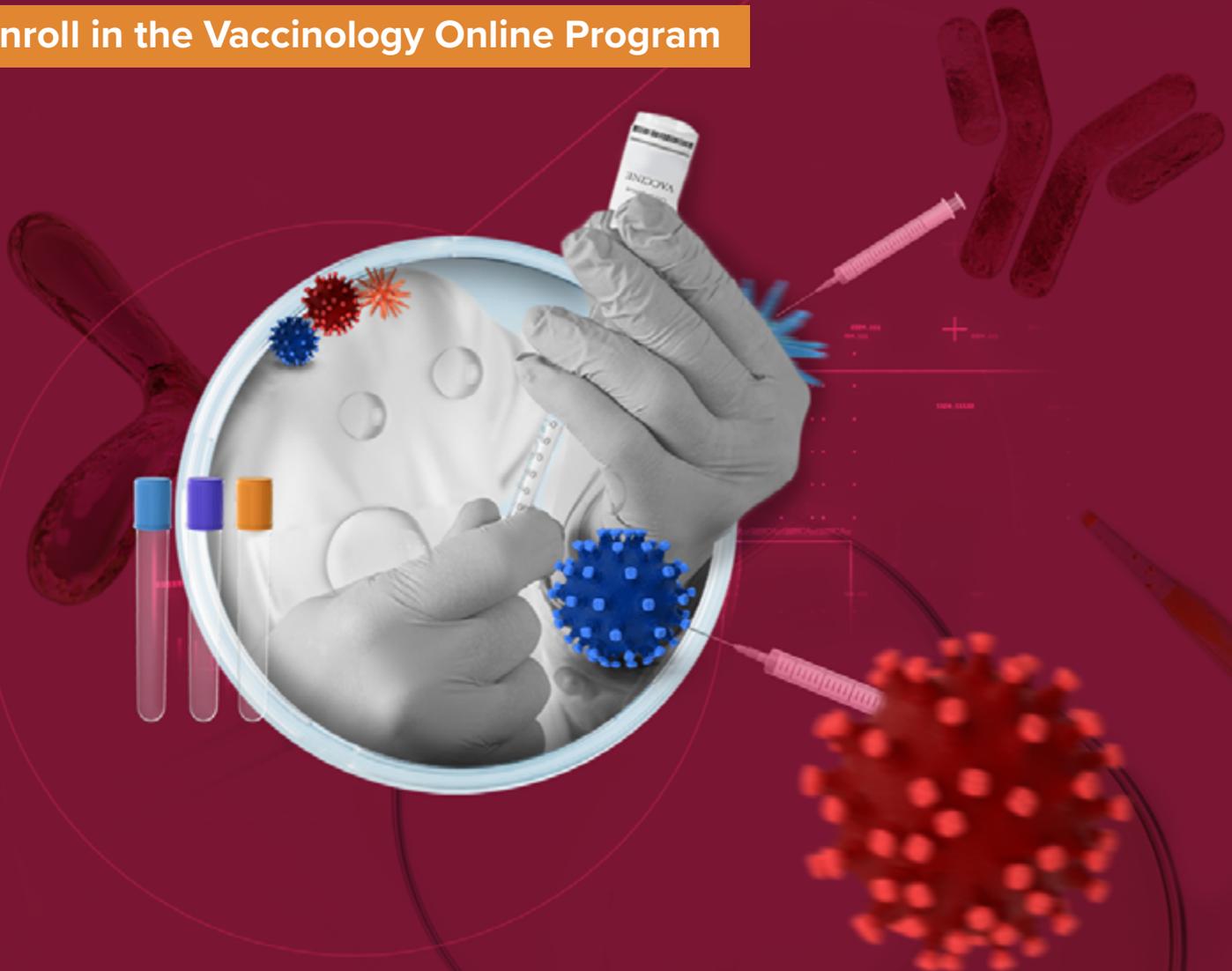
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**PROGRAM ACADEMIC DIRECTOR
AND INSTRUCTOR**



GHASSAN DBAIBO

American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)

Professor and Vice-Chair for Research and Faculty Development
Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine
Head, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases
Director, Center for Infectious Diseases Research
Co-Director, Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases Program
Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics
American University of Beirut

TOPICS:

- > Streptococcus pneumoniae vaccines
- > Rotavirus vaccines
- > The story of vaccination
- > COVID- 19 vaccines
- > Neisseria meningitidis vaccines
- > Yellow fever vaccine
- > Rabies vaccine
- > Mpox vaccine
- > Ebola vaccine
- > The role of physicians in vaccine awareness and communication to patients
- > Vaccine Platforms
- > Effect of climate on vaccine-preventable diseases

After graduating from the American University of Beirut (AUB), Dr. Dbaiibo trained in Pediatrics and Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Duke University in North Carolina, USA and became American Board-certified in Pediatrics and Pediatric Infectious Diseases. After joining the faculty there for two years, Dr. Dbaiibo moved back to AUB where he is now Professor of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine and Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics. He is the Founding Head, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, which he established in 2009. He is also the Founding Director of the Center for Infectious Diseases Research based at AUB. He is also founder and co-director of the Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases Program at AUB Medical Center and the Founding Director of the National Neonatal Screening Program for Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases (NaSPID). Dr. Dbaiibo is a member of the Regional Technical Advisory Group for the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, the Product Development of Vaccines Advisory Committee for the WHO, and the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) in immunizations at the WHO. He has authored more than 200 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

GUEST LECTURERS



ABDUL RAHMAN BIZRI

American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)

TOPICS:

- > Hepatitis A vaccine
- > Hepatitis B vaccine

Dr. Abdul Rahman Bizri is a consultant in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases at the American University of Beirut Medical Center. He is past President of the Lebanese Society of Infectious diseases & Clinical Microbiology, past President of the Lebanese AIDS Society, past President of the National Committee for COVID-19 Vaccine and past President of the National Certification Committee for Polio Eradication.

Dr. Bizri is a member of the National Communicable Diseases Committee, Vice-Chair of The NITAG, and member of The Parliamentary Sub-Committee for Public Health, Labor, & Social Affairs.

Dr. Bizri has more than 100 publications in referred journals. He participated in drafting several national and regional clinical guidelines for the management of communicable diseases including viral hepatitis, tuberculosis, rabies, and others. Also, he presented keynote lectures in several national, regional, and international conferences.



AHMED ALSUWAIDI

United Arab Emirates University

TOPICS:

- > Challenges and solutions in making evidence-based national vaccination policies and recommendations

Prof. Alsuwaidi earned his MBBS from CMHS/UAEU in 2002, then completed pediatric training at Dalhousie University and IWK Health Centre in Canada, followed by a fellowship in pediatric infectious diseases at the University of Manitoba. He joined UAEU as faculty in 2007, becoming Associate Professor in 2015 and Professor in 2022. He is board-certified in pediatrics and infectious diseases by both the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the American Board of Pediatrics.

He served as Acting Dean of CMHS/UAEU in 2023–2024 and has chaired the Department of Paediatrics for the past four years. He has also been a Paediatric Infectious Diseases Consultant at Tawam Hospital for more than 11 years.

Prof. Alsuwaidi is active in several national and international advisory groups. He chairs the UAE National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG), is a member of the WHO IA2030 Research and Innovation Working Group and the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group (RITAG), and serves on scientific boards within the UAE and the Arab Board of Health Specializations.

His research focuses on respiratory and gastrointestinal pathogens, childhood tuberculosis, and vaccination—including seroprevalence and vaccine hesitancy. He has multiple peer-reviewed publications and has received UAEU awards for publishing in top-tier journals.



ALISSAR ZAGHLOUT DBAIBO

American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)

TOPICS:

- > The role of social media in vaccine awareness and misinformation: how to tilt the balance in favor of vaccine

I am a senior public health specialist with over a decade of field experience in regional and emergency settings, with a strong focus on public health intersections, outbreak preparedness and response, and immunization programs. I have worked at the country level in Lebanon with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), contributing to epidemiology, surveillance, and evidence-informed public health decision-making. My experience also includes work with the Lebanese Red Cross, the Center for Infectious Diseases Research at the American University of Beirut, and non-governmental organizations across humanitarian contexts in the West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region. In parallel, my work spans digital rights, with an emphasis on ethical, inclusive, and rights-based approaches to public health interventions. I am deeply committed to global health and a strong advocate for vaccines and immunization as critical tools for protecting public health and reducing inequities, particularly in crisis-affected settings.



ANANDA BANDYOPADHYAY

Gates Foundation

TOPICS:

- > Polio Vaccines

Dr. Ananda Bandyopadhyay is a medical epidemiologist and a globally acclaimed expert in disease eradication and vaccine research. In his professional career spanning more than two decades Ananda led disease control initiatives across the globe, including in India where he contributed to India's historic polio elimination effort. In his current role as a Deputy Director at the Gates Foundation Ananda has been providing leadership and direction to global research initiatives aimed at achieving and sustaining polio eradication. Ananda has published nearly 100 peer-reviewed articles in leading medical journals, and written book chapters. Ananda has received many accolades in his career, including the highest recognition from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health - the award of merit, and the prestigious Park ManHoon award from International Vaccine Institute for his contributions to global health and vaccine development.



ANDY STERGACHIS

University of Washington

TOPICS:

- > Vaccine safety monitoring

Andy Stergachis, PhD, MS, BPharm, is a Professor of Pharmacy and Global Health and Adjunct Professor of Health Metrics Sciences and Epidemiology and Director of the Global Medicines Program at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA USA. He has developed and evaluated novel approaches for safety surveillance of essential medicines and vaccines in low- and middle-income countries. His recent projects include pharmacovigilance system strengthening; active safety surveillance of TB preventive therapy for PLHIV; sentinel site readiness for maternal immunization active safety surveillance; and the global burden of antimicrobial resistance. He serves on the CEPI-funded Safety Platform for Emergency Vaccines (SPEAC) Project and the Background Rates of Adverse Events for Vaccine Evaluation in Africa (BRAVE) Project. He is an elected member of the US National Academy of Medicine, Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Fellow of the American Pharmacists Association, and of the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology.



ANNELIES WILDER-SMITH

TOPICS:

- > The impact of vaccines in public health
- > Dengue fever vaccines
- > Chikungunya vaccine

Dr. Annelies Wilder-Smith is the Executive Secretary of the SAGE Secretariat and Team Lead for Immunization Policies at the World Health Organization (WHO). She oversees all SAGE vaccine policy position papers and provides strategic guidance to regional and national immunization advisory groups.

An Honorary Professor of Emerging Infectious Diseases at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Past President of the International Society of Travel Medicine (ISTM), she is a global expert in emerging viral diseases, particularly vector-borne and respiratory infections, as well as travel and tropical medicine. She played a key role in Singapore's SARS response in 2003 and served as the focal point for SAGE COVID-19 vaccine policy during the pandemic. She also leads the Lancet Commission on dengue.

With nearly 30 years of experience, Dr. Wilder-Smith has led numerous clinical trials, authored over 380 scientific publications, edited multiple textbooks, and served on editorial boards including *The Lancet*. Her honors include the Myron Levine Vaccinology Prize, CDC Honor Group Award, German Research Foundation's Mercator Professorship, and the Ashdown Oration Award. She was Principal Investigator of the EU-funded "ZikaPLAN" and "DengueTools" research consortia.



ANTOINE ABOU FAYAD

American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)

TOPICS:

- > Klebsiella Pneumonia vaccine
- > Staphylococcus aureus vaccine

Dr. Antoine Abou Fayad is an Associate Professor in the Department of Experimental Pathology, Immunology & Microbiology at the American University of Beirut (AUB) Faculty of Medicine, where he co-directs the Center for Drug Discovery and leads regional initiatives in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and microbial genomics. His lab is part of the WHO Collaborating Center for Reference and Research on Bacterial Pathogens. His research focuses on combating AMR by discovering novel antimicrobial agents from soil dwelling bacteria and on multidrug-resistant Gram-negative pathogens and the genomic epidemiology of AMR across conflict-affected regions in the Middle East and Africa. A recognized WHO/GTFCC expert trainer, he has delivered over 25 international trainings on cholera diagnostics, sequencing, and laboratory capacity building. Dr. Abou Fayad has authored over 45 peer-reviewed publications and multiple collaborative studies with leading global institutions. He is also spearheading the creation of a regional microbial genomics institute, advancing research and training that bridge microbiology, genomics, and public health impact.



ELIAS RAHAL

American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)

TOPICS:

- > Hepatitis C vaccine
- > Cytomegalovirus vaccine

Dr. Elias A. Rahal is a Professor at the American University of Beirut whose research explores the immunomodulatory properties of the Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) and its contribution to inflammation and autoimmunity. He graduated with a PhD from the University of Arizona and later joined the American University of Beirut as a faculty member. He serves as an Editor for *Microbiology Spectrum* and *Virology Journal* and as an Associate Editor for *Frontiers in Microbiology*. Beyond research, he is the Director of the Graduate Programs at the Faculty of Medicine and co-chairs the Biomedical Engineering Joint Program Coordinating Committee, contributing to advancing interdisciplinary education and training in biomedical sciences.



EPHREM TEKLE LEMANGO

UNICEF

TOPICS:

- > Role of UNICEF in Childhood Vaccination

Dr. Ephrem T. Lemango took up his position as the Associate Director, Health/Immunization in UNICEF, NYHQ in June 2021. He oversees the immunization and vaccines related work of UNICEF spanning across seven Regions and over 130 countries. He comes with more than 15 years of National and international experience in Immunization, Maternal and Child health, Primary Health Care and Socio-economic sectors, from which more than a decade is in Senior Leadership roles.

Prior to joining UNICEF, Dr. Lemango served as the Regional Immunization and Primary Health Care focal for WHO-AFRO and worked with the Mastercard Foundation as adviser for Health Programs. Dr. Lemango was the Director of Maternal, Child Health and Nutrition program of Ministry of Health and the Executive Director for the International Institute for Primary Health Care in Ethiopia, where he had led the introduction and implementation of innovative initiatives that enabled the country to continue its success of improving Maternal and Child health. Dr. Lemango contributed to the advancement of immunization as a member of the Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group (RITAG) of World Health Organization-Regional Office for Africa and the Global Equity Reference Group for Immunization. Beyond the health sector, he worked with the private sector and financial institutions to address socio-economic needs of young people when he was serving as a founding Commissioner of the Jobs Creation Commission (JCC) of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Dr. Lemango was as an Assistant Professor in Health Management and Policy in Mekelle University, Ethiopia and also briefly served as a visiting Scientist in Harvard School of Public Health and Bergen University, researching on Primary Health Care and Community health systems.

Dr. Lemango earned his Doctor of Medicine degree from Addis Ababa University and Master's degree in Health Management, Planning and Policy from University of Leeds. He also holds a certificate in Medical Education from Cardiff University.

He is a national of Ethiopia, and speaks English, Amharic, and Tigrigna.



ERINE SPARROW

World Health World (WHO)

TOPICS:

- > Passive immunization

Dr. Erin Sparrow joined the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva in 2006 where she has served in a variety of areas including in environmental health, outbreak response and essential medicines. She is currently the Team Lead for Vaccine Research & Development within the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB), which is dedicated to advancing priority vaccine products and innovative technologies to maximize the public health impact of vaccines and monoclonal antibodies.

In her current role, she oversees the development of normative guidance for vaccine R&D, and supports evidence generation to inform global policy-making and country decision-making for vaccine introduction. She has coordinated WHO's engagement in numerous preclinical and clinical trials and is the author of more than 30 research and review publications on infectious diseases and vaccine development.

Originally from Australia, she holds a Bachelor of Science (Biotechnology and Genetics) from the University of Melbourne, a Master of Science in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and a Doctor of Public Health from the University of New South Wales. Prior to joining WHO, she worked at the Global Fund and as a laboratory technician.



GHASSAN AWAR

American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)

TOPICS:

- > Travel Vaccines
- > Malaria infection

I'm an attending physician in Infectious Diseases, department of internal medicine, at the American University of Beirut, Faculty of Medicine. I have trained before in Tropical Medicine (M Sc Trop Med, Liverpool) and clinical Tropical Medicine (Gorgas Course, UAB & Peru). Also, I've been certified in Travel Medicine twice (ASTMH).

I've contributed to the teaching of Infectious Diseases, especially Parasitology, to students in their preclinical and clinical years, as well as to residents and fellows, over tens of years. My clinical work and limited research have centered on patients with parasitic diseases, esp like Echinococcosis (hydatid cysts), malaria and other parasitic diseases; as well as HIV, Tb, sepsis and other common infections and febrile illnesses.

In addition to my clinical work, I collaborate with the Malaria Office at the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), our own clinical laboratory at the AUBMC, and advise a few NGO's who especially cater for underprivileged and HIV patients.



GHASSAN MATAR

American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)

TOPICS:

- > Non-typhoid Salmonella vaccine
- > Cholera vaccine

Dr. Ghassan M. Matar is currently a Tenured Professor and Chairperson in the Department of Experimental Pathology, Immunology & Microbiology, Co-Director of the Center for Infectious Diseases Research (CIDR) and Director of the WHO Collaborating Center for Reference and Research on Bacterial Pathogens at the Faculty of Medicine, American University of Beirut (AUB), Beirut, Lebanon. Prof. Matar is also an Adjunct Prof. at the Dept. of Infectious Diseases, MD Anderson, University of Texas, USA.

To present Prof. Matar published 168 articles in refereed international journals and presented more than 160 abstracts in international, regional and local conferences. He received funding from various extramural sources including CDC (BAA), CDC CRDF, WHO EMRO, US Dept. of Defense (DOD), WHO-AGISAR, Lebanese Ministry of Health (MoPH) and pharmaceutical companies.

Professor Matar's research interests include: 1) Molecular epidemiology of foodborne pathogens and mechanisms of antimicrobial resistance in pathogenic bacteria, 2) Combating antimicrobial resistance by combination therapy and Bacteriophage therapy 4) Genetic basis of biofilm production in bacteria from patients with nosocomial infections and potential inhibition of biofilm formation, Microbiome and Genetic Diseases.



HANA EL SAHLY

Baylor College of Medicine

TOPICS:

- > Overview of immunization research and development

Dr. Hana El Sahly is a professor of Molecular Virology and Microbiology and Medicine, Section of Infectious Diseases at Baylor College of Medicine. Her research focuses on clinical vaccine development against disease of public health importance.



HANNA NOHYNEK

Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare

TOPICS:

- > Vaccine Safety

Hanna Nohynek is Professor MD PhD, with special competences in vaccinology, international and travel health (FMA). She works as Chief Physician, Unit Prevention of Health Threats of Department of Public Health in Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). For 14 years, she was secretary, Finnish NITAG until 8/2023, still a member. She is chairperson of WHO SAGE since 1/2023, former chairperson of SAGE working group covid-19 vaccines (4/2020-12/2022). After her PhD on diagnostic bacterial methods development, she coordinated Phase II trials and a major Phase III on 11PCV against childhood pneumonia in the Philippines. Since 2010, she worked in vaccine programme design, evidence-based policy/decision making, vaccine impact and safety, acceptance, SARS-CoV-2, RSV, influenza and avian influenza, pertussis and pneumococcus. Presently she is Principal investigator of three immunogenicity and safety studies: repeated influenza vaccinations among HCWs, covid-19 vaccinations and avian influenza vaccinations in Finland. She has published over 200 scientific peer reviewed international publications. She co-led RSV product assessment (www.imi-promise.eu) and brand-specific influenza vaccine effectiveness projects (www.drive-eu.org). She teaches (incl ADVAC) and mentors, is in boards of international organizations (icddr.b, IVI Emeritus Trustee), and board member and 2nd vice chair of the Wellbeing Service County of Päijät-Häme (since 6/2025). She is one of the three founders and owners of Evident Health Solutions. A book was published of her life and work <https://kirja.fi/collections/terhi-hautamaki/products/hanna-nohynek-peloton-9789510498811>.



HASSAN ZARAKET

American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)

TOPICS:

- > Influenza vaccine

Dr. Hassan Zaraket is an Assistant Professor of Virology at the Faculty of Medicine, the American University of Beirut. He received his Ph.D. from Niigata University in Japan, in 2009, where he studied epidemiology and antiviral drug susceptibility of respiratory viruses. During his Ph.D., he was involved in virus surveillance and research capacity-building projects in East Asian countries like Vietnam and Myanmar. In 2009, he joined the World Health Organization Collaborating Center and Center of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance at St Jude Children's Research Hospital, USA, where he studied the mechanisms underlying the emergence of novel influenza viruses including H5N1 and H7N9. His work demonstrated that acid stability of the hemagglutinin protein is an important marker for adaptation of highly pathogenic A(H5N1) influenza viruses from avian to mammalian species. His lab is currently studying the epidemiology and evolution of respiratory and gastroenteric viruses in Lebanon and the region. He is also investigating virus-host interactions with the goal of identifying host-targeted antiviral approaches. He discovered that influenza virus replication is regulated by cellular sphingolipids. Dr. Zaraket is an associate editor for BMC Infectious Diseases Journal and a council member of ISIRV, the International Society for Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses. He is also a member of several international scientific societies.



HIBA EL HAJJ

American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)

TOPICS:

- > Leishmania vaccine
- > Hepatitis E vaccine

Dr. Hiba El Hajj is a Tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Experimental Pathology, Immunology, and Microbiology at the Faculty of Medicine, American University of Beirut. Her research focuses on targeted cancer therapies through oncoprotein degradation and on developing innovative strategies to prevent and treat toxoplasmosis and cutaneous leishmaniasis. With a background in parasitology and expertise in animal disease models and host-pathogen interactions, her postgraduate training laid the foundation for a successful 19-year career in oncology. Dr. El Hajj has published 76 highly cited manuscripts and secured competitive intramural and extramural research funding. She has received several prestigious awards, including the 2016 “Rising Talents,” the 2015 L’Oréal-UNESCO Fellowship for Women in Science, and the 2023 King Hussein Award for Cancer Research. A dedicated educator, she has mentored over 60 graduate students (10 Ph.D. and 50 MSc students) and remains committed to excellence in research, teaching, and scientific advancement.



JACOB CRAMER

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) - UK

TOPICS:

- > Response to outbreaks, public health emergencies and pandemic preparedness

Dr. Jakob Peter Cramer is a medical doctor specialized in internal medicine, tropical medicine, travel medicine and infectious diseases. He joined the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) as Director of Clinical Development in June 2019.

Prior to his role at CEPI, Jakob was Head of the Tropical Medicine Section at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf as well as the Clinical Research Unit at the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine (BNITM) in Hamburg, Germany, where he founded the clinical trials unit and conducted Phase 1/2/3 vaccine trials against various infectious diseases (including influenza, rabies, Japanese encephalitis, meningococcal diseases, traveller's diarrhoea). During his 14 years in academia, he engaged in epidemiological and investigator-initiated clinical research in Africa. From 2014 to 2019, Jakob held the position of Medical Director, Clinical Development, Vaccine Business Unit, Takeda Pharmaceuticals International AG, Zurich, Switzerland where he was actively involved in Takeda's norovirus and dengue as well as the BMGF-funded polio vaccine development programs.

He is a lecturer at various courses in the fields of vaccinology and infectious diseases. He is also a member of a number of infectious diseases societies.



JORGE CASTILLA ECHENIQUE

World Health Organization (WHO)

TOPICS:

- > Immunization in humanitarian, climatic and pandemic emergencies

Dr. Jorge Castilla Echenique is a medical doctor and public-health specialist with over three decades of experience in health emergencies, humanitarian operations, and epidemic response. Trained at Universidad del Rosario and Tulane University, he has worked across Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and Europe. He served as Hospital and District Director and Regional Epidemiologist with the MoH in Colombia, MSF Director of Operations, Senior Health Expert for EU/ECHO and Senior Emergency Officer in WHO's Emergencies Program, where he recently led the Outbreaks and Vaccination in Humanitarian setting team, before rejoining the Humanitarian Policies and Coordination Unit. His field experience spans conflict zones, large-scale displacement, natural disasters and major outbreaks, including cholera, meningitis, measles, Ebola, and sleeping sickness. Castilla's work combines operational leadership, epidemiology, and policy development to strengthen health services in acute emergencies and protracted, fragile, and conflict-affected contexts.



KATHLEEN NEUZIL

Fogarty International Center

TOPICS:

- > Salmonella typhi vaccines

Dr. Kathleen Neuzil leads the foundation's work to eradicate polio and strengthen the health systems that support immunization and disease surveillance. With over 25 years of experience in global vaccine development, implementation, and policy, she joined the foundation in 2025 from the National Institutes of Health, where she served as associate director for international research and director of the Fogarty International Center.

Previously, she was the Myron M. Levine Professor in Vaccinology and director of the Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and earlier served on the faculty at the University of Washington and led vaccine development programs at PATH.

Kathleen has guided major clinical trials for multiple vaccines, shaped global immunization policy, authored more than 350 publications, and is a member of the National Academy of Medicine. She holds degrees from the University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins, and Vanderbilt.



KENNETH A. ALEXANDER

Nemours Children's Hospital - Orlando, Florida

TOPICS:

- > HPV Vaccine

Dr. Kenneth A. Alexander, M.D., Ph.D., is chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Nemours Children's Hospital in Orlando, Florida. Dr. Alexander completed his medical training and earned his doctoral degree at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, Washington, before moving to Boston, Massachusetts, for his pediatric residency at Boston Children's Hospital. He Dr. Alexander then completed subspecialty training in Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, where he served on the faculty for ten years. Dr. Alexander served as chief of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the University of Chicago for nine years before relocating to Nemours Children's Hospital in 2014.

Dr. Alexander's clinical interests include promoting immunization among underserved communities. He also has a research laboratory where his team studies human papillomaviruses and oncolytic Zika viruses.



KIRSTY LE DOARE

St. George's, University of London (CSG)

TOPICS:

- > Life Course Vaccination
- > Group B Streptococcus vaccines

Dr. Kirsty Le Doare, Professor of Vaccinology and Immunology, leads global research on maternal and infant immunization to protect newborns. As Director of centers in Uganda and the UK, and advisor to WHO, she works with CEPI and the Gates Foundation to advance equitable vaccines for mothers and infants.



LISA MENNING

World Health Organization (WHO)

TOPICS:

- > Vaccine Hesitancy: The role of physicians, governmental agencies, and inter-organizational collaboration in spreading awareness and overcoming hesitancy

Lisa Menning is with WHO in Geneva, in the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals, and is team lead for vaccine demand and behavioral sciences. Lisa has almost 20 years of experience working in global health with a focus on social and behavior change, communications, community engagement and advocacy.

She has spent the last decade working on immunization, and prior to that worked on HIV/AIDS and non-communicable diseases in low-resource settings. In her current role at WHO, Lisa is responsible for developing evidence-based normative guidance, providing technical assistance to programs and partners, and collaborating with a diverse range of stakeholders and advocates to support their role in increasing uptake of vaccination.



LOUISE HENAFF - WORLD HEALTH Organization (WHO)

TOPICS:

- > Evidence to Recommendation and the roles of GAVI, GVAP, EPI (MoH), Health System (public/private), NITAG, RITAG, WHO (SAGE), AAP, ACIP, ECDC, and other actors in decision-making regarding vaccine introduction by country context.

Louise Henaff joined the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals at WHO Headquarters in June 2017. She currently serves as the Executive Secretary of the Global NITAG Network (GNN), where she leads efforts to promote collaboration and peer-to-peer learning among National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs) worldwide. In this role, she organizes the biannual Global NITAG Network meetings, and a series of thematic webinars aimed at facilitating the exchange of best practices and strengthening evidence-informed immunization policy-making.

Ms. Henaff plays a central role in driving WHO's global strategy to support NITAGs and institutionalize evidence-based decision-making at the country level. She oversees all NITAG strengthening activities in close coordination with WHO regional offices and global partners, including the development of training, tools, and guidance. Additionally, she serves as the focal point for communication and knowledge translation for the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE), contributing to the dissemination of global immunization policies and recommendations.

Prior to joining WHO, she worked as Knowledge and Network Manager at the "Agence de Médecine Préventive" (AMP), where she played a key role in establishing international networks and supporting capacity building for immunization stakeholders. In her spare time, Louise indulges in radio-documentary making. Several of her documentaries have been broadcast on France Culture, the French National Radio.



MARCO SAFADI

Santa Casa de São Paulo Medical School, Brazil

TOPICS:

- > Meningococcal vaccines

Professor Sáfaci is a distinguished pediatric infectious diseases expert. He leads the Pediatrics Department at Santa Casa de São Paulo Medical School and chairs the Infectious Diseases Department for the Brazilian Society of Pediatrics. For over a decade, he has served on the Permanent Advisory Board on Immunization Practices for Brazil's Ministry of Health. His global engagement is extensive. He holds key positions in organizations like the WHO SAGE Meningococcal Working Group, the Global Meningococcal Initiative, and is Co-Chair of the WSPID International Scientific Committee. He is also a member of the Scientific Advisory Group for the Confederation of Meningitis Organisations (CoMO). Furthermore, he contributes to academic publishing as an editorial board member for journals including "Jornal de Pediatria and Vaccine".

Professor Sáfaci has authored over 120 peer-reviewed articles. His career is marked by significant contributions to immunization, community-acquired infections, and congenital infections, and he regularly presents his research internationally.



MARIANNE MAJDALANI

American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)

TOPICS:

- > Ethics in vaccination

Dr. Marianne Majdalani is a double boarded pediatrician in general pediatrics and pediatric Critical Care. She is currently the head of division of Pediatric Critical Care at AUBMC. She is an active member of several hospital-based committees as well as the medical director of the Pediatric Advanced Life Support program. She is also the interim director of the Salim El Hoss Bioethics and Professionalism Program at AUBMC.

She established the only accredited fellowship in pediatric Critical Care in Lebanon and has graduated several intensivists who work in different areas of Lebanon.

Dr. Majdalani has published several peer-reviewed articles and her areas of interest in addition to critical care include ethics and spirituality in medicine.

Dr. Majdalani served also as the President of the Lebanese Pediatric Society and continues to collaborate with the MOPH and UNICEF to ensure equal access to care for all children on the Lebanese territory.



MARY HAMEL MD, DTM&H

TOPICS:

- > Malaria vaccines

Dr Mary Hamel served as a Senior Technical Officer and Team Lead for Malaria Vaccines at the World Health Organization from 2017 - 2025. She led the WHO's flagship Malaria Vaccine Implementation Programme (2017 – 2023), which supported pilot implementation of the world's first malaria vaccine, RTS,S/AS01, in Malawi, Kenya and Ghana, and that informed the WHO recommendation for malaria vaccines. She led the WHO review of the second malaria vaccine, R21/MatrixM, and she and her team supported the ongoing malaria vaccine roll-out in endemic countries. She has over 30 years of experience in malaria and child health research and public health. She is a medical doctor and epidemiologist, with a specialty in internal medicine, subspecialty in infectious diseases and a diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Dr Hamel has led numerous malaria-related studies, primarily in Africa, focusing on malaria in children, pregnant women, and persons living with HIV and transmission reduction efforts. Prior to joining WHO, she was the Deputy Chief for Science and Chief of the Strategic and Applied Science Unit for the Malaria Branch, U.S. CDC. She served as the Malaria Branch Chief at KEMRI/CDC Research and Public Health Collaboration, in Kisumu, Kenya from 2004 – 2010, and was the Senior Technical Advisor to the President's Malaria Initiative in Washington DC from 2010 – 2014. She has mentored many young scientists and writers, and particularly enjoys that aspect of her work. She and her husband live in Switzerland. They have two children who are attending university in the US.



MATEUSZ HASSO-AGOPSOWICZ

World Health Organization (WHO)

TOPICS:

- > Vaccination and anti-microbial resistance

Dr. Mateusz Hasso-Agopsowicz is a Technical Officer in the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB) at the World Health Organization (WHO). He holds a PhD in Vaccine Immunology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). At WHO, he leads programs on vaccines and antimicrobial resistance (AMR), as well as on the development and introduction of novel vaccine technologies. His work focuses on advancing evidence-based policy, supporting the development of priority vaccines, and evaluating the role of immunization in combating AMR globally.



MERU SHEEL

The Australian National University

TOPICS:

- > Group A Streptococcus vaccines

I am an epidemiologist and vaccinologist working in global public health, especially in infectious diseases, immunization, and health emergencies in resource-limited settings. At the University of Sydney, I lead the Infectious Diseases, Immunization and Emergencies (IDIE) research group comprising of early career researchers and post-graduate scholars working in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. I have extensive research experience and partnerships with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, academia, corporate, and government. Most notably, I co-chair the Immunization Agenda (IA2030) Research and Innovation strategic pillar and serve as an advisor on the Immunization and Vaccines Related Implementation Research Advisory Committee (IVIR-AC). I was awarded the 40 Under 40 Most Influential Asian-Australian for Science and Medicine and the Australia National University (ANU) Vice Chancellor's Award for Impact and Engagement. I was featured in the Lancet Infectious Diseases profile series (September 2025 issue) for my work in vaccines and emergency response. I influence millions of people across my social media and media coverage. I plan to continue this upward trajectory, reaching people with my message of future focused, good science.



MICHEL MASSAAD

American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)

TOPICS:

- > Vaccination in the immunocompromised host

I obtained my Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Biochemistry from McGill University, followed by a four-year post-doctoral training in Immunology at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School where I was then appointed as Instructor of Pediatric Immunology from 2009 to 2017. In 2018, I joined the Department of Experimental Pathology, Immunology, and Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, AUB, as Assistant Professor of Immunology, and was promoted to Tenured Associate Professor in September 2024. I built an immunology research laboratory to study patients with Inborn Errors of Immunity at the genetic and functional levels. I also initiated a national study to determine the longevity of the recall immune response to natural infections with SARS-CoV-2 and vaccination against the virus. In addition, I screen libraries of metabolites to identify novel compounds with lytic/static activity against cancer cells, and others that enhance T cell function, and characterize their mechanisms of action.



MIRVAT TERMOS

Ph.D. M.P.H

TOPICS:

- > Introduction to different ways of communication to break rumors about vaccines

Dr. Mirvat Termos is a Public Health Scientist and Consultant with over seven years of experience in health communication, vaccine education, and strategic program development. Since 2020, she has been actively engaged in advancing vaccine awareness and addressing misinformation, guided by the belief that knowledge is power, especially when it empowers communities to make informed health decisions. Her work focuses on translating scientific evidence into community-based strategies that strengthen public trust in health systems and promote equitable access to care. Dr. Termos has collaborated with universities, NGOs, and international organizations to design and implement evidence-based programs that improve population health and drive sustainable social impact. Beyond her professional contributions, she remains dedicated to initiatives that empower women and communities, while valuing time with her family; reflecting the same empathy, purpose, and commitment to public good that define her approach to public health.



NADA GHOSN

Lebanese Ministry of Public Health

TOPICS:

- > The importance of robust surveillance systems in determination of the burden of disease and the impact of vaccination

The importance of robust surveillance systems in determination of the burden of disease and the impact of vaccination

Dr. Nada Ghosn has graduated from University of Lille II, Faculty of Medicine, France with diploma of “Diplôme d'Etat de Docteur en Médecine” and “Diplôme d'Etudes Spécialisées de Santé Publique”.

She is head of the Epidemiological Surveillance Program (Esumoh) at the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health since July 2000. She heads a team in charge of communicable diseases surveillance, outbreak investigation, capacity building, National Cancer Registry, COVID-19 surveillance, Cholera outbreak investigation... From 2004 to 2015, she contributed to various WHO missions (training, review, GOARN).

She is the director of the Lebanon Field Epidemiology Training Program.

In addition, she is lecturer at Lebanese University, Faculty of Public Health (2010 to present).



NADA MELHEM

American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)

TOPICS:

- > Norovirus vaccine

Dr. Nada M. Melhem is a tenured Professor of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology (Virology and Immunology) at the Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut. Melhem is currently the Director of the Division of Health Professions and the Chair of the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program at the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Melhem developed at AUB a transdisciplinary and translational research program focusing on viral immunopathogenesis and the genomic surveillance of viruses. Melhem's research program focuses on HIV-1, SARS-CoV-2 and viral diarrheal diseases specifically noroviruses.

In addition to a track-record of productive research work and publications, Melhem has a track record in professional service. She is an elected council member of the International Society for Infectious Diseases, member of the WHO SARS-CoV-2 Evolution Technical Advisory Group, member of the National Committee for Communicable Diseases as well as serving as the National Polio Laboratory Containment Coordinator.



NESRINE RIZK

American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)

TOPICS:

- > HIV 1 vaccines

Dr. Nesrine Rizk is an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine and Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC). She earned her MD from AUB in 2001 and completed her Internal Medicine residency and Infectious Diseases fellowship at Case Western Reserve University, with additional training in HIV/AIDS medicine.

Before returning to AUBMC in 2012, she served as Medical Director of the HIV Program and Chair of the Infection Control Committee at the Yale-affiliated Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center, collaborating closely with the Yale AIDS Program.

Dr. Rizk has led the Infectious Diseases Fellowship Training Program since 2020 and the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program since its inception, advancing optimal antibiotic use. Her research focuses on HIV epidemiology and inflammation, antimicrobial resistance, and stewardship. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she co-developed national treatment protocols and recently contributed to antibiotic prophylaxis guidelines for trauma patients.



NOUR YOUSSEF

American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)

TOPICS:

- > Measles vaccine
- > Mumps vaccine
- > Rubella vaccine
- > Haemophilus influenzae - Type B vaccine
- > MMR vaccine

I'm Dr. Nour Youssef, a Pediatric Infectious Diseases Specialist and Clinical Instructor at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC).

My medical journey began at the Lebanese American University (LAU), where I earned my Doctor of Medicine degree and completed my residency in Pediatrics. I then pursued a fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the American University of Beirut (AUB), where I developed a deep interest in both clinical and research infectious diseases.

Driven by a commitment to continuous growth, I completed the Scholars in Health Research Program (SHARP) at AUB, which refined my expertise in research design, biostatistics, and evidence-based clinical practice. I also obtained the Harvard Medical School Executive Education Diploma in "Training to Teach in Medicine," further advancing my proficiency in curriculum design, innovative teaching methodologies, and learner evaluation.

At AUBMC, I am actively involved in medical education reform, integrating simulation and artificial intelligence into teaching to improve engagement and knowledge retention among medical students and residents. My research focuses on pediatric infectious diseases, particularly vaccine-preventable illnesses, antimicrobial resistance, and community surveillance as well as medical education.



RAKESH AGGARWAL

Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, India

TOPICS:

- > Rabies Vaccine

Dr. Aggarwal is a Professor of Gastroenterology at the Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow, where he has worked for nearly 30 years. With training in gastroenterology/hepatology, epidemiology and laboratory work, he has worked extensively on epidemiologic, clinical, molecular and immunologic aspects of viral hepatitis.

In vaccine science, he has been a member of the WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE; 2017-2022), and chair of SAGE's working groups on human papillomavirus vaccine, and on hepatitis A vaccine, and member of working groups on influenza and dengue virus vaccines. He is also a member of the WHO's Immunization and vaccines related implementation research advisory committee (IVIR-AC) and Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS), and chairs the WHO South-East Asia Region's Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group (SEAR-RITAG).



RIMA WAKIM

American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)

TOPICS:

- > Varicella vaccine
- > Diphtheria vaccine
- > Pertussis vaccine
- > Tetanus vaccine
- > Poliovirus infection
- > DTaP, IPV, Hib vaccine

Dr. Rima Hanna-Wakim is an Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the American University of Beirut (AUB). She received her medical degree from the Lebanese University Medical School in 1997. She completed her pediatric residency training at the American University of Beirut and SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York, graduating in 2004, followed by a fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Stanford University, California. She joined the faculty at the American University of Beirut in 2008 and is American Board–certified in both Pediatrics and Pediatric Infectious Diseases.

Dr. Rima Hanna-Wakim’s clinical and research interests encompass pediatric infectious diseases, with particular emphasis on antimicrobial resistance and primary immunodeficiency disorders.

She serves as the director of the fellowship program in Pediatric Infectious Diseases and is the Co-Director of the Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases Program at AUB.

Dr. Rima Hanna-Wakim is an active member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and the European Society for Immunodeficiencies (ESID).



ROBERT KAMINSKI

World Health Organization (WHO)

TOPICS:

- > Shigella spp vaccine

Dr. Robert Kaminski has more than three decades of experience in the field of vaccinology with a broad spectrum of research and development expertise, ranging from discovery, preclinical evaluations, cGMP manufacturing, and clinical studies focused on the safety, immunogenicity, and efficacy of vaccines. His research interests focus on understanding the immunological basis of protection against bacterial and viral infections to rationally design vaccine candidates. This includes experience leading international projects with nonprofit, academic, governmental, and industry organizations.

As a Principal Consultant at Latham Biopharm Group, Dr. Kaminski provides subject matter expertise related to product development, including immunology, development and refinement of animal models, manufacturing, controlled human infection model (CHIM) studies, immunoassay (development, qualification, and validation), as well as planning and executing domestic and international clinical studies. He possesses strong applied knowledge in project/portfolio management, GMP, GLP, GCP, and ICH Guidelines. He serves on multiple scientific advisory boards with governmental and nonprofit organizations, holds several patents, and has authored numerous publications, book chapters, and international normative products.

Throughout his career, Dr. Kaminski has worked for a variety of companies, including government agencies, non-profit, and research organizations. Most recently, he consults at World Health Organization (WHO) supporting an enteric bacterial portfolio with a focus on vaccines to prevent infection with Shigella, Cholera, and invasive non-typhoidal Salmonella (iNTS). Dr. Kaminski also served in several positions at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR). As the Chief of the Department of Diarrheal Disease Research, he led a team of research scientists in the development, testing, and evaluation of enteric countermeasures, including monoclonal antibodies and hyperimmune bovine colostrum products, to prevent infectious diarrhea in deployed Department of Defense (DoD) personnel. Prior to this role, while serving as the Chief of the Department of Subunit Vaccines and Immunology at WRAIR, he led the discovery, preclinical testing, cGMP manufacturing, and clinical testing of Shigella vaccine efforts for the DoD.

Dr. Kaminski received his Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Public Policy and his M.Sc. in Biology from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, and his B.S. in Biology from The Catholic University of America.



ROSAMUND LEWIS

World Health Organization (WHO)

TOPICS:

- > Mpox vaccines

Dr. Rosamund Lewis is a leading public health physician. She is the World Health Organization Health Emergencies Program Technical Lead for global mpox response and heads the WHO Smallpox Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland. She has expertise in strategic public health leadership and emergency preparedness and outbreak response, with a focus on vaccine-preventable disease surveillance and immunization. Dr. Lewis has served with health authorities and communities at global, national, and municipal levels for a range of public health and disease control programs. Dr. Lewis holds degrees in Science, Medicine, Epidemiology & Biostatistics, and Management, as well as Fellowships in Family Medicine and in Public Health and Preventive Medicine. Dr. Lewis is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Ottawa and has published extensively in her field.



RUTH KARRON

Johns Hopkins University

TOPICS:

- > RSV Vaccine

Dr. Karron is a pediatric infectious diseases physician, virologist, and vaccinologist, Professor in the Department of International Health at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Director of the Johns Hopkins Vaccine Initiative. She completed her undergraduate training at Harvard University and obtained her medical degree from New York University. Dr. Karron has substantial experience in the evaluation of respiratory virus vaccines in adult and pediatric populations. Her 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. She co-led 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, and was co-developer of the COVID-19 Maternal Immunization Tracker (www.comitglobal.org). Dr. Karron has been a member of a number of national and international vaccine advisory committees and panels, including the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the COVAX ACT-accelerator COVID Vaccine Maternal Immunization Working Group, and the Gavi VIS 6.0 Steering Committee. She has chaired the FDA Vaccine and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) and the Vaccines Advisory Panel for the Wellcome Trust, and currently chairs the WHO Product Development for Vaccines Advisory Committee (PDVAC). In 2016, Dr. Karron received the Robert M. Chanock award for outstanding contributions to RSV research.



SAAD OMER

Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health

TOPICS:

- > The Immune Response and its Persistence
- > Vaccine hesitancy and the role of health care professionals in immunization awareness

Dr. Saad B. Omer is a globally recognized epidemiologist, public health leader, and vaccine policy expert. As the founding Dean of the Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health at UT Southwestern Medical Center, he has dedicated his career to advancing science that informs global vaccine policy and clinical practice. His research on vaccine hesitancy, maternal immunization, and infectious disease epidemiology has shaped vaccination strategies for organizations such as the WHO, Gavi, and HHS. Dr. Omer's landmark studies on maternal influenza immunization influenced recommendations in the U.S., U.K., Canada, and Australia. He has authored numerous publications in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *JAMA*, *The Lancet*, *Science*, and *Nature*, and has advised leading public health agencies worldwide. Dr. Omer earned his Ph.D. and M.P.H. from Johns Hopkins University and his medical degree from The Aga Khan University.



SASKIA DEN BOON

World Health Organization (WHO)

TOPICS:

- > New TB vaccines

Saskia den Boon (MSc, PhD) is technical officer for vaccine development at the Department for Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB) at WHO. She leads the clinical and policy work related to new tuberculosis (TB) vaccines. Previously she was with the Prevention, Research and Innovation team at the WHO Global Tuberculosis Programme (GTB) working on tuberculosis preventive treatment and TB screening. Earlier in her career she worked and lived in Uganda and South Africa doing research on TB epidemiology and evaluating TB diagnostics. She has a PhD from the University of Amsterdam, an MSc in Health Economics, Policy and Management from the London School of Economics and an MSc in Human Nutrition from Wageningen University in the Netherlands.



SHABIR MADHI

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

TOPICS:

- > Maternal immunization

Professor Shabir Madhi is the Dean of the Faculty of health Sciences and Professor of Vaccinology at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. He also holds the position of Director of the South African Medical Research Council Vaccines and Infectious Diseases Analytics Research Unit (VIDA) and is co-Director of the African Leadership Initiative for Vaccinology Expertise (ALIVE).

Prof Madhi completed his MBBCH degree at Wits in 1990, specialized in Pediatric and graduated in 1996, and subsequently completed his PhD at Wits in 2003. He had specialized in Intensive Care and current holds a sub-specialty in Infectious Diseases. He has previously served as the Executive Director of the National Institute for Communicable Disease between 2011 and 2017.

Prof Madhi is an A-rated scientist by the National Research Foundation since 2012 in recognition of his international standing for research on vaccines against life threatening disease in childhood, in pregnant women and against respiratory diseases. He has published over 700 peer-reviewed articles, with a h-index of 91. He is ranked in the top 1% of most cited researchers by Clavriate in 2024 and 2025.

He is the recipient of a number of National awards including Lifetime Achievement Award from the South African Medical Research Council Platinum Medal and National Science and Technology Forum. He was also awarded the Commander of the Most Excellent Award of the British Empire (CBE) in 2023; as well as the Albert B. Sabin Award for his contribution in the field of vaccinology and disease prevention.



SOUHA KANJ

American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)

TOPICS:

- > Clostridium difficile vaccine

Dr. Souha Kanj is a tenured Professor of Medicine at the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC), where she served as Head of the Division of Infectious Diseases (ID) until 2024. She is Chair of the Infection Control Program, co-Chair of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, and Consulting Professor at Duke University Medical Center where she trained in Internal Medicine and ID.

Professor Kanj has co-authored 325 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and UpToDate® cards. She serves as an advisory member for WHO programs in infection control, antimicrobial resistance, priority pathogens, diagnostic stewardship, COVID-19, and fungal infections. She is an advisory international board member for Lancet and Associate Editor for Mayo Clinics Proceedings. Her research focuses on nosocomial infections, antimicrobial resistance and stewardship, nosocomial infections, ID during wars, and fungal infections.

A fellow of several professional societies, including ACP, IDSA, RCP, ESCMID, and ECMM, she is President of the Lebanese Society of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology and President of the International Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy. Her accolades include awards from the Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research, Shoman Award for Research excellence in Arabs, Arab league Excellence in Medicine, Intissar Ahdab Award for Excellence in Research at AUB, the Faculty of Medicine Research Award at AUBMC, the Valkhof Professorship then an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Radboud University.

She ranks in the top 2% cited researchers in the Stanford University citation indicator for 2023-2025 and is the most cited researcher in ID in the Arab countries and number 8 in Asia.



USMAN NAKAKANA

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle

TOPICS:

- > Extraintestinal pathogenic E coli vaccine

Dr. Usman is a pediatrician, Pediatric Infectious Diseases specialist, and an expert in vaccine clinical development who works at the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation as a senior program officer for vaccine development and impact in AMR, Pneumonia and pandemic preparedness. Previously he was at the GSK Vaccines Institute for Global Health where he led a team of clinical development physicians engaged in developing AMR targeted vaccines. Usman was also an investigator at the Medical Research Council Unit The Gambia at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, evaluating the potential use of intrapartum Azithromycin for the prevention of maternal and neonatal sepsis, other infections and death. He has served in other previous roles as a technical expert for UNICEF for vaccination campaigns in Nigeria and study physician in research studies there as well. A member of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS), Usman has authored a book and several peer-reviewed articles regarding vaccine preventable diseases and AMR. Usman is medically qualified following medical school and pediatric specialization in Nigeria and has a master's degree in Vaccinology and pharmaceutical clinical development from the University of Siena. He also holds a post graduate certificate from the Boston University College of Medicine.



ZEINA KANAFANI

American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC)

TOPICS:

- > Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection and BCG vaccine

Dr. Zeina Kanafani is a Tenured Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases, Assistant Dean for Medical Student Affairs at the American University of Beirut Faculty of Medicine, and the Hospital Epidemiologist at the American University of Beirut Medical Center.

She earned her MD and completed her Internal Medicine residency at the American University of Beirut, followed by a Master of Science in Epidemiology. In 2004, she pursued fellowship training in Infectious Diseases at Duke University Medical Center before returning to AUB in 2007 to join the faculty, where she continues to pursue her clinical, academic, and leadership roles. She has recently embarked on a PhD in Biomedical Sciences to deepen her engagement in basic science research, particularly in microbiology.

Dr. Kanafani has authored approximately 150 peer-reviewed publications and secured research funding in support of her work. Her primary research interests include hospital-acquired infections, antimicrobial resistance, infections in immunocompromised hosts, and infective endocarditis.

FACULTY DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with the Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education issued by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the HPDC at AUB requires the identification, mitigation, and disclosure of all relevant financial relationships of planners, faculty, and others in control of educational content, to ensure accredited continuing education activities are free of commercial bias.

The following faculty have indicated that they have a relevant financial relationship, which in the context of their presentation(s), could be perceived as a potential conflict of interest:

NAME	COMPANY	RELATIONSHIP
Kenneth Alexander	MSD	Speaker
	Medscape	Speaker
	Realta Pharma	Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB)
	FELIQS	Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB)
Ghassan Dbaibo	Pfizer	Research grant funding
	MSD	Advisory board member
Souha Kanj	MSD	Speaker
	Gilead	Speaker
	Hikma	Speaker
	Menarini	Speaker
Shabir Madhi	Pfizer	Grant to institution for clinical trials
	GSK	Grant to institution for clinical trials
	Minervax	Grant to institution for clinical trials
Kathleen Neuzil	Pfizer	Consultant - Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) chair

Hanna Nohynek	CEPI	Consultancy
	International Vaccine	Consultancy
	Institute Europe	
	Evident Health Solutions	Owner
Nesrine Rizk	Pfizer	Educational grant
	MSD	Educational grant
	MSD	Speaker
Marco Safadi	GSK	Advisory Board
	Pfizer	Advisory Board, Consultancy Fee, Research Grants
	Sanofi	Advisory Board, Consultancy Fee

All other faculty have indicated they have no relevant financial relationship which, in the context of their presentation(s), could be perceived as a potential conflict of interest. All relevant financial relationships have been mitigated.

