

External Advisory Group for the WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit (Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India, 17–18 August 2023)

Co-chairs



Professor Bhushan Patwardhan is a National Research Professor-Ayush at the Interdisciplinary School of Health Science, Savitribai Phule Pune University, India. He is a Senior Consultant and India Lead on the Task Force for the Global Centre for Traditional Medicine. Professor Patwardhan is also a member of the Lancet Citizen's Commission for Reimagining India's Healthcare. He has appointments as Adjunct Professor at the NICM Health Research Institute, Western Sydney University, Australia, and as a Fellow at the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Medical Sciences, India. Professor Patwardhan serves as the Chairman of the Interdisciplinary R&D Taskforce on COVID-19 at the Ministry of Ayush, alongside being a member of several academic research and policy committees, such as NITI Aayog. He is also the Founder and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine (Elsevier), holds eight Indian and two US patents, and has authored over 175 scientific publications.



Dr L Susan Wieland is Director of the Cochrane Complementary Medicine Field at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, USA. She is faculty at the Department of Family & Community Medicine and has a guest appointment at the Institute for Complementary and Integrative Medicine, University Hospital Zurich, Switzerland. As a research methodologist and information specialist, Dr Wieland has been a member of the Cochrane Collaboration since 2001. She has led several Cochrane and non-Cochrane evidence synthesis projects, focusing on nonpharmacological interventions such as acupuncture, yoga and dietary supplements. She leads the Cochrane Complementary Medicine Field in producing, interpreting and disseminating systematic evidence on traditional, complementary, alternative and integrative interventions. Dr Wieland is a member of the Cochrane Climate Health Working Group, the GRADE Working Group, and the Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine & Health guidelines committee. She holds editorial positions at several integrative medicine and evidence synthesis journals.



Dr Obijiofor Aginam is a Principal Visiting Fellow at the United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH), Malaysia, and Adjunct Research Professor of Law and Legal Studies at Carleton University, Canada. He is a WHO Expert Committee member appointed by the Director-General to review the International Health Regulations. Dr Aginam has held senior positions at the Institute for Sustainability and Peace at UNU, Japan, and at UNU-IIGH. He was a Global Health Leadership Officer at the World Health Organization, where he worked on revising the International Health Regulations in the WHO Communicable Diseases Cluster. Dr Aginam has previously been a fellow of the Social Science Research Council, USA, on global health security and cooperation and has served at the Food and Agriculture Organization as a consultant on the governance of antimicrobial resistance. He holds positions on the editorial boards of several journals, including Global Health Governance.



Dr Anchalee Chuthaputti is a pharmacist and pharmacologist. She started her career as a researcher at the Medicinal Plant Research Institute at the Department of Medical Sciences, Thailand, before joining the Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine (DTAM). She also served as Deputy Director of the Institute of Thai Traditional Medicine. She has been responsible for international cooperation in traditional and alternative medicine between DTAM and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation and the World Health Organization, and bilateral cooperation with other countries. Dr Chuthaputti also served as the Director of the Technical and Planning Division, Institute of Thai-Chinese Medicine. Since her retirement, she has continued to work as an adviser to DTAM on international cooperation and as a member of committees, subcommittees and working groups on various matters related to herbal and traditional medicine services and products.



Dr Ricardo Ghelman is the Founding Chair of the Brazilian Academic Consortium for Integrative Health (CABSIN) and a member of the WHO Expert Advisory Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine Panel (TCIM) and TCIM Americas Network/PAHO. Dr Ghelman is pediatrician, pediatric oncologist and Collaborating Professor at the Department of Medicine and Primary Care at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He is a member of the [International Research Council on Anthroposophic Medicine, Gothenaum, Switzerland](#) and the research group at the Laboratory of Medical Investigation, University of São Paulo, Brazil, specializing in herbal medicines. Dr Ghelman coordinates the Evidence Maps on Clinical Effectiveness of TCIM from CABSIN in collaboration with BIREME/PAHO. He is also an Ambassador of the Society of Integrative Oncology for Brazil and Chair of the Department of Integrative Medicine for Children and Adolescents of the São Paulo Pediatric Society and Brazilian Pioneer of Integrative Pediatrics.



Professor Roshanak Ghods is an Associate Professor in the Department of Persian Medicine at the Iran University of Medical Sciences (IUMS). She obtained her MD from Rafsanjan University of Medical Sciences in 2001 and her PhD in Persian medicine from IUMS in 2014. In 2014, Professor Ghods qualified as an academic member and was selected to be the Head of the Institute for Studies in Medical History, Persian, and Complementary Medicine at IUMS. One year later she founded IUMS's Faculty of Persian Medicine. She has been a member of the Iranian Academy of Science, Hikmat, Islamic, and Traditional Medicine group since 2015. She completed an MBA in 2018 and an intensive course in Chinese medicine in 2021. Professor Ghods was academically promoted from assistant to associate professor in June 2020, becoming the first woman to reach this position among Persian medicine departments and schools in Iran. Her achievements in her field have been recognized both nationally and internationally. Professor Ghods has over 14 years of experience in clinical research and has published national and international peer-reviewed articles related to Persian medicine. She supervises many postgraduate students and has published several books. Professor Ghods is committed to advancing the field of Persian medicine and improving patient care. She is dedicated to mentoring the next generation of researchers and practitioners in Persian medicine and promoting the integration of traditional medicine with modern healthcare practices.



Dr Goh Cheng Soon is the Director of the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Division, Ministry of Health, Malaysia and frequently serves as a consultant to the World Health Organization. Her 14 years of clinical experience as an allopathic doctor are complemented by over 15 years of experience in traditional medicine. Dr Goh and her team have implemented the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Act 2016 (Act 775) and developed the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Blueprint 2018–2027 (Health Care) and Framework on Traditional and Complementary Medicine Research in Malaysia (2023). Dr Goh sits on the Medical Research and Ethics Committee and is a member of the Council of Traditional and Complementary Medicine at the Ministry of Health, Malaysia. She has received many awards for her work and has been bestowed Public Health Specialist status by the Ministry of Health due to her dedicated and expert contributions to public health.



Professor Motlalepula G. Matsabisa is a pharmacologist with research interests in the pharmacology of traditional medicines and medicinal plants, leading many collaborative research projects internationally. He is currently the Director of the Indigenous Knowledge Systems (Health) Lead Programme at the University of the Free State, South Africa. Professor Matsabisa is also a Guest Professor at the Beijing University of Chinese Medicines, China. He has served as a chair, vice-chair and member of many committees and councils related to herbal and traditional medicines across many organizations, including the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority, World Health Organization and World Intellectual Property Organization. Professor Matsabisa is the Director of the African Medicines Innovation and Technology Development Platform at the University of the Free State. Professor Matsabisa has published many scientific papers on natural products research and holds numerous patents. He is a reviewer and editorial board member for many scientific journals.



Professor Dr Georg Seifert is a senior physician in paediatric oncology and holds Europe's first professorship for integrative medicine in paediatrics at the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany and at the University of São Paulo, Brazil (Visiting Professor), where he researches Brazilian naturopathy and traditional medicine. He has published many scientific articles and is active in many professional societies. Professor Dr Seifert is currently heading a project to establish a centre at Charité that aims to translate experience-based traditional and integrative medicine into evidence-informed medicine based on scientific data – seeking to broaden the options for individual health promotion, prevention and therapy in society, with a particular emphasis on children and adolescents, mind-body medicine, nutrition and whole medical systems. Of particular interest is the use of Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine for innovative and sustainable health care delivery in modern health systems and the crosstalk between TCIM and these health systems.



Mr Sione Tu'itahi is an educator, writer and public health leader. He is the Executive Director of the Health Promotion Forum, New Zealand. His areas of interest in health promotion include planetary health, determinants of health, human rights and Indigenous knowledge. He is the President of the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) and the Founder and Co-Chair of the IUHPE Global Working Group on Waiora Planetary Health and Human Wellbeing. Mr Tu'itahi has 30 years of experience in leadership and management in the education and health sectors in Aotearoa. He was instrumental in establishing the Health Promotion Forum as a national accreditation organization under the IUHPE global framework for health promotion accreditation. Mr Tu'itahi was awarded the 2019 New Zealand Public Health Champion award by the Public Health Association of New Zealand in recognition of his significant national and international contributions to health promotion and public health.



Dr Chunyu Wei has over 18 years of experience in traditional Chinese medicine, especially in the area of international development, management, policy-making and regulation. Previously she worked as a Technical Officer at the Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine Unit (TCI) of the World Health Organization (WHO), as the focal point of the International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines (IRCH) network, and the WHO Expert Advisory Panel for TCI. She is the Deputy Director-General of the International Cooperation Department in the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (NATCM), China. Dr Chunyu is responsible for international cooperation and communication regarding traditional Chinese medicine, such as the implementation of the Belt and Road Development Programming on Traditional Chinese Medicine, and the Traditional Chinese Medicine Services in China. Dr Chunyu has received several awards, including many Excellent Civil Servant awards from NATCM. Dr Chunyu's publications focus on the analysis on the development of traditional Chinese medicine from the perspective of international communication.