

WHO guideline on post-exposure antibiotic prophylaxis for epidemic-prone bacterial infections

Guideline Development Group

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Pascal Adroba Tandele is a medical doctor and epidemiologist, currently serving as Research Officer at the Ituri Provincial Health Division, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where he leads the Center for Plague Surveillance and Control. He directs the Ituri Provincial Public Health Laboratory, overseeing diagnostic practices for diseases with epidemic potential. He also coordinates outbreak investigation and response activities across the province, including the current Ebola Bundibugyo virus disease emergency response. His expertise spans tropical medicine and infectious disease epidemiology, with a particular focus on plague. He holds a medical degree from the University of Goma (2006), a Master of Science (MSc) in Ecology of Infectious Diseases, Natural Hazards and Risk Management from the University of Kinshasa (2015), and an MSc in Ecosystem, Contaminant and Health from the University of Franche-Comté, Besançon, France (2016). He completed specialized training in *Yersinia* phenotyping and genotyping at the Institut Pasteur of Lille (2016) and is currently a doctoral researcher at the University of Kinshasa.

Amal Al Hajje

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Amal Al Hajje is a clinical pharmacist based in Beirut, Lebanon, where she currently serves as Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at the Lebanese University. In her role, she chairs both the Master's and Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) programmes in Clinical Pharmacy at the Faculty of Pharmacy, and holds appointments at the Faculty of Sciences and the Doctoral School of Sciences and Technology. Her expertise spans clinical pharmacy, clinical epidemiology, and public health. She has extensive experience coordinating doctoral research, supervising PhD students in collaboration with international universities, and has authored more than 90 publications in peer-reviewed international journals and book chapters, alongside numerous oral presentations and scientific posters in her field. She holds a Doctor of Pharmacy degree (1999) from the Lebanese University, a Master's degree in public health (2001) and a PhD in Clinical Pharmacy (2005) from Joseph Fourier University, Grenoble, France.

Miriam Alía

Médecins Sans Frontières, Barcelona, Spain

Miriam Alía is a paediatric intensive care nurse and vaccine-preventable disease expert, currently serving as Vaccination and Outbreak Response Advisor at Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Operational Centre Barcelona, Spain. She has worked with MSF since 2005 in various roles, including as a Medical Coordinator deployed to emergency settings worldwide, such as Nigeria, Syria, Yemen, Niger, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Sudan. With her experience in emergency medical coordination, she led outbreak response efforts against vaccine-preventable diseases in humanitarian settings, including cholera, pneumococcal disease, meningococcal disease, diphtheria, and measles, playing a leading role in the roll-out of reactive vaccination campaigns. She is a member of the International Coordinating Group for Vaccine Provision for cholera and meningitis.

Raffaele Bruno

University of Pavia, Pavia, Italy

Raffaele Bruno is an infectious disease physician based in Pavia, Italy, where he currently serves as Full Professor of Infectious Diseases and Vice-Rector for Medical Sciences at the University of Pavia and Director of the Infectious Diseases Unit at Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo. His clinical and research work focuses on antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial stewardship, severe bacterial infections, viral hepatitis and HIV, and the application of artificial intelligence to infectious disease diagnosis and management. Within the Italian national INF-ACT programme, he leads research on infections and antimicrobial resistance in long-term care facilities. During the COVID-19 pandemic he led the clinical management of the first patient diagnosed in Italy (February 2020) and served in the Lombardy regional network for COVID-19 clinical management. He is a member of the European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS) guideline panel on viral hepatitis. He has authored over 390 peer-reviewed publications. He was appointed Commander of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic (2021) and received the Italian Ministry of Health's Public Health Merit award (2023). He graduated in Medicine and Surgery from the University of Pavia (1991) and specialized in Tropical Medicine (1995).

Dominique A. Caugant

University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway

Dominique A. Caugant is a microbiologist and public health expert based in Oslo, Norway, where she currently serves as Chief Scientist at the Division for Infection Control, Norwegian Institute of Public Health and Professor Emeritus at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo. She has also been Head of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Meningococci since 1991. Her research focuses on population genetics and molecular epidemiology of pathogenic bacteria, encompassing the development of molecular tools for the study of infectious disease transmission, studies of antibiotic resistance, and pathogen evolution. She is also involved in vaccine research, including testing the potential coverage of new vaccines and evaluating the impact of vaccination. She is a member of the Technical Task Force for the WHO Global Roadmap on Defeating Meningitis by 2030 and a member of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) Working Group on Meningococcal Vaccines and Vaccination. She holds a doctoral degree in Genetics from the University of Paris in 1979 and a PhD in Microbiology from the University of Göteborg in 1983.

Iza Ciglenecki

Médecins Sans Frontières, Geneva, Switzerland

Iza Ciglenecki is a physician specializing in humanitarian medicine and outbreak control, currently serving as the Operational Research Coordinator at Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Operational Centre Geneva, Switzerland, and Chair of the Case Management Working Group of the Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC). With more than 25 years of experience in humanitarian medicine, she has worked extensively in emergency settings, with a particular focus on improving clinical care during outbreaks and advancing innovative outbreak control strategies, including the use of antibiotics and the introduction of new vaccines. She graduated in medicine from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and holds a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and a Master's degree in Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), as well as a PhD in Global Health from the University of Geneva.

Agnese Comelli

Médecins Sans Frontières, Brussels, Belgium

Agnese Comelli is an infectious and tropical diseases specialist, currently serving as Infectious Disease and Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Advisor for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Operational Centre Brussels, Belgium. In her role, she supports the development and implementation of AMS programmes in humanitarian and resource-limited settings across sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America. She also contributes to AMS training and the mentorship of healthcare professionals through international capacity-building initiatives, including the MSF Academy for Healthcare and the Specialized Program for Infectious Disease Care Everywhere (SPICE). Her areas of expertise include antimicrobial resistance, antimicrobial stewardship, infectious diseases, and public health. Her work spans clinical practice, guideline and

AMS tool development, research, surveillance, and health systems strengthening. She has worked across both high-income and resource-limited healthcare settings, contributing to AMR-related initiatives and infectious disease care at local, regional, and international levels. She has contributed to international expert groups and collaborations and authored numerous peer-reviewed publications on antimicrobial resistance, infectious and tropical diseases, and global health.

Joseph Adjete Oliver-Commey

Ghana Health Service, Accra, Ghana

Joseph Adjete Oliver-Commey is an infectious disease physician based in Accra, Ghana, currently serving as Senior Specialist Physician with the Ghana Health Service; Director of the Ghana Infectious Diseases Centre; and Director for Infectious Disease Centres and Epidemic-Prone Disease Management within the Office of the Director-General of the Ghana Health Service. He also holds senior academic and leadership teaching roles, including at the Accra College of Medicine. He has extensive experience across infectious diseases, combining clinical expertise in epidemic-prone infections, HIV and drug-resistant tuberculosis with leadership in outbreak preparedness and response, and health policy. He has contributed to Ghana's response to several major infectious disease threats, including cholera, meningococcal disease, pneumococcal disease, COVID-19, mpox, yellow fever, Lassa fever, and dengue. He has also served as an expert for the development of WHO guidance on mpox and meningitis and has authored or co-authored several peer-reviewed publications. He was awarded the Order of the Volta, Member (OVM), for his contribution to Ghana's COVID-19 response. Oliver-Commey holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) and a Master of Public Health (MPH) in Epidemiology from the University of Ghana. He is also a Fellow of the West African College of Physicians in Infectious Diseases.

Natasha S. Crowcroft

Public Health Agency of Canada, Ottawa, Canada

Natasha S. Crowcroft is a public health physician and epidemiologist, currently serving as Vice President of the Infectious Diseases and Vaccination Programs Branch at the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), Ottawa, Canada. With more than 30 years' experience in public health and preventive medicine and over 300 scientific publications, she is an Adjunct Professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, Inaugural Director of the Centre for Vaccine Preventable Diseases, and Senior Fellow at Massey College, University of Toronto. In 2025–26 she served as Acting Chief Public Health Officer for Canada. From 2020 to 2025 she served as Senior Technical Adviser for Measles and Rubella at WHO Headquarters. Prior to 2020, she served as Chief Scientist and Chief of Infectious Diseases at Public Health Ontario, Professor in Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto, Adjunct Scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, and a member of Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization. Her PhD was on pertussis epidemiology, and she developed methods for estimating the global burden of pertussis for WHO in 2000. Crowcroft is also an alumna of the European Field Epidemiology Training Programme (EPIET).

Saber Esmaeili

Pasteur Institute of Iran, Teheran, Iran

Saber Esmaeili is a medical bacteriologist based in Teheran, Iran, currently serving as Head of the National Reference Laboratory for Plague, Tularemia and Q Fever and Head of the Center for Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases Research at the Pasteur Institute of Iran, where he has been a faculty member since 2019. For more than 15 years, his research has focused on major zoonotic pathogens. His expertise encompasses emerging and re-emerging diseases and zoonotic bacterial infections, with a special focus on laboratory diagnosis, surveillance and outbreak investigation. He has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications. He was selected as Researcher of the Year at the Pasteur Institute of Iran in 2022 and 2025, and as an Outstanding Researcher Under 40 at the 14th International Symposium on Yersinia. He received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from the University of Tabriz in 2011 and his PhD in Medical Bacteriology from Tarbiat Modares University in 2018.

Flavio Finger

Epicentre, Paris, France

Flavio Finger is an infectious disease epidemiologist at Epicentre, Paris, France. In his role, he supports Médecins sans Frontières operations by investigating infectious disease outbreaks and conducting operational research. While coordinating a group of epidemiologists based in Europe and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, he recently led a number of research projects on the effectiveness of Case-Area Targeted Interventions (CATI) to contain cholera outbreaks, the use of cholera rapid diagnostic tests for surveillance, the impact of reactive Oral Cholera Vaccine campaigns, and the effectiveness of Ebola vaccines. He is also Chair of the Epidemiology Working Group of the Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC). Prior to his current role, he served as a Research Fellow at the Centre for Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). His research focused on developing methods to better understand the mechanisms driving cholera, diphtheria, and Ebola outbreaks and their spatial spread, while also supporting partner organizations in the field. He holds a PhD in Spatially Explicit Modelling of Cholera Epidemics from the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland.

Sumanth Gandra

Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, United States of America

Sumanth Gandra is an adult infectious disease physician and public health researcher based in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, currently serving as Professor of Medicine and Public Health at the Washington University School of Medicine and Associate Hospital Epidemiologist at Barnes Jewish Hospital. His time is divided between clinical work that involves direct patient care, infection prevention work at Barnes Jewish Hospital, and clinical and translational research on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). His research focuses on three AMR mitigation areas: infection prevention, low-cost diagnostic development for infectious diseases, and optimizing antibiotic use by healthcare providers, particularly in low-income countries. His research has been funded by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), WHO and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He served as a member of WHO's antimicrobial working group from 2017 to March 2024 and contributed to the creation of the AWaRe categorization of antibiotics and the WHO AWaRe Antibiotic Handbook. He currently serves as a member of the WHO Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on AWaRe. He is co-chair of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) Multidrug-Resistant Gram-Negative Infections Treatment Guidelines panel. He has authored or co-authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications.

Mariam Hassan

Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Lahore, Pakistan

Mariam Hassan is a medical doctor and clinical research specialist. With 18 years of experience in coordinating research programmes across Pakistan and Qatar, her expertise spans the design of clinical studies, research governance, clinical trial management, research-related capacity development, and policymaking. She has collaborated extensively with global academic and development organizations, including WHO, the Global Health Network, the Gates Foundation, and Stanford University. She holds a medical degree, a Master of Science (MSc) in Clinical Trials from Edinburgh Medical School, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom, and a postgraduate diploma in Bioethics from the Centre of Biomedical Ethics and Culture, Karachi, Pakistan. She is currently pursuing doctoral studies at the School of Public Health, University of Waterloo, Canada, and her current research focuses on addressing health disparities for underserved populations.

Robert Heyderman

University College London, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Robert Heyderman is a clinician scientist, currently serving as Professor of Infectious Diseases at University College London (UCL), United Kingdom. His expertise bridges clinical practice, disease prevention, and the fundamental understanding of the mechanisms of infectious disease. He directed the Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Programme (MLW) for over 8 years, transforming it into a centre of excellence led by Malawian and international scientists. Since moving to UCL in 2015, he

established the Mucosal Pathogens Research Group, which focuses on optimizing the development and implementation of vaccines to prevent severe infections that cause pneumonia, meningitis and sepsis both domestically and across Africa. After co-directing the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Mucosal Pathogens Research Unit, he now co-leads the NIHR Global Health Research Group on Vaccines to Control Respiratory Pathogens and AMR (VacAMR). He is also a member of the Technical Task Force for the WHO Global Roadmap on Defeating Meningitis by 2030. He completed an Intercalated Bachelor of Science (BSc) in 1982 and obtained his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) in 1985 at St George's Hospital Medical School, London. He obtained his Membership of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom (MRCP) in 1988 and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP) in 2002. He completed his PhD at Imperial College London in 1994 and obtained a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (DTM&H) in London in 1998. He was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences (FMedSci) in 2022.

Chiori Kodama

Japan Institute for Health Security, Tokyo, Japan

Chiori Kodama is an internal medicine physician and global health security specialist based in Tokyo, Japan, where she currently serves as Director of Global Strategic Partnerships and Policy Coordination at the Japan Institute for Health Security (JIHS) and Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. With over 15 years' experience, she joined the first cohort of Japan's national Infectious Disease Emergency Specialist (IDES) Programme and worked with and for WHO for nearly a decade at Headquarters, in field operations, at the Ethiopia Country Office, and at the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean. Her portfolio encompassed outbreak preparedness and response as well as the development of guidance on several high-threat pathogens, including epidemic-prone bacterial, waterborne, and zoonotic infections, COVID-19, viral haemorrhagic fevers, and arboviral diseases. Her work integrated surveillance, clinical management, research, and operations, including in humanitarian settings. She established the Regional Office's clinical management function and strengthened critical-care capacity and medical oxygen systems. She is board-certified in internal medicine and public health in Japan. She holds an MD degree from Shimane University, Japan, and a Master of Science (MSc) in Tropical Medicine and International Health and a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

Nathaniel Lee

University College London Hospitals National Health Service (NHS) Foundation Trust, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Nathaniel Lee is a physician and clinical researcher specializing in infectious diseases. His research primarily focuses on building the evidence base for a definitive treatment trial in leptospirosis, spanning the full translational spectrum from systematic review to clinical trial design. His work comprises three Cochrane systematic reviews of leptospirosis treatments (antibiotics, prophylaxis, and corticosteroids), an analysis of multinational datasets of over 3,000 patients with leptospirosis across Malaysia, Vietnam, and the Philippines, and the Core Outcome Set for Leptospirosis (COS-LEP) initiative, developing a core outcome and measurement set for leptospirosis research through international stakeholder consensus. He is currently co-developing LEPTO-START, a placebo-controlled trial of corticosteroids for severe leptospirosis, conceived as the inaugural arm of an international master platform trial. He maintains an active research network across Japan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and Singapore. He obtained a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from Guy's, King's and St Thomas' School of Medicine (2012), a Master's degree in Tropical Medicine and International Health (2015), and a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (2015), all from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). He is currently serving as a doctoral researcher jointly affiliated with the LSHTM and Nagasaki University, Japan and as a specialty registrar in Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology at University College London Hospitals National Health Service (NHS) Foundation Trust and the Hospital for Tropical Diseases.

Yee-Sin Leo

National Centre for Infectious Diseases, Singapore

Yee-Sin Leo is an adult infectious disease physician and public health specialist, currently serving as Senior Advisor at Singapore's National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID). She is also Professor at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), at the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health and the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, both at the National University of Singapore (NUS), and Advisor and Consultant at Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL). In her career, she led teams through multiple outbreaks and large-scale epidemics in Singapore, including Nipah virus (1999), arboviruses, SARS (2003), pandemic influenza (2009), and COVID-19 (2020–2022). She was the inaugural Executive Director of NCID from 2017 to 2023 and now co-leads the Asia Pacific One Health Initiative hosted by TLL, building a regional platform for multisectoral collaboration, data governance, and capacity building. She has published over 400 peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts on the clinical management of emerging infectious diseases and continues to chair and serve as a member of several committees and expert panels, including at WHO. She was made a Knight of the French Order of the Legion of Honour in 2022.

Felix Liauw

Harapan Kita National Women and Children Health Center, Jakarta, Indonesia

Felix Liauw is a general paediatrician based in Jakarta, Indonesia, currently pursuing a fellowship in paediatric intensive care at the Harapan Kita National Women and Children Health Center. Since October 2023, he has been a member of the WHO Task Force of AMR Survivors, following the loss of his son in 2020 to a drug-resistant infection that had been treated with multiple antibiotics, from first-line to third-line regimens. He is also an active member of the Pediatric Acute & Critical Care Medicine Asian Network and, in collaboration with colleagues across Asia, has published several manuscripts on paediatric acute respiratory distress syndrome. Beyond his clinical role, he has also been involved, since 2010, with Yayasan Orangtua Peduli (The Concerned and Caring Parents Foundation), a civil society organization focused on enhancing health literacy through community education programs across Indonesia.

José López Revilla

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José López Revilla is an infectious diseases and tropical medicine physician, currently serving as Coordinator of Infectious Diseases at the Instituto Nacional de Salud del Niño San Borja, Lima, Peru, the national paediatric referral hospital. In his role, he leads clinical care, antimicrobial stewardship, and outbreak response for complex paediatric infections. He is also a faculty member of Universidad Científica del Sur, where he teaches public health. His work spans antimicrobial resistance surveillance and stewardship, zoonoses, arboviral diseases, and health systems research in low- and middle-income settings. He contributes to international collaborations on dengue clinical research and antimicrobial and antifungal resistance surveillance. He is also a Fogarty Fellow with the United States National Institutes of Health, a grantee of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Stars in Global Health program, an International Severe Acute Respiratory and Emerging Infection Consortium (ISARIC) Leadership Mentor, and an instructor in the Clinical Research During Outbreaks (CREDO) programme. He holds a medical degree from Universidad Nacional Pedro Ruiz Gallo (2003), a specialization in Infectious and Tropical Diseases from Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (2015), and a Master's degree in Health System Management from Universidad San Martín de Porres (2018).

Ibrahim Mahmood Maigari

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Ibrahim Mahmood Maigari is a physician specializing in infectious diseases and tropical medicine based in Bauchi, Nigeria, where he currently serves as Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Medicine at Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU) and Coordinator of the Infectious Disease Treatment Centre at ATBU Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH). Since 2017, he has led the clinical management team for infectious disease outbreaks in Bauchi State, responding to outbreaks of bacterial meningitis, cholera, diphtheria, Lassa fever, COVID-19 and mpox. He organized and implemented several clinical trainings for frontline healthcare professionals as part of the state's outbreak preparedness and response efforts and actively contributed to the development and dissemination of WHO guidance on meningitis. He is a member of Nigeria's national Lassa fever case

management guideline review committee and has led efforts at ATBUTH to promote rational antibiotic prescription, including implementation of regular monitoring of antibiotic use. He graduated in Medicine and Surgery from the University of Maiduguri, holds a Master's in Public Health, and is a Fellow of the West African College of Physicians (FWACP) in Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine.

Ziad Memish

King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Ziad Memish is an infectious disease physician based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where he currently serves as Senior Advisor to the Supervisor General and Director of Research and Innovation at the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSrelief) and Professor of Infectious Diseases at the College of Medicine, Alfaisal University. He served as Saudi Arabia's first Deputy Minister for Public Health from 2009 to 2014. In 2007, he established the WHO Collaborating Centre and Gulf Center for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) at the Ministry of National Guard Health Affairs, and in 2011, the WHO Collaborating Centre for Mass Gathering Medicine at the Saudi Ministry of Health, serving as first director of both. He has served on numerous WHO committees and expert panels at regional and headquarters level and is a member of the Saudi National Institutes of Health (NIH) Advisory Board (2024–2026). He is board-certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Infectious Diseases, and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (Canada, Edinburgh, and London) and the American College of Physicians. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Ottawa, Canada, in 1987.

Ahmed Nawsher Alam

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Ahmed Nawsher Alam is the Principal Scientific Officer at the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), Dhaka, Bangladesh. With more than 25 years of experience in government health services, his expertise spans infectious disease surveillance and biosafety, laboratory diagnostics, outbreak investigation and response, and development of public health guidelines. Specifically, he has extensive experience in control of zoonotic and emerging infectious diseases, including anthrax, Nipah, influenza, and other high-impact, epidemic-prone infections. He is a core team member for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance and a focal person for major international initiatives. He contributed as an external expert to the development of the WHO implementation guidance on anthrax and contributed to national guidelines on anthrax, Nipah, dengue, pandemic preparedness, and biosafety. He holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) in Biosecurity from Massey University, New Zealand, a medical degree in Virology from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), and a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from the University of Dhaka.

Piero Olliaro

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Piero Olliaro is an infectious disease specialist, currently serving as Professor of Infectious Diseases of Poverty at the University of Oxford and Director of Science of the International Severe Acute Respiratory and Emerging Infection Consortium (ISARIC) at the Pandemic Sciences Institute in Oxford, United Kingdom. His current primary area of work is epidemic preparedness and response, including clinical research in plague, Nipah, Lassa fever, mpox, COVID-19 and other high-consequence infectious diseases. Other research subjects covered throughout his career include the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of neglected tropical diseases, malaria, and tuberculosis. He previously worked for 25 years at the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) at WHO, covering different roles, most recently as Unit Leader of Intervention and Implementation Research. His key achievements include coordinating the research and clinical trials that supported the policy change from single-agent to artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACT) for falciparum malaria, and the first conclusive clinical trial of bubonic plague treatment. He is the author of over 500 peer-reviewed articles and contributed to numerous WHO documents and guidelines. He holds a medical degree and a PhD, with postgraduate specialisation in infectious diseases, and he is a Foreign Member (Membre Étranger) of the French National Academy of Medicine (Académie de Médecine).

Loice Achieng Ombajo

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Loice Achieng Ombajo is an infectious disease specialist based in Nairobi, Kenya, currently serving as Senior Lecturer at the Department of Clinical Medicine and Therapeutics and Co-Director of the Centre for Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis (CEMA) at the University of Nairobi. She has served as a member of the WHO working group on the AWaRe categorisation of antibiotics for the Essential Medicines List and is a member of the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Drug Evaluation and the WHO Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on AWaRe. She leads work in antimicrobial resistance surveillance and antimicrobial stewardship in Kenya and coordinated the development of antibiotic use guidelines in Kenya. She is also involved in the development of HIV treatment guidelines and HIV research, where she currently leads large clinical trials in HIV treatment, with a focus on supporting data-driven clinical and public health policy decisions.

Mihaja Raberahona

Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Joseph Raseta Befelatanana, Antananarivo, Madagascar

Mihaja Raberahona is an internal medicine and infectious disease physician and clinical researcher, based in Antananarivo, Madagascar. He currently serves as a hospital practitioner in the Infectious Diseases Department of the University Hospital Joseph Raseta Befelatanana and as Executive Director and Senior Researcher at the Clinical Research Team for Infectious Diseases (Équipe de Recherche Clinique en Maladies Infectieuses), a Madagascar-based clinical research team. His research focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of high-burden infectious diseases in Madagascar and low-income countries, including bacterial meningitis, plague, sepsis, tuberculosis, and HIV. He has devoted significant research efforts to improving the diagnosis and treatment of plague, leading a major clinical trial on bubonic plague in Madagascar. Through his dual role as clinician and researcher, he bridges bedside care and clinical research, contributing to the generation of locally relevant evidence to strengthen the management of infectious diseases in resource-limited settings.

Pinyo Rattanaumpawan

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Pinyo Rattanaumpawan is an infectious disease physician based in Bangkok, Thailand, where she currently serves as Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine and Executive Director of the Clinical Trial Unit at the Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University. She leads the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at Siriraj Hospital and holds several national and international roles, including with the Infectious Disease Association of Thailand, the National Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Working Group, the National List of Essential Medicines (Infectious Disease Subcommittee), the WHO Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on AWaRe, and the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP) Scientific Advisory Committee. Her research focuses on AMR and antimicrobial stewardship, with over 20 clinical trials and nearly 100 international peer-reviewed publications. Her work has been recognized by the 2026 Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) International Ambassador Program, the 2019 SHEA William Jarvis Award, and the 2017 Institut Mérieux Young Investigator Award. She holds a medical degree, a Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology (MSCE), and a PhD.

Paula Reges

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Paula Reges is a physician and global health specialist based in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She currently works as a researcher at the Evandro Chagas National Institute of Infectious Diseases (INI), Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), and as International Affairs Advisor to the Presidency of Fiocruz, focusing on global health policy and strategic engagement with multilateral health institutions. She is also a Visiting Researcher at the Centre for International Relations in Health (CRIS/Fiocruz), a WHO/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Collaborating Centre on Global Health Diplomacy and South-South

Cooperation, Special Advisor to the Global Coalition for Local and Regional Production, Innovation and Equitable Access, and Advisor on Global Health to the Pasteur Network. Her expertise encompasses infectious diseases, emerging and re-emerging diseases, pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, global health governance, and health diplomacy. She served as National Coordinator of the WHO-sponsored SOLIDARITY clinical trial in Brazil and as a GDG member for the WHO guideline on meningitis diagnosis, treatment and care (2025). She currently contributes to the General Coordination of the WHO/Fiocruz Collaborative Open Research Consortium on Flaviviruses (CORC). In addition to her medical degree, she holds a Master of Science (MSc) in Clinical Research in Infectious Diseases from Fiocruz and is currently pursuing a PhD in the same field.

Monica Rull (GDG Chair)

Médecins Sans Frontières, Geneva, Switzerland

Monica Rull is a physician specializing in humanitarian medicine based in Geneva, Switzerland, currently serving as Deputy Executive Director of the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Access Team, a position she has held since 2025. In this role, she leads work to improve access to essential medical products, including vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics such as antibiotics. She joined MSF in 2003 as a medical doctor and subsequently worked across multiple field missions, serving in roles including Project Coordinator, Medical Coordinator, and Emergency Coordinator. In 2008, she joined MSF's Operational Centre Geneva (OCG), where she first served as Deputy Programme Manager and later as Programme Manager for Cell 2, overseeing a diverse portfolio of countries including Kenya, Somalia, Myanmar, Haiti, Djibouti, the Philippines, Chad, and Kyrgyzstan. From 2014 to 2018, she served as MSF OCG's Operations Health Coordinator, where she contributed to the development of the organization's medical and operational strategies. In 2018, she worked as OCG's Deputy Operations Director and was appointed as Medical Director in 2019. She obtained her MD degree from Universidad Complutense de Madrid in 1994, followed by a Master's degree in Tropical Medicine and International Health from Universitat de Barcelona in 2001, and an International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance from Fordham University, New York City, in 2009. Her extensive field and leadership experience spans humanitarian medicine, emergency response, and equitable access to medical care.

Priscilla Rupali

Christian Medical College, Vellore, India

Priscilla Rupali is an infectious disease specialist, currently serving as Senior Professor and Head of the Department of Infectious Diseases at Christian Medical College (CMC) Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India. Her expertise spans antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and antimicrobial stewardship, tropical medicine, fever of unknown origin and acute febrile illnesses, HIV, and transplant infectious diseases. She has pioneered and contributed to several training courses, including an annual course in Clinical Tropical Medicine and a Fellowship in General Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial Stewardship at CMC Vellore and the Global Health and Humanitarian Medicine programme with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). She founded India's Transplant Infectious Diseases Conference and was a founding member of the country's first evidence-based living guideline on COVID-19 interventions, developed with the Clinical Infectious Diseases Society of India (CIDS). She worked as a methodologist for the WHO guidelines on cystic echinococcosis (2025) and as evidence synthesis team lead for the WHO guidelines on meningitis diagnosis, treatment and care (2025). She has authored over 175 publications to date. She completed her postgraduate training in Internal Medicine in 1999 at The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University. She subsequently trained as an Infectious Diseases fellow at Auckland City Hospital, New Zealand (2006-2007), followed by a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from Universidad Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru (2008), affiliated with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), and a Fellowship in Transplant Infectious Diseases at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Michigan (2013-2014).

Mwimanenwa Sabuni

University Teaching Hospitals, Lusaka, Zambia

Mwimanenwa Sabuni is an internal medicine physician based in Lusaka, Zambia, where he works at the University Teaching Hospitals (UTH), the country's largest referral hospital. In his clinical role, he manages complex infectious diseases and contributes to clinical teaching and mentorship within the department, across the hospital, and nationally. He has frontline experience in outbreak response, having served as a Case Management Officer during Zambia's 2023 and 2025 cholera outbreaks. He subsequently contributed to both the national and global cholera task forces under the case management pillar, playing a key role in strengthening outbreak preparedness and response efforts, including guideline development on cholera vaccine and chemoprophylaxis. His areas of expertise include antimicrobial stewardship, tropical diseases, HIV and tuberculosis. He is currently conducting research on HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in Zambia. He holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) from the University of Zambia and a Master of Medicine (MMed) in Internal Medicine. He is currently serving as a final-year Infectious Diseases registrar at UTH.

Nancy Virginia Sandoval Paiz

Hospital Roosevelt, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Nancy Virginia Sandoval Paiz is an internal medicine and infectious disease physician based in Guatemala City, Guatemala, where she currently serves as Chief of the Department of Internal Medicine at Hospital Roosevelt. In her current role, she also serves as Sub-coordinator of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (PROA-HR), leads the Patient Safety Program and coordinates the Vaccination Clinic for At-Risk Patients. She is also faculty in Internal Medicine at the Universidad Rafael Landívar and serves as Vice President of the Pan American Association of Infectious Diseases (API). Her work spans clinical infectious diseases, antimicrobial stewardship, vaccine-preventable disease prevention, and patient safety, with a particular focus on strengthening evidence-based practice across Latin America. She also served as Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Active Medical Corps of Hospital Roosevelt and President of the Guatemalan Association of Infectious Diseases. She graduated in Medicine and Surgery at the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala (2003) and specialized in Internal Medicine at Hospital Roosevelt (2007). She later obtained a Master's in Tropical Parasitic Diseases at the University of Valencia, Spain (2009), and a Master's in Infectious Diseases at the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, Spain (2012).

Shrijana Shrestha

Patan Academy of Health Sciences, Lalitpur, Nepal

Shrijana Shrestha is a general paediatrician, currently serving as Professor of Paediatrics at Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS) in Nepal. With more than 25 years of experience in clinical care and medical education at a tertiary level hospital, her areas of expertise include childhood infectious diseases, vaccine-preventable diseases, immunization research and health policy. As a leading clinical researcher in Nepal, she coordinated major research projects on paediatric infectious diseases, including landmark vaccine trials conducted in collaboration with the University of Oxford. Her research has generated evidence that has informed national and global policies on pneumococcal and typhoid conjugate vaccines. She also served two consecutive terms as Dean of the School of Medicine at PAHS (2014-2017; 2018-2021), where she oversaw the implementation of a rural-focused undergraduate medical curriculum and a competency-based postgraduate residency programme. She has also served on high-level national committees on medical education and health services, contributing to the development of national policies. She currently chairs the WHO South-East Asia Regional Certification Commission for Polio Eradication. She has authored numerous scientific publications and represented Nepal at international scientific assemblies and policy forums. She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from Tribhuvan University, and a Doctor of Medicine in Paediatrics from the University of Punjab, Pakistan.

Shalini Sri Ranganathan

University of Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Shalini Sri Ranganathan is a paediatrician based in Colombo, Sri Lanka, currently serving as Senior Professor in Pharmacology at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Colombo. She has extensive experience in paediatric clinical pharmacology, the rational and safe use of medicines, and medicines policy. With a particular focus on strengthening the availability and appropriate use of essential medicines in children, her research spans antibiotic use and consumption,

antimicrobial stewardship, and anti-seizure medicines. She has been a member of the WHO Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines for several years and has contributed to the WHO Guideline Development Group (GDG) on COVID-19 Therapeutics. She holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from the University of Jaffna, a Diploma in Child Health and a Doctor of Medicine in Paediatrics from the University of Colombo, a Diploma in Medical Toxicology and a PhD in Paediatric Clinical Pharmacology from the University of Wales College of Medicine, Cardiff, UK, where she trained as a Commonwealth Scholar. She also obtained Membership of the UK Royal College of Physicians.

John Stelling

Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston, United States of America

John Stelling is a medical doctor and expert in antimicrobial resistance surveillance based in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. He is the Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance at Brigham & Women's Hospital. The focus of his work has been to support public health infrastructure for laboratory services and advance data management tools for laboratory-based surveillance of infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Since 1989, he has developed, disseminated and supported the free WHONET software, currently used to support AMR surveillance activities in over 120 countries and over 9,000 hospital, public health, food, and veterinary laboratories. He received his undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins University and a Master's in Public Health (MPH) from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. In 1991, Stelling graduated from Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Division of Health Sciences and Technology, and in 1995 completed an internship in family practice at San Francisco General Hospital.

Tony Stewart

Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

Tony Stewart is a public health physician and infectious disease epidemiologist, currently serving as Honorary Professor of Applied Epidemiology at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH), Australian National University and as a Fellow of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine. His expertise spans field epidemiology, outbreak investigation and response, and emergency health operations. From 2022 to 2024, he was Director of the Australian Field Epidemiology Training Program (Master of Applied Epidemiology) at the NCEPH and a Communicable Diseases Network Australia member. From 2014 to 2020 he worked with WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) and the WHO Health Emergencies Programme on several public health emergencies. During the Ebola outbreak in West Africa (2014-2016), he chaired the GOARN Steering Committee and was involved in the training and deployment of over 1,300 volunteers to the response. In 2018, he was the senior technical lead for the WHO response to cholera and diphtheria outbreaks in the Rohingya refugee camps based in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. In 2013, he co-established an Australasian response network after Typhoon Haiyan, and was an early responder to the 2009 Samoa and 2004 Banda Aceh tsunamis. He graduated in Australia's first Field Epidemiology Training Program cohort (1991-1993) and holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Monash University.

Juno Thomas

National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Johannesburg, South Africa

Juno Thomas is a clinical microbiologist and infectious disease physician, currently serving as a consultant to the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), Johannesburg, South Africa. Having joined the institute in 2009 as Head of the Outbreak Response Unit, she headed the Centre for Enteric Diseases from 2017 to 2022. Her experience spans clinical practice, infectious disease epidemiology and surveillance, and outbreak investigation and response. She played a leading role in several high-profile outbreak investigations, working directly with South Africa's Minister of Health and engaging with regional and international organizations. She has authored or co-authored over 45 peer-reviewed journal articles, and over the past 20 years has been actively involved in developing national and international guidelines on the management of communicable diseases. She received her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBCh) from the University of the Witwatersrand in 1997 and obtained her Fellowship of the College of Pathologists of South Africa in Clinical Microbiology in

2006. She also completed subspecialist clinical infectious diseases training, along with diplomas in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and HIV Management.

Guy Thwaites

University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Guy Thwaites is an infectious disease physician and clinical microbiologist, currently serving as Professor of Infectious Diseases at the University of Oxford and Honorary Consultant in Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology at Oxford University Hospitals National Health Service (NHS) Foundation Trust. With a global research focus on life-threatening infections, throughout his career he has aimed to translate high-quality clinical trials and mechanistic science into better outcomes and policy. He lived and worked in Southeast Asia for 17 years and was Director of the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit (OUCRU), a Wellcome Trust Major International Programme conducting interdisciplinary research across Vietnam, Indonesia, and Nepal, from October 2013 to January 2026. Over the past 20 years he has built and led large international teams and partnerships spanning governments, hospitals, WHO, and industry. He was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to public health and Vietnam–UK relations in 2021. He holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and postgraduate degrees including an MA and a PhD, is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP) and the Royal College of Pathologists (FRCPath), and a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences (FMedSci).

Xin Wang

National Institute for Communicable Disease Control and Prevention, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Beijing, China

Xin Wang is a medical scientist specializing in plague and zoonotic disease research, currently serving as Director of the Emergency Response Laboratory at the National Institute for Communicable Disease Control and Prevention (ICDC), part of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Beijing, China. Her research focuses on the epidemic mechanisms of plague and other zoonotic diseases, including surveillance of natural plague foci across China, and on strengthening outbreak emergency response. She has published about 60 indexed articles as corresponding or first author and has received five science and technology awards as first or second principal investigator. As a GDG member, she contributed to the development of the WHO guideline for plague management (2021). She obtained her medical degree from the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College (PUMC).
