COVID-19 Global Research and Innovation Forum

13 May 2021
13:00 – 18:00 Central European Time CET

14 May 2021
13:00 – 18:00 Central European Time CET

DRAFT Agenda

Version 8.0 – 11 May 2021
BACKGROUND

Since 1951, a central and historic responsibility for WHO has been the management of the global regime for the control of the international spread of disease. The International Health Regulations (IHR) are an instrument of international law that is legally-binding on 196 countries, including the 194 WHO Member States. ([https://www.who.int/health-topics/international-health-regulations#tab=tab_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/international-health-regulations#tab=tab_1))

In May 2015, the Sixty-Eighth World Health Assembly at the request of its 194 Member States, asked WHO to convene a broad global coalition to develop the WHO R&D Blueprint as both a convening mechanism and an instrument to articulate end to end technical guidance for R&D preparedness and support research during epidemics. ([https://www.who.int/teams/blueprint/covid-19](https://www.who.int/teams/blueprint/covid-19))

World scientists on COVID-19 met at the World Health Organization’s Geneva headquarters on 11–12 February 2020 to assess the level of knowledge about the new virus, agree on critical research questions that need to be answered urgently, and to find ways to work together to accelerate and fund priority research to curtail this outbreak and prepare for those in the future. ([https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/a-coordinated-global-research-roadmap](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/a-coordinated-global-research-roadmap))

The Global Forum deliberations led to an agreement on two main goals.

- **The first** was to accelerate innovative research to help contain the spread of the pandemic and facilitate care for those affected.
- **The second** was to support research priorities that contribute to the development of global research platforms and, to build on the knowledge from the current pandemic to better prepare for the next unforeseen epidemic.

Thereafter, WHO facilitated a network of global researchers that have since debated research priorities, developed methods, generated new data and critically appraised emerging evidence to inform guidance. Hundreds of virtual scientific consultations including thousands of researchers around the world have taken place. Thousands of critical studies have been initiated.

Through these coordinated actions, emergency response efforts are benefiting from additional tools to combat the virus. Ideally, these coordination efforts will catalyse global changes, promote even greater global collaboration and increase the range of medical technologies available to treat infectious diseases. The net impact should be faster and more effective responses to this pandemic and to future public health emergencies across the globe.

The global health community, national governments, the researchers and populations of all countries, product development partnerships, pharmaceutical & biotechnical companies, and the funders must continue to work together. Further coordinated research efforts will increase investment in research for appropriate medical technologies, ensuring fair and equitable access to, and affordability for the populations in need.

WHO continues to use its convening power to make this vision a reality, but success will rely on the concerted efforts of all stakeholders.
OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM

Controlling the COVID-19 pandemic and addressing its consequences necessitates a multi-disciplinary scientific approach to resolve the scientific challenges associated with the development of new tools.

Such an approach can only be successful if it is a part of a broad ranging effort to improve epidemic preparedness, promotes equal access to health interventions, addresses the social and economic impact of the pandemic, and recognizes the vital contribution of communities to the design and implementation of control strategies.

Preparatory consultations benefiting from inputs from hundreds of experts on each of the various thematic areas preceded this Forum. The outcomes of those preparatory consultations will be presented at the Forum but, the focus will be on outlining and debating the research priorities for 2021 and 2022.

The goals of the Forum remain the same as in the original Roadmap:

- To accelerate innovative research to help contain the spread of the pandemic and facilitate care for those affected.

- To support research priorities that contribute to the development of global research platforms and, to build on the knowledge from the current pandemic to better prepare for the next unforeseen epidemic

The outcomes of the Global Research and Innovation Forum will inform the development of a revised COVID-19 Global Research and Innovation Roadmap with clear goals, priority actions and milestones.
## DRAFT AGENDA

**DAY 1 - Thursday, 13 May 2021**

Moderators – Drs Soumya Swaminathan and Michael J Ryan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
</tr>
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| 13:00 - 13:15 | **Welcome address**<br>Objectives of the Forum                         | Dr Tedros  
Director-General WHO<br>Dr Soumya Swaminathan  
Chief Scientist, WHO and<br>Dr Michael J Ryan  
Executive Director, Health Emergencies programme, WHO |
| 13:15 - 13:30 | A coordinated Global Research Roadmap: overview of global achievements one year on | WHO R&D Blueprint                                                                                                                                 |
| 13:30 - 13:50 | Epidemiological drivers: population level susceptibility, variants and implementation of control measures | Professor Gabriel Leung  
School of Public Health, University of Hong Kong |
| 13:50 - 14:10 | Transmission dynamics: knowns and unknowns Research priorities on disease transmission and control measures | Professor Marion Koopmans  
Erasmus University Medical Centre, Rotterdam, The Netherlands |
| 14:10 - 14:25 | **Keynote address**<br>Meeting the ethical challenges of access to COVID-19 interventions | Professor Peter Singer  
University Center for Human Values, Princeton University, USA |
| 14:25 - 14:40 | Accelerating research and development for COVID-19 vaccines            | Dr Philip Krause  
Office of Vaccines Research and Review, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, FDA, USA. |
| 14:40 - 15:00 | SARS-COV-2 Variants: a multidisciplinary global research framework    | Dr Sylvie Brind  
Infectious Hazard Management, Pandemic and Epidemic Diseases, Health Emergencies programme, WHO |
| 15:00 - 15:15 | Questions on outlined research priorities                           | Moderators                                                                                                                                 |
| 15:15 - 15:25 | BREAK                                                               |                                                                                                                                              |
| 15:25 – 15:40 | **Keynote address**<br>How research can contribute to a healthier world for vulnerable populations | Dr Michelle Bachelet  
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| 15:40 – 16:00 | Evaluating Therapeutics to reduce the short- and long-term effects of COVID-19 | Professor Sir Michael Jacobs  
Clinical Director of Infection at the Royal Free Hospital, London, UK |

*One minute silence to remember the researchers, healthcare workers, frontline workers, and all the people that have fallen to COVID-19*
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<tr>
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<th>Speakers</th>
</tr>
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| 16:00 – 16:20| **Clinical management of COVID-19: from prioritization of drugs to access interventions** | **Dr DJ Christopher**  
Department of Pulmonary Medicine, Christian Medical College, Vellore, India  
**Dr Leticia Kawano-Dourado**  
HCor Research Institute, Hospital do Coração, São Paulo, Brazil  
Division of Pulmonology, InCor, Faculty of Medicine, University of São Paulo, Brazil  
INSERM, University of Paris, France |
| 16:20 – 16:40| **Post COVID-19 condition: an emerging research agenda**               | **Dr Hannah Davis**  
Patient Led-Research Collaborative, USA  
**Dr Regis Goulart Rosa**  
Critical care physician and post-ICU outcomes researcher, Hospital Moinhos de Vento, Porto Alegre, Brazil |
| 16:40 – 16:55| Questions on outlined research priorities                               | Moderators                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 16:55 – 17:15| **Ethical considerations for research during the pandemic**            | **Dr Beatriz da Costa Thomé**  
Preventive Medicine Department  
Federal University of São Paulo, Brazil  
**Dr Maxwell Smith**  
School of Health Studies  
Western University, London, Ontario, Canada |
| 17:15 – 17:50| **Panel discussion**  
How can Research Funders further contribute to fair and equitable access to life saving interventions?  
Moderated by Dr Bernard Pécoul | **Dr Tom Kariuki**, Director of Programmes, African Academy of Science (AESA)  
**Dr Trevor Mundel**, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), USA  
**Dr Richard Hatchett**, Chief Executive Officer, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)  
**Dr Bernard Pécoul**, Executive Director Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi)  
**Professor Charlotte Watts**, Chief Scientific Adviser, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK  
**Dr Charu Kaushic**, Chair of the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GLOPID-R)  
**Dr Colin McIff**, Deputy Director of the Office of Global Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, USA  
**Dr Sir Jeremy Farrar** (TBC), Director of Wellcome, UK |
| 17:50 – 18:00| **Summary of Day 1 deliberations**                                     | Moderators                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 18:00        | **ADJOURN**                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
### DAY 2 – Friday, 14 May 2021
Moderators – Drs Soumya Swaminathan and Michael J Ryan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>13:00 – 13:15</td>
<td><strong>Keynote address</strong> How research can help transform the way we fight global poverty and pandemics?</td>
<td><strong>Professor Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee</strong> Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA</td>
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<td>13:15 – 13:35</td>
<td>Virus natural history and transmission: remaining research priorities</td>
<td><strong>Professor Christian Drosten</strong> Office for Global Health and Director Institute of Virology, Charité, Berlin, Germany</td>
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| 13:35 – 13:55 | Understanding the virus at the animal human interface: remaining research priorities | **Professor Marion Koopmans** Erasmus University Medical Centre, Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
**Dr William Karesh** Health and Policy at EcoHealth Alliance |
| 13:55 - 14:15 | Research to further expand availability to diagnostic tests            | **Dr Martha Fernandez Suarez** Senior Director of R&D, FiND  
**Dr Mark Perkins** Scientist, WHO                                                                    |
| 14:15 – 14:30 | Questions on outlined research priorities                             | **Moderators**                                                                                     |
| 14:30 – 14:45 | **Keynote address** Research to improve community engagement and global accountability | **Dr Githinji Gitahi** GCEO Amref Health Africa & former Co-Chair of UHC2030 Steering Committee         |
| 14:45 – 15:05 | Community centered approaches to pandemic response                    | **Professor Emily Chan** Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Collaborating Centre for Oxford University, UK |
| 15:05 – 15:25 | Infodemiology - the science of managing infodemics                    | **Dr Tina D Purnat** Principal Expert on eHealth and Digital Innovations for Public Health, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) |
| 15:25 – 15:40 | Research progress and current and future priorities for IPC           | **Professor May Chu** Colorado School of Public Health, USA  
**Professor Mary-Louise McLaws** University of New South Wales, Australia                              |
<p>| 15:40 – 15:50 | BREAK                                                               |                                                                                                    |</p>
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<td>15:50 – 16:05</td>
<td><strong>Keynote address</strong>&lt;br&gt;COVID-19 and social challenges: building a better future</td>
<td><strong>Professor Alicia Bárcena</strong>&lt;br&gt;Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Santiago, CHILE</td>
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<td>16:05 - 16:20</td>
<td>Improved global coordination and new long-term investments in research preparedness</td>
<td><strong>Dr Suwit Wibulpolprasert</strong>&lt;br&gt;Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand</td>
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<td>16:20 – 16:40</td>
<td>Regulatory convergence process: progress and the way ahead&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Interface between trials and regulatory assessment: towards public health goals</td>
<td><strong>Dr Emer Cooke</strong>&lt;br&gt;European Medicines Agency on behalf of International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities (ICMRA)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Dr Marion Gruber</strong>&lt;br&gt;Office of Vaccines Research &amp; Review, CBER/FDA, USA</td>
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<td>16:40 – 16:50</td>
<td>End to end R&amp;D platforms: from research to policy development, to equitable access</td>
<td><strong>WHO R&amp;D Blueprint</strong></td>
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<td>16:50 – 17:00</td>
<td>Questions on outlined research priorities</td>
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<td>17:00 – 17:15</td>
<td><strong>Keynote address</strong>&lt;br&gt;Cutting edge research: its contribution to end this pandemic and prevent future ones</td>
<td><strong>Professor Emmanuelle Charpentier</strong>&lt;br&gt;Founding Director&lt;br&gt;Max Planck Unit for the Science of Pathogens&lt;br&gt;An Independent International Institute from the Max Planck Society, Germany</td>
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<td>17:15 – 17:45</td>
<td>Global solidarity during the pandemics: public goods and COVID-19 research capacity</td>
<td><strong>Professor Joanne Liu</strong>&lt;br&gt;School of Population and Global Health McGill University, Montreal, Canada&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Dr Cleopatra Mugyenyi</strong>&lt;br&gt;International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), Africa&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Mr Carl Bildt</strong>&lt;br&gt;WHO Special Envoy for the ACT Accelerator and Former Prime Minister, Sweden</td>
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<td>17:45 – 18:00</td>
<td>Concluding remarks and next steps</td>
<td><strong>Drs Soumya Swaminathan and Michael J Ryan</strong></td>
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<td>18:00</td>
<td>END OF MEETING</td>
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