



**World Health
Organization**

Global research & innovation forum

RESILIENCE

AGAINST OUTBREAKS & PANDEMICS

AGENDA

23-24 October 2023

13:00 – 18:15 Central European Time CET



R&DBlueprint

Powering research
to prevent epidemics

BACKGROUND

With the aim of strengthening global preparedness and response of any future epidemics and pandemics, the R&D Blueprint continues with its mandate to accelerate research on diseases threats before they emerge and to shorten the timeline in developing safe and effective curative and preventive medical countermeasures (diagnostics, treatments and vaccines) – a mandate endorsed by Member States during the 68th WHA.

On 5 May 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially announced the conclusion of the COVID-19 pandemic as a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).

The concerted efforts of accelerated scientific research provided the world with a comprehensive set of medical and non-medical countermeasures to mitigate and prevent severe illnesses caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

While COVID-19 will remain a critical area for future research, it is time also important to continue to focus on any viral and bacterial family with epidemic or pandemic potential, including a future Pathogen X.

It is critical that we assimilate the lessons learned from the pandemic and harness the wealth of research knowledge, platforms and collaborative frameworks forged during the COVID-19 crisis to help protect the world from future threats.

The October 2023 Global Research and Innovation Forum presents an occasion to reflect on progress and discuss future strategies and priorities geared towards augmenting the impact of research on health emergency readiness and effective responses against both outbreaks and pandemics.

The forum, spanned across two half-day sessions, will serve as a nexus for these crucial discussions.

Finally, we take a moment to honour the memory of the millions of people we have lost in the past year to infectious diseases, and we renew our commitment to combatting new or re-emerging pathogens that threaten people right across the globe.

DAY 1 – Monday, 23 October 2023

Chairperson: Professor Peter Figueroa, University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

Time	Topic	Speakers
13:00 – 13:10	Welcoming remarks	Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus WHO Director-General
13:10 - 13:20	Objectives of the Forum	Michael J Ryan Executive Director Health Emergencies Programme WHO
13:20 - 13:35	Negotiations on a global agreement to protect the world from future pandemic emergencies	Steve Solomon Principal legal officer WHO
13:35 - 13:50	COVID-19: current situation	Maria Van Kerkhove Health Emergencies Programme WHO
Session 1. Gearing up research and innovation readiness: what makes the difference?		
13:50 - 14:10	Epidemics, pandemics, and how research can help to control them	Ana Maria Henao-Restrepo WHO R&D for Epidemics Health Emergencies Programme
14:10 - 14:30	Strengthen capacities to generate evidence to inform policies: Learning from pandemic responses Keynote speaker	Alejandro Cravioto Faculty of Medicine of the National Autonomous University Mexico
Session 2. Can innovation help improve the standard of clinical care everywhere?		
14:30 - 14:40	We need oxygen How can research help scale up access to it?	Yaseen Arabi King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences Saudi Arabia
14:40 - 14:50	Research and clinical management of patients during outbreaks Update and priorities	Srinivas Murthy ID/PEADS/ICU Canada
Session 3. What research to develop innovations to prevent/control infections in healthcare?		
14:50 - 15:00	Research towards sustainable strategies to ensure infection prevention and control during outbreaks Update and priorities	John Conly Department of Medicine, University of Calgary, Canada Currently Visiting Fellow, Kellogg College, University of Oxford, UK
15:00 - 15:10	Early detection of epidemic-prone infectious diseases and infection prevention and control readiness and response Innovative approaches	Jesus Rodriguez Manzano Faculty of Medicine Imperial College United Kingdom

Time	Topic	Speakers
Session 4. Community-centered readiness and response to health emergencies: can evidence turn the tide?		
15:10 - 15:20	What we can learn from gorillas: Local action for local health	Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka Conservation through Public Health Uganda
15:20 - 15:30	The view from below: Ethical, equitable and effective approaches for the next pandemic	Melissa Leach and Hayley McGregor Institute of Development Studies United Kingdom
15:30 - 16:00	COFFEE-BREAK	
Session 5. Leveraging innovative technologies in the public health intelligence space and beyond		
16:00 - 16:10	Metagenomics – a global research network is possible	W. Ian Lipkin Center for Infection and Immunity Columbia University USA
16:10 - 16:20	Emergency intelligence and surveillance systems Priorities regarding research and innovation	Manoel Barral Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) Brazil
Session 6. Trust and Pandemic Preparedness: why research in this area is important?		
16:20 - 16:30	Trust and pandemics What research to define opportunities to build trust?	Thomas Bollyky Global Health Program, Council on Foreign Relations USA
16:30 - 16:40	Trust and Pandemic Preparedness Update and priorities	Rama Baru Centre of Social Medicine & Community Medicine, Jawaharlal Nehru University India
Session 7. A global evidence base for localized decisions on public health and social measures		
16:40 - 16:50	Preparing for the next pandemic: Developing study protocols to measure the effectiveness of public health and social measures	Ben Cowling School of Public Health, University of Hong Kong China
16:50 - 17:00	Updates and priorities on the WHO initiative on Public Health and Social Measures	Atle Fretheim Centre for Epidemic Interventions Research, Norwegian Institute of Public Health Norway

Time	Topic	Speakers
Session 8. Pandemic communication and resilience: what research is needed?		
17:00 - 17:10	Community-oriented motivational interviewing Research to improve information environments in digital communities	David Scales Weill Cornell Medical College USA
17:10 - 17:20	Measuring the burden of infodemics A research toolkit for connecting information exposure, trust, and health behaviours	Adam Dunn Faculty of Medicine and Health University of Sydney Australia
17:20 - 17:40	Key messages from Day 1	Chairperson
17:40	ADJOURN	

DAY 2 – Tuesday, 24 October 2023

Chairperson: Professor Helen Rees, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa

Time	Topic	Speakers (WHO focal point)
13:00 - 13:10	Introduction to Day 2	Chairperson
13:10 - 13:30	Investing in science and technology: a key component of pandemic preparedness Keynote speaker	Isabel Olivier CSO UK Health Security Agency
Session 9. Human-animal-environment interfaces in a changing world: how to mitigate emerging risks?		
13:30 - 13:40	Human-animal-environment interface research Update and priorities	William B. Karesh EcoHealth Alliance USA
13:40 - 13:50	Threats in a changing world Research to develop new opportunities for innovative mitigation interventions	Catherine Machalaba EcoHealth Alliance, USA and OHHLEP member and Serge Morand CNRS, Montpellier University, France and OHHLEP member
Session 10. How can an improved understanding of the ecology and evolution of pathogens help us?		
13:50 - 14:00	Leveraging artificial intelligence for pandemic preparedness and response A scoping review to identify key use cases	Ania Syrowatka Division of General Internal Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital USA

Time	Topic	Speakers (WHO focal point)
14:00 - 14:10	One health approaches to pandemic avoidance and preparedness	Joseph Sriyal Malik Peiris School of Public Health, University of Hong Kong China
14:10 - 14:20	Research to address gaps in One Health knowledge, prevention, and integrated approaches Update and priorities	Benjamin Roche French National Research Institute for sustainable development and PREZODE France
Session 11. What research approaches to accelerate evaluation and access to vaccines?		
14:20 - 14:30	Prototype Pathogen approach for vaccines development – why do we need it?	Barney Graham Morehouse School of Medicine, USA
14:30 - 14:40	Critical research to ensure equitable and fast access to high-quality and affordable vaccines while ensuring people's trust Update and priorities	Philip Krause R&D Blueprint for Epidemics WHO
Session 12. What research approaches to accelerate evaluation and access to therapeutics?		
14:40 - 14:50	Prototype Pathogen approach for monoclonal antibody development - why do we need it?	Cristina Cassetti National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, NIH, USA
14:50 - 15:00	Critical research to ensure equitable and fast access to high-quality and affordable therapeutics while ensuring people's trust Update and priorities	Marco Cavaleri Chair of the WHO Technical Advisory Group - therapeutics prioritization European Medicines Agency Europe
Session 13. Clinical trials: innovative approaches for simple and collaborative trials?		
15:00 - 15:10	Randomization during deployment Use of robust methods to generate critical evidence	Richard Peto Oxford University United Kingdom
15:10 - 15:20	Design, implementation and analysis of observational studies? How to improve them so they can better inform our policies?	Lindsey Baden Harvard University USA
15:20 - 15:30	BREAK	
Session 14. The pandemic as a catalyst for innovation: a fit for purpose regulatory and ethics framework		
15:30 - 15:40	Shared responsibilities for an end-to-end health product management A regulatory perspective	Rogério Gaspar Regulation and Prequalification WHO

Time	Topic	Speakers (WHO focal point)
15:40 - 15:50	Regulatory processes applied during the COVID-19 pandemic	Boitumelo Semete South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA), South Africa
15:50 - 16:00	Special considerations for COVID-19 monoclonal antibodies: clinical evaluation	Jérémie Lacroix Health Canada Canada
16:00 - 16:10	Rethinking research: governance, access and equity	Cesar Atuire University of Ghana & University of Oxford Ghana
Session 15. Realizing the world's research capacity potential through collaboration		
16:10 - 16:20	GloPID-R bringing together funders investing in research related to new or re-emerging infectious diseases	Charu Kaushic Canadian Institutes of Health Research Canada
16:20 - 16:40	Collaborating, communicating, exchanging... The tale of 3 global efforts (assays, animal models and Filovirus collaboration) Can you describe the impact of international collaboration, in the wake of the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak, on your country's response to the pandemic? What role do you think that the WHO played in this impact? In what way would you suggest that role to be improved in the event of another pandemic?	Panel discussion moderated by Quarraisha Abdool Karim CAPRISA, South Africa Pragya Yadav Indian Council of Medical Research India Carlos Alvarez Universidad Nacional de Colombia Colombia Placide Mbala INRB Democratic Republic of Congo Wendy Burgers University of Cape Town South Africa Omu Anzala University of Nairobi Kenya

Time	Topic	Speakers (WHO focal point)
		Guruprasad Medigeshi Translational Health Science and Technology Institute India
16:40 - 16:50	Collaborative studies are possible UNITY Studies	Jodie McVernon Doherty Epidemiology Doherty Institute Australia
16:50 - 17:10	The countries in the driving seat Debating the obvious - What capacity already exists? - What opportunities are needed to maximize existing capacity? - How to maximize collaborations across networks?	Panel discussion moderated by Marie Paule Kieny, Switzerland Linfa Wang Duke Global Health Institute Singapore Valdiléa Gonçalves Veloso dos Santos Fiocruz, Brazil Samba Sow CVD Mali, Mali Marissa Alejandria University of the Philippines, Philippines
17:10 - 17:20	The role of universal health coverage in pandemic preparedness and response	Bruce Aylward Assistant Director General Universal Health Coverage and Life Course WHO
17:20 - 17:30	No pandemic preparedness and research without gender equality	Asha George University of the Western Cape Cape Town South Africa
17:30 - 17:40	Pandemic, research and equity	Srinath Reddy Public Health Foundation India
17:40 - 18:00	Key messages from Day 2	Chairperson
18:00 - 18:10	Closing remarks	Michael J. Ryan Executive Director Health Emergencies Programme WHO
18:10	END OF MEETING	