
Guidelines Development Group

Biographies of proposed members

WHO guidelines on new oral antibiotics for the treatment of gonorrhoea

June 2026

Guideline Development Group: proposed membership and biographies

In accordance with WHO procedures for guideline development, the following experts are proposed as members of the Guideline Development Group (GDG). Stakeholders and members of the public are invited to review their biographies and disclosures of interest.

ADAMSON, Paul

Assistant Professor of Medicine, UCLA; expert in clinical epidemiology of STIs and molecular diagnostics for AMR surveillance.

Dr Paul C. Adamson is an Infectious Diseases physician and Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He specializes in the treatment and prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections at the UCLA CARE Center. His research focuses on improving the diagnosis and treatment of STIs in global health settings, with a particular emphasis on antibiotic-resistant gonorrhoea, including clinical epidemiology and molecular diagnostics for antimicrobial resistance surveillance. Dr Adamson received his medical degree from the UC San Francisco School of Medicine and completed residency training in Internal Medicine at Yale University School of Medicine. He completed fellowship training in Infectious Diseases at UCLA and holds undergraduate and Master of Public Health degrees from UC Berkeley.

BADRAN, Nadia

Executive Director, SIDC, Lebanon; expert in public health and community-based STI/HIV service delivery for key populations.

Dr Nadia Badran, PhD, is a public health practitioner and Executive Director of the Society for Inclusion and Development in Communities and Care for All (SIDC) in Lebanon. With over three decades of experience, she focuses on strengthening community-based health networks across the Middle East and North Africa and on designing health-care delivery models for marginalized and key populations. Her work bridges sexual and reproductive health and rights with mental health counselling and harm reduction, including mobile clinic initiatives delivering anonymous HIV and STI screening to street communities. She has worked with lawmakers on anti-discrimination legislation to protect patient rights within the national health-care system. She also serves as President of the Social Workers' Syndicate in Lebanon and has authored regional training modules for health professionals.

CHENG, Xian-Sheng

Deputy Director, National Center for STD Control, China; specialist in STI surveillance and management in the Western Pacific Region.

Dr Xian-Sheng Cheng is an epidemiologist and Deputy Director at China's National Center for STD Control in Nanjing. He also serves as Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for the Prevention and Control of Sexually Transmitted Infections. His work focuses on STI surveillance and

management in the Western Pacific Region, including the design of surveillance networks tracking bacterial pathogens such as syphilis, gonorrhoea, and chlamydia, and programmatic interventions addressing transmission among high-risk and marginalized populations. He provides technical support to cross-border initiatives promoting decentralized, point-of-care diagnostic testing, and collaborates with international research entities on scalable frameworks for national sexual health delivery. He has published extensively on the epidemiology of regional STI epidemics and contributes to health regulations supporting regional disease elimination efforts.

DILLON, Jo-Anne

Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of Saskatchewan; authority on the molecular microbiology of Neisseria gonorrhoeae.

Dr Jo-Anne Dillon is Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Saskatchewan and a recognized authority on the molecular microbiology of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. She received a BSc from the University of Toronto and MSc and PhD degrees in Microbiology and Immunology from Queen's University, Canada, and completed postdoctoral training at the University of Pittsburgh. She has held several senior leadership positions in public health and academia, including founding Chief of the National Laboratory for Sexually Transmitted Diseases at Health Canada, Chair of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Ottawa, and Dean and Department Head at the University of Saskatchewan. She currently leads the WHO-endorsed Gonococcal Antimicrobial Surveillance Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

EL KETTANI, Amina

Public health professional, Ministry of Health, Morocco; specialist in STI/HIV programmatic surveillance and policy.

Dr Amina El Kettani is a medical officer and public health professional at the Ministry of Health in Morocco, specializing in the programmatic surveillance, epidemiology, and policy of sexually transmitted infections and HIV. Her leadership informs Morocco's national strategic response to infectious diseases and shapes the country's data collection systems for tracking outbreaks and targeting health resources. She works on the feasibility and acceptance of novel health-care strategies across the Middle East and North Africa, including field research evaluating HIV self-testing distribution models for female sex workers and other vulnerable groups. She has published clinical findings on positivity rates and diagnostic compliance among high-risk communities. Her data-driven analyses inform ministerial policy decisions and support Morocco's transition from donor reliance toward sustainable, government-led preventive health care.

FIFER, Helen (Proposed Chair)

Consultant Microbiologist, UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA); Lead for the National Reference Laboratory for STIs.

Dr Helen Fifer is a Consultant Microbiologist at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and Lead for the National Reference Laboratory for Sexually Transmitted Infections, overseeing advanced diagnostic testing and pathogen characterization. Her clinical and research expertise centers on antimicrobial resistance in bacterial STIs, with particular focus on *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and the molecular surveillance of ceftriaxone-resistant strains. She advises government and public health bodies on antibiotic stewardship and has published extensively resistance profiles to azithromycin and other key treatments. Beyond reference laboratory surveillance, she co-authors national STI management guidelines for the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH), and her team provides methodological support for wider outbreak investigations, including national responses to mpox. Her combined role in diagnostic innovation and national surveillance underpins UK preparedness against drug-resistant STIs.

GARRETT, Nigel

Chief Scientific Officer, Desmond Tutu Health Foundation, South Africa; clinical researcher focused on STI management and resistance.

Dr Nigel Garrett is a Specialist Physician in HIV and Genitourinary Medicine and Chief Scientific Officer at the Desmond Tutu Health Foundation (DTHF), following 12 years as Head of the Vaccine and Pathogenesis Research Programme at the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA). He has conducted over 25 clinical trials and cohort studies on HIV vaccines, treatment, STI diagnostics, and COVID-19 vaccines. He co-chairs the multi-country COVPN 3008 Ubuntu mRNA COVID-19 vaccine trial and has led major national implementation trials including Sisonke (J&J vaccine) and SHERPA (Moderna vaccine). He is Deputy Programme Director for Science in the USAID-funded BRILLIANT Consortium developing an HIV vaccine in Africa and led technical writing of the South African National Strategic Plan on HIV, TB and STIs (2023–2028). He is an Associate Professor at UKZN.

GASPAR, Pâmela

Technical consultant and coordinator, Brazilian Ministry of Health; researcher in national STI surveillance and policy.

Dr Pâmela Cristina Gaspar, PhD, is a public health researcher and policy advisor at the Brazilian Ministry of Health, where she serves as a technical consultant and coordinator within the Department of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Viral Hepatitis, and Sexually Transmitted Infections. Her work focuses on national STI surveillance and epidemiological data analysis, and she leads the development of Brazil's national clinical guidelines and protocols for STI management. She also coordinates initiatives aimed at eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis. Alongside her ministerial role, she is an active researcher affiliated with the University of Brasília's Public Health Postgraduate programme, where she contributes to molecular surveillance networks

for pathogen detection. She has published extensively on the changing trends of STI epidemics in Brazil, bridging academic research and national health care implementation.

GRAD, Yonatan

Professor of Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; expert in genomic epidemiology of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Dr Yonatan Grad, MD, PhD, is a physician-scientist and Professor of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Director of the Center for Communicable Disease Dynamics (CCDD). His research applies microbiology, population genomics, and mathematical modelling to understand how pathogens evolve, mutate, and spread, with a particular focus on antimicrobial resistance in *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and drug-resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. His group has developed rapid “genomic neighbor typing” techniques to accelerate real-time antibiotic susceptibility profiling. He also serves as an attending physician in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. He completed his medical and doctoral training at Harvard Medical School. His findings inform disease intervention frameworks for policy groups and health-care systems, with an emphasis on bacterial mechanisms of drug resistance.

GUPTA, Somesh

Professor, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi; expert in clinical STI management and developer of national and international guidelines.

Dr Somesh Gupta is Professor of Dermatology and Sexually Transmitted Infections at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, and a recognized expert in clinical STI management. He serves as a member of the WHO STI Guidelines Development Group and the WHO expert group on STI research priorities and chairs the National Working Group on STI/RTI Guidelines of the National AIDS Control Organization of India. He has received the AIIMS Excellence Award three times in recognition of his contributions to medicine and research and has participated in scientific and educational activities in more than 40 countries, including as a visiting professor at the University of Michigan. Known for his innovations in dermatologic surgery, he has authored approximately 350 publications in indexed journals and contributed to three international books.

JANURAGA, Pande

Professor of Public Health, Udayana University, Indonesia; expert in health systems and behavioural aspects of sexual health.

Professor Pande Putu Januraga, MD, DrPH, is a medical doctor, health systems expert, and Professor of Public Health at Udayana University in Bali, Indonesia. He heads the university’s Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine and serves as Head of the Center for Public Health Innovation (CPHI). His research examines the behavioural and structural dimensions of sexual health, with a strong focus on HIV and STI prevention, and on designing public health interventions for underserved and marginalized populations. He has led national initiatives

including the National Sexual Health Survey of Indonesia (SeKSI Study), generating behavioural data on high-risk communities. His fieldwork explores how social capital, institutional discrimination, and health system governance shape equity. He also serves as vice director of Yayasan Kerti Praja and sits on the Indonesian Ministry of Health's HIV/AIDS expert advisory group.

KONG, Fabian

Senior Research Fellow, University of Melbourne; epidemiologist specializing in STI screening and treatment optimization.

Dr Fabian Kong is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne and an epidemiologist specializing in STI screening and treatment optimization. He is a hospital-trained pharmacist with a background in harm reduction and toxicology, and has worked on access-to-essential-medicines programmes in developing countries since 2002, including with UN agencies (UNDP, WHO) and donors such as the World Bank and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He completed a Masters of Epidemiology in 2006 and a PhD in chlamydia treatment effectiveness at the University of Melbourne in 2017, after which he focused on surveillance systems for chlamydia and other STIs. His current research focuses on optimizing treatments for oral gonorrhoea using pharmacokinetics, bridging clinical pharmacology and epidemiological methods.

LAHRA, Monica

Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for STD, Sydney; global lead for the WHO Gonococcal Antimicrobial Surveillance Programme (GASP).

Professor Monica Lahra is a Senior Staff Specialist and Medical Director in the Division of Bacteriology, Department of Microbiology at The Prince of Wales Hospital in Sydney. She serves as Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for STI and AMR within NSW Health Pathology, and holds a Conjoint Professorship at the University of New South Wales. She is the global lead for the WHO Gonococcal Antimicrobial Surveillance Programme (GASP), which coordinates international monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. In this role she contributes to the standardized detection and reporting of resistance to first-line treatments, including ceftriaxone, generating evidence that informs WHO treatment recommendations and global STI policy responses. Her combined clinical, laboratory, and academic affiliations position her at the interface of diagnostic microbiology and international public health surveillance.

LON, Say Heng

Head of the STI/RTI Unit, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STD (NCHADS), Cambodia; public health physician specializing in STI clinical management and surveillance.

Dr Lon Say Heng is a public health physician and clinical coordinator specializing in infectious diseases within the Cambodian health system. He serves as Head of the Sexually Transmitted Infections and Reproductive Tract Infections (STI/RTI) Unit at the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STD (NCHADS), under the Ministry of Health. In this role he oversees the monitoring, auditing, and compilation of epidemiological data across specialized public health

clinics nationwide. His work focuses on evaluating and optimizing clinical management protocols for bacterial and viral STIs, including the verification of syndromic management strategies and diagnostic algorithms used in services for key populations such as entertainment and sex workers. He works closely with data management teams to track treatment compliance, patient visits, and transmission trends. His unit supports the broader National AIDS Programme in scaling decentralized testing, care, and viral suppression efforts.

MATOGA, Mitch

Infectious disease researcher, UNC Project-Malawi; clinical trialist focused on STI diagnostics and AMR in low-resource settings.

Dr Mitch Matoga is a physician with training in infectious disease epidemiology and implementation science, and Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He directs the STI research and clinical services programme and leads the implementation science research unit at UNC Project-Malawi. With over 15 years of experience conducting research in HIV, STIs, and implementation science in low-resource settings, his work spans STI vaccine studies, prevalence and epidemiology studies, antimicrobial resistance surveillance, partner notification studies, and HIV prevention among STI patients. His focus on STI diagnostics and AMR in sub-Saharan Africa positions him to contribute methodological and contextual expertise relevant to the implementation of new gonorrhoea treatments in low- and middle-income settings.

SCHIM VAN DER LOEFF, Maarten

Head of Research, GGD Amsterdam; Professor at the University of Amsterdam; expert in STI and HPV epidemiology.

Professor Maarten F. Schim van der Loeff is a public health physician and senior epidemiologist at the Department of Infectious Diseases of the Public Health Service (GGD) in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, where he serves as Head of Research. He is Professor of Epidemiology of Sexually Transmitted Infections at the University of Amsterdam. His research focuses on three principal areas: the epidemiology and vaccination of human papillomavirus (HPV); HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), including its implementation among populations at elevated risk; and the broader epidemiology of sexually transmitted infections. His joint affiliations with the GGD Amsterdam, a major European centre for STI surveillance and field epidemiology, and the academic Department of Epidemiology of UMC Amsterdam, provide a strong basis for translational STI research.

TUNG, Doan

Executive Director, Lighthouse Social Enterprise, Viet Nam; public health expert and clinician specializing in STI care and HIV prevention in South-East Asian health systems.

Doan Thanh Tung, MPH, is a clinician and public health practitioner specializing in HIV prevention and STI care in South-East Asia. He serves as Executive Director of Lighthouse Social Enterprise, a Viet Nam-based organization providing person-centred health care for young key populations. Over

more than a decade he has designed and implemented clinical interventions for vulnerable communities, with a focus on integrated care models that combine HIV testing, PrEP/PEP delivery, and comprehensive STI services in unified one-stop settings. His work also addresses complex regional challenges including chemsex and the intersection of substance use with sexual health risks. He advocates for the reduction of institutional stigma in service delivery and applies digital health and social media campaigns to expand outreach. He serves as an International AIDS Society (IAS) Person-Centred Care Advocate.

Public comment period

Members of the public and interested stakeholders are invited to provide comments on the proposed GDG membership. Comments should focus on identifying potential conflicts of interest that may not have been disclosed or appropriately managed. The public comment period will close on 20 June 2026.

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