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# HTLV-1 Guidelines Development Group

Biographies of proposed members

Guidelines for HTLV-1 infection, prevention,  
diagnosis and management

October 2025

**Ali Bazarbachi**

Ali Bazarbachi is a Professor of Medicine (Hematology and Oncology) and founding Director of the Bone Marrow Transplantation Program at the American University of Beirut Medical Center, Lebanon. He received his MD and PhD from the University of Paris, and his translational research focuses on targeted therapies for hematologic malignancies and post-transplant interventions. He also chairs the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation Lymphoma Working Party and the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Lymphoma Group for the middle east and north Africa region, and serves as Associate Editor of *Bone Marrow Transplantation*. Professor Bazarbachi's leadership and expertise have been recognized through numerous international awards, and he is a member of the French National Academy of Medicine.

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**Angélica Espinosa Miranda**

Angélica Espinosa Miranda is Full Professor in the Department of Social Medicine at the Federal University of Espírito Santo, Brazil, and a specialist in obstetrics, gynecology, and infectious diseases. She is a medical doctor with a master's degree in infectious diseases and a PHD in public health. Dr Miranda previously served as National Coordinator of the Sexually Transmitted Infections Program and as Director of Programs at the Brazilian Ministry of Health. Her academic leadership has included roles as Head of Department, Postgraduate Coordinator, and Dean for Community Outreach. Dr Miranda has extensive experience in HIV, HTLV, HPV, syphilis, and related infections, and contributes to national and international policy development as a member of the PAHO Regional Validation Committee and WHO Global Validation Advisory Committee for elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B.

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**Anne D. Lyerly**

Anne Lyerly is Professor of Social Medicine, Research Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Core Faculty Member at the Center for Bioethics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA. She trained at Duke University and completed advanced work in Bioethics at Georgetown and Johns Hopkins Universities. Dr Lyerly is recognized for her work on the ethical inclusion of pregnant women and adolescents in research. She co-founded the Second Wave Initiative and leads projects on ethics in reproductive and HIV-related studies. Dr Lyerly has served as Chair of the Ethics Committee of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and as advisor to multiple health organizations addressing gender and reproduction ethics.

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### **Antoine Gessain**

Antoine Gessain is a medical virologist and Unit Chief of the Epidemiology and Physiopathology of Oncogenic Viruses Unit at the Institut Pasteur, France, where he is also Professor in the Department of Virology. His research focuses on the epidemiology, clinical manifestations, and physiopathology of HTLV-1 and related simian retroviruses, as well as human herpesvirus 8 and zoonotic infections in Central Africa. A former postdoctoral fellow at the National Cancer Institute (United States of America), Gessain has contributed substantially to understanding retrovirus transmission and pathogenesis and continues to mentor and teach in infectious disease virology at the Institut Pasteur.

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### **Augustin Mouinga Ondeme**

Augustin Mouinga Ondeme is Senior Researcher and Head of the Retroviral Infections and Associated Pathologies Unit at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Medical Research of Franceville, Gabon. He holds a PhD in Human Pathology from the University of Aix-Marseille II (France), specializing in communicable and tropical diseases. His research addresses interspecies transmission of simian retroviruses to humans and molecular characterization of emerging strains, as well as the genetic diversity of HIV and viral hepatitis in Gabon. Dr Mouinga Ondeme is certified in bio risk management by the International Federation of Biosafety Associations, chairs CIRMF's Biosafety and Biosecurity Committee, and serves as Associate Professor at the University of Science and Technology of Masuku. .

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### **Carmen De Mendoza Fernández**

Carmen De Mendoza Fernández is Senior Researcher at the Health Research Institute of Puerta de Hierro University Hospital in Madrid, Spain. With a career spanning clinical virology, she formerly directed the Molecular Biology Laboratory at the Instituto de Salud Carlos III, a WHO-accredited center for HIV drug-resistance research. At Puerta de Hierro, she leads the Clinical Virology Research Team and coordinates the Spanish HTLV and HIV-2 Research Network, a collaboration of more than 50 centers. Her multidisciplinary work supports national screening and diagnostic guidelines for HTLV and other retroviruses, and she teaches clinical virology as Associate Professor at San Pablo CEU University.

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### **Fabiola Martin**

Fabiola Martin is a sexual health specialist and Clinical Associate Professor at Canberra Health Services, Australian National University, and University of Queensland, Australia. She studied medicine at the University of Vienna and completed specialist training in Genitourinary and HIV Medicine at Imperial College London. Her doctoral research at Imperial focused on HTLV-1 Associated Myelopathy. Dr Martin is President of the

International Retrovirology Association and a leading advocate for global HTLV elimination and awareness, spearheading international petitions and initiatives to promote equitable access to testing and prevention strategies.

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### **Fatumata Djalo**

Fatumata Djalo is a communication specialist and public health advocate based in London, United Kingdom, with a Master's in Public Health (Mental Health) and a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and Media Studies. She has collaborated with stakeholders in Europe, Africa, the Americas, and South America to improve psychosocial health and raise awareness of HTLV-1. A long-standing member of the patient group at St Mary's Hospital, London, she has led awareness activities among Portuguese-speaking communities and engaged health authorities in Guinea-Bissau to strengthen advocacy on HTLV-1. Fatumata has contributed to international conferences and collaborations with PAHO and WHO to promote HTLV-1 prevention and care, including mother-to-child transmission initiatives, and her current research focuses on stigma and psychosocial outcomes among people living with HTLV-1.

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### **Graham P. Taylor**

Graham Taylor is Professor of Human Retrovirology at Imperial College London and Consultant Physician at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, United Kingdom. He established the National Centre for Human Retrovirology and leads the Human Retrovirology Research Group, focusing on the epidemiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of HTLV infections. Dr Taylor also heads the Molecular Diagnostic Unit in the Department of Infectious Disease at Imperial and has extensive experience in developing clinical and laboratory guidelines using the GRADE framework. His expertise includes the management of HTLV-1-associated myelopathy and the application of antiretroviral therapy in pregnancy.

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### **Hermione Lyall**

Hermione Lyall is Professor of Practice in Paediatric Infectious Diseases at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, London, United Kingdom. She leads congenital infection services at St Mary's Hospital and has cared for infants and children affected by HTLV-1 for over two decades as part of the National Centre for Human Retrovirology. Professor Lyall is a founding member of CCMVNET, an international network for congenital cytomegalovirus and an active member of the Penta Network for paediatric HIV and infection research. She has contributed extensively to research, clinical training, and collaborative education on congenital infections, supporting multidisciplinary care and family-centered approaches.

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**Louine Morel**

Louine Morel is a medical officer at the Communicable Disease Control Unit, Ministry of Health, Seychelles. With over 17 years of experience, Dr Morel oversees programmes addressing HIV/AIDS and HTLV follow-up, sexually transmitted infections, viral hepatitis, tuberculosis, leprosy, tropical diseases, and traveller's health. She also supports harm reduction efforts through the national needle exchange programme. Dr Morel has contributed to the national research ethics committee for a decade and continues to play a key role in public health surveillance and disease control in Seychelles.

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**Lucy B. Cook**

Lucy Cook is a Consultant Haematologist at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer at Imperial College London, United Kingdom. She specializes in lymphoid malignancies, particularly HTLV-1-associated adult T-cell leukaemia/lymphoma. Her doctoral research focused on HTLV-1 pathogenesis and oncogenic transformation. Dr Cook leads the malignant HTLV service within the National Centre for Human Retrovirology, providing national diagnostic and clinical support. She has contributed to the development of international consensus guidelines on ATLL and continues to advance translational research to improve early diagnosis and clinical management. In recent years, she has contributed to the development of prognostic laboratory assays now used routinely in the clinical care to predict which HTLV carriers are at risk of future ATL in order to set up clinical prevention strategies.

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**Megan Campbell**

Megan Campbell is a public health physician based in Australia, committed to health equity and social justice. She works with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organization on expanding policy development and service access for HTLV-1 and has previously served with the New South Wales Ministry of Health. For more than a decade, she has focused on improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, applying evidence-based, culturally responsive approaches to system strengthening. Her professional experience spans health promotion, clinical safety, and research, with emphasis on equitable vaccination coverage and inclusive public health practice for diverse populations.

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**Mirna Marcela Biglione**

Mirna Marcela Biglione is Assistant Professor of Immunology at the School of Medicine, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Head of the HTLV Research Group there. Trained in virology under Professor Antoine Gessain at the Institut Pasteur, her research addresses HTLV epidemiology, transmission, and public health interventions. She coordinated the National HTLV Laboratory and Epidemiology Network (Argentina) and has

advised the Ministry of Health on blood safety and infection control. Dr Biglione represents Argentina within the International Retrovirology Association and serves as a regional focal point for the Pan American Health Organization on HTLV-related matters.

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### **Nagalingeswaran Kumarasamy**

Nagalingeswaran Kumarasamy is Chief and Director of the Infectious Diseases Medical Centre at Voluntary Health Services Hospital in Chennai, India, where he leads clinical services and research on HIV, viral hepatitis, tuberculosis, COVID-19, and other sexually transmitted infections including HTLV-1. He directs the Chennai Antiviral Research and Treatment (CART) Clinical Research Site and has participated in numerous international collaborations on HIV and viral hepatitis with leading universities and global networks. Dr Kumarasamy serves as an advisor to the WHO Antiretroviral Treatment Guidelines Committee and the Clinton Health Access Initiative, with a special interest in advancing equitable access to treatment in low-resource settings.

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### **Pamela Gasper**

Dr Pamela Gasper is General Coordinator for the Surveillance of Sexually Transmitted Infections at the Brazilian Ministry of Health in Brasília. A pharmaceutical biochemist with master's and doctoral degrees in Public Health, she leads the development national policies on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of STIs, including surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and elimination of vertical transmission of HIV, syphilis, hepatitis, and HTLV. Dr Gasper has contributed to several WHO and CDC guideline development groups and advisory committees addressing HIV, gonococcal vaccine research, and STI management.

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### **J. Peter Figueroa**

Peter Figueroa is Professor of Public Health, Epidemiology, and HIV/AIDS at the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica. He has over four decades of leadership in communicable disease control, HIV prevention, and vaccine-preventable disease research. As founding head of Jamaica's National HIV/STI Programme, Professor Figueroa established national surveillance systems, outbreak investigations, and training in epidemiology. His research has informed Caribbean and global strategies for HIV and HTLV-1 prevention. He was a member of the research team in Jamaica, which contributed to the understanding of the epidemiology of HTLV-1, particularly its sexual transmission. He has also served as Jamaica's Chief Medical Officer and continues to advise WHO on HIV/STI policy and public health systems.

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**Raymond Césaire**

Raymond Césaire is Professor of Clinical Virology at the University of the Antilles and Head of the Biology Department at the University Hospital of Guadeloupe, French West Indies. He has extensive experience in blood-borne and emerging viral infections, with a primary focus on HTLV-1 epidemiology and diagnosis. He co-founded the Clinical Investigation Center for Infectious and Emerging Diseases and established the regional biobank at the University Hospital of Martinique. Professor Césaire has contributed to the development of clinical virology research capacity in the Caribbean and is a member of the INSERM unit on Pathogenesis and Control of Infectious and Emerging Diseases.

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**Toshiki Watanabe**

Toshiki Watanabe is Professor of Hematology and Oncology at St Marianna University, Japan, and Professor Emeritus at the University of Tokyo. His research focuses on the virology and pathophysiology of HTLV-1-associated diseases, with contributions to understanding malignant T-cell transformation, biomarker development, and antiviral therapy. Professor Watanabe is President of the Japanese Society of HTLV-1 and Associated Diseases and former President of the International Retrovirology Association. He chairs the HTLV-1 Countermeasures Promotion Council of the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, supporting national research and control strategies.

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