

Guideline Development Group

Biographies of proposed members

September 2025

Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of asthma in primary care

The biographies of the proposed members of the Guideline Development Group (GDG) are provided below, arranged in alphabetical order for ease of reference.

Dr Imad Almani, MD, MSc

Pulmonologist and PhD candidate, Damascus University, Syrian Arab Republic

Dr Imad Almani is a highly skilled pulmonologist with over a decade of medical experience. Born on 19 June 1988, in Damascus, Syria, Dr Almani holds a Master's degree in Respiratory System Diseases and Syrian Board Certification in Pulmonary Medicine. He is licensed as a pulmonary diseases specialist in Syria and is currently pursuing a PhD in Respiratory Diseases at Damascus University. Dr Almani has served as a medical officer for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) since 2023. He has also worked as a pulmonologist at the Syrian Al-Mouasat Association Hospital since 2017 and provided specialized care at Dummar Medical Center and Daam Specialist Charity Clinics. An active researcher, Dr Almani has published several notable studies, including research on asthma during the Syrian crisis and rare pulmonary conditions. He is proficient in advanced respiratory procedures such as bronchoscopy, pleurocentesis, and pulmonary function tests, as well as critical care interventions like intubation and mechanical ventilation. A member of the European Respiratory Society and Syrian Thoracic Society, Dr Almani remains dedicated to advancing pulmonary medicine through clinical practice, teaching, and research. Fluent in Arabic and proficient in English, he is committed to improving respiratory health and patient care.

Dr Paula C. A. Almeida, BPhTy, MSc, PhD

Chartered Physiotherapist; Research Associate, Nottingham Respiratory BRC, The University of Nottingham, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Dr Paula Almeida is a chartered physiotherapist in the United Kingdom and leads the Research Lung Function department at Nottingham University Hospitals. She works alongside the NIHR Respiratory Biomedical Research Centre group and collaborates with distinguished researchers. She has 19 years of clinical experience and 16 years of research expertise, her research focused on assessing airway physiology, inflammation profiles, and lung function variations in asthma. Previously, Dr Paula Almeida developed comprehensive work in Brazil at the ProAR, where she collaborated with leading international researchers across four continents. Her research activities have contributed to important scientific publications, enhancing clinical and lung function knowledge. Dr Paula Almeida is interested in global health and has developed a substantial track record in understanding respiratory physiology. She is passionate about strengthening scientific evidence and continues working on groundbreaking research in pulmonary function. She is committed to enhancing communities' access to tests, diagnosis, and rehabilitation, to reduce

health inequalities in respiratory health, especially in low-income settings. Dr Paula Almeida was born in Aracaju, Brazil, where she completed her Physiotherapy training, she has a Master's degree and PhD in Health Sciences from the Federal University of Bahia. Her Postdoctoral research was developed within the Respiratory Medicine department at the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom.

Dr Shadha S. Al-Raisi, MBBS, MPH

Director of Non-Communicable Diseases, Ministry of Health, Oman

Dr Shadha S. Al-Raisi is the Director of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) in the Ministry of Health, Oman, and the Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Chronic Respiratory Diseases (CRDs). She is deeply involved in the prevention, control, and surveillance of NCDs and mental health in Oman, overseeing disability programmes as well. Dr Al-Raisi serves on several key committees, including the GCC Committee for the Prevention and Control of NCDs, the National Committee for the Prevention and Control of NCDs (as rapporteur), the National Tobacco Control Committee, and the Ministry of Social Development's technical committee for people living with disabilities. She is the Principal Investigator for the National NCD Survey and was involved in the Oman National NCD Survey and Global Adult Tobacco Survey (2017). Dr Al-Raisi has played a key role in developing the National Policy for the prevention and control of NCDs, the National Multi-sectoral NCD Action Plan, and the National Monitoring Framework. Her work includes establishing 161 asthma clinics, equipping primary health care with inhaled medications, and integrating spirometry training. Some of her current research focuses on the epidemiology and management of chronic respiratory diseases in the Eastern Mediterranean region. Dr Al-Raisi holds degrees in Medicine and Biomedical Science and a Master's in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. She has completed leadership programmes through Harvard and Johns Hopkins.

Dr Kosisochi Chinwendu Amorha, PharmD, PhD

Clinical Pharmacist and Associate Professor, University of Nigeria, Nigeria

Dr Kosisochi Amorha is a Clinical Pharmacist and Public Health enthusiast with a keen interest in respiratory health. He is an Associate Professor at the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacy Management, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN), where he obtained his PhD with Distinction. For his PhD, he researched Pharmacist-led interventions in asthma self-management programmes and their effect on health outcomes in Nigeria. Kosisochi passionately advocates for asthma self-management in Nigeria. He is the Founder of the Asthma Awareness and Care Group, a group of enthusiasts who promote asthma awareness and care in communities. He proactively educates patients with asthma, their caregivers, health professionals, and the public, on asthma, asthma medications, and devices. Kosisochi is a Fellow of the West African Postgraduate College of Pharmacists, WAPCP (FPCPharm). He supervises Pharmacists in the Faculty of Clinical Pharmacy, WAPCP. Kosisochi mentors undergraduate and postgraduate students. He is also a Guardian of the Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR), UNN Chapter, and is a Patron of other notable groups. Kosisochi served as Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN), Enugu State (17 October 2020 – 19 October 2024).

Mrs Beatrice Chinoko, RN, Dip. Comm. Health Nursing

Senior Research Nurse, Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust, Malawi

Mrs Beatrice Chinoko is a Senior Research Nurse at the Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust, dedicated to community-supported care for individuals with respiratory conditions, with a particular focus on primary health care. With extensive experience in asthma care, Beatrice seeks to apply her expertise to more challenging roles. She is widely recognized for her friendliness, enthusiasm, and commitment to delivering patient-centred care. Her professional competencies include spirometry and asthma management, and she has successfully led several projects aimed at improving asthma control. In her current role, Beatrice is focused on enhancing lives through primary prevention strategies. Beatrice is passionate about working with dynamic teams to create meaningful change and positively impact communities.

Professor Alvaro A. Cruz, MD

President, Fundacao ProAR; Professor, Universidade Federal da Bahia, Brazil

Professor Alvaro A. Cruz graduated in Medicine, and completed internship and residency at UFBA, in Brazil. Subsequently, he did a fellowship at Johns Hopkins University (USA) in pulmonary medicine and allergy from 1988 to 1990. From 2003, he developed ProAR, an intervention project for the control of severe asthma that markedly reduced admissions due to asthma in the entire city of Salvador – Brazil. From 2006 to 2008, Professor Cruz worked for WHO in Geneva, as a Medical Officer for Chronic Respiratory Diseases (CRD), providing secretariat to the Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases (GARD). Subsequently, he served as a member of GARD governing bodies for 14 years. From 2009, he has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA). In 2019 he created Fundacao ProAR, to scale up educational activities on CRD for primary health care teams and patients in Brazil. Professor Cruz has been a member of all the committees that developed asthma guidelines in Brazil, including those led by the Ministry of Health, the Pulmonary Society, and the Allergy Society. Furthermore, he has been the most cited expert in asthma among Brazilian scientists.

Dr Boudewijn J.H. Dierick, MD, PhD

Family Doctor, Researcher University Medical Center Groningen, Netherlands (Kingdom of the)

Dr Boudewijn J.H. Dierick has been a registered family doctor since 2003. He is the founder and owner of a health centre in the north of the Netherlands with a staff of over 20. Dr Dierick has been training doctors as general practitioners for more than 10 years. In 2015, he started scientific research in the field of asthma and COPD, resulting in a PhD thesis entitled: “digital strategies to support adherence to medication in asthma and COPD”. In addition to his work as a GP, Dr Dierick is a researcher at the Department of Primary and Long-Term Care at the University of Groningen. Dr Dierick is a registered GP with a special interest (kaderhuisarts) in asthma and COPD, he is a member of the science committee of the COPD and Asthma GP Advisory Group (CAHAG) and a member of the board of the Inhalation Medication Instruction School (IMIS). Currently, Dr Dierick is involved in several studies in the field of asthma and COPD in primary care.

Dr Noé Garin, PharmD, PhD

Clinical Pharmacist, Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Spain

Dr Noé Garin is a Clinical Pharmacist at Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau in Barcelona, Spain. He has played a relevant role in shaping clinical practices and guidelines, serving as a member of the Coordinating Committee for the NEUMO Respiratory Diseases Workgroup within the Spanish Society of Hospital Pharmacy (SEFH). Dr Garin has been involved in the development of several

key clinical Spanish guidelines and documents, including the GEMA Asthma Guideline, the POLINA Nasal Polyposis Guideline, the CMO-based pharmaceutical care model for respiratory diseases, and more recently the GESEPOC COPD Guideline, serving as a committee member and chapter author. He also collaborates with primary care and the Catalan health care system in the Operational Pharmacy Committee of Barcelona. In addition to his clinical and advisory roles, Dr Garin is an Associate Lecturer at Blanquerna-Ramon Llull University School of Health Sciences and at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Barcelona, and has participated in postgraduate courses in other Universities where he teaches and mentors students in respiratory pharmacotherapy and respiratory diseases management. Dr Garin holds a PhD in Public Health from the University of Barcelona and has made significant contributions to research on chronic conditions. His research focuses on optimizing pharmacotherapeutic strategies for chronic conditions, particularly respiratory diseases like asthma and COPD, while also exploring the environmental impact of medications, with particular emphasis on inhalers, on global health.

Ms Letitia Harding, MHLthMgmt

Chief Executive, Asthma and Respiratory Foundation NZ (ARFNZ), New Zealand

Ms Letitia Harding has over 30 years of experience in the health sector, which includes the introduction of new health technologies, improving access to medicines, initiating imaging and diagnostic trials and establishing international health care networks. Letitia holds a Bachelor of Science, a Post Graduate Diploma in Business, and a Master's of Health Management from the University of Auckland. Her past appointments include GINA (Global Initiative for Asthma) 2020 advocate and be recognized as a leader in the field of Asthma; Chair of the Patient Focal Group Planning Committee (GARD) and Co-Chair of the Western-Pacific Region for (GARD) – the Global Alliance Against Chronic Respiratory Diseases (GARD). ARFNZ is recognized as the leading National Advocacy Group on Respiratory Health by the Ministry and Government, and as CE, Letitia has conducted over 600+ media interviews on both TV, radio, and print – growing awareness of the foundation, asthma and COPD guidelines and respiratory illnesses. Letitia has been an advocate for vaping regulations since 2017 and is passionate about protecting youth from the harms of vaping, and in 2023, Letitia received the prestigious 2023 President's Award from the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) for her advocacy and education about the dangers of vaping.

Mrs Andrea M. Jensen, CHES®, AE-C

Asthma Educator and Public Health Specialist, United States of America

Mrs Andrea M. Jensen is a nationally certified Health Education Specialist (CHES®) and Asthma Educator (AE-C) based in the United States. She transitioned from a career in interior design to public health after she and her three children were diagnosed with asthma in the early 2000s. Motivated by personal experience and a lack of accessible asthma education, she pursued a degree in Public Health and has since dedicated her career to improving asthma care and education. In 2009, Mrs Jensen founded the Asthma Program at the Utah County Health Department, where she coordinated a home visit programme and delivered guidelines-based asthma education and environmental interventions. Her work contributed to Utah's statewide programme receiving the 2022 Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Leadership Award for Asthma Management. Mrs Jensen has served as a speaker at national and state-level asthma conferences and webinars. She was a patient stakeholder for two major research

initiatives: the PCORI-funded study Ambulatory Management of Childhood Asthma Using a Novel Self-management Application (published in *Pediatrics*, 2019), and the CoreASTHMA project (published in *Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology*, 2021). She has held leadership roles including Chair of the Utah Asthma Task Force, President of the Utah Society of Public Health Educators, and Executive Board Member of the Association of Asthma Educators. She previously worked for a national allergy and asthma nonprofit and currently develops educational content for a global allergy and asthma organization. Mrs Jensen is the recipient of multiple awards, including the 2024 Caregiver Champion Award from the Social Health Network. She authors the award-winning blog *My Life as an Asthma Mom*, where she shares accessible, evidence-based information. She also creates low-literacy asthma education graphics shared across social media platforms and contributes content to asthma.net and allergies.net.

Dr Ravini De Silva Karunatillake, MD

Consultant Respiratory Physician, National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka

Dr Ravini De Silva Karunatillake is an accomplished Consultant Respiratory Physician based at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka and the Central Chest Clinic, Colombo. Board-certified specialist, she is a member of the Royal College of Physicians (London) and holds an MD in Medicine from the University of Colombo. With over two decades of expertise in respiratory medicine, Dr Karunatillake plays a vital role in providing specialized care for complex respiratory conditions, including asthma, COPD, tuberculosis, and interstitial lung diseases. She has been instrumental in developing National protocols for home oxygen therapy and non-invasive ventilation services, significantly enhancing respiratory care accessibility in Sri Lanka. Dr Karunatillake is actively involved in teaching and research, serving as a clinical trainer and research supervisor for postgraduate programmes in respiratory medicine. She has contributed to national health policy development, including guidelines on latent tuberculosis, bronchial asthma, non-cancer palliation, and end-of-life care. As the 2022 President of the Sri Lanka College of Pulmonologists, Dr Karunatillake has led initiatives to strengthen primary respiratory care and promote palliative care services. Her unwavering commitment to advancing respiratory health aligns with WHO's mission to improve global health outcomes.

Dr Asif Mujtaba Mahmud, MBBS, DTCD, PhD

Senior Consultant, Respiratory Medicine, United Hospital, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dr Asif Mujtaba Mahmud is a pulmonologist with extensive experience in clinical practice, research, and guideline development. He earned his doctorate in Respiratory Medicine from Tohoku University, Japan, and retired as Associate Professor of Respiratory Medicine before joining United Hospital, Dhaka, as Senior Consultant. Dr Mahmud serves as the Secretary General of the Bangladesh Lung Foundation (BLF) and sits on the Editorial Board of *Respirology*. He was a member of the WHO Guideline Development Group for the clinical management of influenza and the treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis. In Bangladesh, he has contributed to the development of national guidelines on asthma and COPD as a member of the Board of Editors. Widely recognized as the pioneer of clinical and programmatic management of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in Bangladesh since 2000, Dr Mahmud served as Advisor to the WHO South-East Asia Regional Advisory Committee on MDR-TB from 2012 to 2018. He has authored 94 scientific publications, including 18 in international journals. Through his leadership in BLF, Dr Mahmud actively promotes improved quality of care for patients with respiratory

diseases, social awareness of pulmonary medicine, mentoring of emerging pulmonologists, and health system strengthening. He is also a member of the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) Oversight Committee at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh.

Professor Guy Marks, AO, FAHMS

President, International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease

Senior Principal Research Fellow, Burnet Institute, Melbourne, Australia

Professor Guy Marks is a respiratory and public health physician and epidemiologist. He is the President of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union). He is a member of the Board of Directors of the NCD Alliance and the Federation of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS). He is a former member of the steering committee of the Global Asthma Network. He led the Centre for Air pollution, energy and health Research (CAR, an NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence) from 2012 to 2022. He is a Conjoint Professor (formerly Scientia Professor) at UNSW Sydney and an Honorary Professor at University of Sydney. His main research interests are in chronic respiratory disease (asthma and COPD), tuberculosis, and the protection from airborne hazards (both infectious and non-infectious).

Professor Refiloe Masekela, MBBCh, PhD

NIHR Global Health Research Professor. Pediatric Pulmonologist, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

Professor Refiloe Masekela is a paediatric pulmonologist with experience in lung health-related research over the past 17 years. She is currently an NIHR Global Health Research Professor with the focus area of her professorship on paediatric asthma. Her research area of interest is in Paediatric asthma and lung physiological testing. She holds several leadership roles globally as the co-chair of the Global Asthma Network and co-chair of the Federation of Respiratory Societies Lung Health Task Force Steering Committee. She is also a member of the Global Initiative of Asthma (GINA) Scientific Committee and the European Respiratory Society Global Lung Initiative (GLI) Network Clinical Research Collaboration Committee. She is a member of the American Thoracic Society Ethics and Conflict of Interest Committee and is a member of the European Respiratory Society Long Range Planning Committee of the Paediatrics Assembly. Regionally is the President of the Pan African Thoracic Society and nationally the President of the South African Thoracic Society. She has published over 100 peer-reviewed publications and has written eight book chapters on respiratory diseases in children, including the European Respiratory Society (ERS) Monograph, Global Asthma Report, Manson's Textbook of Tropical Infections Diseases, and Coovadia's Textbook of Paediatrics and Child Health.

Dr Casey Norris, DNP, MSN, RN, PCNS-BC

Certified Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist, Director of Clinical Practice, Professional Development, & Education, East Tennessee Children's Hospital, Knoxville, Tennessee, United States of America

Dr Casey Norris is a certified paediatric clinical nurse specialist who has worked in paediatrics for over 30 years. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Troy State University, Troy, Alabama in 1994, and her Master of Science in Nursing from Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina, in 2001 with a focus on Women, Infant, and Child Health, and her Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of Alabama in Huntsville in 2017 with a focus on Infant Airway Clearance. In 2002 she began working as a paediatric clinical nurse specialist, focusing on

paediatric respiratory illnesses including asthma management, cystic fibrosis coordinator, and care of infants with bronchiolitis. She served as a committee member for the Tennessee State Asthma Task Force, has presented at the American Lung Association Asthma Educator Conference, started a Not One More Life community asthma initiative in Knoxville, Tennessee, and most recently presented patient and family education measures at the Annual Respiratory Nursing and Interprofessional Collaborative Conference in 2023. She taught in nursing programs for 12 years. She is currently the Director of Clinical Practice, Professional Development, and Education at East Tennessee Children's Hospital in Knoxville.

Professor Ratnawati, MD, MCH, PhD

Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia

Professor Ratnawati is a renowned pulmonologist and academic with over 30 years of expertise in respiratory medicine, specializing in asthma and COPD. A Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia, and a consultant pulmonologist at Persahabatan Hospital, she is a leader in integrating clinical innovation with public health strategies to combat respiratory diseases, particularly in underserved regions. She earned her MD from Universitas Sriwijaya, followed by a Master's in Community Health and a PhD in Pathology from the University of New South Wales, Australia. Her groundbreaking research on asthma has received international acclaim, and she has been honoured with Indonesia's Satyalancana Karya Satya medals for outstanding service. As Chair of the Jakarta Chapter of the Indonesian Asthma Foundation and an active member of organizations such as the Indonesian Society of Respiriology, the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology, and the American Thoracic Society, Ratnawati has played a pivotal role in shaping respiratory health care policies. Her extensive research and numerous publications have significantly advanced the management of asthma, exemplifying her dedication to improving respiratory health on a global scale.

Ms Mariana Paula Rezelj, RN

Respiratory Nurse, Outpatient Clinic, Zdravstveni zavod Zdravje (Zdravje Healthcare Institution), Medical Center Ljubljana, Slovenia

Ms Mariana Paula Rezelj, born in Argentina, graduated as a nurse and built a versatile career spanning clinical practice, academia, and health care management. She gained comprehensive experience in patient care and organizational leadership through roles such as working in the emergency department, teaching at the university, and serving as the Director of Nursing at a prestigious university hospital. In 2007, she relocated to Slovenia and joined the Clinic for Pulmonary Diseases at the University Clinic Golnik, where she focuses on advancing care for patients with allergies and asthma as a respiratory nurse. Actively engaged in research and education, she regularly shares her expertise at international congresses such as the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) and the European Respiratory Society (ERS), emphasizing interdisciplinary collaboration. Her dedication to improving respiratory health care extends to her role as the Principal Investigator for Slovenia in the SHARP project Severe Asthma Questionnaire (SAQ): Burden of Asthma in European Countries. She is also a member of the General Assembly of the International Coalition of Respiratory Nurses (ICRN), contributing to global initiatives aimed at enhancing respiratory nursing practices. Since 2022, she has been leading the Nurses' Section in Pulmonology of Slovenia as its President, advocating for the

advancement of nursing practice in pulmonology and fostering professional growth within the field.

Professor Min Zhang, MD, PhD

Chief Consultant of Respiratory and Critical Care Department, Shanghai General Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China

Professor Min Zhang, an adult pulmonologist with over 27 years of experience, is a member of the Science Committee for the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) and serves as the Deputy Director of the Asthma Group within the Respiratory Branch of the Chinese Thoracic Society. She played a pivotal role in organizing the development of the Chinese Guidelines for Bronchial Asthma Prevention and Management (2024 Edition) and served as a corresponding author for the Chinese Expert Consensus on the Clinical Applications of the Bronchial Provocation Test (2024 Edition) and the Expert Consensus on the Diagnosis, Treatment, and Management of Mild Bronchial Asthma in China (2023 Edition). Professor Zhang's work focuses on improving the early diagnosis and personalized treatment of mild to moderate asthma, evaluating and implementing targeted therapies for severe asthma, and investigating the mechanisms of T2 and non-T2 asthma. She has been the principal investigator for nine asthma-related national clinical trials and published more than 50 papers in journals such as *Allergy*; *BMC Medicine*; *The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: In Practice*; and *Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology* in the past five years.