

## **Guideline Development Group**

### **Biographies of proposed members**

April 2026

### **Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) 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.

#### **Mrs Anita Brough**

#### **Sheffield, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

Mrs Anita Brough is a yoga teacher and health advocate with lived experience of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Formerly an award-winning businesswoman, she was diagnosed with COPD in 2013, which led to a period of reduced mobility and significant weight gain. In 2019, spirometry results revealing a lung age nearly 30 years older than her chronological age became the turning point in her health journey. Motivated by this, she began researching breathing techniques, having been briefly introduced to them through pulmonary rehabilitation.

This marked a complete career shift, reigniting her passion for sport and fitness. Over the past five years, she has successfully stabilized her condition and become a qualified yoga teacher with advanced specialist training in Pranayama (breathing techniques). She is also a certified gym instructor and is pursuing further qualifications in health, nutrition and fitness. Her most recent spirometry results show her lung age has improved significantly and is now only eight years above her actual age.

Anita's story has been featured in multiple media outlets, including Sky News and the BBC. She now leads breathwork workshops and contributes to NHS England's five-year pulmonary rehabilitation strategy as an expert by lived experience, offering valuable insights into patient-centred care and long-term disease management.

#### **Professor William Checkley, MD, PhD**

#### **Professor, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, United States of America**

Professor William Checkley is a physician-scientist and global health expert whose research focuses on chronic respiratory diseases, particularly chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), in low- and middle-income countries. He is Professor of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University, with joint

appointments in International Health and Biostatistics, and serves as Director of the Center for Global Non-Communicable Disease Research and Training.

Professor Checkley has authored more than 390 publications in peer-reviewed journals, with over 23 000 citations and an h-index of 75. His research addresses the global burden of COPD, which disproportionately affects low- and middle-income countries. His work encompasses a broad range of activities, from observational cohort studies examining risk factors such as household air pollution and impaired lung growth and development, to randomized controlled trials evaluating interventions to improve COPD outcomes in real-world settings.

In collaboration with international partners, Professor Checkley has led studies including the Global Excellence in COPD Outcomes (GECO) trial, which assesses the effectiveness of community health worker-delivered self-management interventions for COPD in Nepal, Peru and Uganda. He has also contributed to the development and validation of simple, cost-effective screening tools to support early diagnosis and management of COPD in resource-limited settings. In addition to his research, Professor Checkley is committed to building research capacity in low- and middle-income countries. He co-leads training programmes funded by the Fogarty International Center, focusing on environmental exposures and chronic pulmonary diseases, with the goal of mentoring the next generation of researchers.

**Dr Triya Damayanti, PhD**

**Associate Professor, Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia**

Dr Triya Damayanti is a pulmonologist and academic with extensive clinical, research and policy experience in the field of chronic respiratory diseases, particularly chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). She is a faculty member in the Department of Pulmonology and Respiratory Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia, and practises at Persahabatan National Respiratory Referral Hospital in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Dr Damayanti has played a key role in numerous national and international multicentre studies on COPD and asthma, and has authored and co-authored more than 40 peer-reviewed publications. She has been actively involved in the development of national guidelines for the diagnosis and management of COPD, asthma and post-COVID-19 respiratory syndromes under the auspices of the Indonesian Society of Respiriology (Perhimpunan Dokter Paru Indonesia, PDPI) and the Ministry of Health of Indonesia.

Her contributions to primary care include the development of training modules and delivery of educational programmes for healthcare professionals to improve the management of COPD and asthma at the primary healthcare level, in collaboration with the Indonesian Society of Respiriology and the Ministry of Health. Dr Damayanti also lectures frequently on COPD diagnosis and treatment,

with a focus on bridging evidence-based clinical practice and real-world challenges, particularly in low-resource settings.

**Professor Habib Ghedira, MD**

**Independent Pulmonologist and Allergologist, Tunis, Tunisia**

Professor Habib Ghedira, MD, is a pulmonologist with a Master's degree in Allergology from the University of Paris VI. He served as Professor of Pulmonology at the Faculty of Medicine of Tunis and headed the Pulmonary Department at Tunisia's leading thoracic hospital for more than 30 years. Across his academic and clinical career, he has managed a broad range of respiratory diseases, with particular expertise in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), while training future generations of physicians and advancing respiratory medicine in Tunisia.

Professor Ghedira has made major contributions to public health policy and clinical guideline development. He was a member of Tunisia's National COVID-19 Committee and helped develop national COVID-19 management guidelines, having previously authored guidance during the H1N1 outbreak. During the pandemic, he was appointed President/CEO of the National Office of Family and Population, leading more than 1,200 staff across 24 regions to maintain essential services. He also represented the Tunisian government in the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control mission, contributing to the evaluation of national tobacco control policies.

Regionally and internationally, Professor Ghedira has helped shape respiratory care practice across Africa and the Middle East, including recommendations for asthma management. As President of the Association for the Promotion of Pulmonology and Allergology (APPA), he has organized numerous scientific meetings on COPD and contributed multiple peer-reviewed publications. He is a frequent invited speaker at congresses across the region and beyond. Internationally, he is a member of the Research Leadership Team of the International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG), supporting COPD and Asthma Right Care initiatives. He has also served as principal investigator in multinational clinical trials, chaired sessions at the European Respiratory Society Congress 2025, reviewed abstracts for ERS 2026, and continues to work as an independent physician and international speaker.

**Miss Sylvia Heness N**

**Kampala, Uganda**

Miss Sylvia Heness N is a lung health advocate with lived experience of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). She is based in Kampala, Uganda, and receives care at the Makerere Lung Institute, where she also volunteers as a patient participant in research studies when called upon.

Miss Heness reports experiencing recurrent respiratory symptoms since adolescence, including chest pain and tightness, breathlessness, and marked fatigue. Over several years, she received varying diagnoses and treatments, including management for pneumonia, asthma, and allergies. In 2017, she was diagnosed with COPD at a government hospital and referred to the Makerere Lung Institute for

further assessment and ongoing care. There, she received education on COPD and strategies to support day-to-day functioning and self-management.

She participated in a structured exercise and pulmonary rehabilitation programme as part of a research study, which she describes as a transformative experience that improved her confidence and capacity for daily activities. She emphasizes the value of pulmonary rehabilitation and physical activity as essential components of comprehensive COPD care, alongside appropriate medical treatment. Following this experience, she resumed activities that had previously been limited by symptoms, including singing in her church choir, and has since recorded music.

Through her advocacy work and lived experience, Miss Heness supports community sensitization on COPD, encourages timely care-seeking and sustained self-care, and contributes patient perspectives to research and engagement activities. She is committed to sharing her experience to inform and support the work of the COPD Guideline Development Group, particularly in resource-constrained settings.

**Dr Ngozi Ibe, DHSc, RRT**

**Respiratory care practitioner, Africa Respiratory Care Association (ARCA), Ghana**

Dr Ngozi Ibe is an experienced respiratory therapist with approximately 12 years of clinical practice at MedStar Washington Hospital Center, the largest and busiest hospital in the Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia (DMV) region of the United States. She provides bedside care and management for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and continues to support them through post-discharge follow-up.

Motivated by a commitment to advancing respiratory care locally and globally, Dr Ibe holds a master's degree in respiratory care leadership and a doctorate in health sciences with a concentration in global health. In addition to her clinical work, she serves as an asthma and COPD educator and navigator, collaborating with pulmonary clinics and physician offices to empower patients through education and advocacy.

Dr Ibe is the founder of Global Asthma and COPD Outreach (GACO), an organization dedicated to empowering individuals with asthma and COPD, as well as their caregivers and healthcare professionals, through virtual and in-person training and advocacy, with a focus on low- and middle-income countries. She also serves as Professor at the University of the District of Columbia Community College and as Director of Advocacy and Policy for the Africa Respiratory Care Association (ARCA), an organization committed to uniting and empowering respiratory therapists in Africa to improve the treatment and management of cardiopulmonary diseases.

**Professor Mariya Jiandani, MSc, FAIMER Fellow**

**Physiotherapist and Professor (additional), Seth G S Medical College & KEMH, Mumbai, India**

Professor Mariya Jiandani, MSc (Physiotherapy), FAIMER Fellow, is an accomplished cardiorespiratory physiotherapist with more than 30 years of clinical, academic and research experience in the management of chronic respiratory diseases, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). She serves as Professor (Additional) and is in charge of Cardiovascular and Respiratory Physiotherapy at Seth G.S. Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai, India. She also holds a leadership position as President of The Society of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (SOCVPR), where she contributes to improving access to and capacity for cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services.

Professor Jiandani has served as a reviewer for the WHO Package of Interventions for Rehabilitation (PIR) for COPD and ischaemic heart disease, and has contributed to the development of India's national evidence-based guidelines for acute and post-COVID-19 care. She is currently leading efforts to adapt and standardize national guidelines for cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation in India.

An active researcher, Professor Jiandani has published multiple peer-reviewed studies that inform physiotherapy practice and education. Her research focuses on implementation science, rehabilitation access in low-resource settings and competency-based curriculum development. She is a strong advocate of collaborative and patient-centred care, working closely with multidisciplinary teams and patient support groups to improve health outcomes in communities. Her leadership also extends to national curriculum reform, contributions to the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) standards for physiotherapy, and WHO-aligned patient safety education, positioning her as an influential voice in advancing physiotherapy within chronic disease care globally.

**Dr Merve Kıymaç Sari, PhD**

**Assistant Professor, Fenerbahçe University, Istanbul, Türkiye**

Dr Merve Kıymaç Sari holds a PhD in nursing and is currently Assistant Professor in the Department of Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences, Fenerbahçe University, Istanbul, Türkiye.

She has eight years of clinical experience, working with diverse patient populations, including individuals with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Since 2018, she has focused primarily on nursing education. She teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses on medical nursing and chronic disease management, and supervises master's theses in nursing, while actively pursuing academic research.

Dr Kıymaç Sari is a member of the Turkish Thoracic Society, the European Respiratory Society and the International Coalition for Respiratory Nursing. In addition to her professional expertise, she brings a personal perspective as both a healthcare professional and family caregiver, which further deepens her commitment to patient-centred care and advocacy.

**Dr Fanny Wai Ko, MD**

**Consultant and Honorary Clinical Professor, Head of Respiratory Medicine (Clinical Service), Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China**

Dr Fanny Wai San Ko is a specialist respiratory consultant physician and Division Head of Respiratory Medicine (Clinical Service) at Prince of Wales Hospital in Hong Kong. She also holds the position of Honorary Clinical Professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Her primary research interests focus on asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). She has authored more than 200 publications in peer-reviewed journals, with an h-index of 53 (Scopus) and 57 (Google Scholar). Dr Ko earned her MD in 2007, with a research focus on COPD, and was elected Fellow of the European Respiratory Society in 2022.

Dr Ko has extensive experience in guideline development. Since 2016, she has contributed to the Global Strategy for Asthma Management and Prevention of the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA). She also contributed to the development of the COPD hospital discharge and follow-up guidelines in China (2024) and the Management of COPD with cardiovascular risk in Asia: position statement of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology (2025). She is a member of the GINA Scientific Committee, Immediate Past Chairman of the Hong Kong Lung Foundation, Past President of the Hong Kong Thoracic Society, and Medical Advisor to the Hong Kong Asthma Society.

Dr Ko has also served as Senior Editor of Respirology since 2013 and is Associate Editor of the European Respiratory Review, COPD: Journal of the COPD Foundation and International Journal of COPD. In addition, she serves on the editorial boards of several prestigious respiratory journals, including the European Respiratory Journal and the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine.

**Professor Mohammad Reza Masjedi, MD**

**Professor, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran (Islamic Republic of)**

Professor Mohammad Reza Masjedi is a senior pulmonologist, educator and public health advocate with more than five decades of experience in respiratory medicine. He completed his respiratory fellowship at Harvard University's Massachusetts General Hospital in 1988, and has since taught and conducted extensive research in pulmonary diseases in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Throughout his career, Professor Masjedi has contributed to national efforts in addressing asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), tuberculosis, lung cancer and related risk factors such as tobacco use and air pollution. He has led the development of national guidelines, scientific statements and comprehensive public health programmes in these areas, shaping government policies and public health practice.

Professor Masjedi played a key role in developing Iran's National Guidelines for Asthma and COPD, facilitating their integration into the national primary health care system. In 2018, he led the creation of the National Framework for Providing Services in Chronic Respiratory Diseases, approved for national implementation. He has also strengthened the CRD programme nationally and contributed to establishing a regional EMR/CRD committee.

Internationally, he has worked with WHO on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and chronic respiratory diseases, both at WHO headquarters and in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. He has also been an active member of the Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases (GARD), where he led the national GARD Committee and contributed to international activities. Professor Masjedi has published over 400 articles in peer-reviewed journals and continues to contribute to education, research, capacity-building and policy advocacy in the field of respiratory health.

**Professor Bertrand Hugo Mbatchou Ngahane, MD**  
**Professor, University of Douala, Douala, Cameroon**

Professor Mbatchou Ngahane Bertrand Hugo is Professor of Pulmonary Medicine at the University of Douala and Consultant in Respiratory and Occupational Medicine at Douala General Hospital, Cameroon. He is President of the Cameroon Chest Society and Vice President of the Pan African Thoracic Society. He also serves on the Scientific Committee of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) for its annual conference and has been a Fellow of the American Thoracic Society since 2019. In May 2024, he was appointed as a member of the World Health Organization (WHO) Scientific Advisory Group on Global Air Pollution and Health.

Professor Mbatchou Ngahane's research interests include tuberculosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), air pollution and respiratory health. He led the Burden of Obstructive Lung Disease (BOLD) study in Cameroon and contributed to the development of the WHO training toolkit on air pollution and health.

In the field of asthma, he was among the expert group that developed asthma treatment guidelines for French-speaking African countries and is currently a member of the national team drafting the Cameroon asthma guidelines. He has authored and co-authored more than 80 scientific publications across various areas of health.

**Dr Thomas Meoño Martín, MD**  
**Family and Community Medicine Specialist, Cartago, Costa Rica**

Dr Thomas Meoño Martín is a specialist in Family and Community Medicine with more than 25 years of experience in the comprehensive management of chronic diseases, including advanced care of respiratory conditions at the primary care level. Based in Costa Rica, he has led numerous clinical and educational initiatives aimed at improving the diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of patients with

asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and other common respiratory conditions in primary care.

Dr Meoño Martín's approach is rooted in person-centred care, integrating social determinants of health, family and community context, and promoting shared responsibility in self-care. He has contributed to the development of clinical protocols, professional training programmes and educational materials designed to strengthen the problem-solving capacity of healthcare teams.

He has collaborated on regional projects with international organizations such as the International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG), supporting the implementation of Asthma Right Care and COPD Right Care strategies. A frequent speaker and facilitator at scientific conferences and seminars, Dr Meoño Martín shares insights on the effective and humanized management of respiratory diseases from the perspective of Family Medicine, with a strong emphasis on prevention, early diagnosis and personalized care.

**Professor Youssef Mohammad, MD**

**Professor, Tishreen University, Latakia, Syrian Arab Republic**

Professor Youssef Mohammad is Professor of Pulmonary Medicine at Latakia University, Syrian Arab Republic. She is a graduate of medical training in France and a member of the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD) assembly and actively contributes to global efforts to reduce the burden of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). She leads the Centre for Research and Training on Chronic Respiratory Diseases and Comorbidities at Latakia University, which is a member institution of the Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases (GARD) and a WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO) collaborating centre.

In the Syrian Arab Republic, Professor Mohammad coordinated a GARD-supported national research project that identified an 8% prevalence of COPD among patients attending primary care centres, based on routine spirometry testing. These findings informed the development of the Syrian National Guide for Asthma and COPD, a collaborative initiative of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Higher Education and WHO Country Office. The guide has recently been updated and widely distributed to primary care centres nationwide.

Professor Mohammad's publications include research on the impact of active and passive smoking as risk factors for asthma and COPD in women attending primary care, published in the International Journal of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. She also contributed as an expert to WHO's publication Noncommunicable disease facility-based monitoring guidance: framework, indicators and application. She is also Associate Editor for the GARD section of the Journal of Thoracic Disease. Currently, she is developing a proposal for a global programme to audit COPD care, with the goal of improving standards and equity in service delivery.

**Ms Robyn Ordman, MRes**

**COPD Program Manager, Lung Foundation Australia, Sydney, Australia**

Robyn Ordman Leiboff is Guidelines Manager for The COPD-X Plan: Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for the Management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). The COPD-X Plan is developed and maintained by Lung Foundation Australia, the national not-for-profit organization leading advocacy, education and support for lung health.

Based in Sydney, Australia, Ms Ordman Leiboff contributes to Lung Foundation Australia's national mandate through oversight of the quarterly COPD-X evidence review process and the development of implementation resources for health professionals and patients. She is currently leading strategic efforts to align COPD-X with international guideline standards, enhance integration into digital clinical workflows and address inequities in COPD care delivery, particularly in rural and disadvantaged communities.

Ms Ordman Leiboff holds an undergraduate degree in psychology and a Master of Research from Macquarie University. Her earlier career included roles in market research, medical writing, clinical trial documentation and patient preference research, supporting health technology assessments and policy development. These experiences inform her strong focus on evidence-based communication, multidisciplinary collaboration and user-centred resource development.

She is committed to translating evidence into action through practical, person-centred guidance, and looks forward to contributing to the World Health Organization's global initiative to strengthen clinical guidance for chronic respiratory diseases.

**Dr Anders Ostrem, MD, BCh**

**Primary Care Specialist, Gransdalen Medical Centre, Oslo, Norway**

Dr Anders Østrem is a general practitioner based at Gransdalen Health Care Centre in Oslo, Norway. He completed his medical training at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland, in 1986, and completed his specialist training in general practice in Norway in 1997. Since 1989, he has been a partner at Gransdalen Health Care Centre.

Dr Østrem has been an active member of the Norwegian College of General Practitioners' reference group for asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) since 1998. In 2000, he co-founded Lunger i Praksis, a national network of general practitioners with a special interest in respiratory diseases.

He is a former board member and past president of the International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG) and chaired the Organizing Committee for the 3rd IPCRG World Conference in June 2006.

Dr Østrem has contributed to several national clinical guidelines, including Norway's first guideline for smoking cessation in primary care (2004), as well as asthma (2015) and COPD (2016) guidelines

tailored for general practice. In 2019, he led the comprehensive revision of the national COPD guidelines originally published by the Norwegian Directorate of Health in 2012. The updated guidelines were fully adapted for primary care and published on a digital platform.

**Dr Jaya Munesarao Ramadoo, MPharm, PhD**

**Clinical pharmacist, Hospital Pulau Pinang, Penang, Malaysia**

Dr Jaya Munesarao, BPharm, MPharm (Clinical Pharmacy), PhD (Clinical Pharmacy), is a clinical pharmacist with a special interest in respiratory medicine. He is based at Hospital Pulau Pinang, Malaysia, and currently serves as Chairman of the Clinical Pharmacy Working Committee (Respiratory Subspecialty) under the Ministry of Health (MOH), Malaysia.

Dr Munesarao recently completed a fellowship in severe asthma at Singapore General Hospital and is the national preceptor for the Malaysia Advanced Clinical Pharmacy Programme (MyACPP), with a focus on airway diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma. He is a member of the Malaysian Thoracic Society (MTS) Inhaler Education and Training Steering Committee and a certified "Inhaler Train-the-Trainer" by MTS. He was elected as a member of the MTS COPD Consensus Statement panel and contributed as an author to the Malaysian Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) for the Management of Asthma in Adults (2017).

Dr Munesarao has also served as an external reviewer for the CPG for Management of Tuberculosis (4th Edition, 2021), and as a review committee member for the CPG for Management of Asthma in Adults (Second Edition, 2024). He is a member of the MTS Severe Asthma Registry Steering Committee and an advisor to Asthma Malaysia.

With strong research interests, Dr Munesarao serves as Associate Editor for the Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice and Guest Editor for Antibiotics (MDPI). He is also a peer reviewer for several journals, including the International Journal of COPD, Journal of Asthma & Allergy, Respiratory Medicine, Pragmatic & Observational Research, BMC Pulmonary Medicine, Patient Preference and Adherence, and Journal of Asthma. His key areas of interest include COPD and asthma pharmacotherapy, pulmonary drug delivery, inhaler devices, tuberculosis, and patient-centred care programmes.

**Ms Ravijyot Saggu, BPharm, DipClinPharm**

**Respiratory Pharmacist, Healthcare NHS Trust, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

Ms Ravijyot Saggu, BPharm, MRPharmS, DipClinPharm, IPresc, is a respiratory pharmacist based in London, United Kingdom, with more than 25 years of experience across primary, secondary and tertiary care. She has previously worked at University College London Hospital and has served as a Medicines Optimization Lead. She was a Chief Pharmaceutical Officer's Clinical Fellow (2021–2022) at NHS England and is also an honorary clinical lecturer.

Ms Saggu chairs the UK Clinical Pharmacy Association Respiratory Committee and has contributed to the development of several national and European guidelines and frameworks. She has been involved in the development of the NICE guidelines on COPD and digital-supported self-management of COPD, the British Thoracic Society's long-term macrolide guidelines, sustainability position statement and toolkit, and the respiratory pharmacist framework. In addition, she has contributed to the European Respiratory Society's work on advanced symptom management in serious lung disease, the asthma quality improvement toolkit developed by Greener Practice, and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's standards for virtual wards. She has also worked on sustainability initiatives through the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists.

Ms Saggu is an active member of, and advisor to, various national committees, including the NHS England Sustainability Board, the Medicines Value Programme, and the Respiratory Clinical Reference Group. She has authored and contributed to numerous publications and research initiatives. Her leadership and expertise in policy, strategy, health economics and commissioning have contributed to the advancement of value-based healthcare.

She is also a quality improvement practitioner and coach, including for health improvement through the National Respiratory Audit Programme. In addition, she serves as a NICE Prescribing Associate and is a council member of the ALUK charity, where she advocates for patients with respiratory diseases. Ms Saggu has a particular interest in population health and is committed to advancing sustainable, personalized and holistic care, with a strong focus on reducing health inequalities.

**Dr Roshan Shrestha, MD, DM**

**Assistant Professor, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal**

Dr Roshan Shrestha, MD, DM, is a consultant pulmonologist at ADK Hospital in the Maldives, specializing in pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine. He earned his Doctorate in Medicine (DM) from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, graduating as the top-ranked candidate in his cohort. He also holds an MBBS and an MD in internal medicine from the Institute of Medicine, Tribhuvan University, Nepal.

Dr Shrestha has clinical expertise in the management of obstructive lung diseases, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma, as well as tuberculosis, interstitial lung diseases and sleep-related disorders. He also provides intensive care for critically ill patients.

Prior to joining ADK Hospital, Dr Shrestha served as Assistant Professor in the Department of Pulmonology and Critical Care Medicine at Tribhuvan University, where he contributed to clinical care, teaching and research. He has participated as a co-investigator in international clinical trials, including the ASCOT ADAPT Trial (NEJM Evidence) and the VAT00008 Trial. He also contributed as a consultant to the preparation of the Situation Analysis to Scale Up the Integrated Prevention, Diagnosis, and Management of Chronic Respiratory Diseases in Nepal.

A member of both the Nepalese Respiratory Society and the European Respiratory Society, Dr Shrestha is dedicated to advancing respiratory health, with a particular focus on strengthening primary care systems.

**Dr Liliana Silva, PhD**

**Rehabilitation Specialist, Unidade Local de Saúde de Matosinhos, Matosinhos, Portugal**

Dr Liliana Silva is a rehabilitation specialist nurse with a PhD in clinical research and health services research. She has more than 15 years of experience in primary healthcare, with a career focused on pulmonary rehabilitation for people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), both in clinical practice and academic research.

Dr Silva has authored several scientific papers and book chapters on COPD, with particular emphasis on community-based rehabilitation strategies. She has led and contributed to projects aimed at improving COPD management in primary care, with a strong focus on care integration, patient satisfaction and equitable access to rehabilitation programmes.

She also develops and delivers continuing education courses for healthcare professionals on COPD management and pulmonary rehabilitation. Dr Silva actively participates in national and international working groups concerned with COPD care coordination and primary care innovation.

Although she has not yet been directly involved in clinical guideline development, she brings a deep understanding of the Portuguese healthcare system and is highly motivated to contribute to this area. Her combined clinical and research expertise offers valuable insight into translating evidence into practice, particularly within multidisciplinary and community-based care teams. Dr Silva is committed to contributing her expertise to collaborative efforts to improve COPD care and promote meaningful health outcomes.

**Professor Ioanna Tsiligianni, MD, PhD, MPH/HCM**

**Professor of General Practice and Public Health, University of Crete, Heraklion, Greece**

Professor Ioanna Tsiligianni is Professor of General Practice and Public Health at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Crete, and serves as Director of the Health Planning Unit and the Clinic of Social and Family Medicine. She is also Director of the Public Health Department at PAGNI (University Hospital) in Greece. A general practitioner by training, she holds a Master's degree in Public Health and Health Care Management, as well as two PhDs: one in interstitial lung diseases from the University of Crete, and another in health status and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) from the University of Groningen, Netherlands.

Professor Tsiligianni coordinated the development of the first national guidelines for primary care management of COPD and asthma in Greece. She served as Chair of the Scientific Committee for three

international conferences and was President of the International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG) from 2018 to 2020. Since 2022, she has chaired the IPCRG COPD Right Care programme.

Her research focuses on public and primary health care, with particular emphasis on COPD. She has also worked as a primary care physician in a rural area for 16 years. Professor Tsiligianni has presented more than 350 abstracts at international conferences and has delivered numerous invited talks at national and international scientific meetings. She has authored more than 220 publications indexed in PubMed, with an Impact Factor exceeding 1301.28 and an ISI h-index of 36. Her ORCID profile is available at <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7922-7491>. Since 2019, she has served as Editor-in-Chief of NPJ Primary Care Respiratory Medicine (Nature Partner Journals).

**Dr Ablo Prudence Wachinou, MD**

**Associate Professor, National Hospital for Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Diseases, Cotonou, Benin**

Dr Ablo Prudence Wachinou is a pulmonologist and epidemiologist with more than 15 years of experience in managing chronic respiratory diseases, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). He is currently Associate Professor of Pulmonology at the University of Abomey-Calavi in Benin and serves as a consultant at the National Hospital for Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Diseases in Cotonou. His clinical practice covers the management of COPD, asthma, tuberculosis, TB/HIV co-infection, and post-tuberculosis lung diseases.

In the field of primary care and public health, Dr Wachinou has played a key role as Head of Training for Benin's National Tuberculosis Programme since 2014, where he contributes to capacity-building and the implementation of clinical guidelines at the national level. He also serves as the national focal point for chronic respiratory diseases under the noncommunicable diseases programme in Benin.

At the international level, Dr Wachinou has contributed to the development of World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, including those for COVID-19 therapeutics and community engagement in health research. His epidemiological expertise is supported by a Master of Science degree from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. With a strong record of scientific publications and leadership roles in regional networks, Dr Wachinou is deeply committed to improving respiratory health through evidence-based care, training and policy development.

**Dr Sergio Zunino, MD**

**Clinical Specialist in Respiratory Diseases, Italian Hospital, Buenos Aires, Argentina.**

Dr Sergio Zunino is a medical doctor specializing in internal medicine and pneumonology, with more than 30 years of clinical, academic and public health experience. He is a university lecturer and an active member of several professional associations, including the Argentine Respiratory Association (AAMR), the Argentine Society of Internal Medicine (SAM), the European Respiratory Society (ERS), and the Latin American Thoracic Association (ALAT).

Dr Zunino is a former coordinator of immunology and obstructive lung diseases at AAMR and currently serves as Director of the Respiratory Diseases Section at SAM. He is the national referent for the Asthma Right Care and local COPD Right Care programmes in Argentina, under the International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG). He is also a member of Healthcare Information For All (HIFA), an initiative supported by WHO for Latin America.

He serves as a board member for national guideline development groups on asthma and COPD in Argentina and is a contributor to the ALAT Severe Asthma Guideline Group. His work focuses on developing educational strategies to promote right care in prevalent respiratory diseases, particularly asthma and COPD.

Dr Zunino is actively engaged with national and provincial health systems in Argentina to support the development of targeted programmes, such as “teach the teacher” initiatives, designed to improve respiratory care for underserved populations with limited access to healthcare.