



## **Policy Paper on regular deworming treatment for women of reproductive age**

1 February 2022, 14:00 – 15:30 CET/Geneva time

### **BIO SKETCH OF PANELISTS**



**Dr Theresa Gyorkos**

Theresa Gyorkos has been engaged in global health research for over 30 years. She is known for her population-based epidemiological field research focusing on reducing the disease burden of soil-transmitted helminthiases in children and women in resource-limited settings, and for her contributions to global health policy related to neglected tropical diseases at the World Health Organization. Dr. Gyorkos is Director of WHO's Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Parasite Epidemiology and Control, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.



**Dr Antonio Montresor**

Antonio Montresor leads WHO's global programme for the control and elimination of soil-transmitted helminthiases (intestinal worms) at WHO's headquarters in Geneva; Switzerland. He studied medicine at the University of Milan and obtained his masters in infectious diseases from the London School of Tropical Medicine. Dr Montresor has worked in several countries, including Tanzania and Vietnam and has published several papers on helminth control.



### **Dr Bhavneet Walia**

Bhavneet Walia is Assistant Professor of Public Health at Syracuse University. In her research, Dr. Walia applies econometric techniques (e.g., causal inference and cost-benefit analysis) to examine research questions in health policy, specifically as it relates to maternal child health and healthcare efficiency. Her research has appeared in leading journals, such as British Medical Journal Global Health, PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases, Social Indicators Research, and JAMA Network Open, among others.



### **Dr Eyrun Flörecke Kjetland**

Eyrun Kjetland is Professor at University of KwaZulu-Natal and Director of BRIGHT Research Academy, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. In Norway, she leads Oslo University Hospital Research Group in Tropical, Imported Infectious and Reproductive Diseases and is a clinician in infectious diseases. She has led research on schistosomiasis and HIV in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Kenya, and Malawi. In collaboration with WHO she has produced the Pocket Atlas for Female Genital Schistosomiasis.



**Dr Virak Khieu**

Virak Khieu is Manager of the National Helminth Control Program, Ministry of Health, Cambodia. His interests include research and control of Neglected Tropical Helminthiasis, particularly STHs, Strongyloidiasis, Schistosomiasis, Teniasis, Foodborne trematodiasis. He has published in the peer-review Journals.



**Dr Teresa Norris**

Teresa Norris is a Sexual Health Specialist and HPV expert with over 17 years' experience delivering positive, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health programs, and championing disease prevention strategies. Teresa is the Founder and President of HPV Global Action, a Canadian registered charity that focuses on bringing leaders together to communicate and provide solutions regarding worldwide HPV prevention and cervical cancer screening and treatment challenges.



**Dr Martin Casapia Morales**

Martin Casapia Morales is a medical doctor and specialist in infectious and tropical diseases. He started his medical career as a clinician at the Cayetano Heredia hospital in Lima, Peru. He then ventured into HIV prevention. As the principal investigator of the Association Civil Selva Amazónica (ACSA), he has greatly contributed to creating awareness and to the prevention of HIV. His research has also focused on helminths infection, malnutrition in children, malaria, and HIV. He is

also a professor of Infectious diseases in the School of Medicine and an attending physician in the Regional Hospital, Loreto-Peru.



### **Adjunct Professor Mary Hodges**

Mary Hodges is a British pediatrician with 40 years' experience in Africa in child health, nutrition, neglected tropical diseases and health systems strengthening. She obtained an Honorary DSc from Glasgow University in 1997 in recognition of her work on soil transmitted helminths (STH) in Sierra Leone. She joined Helen Keller International as Country Director in 2008 and supported the national NTD program scale up mass drug administrations for the elimination of onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis and the control of STH and schistosomiasis. Mary supported the Directorate of Food and Nutrition design a reproductive and child health package of services to transition from mass to routine vitamin A supplementation that was brought to full-national scale in 2021. The package includes deworming for pre-school age children integrated with demonstrations of complementary feeding and family planning counselling with the option for long term contraceptives (hormonal implants). Mary has published over 40 peer-reviewed papers, is an academic editor for PLOS ONE.