



Ending the neglect to attain the Sustainable Development Goals: a strategic framework for integrated control and management of skin-related neglected tropical diseases

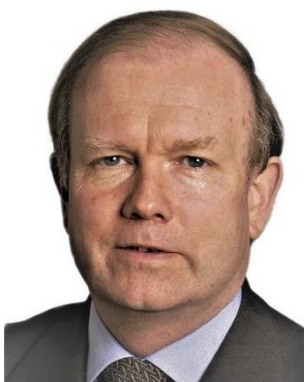
8 June 2022, 14:00 – 15:40 CET

PANELISTS



Ren Minghui

Ren Minghui serves as Assistant Director-General for Universal Health Coverage/ Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases at WHO headquarters. In this role, Dr Ren oversees a complex portfolio of technical programmes covering HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases, noncommunicable diseases, mental health and substance use. Prior to his appointment as Assistant Director-General, he spent nearly 30 years working in public health in China.



Roderick Hay

Roderick Hay is Emeritus Professor of Cutaneous Infection, Kings College London (KCL). His clinical and research interests are Infectious and Tropical Diseases of the skin but particularly fungal infections. He chaired the International Foundation for Dermatology (2002-2015) and is an adviser to the International League of Dermatology Societies. He is a member of the Global Mycetoma Working Group and has worked with WHO on Neglected Tropical Diseases of the Skin.



Jose Antonio Ruiz Postigo

José A. Ruiz-Postigo leads WHO's global programme for the control of cutaneous leishmaniasis. Dr Ruiz-Postigo has been part of a team that have brought innovation in the way NTD data are collected, analyzed and disseminated. He is also actively involved in the creation of several online courses for OpenWHO, and guided the design of the recent WHO mobile app on the neglected tropical diseases of the skin (skinNTDs). Over the past 25 years, Dr Postigo has worked on NTDs in several countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region.



Israel Cruz

Israel Cruz is Head of the International Health Department at the National School of Public Health, Instituto de Salud Carlos III. His areas of focus include innovations and implementation research to improve access to care for NTDs and poverty related diseases. Currently, Dr Cruz is member of WHO's Diagnostics and Technical Advisory Group for NTDs and chairs the skin NTDs subgroup. Before joining the National School of Public Health in Spain, he led the leishmaniasis and Buruli ulcer programmes at the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics, Switzerland. For many years, he has been an active member of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Leishmaniasis, Spain.



Ahmed Hassan Fahal

Ahmed Fahal is professor of surgery at the University of Khartoum, Sudan. A trained microbiologist, mycologist and surgeon, he specializes in mycetoma research and is the founding Director of the Mycetoma Research Centre in Khartoum. He is involved in collaborative research work in mycetoma with many national and international institutes and has

published extensively in this area. As the Mycetoma Control Programme Director in the Ministry of Health, he sits in several technical advisory committees.



Rie R. Yotsu

Rie R. Yotsu researched skin infections, with a focus on two neglected tropical diseases - leprosy and Buruli ulcer and was part of the team that developed the skin NTD framework. Dr Yotsu is currently an associate professor at the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in the U.S and adjunct associate professor at the School of Global Health and Tropical Medicine, Nagasaki University (Japan), and a vice-chair of the NNN-Skin NTDs Cross Cutting Group. As a dermatologist and global health researcher, she has cultivated her expertise in skin infections, especially in the field of skin NTDs.



Dr Joyce W.D. Sherman

Honourable Joyce Sherman is Assistant Minister for Preventive Services in the Ministry of Health in Liberia – a position she has held for the past four years. She started her involvement in public health at young age and counts decades of experience. Ms Sherman comes from a nursing background and has held several positions in health education, reproductive health and maternal and child health. She has years of experience in program planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.



Benedict Okoe Quao

Benedict Quao is a global health practitioner with expertise in the programmatic control, rehabilitation and care of leprosy and other skin-related neglected tropical diseases. Dr Quao has more than 10 years' experience in a variety of clinical settings, including healthcare management. He has been instrumental in the progressive implementation of integrated skin-NTD approach in Ghana, bringing on board a deep understanding of the workings at the public health-primary care interface and across the clinical-managerial spectrum.



Prudence Rymill

Prudence Rymill coordinates and manages the NTD programme in Vanuatu. She previously supported the country's Health Information System assisting the HIS office with data on maternal deaths. Ms Rymill graduated from the Fiji School of Medicine.



Josefina Clarinha Joao

Josefina Clarinha Joao is National Director, Disease Control, Ministry of Health in Timor-Leste. Dr Joao coordinates and oversees the implementation of all communicable, non-communicable diseases programmes, including mental health. She started her career as investigator for sentinel surveillance detecting COVID-19 cases at the primary health care level after obtaining her masters in public health in Indonesia.



Christine Schmotzer

Christine Schmotzer is Director of Rawalpindi Leprosy Hospital, Pakistan, since 1993. Dr Schmotzer is a specialist in leprosy and tuberculosis control and the WHO focal person on Leprosy in Pakistan. She has extended leprosy control into an integrated programme for leprosy and cutaneous leishmaniasis over the last 5 years. The focus is on early diagnosis, implementation of post-exposure prophylaxis with Rifampicin and on training of dermatologists and primary health care medical officers in Skin NTDs.



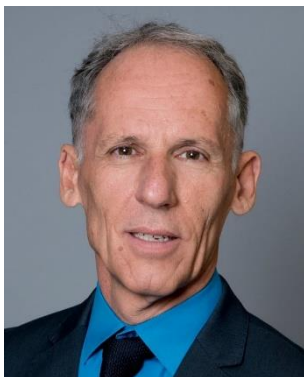
Silmara Pennini

Silmara Pennini is a physician and dermatologist. She is a member of the Brazilian Society of Dermatology and holds a Master in Public Health / Epidemiology from the University of Wales College of Medicine. Dr. Pennini works as a clinician and preceptor of the Medical Residency at the Alfredo da Matta Dermatology and Venereology Foundation (Amazonas State Government), where she is coordinator of the WHO Collaborating Center. Dr Pennini has years of experience in dermatology and works mainly in Tropical Dermatology.



Iñigo Lasa

Iñigo Lasa is General Manager at Anesvad – a non-profit organization involved in health and social development projects. An economist with more than 20 years' experience, Mr Lasa has served in several management positions in international organizations and has extensive experience in directing field interventions. At Anesvad, he focuses on access to health, promotes collaboration between partners, and advocates for a human-rights approach aimed at enabling vulnerable populations shape their own future.



Geoff Warne

Geoff Warne is Chief Executive Officer of the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP). Mr Warne has been involved in the leprosy world since 1981 in management, leadership and governance capacities. After spending the 1980s in financial management for The Leprosy Mission, he spent 16 years in senior management roles with the leading organisation providing services for blind people in New Zealand, then returned to London as Chief Executive Officer of The Leprosy Mission International from 2006 to 2016.



Alphonse Um Boock

Alphonse Um Boock is Senior Technical Advisor at FAIRMED. Dr Um Broock has more than 20 years' experience working on neglected tropical diseases that manifest mainly through the skin. He is member of several WHO technical groups including the Technical Advisory Group on Buruli ulcer and Skin NTD Working Group at WHO headquarters and WHO. Currently, he is coordinating a yaws eradication project in the Congo Basin. Dr Um Boock also has activities on cutaneous leishmaniasis in Chad



Michele Murdoch

Michele Murdoch is Chair, NTD NGO Network Skin Cross Cutting Group and Consultant Dermatologist at the West Herts Teaching Hospitals, UK. Dr Murdoch was awarded a Wellcome Trust Fellowship to study the cutaneous aspects of onchocerciasis and was a WHO Temporary Advisor for the multi-country study in Africa examining its prevalence. She has published widely and is Co-Editor of Community Skin Health, a teaching journal for health workers in low resource settings.



Aparna Srikantam

Aparna Srikantam is a medical doctor and laboratory specialist with a passion for research in leprosy and lymphatic filariasis. Dr Srikantam currently heads the research programme of the Leprosy Relief Association (LEPRA, India) and chairs the disease management, disability and inclusion (DMDI) cross cutting group. Her research interests include early detection and disability prevention. Dr Srikantam carries out applied research on chronic wound management, point of care molecular diagnosis and antimicrobial resistance in leprosy, with several research studies and publications to her credit.



David W. Denning

David Denning is an infectious diseases clinician with expertise in fungal diseases and current Chief Executive of Global Action For Fungal Infections – an organization that advocates for universal access to fungal diagnostics and antifungal therapies. Dr Denning is also Professor of Infectious Diseases and Global Health at the University of Manchester, UK. He has published extensively and leads the fungal infection research site [LIFE](#) that focuses on improving patient outcomes through online education as well as the [Aspergillus Website](#).