

## **NTDs and COVID-19: impact, response, perspectives**

15 October 2021 - 14:00-15:15 CEST

### **BIO SKETCH OF PANELISTS**



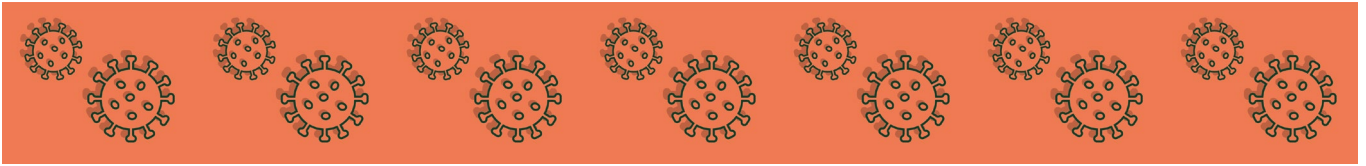
Maria Van Kerkhove is an infectious disease epidemiologist and the COVID-19 Technical Lead at World Health Organization (WHO). Dr Van Kerkhove specializes in outbreaks of emerging and re-emerging pathogens. In addition to her appointment as the COVID-19 Technical Lead, Dr Van Kerkhove is also the Head of the Emerging Diseases and Zoonoses Unit within the WHO's Health Emergencies Programme.



Chelsea Taylor is Technical Officer with Health Services Performance Assessment Unit at the World Health Organization. Dr Taylor is an epidemiologist and works on the collection and analysis of data to assess and monitor the availability, quality, resilience and performance of integrated health services. Within the WHO Pulse survey, her focus area covered the analysis of data for global, regional, and country-level assessments and comparisons.



Dierdre Hollingsworth is an infectious disease epidemiologist and modeler who uses statistical analyses to study the evolution and transmission dynamics of infectious diseases to inform the design of effective control interventions, particularly NTDs. Dr Hollingsworth leads the NTD Modelling Consortium and her research includes diseases such



as lymphatic filariasis, visceral leishmaniasis and the soil-transmitted helminthiases. She also has interests in the transmission and evolution of HIV in both Africa and European/North American settings as well as malaria and influenza.

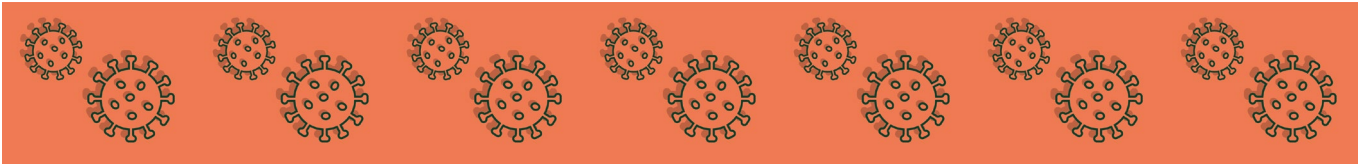


Teri Reynolds leads the Clinical Services and Systems Unit in WHO's Department of Integrated Health Service. Dr Reynolds also coordinates efforts on maintaining essential health services during COVID-19 and previously led the emergency and trauma care programmes at WHO. Before joining WHO, she served as Associate Professor and Director of Global Health for the Department of Emergency Medicine, University of California, San Francisco. She has also worked in research programmes in Africa.



Aya Yajima is the focal point for the control and elimination of NTDs in the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office. Dr Yajima coordinates with WHO Headquarters, Country Offices, donors and partners to provide technical support for NTD-endemic Member States in the Region for accelerating control and elimination of NTDs.





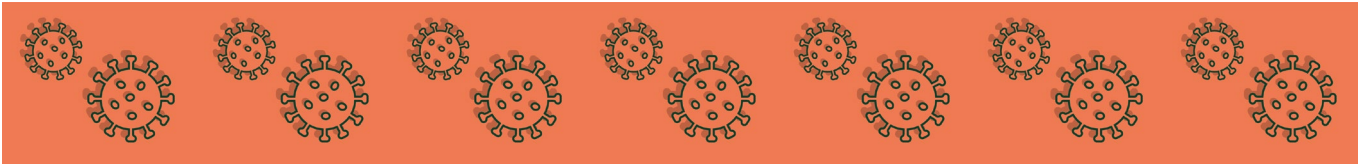
Phil Downs is the NTD Technical Director at Sightsavers. In this capacity, Dr. Downs leads a team of technical experts to promote global standards and best practices for the control and elimination of NTDs. He received his doctoral degree from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and Master in Public Health from Emory University. Dr. Downs' early work in NTDs was as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Cote d'Ivoire (97-99), leading to extensive work on Guinea worm eradication and Trachoma control as Deputy Director at The Carter Center. Before joining Sightsavers, he was Senior Manager on NTD programming at RTI International.



Idalia Hernández is President of the 'Association of People Affected by the Chagas disease' of Mexico (AMEPACH) and the current Chair of the 'International Federation of People Affected by Chagas' (FINDECHAGAS) which is itself made up of 23 associations from various parts of the world. FINDECHAGAS is also a member of the International Alliance of Patients Organizations. As a parent whose child has Chagas disease, Ms Hernández fully understands the importance of advocating for access to healthcare.



Deborah is a postdoctoral medical anthropologist at the Institute of Biodiversity Animal Health & Comparative Medicine of the University of Glasgow. In collaboration with the Center for One Health Research of the University of Washington, I work on a project, funded by the European Commission, on the impact of cultural and religious factors on the management of human and dog rabies in rural western India. I also work as a consultant for the Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases at the World Health Organization. I authored the book "Rabies in the Streets. Interspecies Camaraderie in Urban India".

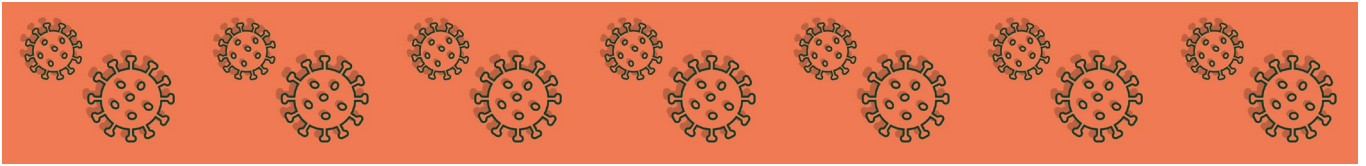


David Addiss is Director and Founder of The Task Force's Focus Area for Compassion and Ethics and has held many positions including Director of Children Without Worms and Senior Advisor of the Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy.

Before joining the Task Force, Dr Addis worked Physician Consultant in preventive medicine, science, and global health and served in various capacities, including violence prevention and on the role of compassion in global health. Dr Addis also spent 20 years at the CDC conducting research on parasitic diseases. He co-founded WHO's collaborating Center for LF at the CDC and served as Technical Advisor to TDR.



Pedro L. Alonso is Director of WHO's Global Malaria Programme (GMP) and leads a team to coordinate global efforts to control and eliminate malaria. Dr Alonso spent over 30 years in public health. He has published over 500 articles in international peer-reviewed journals – primarily on malaria treatment, vaccine trials and preventive therapies. He also served on several national and international committees and is committed to capacity building - primarily in Africa.



Luis Gerardo Castellanos is unit chief of Communicable Diseases and Environmental Determinants of Health and Neglected, Tropical, and Vector Borne Diseases in PAHO.

He has assisted countries in outbreak investigation and control, including the implementation of outbreaks prevention and control strategies for natural disasters. Dr Castellanos currently heads programs to prevent, control, and eliminate malaria, dengue, Chagas, leprosy, leishmaniasis, and many other neglected and vector-borne infectious disease. His duties also include oversight of PAHO's Public Health Entomology Program. A native of Guatemala, Dr Castellanos earned a Medical degree from San Carlos University' School of Medicine.