

The WHO Technical Advisory Group for Maternal and Perinatal Health Guidelines

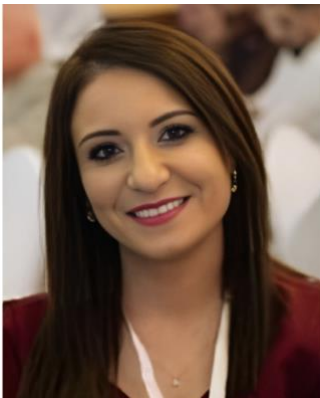
July 2024

Overview

In 2023, the SRH Department has established the **WHO Technical Advisory Group for Maternal and Perinatal Health Guidelines** (MPH TAG) to oversee the prioritization and development of new and updated recommendations in maternal and perinatal health. The MPH TAG continues the work of the adjourned Executive Guideline Steering Group (Executive GSG). WHO wants to acknowledge all the participants that contributed with their time and expertise and thank their commitment to achieve evidence-based recommendations for care for pregnant women and their babies.

Experts

Hadil Ali-Masri



Dr. Hadil Ali-Masri, MBBS, PhD, is a dedicated consultant obstetrician and gynecologist with an experience in maternal childbirth perineal injuries. She completed her PhD in detection and prevention of obstetric anal sphincter injuries in Palestine at the University of Oslo, Norway (2018). Leading the Women's Health and Development Unit at the Ministry of Health, she excels in formulating strategies, developing national clinical guidelines, and enhancing healthcare provider capacity. As an assistant professor at Birzeit University's Women's Health Master program, she conducts research in maternal health and contributes to international projects like the Midwifery Research and Education Development initiative. Dr. Hadil is a member of the OBGYN Specialty Program Supervisory Committee, shaping program prerequisites, learning resources, and trainee assessments. Her strategic thinking, problem-solving skills, and commitment to excellence drive impactful collaborations in women's sexual and reproductive health services.

Melania Maria Ramos de Amorim



Dr. Amorim holds a degree in medicine from the Federal University of Paraíba and PhD in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the State University of Campinas. She is currently Assistant Professor of the Federal University of Campina Grande (PB) and professor at the Integrative Medicine Institute Prof. Fernando Figueira. Dr. Amorim acts as technical and scientific consultant in Maternal and Child Health at Health Institute Elpidio de Almeida (ISEA) in Campina Grande - PB, where she coordinates the High-Risk Pregnancy Unit. She is also Coordinator of the Municipal Maternal Death Committee Campina Grande and a core coordinator of midwifery Urbana (Nupar) Network for the Humanization of Childbirth (ReHuNa) in Brazil. She is the author of six books and 24 book chapters and is part of the chartered body of the Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics (RBGO) and FEMINA. Since 2009 she is a research associate of the Group of Pregnancy and Birth the Cochrane Library.

Aikant Bhatti



Dr. Aikant Bhatti is a medical doctor with specialization in public health and is currently working as Chief-of-Party for a USAID supported project. He has more than 15 years of experience in implementation, measurement, and evaluation of public health programs in Africa and Southeast Asia. Dr. Aikant, as WHO consultant provided technical support for surveillance and outbreak response activities in Sierra Leone, during the 2013-16 Ebola outbreak in West Africa. He has worked with the UN, international organization, ministries of health and academic institutions for improving maternal health outcomes, coverage for vaccine preventable disease of childhood, control of Neglected Tropical Diseases and emerging infectious diseases like H1N1, Ebola and COVID-19. Dr Aikant is a specialist in measurement, disease surveillance and programme implementation. His interest areas include interventions for improving maternal and child health outcomes, health system strengthening and data for action.

Yamikani Chimwaza



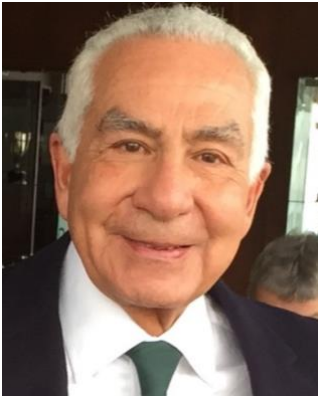
Dr. Yamikani Chimwaza is a medical doctor and global maternal health researcher with expertise in clinical research, medical practice, health systems strengthening, and maternal and perinatal health research. Dr. Chimwaza is an investigator within the Maternal and Fetal Health Group at the Malawi-Liverpool Wellcome Programme and is the current president of the Women in Global Health chapter in Malawi. She is a strong advocate for women's health and gender equality initiatives. Her research focuses on advancing the diagnosis of maternal sepsis through diagnostic biomarkers and using patient experiences to improve the quality of care in sub-Saharan Africa.

Stefan Gebhardt



Prof. Stefan Gebhardt is a clinical and academic Obstetrician and Gynaecologist based at Tygerberg Hospital/Stellenbosch University in Cape Town, South Africa, where he is professor and head of general O&G. His interest and research centers on genetic aspects of early pregnancy disease, clinical governance in maternity services and health systems planning. He plays an active role in provincial and national policy and guideline development for programmes involved in termination of pregnancy, sterilisation services, antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care and confidential enquiries into maternal and perinatal deaths. He has participated in the development of the national maternity case record, the national maternity care guideline policy, has written chapters for the national Saving Mothers report and serves on several advisory committees related to maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality; as well as affordable medicines. He is the lead writer and editor of the updated South African Maternity Care Guideline.

Alfredo Guzman



Dr. Guzman is an independent consultant with 40 years' experience in the field of Reproductive Health, Public Health, Population, and Development. He has a broad experience in country needs assessment, program and project development, sectorial analysis and health sector reform. Has carried on an assessment of Obstetric Care Emergency Centers at Hospitals and Health Centers in 10 regions of Peru. In the last years he has been involved in training for health professionals on the management of Postpartum Hemorrhage using phantoms and simulators in Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Trinidad and Tobago. He is the instructor of ALARM INTERNATIONAL in Obstetrical Emergencies of The Society of Obstetrician and Gynecologists of Canada. He currently works as Maternal Fetal Medicine specialist in private practice. He is a member of the National Commission of Medical Residency for the elaboration of the new curricula nationwide, for the training of Obstetrician and Gynecologist, with the support of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Vanora Hundley



Prof. Hundley is Professor of Midwifery at Bournemouth University in England, UK. She is an internationally recognised midwifery researcher, having written over 120 peer-reviewed research articles. Vanora has led a range of studies in the reproductive health field both in the UK and internationally. She conducted one of the first randomised controlled trials of midwife-led care. More recent work has examined the role of labour practices and their impact on maternal and neonatal outcomes, both in low and high-income settings.

Koiwah Koi-Larbi



Koiwah Koi-Larbi is a highly driven and enthusiastic Maternal & Newborn Health Activist, Community Engagement & Involvement Specialist & an Social Entrepreneur with a background in Medical Law & Ethics. In 2017, she founded Action on Preeclampsia Ghana (APEC) , the sole national Preeclampsia patient advocacy organization in Ghana with the aim of awareness to reduce infant and maternal mortality associated with Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy. In addition to being a “Patient/Consumer” Representative for the WHO TAG, she is a member of the Public Advisory Group for National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR), UK, a consortium partner of the Severe Preeclampsia Adverse Triage (SPOT) Impact Study and a Trial Steering Committee Member of the PEARLS (Preventing preeclampsia: Evaluating AspRin Low-dose regimens following risk Screening) Trial. Koiwah was awarded Female Social Entrepreneur in the 2021 Young Entrepreneurs Awards (YEA) and recognized as part of the 100 Most Outstanding Female Change Makers in Ghana in 2020-2021 by the Humanitarian Awards Global. In her free time, Koiwah likes to dance, cook and travel.

Kristina Vogel



©Michael Wodak/MedizinFotoKöln

Kristina Vogel is a certified midwife since 2016, and has worked as an employed and freelance midwife in clinical and non-clinical settings. She completed her B.Sc. in midwifery in 2016 and her M.Sc. in evidence-based health care at the Hochschule fuer Gesundheit Bochum (HS Gesundheit, University of Applied Sciences) in 2018. From 2017 to 2022 she was a research assistant in the field of midwifery at the HS Gesundheit. Since 2023, she has been a research assistant at the Institute of Midwifery Science (University of Cologne, Faculty of Medicine and University Hospital Cologne). Kristina Vogel is a PhD student at Witten/Herdecke University (School of Nursing Science, Faculty of Health). Her dissertation concerns the impact of AR on the self-confidence of expectant midwives in emergency situations.

Elizabeth Molyneux



Dr. Elizabeth Molyneux is an emeritus professor of paediatrics, and former head of department at Kamuzu University of Health Sciences in Blantyre, Malawi. She first went to Malawi in 1974 and except for 10 years back in Liverpool UK where she worked in oncology and then was clinical director of the emergency department at the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, she and her husband lived and worked in Malawi for over 33 years. She was a founder of the APLS in UK and Europe and the ETAT course for WHO. In the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital Blantyre she developed the emergency unit, was instrumental in starting the palliative care service for children (the first in Africa), the KMC unit and oncology services. More recently she is part of NEST team providing holistic support that includes cost effective, robust, reliable medical devices for neonatal care in low-income settings. Her research interests are wide and include neonatal care and infection, infectious diseases, 'tropical' oncology, emergency care, health care delivery and health care systems.

Rintaro Mori



Dr. Rintaro Mori, MD PhD MSc FRCPCH, is a global health practitioner in the areas of women's and children's health with 30 years' experiences at the community, national, and international levels. He is a qualified paediatrician in both Japan and the United Kingdom, involved in policy/guideline devolvement in the UK, Japan and a number of Low- and Middle-Income Countries including working experiences with and for WHO and UNFPA with academic roles at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the University of Tokyo and others with a track record of over 300 scientific publications in internationally recognised journals. He is a specially appointed Professor at the Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka University and a professor (Visiting) of Health Policy for Children and Families at the Kyoto University. He is also a representative of SPACe: Social Policy Action Collective.

Evelyn Obregon



Dr. Evelyn Obregon is a Neonatal-Perinatal Fellow at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. She is dedicated to improving outcomes for premature and critically ill newborns – both through her work in her local community, and by participating in global health activities. She earned her medical degree at San Martin de Porres University in Lima, Peru, and completed her pediatric residency at the University of Florida Shands Children's Hospital. In addition to her clinical training, Dr. Obregon pursued a research fellowship in Newborn Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center / Harvard Medical School in Boston. During this time, she conducted and published research with a focus on improving care for underserved populations. Throughout her residency, Dr. Obregon continued to cultivate this mission as she conducted research and fieldwork to help Hispanic families enroll their children in public health insurance programs. Her work in this area was supported by a grant from the American Academy of Pediatrics. In 2022, her efforts in the field were recognized with the Audrey L. Schiebler Award for Excellence in Child Advocacy by the University of Florida. In 2023, she also gained national recognition with the David C. Leach Award from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). Currently, Dr. Obregon's research interests continue to focus on health equity and advocacy, with a growing interest in improving outcomes for preterm infants with Acute Kidney Injury.

Babasola Okusanya



Dr Babasola Okusanya is an Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the College of Medicine, University of Lagos, Nigeria. In this position, he teaches medical students and conducts research on prevailing maternal and perinatal health challenges in Nigeria and globally. As a Consultant Obstetrician Gynecologist, he provides clinical services at the affiliated Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), Idi-Araba, where he trains resident doctors. Dr. Okusanya is also a health promotion scientist and an associate director of Cochrane Nigeria. He has many peer-reviewed scholarly journal publications to his credit. He has served as a temporary advisor to the WHO for several years providing evidence synthesis reports and providing practice perspectives from a low-income country. He has been appointed a WHO Technical Advisory Group (TAG) member for maternal and perinatal health Guidelines since 2023.

Aris Papageorghiou (Chair)



Dr. Papageorghiou is a Clinician-Scientist in the area of maternal and perinatal health. His clinical expertise is in maternal disease in pregnancy, fetal diagnosis and therapy and ultrasound. Academically, he has a large research group with a focused interest in maternal, fetal and perinatal health using diverse methods - including clinical epidemiology, trials, cohort studies, data synthesis and implementation science. This includes large global projects in low resource settings using ultrasound, biomarkers and clinical methods to improve fetal growth phenotyping. One of his major research lines is the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in imaging. Apart from an active academic group in this field, this has also led him to found the Oxford spin-out, Intelligent Ultrasound. In leadership he has successfully led and developed a large Obstetric department at St George's for many years; and is now director of research at the Oxford Maternal and Perinatal Health Institute, which involves over 270 researchers from 18 countries. He is a prolific academic with over 450 original articles and an h-index of 92. He has received many honours, including a prestigious Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Athens; Honorary Fellow Award of the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine; and Fellowship of the International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology. He is the National Chair of the Expert Working Group in OBGYN for NHS Digital, UK. He has served on a number of Editorial and Advisory Boards. Since 2022, he has been Editor-in-Chief for the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. In 2023, he was appointed as Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee for Maternal and Perinatal Health Guidelines at the WHO.

Petr Velebil



Petr Velebil graduated from the Medical School of Charles University in Prague, in 1981. He started his career in the Institute for the Care of Mother and Child in Prague, and he deepened his knowledge and expertise in perinatal epidemiology during work at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He used his CDC experience to support the Czech MoH as a member of the Perinatology Advisory Board, which defined the network of perinatal centres and developed the nationwide perinatal surveillance system, using the WHO experience. Dr. Velebil was working on the WHO Regional Advisory Panel for Reproductive Health in Europe, and he is involved in the EuroPeristat Project in Europe. Dr Velebil is working in clinical perinatology and perinatal epidemiology as a chief of the Perinatal Centre of the Institute for the Care of Mother and Child and a director of the WHO CC for Perinatal Medicine.