The Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention Department hosted an annual meeting of the STAG-IH, from 24-26 October 2022. 30 experts from various areas of expertise have been invited to attend. All the experts have completed and submitted their duly completed Declaration of Interest (DOI) and Confidentiality Undertaking forms. On review of the completed DOIs, the following ten experts either declared or were reviewed by the Secretariat for potentially relevant interests. It was assessed that all the members could fully participate in the meeting.

This report summarizes the review:

- **Professor Daniel Bausch:** Serves on a Strategic Advisory Board for Molecular Partners, a biotech company.
- **Professor Eve Dubé:** Receives various research funding supports as Principal Investigator. The funding sources are assessed as public or non-profit making.
- **Professor Jodie McVernon:** University of Melbourne, for which she provides consulting and research support, receives various research funding supports. The funding sources are assessed as public or non-profit making.
- **Professor Hitoshi Oshitani:** Provided pro-bono consultations to GSK Japan/Global
- **Professor Myoung-don Oh:** Seoul National University Hospital, for which he serves as Professor of Internal Medicine receives funding from pharmaceutical industries.
- **Professor Malik Peiris:** University of Hong Kong, for which he serves as Professor of Department of Microbiology receives research fundings from various sources. The funding sources are assessed as public or non-profit making. MP holds patent and proprietary know how in technology or process. He serves as Chairman of the Board and Director of the centre for immunology and infection.
- **Professor Helen Rees:** Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute, for which she serves as the Executive Director, receives a trial site for COVID-19 vaccines. HR is the National Co-PI for the Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 Therapy (RECOVERY) protocol.
- **Professor Anna Vassall:** London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, for which she serves as Director of Global Health Economics Centre, receives research funds from various sources.

Further to a meeting with WHO’s Compliance, Risk Management and Ethics (CRE) Department, the STAG-IH Secretariat sought additional information from the six experts regarding their respective disclosed interests:
**Professor Daniel Bausch**
Professor Daniel Bausch is Senior Director, Emerging threats and global health security at FIND. Molecular Partners seeks to develop therapeutics for emerging infectious diseases and he received payment in 2021. Professor Bausch resigned from the Board at the time he was appointed as STAG-IH member.

Conclusion: This interest was assessed as personal, specific and financially insignificant and as well as recent past interest and not to constitute a conflict of interest in regard to this meeting.

**Professor Hitoshi Oshitani**
Professor Hitoshi Oshitani is Professor at Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine. His research foci are epidemiology and control of infectious diseases especially viral infections such as influenza, respiratory syncytial virus, norovirus, rabies; molecular evolution and pathogenesis of respiratory viruses; control of paediatric pneumonia in low- and middle-income countries; public health recovery after a major disaster; preparedness for emerging infectious diseases. In his DOI, he noted that he had provided pro-bono consulting to GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) on COVID-19. After an initial screening of the DOI and consultation with CRE, the secretariat requested further information on the consulting contract, specifically the type of the work. Professor Oshitani advised that the consulting was on monoclonal antibody therapy (Strovimab) with GSK Japan and on RSV surveillance in adults with GSK Global. This information was shared with CRE.

Conclusion: Upon receipt and review of the additional information, it was determined that this interest did not present a conflict in respect of the meeting and Professor Oshitani could participate as a member.

**Professor Myoung-don Oh**
Professor Myoung-don OH is Professor of Department of Internal Medicine at Seoul National University. The University Hospital conducts clinical trials and receives research funds from LG Chemical for pneumococcal vaccine phase1, GeneOne Life Science for MERS DNA vaccine phase1, Korea MSD for V114vsPneumovax23, phase3, SK Bioscience for KRW SARS CoV-2 vaccine, phase1.

Conclusion: This interest was assessed as non-personal, non-specific and financially significant. It was concluded that this interest did not present a conflict in respect of the meeting and Professor Oh could participate as a member.

**Professor Malik Peiris**
Professor Malik Peiris is the Chair Professor, Department of Microbiology, The University of Hong Kong. His research foci are laboratory science, immunology and clinical microbiology of emerging respiratory virus infections including zoonosis. Professor Peiris declared that he held patents and proprietary know how in technology or process through the University of Hong Kong on 1) process of sewage surveillance for SARS-CoV-2, and on 2) use of ORF8 for SARS-CoV-2 serology. 3) MP is one of the Co-Directors and board chair of the Centre of
Immunology and Infection, at the Hong Kong Science and Technologies Park. It is a Hong Kong Government funded research institute but in the format of a Company.

Conclusion: This information was shared with CRE.

Conclusion

Upon receipt and review of the additional information, for 1) it was assessed that the interest could potentially constitute a conflict of interest if waste-water surveillance methodology would be discussed. For 2) and 3) were assessed not to constitute a conflict of interest in regard to the scope of the meeting therefore Professor Peiris could participate as a member while secretariat and the Chair took note on point 1) and requested Prof Peiris to abstain from making recommendations on this topic.

Professor Helen Rees

Professor Helen Rees is the Executive Director of Wits RHI. The Institute is a trial site for the following COVID-19 vaccines. Professor Rees is not PI of any of these trials. Professor Rees is not involved in the implementation of these trials. Professor Rees declares that Wits RHI makes no profit from the trials mentioned below.

Wits RHI-Novovax2019: nCoV501phase 2A/B
PfizerC4591015 phase 2/3
CoVPN3008 site selection
C4591015 Pfizer phase 2/3
VAC31518COV2004(Paeds) HORIZON1 J&J
VAC31518COV3006(Paeds) HORIZON2 J&J
NVX2019COV505 phase 2
BaSiS phase 2 approved vaccines in people living with HIV
Sisonke 4 (SHERPA) open-label phase 3
Gristone GO-012 phase 1

The same information was shared with CRE at the occasion that she was appointed and continued to be appointed as member of Emergency Committee.

Conclusion: the interest was assessed as non-personal, non-specific and financially significant and concluded that this interest did not present a conflict in respect of the meeting and Professor Rees could participate as a member.

Professor Anna Vassall

Professor Anna Vassall is Director of Global Health Economics Centre. Her research focus is health economics including cost effectiveness.

The following funds were received recently on relevant research (PI):
Costs and cost-effectiveness of COVID Vaccine and testing from BMGF
COVID-19 Modelling for Pakistan from Foreign Commonwealth Development Office
In the last four years, as PI, funds were received from BMGF on TB, HIV, and primary care.

This information was shared with CRE.
Conclusion: The interest was assessed as non-personal, non-specific and financially significant. It was concluded that this interest did not present a conflict in respect of the meeting and Professor Vassall could participate as a member.

According to WHO’s Guidelines for Declaration of Interests (WHO expert), an interest is considered "personal" if it generates financial or non-financial gain to the expert, such as consulting income or a patent. "Specificity" states whether the declared interest is a subject matter of the meeting or work to be undertaken. An interest has "financial significance" if the honoraria, consultancy fee from any single for-profit entity exceeds 5,000 USD in a calendar year. Likewise, a shareholding in any one for-profit entity in excess of 5,000 USD would also constitute a “significant shareholding”. As per WHO assessment of conflicts of interests, “Institution” relates only to the expert’s research/or work unit, as subdivision of the department. Funding going to the member’s research unit needs to be declared.