

2nd Alumni Refresher Vaccinology Course (4-6 June + 11-13 June 2024)

Lecturers and Panellists' Biographies



Jala' Abdelwahab – Vaccine Programmes Director, holds a Master of Public Health in Infectious Disease Epidemiology from University of Michigan School of Public Health (Ann Arbor). He joined GAVI in February 2022 as the Director of Vaccine Programmes leading the team responsible for the design and roll-out of new vaccine introductions including HPV and Malaria, supporting preventive and outbreak response campaigns including for measles, rubella and stock-pile vaccines such as cholera, Ebola and Yellow Fever as well as strengthening detection through introduction and use of new diagnostics tools.

Immediately prior to joining Gavi Jala' worked at UNICEF Cambodia Country Office as Deputy Representative Programmes where he managed the Health and Nutrition, Education, WASH, Child Protection and Public Financing for Children programmes and coordinated humanitarian programming including flood and COVID19 responses and recovery. Jala' spent over 20 years working for the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office and UNICEF among others on infectious disease control and eradication programmes primarily in Africa and Asia with a focus on equity and supporting fragile and conflict affected countries. He comes with a depth of experience in nurturing leadership, change management, and strategy and partnership development.

Jala' is Palestinian and American; He has lived in Palestine, Egypt, Kenya, Cambodia, Australia, US, and Switzerland. He speaks Arabic and English. Jala' is passionate about swimming and the sea, dancing, reading, painting, social justice and spending quality time with loved ones.



Dr Jakob Peter Cramer is a medical doctor specialised in internal medicine, tropical medicine, travel medicine and infectious diseases. He joined the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) as Director of Clinical Development in June 2019. Prior to his role at CEPI, Jakob was Head of the Tropical Medicine Section at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf as well as the Clinical Research Unit at the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine (BNITM) in Hamburg, Germany, where he founded the clinical

trials unit and conducted Phase 1/2/3 vaccine trials against various infectious diseases (including influenza, rabies, Japanese encephalitis, meningococcal diseases, travellers' diarrhoea). During his 14 years in academia, he engaged in epidemiological and investigator-initiated clinical research in Africa. From 2014 to 2019, Jakob held the position of Medical Director, Clinical Development, Vaccine Business Unit, Takeda Pharmaceuticals International AG, Zurich, Switzerland where he was actively involved in Takeda's norovirus and dengue as well as the BMGF-funded polio vaccine development programmes. He is a lecturer at the BNITM in Hamburg as well as on the MSc Course in Vaccinology at the University of Siena, Italy. He is also a member of a number of infectious diseases societies.



Dr. Clare L. Cutland is the Scientific Coordinator of the African Leadership in Vaccinology Expertise (Wits-Alive) consortium. She coordinates the Masters of Science (Med) in the field of vaccinology degree and a biennial 8-day long short course in vaccinology (Afro-ADVAC) at The University of the Witwatersrand. She recently coordinated a multi-country hospital-based sentinel active COVID-19 vaccine surveillance study across eight African countries, and is the project lead on a large multi-country maternal immunisation trial readiness project.

Previously, she spent 18 years as a clinical researcher in vaccinology at the Respiratory and Meningeal Pathogens Research Unit (RMPRU, now Wits-VIDA), based at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH), Soweto, South Africa. She was an investigator on numerous phase I, II and III paediatric, maternal and COVID-19 clinical vaccine trials, and was the clinical lead for several large grant-funded neonatal sepsis prevention studies, maternal-neonatal sepsis surveillance studies and maternal immunization trials (Influenza, GBS, RSV). She was involved in the GAIA Brighton collaboration definition working groups (2014-2020), and has led field-testing of the definitions and updated the stillbirth GAIA definition. She served as a member of the scientific board of the Brighton collaboration (2018-2023), and is on the executive committee of IMPRINT. She is a member of the Wits Institutional biosafety committee and working group for maternal COVID-19 vaccines. She is author or co-author on over 130 peer-reviewed journal articles.



Dr. Anna Durbin received her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor Michigan and her M.D. from Wayne State University in Detroit Michigan. She is certified in the specialties of Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases.

Following her fellowship in infectious diseases, Dr. Durbin became a Medical Officer at the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health where she spent 5 years using recombinant DNA technology to develop novel live attenuated respiratory virus vaccines.

She left the NIH to become a tenure-track faculty in the Department of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health where she is currently Professor of International Health and the Director of the Center for Immunization Research. She is the Principal Investigator of a National Institutes of Health contract to evaluate vaccines and antimicrobials in adults and pediatric subjects. She has served as the Principal Investigator for more than 30 clinical trials evaluating the safety and immunogenicity novel flavivirus vaccine candidates. These trials have led to the identification of a live attenuated tetravalent dengue vaccine that is currently being evaluated in flavivirus-naïve and flavivirus-experienced volunteers in Brazil and Thailand and is in Phase 3 efficacy trials in Brazil. She has, in collaboration with NIH scientists, developed controlled human infection models (CHIM) for dengue and Zika virus to down-select candidate vaccines and therapeutics prior to the initiation of large-scale efficacy trials in endemic areas.

Dr. Durbin served as the site Principal Investigator for one COVID-19 vaccine and a site investigator for a second COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 3 clinical trials. She has served on numerous FDA, CDC, and WHO vaccine advisory committees.

Dr. Durbin received a National Institutes of Health Merit Award in 2005, a National Institutes of Health Director's Award in 2011 and the Instituto Butantan medal, Sao Paulo Brazil, in 2013. She has published more than 100 peer-reviewed papers. She is currently the Director of the Center for Immunization Research at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.



Dr Mateusz Hasso-Agopsowicz is a Technical Officer in the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals (IVB) at the World Health Organization (WHO). He holds a PhD in Vaccine Immunology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). Dr Mateusz leads theme areas on the role of vaccines in reducing antimicrobial resistance (AMR), development of vaccine-microarray patches (MAPs) and enteric vaccines at the WHO. His work prioritises and facilitates the development of vaccines and delivery systems that will be readily used in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Dr Mateusz has assessed the pipeline of vaccines in development and their value to reduce AMR to inform vaccine prioritisation during development, introduction, and use, and the selection of vaccines for the Gavi Vaccine Investment Strategy. He has also published and disseminated the WHO's strategy on leveraging vaccines to reduce AMR and antibiotic use. His research activities for vaccines with potentially high impact on AMR include research roadmaps, value proposition assessments, and documents summarising vaccine-preferred product characteristics.



Dr Joachim Hombach is Senior Health Adviser and Executive Secretary of WHO's principal advisory body on immunization SAGE at the Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals of WHO. As head of the policy team, he oversees the development of global immunization policies. In addition, he contributes to global strategy development. He and his team provide advice to WHO regions on the adaptation and implementation of policies through interaction with regional immunization technical advisory bodies.

His team also provides support to institutional capacity development of national immunization technical advisory groups (NITAGs), and serves as secretariat to the Global NITAG Network, and as hub for partner coordination in this field. During the COVID-19 pandemic, his team has been leading the development of global COVID19 vaccination recommendations.

Before taking his current position in 2017, Joachim Hombach had several other managerial positions at WHO in the field of vaccine research and immunization, including coordinator implementation research, coordinator policy and strategy and acting head of the Initiative for Vaccine Research. Before joining WHO, Joachim Hombach had positions with the global vaccine industry, the European Commission and academia.

Dr Hombach holds a PhD in immunology from the University of Cologne ("summa cum laude"), Germany, and an MPH from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA. Multiple peer-reviewed publications have emerged from his work in academia and global public health. <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3271-6033>



A/Prof Benjamin Kagina directs the NITAG Support Hub (NISH) and co-directs the Vaccines for Africa Initiative (VACFA). Both NISH and VACFA are based at the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa. NISH is a project that aims to provide scientific support to NITAGs in Africa on Evidence-Informed Decision-Making (EIDM).

A/Prof Kagina has a PhD in Clinical Sciences & Immunology (UCT), Postdoctoral fellowship in Immunology and Vaccinology (UCT). His work is focused on addressing policy relevant vaccinology questions, by utilizing diverse methods among which is the

application of the principles of EIDM in vaccinology. A/Prof Kagina has several publications in the fields of immunology and vaccinology. His work also includes leading activities aimed at developing vaccinology expertise in Africa.



Stephan Lewandowsky is a cognitive scientist interested in the pressure points between the architecture of online information technologies and human cognition, and the consequences for democracy that arise from those pressure points. This has led him to examine the persistence of misinformation and spread of "fake news" in society, including conspiracy theories, and how platform algorithms may contribute to the prevalence of misinformation. He is also interested in the variables that determine whether or not people accept scientific evidence, for example surrounding vaccinations or climate science. Because his research speaks to important contemporary issues, he works with policy makers, mainly at the European level, to make democracy more resilient to toxicity online. He also contribute to public debate through opinion pieces in the media and public engagements. In 2022, he was identified as a highly cited researcher by Clarivate and was elected to the German National Academy of Sciences (Leopoldina).



Aurélia Nguyen is Chief Programme Officer at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance – the first person to hold the position. In this role, Aurélia is responsible for assuring the delivery of Gavi's programmes end to end, from the design of vaccine and health system programmes and manufacturer interactions, through to the delivery of impact with countries through their immunisation systems. She oversees execution across all vaccine programmes and Gavi supported countries, adapting Gavi support to ensure no one is left behind with immunisation. Previously, Aurélia served as Managing Director of the Office of the COVAX Facility, beginning in October 2020.

In this role, Aurélia set up and ran the COVAX Facility, an emergency organisation, which after the Paris Agreement on climate change is one of the largest multilateral initiatives in history. By negotiating a US\$ 10 billion COVID-19 portfolio and stewarding US\$ 1.6 billion in delivery funding, COVAX averted an estimated 2.7 million deaths across participating low- and middle-income economies. In a previous appointment, Aurélia served as Gavi's Managing Director for Vaccines & Sustainability, where she was responsible for introducing ten new antigens in the Gavi portfolio – including HPV, Ebola and malaria – and for designing Gavi's resources into financially sustainable vaccine programmes and markets, ultimately increasing uptake of life-saving vaccines.

Prior to joining Gavi in 2011, Aurélia held a variety of posts between 1999 and 2010 within GlaxoSmithKline, where latterly she led the development of GSK's policies on access to medicines and vaccines in lower income countries. She has also undertaken research for the

World Health Organization (WHO) on generic medicines policies. Aurélia is of French and Vietnamese origin. She is a certified accountant and holds a Master's degree in Health Policy, Planning & Financing from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and the London School of Economics. She represents Gavi on the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)'s Polio Oversight Board (POB); and serves on the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)'s Board of Trustees. Aurélia was bestowed the Medal of Friendship by Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh in 2023 and was named by TIME magazine to the 2021 TIME100 Next list, honouring "the 100 individuals who are shaping the future of their fields and defining the next generation of leadership".



Hanna M. Nohynek Chief Physician, Unit Infectious Diseases Control and Vaccines, Department Health Security, Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland. She completed her medical studies, PhD and international health and travel health competence in Helsinki. She is former (serves as) secretary and present member of the Finnish NITAG, (47) and lead of the Strategic development of covid-19 and influenza vaccination programmes. She was instrumental in designing the HPV vaccine introduction to the Finnish NIP.

Her research interests are register based vaccine impact studies, evidence-based policy/decision making, vaccine safety, hesitancy, respiratory infections (covid-19, RSV, influenza, and pneumococcus). She led communications development in IMI DRIVE (www.drive-eu.org , brand-specific influenza vaccine effectiveness) and is WP and task lead in IMI PROMISE (imi.promise-eu , RSV prevention).

She has authored >180 original articles (incl first scientific report on association between pandemic influenza vaccination vs narcolepsy), and teaches, guides elective, graduate, and PhD students. She has served expert committees evaluating HBV, PCV, rota virus and covid-19 vaccines in Finland, and as advisor to EU, IMI, IVI, iccdr,b, WHO, GAVI, SIDA/SRC, Finnish MOFA. She was the Chairman of the WHO SAGE external evaluation (EAGSE), Chairman EPIET 1998-2001, EDCTP 2002-3. She presently is chair of WHO SAGE, formerly chair of SAGE working group on covid-19 vaccines, member of WHO SAGE subgroup influenza vaccines, a member of GAVI Programme and Policy Committee, a member of the ECDC NITAG coordinating committee, and Advisory Board of the ECDC & EMA Vaccine Monitoring Platform, and Vice chair and Board Member International Vaccine Institute, and also board member of the iccdr,b.

She belongs to the Faculty of ADVAC since its initiation 2000-, initiated EPIET vaccine module 1997, and Finnish Diploma Course Global Health 2000. She practices clinical medicine at the travel health clinic Aava, Helsinki.



Marie-Pierre Preziosi, MD PhD, is a physician, researcher and public health specialist in epidemiology of infectious and tropical diseases and clinical research on vaccines. She is Lead Meningitis and Co-Lead R&D Blueprint to prevent epidemics at the World Health Organization in Geneva.

From 2012-2014, she was director of the Meningitis Vaccine Project, a partnership between WHO and PATH. The project mission was to eliminate epidemic meningitis as a public health problem in sub-Saharan Africa through the development, introduction, and use of meningococcal conjugate vaccines. A project member since 2003, Dr Preziosi previously served as the director of clinical development. She previously conducted research on pertussis vaccination, as a visiting assistant professor at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta, USA, and at the Institute for Research and Development in Senegal where she conducted pertussis vaccine trials and epidemiological studies.

Her interest in vaccines started with Hib vaccine studies at Pasteur Mérieux. She received her medical degree from Lyon University and her PhD in epidemiology from Bordeaux University, France. She trained in tropical medicine at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium, and in field epidemiology at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, USA.



Christoph Steffen holds a Medical Doctorate with a specialisation in Public Health and an MSc in epidemiology from the Paris and Versailles Universities and an MSc from Imperial College London. He is an ADVAC alumni (2018).

After starting his career in the area of epidemic and pandemic surveillance and influenza with WHO in 2006, Christoph Steffen worked at the European Commission as a research project and policy officer; with AMP, a French non-profit organization active in vaccinology; and later as a public health practitioner in a large general hospital in Annecy (France).

Since 2017, Christoph Steffen has been working in the WHO immunization department in Geneva (Switzerland), where he coordinated, until the end of 2020, the Global Vaccine Action Plan secretariat. He is currently working in the SAGE secretariat and supporting the work of NITAGs at global and regional level.



Dr. Naveen Thacker is the Director of Deep Children Hospital & Research Centre at Gandhidham-Kutch, Gujarat, India. He is the President of the International Pediatric Association (IPA) for the year 2023-2025. He is a member of the External Advisory Board (EAB) of the ImmuHubs Projects and he also serves as a member of the RIVER-EU Advisory Board.

He is an active member of the Scientific Committee member of the Advanced Course of Vaccinology (ADVAC), France. He is also currently serving as a member of the PMNCH and is also nominated to serve on the Executive Committee for the PMNCH. He has served as a former CSO representative for the GAVI Alliance Board. He is currently an active member of the Indian Expert Advisory Group on Measles and Rubella. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. He has served as the president of the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA) for the year 2016-2018 and the National President of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics for the year 2007. He has served as a course director for CHF INCLIN ADVAC 2011, 2016, and EVAC 2017.

He is listed amongst the top influencers for the fight against Polio released by UNICEF on World Polio Day 2017 and has been awarded some prestigious awards i.e., Outstanding Asian Pediatrician Award 2012, Rotary International Regional Award for Polio-free World 2010. His area of interest is in Global Health, Vaccine Hesitancy, and Vaccinology. He has over 50 publications on vaccines and immunization in peer-reviewed journals.



Angus Thomson is Principal of Irimi, an organization focused on building public trust in public health programs, with a particular focus on immunization. He is also Adjunct Clinical Professor, Department of Communication Studies, Indiana University School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI, USA.

Angus was previously Senior Social Scientist for the Demand for Immunization team at UNICEF HQ. Dr. Thomson has conceived and helped build a number of global vaccine demand programs including the Vaccination Demand Observatory, the International Pediatrics Association Vaccine Trust Project, a program of psychological inoculation against vaccine misinformation, and an international collaboration which validated the use of context-driven vaccine messaging on online platforms. He co-authored the UNICEF Vaccine Misinformation Management Field Guide (15,000+ downloads) and the Vaccine Messaging Guide.

He is a technical expert on vaccine demand and uptake for organisations like UNICEF and the World Bank, and speaks with the media, including CNN, the BBC and El Pais, on the subject. Having developed the 6As taxonomy of determinants of vaccination uptake, he has run national multi-stakeholder projects in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America that aim to improve vaccination uptake in national immunization programs. Angus has published over 30 peer-reviewed opinion pieces, research papers, and book chapters on vaccine

confidence and coverage, and co-edited an 18-paper Special Issue on Vaccine Confidence in Vaccine. He lectures on Vaccine Confidence for the VaxinLive Masters Program in Lyon, and the Harvard School for Public Health Vaccines and Vaccination course.



Dr Marta Tufet Bayona is the Head of Policy at Gavi, where she leads the Vaccine Investment Strategy and the development of an evidence-based policy framework to guide scope, allocation and programming of Gavi funding. Before joining Gavi she was the Executive Director of the UK Collaborative on Development Research, ensuring strategic coherence across three UK government departments (FCDO, BEIS, DHSC) and research funders of international development (Wellcome, UKRI). She has also led development and implementation of large global health research funding programmes and partnerships whilst

working at a range of funders including the Wellcome Trust; The Department of Health and Social Care, UK government; the African Academy of Sciences and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Prior to this she also worked for Nature Reviews Immunology and at the Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galapagos Islands. She is a Trustee of the humanitarian charity ELRHA, Vice Chair of the Galapagos Conservation Trust, and the Chair of the TDR/WHO Scientific Working Group on Capacity Strengthening. Marta holds a PhD in molecular parasitology from Imperial College London.



Prof. Dr. Pierre Van Damme is the Director of the Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination, University of Antwerp, and Professor of Vaccinology, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Antwerp. He obtained his MD from the University of Antwerp in 1984 and was for more than 35 years active in vaccine research.

He has been full professor in Vaccinology at the University of Antwerp Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences since 2000.

Pierre Van Damme is Director of the Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination (CEV, University of Antwerp), which he founded in 1994. The CEV is a WHO Collaborating Centre for the WHO European Region for the control and prevention of infectious diseases. Since 1985 the Centre has conducted more than 500 vaccine trials within the trial unit of the Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination. Recently his team has conducted a unique project for the Gates Foundation; a novel vaccine trial in quarantine conditions (“Poliopolis”). In 2022 a new facility was launched, Vaccinopolis, for the conduct of phase 1-3 vaccine trials, with a permanent contained facility for human challenge trials.

Pierre Van Damme has authored more than 550 peer-reviewed papers and obtained several awards. These include the Research Award of the University of Antwerp, the Belgian Social Medicine Award ‘Jean Van Beneden’ for his work on the introduction of universal hepatitis B immunisation programs; the Bill Marshall award of the ESPID society; the ACRP (Association

of Clinical Research Professionals) with the European Outstanding Leadership Award; the Paul Harris Fellowship by the Rotary Foundation; the Balmis distinction Award, the AHA Antwerp Innovation award, and the scientific communication award UAntwerpen.



Chris Wolff is Deputy Director, Immunization Program Strategy Team, Global Development Division at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He leads the team focused on strengthening immunization delivery platforms in priority geographies to reach more underserved communities, and adolescents, with vaccines and other vital services.

Chris has worked at the Foundation for over 8 years and has established and led multiple impact-oriented teams. The teams have led work on delivery innovations such as electronic immunization registries and new cold chain technologies as well as forging new delivery partnerships with the World Bank and other Global Health Funds.

Prior to joining the foundation in 2014, Chris worked for the World Health Organization (WHO), primarily on immunization and polio eradication. Before that, he worked as a fellow at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on tuberculosis monitoring and evaluation systems in Central Asia. Chris also spent some years teaching biology in the Czech Republic and doing research with Habitat for Humanity on the relationship between improved housing and health. Chris holds a BS in Biology from Wake Forest University and an MPH from the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health.