

## **3<sup>rd</sup> ARVAC Course (2-4 + 8-10 September 2025)**

### **Chairs' Biographies**



#### **Ombeva Malande**

Ombeva Malande is a Stanford Global Health Scholar, a Vaccinologist, and a Paediatric infectious diseases Specialist. He is a certified fellow of the College of Paediatricians of South Africa. An associate professor of paediatric infectious diseases, he is a faculty member at Moi University - Kenya, Makerere University - Uganda, and the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University - South Africa.

He is a Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group (RITAG) member for the WHO-Afro region. He is the Director of the East Africa Centre for Vaccines and Immunization (ECAVI) and convener of the ECAVI Vaccinology Course for Health Professionals, ECAVI Vaccine Health Systems, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, and ECAVI resource mobilisation for health courses. He is a member of the Steering Committee of the International Collaboration on Advanced Vaccinology Training (ICAVT).

#### **Denise Naniche**

Denise Naniche is Scientific Director at ISGlobal, Research professor and coordinator of the annual accredited Masters course "Development and Applications of Vaccines in Global Health" given as an independent course or in the Masters of Global Health. She earned her PhD in Immunology at the University of Lyon I, France and a Master in public health at San Diego State University in California.



She is an internationally recognized researcher in clinical immunology and epidemiology of viral infections, particularly in Measles and HIV. Over the past 20 years, her broad background in applied immunology and clinical epidemiology have led her to conduct multidisciplinary research focused on improving access to HIV diagnosis, treatment and control in Sub-Saharan Africa.

She developed the Vaccinology course at ISGlobal in 2014 and has coordinated it ever since. She has mentored PhD and master's students and her team has worked closely with the Mozambican National HIV program to foster translation of results into policy. She is a member of the Steering Committee of the International Collaboration on Advanced Vaccinology Training (ICAVT).



## **Kamel Senouci**

Kamel Senouci is the Director of the Advanced Course of Vaccinology (ADVAC)—an advanced vaccinology training for decision makers including academia, industry, governmental and non-governmental agencies—at the University of Geneva, Switzerland.

His career spans over 20 years, where he has worked in various institutions including the French Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and Agence de Médecine Préventive (AMP)—an international NGO. More recently, Kamel was Deputy Director in the Global Development department at the Gates Foundation, overseeing the reinforcement of the Polio Eradication and Immunization Programs.

Kamel has worked in numerous countries all over the world including the Americas, Europe, Africa, Middle East, and Asia. He has focused on public health and health policy in Low- and Middle-Income Countries; immunization; maternal and child health; outbreaks prevention, preparedness and response; health financing and health advocacy.

Kamel is a Medical Doctor with a Public Health Specialty from Paris University. He also holds a Master of Science in Epidemiology from Paris University and a Master of Science, Health policy, planning and financing from the London School of Economics and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He represents the Secretariat of the International Collaboration on Advanced Vaccinology Training (ICAVT).

## **Naveen Thacker**

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 INCLEN 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. He received the Torch Bearer of India By Economic times ET EDGE & Medwiz2023 and the FPHS Foundation Day Award Foundation for People-Centric Health System 2023. He is the Vice Chair for the Steering Committee of the the International Collaboration on Advanced Vaccinology Training (ICAVT).

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.

## **Rodolfo Villena**

Rodolfo Villena is a Pediatric Infectious Diseases Specialist and Associate Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Chile. Dr Villena's research focus includes pediatric vaccines, epidemiology and invasive diseases. He has participated as Principal Investigator and/or Sub-Investigator in various phase I, II, III and IV studies. He has also published in indexed journals and book chapters on topics including pediatric vaccines, epidemiology, invasive diseases, and antimicrobial PK/PD in pediatric.



Dr Villena is an active member of the Chilean Society of Infectious Diseases and the Latinoamerican Society of Pediatric Infectious Diseases. He is also a Director of the International Advanced Course of Vaccines in the University of Chile. In addition, he has actively served as part of the Advisory Committee of Immunization for the Chilean Society of Infectious Diseases and the Advisory Committee of Pharmacovigilance of Vaccines in the Public Health Institute for the Chilean Ministry of Health. He is a member of the Steering Committee of the International Collaboration on Advanced Vaccinology Training (ICAVT).