

SESSION 5: IMPROVING IPC AND AMR/AMU SURVEILLANCE

Bios of Experts

Tochi Okwor is the Chair of Nigeria's National AMR Coordination Committee (AMRCC) and the Coordinator of the National Infection Prevention and Control Programme in Nigeria. Dr Okwor has over 20 years of leadership experience in public health and AMR at global, regional and country levels. Under her leadership, the AMRCC has been established as a one-health committee with full participation of the quadripartite. She has led the development of Nigeria's second AMR national action plan (2024-2028). Dr Okwor is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on the future of tackling antimicrobial resistance for the 2023-2024 term. She currently serves as Co-chair of the Expert Panel Working Group for the development of the Africa Agenda for the UNGA High-Level Meeting on AMR in 2024.



Anuj Sharma is a medical doctor with MD in medical microbiology, with over three decades of experience – spanning laboratories, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), infection prevention & control (IPC), and public health – in India and WHO Member States of the Western Pacific and South-East Asia Regions. At WHO India, he leads the AMR-IPC work to support multidisciplinary collaborations, guidance and initiatives. He has contributed to many scientific articles, as well as WHO reports, documents and resources – including the WHO Global Action Plan and Monitoring Framework on Infection Prevention and Control. He coordinates the publication of WHO India's monthly bulletins – AMR *Sameeksha* and IPC *Sameeksha* – that collate and summarize recent key research publications and guidelines for busy professionals.



Henry Kajumbula A highly experienced Clinical Pathologist, currently faculty in the Department of Medical Microbiology of Makerere University. His career has been dedicated to advancing the diagnosis, surveillance, and control of infectious diseases, with a central focus on combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and strengthening infection prevention and control (IPC) in resource limited settings. He has played leadership roles within Uganda's national programs. As Chair of the Uganda National AMR Committee, he spearheaded the development, implementation, and refinement of National AMR Action Plan and AMR surveillance plan as well as guidelines in infection prevention and control, directly informing public health policy and practice. He is concurrently committed to academia and research, focusing on the epidemiology of resistant pathogens and their impact on healthcare associated infections. His overarching goal is to leverage the unique blend of clinical microbiology expertise, national program leadership, and research to contribute significantly to AMR and IPC initiatives. He aims to develop and evaluate integrated, sustainable strategies – encompassing diagnostics, surveillance, stewardship, and IPC – to mitigate the threat of AMR and reduce the burden of healthcare-associated and communicable diseases, both locally and globally.



Japheth A. Opintan is a clinical microbiologist and the Head of the Medical Microbiology Department, University of Ghana. Since its inception in 2011, Prof Opintan has been a member of the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Platform,



and currently the WHO GLASS Focal Person for Ghana. He provides leadership for the Surveillance Technical Working group on AMR for Ghana. Professor Opintan provided technical support and leadership for the implementation of the Fleming Country Grant in Ghana. He is a Site Lead for the ACORN2 Study, sponsored by the Wellcome Trust. He also leads the HOTMATS Project, sponsored by the International Center for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions. In addition to the several surveys he has conducted for the WHO country office, Prof Opintan has been involved in several other research projects in infectious diseases and antimicrobial drug resistance. He has supervised several research works of both local and foreign students, and a significant number of publications and reports have been produced from these projects. Prof Opintan holds a PhD degree in Medical Microbiology and has served as visiting scholar at several Universities including the University of Virginia (USA), the Brown University (USA) and the University of Cambridge (UK).

Emiliana Francis serves as the National Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Coordinator at the Ministry of Health in Tanzania. With a strong background in public health and policy, Emiliana is dedicated to combating the growing threat of AMR within the country. In her role, she spearheads initiatives aimed at developing and implementing comprehensive strategies to address AMR, working closely with healthcare professionals, researchers, and policymakers to ensure effective coordination and response. Emiliana's commitment to public health extends beyond her current position, having previously held roles within the healthcare sector where she gained valuable experience in disease surveillance, infection control, and health promotion. Her proactive approach and dedication to improving healthcare outcomes make her an invaluable asset in the fight against AMR in Tanzania. Through her leadership and expertise, Emiliana is driving efforts to safeguard public health .



Freddy Eric Kitutu is a Senior Lecturer in Health Systems Pharmacy and a researcher at [Makerere University](#) in Uganda. He teaches both undergraduate and postgraduate students in pharmacy and public health and supervises doctoral students at Makerere and other universities. He has also examined successful doctoral and masters' theses. From August 2019 to April 2022, he served as the Dean of the School of Health Sciences at Makerere University, where he oversaw the transformation of the Dentistry Department into a School, following recommendations from the East Africa Community Partner States National Medical and Dental Practitioners Regulatory Boards/Councils.



Naphtal Mwanziki is a seasoned veterinary professional with over 25 years' experience in veterinary regulation, pharmaceutical management, and public service leadership. He is currently serving at Kenya's Directorate of Veterinary Services, where he plays a leading role in advancing strategies to combat Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) under a One Health framework. His work focuses on strengthening surveillance systems, coordinating cross-sectoral stakeholders, and promoting responsible use of antimicrobials to safeguard human, animal, and environmental health. Previously, Dr. Mwanziki pioneered the establishment of Kenya's Veterinary Medicines Directorate, where he provided strategic leadership and developed enduring regulatory systems for veterinary pharmaceuticals. His expertise in governance, compliance, and international collaboration has positioned him as a trusted advisor in shaping veterinary policy and regulatory reform across Africa.



He is widely recognized for his contributions to public health, food security, and sustainable animal health systems

Canaan Tinashe Hodobo is a veterinarian with the One Health Secretariat, seconded to Zimbabwe's Ministry of Health and Child Care. His work focuses on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) management, including coordination of the National Action Plan, AMR surveillance, and cross-sectoral collaboration. He is an AMR Policy Animal Health Fellow with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).



Mishelle Govender is the Chief Director: Hazardous Waste Management and Licensing in the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. On the local level she deals with waste licensing, land remediation and management of hazardous waste streams. She has more than 22 years of experience in various aspects of environmental management, including Environmental Impact Assessments, Pollution and Waste Management, Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement and Integrated Environmental Engineering. She is currently the Basel Convention Focal Point for South Africa. She has recently been appointed as the Vice-Chairperson of the International Compliance Committee for the Basel Convention, representing the African Continent.



Raman Sardana is Advisor and Professor (Adjunct, AHERF), Clinical Microbiology, Infections and Infection Control, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi, India. Director, Board of Trustees, International Federation of Infection Control, The IFIC, U.K. Secretary (Hony.), Hospital Infection Society-India. Professional Career: Held various positions at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi from 1995 onwards including Head of Clinical Microbiology, Infection Control, Lab Services and its Medical Director; Currently affiliation as above. Published 74 Journal Articles, 15 Chapters in prestigious books, 05 Prestigious Publications with National Academic Societies; 114 abstracts. And 33 Years as Teaching Faculty; Guided/ Co-guided 51 post graduate Thesis; 106 Research projects; Course Director/Co-Director and Trainer Workshops in IPC and AMSP, Diagnostic Stewardship, Critical Care and Surgery.



Abdullah Al Qayoudhi, Director, Deptt. of Infection Prevention & Control, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Min. of Health, Oman . He serves to designing and implementing national infection prevention and control programs and also developing guidelines and protocols for healthcare facilities to reduce hospital-acquired infections.



Benedict Sim holds an MBBS degree from Universiti Malaya and a Post Graduate MRCP qualification from the UK. He has specialised in infectious diseases under the Malaysian Ministry of Health's training programme, which culminated in a year-long attachment with the Victorian Infectious Disease Unit in Royal Melbourne Hospital. Currently, Dr Sim serves as an infectious disease consultant in Hospital Sungai Buloh; he is also a visiting consultant to other Klang Valley Hospitals and state hospitals in Malaysia. He coordinates the technical working group 1 in the National Antimicrobial Resistance Committee that oversees education and awareness of AMR in the country. Dr Sim has published papers in many fields of infectious diseases including HIV, infection



control, dengue, TB, antimicrobial stewardship etc. He sits on national and state committees that supervise efforts in prevention and treatment of novel infections, antimicrobial stewardship, antibiotic guidelines, HIV care, dengue mortalities, TB programmes and other infectious disease prevention, control and treatment initiatives.

Uthpala Sinhalagoda, Veterinary Drug Control Authority, Deptt. of Animal Production and Health, Sri Lanka. For Veterinary Drug Regulation & Licensing Involved in controlling the manufacture, import, export, repacking, sale, and use of veterinary pharmaceuticals and biological products in Sri Lanka.



S.M.Sabrina Yesmin, Asst. Director, Directorate General of Drug Administration, Min. of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh. Served as a Fleming Fund AMC/AMU surveillance fellow, contributing to the shaping of AMR policies and development of related awareness materials. Acts as Member Secretary for the Bangladesh Taskforce monitoring Antimicrobial Consumption (AMC) / Use (AMU) surveillance, and serves as the National Focal Point for AMC Surveillance, reporting to the WHO GLASS platform



Aravind Reghukumar works as the head of department of Infectious diseases at Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. He is the convener of the working committee of KARSAP [Kerala Antimicrobial Resistance Strategic Action Plan], which is the first State Level Action plan in India. He is also the nodal officer for antimicrobial stewardship , Infection prevention and control and antibiotic literate Kerala campaign under KARSAP. His team conceptualized and implemented innovative concepts like antibiotic smart hospitals and antibiotic literate local self Governments. He also serves as the technical lead for Kerala State One health programme . He is the convenor of Kerala State Medical Board on Nipah ,COVID 19 and Kerala State vaccination policy committee.He is a member of National Technical committee on antimicrobial stewardship. He is the recipient of best doctor award Kerala State for year 2023.



Pondpan Suwanthada is a veterinarian with certified zoonosis control expert (ZCE) with extensive experience in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and infectious diseases. She has contributed to regional and international initiatives promoting One Health approaches. Dr Suwanthada has worked closely with governments, academia, and international organisations, supporting multisectoral collaboration and capacity building in Asia and the Pacific. Her expertise bridges veterinary science and public health

