

## SESSION 4: STRENGTHENING MULTI-SECTORAL GOVERNANCE, FINANCING FOR SUSTAINABLE ACTION AGAINST AMR

### Bios of experts

**Marc Mendelson**, is Professor of Infectious Diseases at University of Cape Town, where he combines clinical, research, and policy work on Infectious Diseases focusing on AMR, predominantly in LMICs. He is PI of the Centre for AntiMicrobial Optimisation Network (CAMO-Net) Cape Town hub.



**Evelyn Wesangula** is a passionate pharmacist with an Msc. In Tropical and Infectious Diseases, currently pursuing her Doctorate in Business Administration. Evelyn currently works with the East Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA- HC) based in Arusha, Tanzania, as a senior AMR Control Specialist, strengthening the implementation of Infection Prevention Control Strategies and National Action Plans on Antimicrobial Resistance in the region. Her expertise spans across infection prevention and control (IPC), health emergency preparedness, and antimicrobial resistance interventions in both human and animal health sectors. Evelyn is a distinguished public health leader and a formidable force in the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in Africa. With over 15 years of progressive experience in health systems strengthening and infectious disease control, she has emerged as one of the continent's most vocal, consistent and strategic advocates for AMR containment through a One Health lens.



**Jean-Pierre Nyemazi** serves as the Director of the Quadripartite (FAO, UNEP, WHO, WOA) Joint Secretariat on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and the Head of the Governance & Strategic Initiatives unit in the AMR Department at the WHO. Leading a dedicated team, he advances multisectoral action against AMR, focusing on implementation of the UNGA Political Declaration on AMR and other Global commitments. His work also supports the functioning of the Global Governance Structures for AMR, including the Global Leaders Group on AMR and the AMR Multistakeholder Partnership Platform. Before joining WHO, he held the position of Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health of Rwanda.



**Nithima Sumpradit** is a senior pharmacist and Head of the Research and Development Unit at the Medicines Regulation Division, Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand. She is the national coordinator for Thailand's National Strategic Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, secretary team member of the National Policy Committee on AMR, and program manager of the Royal Thai Government-WHO Country Cooperation Program on AMR. In 2007, she initiated the *Antibiotics Smart Use* project, later adopted into Thailand's National Drug Policy to reduce unnecessary antibiotic use nationwide. Her expertise spans health program planning and evaluation, health behavior, and antimicrobial resistance. She holds a Bachelor's in Pharmaceutical Sciences (Mahidol University), a Master's in Health Promotion and Behavior (University of Georgia), and a PhD in Pharmacy Social and Administrative Sciences (University of Michigan).



**Azza Al-Rashdi**, Consultant Medical Microbiologist, a fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists (UK). The head of Bacteriology Section at Central Public Health Laboratories, the national reference laboratory for AMR for both diagnostic and surveillance. Worked for the last 10 years or so on improving the diagnostics of AMR from conventional methods to more advanced molecular techniques. Contributing effectively every year on the National AMR Surveillance System. Member of the National Health committee for AMR chairing the subcommittee of Surveillance & Research. Working on improving and expanding the AMR surveillance at the national level as well as research part.



**Purnamawati Sujud**, a pediatrician based in Jakarta, is a faculty member at Universitas Indonesia and a long-time collaborator with Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia. She serves on Indonesia's National Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and the national Task Force on AMR Advocacy under the Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Cultural Affairs.



**Kushlani Jayatilleke**, Consultant microbiologist, Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital, Sri Lanka MBBS; PG Diploma in Medical Microbiology and MD in Medical Microbiology, University of Colombo. Board certified as a Specialist in Medical Microbiology since 2003. Member of the expert group who developed the National strategic Plan for combating AMR in Sri Lanka in 2017 and the national advisory committee for AMR in Sri Lanka. Was working as a Specialist Registrar in Medical Microbiology in Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and at the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, UK 2003/2004. Won many awards for research including the president's award from President of Sri Lanka. Member of the WHO Technical Steering Group, IPC Global Unit, and member of the GDG of many IPC and AMR guidelines (Including revision of AWaRe) WHO HQ, Geneva, Switzerland. Resource person in many national and international conferences including, ESCMID Global 2025 and webinar by RCPATH, UK.



**Sreska Shrestha** is from Kathmandu, Nepal. She is a Clinical Microbiologist by profession. She completed my B.Sc. in Medical Laboratory Technology and M.Sc. in Clinical Microbiology from the Institute of Medicine, Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, Nepal. She has 12 years of experience working in the laboratory field and currently serve as the Joint Chief Medical Laboratory Technologist at the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL). She is also the Head of the Microbiology Department, where she oversee and supervise all activities related to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance in human health as well as routine microbiological diagnostics such as parasitology, serology, mycology. In addition, currently, I am a Fleming Fellow in AMR Laboratory Human Health at The Royal Melbourne University, The Peter Doherty Institute, which is further strengthening my expertise in the field of AMR.



**Hyfa Mohammed Ali** works as a Program Manager for ReAct Asia Pacific. With a background in dentistry and a Master's degree in Public Health, Hyfa brings a unique perspective to her work. Her experience spans community engagement, health systems research, and digital health initiatives. Hyfa is passionate about promoting public health through a balance of top-down and bottom-up strategies, and leveraging digital tools



for community education and well-being. She is a dedicated public health professional committed to making a positive impact through innovation, sustainability, and inclusiveness.

**Muhammad Usman Zaheer**, Regional AMR Surveillance and One Health Specialist, FAO RAP. He is prominently involved as a Regional AMR Surveillance and One Health Specialist for FAO RAP, with a role that focuses on strengthening AMR surveillance systems across the region. This includes regional coordination and technical support.



**Jane Lwoyero** works at the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) as a Programme officer on AMR and Food Safety based at the Sub-Regional Representation for Eastern Africa, in Nairobi. Dr. Lwoyero is a Kenyan veterinarian with twenty years of experience, 15 years of which have been in One Health, with a focus on food safety and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). She holds a master's degree in veterinary public health from the University of Nairobi. Her experience spans from private veterinary practice, selling of veterinary products, civil service at the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) in Kenya and now at WOA. As a programme officer, she provides direct support to countries to implement AMR National Action plans (NAPs) and contributes to the WOA focal point trainings promoting antimicrobial stewardship. Dr Lwoyero implements the WOA strategy for AMR and prudent use of antimicrobial in 13 countries of the WOA subregional representation for Eastern Africa. She successfully coordinated the implementation of the AMR-Multi partner Trust Fund (AMR-MPTF) Kenya project working closely with FAO and WHO. She also implemented a similar project in Ethiopia.



**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).



**Chizimu Joseph**, AMR National Focal Point and Coordinator, Zambia National Public Health Institute. Dr. Joseph Chizimu serves as the AMR National Focal Point and Coordinator for Zambia within the Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI). In this role, he works to strengthen antimicrobial stewardship efforts and multisectoral coordination to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in Zambia and to advocate for Africa's priorities in global dialogues, such as the UN High-Level Meeting on AMR



**Betty Mbolanyi** is an Environmental scientist working as a Principal Environment Officer with Ministry of Water and Environment - Kampala Uganda. Her role covers providing technical guidance and implementing policies on Environment and Natural Resources, Biodiversity and ecosystem management, AMR and One Health Approach. A member of One Health secretariat and AMR National Technical subcommittee – joined specifically interested in data needs that can aid action on AMR problem in the country. She heads the unit that coordinates cross cutting public health threats/ events in the Ministry where AMR is anchored. She's a member of the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), where she served as a member of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on plastic pollution for COP28. Added to the body of knowledge through publication of various peer reviewed papers. Outside work space, she enjoys spending quality time with her family and friends, empowering women and girls and creating social capital.



**Siana Gideon Mapunjo** possesses over two decades of professional experience in public health, with more than ten years devoted specifically to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and multisectoral coordination. She previously served as the National AMR Focal Person at the Ministry of Health in Tanzania, where she spearheaded the establishment of the AMR Multisectoral Coordinating Committee, the development of Technical Working Groups, and the formulation of the National Action Plan on AMR. In addition to her leadership in policy development, Mrs. Mapunjo has contributed extensively to the establishment and implementation of antimicrobial stewardship programmes at both national and international levels. She currently serves as a member of the Tanzania AMR-CC Secretariat as well as the Antimicrobial Stewardship Technical Working Group. Furthermore, she provides expertise as an AMR Advocacy and Policy Consultant and serves as an Advisor to the One Health Society (OHS), a civil society organization committed to advancing sustainable national and global initiatives to combat AMR through the One Health approach.



**Theresa Hogenhaug** is leading partnerships, strategic engagement and advocacy at ICARS. In this role, her prime focus is on building collaborative relationships with global governments and strategic partners to address antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and scale implementations of interventions to move from evidence and policy to practise. With senior level expertise from WHO's cancer research agency (IARC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, academia and the private sector, her key interests are financing and governance to strengthen systems, build resilience, ensure implementation and build capacity for sustainable impact. She holds over 25 years of experience and degrees in political science, business and global health from SciencesPo in Paris, the University of Missouri-Kansas City as well as Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



**Geneviève Boily-Larouche** is the Managing Director of the AMR Policy Accelerator at the Global Strategy Lab. She has over 15 years of experience in academic research, knowledge mobilization, science and public health policies, and evaluation of programs and policies which she draws upon to lead the AMR Policy Accelerator and oversee critical policy advisory projects.

