Navigating Virology's Frontiers in Africa GLOBALVIRUS NETWORK ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

DURBAN • SOUTH AFRICA 16 -18 SEPTEMBER 2024



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#GVN2024Durban





Dr. Sten Vermund, President, GVN Professor, Yale Public School of Health

Welcome to the 2024 Global Virus Network (GVN) Scientific Meeting in Durban, South Africa. This gathering brings together leading experts and partners from around the world to engage in meaningful discussions, foster collaborations, and share groundbreaking research and innovations.

Graciously co-hosted by the Center for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and generously supported by Gilead, Altesa, Drive, Regeneron, Abbott, and USF Health, we are proud to host this meeting in Durban, a city that embodies the dynamic spirit of our collective mission to advance global health through scientific excellence. This year's meeting holds special significance as it marks our first annual conference in Africa and embraces a hybrid format, enabling widespread participation both in-person and virtually. We look forward to exploring the theme of "Navigating Virology's Frontiers in Africa," delving into the unique challenges and opportunities that shape our field on this vibrant continent.

Since the 2023 meeting in Monaco, we have relocated the GVN's international headquarters to the University of South Florida (USF), a move that strengthens our global partnerships and enhances collaboration between USF Health scientists and GVN experts worldwide. Additionally, our new partnerships and memberships with corporate, institutional, and governmental programs, such as WHO International Pathogen Surveillance Network and the UN Wastewater Surveillance Initiative, position the GVN to better monitor and respond to emerging viral threats through enhanced international partnerships.

As we convene over the next three days, we encourage you to take full advantage of the opportunities to connect with peers, engage with insightful presentations, and contribute to discussions that will shape the future of virology and public health. With a greater representation of African virologists and epidemiologists, we look forward to a focus on One Health and emerging pathogens, to name two themes of urgent priority in Africa.

Your participation is invaluable in our shared pursuit of discovery, prevention, and control of viral diseases worldwide. Thank you for joining us for this important event and we wish you a productive and inspiring meeting. For those of you joining us in person, have an enjoyable stay in Durban and uMhlanga.

The GVN is essential and critical in the preparedness, defense, and first research response to emerging, existing, and unidentified viruses that pose a clear and present threat to public health. Working in close coordination with established national and international institutions, the GVN is a coalition comprised of eminent human and animal virologists from 80+ Centers of Excellence and Affiliates in 40+ countries, working collaboratively to train the next generation, advance knowledge about how to identify and diagnose pandemic viruses, mitigate and control how such viruses spread and make us sick, as well as develop drugs, vaccines, and treatments to combat them. No single institution in the world has expertise in all viral areas other than the GVN, which brings together the finest medical virologists to leverage their individual expertise and coalesce global teams of specialists on the scientific challenges, issues, and problems posed by pandemic viruses. The GVN is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

For more information, please visit www.gvn.org



Welcome from the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa





Dr. Salim S. Abdool Karim, Director, CAPRISA Special Advisor to the Director-General of the World Health Organization

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

I warmly welcome you to the captivating city of Durban for the Global Virus Network's Annual Scientific Meeting. Nestled along the picturesque coastline, Durban embodies a rich tapestry of golden beaches, cultural diversity, and warm hospitality, providing an inspiring backdrop as we convene to address pressing global challenges in virology and fortify our shared commitments to scientific innovation and pandemic preparedness.

As we gather in Durban, we are prepared to engage in pivotal discussions, addressing viral threats in the world, particularly the immediate threat of Mpox. Our unequivocal goal is to promote urgent global collaboration to effectively curb and manage its spread, particularly given the disproportionate impact of Mpox on children. Our collaborative efforts are poised to confront and mitigate the rapidly emerging threat of Mpox, driving us forward with collective expertise and innovative solutions.

We have much else to cover also. HIV remains a major concern, especially right here in Africa. Covid-19, Oropouche, Rift Valley Fever and several other viruses continue to spread in our midst. They are, in some instances, being aided by disinformation campaigns on social media. Our conversations will be tackling this critical threat to science and public health, navigating scientific misinformation and disinformation and enhancing our preparedness to respond to future pandemics.

I am profoundly hopeful that our interactive exchange of ideas and insights will play a pivotal role in shaping a resilient global response to these multifaceted challenges. I am honoured to welcome you to the beautiful city of Durban for scientific deliberations, impactful collaborations, and thought-provoking conversations on the challenges we see ahead.

With great anticipation and warm regards.

CAPRISA was established in 2002 as a multi-institutional collaboration, incorporated as an independent non-profit AIDS Research Organisation. The five major partner institutions are: University of KwaZuluNatal, University of Cape Town, University of the Western Cape, National Institute for Communicable Diseases, and Columbia University in New York. CAPRISA has diverse expertise including epidemiology, biostatistics, virology, immunology, diagnostics, infectious disease medicine, pharmacy, vaccinology, health communication, and health policy. CAPRISA is an official research institute of the University of KwaZulu-Natal and Columbia University. CAPRISA goals are to undertake globally relevant and locally responsive research that contributes to understanding HIV and TB epidemiology, pathogenesis, prevention and treatment, as well as contributing to pandemic intelligence, preparedness and response. For more information, please visit www.caprisa.org

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GVN Annual Scientific Meeting in Durban, South Africa 16-18 September 2024

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USFHealth

USF Health is the partnership of the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine, the College of Nursing, the College of Public Health, the Taneja College of Pharmacy, the School of Biomedical Sciences and the School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences, and USF Health's multispecialty physicians group. USF Health is an integral part of the University of South Florida, a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success.

We are an enterprise for change in the way we understand health and how it transforms our quality of life. USF Health's mission is to envision and implement the future of health. Our commitment is to improve the full spectrum of health, from the environment, to the community, to the individual. Together through talent and innovation, USF Health is integrating patientcare, education and research to reach our shared value: MAKING LIFE BETTER.

In 2021, USF was selected as the first regional headquarters for GVN. As of June 2024, USF also serves as the host of international headquarters for GVN. Additionally, the renowned Dr. Robert Gallo, co-founder of GVN and chairman of its Scientific Leadership Board, joined the faculty of USF Health Morsani College of Medicine in July 2024 as the James P. Cullison Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases. In January 2025, Sten Vermund, MD, PhD, President of GVN and Professor at Yale University, will join USF as the new Dean of the USF Health College of Public Health. He will also serve as Senior Associate Vice President of USF Health and Distinguished University Health Professor. These appointments will further strengthen USF Health's collaborations with GVN experts worldwide, facilitating the sharing of ideas and research, translating research into practical applications, improving diagnostics and therapies, and advancing vaccine development.





GVN Annual Scientific Meeting in Durban, South Africa 16-18 September 2024

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Gold

At Gilead, we set – and achieve – bold ambitions to create a healthier world for all people. From our pioneering virology medicines to our growing impact in oncology, we're delivering innovations once thought impossible in medicine.

Our focus goes beyond medicines, and we also strive to remedy health inequities and break down barriers to care. We empower our people to tackle these challenges, and we're all united in our commitment to help millions of people live healthier lives.

















	Opening and State of the GVN	08:00-08:30	Salim S. Abdool Karim, CAPRISA/WHO - South Africa * Sten Vermund, GVN/Yale Public School of Health - U.S.A.*
DAY ONE	Evading Viral Evasion	08:30-09:30	Emmanuel Nakouné-Yandoko , University of Bangui - Central African Republic* Alan Landay, University of Texas Medical Branch - U.S.A.* Sarah Londrigan, Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity - Australia* Vineet Menachery, Emory University - U.S.A.*
	Coffee Break	09:30-10:00	
	Translational Virology and Complex Co- Infections	10:00-11:00	Kizzmekia Corbett-Helaire , Harvard University - U.S.A* Peter Kojo Quashie , University of Ghana - Ghana* Richard Lessells, University of KwaZulu-Natal- South Africa* Susan Weiss, University of Pennsylvania - U.S.A.
	Training the Next Generation - Panel Discussion	11:00-12:00	Adeola Fowotade, University College Hospital, Ibadan - Nigeria Kenneth Bayles, University of Nebraska Medical Center - U.S.A.* Scott Weaver, University of Texas Medical Branch - U.S.A.* Daniel Schwab, STEM for Development - U.S.A. Alash'le Abimiku, Institute of Human Virology - Nigeria* Gene Morse, University at Buffalo - U.S.A.* Janine Michel, Robert Koch Institute - Germany* William M. de Souza, University of Kentucky - U.S.A. Salim S. Abdool Karim, CAPRISA/WHO - South Africa *
	Emerging Leaders Luncheon	12:00-13:30	Sponsored by USFHealth Christian Bréchot , GVN/University of South Florida - U.S.A.* Alexandre Borin, National Biosciences Laboratory - Brazil Jocelyn Kigozi, Uganda Virus Research Institute - Uganda * Pierina Parise, University of Campinas - Brazil Owen Ngalamika, University of Zambia - Zambia *
	Acute and Post-Viral Diseases	13:30-14:30	Rubeshan Perumal , CAPRISA - South Africa* Maggie L. Bartlett, GVN/John Hopkins - U.S.A.* Marc Lecuit, Institute Pasteur - France* Alfredo Garzino-Demo, University of Padova - Italy*
	Tours of CAPRISA	14:30-18:00	
	Welcome Dinner	18:30-21:00	Hosted by CAPRISA Cargo Hold Restaurant - uShaka Marine World





DAY IWU	Other Vectors Nigeria Linfa Wang, Duke-NUS Medical School - Si Jonathan Towner, Centers for Disease Contro U.S.A.		Linfa Wang , Duke-NUS Medical School - Singapore* Jonathan Towner, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - U.S.A.
	Genetic Sequences and Epidemiological Insights	09:00-10:30	Adeola Fowotade, University College Hospital, Ibadan - Nigeria Alash'le Abimiku , Institute of Human Virology - Nigeria* Scott Weaver , University of Texas Medical Branch - U.S.A.* Christian Happi, Redeemer's University - Nigeria Laura Dickson, University of Texas Medical Branch - U.S.A.* Mawlouth Diallo, Institut Pasteur de Dakar - Senegal* William M. de Souza, University of Kentucky - U.S.A.
	Coffee Break	10:30-11:00	Sponsored by DRIVE To
	Cutting-Edge Diagnostics and Therapeutics	11:00-12:00	Marc Bonneville , Institut Mérieux - France* Clifton McKee, Johns Hopkins - U.S.A.* Anne Wyllie, Yale University- U.S.A. Nokukhanya Msomi, University of KwaZulu-Natal - South Africa*
	Responses to Disease X Luncheon	12:00-14:00	Sponsored by Kickers Janine Michel, Robert Koch Institute - Germany* Joseph Anejo Okopi, Federal University of Health Sciences - Nigeria Gene Morse, University at Buffalo - U.S.A.* Rachel Roper, East Carolina University - U.S.A.*
	Perspectives from Agencies - Panel Discussion	14:00-15:00	Shaw Gargis, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - U.S.A. Mohammed Abdulaziz, Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Ethiopia Kazunobu Kojima, World Health Organization Yenew Kebede Tebeje, Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Ethiopia Jonathan Towner, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - U.S.A. Emmanuel Agogo, FIND - Switzerland
	Coffee Break	15:00-15:30	





(continued)	Pandemic Preparedness	15:30-17:00	Nadia Sam-Agudu, University of Minessota - U.S.A. Jana Broadhurst, University of Nebraska Medical Center - U.S.A.* Chuan Kok Lim, Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity - Australia* Rachel Roper, East Carolina University - U.S.A.* Stephan Becker, Philipps University of Marburg - Germany* Alash'le Abimiku, Institute of Human Virology - Nigeria*	
DAY TWO	GVN Awards Ceremony	17:00-17:30	Opening Remarks Robert C. Gallo, GVN/University of South Florida - U.S.A.*	
	GVN Cocktail Reception	17:30-18:30	Sponsored by GILEAD	

DAY THREE	Combating Scientific Misinformation - Fireside Chat	8:00-9:00	Salim S. Abdool Karim, CAPRISA/WHO - South Africa* Robert Garry, Tulane University - U.S.A.* Sten Vermund, GVN/Yale Public School of Health - U.S.A.* Linfa Wang, Duke-NUS Medical School - Singapore* Rachel Roper, East Carolina University - U.S.A.* Susan Weiss, University of Pennsylvania - U.S.A.	
	Coffee Break	9:00-9:30	Sponsored by USF Health	
	GVN Action Committees - Panel Discussion	9:30-10:30	Maggie L. Bartlett, GVN/Johns Hopkins (moderator)* Rachel Roper, East Carolina University – U.S.A.* Robert Garry, Tulane University – U.S.A.* Scott Weaver, University of Texas Medical Branch – U.S.A.* Rubeshan Perumal, CAPRISA – South Africa*	
	Future of GVN	10:30-10:45	Sten Vermund, GVN/Yale Public School of Health - U.S.A.*	
	Closing Remarks	10:45-11:00	Salim S. Abdool Karim, CAPRISA/WHO - South Africa*	





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DAY ONE: September 16th

8:00 to 8:30 Opening Session



Opening Remarks Salim S. Abdool Karim, CAPRISA/WHO South Africa *



State of GVN Sten Vermund, GVN/Yale Public School of Health U.S.A.*

8:30 to 9:30 Evading Viral Evasion



A One Health Approach to Mpox Emmanuel Nakouné-Yandoko, University of Bangui - Central African Republic *



Understanding How Macrophages Shape Innate Responses During Respiratory Virus Infection: Fundamental Research to Inform Innovative Therapeutic Strategies Sarah Londrigan, Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity – Australia*



Using Host Focused Omics to Understand Emerging and Re-Emerging Pathogens Alan Landay, University of Texas Medical Branch - U.S.A.*



Remixing: How Viral EndoU Shapes SARS-CoV-2 Recombination Vineet Menachery, Emory University - U.S.A.*

9:30 to 10:00 Coffee Break

10:00 to 11:00 Translational Virology and Complex Co-Infections



Using Viral Immunology to Inform Universal Coronavirus Vaccine Development Kizzmekia Corbett-Helaire, Harvard University - U.S.A. *



Mpox and Emerging Infections in Advanced HIV Disease **Richard Lessells**, University of KwaZulu-Natal - South Africa *



The Perfect Storm of COVID-19 in Ghana: Insights For Other Viral Infections Peter Kojo Quashie, University of Ghana - Ghana*



MERS Coronavirus: An Emerging Pathogen Susan Weiss, University of Pennsylvania - U.S.A.





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11:00 to 12:00 Training the Next Generation - Panel Discussion



Adeola Fowotade, University College Hospital, Ibadan - Nigeria



Kenneth Bayles, University of Nebraska Medical Center U.S.A.*



Daniel Schwab. STEM for Development U.S.A.



Alash'le Abimiku, Institute of Human



Janine Michel. **Robert Koch Institute** Germany*



William M. de Souza. University of Kentucky U.S.A.



Scott Weaver, University of Texas Medical Branch - U.S.A.*



Gene Morse, University at Buffalo U.S.A.*



Salim S. Abdool Karim, CAPRISA/WHO South Africa *

12:00 to 13:30 Emerging Leaders Luncheon - Sponsored by USF Health



Christian Bréchot, GVN/University of South Florida - U.S.A.*



The Need to Strengthen Influenza Vaccination in Uganda Jocelyn Kigozi, Uganda Virus Research Institute - Uganda*



Screening of the NIH Clinical Collection to Evaluate Compounds with Antiviral Activity Against Oropouche Fever Alexandre Borin, National **Biosciences Laboratory -**Brazil



Role of endothelial IRF5 in Oropouche Virus-induced neuropathogenesis Pierina Parise, University of Campinas - Brazil



Correlation between anti-Kaposi Sarcomaassociated Herpesvirus Humoral and T-Cell Immunity with Recurrence of HIV-associated Kaposi Sarcoma Owen Ngalamika, University of Zambia -Zambia*

13:30 to 14:30 Acute and Post Viral Diseases



Rubeshan Perumal. CAPRISA - South Africa*



Childhood Encephalitis in Asia: An Epidemiological and Pathophysiological Perspective Marc Lecuit, Institute Pasteur France*



Dysautonomias and Neurotropic Viral Infections Maggie L. Bartlett, GVN/John Hopkins - U.S.A.*



What Do We Know About Persistent Olfactory Deficits in COVID-19 and Zinc Homeostasis Alfredo Garzino-Demo. University of Padova - Italy





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14:30 to 18:00 Tours of CAPRISA Facilities

18:30 to 21:00 Welcome Dinner Hosted by CAPRISA

Cargo Hold Restaurant - uShaka Marine World - 1 King Shaka Avenue -Point, Durban 4001

DAY TWO: September 17th

8:00 to 9:00 Bats, Rats, and Other Vectors



Joseph Anejo Okopi, Federal University of Health Sciences Nigeria



Where Does Marburg Virus Go at Night? Using micro-GPS to Track Bat Reservoir Movements Jonathan Towner, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention U.S.A.



Lessons From Bats: Anti-Disease vs Anti-Pathogen Linfa Wang, Duke-NUS Medical School - Singapore*



Genomic Surveillance of Monkeypox Virus (MPXV) in Oyo State, Nigeria: Clinical Insights, Co-Infections, and Evolutionary Dynamics Adeola Fowotade, University College Hospital, Ibadan - Nigeria

9:00 to 10:30 Genetics Sequences and Epidemiological Insights



Alash'le Abimiku, Institute of Human Virology Nigeria Nigeria*



Re-emerging Alphaviruses: Chikungunya and Western Equine Encephalitis Scott Weaver, University of Texas Medical Branch - U.S.A.*



Dehydration Induced Ae-Aper50 Regulates Midgut Infection in Aedes Aegypti Mosquitoes Laura Dickson, University of Texas Medical Branch - U.S.A.*



Tracking Virus in Field Population of Mosquito and Ticks in Senegal, West Africa Mawlouth Diallo, Institut Pasteur de Dakar - Senegal*



Reemergence of Oropouche Virus in South America Between 2023-2024 William M. de Souza, University of Kentucky - U.S.A.



Genomic Surveillance and Characterization of Microbial Threats Facilitates Early Detection and Containment of Disease Outbreaks in West Africa Christian Happi, Redeemer's University Nigeria







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11:00 to 12:00 Cutting-Edge Diagnostics and Therapeutics



New Diagnostic and Digital Tools for Epidemiology of Viral Infections Marc Bonneville, Institut Mérieux - France*



Adapting for Accessibility & Affordability: Saliva as a Sample Type to OvercomeTesting Barriers for Better Outbreak Control Anne Wyllie, Yale University - U.S.A.



Shadows on the Wall: Interpreting Multiplex Viral Serosurveillance in Bats and Domesticated Animals in Bangladesh Clifton McKee, Johns Hopkins - U.S.A.*



HBV-HIV Co-Infection Nokukhanya Msomi, University of KwaZulu-Natal South Africa*

12:00 to 14:00 Responses to Disease X Luncheon Sponsored by **CAltesa**



Possibilities and Challenges in Poxvirus Serology Janine Michel, Robert Koch Institute -Germany*



Global Antiviral Clinical Pharmacology Quality Assurance Program Gene Morse, University at Buffalo -U.S.A.*



Lassa Fever Virus Infection and Diagnostic Challenges Joseph Anejo Okopi, Federal University of Health Sciences - Nigeria



Evolution of Pandemic Responses Rachel Roper, East Carolina University - U.S.A.*

14:00 to 15:00 Perspectives from Agencies - Panel Discussion



Shaw Gargis, CDC and Prevention -U.S.A.



Kazunobu Kojima, World Health Organization -Switzerland



Jonathan Towner, CDC and Prevention -U.S.A.

Chair

Mohammed Abdulaziz. Africa CDC and Prevention -Ethiopia



Yenew Kebede Tebeje, Africa CDC and Prevention - Ethiopia





Emmanuel Agogo, FIND - Switzerland

15:00 to 15:30 Coffee Break





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15:30 to 17:00 Pandemic Preparedness



Implementation Science: Translating (Bench) Evidence into Rapid Action for Successful Pandemic Responses Nadia Sam-Agudu, University of Minessota - U.S.A.



Monkeypox (mpox) Emergence 2022-2024, Surveillance, Vaccines, and Therapeutics Rachel Roper, East Carolina University - U.S.A.*



Innovative Strategies to Improve Access to Outbreak Response Testing, Surveillance, and Immune Monitoring in High-Risk Communities Jana Broadhurst, University of Nebraska Medical Center - U.S.A.*



Platform-based Vaccine Candidates for Emerging Viruses Stephan Becker, Philipps University of Marburg Germany*



Translating Innovative Approaches into Mpox Outbreak Control Chuan Kok Lim, Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity - Australia*



Role of Data Science in Pandemic Preparedness Alash'le Abimiku, Institute of Human Virology Nigeria -Nigeria*

17:00-17:30 GVN Awards Ceremony

Opening Remarks



Robert C. Gallo, GVN/University of South Florida -U.S.A.*

17:30 to 18:30 GVN Cocktail Reception - Sponsored by









GVN Annual Scientific Meeting in Durban, South Africa 16-18 September 2024

DAY THREE: September 18th

8:00 to 9:00 Combating Scientific Misinformation - Fireside Chat



Salim S. Abdool Karim, CAPRISA/WHO South Africa*



Sten Vermund, GVN/Yale Public School of Health U.S.A.*



Rachel Roper, East Carolina University U.S.A.*



Robert Garry, Tulane University U.S.A.*



Linfa Wang, Duke-NUS Medical School Singapore*



Susan Weiss, University of Pennsylvania U.S.A.

9:00 to 9:30 Coffee Break - Sponsored by USF Health

9:30 to 10:30 GVN Action Committees - Panel Discussion



Maggie L. Bartlett, GVN/John Hopkins U.S.A.*



Robert Garry, Tulane University U.S.A.*



Rubeshan Perumal, CAPRISA South Africa*



Rachel Roper, East Carolina University U.S.A.*



Scott Weaver, University of Texas Medical Branch U.S.A.*

10:30 to 11:00 Future of GVN and Closing Remarks



Future of GVN Sten Vermund, President, GVN Professor, Yale Public School of Health - U.S.A.



Closing Remarks Salim S. Abdool Karim, Director: CAPRISA Special Advisor to the Director-General of the WHO - South Africa





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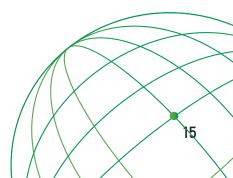
Speakers Bios

(in meeting sessions order)

Dr. Salim S. Abdool Karim is a Professor of Global Health at Columbia University, New York and Director of the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA). He serves as Special Advisor on pandemics to the Director-General of the World Health Organization. He is an adjunct Professor of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Harvard University, adjunct Professor of Medicine at Cornell University and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He is a member of the WHO Science Council and Vice-President of the International Science Council. He is member of the US National Academy of Medicine and a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Dr. Sten Vermund is a Pediatrician and Infectious Disease Epidemiologist focused on diseases of low- and middle-income countries. His work on HIV-HPV interactions among women in Bronxmethadone programs motivated a change in the 1993 CDC AIDS case surveillance definition and inspired cervical cancer screening programs launched within HIV/ AIDS programs around the world. The thrust of his research has focused on health care access, adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights, and prevention of HIV transmission among general and key populations, including mother-to-child. Dr. Vermund has become increasingly engaged in health policy, particularly around sustainability of HIV/ AIDS programs and their expansion to non-communicable diseases, coronavirus pandemic response and prevention, and public health workforce development. His recent grants include capacity-building for public health in Chad, molecular epidemiology for HIV in Kazakhstan, and COVID-19 vaccine studies in Dominican Republic and Connecticut. He has worked with schools and arts organizations for COVID-19 risk mitigation and institutional safety.

Dr. Emmanuel Nakouné-Yandoko is the Director of Research, the Scientific Director of the Pasteur Institute of Bangui, and a Research Professor at the University of Bangui in the Central African Republic. He worked extensively for 35 years on arboviruses, viral hemorrhagic fevers, emerging viruses, and zoonoses. His work on the reservoir of the Ebola virus demonstrated for the first time in 1998 the genome of the Ebola virus in small mammals captured in the primary forest of Central Africa. As head of the Arboviruses, hemorrhagic fever viruses, emerging viruses, and zoonoses laboratory at the Pasteur Institute of Bangui, he has been working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health to establish surveillance and diagnosis of mpox since 2001. He is also an expert member of the African Rabies Network and a specialist in emerging and/or re-emerging viruses. He has also been an expert at WHO on mpox since 2018.







Dr. Alan Landay is Vice President of Team Science at UTMB and Professor in the Departments of Internal Medicine and Microbiology & Immunology. Dr. Landay's impressive career includes more than 42 years in HIV research, with significant work related to aging. His laboratory has made important original contributions to understanding the role of immune activation and inflammation in outcomes of non-communicable diseases related to aging in the HIV population. Dr. Landay has extensive experience in aging-related studies and is a co-investigator of an R33 grant that integrates efforts of the Center for AIDS Research, Older American Independence Centers, and Shock Centers. He has participated in the Office of AIDS Research HIV and Aging Committee and has been an advisor to UN AIDS on HIV and Aging.

Dr. Sarah Londrigan is an Education and Research Academic (Senior Lecturer Virology) in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at The University of Melbourne in Australia. She is also Co-Lead of the Viral Infectious Diseases Theme at the Doherty Institute in Melbourne. Sarah completed her PhD Research at Melbourne University, where she identified novel cell surface receptors for rotavirus entry during infection of host cells. Sarah leads an independent research program examining cellular responses to respiratory virus infection, funded through competitively awarded National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grants and industry partners. Her current research projects specifically involve understanding the entry pathways of respiratory viruses into host cells and how airway immune cells control virus replication. Sarah plays an active role in research-related activities supporting virology and immunology and promoting women in science.

Dr. Vineet Menachery is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at Emory School of Medicine with an appointment in the Emory Vaccine Center. His research program focuses on two related research areas: 1) emergence and infection by novel coronaviruses and 2) the role of host factors/co-morbidities in coronavirus infection and disease outcomes. With the emergence of SARS-CoV, MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV-2 over the past two decades, these research areas have the potential to produce critical insights with implications for global public health and treatment of human disease. As a researcher, Dr. Menachery has co-authored over 100 papers and been funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, and the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. He is currently the Co-director of the UTMB-Novartis for Pandemic Preparedness, an NIH Antiviral Drug Discovery Centers for Pathogens of Pandemic Concern. He currently trains two predoctoral students.







Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett-Helaire is an Assistant Professor of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Freeman Hrabowski Scholar. Dr. Corbett-Helaire's laboratory studies host immune responses to coronaviruses and other emerging and re-emerging viruses to propel novel vaccine and antibody therapy development. Prior to Harvard, she was a research fellow at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Vaccine Research Center. A leading COVID-19 vaccine, mRNA-1273, was co-designed by Dr. Corbett's NIH team from viral sequence and rapidly deployed for Phase 1 clinical trial, which unprecedently began only 66 days from viral sequence release. Alongside mRNA-1273, Dr. Corbett-Helaire boasts a patent portfolio which also includes universal vaccines and novel therapeutic antibodies. In all, she has over 15 years of experience studying various viruses, garnering several prestigious awards and recognitions, such as the J. William Fulbright Prize for International Understanding.

Dr. Peter Kojo Quashie holds a PhD in Experimental Medicine from McGill University and has postdoctoral training in Structural Virology from the University of Toronto, both in Canada. Dr. Quashie is a Senior Research Fellow and Group PI in Molecular Virology at WACCBIP and the Ghana PI for the GGIISER program. His research focuses on HIV, SARS-CoV-2, and other pandemic RNA viruses, with a focus on host-viral interactions and antiviral therapeutics. As Deputy Director (Research) at WACCBIP, Dr. Quashie manages research operations, partnerships, student training, workshops, and staff. He led most of WACCBIP's well publicized research during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Dr. Quashie's group is studying the impact of endemic comorbidity on West African HIV responses. He leads the WACCBIP long-term HIV Infection CoHort Study, which involves recruiting, sampling, and characterizing HIV infection in 1000 newly diagnosed Ghanaians.

Dr. Richard Lessells BSc(MedSci), MBChB, MRCP(UK), DTM&H, DipHIVMed, PhD is an Infectious Diseases Clinician Scientist at the KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and Honorary Research Associate at CAPRI-SA. He did his clinical training in Infectious Diseases and Internal Medicine in the UK, and did his PhD on TB diagnostic strategies at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine under the supervision of Professor Peter Godfrey-Faussett. He has broad clinical and research interests around HIV, TB, COVID-19, and emerging/re-emerging infectious diseases. He played an important role in the response to COVID-19 in South Africa, as part of the team that identified and characterized the Beta and Omicron variants of concern, and that highlighted persistent infections in immunocompromised people as a plausible mechanism for the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 variants. He is a member of the National Advisory Group on Immunisation in South Africa, and chairs the COVID-19 and Mpox Technical Working Groups.





Dr. Susan Weiss obtained her PhD in Microbiology from Harvard University working on paramyxoviruses and did postdoctoral training in retroviruses at University of California, San Francisco. She came to the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) as an Assistant Professor in 1980, and is currently Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Microbiology and Co-director of the Penn Center for Research on Coronaviruses and Other Emerging Pathogens at the Perelman School of Medicine at Penn. She has worked on many aspects of coronavirus replication and pathogenesis over the last forty years, making contributions to understanding the basic biology as well as viral entry, organ tropism and virulence. This work focused for many years on the murine coronavirus (MHV) mouse model of hepatitis and more recently also on MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2, and the "common cold" coronaviruses. Her work for the last ten years has focused on coronavirus interaction with the host innate immune response, viral antagonists of double-stranded RNA induced antiviral pathways and interactions with the unfolded protein responses. Most recent work also focuses on coronavirus infection of the nasal epithelium, the earliest site of infection. Her other research interests include activation and antagonism of the double-stranded RNA induced antiviral responses, with a focus on the oligoadenylate-ribonuclease L (OAS-RNase L) pathway, flavivirus-primarily Zika-virus-host interactions and pathogenic effects of host endogenous dsRNA.

Dr. Adeola Fowotade is a Clinical Virologist at the University College Hospital Ibadan and an Associate Professor at the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan. She holds a MD degree from University of Ilorin, Nigeria and Doctorate degree in Molecular Virology and Immunology from the University of Surrey, UK. Dr. Fowotade is honored as a Fellow of the Faculty of Pathology from both the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria and the West African College of Physicians. Her exceptional talent is further recognized by holding the esteemed GVN Rising Star Mentorship Fellowship. Dr. Fowotade coordinates a molecular virology laboratory accredited by the Nigerian CDC for SARS-COV-2 and Lassa fever genomic surveillance. Additionally, she serves as a Consultant to the National AIDS, STI Control Programme (NASCP) on the National Clinical Mentorship Programme. Dr. Fowotade has co-authored over 75 manuscripts published in esteemed international journals, including Lancet, Nature, and Science.

Dr. Kenneth W. Bayles received his Ph.D. in Bacterial Genetics at Kansas State University in 1989 and then served as a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County until 1995. After nine years as a faculty member at the University of Idaho, he moved to the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) where he became the founding Director of the Center for Staphylococcal Research (CSR) and combined the talents of several investigators to focus on the role of staphylococcal biofilm in the development of disease. In 2011, Dr. Bayles was promoted to Associate Vice Chancellor for Basic Science Research for UNMC where he supported several campus-wide efforts to enhance the productivity of its research faculty. In 2022, he assumed the role as Vice Chancellor for Research at UNMC. For his contribution to science, he was inducted into the American Academy of Microbiology in 2019.





Dr. Scott Weaver is the John Sealy Distinguished Chair in Human Infections and Immunity, Director of the Institute for Human Infections & Immunity, Scientific Director of the Galveston National Laboratory, and Chair of the Department of Microbiology & Immunology at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB). His research focuses on emerging viruses and he leads two NIH-funded center grants: the West African Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases, and the World Reference Center for Emerging Viruses and Arboviruses. He received the Walter Reed Medal from the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) for career research contributions, and the Robert Gallo Award for Scientific Excellence from the Global Virus Network. Dr. Weaver is also a fellow of the American Academy of Inventors, the American Academy of Microbiology and the ASTMH. He was named the Leon Bromberg Professor of Excellence in Teaching and received the Research Mentoring Excellence award at UTMB. Dr. Weaver teaches and mentors young scientists extensively. He was named the Leon Bromberg Professor of Excellence in Teaching and received the Research Mentoring Excellence award at UTMB.

Dr. Daniel Schwab is the Founder and President of STEM for Development (SFD), providing strategic direction and oversight for all educational programs and regional partnerships. In addition to his role with SFD, Dr. Schwab serves as a Science & Technology Policy Advisor in the Office of Science, Office of International Activities, Research Security, and Interagency Coordination (IRIC) at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), where he supports science policy and programs related to international affairs. Prior to his current work, Dr. Schwab held fellowship positions at the U.S. Department of Defense Basic Research Office and the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, and served as the Chair of the Education Committee at Afrisnet: Africa STEM Network. He holds a PhD in Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior from Indiana University, Bloomington, and is passionate about science diplomacy and supporting STEM talent across the world. He seeks to ensure that all students have equal opportunity to obtain advanced STEM education and achieve their dreams.

Dr. Alash'le Abimiku is the Executive Director of the International Research Center of Excellence (IRCE) of the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) and Professor of Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. She serves as the GVN director of IHVN, an affiliate of GVN. Her career of over 30 years has distinguished her as an academic and scientist who has blazed the trail in promoting quality laboratory medicine practices in Nigeria and Africa. She first documented the unique HIV strain prevalent in Nigeria as HIV subtype G, different from the subtype B circulating in Europe and USA. She co-founded IHV-Nigeria and continue to play a pivotal role in establishing a long-term collaboration between Institutions in Nigeria, and research institutions in the USA and the north; and to build the infrastructure and mentor young scientists to support research in Nigeria and across the continent. She serves on several scientific advisory committees including that for the IDM, University of Cape Town, WHO R&D for preparedness for Epidemics, WHO Global HIV Drug Resistance Network (RESNET), the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). She is a fellow of the African Academy of Science, and chairs the Wellcome Trust Longitudinal Population Studies Committee.





Dr. Gene Morse is a tenured State University of New York (SUNY) Distinguished Professor in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Director of University at Buffalo's (UB) Global Virus Network Center of Excellence, with affiliates in Zimbabwe, Jamaica and Trinidad/ Tobago. Dr. Morse directs the UB Center for Integrated Global Biomedical Sciences, co-directs the SUNY Global Health Institute, and is PI for the University of Zimbabwe HIV Research Training Program and the Global Infectious Diseases Research Training Program with The University of The West Indies, funded by Fogarty International Center. Dr. Morse has been actively involved in viral infectious diseases research since 1986 and participates in the UB Clinical and Translational Science Institute. Dr. Morse has extensive experience with quality laboratory management systems, including as PI for a NIAID contract for HIV Clinical Pharmacology Quality Assurance. Dr. Morse is co-director of the Rethink Western New York Community Health Collaborative.

Dr. Janine Michel is Deputy Head of the Division ZBS1 Highly Pathogenic Viruses in the Centre for Biological Threats and Special Pathogens at the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) in Berlin, Germany. She has been working at RKI since 2008. ZBS1 hosts the German National Consultant Laboratory for Poxviruses and is part of the WHO Reference Laboratory for SARS-CoV-2 and WHO Collaborating Center for Emerging Infections and Biological Threats. Among other tasks, Dr. Michel is responsible for the coordination of the PCR diagnostics of highly pathogenic viruses (e.g. SARS-CoV-2, MPXV), and is the quality manager for the Consultant Laboratory for Poxviruses and the special pathogen diagnostics in the division ZBS1. Dr. Michel has been working as a consultant for WHO and supported the diagnostics of highly pathogenic viruses like Ebola, Yellow Fever and SARS-CoV-2 on various missions in different countries as a team member or team leader in the European Mobile Lab. Furthermore, she has been giving and supporting trainings on molecular diagnostics in partner countries like Morocco, Tunisia, Sudan and Sri Lanka. Since March 2024 Dr. Michel is the new director for the GVN Center of Excellence of the RKI. Her main research interests focus on the development of diagnostic tools for high consequence pathogens.

Dr. William M. de Souza is a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. His research focuses on emerging RNA viruses, employing genomics, data science, and experimental understand virus-host interactions and transmission virology to dynamics to combat these diseases. He has published over 90 articles in the field of arboviruses and emerging viral threats. Dr. de Souza earned his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of São Paulo, Brazil, and completed postdoctoral training at the University of São Paulo with an internship at the University of Oxford (UK). Between 2022 and 2024, he held a GVN Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Texas Medical Branch.







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Dr. Christian Bréchot, MD, PhD, is the Vice Chairman for the GVN Board and GVN President Emeritus. He obtained his PhD in biochemistry from the University of Paris VII in 1985. In 1989, he became full professor of Cell Biology and Hepatology at Paris Descartes University, and in 1997 he was appointed head of the clinical department of liver diseases at the Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital. He was head of a research unit at the Necker Faculty of Medicine, jointly supported by Inserm, Paris Descartes University, and the Pasteur Institute; he was also head of the National Reference Centre on viral hepatitis from 1998 to 2001. From 2001 to 2007, Dr. Bréchot was General Director of Inserm, the French National Agency for biomedical research. In 2008, he was appointed as Vice-President of Medical and Scientific Affairs of the Institut Merieux company. From October 2013 - September 2017, Dr. Bréchot served as President of the Institut Pasteur. He is currently a tenured Professor at the University of South Florida and Executive Director of the Romark LLC Institute for Medical Research. Dr. Bréchot's research activities have been focused on viral hepatitis: hepatitis B (HBV) and C (HCV). He has been a member of numerous scientific committees and societies and has received prestigious awards. He is the author of over 800 articles, with a current h-index of 124 and 66,000 citations. The Institute for Scientific Information ranked him as the 4th most cited author on the topic of hepatitis C. In addition, his research activities have led him to obtain 13 patents and to contribute to the creation of three biotech companies.

Alexandre Borin is a Ph.D. candidate in Genetics and Molecular Biology with a focus on Microbiology at University of Campinas and the Brazilian Biosciences National Laboratory. He also holds a Master's degree in the same field from these institutions. Since 2018, Alexandre has concentrated his studies on drug repurposing for viral infections, including Mayaro, Oropouche and SARS-CoV-2. Currently, he is an international scholar at the Rega Institute, KU Leuven, Belgium, studying zebrafish models to characterize the innate immune response against viruses.

Dr. Jocelyn Kigozi is a Research Officer at Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) and Quality Manager for the department of Arbovirology, Emerging and Re-emerging Disease which comprises of laboratory sub-networks: Arbovirology, Plague, Viral Special Pathogens Branch and National Influenza Center. She is currently a PhD student at Makerere University Kampala and her current research is Viral and Bacterial co-infections in COVID-19 patients in Uganda. She began her career in influenza in 2007 and has worked with the Influenza Surveillance program for more than 16 years with both Uganda Virus Research Institute and Makerere University Walter Reed Project. The work done has been published in major journals including, Annals of the American Thoracic Society, International Journal of Infectious Diseases, BMC veterinary research, Emerging Infectious Diseases and others. She also played a key role in coordinating laboratory testing during the COVID -19 outbreak from 2020 to 2022 at Uganda Virus Research Institute. She is also interested in interventions for infectious disease control such as vaccination.





Dr. Pierina Parise earned her Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Campinas (UNICAMP) in São Paulo State, Brazil, in 2017, followed by a Ph.D. in Genetics and Molecular Biology with a specialization in microbiology from the same institution in 2024. In 2023, she completed a doctoral internship at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas, USA. Dr. Parise's research focuses on encephalitis caused by arboviruses from the Bunyaviridae and Togaviridae families, with an emphasis on the neuroinvasion mechanisms and endothelial barrier function. Currently, she is engaged in a technical training program (FAPESP TTIV-A) for drug discovery at the Center for Medicinal Chemistry (CQMED) at UNICAMP.

Dr. Owen Ngalamika is a Consultant Dermatologist, Senior Lecturer and Researcher affiliated with the University of Zambia and the University Teaching Hospital in Zambia. His research focus is on HIV-associated malignancies with a viral etiology. Most of his current work is on the angio-proliferative malignancy Kaposi Sarcoma and the Kaposi sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV). Some of his work involves research on immunity against viruses including KSHV and SARS-CoV-2. He has also been conducting research on the effect of high-risk human papillomaviruses on the tumor microenvironment of penile cancer. He is a former recipient of the prestigious Emerging Global Leader Award (K43 Award) from the US National Institutes of Health. He also attended the 7th Annual Short Course in Basic and Translational Virology of the GVN in Baltimore.

Dr. Rubeshan Perumal is Pulmonologist and Senior Scientist at the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) and the University of KwaZulu-Natal, where he leads portfolios in tuberculosis, HIV, and COVID-19 research. He holds degrees in Public Health, Medicine, and Pulmonology, and a PhD focused on the pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic optimisation of tuberculosis treatment. He is a past recipient of the Fogarty International Clinical Research Scholarship and was named a Global Young Physician Leader by the InterAcademy Partnership. His post-doctoral training was in the Centre for Lung Infection and Immunity at the University of Cape Town focused on translational TB research, including TB diagnostics, and multi-drug resistant TB 14 clinical trials. Dr. Perumal was a founding consultant of the Post-COVID-19 Lung Disease clinical service and research programme at Groote Schuur Hospital/University of Cape Town, has been a panellist on the WHO Working Group on Care Pathways for Long COVID, member of the South African Ministerial Advisory Committee Working Group on Long COVID, and co-chair of the Global Virus Network Taskforce on Long COVID. Dr. Perumal also serves on the editorial board of the Annals of the American Thoracic Society and is an affiliated faculty member of the Global Health Pulmonary Research Pathway at Columbia University's Division of Pulmonology, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine.





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Dr. Maggie Linn Bartlett is a Virologist at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, specializes in emerging infectious diseases, focusing on RNA persistence and post-infectious conditions. Her groundbreaking work spans neurotropic viral diseases, post-viral syndromes, and immune-privileged zones. Utilizing multimodal sequencing and systems biology, she explored the resilience of bat immune systems to the filovirus Marburg. From addressing filovirus outbreaks at the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases to studying B cell responses to SARS-CoV-2, Dr. Bartlett's expertise extends to alphaviruses, paramyxoviruses, and bunyaviruses. Her innovative multi-modal single-cell sequencing provides a holistic analysis of host-virus interactions, impacting therapeutic development and patient care. Dr. Bartlett's systems biology analyses identified potential biomarkers for neurotropic viral illness and are being explored for prognostic capacity in post-viral syndromes. Passionate about infectious disease mysteries, she investigates links between post-acute SARS CoV-2 syndrome and post-viral illnesses, particularly in individuals with genetic connective tissue diseases. Dr. Bartlett's expertise in BSL-3/4 research and innovative methodologies positions her at the forefront of virology, reflected in recent grants for agnostic virus detection, therapeutics, and biomarker discovery.

Dr. Marc Lecuit is a Microbiologist and an Infectious Diseases Physician. He is the Director of the Biology of Infection Unit at Institut Pasteur and Inserm. Dr. Lecuit is professor at Université Paris Cité and deputy head of the Department of Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine at the Necker-Enfants Malades University Hospital. His research focuses on understanding the molecular mechanisms underlying the ability of microbes to target specific hosts, infect host cells, cross host barriers, and disseminate systemically and within tissues, as well as how host responses affect the outcome of infection. His laboratory focuses on pathogens with the ability to cause maternal-fetal and central nervous system infections. Dr. Lecuit has made important contributions to the understanding of the biology of infections caused by Listeria monocytogenes, as well as emerging pathogens such as chikungunya, Zika and SARS-CoV-2 viruses. He is also involved in translational research projects in the Institut Pasteur international network. Dr. Lecuit is funded by the European Research Council. He is a Fellow of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, and the European Academy of Microbiology, and a member of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), of the Academia Europaea and of the Institut Universitaire de France.

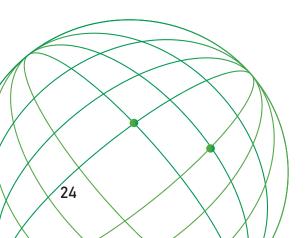






Dr. Alfredo Garzino-Demo is based both in Italy and the US, holding an Associate Professor position in the Department of Molecular Medicine of the University of Padova, Italy, and a Faculty position in the Department of Microbial Pathogenesis at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry and School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD. His main research focus has been HIV immunopathogenesis, starting with molecular virology studies, and subsequently with his participation to studies on chemokine (and their receptors) in HIV entry – *Science* magazine's Breakthrough of the year in 1996. Subsequently, he began investigating aspects of mucosal immunity in HIV infection, particularly on defensins and their receptors, and the role of APOBEC3G in antiviral immunity. Subsequently, his laboratory embarked on studies on influenza, flaviviruses, and SARS-CoV-2, with the aim of identifying mechanisms of pathogenesis and new approaches to their treatment, including the targeting of virally induced inflammation and cytokine storm.

Dr. Joseph Anejo Okopi is a Professor of Virology at the Department of Microbiology, Dean, Faculty of Science, Federal University of Health Sciences Otukpo. He is also the Coordinator of the Faculty of Science Early Career Mentorship Program and FUHSO Students' Public Health STEM. He was the Program Manager, AIDS Prevention Initiative in Nigeria, Jos University Teaching Hospital 2004-2014. He served at the Microbiology Department at the University of Jos where he rose to Associate Professor (2014-2021) before he joined FUHSO in September 2021. He received his BSC in Microbiology from the University of Ibadan, 1994, MBA from Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma, 2003, MSC in Medical Microbiology from the University of Jos in 2007, and PhD Microbiology (Virology) from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria in 2013. He has conducted several pivotal investigator-initiated studies in HIV drug resistance, hepatitis B, C, HDV, HPV, Rift Valley fever, EBV, HSV, Zika, Dengue, and Influenza viruses. He has authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications. He served as the Presidential Task Force Committee, and Chairman Laboratory Sub-Committee of Nigeria AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey, 2018. Currently, he is a member of the Nigeria HIV Drug Resistance Committee of the Tertiary Education Fund Technical Advisory Group. He is also a member of the Global Virus Network Task Force Committees on Mpox, Arbovirus, and Emerging Pathogens. He has received fellowships awards including Harvard Consortium Fogarty Global Health Program 2018, Desmond Tutu Health Foundation and international AIDS Vaccine (DTHF/IAVI) University of Cape Town South Africa 2019/2020, and is a fellow of Global Virus Network Rising Star program (GVN Alumnus). Current research interests are HIV/AIDS and comorbidities, Lassa Fever, HBV, HCV, HPV, Mpox, and Arboviruses.







Dr. Linfa Wang is a Professor of the Programme in Emerging Infectious Diseases at Duke-NUS Medical School, and the inaugural executive director of PREPARE, Ministry of Health, Singapore. His research focuses on emerging zoonotic viruses and virus-host interaction, with a special interest in bat-borne viruses and bat immunology. He played a key role in identification of bats as the natural host of SARS-like viruses. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, he has served/is serving on multiple WHO committees for COVID-19, including the WHO IHR Emergency Committee. Professor Wang has more than 500 scientific publications, including papers in *Science, Nature, Cell, NEJM and Lancet*. He was elected to the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering in 2010, the American Academy of Microbiology in 2021, the Australian Academy of Science in 2023 and the Singapore National Academy of Science in 2024. He received the Singapore President Science Award in 2021.

Dr. Jonathan Towner leads the Virus Host Ecology Section within the Viral Special Pathogens Branch at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. His team studies the ecology of high-consequence bat-borne viruses, primarily filoviruses and paramyxoviruses, with emphasis on 1) identifying their natural reservoir hosts, 2) studying drivers that potentiate their spillover to humans and, 3) understanding how these mammals control replication of their viruses while minimizing host disease. His team played major roles in the discovery of the Egyptian rousette bat (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*) as the natural reservoir for marburgviruses, and in the discoveries of Bundibugyo virus, the newest ebolavirus known to cause human disease, and Sosuga virus, a human pathogenic paramyxovirus whose natural reservoir is also the Egyptian rousette bat. His team manages long-term disease ecology projects in Sierra Leone and Uganda, most recently using micro-GPS technology to track Egyptian rousette bat movements in Uganda to map their intersection with human activities. As part of a major public health agency, his team responds to VHF outbreaks, often in Africa, to operate molecular diagnostic field labs and conduct ecological investigations.

Dr. Christian Happi is a Professor of Molecular Biology and Genomics and Director of the World Bank funded African Center of Excellence for Genomics of infectious Diseases (ACEGID), Redeemer's University, Ede, Nigeria. He did his postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University (2000-2003) and worked there as a Research Scientist (2004-2007). He is currently Adjunct Professor in the Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Harvard T H Chan School of Public Health, USA. He used next-generation sequencing to perform the first sequence of the SARS-CoV-2 in Africa, within 48 hours of receiving sample of the first case in Nigeria. This seminal work not only provided an insight into the detailed genetic map of the coronavirus in Africa, but also paved the way to the development of new countermeasures including new diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines. He received the Merle A. Sande Health Leadership Award (2011); the 2019 Human Genome Organization Africa Prize for his seminal work on infectious diseases genomics in Africa; the 2020 Bailey K. Ashford Medal by the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. In 2021, he received the Al-Sumait Prize for African Development of the Kuwait Foundation for Advancement in Sciences. He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of Academy of Medical Specialties of Nigeria, and he is a member of the US National Academy of Medicine.





Dr. Laura Dickson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB). She subsequently served as Vice President of Research at Pebble labs, a biotech using microbes to disrupt pests/disease. Since 2020, Dr. Dickson has built a program focused on how mosquito genetics and microbiome impact mosquito vector competence of arboviruses. Leveraging her international experience, Dr. Dickson uses field-acquired mosquitoes to conduct critical research on how mosquito-virus interactions might evolve under climate change. Her findings are highlighted in several senior author manuscripts, and she is currently funded through the USDA. She has been recognized as a leader throughout her career, including a Fulbright fellowship and an ACME Young Investigator Award. She has made significant contributions to West African Center for Emerging Infectious Disease CREID center and currently serves as Associate Director of Center for Vector-borne and Zoonotic Diseases at UTMB.

Dr. Mawlouth Diallo is a Vector Biologist with 28 years of experience studying mosquitoes borne arboviruses and malaria in Africa. His leadership abilities have helped to the conception and implementation at IPD of a brand and well-equipped laboratory with facilities for classical and molecular entomology, including a BSL-3 insectary. At the head of this unit, he has developed basic research programs on arboviruses and malaria vector bio-ecology, population genetics and virus-vector-vertebrate interactions. His research integrates also the impact of climate and environmental changes on vectors dynamic and associated viruses spillover as well as a modelling approach to predict spatiotemporal risks, to support decision-making. As a WHO expert, he was deployed in more than 20 African countries for arboviral disease outbreaks investigation and/or risk assessment. He is author of more than 100 publications in peer-reviewed international journals and 3 book Chapters, and supervised 7 PhD, 7 masters, 9 Postdoc.

Dr. Marc Bonneville, D.V.M. and CNRS Research Director, is currently the Scientific and Medical director of Institut Mérieux. From 1983 to 2013, Dr. Bonneville was an academic researcher on immunology and led in this context an INSERM research center in France for more than 15 years. In 2013, he became VP in charge of Scientific and Medical Affairs of the Institut Merieux, a biopharmaceutical holding implementing diagnostic, therapeutic and service activities on infectious diseases, cancer and food safety. Since 2016, he has been the chairman of the Alliance for Research and Innovation of Healthcare Industries, an organization fostering partnerships between public research and industries on healthcare innovation. From 2020 to 2022, Marc took over the position of scientific and medical director of the Fondation Mérieux, a non-profit entity that helps the most vulnerable countries and communities fight infectious diseases through diagnostic and research capacity building. Dr. Bonneville has authored more than 200 scientific papers, is co-inventor of 8 patents, and co-founder of Innate Pharma SA. He has served on more than 50 scientific advisory boards and evaluation committees. He has received the CNRS bronze and silver medals, and several prizes from charities.





Dr. Clifton McKee is an Infectious Disease Ecologist interested in zoonotic pathogens and their dynamics within host populations and at the human-animal interface. Overall, his research sits firmly within One Health, seeking to understand disease emergence at the intersection between public health, animal ecology, and environmental change. He uses a combination of statistical modeling, molecular genetics, and phylogenetics to investigate pathogen persistence in animal reservoirs, evolution of host specificity, and ecological drivers of pathogen spillover.

Dr. Anne Wyllie completed her BSc (Biomedical Science) and MSc (Medical Science) at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. In 2013, Anne started her PhD research at the UMC Utrecht, the Netherlands on the "Molecular surveillance of pneumococcal carriage in all ages". A major focus to of this work was validating and optimizing saliva to improve carriage detection. In 2017, she started her postdoctoral training under Dr. Daniel Weinberger at the Yale School of Public Health. At the start of 2020, Anne joined Yale's COVID-19 pandemic response efforts where she applied her prior expertise of working with saliva and developed SalivaDirect - a low-cost, open-source, RNA-extraction-free PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 which received Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA to support the reopening of communities, worldwide. During these efforts, Anne became Principal Investigator of her own research group, which has continued to evaluate saliva as a low-resource sample type to support sustainable diagnostic and surveillance efforts.

Dr. Nokukhanya "Khanyi" Msomi is a Clinician-Scientist with an interest in diagnostic virology, surveillance and the elimination of viral diseases of public health significance. Dr. Msomi leads clinical and diagnostic virology laboratory services in KZN and is jointly appointed by the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the National Health Laboratory Service as the academic head of department. She is a member of the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa (NGS-SA), the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) and the Polio Eradication committee of South Africa.

Dr. Rachel Roper is a Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at East Carolina University (ECU) in the Brody School of Medicine. She received her B.S. from Texas A & M University, and her M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Rochester, School of Medicine and Dentistry where she received the M.A. Hare Research Excellence Award. She received her post-doctoral training at the NIH Lab of Viral Disease and was awarded an NIH Fellows Award for Research Excellence. She has worked on viral virulence genes and vaccine development and is an inventor on poxvirus and coronavirus patents. She is a member of the National Academy of Inventors, an ECU Woman of Distinction, and recipient of the School of Medicine Women's Advocacy Award and Faculty Senate Extraordinary Service Award. Dr. Roper has received funding from foundations, industry, and the US NIH and NSF. She is Chair of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) poxvirus section and a Chair of the Global Virus Network Mpox Task Force.







Dr. Shaw Gargis is the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/Division of Regulatory Science and Compliance (DRSC) Associate Director for Science and Chief of the Biosafety, Science, Training, and Expertise (BSTE) Branch. Dr. Gargis joined DRSC as a microbiologist in 2013 before moving to the Science Office as Deputy Associate Director for Science in 2018. In 2023, Dr. Gargis served as the Science Team Lead and Biosafety Officer within the DRSC Science Office. Before joining DRSC, he was a researcher at CDC working on the development of rapid antimicrobial resistance detection assays for bacterial pathogens such as Bacillus anthracis, Burkholderia pseudomallei, and Yersinia pestis, and was an American Society for Microbiology/CDC Postdoctoral Fellow working on understanding Legionella pathogenesis. Dr. Gargis received his B.S. in Microbiology and his Ph.D./M.S. in Biological Sciences from The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Dr. Mohammed Abdulaziz is the Head of Division, Disease Control and Prevention, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, African Union commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the co-chair for the Infection Prevention and Control Technical Working Group for Africa CDC continental response to COVID-19. He leads the Country Engagement work stream of Africa CDC Saving Life and Livelihood program for delivery of COVID-19 across the continent. He is a medical doctor and has a Master in Public Health. He is a fellow of the West African College of Physician and rose to the position of Chief Consultant Physician before joining Africa CDC. He is a fellow of the Chatham house Africa Leadership program in public health. Before his current appointment, he previously served as the Principal Medical Epidemiologist in Africa CDC where he was the program coordinator for Africa CDC first regional initiate to strengthen public health in Africa. Dr Mohammed has over 40 publications in peer review journals like the *Lancet, Nature Review immunology, American Journal of Psychiatry and BMJ Global Health.*

Dr. Yenew Kebede Tebeje is a medical microbiologist and public health expert with 20 years of clinical, teaching, laboratory science, research, capacity building, and programme design and management experience. His achievements include building laboratory systems in low-income countries, human resource capacity development, and development of policy frameworks and guidelines that impact laboratory programmes in Africa. Dr. Tebeje currently serves as Head of Division of Laboratory Systems at Africa CDC where he leads programmes to strengthen public health laboratory systems and networks in Africa. Before joining Africa CDC, Dr. Tebeje worked for more than 12 years as Technical Officer and later as Branch Chief for Laboratory at the US CDC in Ethiopia, where he provided strategic leadership for one of the most successful laboratory systems development programmes of the US CDC. Dr. Tebeje worked as assistant lecturer, lecturer and later as assistant professor at Gondar College of Medical Science, University of Gondar. He was recognized several times for his outstanding contributions, including the Mission Honor Award, Meritorious Honor Award and US CDC Center for Global Health Director's Award. He has written lecture notes on microbiology, immunology and parasitology and authored and co-authored more than 30 articles in peer-reviewed journals.





Dr. Kazunobu Kojima graduated from Hokkaido University School of Medicine, Japan, and obtained PhD from Sapporo Medical University in infectious disease epidemiology, where he was an Assistant Professor. He has been in service to WHO for more than 20 years, starting from Western Pacific Regional Office in Manila for the polio eradication initiative, and moved to WHO Headquarters in Geneva as the technical lead for biosafety and biosecurity, including variola virus (smallpox) repository inspection and transportation of infectious substances. His publication includes WHO Laboratory Biosafety Manual 4th edition (LBM4) and WHO Laboratory Biosecurity Guidance, along with various research papers relating to rotavirus, poliovirus, infectious disease epidemiology and biosafety.

Dr. Emmanuel Agogo joined the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) in July 2023 as the new Director of of Pandemic Threats. Dr. Agogo holds over 20 years of experience in international development and public health, with expertise in in primary health care, health systems strengthening, HIV, TB, and global health security. He has held leadership positions at the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Resolve to Save Lives.

Dr. Nadia Sam-Agudu is a Clinician-Scientist who completed medical school at the Mayo Clinic Medical School and her pediatrics residency and pediatric infectious diseases fellowship training at the University of Minnesota Medical School. She is currently a Professor of Pediatrics in Pediatric Infectious Diseases and the Director of the Global Pediatrics Program at the University of Minnesota Medical School. Dr. Sam-Agudu is also a Senior Research Faculty and Senior Technical Advisor for Pediatric and Adolescent HIV at the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria. She has over 14 years of experience in implementing HIV programs and conducting implementation research in Nigeria. She has also provided teaching and mentoring in implementation science in Nigeria, Ghana, across West and Central Africa, and in other countries. Dr. Sam-Agudu's research focuses on implementation science methods for the prevention and treatment of HIV, TB, mpox and other infectious diseases affecting children in African countries. Most of her research is in Nigeria, Ghana, and other West and Central African countries, for which she has been funded by sponsors including the WHO, NIH, European Commission and the American Academy of Pediatrics. She is a member of the Nigeria Implementation Science Alliance (NISA), the Adolescent HIV Prevention and Treatment Implementation Science Alliance (AHISA) and leads the Central and West Africa Implementation Science Alliance (CAWISA).

Dr. Jana Broadhurst is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, where she directs the Infectious Diseases Diagnostics and Biopreparedness Council, Emerging Pathogens Laboratory, and U.S. Region 7 Special Pathogens Treatment Center clinical laboratory. As a clinical pathologist, microbiologist, and immunologist with expertise in emerging and high-consequence infectious disease research and response, Dr. Broadhurst works to develop and implement innovative tools to improve patient- and community-centered outcomes during infectious disease emergencies.





Dr. Chuan Kok Lim is a Clinician Researcher/Virology theme co-lead at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, Melbourne (Department of Infectious Diseases). He is a Medical Virologist at the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory (VIDRL) and Co-Director for Centre of Pathogen Genomics (University of Melbourne). As part of his role at VIDRL, Dr. Lim's expertise is in pandemic preparedness, focusing on innovative diagnostics and viral characterisation (genomics and phenotypic) for emerging pathogens. He has many public health leadership roles and is an active member of international (WHO CoViNet, WHO Biorisk and Biosecurity TAG-B, GOARN, WHO NIC, Global Virology Network) and national committees (PHLN, ABLN, NCIS, RCPA). Dr. Lim leads several multi-centre projects, including the national Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) diagnostic project to advance molecular, serology and genomic assays for flaviviruses across Australia; and clinical and environmental metagenomics through the Meta-GP programme. Dr. Lim has led many national laboratory investigations and characterisation for emerging pathogens (Mpox, JEV, MVEV, HEV, SARS-CoV-2, measles etc) with publications in high impact journals. His work has contributed to international public health policies (WHO) to support surveillance and pandemic preparedness.

Dr. Stephan Becker is a Professor of Virology and Director of the Institute of Virology at Philipps University Marburg. His research focuses on emerging viruses such as the Ebola virus, the Marburg virus and the MERS coronavirus. In addition to basic research on the biology and pathogenesis of the aforementioned viruses, his laboratory is involved in translational research to develop antivirals and vaccines against emerging viruses, from early preclinical steps to immune monitoring in clinical trials. In 2014/2015, his laboratory supported the four phase 1 clinical trials of the VSV-ZEBOV vaccine as part of the WHO-led VEBCON consortium. He is a Fellow of the National Academy Leopoldina and Deputy Spokesperson of the Emerging Infections Section at the German Center for Infection Research (DZIF, www.dzif.de/en). Stephan Becker coordinates a Collaborative Research Center funded by the German Research Foundation (www.sfb1021.de/home.html) and a government-funded Center for the Identification of Targets to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases (https://www.loewe-druid). His publications have been cited over 30,000 times.

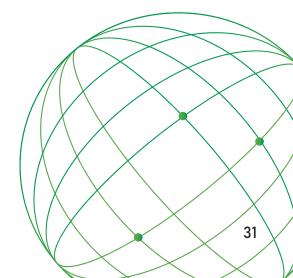
Dr. Robert Garry is Professor of Microbiology and Immunology and Associate Dean for Biomedical Sciences at Tulane Medical School in New Orleans. He is also Director of the Tulane Center of Excellence under the Global Viral Network and a Co-founder of Zalgen Labs. Dr. Garry and his colleagues are developing diagnostics, vaccines, and drugs for emerging viruses. His team performed the first in-depth clinical study of Ebola virus disease in West Africa. Other work includes the development of human monoclonal antibodies that are able to cure monkeys challenged with Lassa virus even when treatment is delayed for more than a week. The Garry Laboratory is supporting IAVI (formerly: the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative) in developing vaccines against Lassa, Marburg, and Sudan viruses. Dr. Garry is co-author of a widely cited analysis indicating that SARS-CoV-2 has a natural origin rather than having been engineered in a laboratory.





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Robert Gallo, MD is the University of South Florida (USF) Health Morsani College of Medicine James P. Cullison Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Director of the newly established USF Health Virology Center. He is also the Tampa General Hospital (TGH) Cancer Institute Director of the Microbial Oncology Program. Dr. Gallo is Co-founder and Chairman of the Scientific Leadership Board of the Global Virus Network (GVN) since its inception in March 2011. Previously he served from 1996 to March 2023 as Co-founder and Director of the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) where he was Emeritus Director from March 2023 until July 2024. Prior to that he worked for 30 years at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Bethesda, MD. While at NCI, he and his co-workers discovered interleukin-2 (II-2) in 1976. Gallo and his colleagues then opened and pioneered the field of human retrovirology with the discovery of the first human retrovirus (HTLV-1) in 1980 and along with Japanese investigators showed it was a cause of a particular form of human leukemia. A year later he and his group discovered the second known human retrovirus (HTLV-2). Dr. Gallo and his colleagues also co-independently discovered HIV, and provided the first results to show that HIV was the cause of AIDS. They also developed the life-saving HIV blood test. In 1986 he and his co-workers discovered human herpes virus-6 (HHV-6), the first new herpes virus found in more than 25 years and the cause of Roseola. He is also the recipient of numerous scientific honors and awards, most notably twice receiving the Lasker Award (1982, 1986) and the General Motors Cancer Research Award.







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