

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
CMHS, UAE UNIVERSITY

E-BOOK

SCIENTIFIC WEBINARS, HEALTH
PROMOTION WEBINARS AND NEWSLETTERS





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WELCOMING MESSAGE

In correlation with the mission of the Institute of Public Health (IPH), which is to educate health professionals and promote the health of individuals at the national, regional, and global levels, the IPH has initiated the delivery of a series of free scientific and health promotion webinars.

The scientific public health webinars are organized for the network of public health professionals in collaboration with ASPHER (Association of Schools in Public Health in the European Region). IPH has been a proud associate member since 2019. The series aims to showcase the importance of interdisciplinarity in public health practice, research, and training. We invited distinguished international speakers and covered interesting public health topics. In a short time, it became a popular venue for exchanging scientific expertise.

Health promotion webinars are focused on a broad public, informing the community about different health-related issues. It is arranged with health experts from UAE in collaboration with national health authorities. Speakers shared evidence-based health promotion lectures with practical advice. Our graduate and undergraduate students are involved in the organization of these webinars. By working with multiple disciplines and collaborating with local communities and government, we can have a tangible impact on public health research and practice.

Here, you can find current and archived webinar recordings, as well as our newsletter that highlights the IPH news and activities.



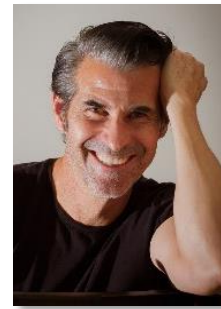
Prof. Michal Grivna
Director, Institute of Public Health
College of Medicine and Health
Sciences
United Arab Emirates University

How our instincts to be healthy are making us sick



Dr. Louis Hugo Francescutti

*Royal Alexandra Hospital and the Northeast
Community Health Centre in Edmonton, Canada*



Dr. Robert Barrett

*Royal College of Physicians &
Surgeons of Canada, Canada*

Date: 21st October 2020

Dr. Louis Hugo Francescutti is an emergency and preventive medicine physician, a university professor, an international speaker. He trained in preventive medicine at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and is Past-President of the Canadian Medical Association, and Past-President of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Dr. Francescutti has spent nearly three decades advocating one message: Live Smart. Reputed as one of Canada's leading medical visionaries and regarded internationally for his 'down to earth' and 'bold' methodologies, Lou is not intimidated by political correctness, nor is he afraid to tell it like it is. "People need to hear what the real issues are--no sugar coating. We live in a world that is far too complex and unforgiving. People need to learn that they are in control of their future and fortune--both in terms of health and happiness".

Dr. Robert Barrett has spent much of his life studying behavior, group dynamics, and organizational culture. His primary focus is on why we do the things we do and how individuals and teams can reach top performance. He has traveled to rural Nigeria to interview recruiters and leaders of death squads on how they indoctrinate fighters, he helped build Canada's first ever Patient Safety Officer program for Canadian hospitals, lectured on intercultural negotiation for senior Canadian Forces officers deploying to Afghanistan, and was lead researcher on a unique program designed to investigate ways to mitigate astronaut crew conflict in space for future Mars missions. Robert's work on motivation and team dynamics is also supported by 13 years as an elite athlete. Robert has written for the Huffington Post and has appeared more than 50 times on national television and radio. He is the recipient of a dozen major academic awards and is a human factors expert with over 15,000 hours of flying experience.



Recording: [Click here](#)

Nothing is true and everything is possible public health in a world of “fake news”



Prof. Martin McKee

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK

Date: 18th November 2020

Prof. Martin McKee is Professor of European Public Health at LSHTM, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. He qualified in medicine in Northern Ireland and subsequently trained in public health in London. He manages a large research team studying the health effects of social, economic, and political transition. He has published over 1,200 papers in peer-reviewed journals, and he is author or editor of 46 books. He is in the top 1% of researchers by citations across all disciplines in the Clarivate world rankings.

His contributions to health policy in Europe have been recognized by election to Fellowship of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences, Foreign Associate Membership of Institute of Medicine of the US National Academies of Sciences, and membership of Academia Europaea. He has also been awarded 6 honorary doctorates. In 2003 he was awarded the Andrija Stampar medal by the Association of Schools of Public Health in European Region (ASPHER) and in 2005 he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to health care in Europe. He has over 30,000 followers on Twitter, as @martinmckee

 Recording:

Commercial determinants of health – a global challenge



Dr. Nino Paichadze

Milken Institute School of Public Health, The George Washington University, USA

Date: 19th January 2021

Dr. Nino Paichadze, MD MP is Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Global Health at the Milken Institute School of Public Health, the George Washington University. Her research focuses on non-communicable diseases (NCDs), injury prevention, digital health and research capacity development in low- and middle-income countries. Her research interests include utilizing mobile technologies for optimizing data systems on NCDs and associated risk factors, using the data for defining gaps in the management of chronic conditions and understanding the impact of commercial determinants on health outcomes. Dr. Paichadze holds a Master of Public Health degree from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she also completed her postdoctoral fellowship and a medical degree from Tbilisi State University, Georgia.



Recording: [Click here](#)

Planning for an outbreak of health



Prof. John Middleton

President of ASPHER

Date: 23rd February 2021

Prof. John Middleton Hon FFPH, FRCP, is the President of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) and Immediate Past President UK Faculty of Public Health. He leads ASPHER's strategic development and chairs the ASPHER COVID-19 task force who produced extensive materials for teaching and advocacy. He was Director of Public Health for Sandwell in the West Midlands of England for 27 years. His professional interests are in community safety, community development, climate breakdown and environmental protection. In another life he is a blues harmonica player with Dr Harp's Medicine Band, www.drharp.co.uk, albums on apple music and Spotify.



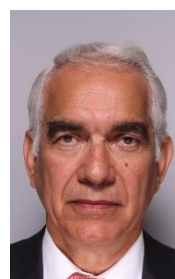
Recording: [Click here](#)

Public health in the Arab World, are we doing well?



Prof. Iman Nuwayhid

Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut, Lebanon



Prof. Salman Rawaf

Imperial College London, UK

Date: 23rd March 2021

Prof. Iman Nuwayhid is a Professor of Public Health at the Faculty of Health Science (FHS) at the American University of Beirut (AUB), where he formerly served as Dean for 12 years (2008-2020). He received his MD from AUB and a Master of Public Health (MPH) and a DrPH in Occupational Health from The Johns Hopkins University, USA. Dr. Nuwayhid is American Board Certified in Occupational Medicine and an elected fellow to the Collegium Ramazzini since 2004. He is co-editor of the landmark book on “Public Health in the Arab World” (Cambridge University Press, 2012) and a co-chair of the Lancet-AUB Commission on Syria. Dr. Nuwayhid applies a social and political lens of analysis in his research, which focuses on the health of workers including working children, environment and health, and conflict and health. Under his leadership as Dean, FHS adopted a homegrown 360° system-network approach to public health teaching, research, practice, and policy, for which FHS received the “Global Health Leadership Award” in 2018 at the Arab Health Summit organized by the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) in Washington, DC.

Prof. Salman Rawaf is the Chair of Public Health, Director of WHO Collaborating Centre in the Department of Primary Care and Public Health at Imperial College London, UK. He acquired his qualification in medicine, with training in pediatrics and public health, and spent the breadth of his career in leading roles in the NHS. Professor Rawaf is a globally recognized for his international work and contribution to global public health, health systems development, primary care and medical education in research and service delivery. He is an adviser to the World Health Organization on primary care, public health, health systems, medical education and training, human resource for health and COVID-19. He is involved in many national and international advisory works, including different task forces on COVID-19 and is a member of several editorial boards. Prof. Rawaf published almost 250 scientific papers, five books and many international reports and received many awards and recognitions including in 2015 a Life Achievement Award for innovative works in shaping health services, research and medical education



Recording: [Click here](#)

Public health genomics



Prof. Róza Ádány

University of Debrecen, Hungary

Date: 20th April 2021

Prof. Róza Ádány is a medical doctor specialized in preventive medicine and public health, founding Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, leader of the Public Health Research Group at the University of Debrecen, Hungary, visiting professor at the Semmelweis University (Budapest, Hungary). She is the immediate past president of the Public Health Genomics Section of the European Public Health Association (2012-2021), former President of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER, 2001-2003), Vice-Chair of the WHO European Advisory Committee on Health Research (2012-2020).

Her scientific research achieved international significance regarding the identification of susceptibility genomic biomarkers of cardio-metabolic diseases; investigation of the structure and causes of premature mortality in Europe, especially among Roma; and evaluation of interventions for improved efficiency of prevention. She has over 350 scientific publications and more than 8000 citations in the international literature. She received several prestigious international awards, such as Award of the European Regional Director of the WHO for outstanding contribution to the improvement of health of the European population (2019) and H.R. Leavell Award 2020 of the World Federation of Public Health Associations.



Recording:

Digital public health, some hints for a research agenda



Prof. Luís Velez Lapão

*Professor of Global Health Information at
Universidade Nova de Lisboa*

Date: 18th May 2021

Prof. Luís Velez Lapão, PhD, MSc, Professor of Global Health Information at Universidade Nova de Lisboa. Coordinator of the DISHC-Digital & Smart Health Laboratory. He is the President of the General Council of the Lisbon Nursing School and a member of the Coordination of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Workforce Policy and Planning. Co-Coordinator of the CPLP Telemedicine Network. He has been the auditor of the European Commission for Healthcare Information Systems since 2005 and a member of the WHO/ITU Group on AI for Health (AI4H). He is currently the Principal Investigator of three research projects on health information and digital health, one related to COVID-19. He is author of more than 150 papers. <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0506-1294>



Recording:

Health system recovery from emergencies, transforming challenges into opportunities



Dr. Ali Ardalan

Regional Adviser and Head of Health Systems in Emergencies Lab WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

Date: 22nd June 2021

Dr. Ali Ardalan, MD, PhD is a public health professional with 17 years of experience in arena of health emergency management at various managerial, policy making, advisory and academic capacities. Currently he is the Regional Adviser and Head of the Health Systems in Emergencies Lab (HSEL) at WHO EMRO, with a focus on health systems recovery from emergencies, operationalization of HDPNx, and refugee and migrant health. Dr. Ardalan was the founding chair and Professor at the Department of Disaster Public Health at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Senior Fellow at Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, and a Visiting Scientist at Harvard School of Public Health.

The webinar aims to present a structured approach to the recovery and resilience-building processes of health systems and formulate implementation of building back better approach in recovery planning during the COVID-19 pandemic and other priority emergencies in the Eastern Mediterranean Region including conflicts and natural disasters.



Recording:

Updates on COVID-19 response in UAE



Dr. Farida Al Hosani

*Executive Director of Infection Disease Sector in
Abu Dhabi Public Health Center*

*Official Spokesperson for Health Sector in the UAE
Leader of the National Covid-19 Research
Committee*

Date: 28th September 2021

Dr. Farida Ismail Al Hosani, The familiar face of the efforts and developments of COVID-19 pandemic in the United Arab Emirates. Dr. Farida Al Hosani is the official spokesperson for the health sector in the UAE and manager of Communicable Diseases Department, Abu Dhabi Center of Public Health and Adjunct Associate Professor at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences at the UAE University. Dr. Farida graduated from the Medical College at the UAEU in 2003. In 2011 she obtained a Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University in the United States. She has got a DrPH in Health Policies and Management in 2018, and a Diploma in Public Sector Innovation from Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Government Innovation and University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom in 2017. She also obtained a master's in Strategic and Security Studies, from the National Defense College in the UAE in 2019. Dr. Farida Al Hosani contributed to the field of public health, as she participated in scientific and international research in health and infectious diseases and developed strategic plans for infectious diseases preparedness and dealing with pandemics. She is an expert of the World Health Organization in the field of emerging diseases. Dr. Farida Al Hosani received several awards, including: Hamdan Bin Rashid Education Award for Outstanding Performance in 2007, Excellent Bravo Award for Outstanding Employee from the Department of Health in Abu Dhabi and Abu Dhabi Award for Excellence in Government Performance in 2013. In addition, an Excellence in Teaching Award from the UAE University.



Recording: [Click here](#)

Public health workforce: development, competencies, and professionalization



Prof. Katarzyna Czabanowska

Maastricht University, The Netherlands

Date: 26th October 2021

Prof. Katarzyna is a Professor of Public Health Leadership and Workforce Development at the International Health Department, Maastricht University, the Netherlands, Honorary Member of the UK Faculty of Public Health. She directs Governance and Leadership in European Public Health program. She published around 200 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals. She is the Past President of the Association of the Schools of Public Health in the European region (ASPHER), an academic Board Member of the Studio Europa at Maastricht University; she serves as a WHO expert in the area of Public Health Leadership, public health workforce development and planning and public health systems



Recording:

From reducing High maternal and child mortality to NCDs burden in Himalaya's: Prevention first



Prof. Syed Shah

Institute of Public Health, College of Medicine & Health Sciences United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, UAE

Date: 23rd November 2021

Prof. Syed Mahboob Shah is Professor in the College of Medicine and Health Sciences at the Institute of Public Health, the United Arab Emirates University. He is the World Heart Federation Emerging Leader for NCDs Prevention. His research focuses on non-communicable diseases (NCDs), mental health early childhood development, and research capacity development in low- and middle-income countries. Dr. Shah completed his medical training from Khyber Medical College, Peshawar University, a Master of Public Health degree in International Health, and PhD in Epidemiology from the Houston School of Public Health, University of Texas, in USA. He Completed one year Certificate course in the design and implementation of Clinical Trials from Harvard Medical School. He previously served the Aga Khan University as a faculty member in the Community Health Sciences, and the College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, Canada as an Associate Professor, and Washington State government as a Research Scientist.



Recording:

Challenges of cancer survivorship: mental health and lifestyle considerations



Dr. Islam Elkonaissi

*Senior Clinical Pharmacist BMT & Haematology,
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City and Mayo Clinic,
UAE*

*Director, United Kingdom Clinical Pharmacy
Association (UKCPA), UK*

Date: 21st December 2021

Dr. Islam Elkonaissi is an international speaker and a prescribing cancer pharmacist in the UK. He is a Director of the UK Clinical Pharmacy Association (UKCPA). Dr. Islam held prestigious positions and led cancer services at world-renowned institutions including The Royal Marsden in London and Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Currently, he is overseeing the pharmacy BMT and Haematology service at Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City and Mayo Clinic in Abu Dhabi.



Recording:

Genomics and translational epidemiology as drivers for public health



Prof. Vasilis Vasiliou

Chairman, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Yale University, USA

Date: 25th January 2022

Prof. Vasilis Vasiliou (PhD), is Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental Health Sciences. He received his BSc in Chemistry (1983) and PhD in Biochemical Pharmacology (1988) from the University of Ioannina, Greece. He then trained in gene-environment interactions, molecular toxicology and pharmacogenetics at the Department of Environmental Health in the College of Medicine at the University of Cincinnati (1991-1995). In July 2014, he joined the faculty of Yale University. In addition to his funded NIH-research portfolio, Prof. Vasiliou is the director of the NIAAA-funded R24-Resource Center for Mouse Models and Metabolomics Tools to Investigate Alcohol Metabolism and Tissue Injury. Prof. Vasiliou has published over 200 papers and edited three books on Alcohol and Cancer. Prof. Vasiliou is the editor of Human Genomics and serves on the editorial boards of several toxicology and visual sciences journals.



Recording: [Click here](#)

The global brain health survey



Dr. Isabelle Budin-Ljøsne

Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway

Date: 22nd February 2022

Dr. Isabelle Budin-Ljøsne (PhD), is a bioethicist and senior advisor at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway. She holds an MA in research ethics from the Keele University in the United Kingdom and a PhD in research ethics from the University of Oslo, Norway. She has over the years been involved in several European projects in the field of genetic epidemiology and is currently a work package leader in the EU-funded project Lifebrain (www.lifebrain.uio.no). Dr. Budin-Ljøsne is also the national ELSI representative of the biobank infrastructure Biobank Norway and participates in the ELSI task force of the European research infrastructure BBMRI-ERIC. She served as a member of the Nordic Committee on Bioethics from 2015 to 2021. Isabelle's research explores ethical and societal challenges associated with health research and the conduct of longitudinal cohort studies.



Recording: [Click here](#)

Health literacy – what is it and why is it important?



Dr. Josefin Wångdahl
Uppsala University, Sweden

Date: 22nd March 2022

Dr. Josefin Wångdahl (MSc, PhD), A researcher at the department of Public Health and Caring Sciences, Uppsala university and affiliated to ARC, the Swedish research representant of the Action Network on Measuring Population and Organizational Health Literacy of EHII - WHO-Europe (M-POHL), and member of the Research Standards Committee of the International Health Literacy Association (IHLA). Wångdahl's thesis was about health literacy among newly arrived refugees in Sweden and what implication it has for their health and health care. For many years she has worked in several large national EU-funded research projects aiming to promote the health and health literacy of migrants with refugee background. She has experiences of translation and validation of several health literacy instrument and teach regularly about health literacy. Moreover, she was one of the initiators of the Swedish website on health literacy, which she now is responsible for.



Recording: [Click here](#)

Mandates and public health messaging

**Dr. Steven A. Matarelli**

Vice President for Clinical Affairs and Special Projects for Medpoint Asia, China

Date: 26th April 2022

Dr. Steven A. Matarelli, PhD RN FABC is Vice President for Clinical Affairs and Special Projects for Medpoint Asia, serving in the capacity of Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Quality Officer for Guangzhou R&F Hospital, Guangzhou China. Formerly, Dr. Matarelli worked as a Sr. Clinical Executive for Vocera Communications - Middle East & United Kingdom and as Field Director and Nurse Surveyor for Joint Commission International. Prior to joining Joint Commission, Dr. Matarelli worked for Johns Hopkins Medicine International in the role of Chief Operating Officer/Chief Clinical Officer of Tawam Hospital, United Arab Emirates.

A graduate of the Johnson & Johnson Wharton Fellows Program in Management for Nurse Executives and a Fellow of the Healthcare Advisory Board, Dr. Matarelli is a highly experienced national and international speaker in the United States, Middle East, and Asia on topics of nursing care, hospital operations, patient safety, research, and “theory-into-practice” for healthcare providers, community organizations, and academic settings. His 37 years of healthcare experience has spanned bedside nursing, clinical and executive operations, academia, research, and industry.



Recording: [Click here](#)

Aid Effectiveness and multi-stakeholder participation in public health



Dr. Padmini Murthy

Global Health Director at New York Medical College School of Health Sciences and Practice, USA

Date: 18th May 2022

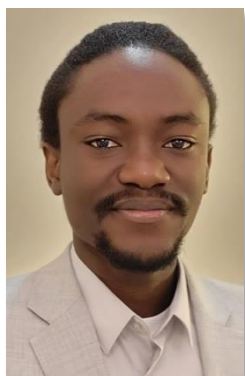
Dr. Padmini Murthy, MD, MPH, FAMWA, FRSPH is a globally recognized health professional in her roles as a physician and public health expert. Currently she serves as Professor and Global Health Director at New York Medical College School of Health Sciences and Practice, USA. She currently serves as chair of the International Health Section of American Public Health Association. She is global health lead for the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) and the NGO rep to United Nations. Dr. Murthy has been working with UN ambassadors and UN missions to promote women's health globally with local efforts. Some of the projects she has worked on include safe motherhood, spearheading the procurement of medical equipment to serve communities in Grenada, Kenya, India, Malawi, Liberia, and Nepal. She has worked with the former 1st Lady of Malawi on a Safe Motherhood Project by providing funds to establish maternity waiting home and supply safe motherhood kits to women.

During the COVID crisis in 2020/ 2021 Murthy has spearheaded efforts working with other NGOs, foundations in the US and other countries in sending Oxygen Concentrators to India and PPE (over 85,000,) masks, face shields to the Navajo Nation, local organizations, and individuals. She is currently working on a Menstrual Equity Project with the First Lady of Suriname.



Recording: [Click here](#)

Vulnerability and resilience in maternal, newborn and child health: The role of gender norms and opportunities for gender-transformative interventions



Dr. Emmanuel Olamijuwon

*CHERISH Research Fellow, School of Primary Care,
University of Southampton, UK*

Date: 28th June 2022

Dr. Emmanuel Olamijuwon is a social and health researcher. His interests lie at the intersection of culture, health, and technology use in low-and-middle-income countries, particularly Africa. He has explored these dimensions through his contribution to projects examining gendered dimensions of vulnerability and resilience in MNCH, gender roles and child health nutrition, young African adults' experiences of technology-facilitated violence, and technology use in sexual health promotion, among others. He also maintains an active research program using innovative methods and digital traces to study African populations.

Affiliation: CHERISH Research Fellow, School of Primary Care, Population Sciences and Medical Education, University of Southampton, UK



Recording: [Click here](#)

All you need to know about Monkeypox



Dr. Aqeel Saleem

*Senior Consultant Infectious Diseases and Medicine
Tawam / Al Ain Hospitals, UAE*

Date: 27th September 2022

Dr Aqeel Saleem a senior Consultant of Infectious Diseases and Medicine at Tawam/ Al Ain Hospitals. He is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at UAEU. Dr. Aqeel earned his residency in Internal Medicine, from University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 2002 and his Infectious Diseases fellowship from University of West Virginia 2002-2004. He practiced Infectious Diseases at USA from 2004-2008 then moved to Tawam / Al Ain Hospitals as Infectious Diseases Consultant from 2008 – to date.

Dr. Aqeel is the director Infectious Diseases fellowship and the chair of the antimicrobial Stewardship at SEHA from 2017-2019 and the chair of Infection control 2017 – to date. He published numerous of articles in peer reviewed Journals.



Recording: [Click here](#)

Introduction to social determinants



Dr. Lorraine Dean

Associate Professor in Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA

Date: 22nd November 2022

Dr. Dean the Associate Professor in Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

As a social epidemiologist, her work focuses on privilege and health, including social (racism, discrimination, social capital) and economic (consumer credit, socioeconomic position) determinants of disparities in cancer and HIV.

She has led several studies as PI of NIH and Center for AIDS Research grants. She holds a doctorate from Harvard School of Public Health and was a J. William Fulbright program awardee to Venezuela



Recording: [Click here](#)

Public Health Aspect of Tobacco



Dr. Salma E. El Amin

Epidemiologist and has teaching research experiences at Tampere University, Finland

Date: 13th December 2022

Dr. Salma is a medical doctor worked as a Community Medicine Physician & Public Health Consultant at MOH-Sudan, where she was one of the strategists and a planner for Preventive Medicine for the development of Public Health and health-related policies. She also worked as director for Non-communicable Diseases and a head of Health Promotion Programs for many years. She oversaw and coordinated Cancer, Diabetes, and Tobacco Control at state and country levels. Dr. El Amin is also an Epidemiologist and has a teaching research experiences at Tampere University in Finland, where she got her PhD. Her research focus on Tobacco among young age group, she was a research field leader, Supervisor of data collection, Facilitator, and Report writer of the global tobacco surveys funded by WHO and CDC and MOH.

Dr. El Amin was granted technical and scientific awards due her outstanding accomplishments in the field of community and preventive medicine, she awarded SISU Prize from University of Tampere-Finland “for showing exemplary persistence and endurance”, it shows determination and bravery and reflects hard work capabilities.



Recording: [Click here](#)

Climate Change and its implications for infectious Disease Epidemiology



Dr. Stephanie Thomas

Head of Service of the Manchester Medical Microbiology Partnership (MMMP), UK

Date: 31st January 2023

Dr. Stephanie Thomas has been a Consultant Medical Microbiologist at Manchester University Foundation Trust (Wythenshawe Hospital) since 2010 and is currently the Head of Service of the Manchester Medical Microbiology Partnership (MMMP). She gained an honours degree in Biochemistry with Microbiology from St. Andrews University, Scotland and her medical degree from Dundee University. She completed higher specialist training in Medical Microbiology in Manchester, UK. During this time she completed a Master's degree in Diagnostic and Medical Virology at the University of Manchester and a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. She holds a Post Graduate Certificate in Medical Education.

In 2017 Dr. Thomas undertook an Observership program at the WHO / UN City Copenhagen, with the European Society for Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) and for the past year has been on Sabbatical in the Laboratory & Testing Cell of Public Health Scotland (PHS), working on the COVID-19 response. During this placement, she was the COVID-19 testing lead for the Climate Change Conference COP26, held in Glasgow, Scotland. She has recently been appointed into the role of Adjuvant Assistant Professor at the Institute of Public Health.

Dr. Thomas has published widely in peer reviewed journals and been Invited Speaker at Scientific Conferences nationally and internationally. She has contributed to textbook Chapters on Infection and Infection Prevention and Infection in Critical care Patients



Recording: [Click here](#)

Operational Research: what, why and how?



Dr. Mohammed Khogali

Associate Professor at IPH, scientist at the World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva

Date: 31st January 2023

Dr. Khogali is a medical doctor holding a Master's in Public Health and a PhD in Operational Research. Through the years, he has gained extensive experience and knowledge in operational and health systems research. His research work involves observing, monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on the effectiveness of health policies, tools, management, and strategies of public health programs around the world and providing innovative insights and solutions that health decision and policymakers, as well as public health organizations, can use to informed decision-making and strengthen health systems. He has built strong working relationships with a diverse set of partners, including United Nations institutions, governmental and non-governmental partners. He has utilized his knowledge of the principles of operational and implementation research to effectively facilitate the application and interpretation of data and evidence to operational policy and practice.



Recording:

Healthy Ageing: Perspectives of Older Persons in Malaysia



Profesor. Ir. Dr. Siti Anom Ahmad

Director, Malaysian Research Institute on Ageing (MyAgeing™) University Putra Malaysia

Date: 14th March 2023

Dr. Siti Anom Ahmad is the Director of Malaysian Research Institute of Ageing (MyAgeing™). She is also a Professor at the Faculty of Engineering, Universiti Putra Malaysia. Siti Anom received her PhD in Electronics in 2009 and MSc in Microelectronics System Design in 2004 from the University of Southampton, UK. She received her BEng in Electronic/ Computer from UPM in 1999. She is a Professional Engineer of Board of Engineers Malaysia, Chartered Engineer of Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET), Senior Member of Institute of Electrical & Electronic Engineering (IEEE) and member of the Institute of Engineers Malaysia (IEM). Her research interests are biomedical engineering, artificial intelligence, gerontechnology and intelligent control system



Recording: [Click here](#)

Artificial Intelligence and Academic Integrity



Dr. Sonja Bjelobaba

Associate Professor and Researcher at the Centre for Research Ethics and Bioethics, Uppsala University, Sweden

Date: 16th May 2023

Dr. Sonja is researcher at the Centre for Research Ethics & Bioethics as well as an associate professor in Serbian, Croatian, Bosnian at the Department of Modern Languages the Uppsala university. Bjelobaba is a vice-president of European Network for Academic Integrity (ENAI) and co-ordinator of the Erasmus+ strategic partnership project Bridging Integrity in Higher Education, Business and Society (BRIDGE, 2020-2023). She defended her thesis at the University of Gothenburg where she, as an educational developer, taught research integrity, postgraduate supervision courses and other courses for faculty relating to teaching and learning in higher education. Sonja Bjelobaba's research concentrate on academic and research integrity



Recording: [Click here](#)

Energizing communities to promote healthier and happier lives



Dr. Glenn Laverack

Social scientist, Adjunct faculty in the Institute of Public Health, College of Medicine & Health Sciences United Arab Emirates University, UAE

Date: 20th June 2023

Dr. Glenn Laverack is a social scientist and an international leader in health promotion and community empowerment with a distinguished career for 40 years as a practitioner, an academic, researcher and consultant in more than 50 countries. He has been an advocate for the value of ordinary people in the development of innovative solutions to co-create successful programs in different cultural contexts. He has managed several large-scale health programs including in Ghana and India and has a wide range of publications including 26 books in 13 different languages. He has held an academic position at 8 universities and his PhD investigated the collaborative role of communities in health programs in Fiji. He is presently an independent adviser with governmental and international development agencies.



Recording: [Click here](#)

Qatar Biobank: Diabetes Case



Dr. Eleni Fthenou

Scientist at Qatar Biobank for Medical Research, the Lead PI of the Qatari Birth Cohort (QBiC) study in Qatar

Date: 26th September 2024

Dr. Eleni Fthenou received her PhD from the Medical School of the University of Crete, Greece in 2007 and her BSc in Genetics (Immunology) from the University of Aberdeen in UK in 2003. She has worked at the Department of Health Research Governance at the Ministry of Public Health in Qatar, and she was highly involved in the development of Qatar's national policies, regulations, and guidelines of health research for a safe and innovative research ecosystem in the country. She has also worked as a scientist at the Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) and Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL), Barcelona, Spain, focusing her research on molecular epidemiology and the exposome. She was a Manager of the Clinical Nutrition and Epidemiology of Diseases Laboratory, at the Department of Social Medicine and Epidemiology, School of Medicine, University of Crete, Greece, designing and developing the biobank for the first mother-child cohort (Rhea study) in Greece. Currently she holds the position of Scientist at Qatar Biobank for Medical Research focusing on the science of biobanking committed to the promotion of research in precision health, environmental epidemiology, and the translation of research findings into policy. She has participated in different grants from Qatar National Research Priorities as well as European and US projects such as, NewGeneris, EnvironGenomarkers, HiWate, FAMRI and others. She is the Lead PI of the Qatari Birth Cohort (QBiC) study in Qatar and her main research interest is in gene-environment interactions and molecular epidemiology.



Recording: [Click here](#)

Loneliness and Social Isolation Among Older Adults: An Emerging Public Health Challenge



Dr. Ashwin Kotwal

Assistant Professor, Division of Geriatrics. University of California, San Francisco. San Francisco VA Medical Center

Date: 21st November 2024

Dr. Kotwal is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Geriatrics at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Medicine. He completed undergraduate training in Anthropology at Northwestern University, and his medical and biostatistics training at University of Chicago. He went on to complete his Internal Medicine residency at Harvard University's Brigham and Women's Hospital, and an integrated clinical fellowship in Geriatrics and Palliative Care at UCSF.

Dr. Kotwal devotes most of his time to research focusing on understanding and enhancing social connections of older adults to improve their quality of life and health care access. He has received funding from the US National Institute on Aging to investigate experiences of loneliness and social isolation among older adults with cognitive impairment, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on social well-being. His research interests also involve evaluation of community-based interventions to address loneliness and isolation, particularly among older adults with cognitive impairment or approaching the end of life. His clinical practice is at the San Francisco Veterans Administration Medical Center. He is Associate Director of the UCSF Division of Geriatrics NIH-funded T32 Aging Research Fellowship and has a strong interest in mentorship.



Recording: [Click here](#)

From Public to Planetary Health



Ms. Paula Schwenke

*Chair of Public Health and Health Services
Research, Institute for Medical Information
Processing, Biometry and Epidemiology, Germany*
Date: 12th December 2024

Ms. Paula Schwenke, M.Sc., is a dynamic professional dedicated to advancing public health and fostering innovative learning concepts. As a Research Assistant at the Chair of Public Health and Health Services Research within the Institute for Medical Information Processing, Biometry, and Epidemiology (IBE), she specializes in Planetary Health Teaching and Research. Her work focuses on understanding the impact of environmental factors on public health and developing strategies for a healthier planet. In addition to her academic role, Paula is a co-founder of ROCKET EDU GmbH, where she actively contributes to promoting healthy learning concepts. Paula Schwenke has contributed significantly to the field through her publications. Her research provides valuable insights into the current state of knowledge and interest in Planetary Health among students in the health sector. Paula Schwenke earned her Master of Science in Public Health from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München, from October 2018 to September 2021. Prior to that, she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Applied Health Science from Hochschule Furtwangen University between April 2014 and August 2017. Her educational background has equipped her with a solid foundation for addressing complex public health challenges and implementing innovative solutions..



Recording: [Click here](#)

Emerging Zoonotic Diseases: Case of Monkeypox in Europe



Prof. Emma Davies

Consultant Clinical Scientist currently based at Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester UK

Date: 23rd January 2025

Prof. Emma Davies is a Consultant Clinical Scientist currently based at Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester UK. She has been in her current position since October 2022 after gaining Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists in 2019 and completing the NSCHS Higher Specialist Scientist Training in 2021. She has a particular interest in molecular diagnostics and whole genome sequencing from the laboratory perspective alongside an interest in viral infections in paediatric patients, particularly those having undergone haematopoietic stem cell transplantation.



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AI in Healthcare: Benefits and Drawbacks



Prof. Assaf F. Alassaf

Executive Director, American Institute for Healthcare Quality, Distinguished Presidential and Regents' Professor Emeritus, and Former Associate Dean for International Health, University of Oklahoma, USA

Date: 27th February 2025

Prof. Alassaf is an international consultant in healthcare quality, patient safety, and hospital management for the last 35 plus years.

Dr. Alassaf is a physician (MD) with a Master's degree (MS) and a Diploma in Cardio-thoracic Medicine (DCTM) from the University of London. He also holds a Masters of Public Health Administration degree (MPH) from the University of Oklahoma. Member of the American College of Cardiology (MACC), Fellow of the Royal Society of Health (FRSH), to name a few. He also Certified as a Quality Analyst (CQA) and holds certifications in infection control, risk management, and patient safety. Dr. Al-Assaf has published 17 books, eight book chapters, and over 170 scientific and professional publications in national and international journals, and presented lectures, seminars, or workshops to over 350 groups and organizations both nationally and internationally. He is a reviewer and editorial board member of several American and international journals.

Dr. Al-Assaf is a recipient of more than 100 awards and recognitions including Who's Who in America and the World. At the American Institute for Healthcare Quality and since March 2013, he serves as the Executive Director and has delivered numerous courses to healthcare professionals world-wide. He provides advice on healthcare systems strengthening and accreditation in the U.S. and other countries worldwide. His consultation extends to such organizations as U.S. Air Force, US Agency for International Development (USAID), World Bank, UNDP, UNICEF, and WHO. He has also provided advice on system strengthening to a number of organizations and served as advisor to health ministries in different countries. As a researcher and public speaker, he served as the Distinguished Regents' and Presidential Professor, Dean for International Health and Adjunct Professor of Geriatric Medicine, Nursing and Liberal Studies at the University of Oklahoma for more than 28 years. He also had several adjunct and visiting professor appointment at several universities inside and outside USA.



Recording: [Click here](#)

Megatrends in quality and accreditation in health care and higher education



Prof. Dr. H. Seval Akgun

Professor of Public Health and Medicine in Baskent University and University of North Carolina-Pembroke, USA

Date: 21st May 2025

Professor Seval Akgun holds multiple degrees including MD, PhDs, and MSc.

- She has over 35 years of experience in public health, quality, and accreditation in healthcare.
 - Professor Akgun serves as a Professor of Public Health and Medicine at Baskent University School of Medicine and University of North Carolina-Pembroke, USA.
 - She is the Chief Quality Officer for Baskent University and oversees 10 hospitals and 16 hemodialysis centers.
 - Akgun has served as an expert and evaluator for various European Commission programs.
 - She works globally as a consultant in quality and accreditation in healthcare and higher education.
 - Akgun has led numerous projects supported by organizations like the World Bank, European Commission, and WHO.
 - She has lectured on quality and accreditation in healthcare and serves as a reviewer for accreditation processes in various countries.
 - Akgun is an evaluator for European Commission projects and has authored over 300 scientific articles and 17 books.
 - Currently, she holds positions including Professor of Medicine, Adjunct Professor, Chief Quality Officer, Occupational Health Specialist, Quality Coordinator, and President of Health Care Academician Society in Ankara, Turkey.
-

Interdisciplinary Approach to Public Health & Public health policy and advocacy



Prof. Eva Skuka

The Dean of the College of Health Sciences at the, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, USA



Dr. Jeff Bolles

Associate Professor of Public Health, Francis Marion University, USA

Date: 25th June 2025

Prof. Eva Skuka is the Dean of the College of Health Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. She earned her medical degree at the University of Tirana School of Medicine in Albania and a Ph.D. in Human Services and Healthcare Administration from Capella University. She began her career as a medical doctor and later turned her focus to higher education, where she has served for the last 18 years. Prior to joining the University of North Carolina at Pembroke Dr. Skuka served as the founding dean of Allied Health and special advisor to the senior vice president for Nursing and Allied Health at Swedish College, NYC and associate provost for academic affairs and dean of the School of Health Studies at Berkeley College New Jersey and New York. Her professional interests are in the education and development of health care workforce, determinants of health and impact of policy on health outcomes, as well as population health in rural areas. Most recently, Dr. Skuka served as a member of the North Carolina Medicaid Expansion Data Working Group and as a Co-PI of the HBCU-COVID19 project. Skuka has taught health science and healthcare administration courses at undergraduate and graduate degree levels. She is a member of the American Medical Association, Medical Group Management Association and American College of Medical Practice Executives, and American College of Healthcare Executives.

Dr. Jeff joined Francis Marion University, in Fall 2024, as an Associate Professor of Public Health. Jeff received a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education Theory (Exercise Physiology) from the State University of New York, College at Cortland, a Master of Arts in Exercise and Sport Science (Exercise Physiology) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a Master of Business Administration (Financial Services) from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, a Graduate Certificate in Finance from East Carolina University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Health Studies (Health Education and Administration) from Texas Woman's University. Jeff's research interests include Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS [Lou Gehrig's disease, health behavior theory and application, epidemiology, and health advocacy.



Recording: [Click here](#)



HEALTH PROMOTION WEBINARS



Bullying challenges and solution

تحديات التنمر والحلول



Dr. Faisal Al-Bakri

*Adviser to the Minister of Education in the
United Arab Emirates*



Dr. Essam Ali

UNICEF- Gulf Area Office

Date: 9th February 2021



Recording: [Click here](#)

The science of happiness

علم السعادة



Ms. Noof Al Jneibi

*Director of the Emirates Center for Happiness
Research at the United Arab Emirates University,
UAE*

Date: 16th March 2021



Recording: [Click here](#)

Tips for healthier Ramadan during COVID-19 pandemic

نصائح لشهر رمضان أكثر صحة خلال جائحة كوفيد-19



Dr. Aysha Al Dhaheeri

*Department of Health Promotion & Public Health
Programs Abu Dhabi public health center, UAE*

Date: 6th April 2021



Recording: [Click here](#)

Cervical cancer prevention tips and facts

نصائح وحقائق للوقاية من سرطان عنق الرحم



Dr. Thikra Hasan Al Safi

Consultant Physician at Tawam Hospital, UAE

Date: 1st June 2021



Recording: NA

Breast cancer, what do you need to know about prevention?

سرطان الثدي، ما الذي يجب أن تعرفه عن الوقاية؟



Dr. Sawsan Al Madhi

Director of the Friends of Cancer Society, UAE

Date: 12th October 2021



Recording: [Click here](#)

Prevention of children's traffic and home injuries

الوقاية من حوادث الأطفال والإصابات المنزلية



Ms. Samira Al Kathiri

Occupational Safety Department - Health and Safety Department, UAE

Date: 16th November 2021



Recording: NA

Physical activity in the workplace

النشاط البدني في مكان العمل



Dr. Mansour Anwar Habib

*Director of Sustainability and Quality of Life
Department - Emirates Integrated
Telecommunications Company "du", UAE*

Date: 12th January 2022



Recording: [Click here](#)

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) - prevention and treatment

الوقاية والعلاج - الذئبة الحمامية الجهازية



Dr. Afra Al Dhaheri

Rheumatism consultant at Tawam hospital, UAE

Date: 2nd February 2022



Recording: [Click here](#)

Polycystic Ovaries (PCO) versus Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS)

مقابل متلازمة المبيض المتعدد الكيسات المبيض المتعدد الكيسات



Dr. Saba Munib Sheikh

Obstetrician & Gynecologist, Ambulatory Health Care Services, UAE

Date: 8th March 2022



Recording: [Click here](#)

Obesity and Pre-metabolic syndrome

السمنة ومتلازمة ما قبل التمثيل الغذائي



Dr. Sara Al Hadrami

Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, UAE

Date: 24th April 2022



Recording: [Click here](#)

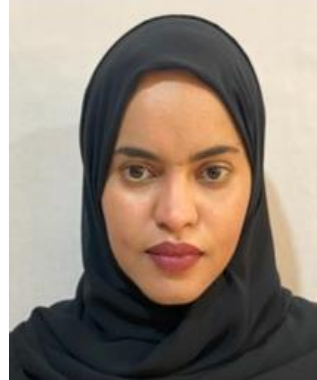
Smoking and Midwakh: it's time in quit

التدخين والمدواخ:
حان وقت الإقلاع عن التدخين



Dr. Mohammad Al Houqani

Associate Professor at the CMHS, UAEU, UAE



Dr. Budoor Al Shehhi

*Chronic Diseases Department at
the Abu Dhabi Center for Public
Health, UAE*

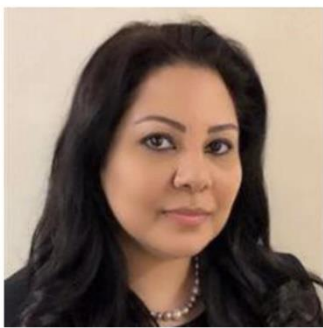
Date: 31st May 2022



Recording: [Click here](#)

Mental health among Youth

الصحة النفسية لدى الشباب



Dr. Rasha Bayoumi

University of Birmingham, Dubai, UAE

Date: 21st June 2022



Recording: [Click here](#)

How to prepare a healthy school lunch box

كيفية تحضير علبة الغداء المدرسية الصحية

Ms. Fakhera Al Ghaitihi

SEHA, Lecturer in schools and social activities, and supervisor of training for undergraduate and postgraduate students, UAE

Date: 13th September 2022



Recording: [Click here](#)

Stress management: Ask your psychiatrist

إدارة التوتر: اسأل طبيبك النفسي



Dr. Fatima AlMansoori

Consultant psychiatrist, University of Toronto, Canada

Date: 10th October 2022



Recording: [Click here](#)

Safe medication uses at home

استخدامات الدواء الآمنة في المنزل



Ms. Fehminda Rasooli

*Senior pharmacist and in-patient pharmacy,
Tawam Hospital, UAE*

Date: 15th November 2022



Recording: [Click here](#)

Eyes' Health

صحة العيون



Dr. Mariam Al Merri

Ophthalmologist at Tawam Hospital, UAE

Date: 8th December 2022



Recording: [Click here](#)

Anemia among youth: Prevention and management

فقر الدم بين الشباب: الوقاية والإدارة



Dr. Sharefa Al Blooshi

Assistant Professor at Zayed University, UAE

Date: 1st March 2023



Recording: [Click here](#)

Cyberbullying among youths

التنمر الإلكتروني بين الشباب



Dr. Leena Amiri

*Assistant Professor, Psychiatry department,
CMHS, UAEU, UAE*



Mr. Mohammed Al Heera

*Certified lecturer in the Cyber
Security Council, UAE*

Date: 20th March 2023



Recording: [Click here](#)

Acceptance of vaccinations from a cultural, social and religious perspective

قبول التطعيمات من الناحية الثقافية والاجتماعية والدينية



Prof. Ahmed Alsuwaidi

Professor of Pediatrics and Infectious Diseases, Acting Dean, and chair of the Department of Pediatrics, CMHS, UAEU, UAE



Dr. Hamza Hammad

Associate Professor and chair of Department of Sharia & Islamic Studies at the College of law, UAEU, UAE

Date: 26th March 2023



Recording: [Click here](#)

Organ Donation

التبرع بالأعضاء



Dr. Saif Ahmad Darwish

President of the Emirates Public Health Association, UAE

Date: 24th May 2023



Recording: [Click here](#)

No smoking for a healthy pregnancy

الامتناع عن التدخين من أجل حمل صحي



Dr. Hamda Al-Rumeithi

*Tobacco treatment Specialist (TTS) certified by
Council for Tobacco treatment training programs,
UAE*

Date: 14th June 2023



Recording: [Click here](#)



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