

01 Build partnerships among leading humanitarian and global health agencies



03 Share knowledge and prioritize next steps



02 Characterize immediate needs and barriers to diabetes care



04 Formulate concrete joint project(s) going forward



A Symposium for Leaders in Global Health

DIABETES IN HUMANITARIAN CRISES

APRIL 4 - 5, 2019
MARTIN CONFERENCE CENTER
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
BOSTON, MA

Supported in part by the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health.

BACKGROUND

Human suffering arising out of disaster or conflict includes death and disability from non-communicable diseases (NCDs), particularly diabetes mellitus. Approximately half a billion people lived with diabetes in 2018 and diabetes now accounts for more deaths globally than HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria combined. In parallel, global forced migration has reached a record high with 68.5 million people displaced from their homes in 2018. Moreover, the average length of forced displacement is now >20 years. Individuals with diabetes are particularly vulnerable in crises, given the risk of interrupted treatment and follow-up, impeded food supplies, and disrupted health services due to security issues and population movement. This increases the danger of medical complications. Despite these sobering statistics, the problem of diabetes has largely been neglected in humanitarian settings. Humanitarian agencies are challenged with how to effectively tackle diabetes in crises. The true scope of the problem has not been established and it is not known which interventions are effective and feasible in these contexts.

AIMS

As the challenges and enormous needs of diabetes care in humanitarian settings are gaining increasing attention globally, many organizations are starting to strategize and plan a way forward. Given the vast nature of the topic and need to collaborate as a global community in order to effectively tackle the challenges at hand, the aims of the symposium are to:

- Build partnerships among leading global health organizations involved in this work
- Characterize the current and most immediate needs and barriers to diabetes care
- Provide an important space to discuss and prioritize next steps as an international community from various sectors
- Formulate concrete joint project(s) going forward and identify potential funding sources

AGENDA | DAY 1

APRIL 4, 2019

8:00 am | REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

8:30 am | INTRODUCTION - Sylvia Kehlenbrink

8:40 am | WELCOME - Ursula Kaiser

8:50 am | OVERVIEW OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION - Stephanie Kayden

I. VOICES FROM THE FIELD (Moderator: Jennifer Leaning)

9:00-9:20 am | Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders – Kiran Jobanputra

9:20-9:40 am | Santé Diabète - Stéphane Besançon

9:40-10:00 am | International Committee of the Red Cross – Sigiriya Aebischer Perone

10:00-10:30 am | Discussion and Questions

10:30-10:45 am | COFFEE BREAK

II. PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION (Moderator: Richard Laing)

10:45-11:05 am | World Health Organization - Slim Slama

11:05-11:25 am | International Rescue Committee – Laura Miller

11:25-11:45 am | UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees - Akihiro Seita

11:45-12:15 pm | Discussion and Questions

12:15-1:15 pm | LUNCH BREAK

III. ACCESS TO MEDICINES (Moderator: Jing Luo)

1:15-1:35 pm | University of Geneva – David Beran

1:35-1:55 pm | American Diabetes Association – Kelly Mueller

1:55-2:15pm | Médecins Sans Frontières – Amulya Reddy

2:15-2:45 pm | Discussion and Questions

2:45 - 3:00 pm | COFFEE BREAK

IV. DATA NEEDS FOR PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION (Moderator: James Meigs)

3:00-3:20 pm | Brigham and Women's Hospital - Sylvia Kehlenbrink

3:20-3:40 pm | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - Heiko Hering

3:40-4:00 pm | International Rescue Committee – Ruwan Ratnayake

4:00-4:30 pm | London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine – Bayard Roberts

4:30-5:00 pm | Discussion and Questions

5:00-6:00 pm | COCKTAILS AND HORS D'OEUVRES

AGENDA | DAY 2

APRIL 5, 2019

8:30 am | INTRODUCTION - Sylvia Kehlenbrink

8:45 am | WELCOME - Michael VanRooyen

V. FINANCING (Moderator: Rifat Atun)

9:00-9:30 am | American University of Beirut - Nisreen Salt

9:30-10:00 am | The Defeat-NCD Partnership - Vera Siesjö

10:00-10:30 am | Discussion and Questions

10:30-10:45 am | COFFEE BREAK

10:45-12:00 pm | SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

I. VOICES FROM THE FIELD

II. PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

III. ACCESS TO MEDICINES

IV. DATA NEEDS FOR PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

V. FINANCING

12:00-1:00 pm | LUNCH BREAK

1:00-3:00 pm | PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION OF ACTIONABLES - Mark Atkinson

3:00-3:30 pm | SUMMARY AND CONCLUDING REMARKS - Sylvia Kehlenbrink

A SPECIAL THANKS TO



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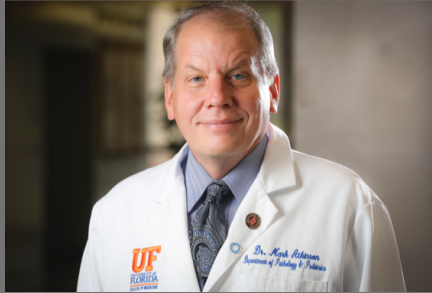
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Department of Global Health
and Population



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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Mark Atkinson

Dr. Mark Atkinson is the American Diabetes Association Eminent Scholar for Diabetes Research and the Jeffrey Keene Family Professor at The University of Florida (UF). He also is the Director of the Diabetes Institute at UF. The author of over 450 publications, Dr. Atkinson is beginning his 35th year of investigation into the field of type 1 diabetes (T1D). He is an internationally recognized authority on multiple aspects pertaining to the pathogenesis and prevention/cure based treatments for this disease and is the second most cited author in the world on the topic of T1D over the last decade. Dr. Atkinson has been the recipient of multiple scientific and humanitarian based awards for these efforts. He has also engaged in leadership service to the T1D community at a national and international level. He serves as ad hoc Editor-in-Chief of the two major Diabetes journals in the U.S., Diabetes and Diabetes Care. He is President of Insulin for Life USA, an organization he co-founded with its current Director (Carol Atkinson) in 2011. This not-for profit is dedicated to providing insulin and other disease management supplies to persons living with diabetes in the developing world (17 ongoing partnerships and past provisions to over 40 nations) as well as disaster relief (co-founding member of the Diabetes Disaster Response Coalition; DDRC). He has also served in an advisory role to the Life for a Child program, the ACCISS effort, and with other public care related initiatives.

Mr. Stéphane Besançon is a biologist and nutritionist with specialised degrees in nutritional physiopathology and international development. He founded the international NGO Santé Diabète, became the Programme Director in 2003 and the CEO in 2009.

ONG Santé Diabète (SD) has set up numerous pilot schemes for the prevention and management of NCDs and especially diabetes in Africa. Besançon's work on health systems, chronic diseases, access to treatment, nutrition and diabetes in Africa has featured in many international and scientific publications. Together with Dr. Kaushik Ramaiya (vice president of the IDF), he has published a book entitled "Diabetes Africa" - devoted to the problematic of diabetes in Africa. He has also lent his expertise to a large number of reports for governments and international organisations. He is a member, with the NGO Santé Diabète, of the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs, and he was a member of the Lancet Commission on Diabetes in Sub-Saharan Africa. He is also a member of the Diabetes Atlas International Board and a member of the board of the Diabetes in humanitarian setting international board.

In 2018, he's been nominated, by Dr. Tedros, General Director of WHO, as one of the 27 members of the WHO Civil Society Working Group on the third High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on NCDs. During the 24th World Diabetes Congress held in December 2017 in Abu Dhabi, he received a special award for his work done for over 15 years in the fight against diabetes in Africa, and he has given for this award one of the 9 "Award Lecture" of the congress. Since 2015, he leads a weekly nutrition chronic on Radio France Internationale (RFI) in the broadcast "Priorité Santé" and a twitter account about nutrition but also of diabetes in Africa issues @StephBesancon.



Stéphane Besançon

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. Rifat Atun is Professor of Global Health Systems at Harvard University and the Faculty Chair for the Harvard Ministerial Leadership Program. In 2008-12 he was a member of the Executive Management Team of the Global Fund as Director of Strategy, Performance and Evaluation. In 2006-2013 he was a Professor of International Health Management at Imperial College London. He is a visiting professor at University of Kyoto, Japan.



Rifat Atun

Professor Atun's research focuses on health system performance and reform, and innovation. He has published over 300 papers in leading journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine, the Lancet, JAMA, and the Academy of Management Journal. Prof Atun has advised more than 30 governments on health policy and health system reform, and has worked with the World Bank, WHO and leading organizations such as Medtronic, Novartis, Roche, and Merck & Co. Professor Atun worked in the UK as a clinician for 15 years before moving to academia. He worked at the UK Department for International Development Health Systems Resource Centre. He has been involved with new ventures in biotechnology, health technology and health IT as an investor, founder and director.

Professor Atun was a member of the US National Academy of Medicine Committee on Health Systems, and the Advisory Boards of WHO Research Centre for Health Development in Japan and the Norwegian Research Council's Programme for Global Health Research. He chaired the STOP TB Partnership Coordinating Board in 2009-2011. He is a member of the UK Medical Research Council's Global Health Group, and the Longitude Prize Committee - the largest science prize in the world.

Professor Atun studied medicine at University of London as a Commonwealth Scholar. He completed postgraduate training in family medicine and public health, and obtained a Masters in Business Administration at University of London and Imperial College London. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, the Faculty of Public Health, and the Royal College of General Practitioners.

David Beran is based at the Geneva University Hospitals and University of Geneva, Faculty of Medicine, within the Division of Tropical and Humanitarian Medicine, Department of Community Medicine, Primary Care and Emergency Medicine. He is currently leading two large international research projects one on the management of Noncommunicable diseases and Neglected Tropical Diseases in primary health care in Mozambique, Nepal and Peru, and a global study of barriers to access to insulin, including pilot work in Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Peru and Tanzania. David is a Swiss national who grew up in Geneva. He holds a BSc in Management and obtained his MSc in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. David's PhD at University College London researched the needs of people with Type 1 diabetes in 13 countries. His research interests include: health systems; management of chronic diseases; patient needs; access to insulin and the issue of multi-morbidity.



David Beran

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Heiko Hering

Mr. Heiko Hering is the Senior Public Health Officer with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its headquarters in Geneva. He works in a team that provides technical and operational support to refugee operations worldwide and is engaged at global level with the global humanitarian health community to advance evidence and programming in humanitarian settings. Heiko's work covers a wide range of emerging public health priorities, including health information systems, inclusion strategies and health financing for the integration of refugees into national health systems, medicines management, malaria prevention and control and non-communicable diseases. The latter is where UNHCR has been pivotal in bringing together operational agencies, academia and subject matter experts to work on operationalising NCD care in humanitarian health interventions. Before joining UNHCR in 2007, Heiko worked for Médecins Sans Frontières in several emergencies. He started his international career in Bosnia in the mid-90's. Heiko is a public health specialist with a degree in nursing and a Masters of Public Health.



Kiran Jobanputra

Kiran Jobanputra trained in Family Practice and Public Health, prior to joining MSF where he has worked for the last 12 years. He is currently a deputy medical director based in London, and leads a multi-disciplinary team of specialists focused on the thematic areas of Tuberculosis, Malaria, NCDs, Social Sciences, Epidemiology and Public Health Intelligence. He has worked with MSF as field doctor and medical coordinator in Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, Haiti, Swaziland, Kenya and China, and was advisor on non-communicable diseases from 2014-2018.



Ursula Kaiser

Ursula B. Kaiser, M.D. is Chief, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Hypertension at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Kaiser received her medical degree and completed her clinical residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Endocrinology at University of Toronto Medical School in Canada. Dr. Kaiser has an active research program focused on the genetic and molecular mechanisms underlying the neuroendocrine regulation of reproductive development and function, with an emphasis on the mechanisms regulating GnRH and gonadotropin production. Dr. Kaiser's research has received continuous NIH support for more than twenty years. She is the Principal Investigator of two NIH R01 grants, the Program Director of the NIH-funded Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) program to train junior faculty in women's health research, and the Principal Investigator of an NIH training grant to train physicians and scientists in academic endocrinology. Dr. Kaiser is also an active clinician, focusing on neuroendocrinology and reproductive endocrinology. She has successfully mentored over 40 students, fellows and other trainees, many of whom have gone on to independent academic faculty positions, and she has more than 130 publications. Dr. Kaiser is a member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians, is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, is the recipient of the Ernst Oppenheimer Award of the Endocrine Society and the A. Clifford Barger Excellence in Mentoring Award at Harvard Medical School, and is a past Vice President of the Endocrine Society.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Stephanie Kayden

Dr. Stephanie Kayden is Vice Chair and Chief of the Division of International Emergency Medicine and Humanitarian Programs in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She is an Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Kayden also serves as the Director of the Lavine Family Humanitarian Studies Initiative at the Humanitarian Academy at Harvard. She is on the editorial board of the Journal of Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness and is editor-in-chief of the book Emergency Department Leadership and Management: Best Principles and Practice. Dr. Kayden has worked to improve emergency medical systems, humanitarian aid and disaster response in more than 40 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.



Sylvia Kehlenbrink

Dr. Sylvia Kehlenbrink is an Endocrinologist and Director of Global Endocrinology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, an Instructor at Harvard Medical School, and Founder and Director of the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Conflict Program at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. Currently, she leads the Humanitarian NCD InTeragency study in Emergencies and Disasters (UNITED) consortium, which consists of seven leading international humanitarian organizations and where the focus is on improving diabetes care in humanitarian contexts through collaborative, practice-based research. She also directs the new Global Endocrinology Unit at Brigham and Women's Hospital, which has been established to provide clinical guidance, education and support in the management of endocrine disorders, as well as perform research to improve the care of diabetes in low-resource and humanitarian contexts.



Richard Laing

Richard Laing is a professor in the Department of Global Health at Boston University School of Public Health where he teaches and researches on pharmaceutical topics within the Pharmaceuticals Track. At present, he focuses on evaluating pharmaceutical company NCD access programs and on access to insulin. He is also an Extraordinary Professor at the School of Public Health at the University of Western Cape where he works with Hazel Bradley on establishing a pharmaceutical public health program for Africa. Originally trained as a medical doctor, he worked for the Ministry of Health in Zimbabwe for over 18 years, during which time he undertook postgraduate Masters and Doctoral studies on Community Health for Developing Countries and on Comparative Health Systems & Policy Analysis. Professor Laing holds an MBChB and MD from the University of Zimbabwe, a MSc from the University of London and an honorary doctorate from Utrecht University. After receiving his graduate degrees, he spent six years working for Management Sciences for Health (MSH) where he coordinated the International Network for the Rational Use of Drugs. Following his work with MSH, Dr. Laing taught international public health at the Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH) for seven years before joining WHO as a medical officer. He was actively involved in work related to medicines pricing and availability, national medicines policies and access to NCD medicines during his ten years at WHO. Professor Laing has published an extensive list of academic publications. Most recently, he has published a number of articles related to access to NCD medicines in Kenya and insulin access as part of the ACCISS project.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Jennifer Leaning, MD, SMH, is a senior fellow at the Harvard FXB Center and Professor of the Practice at Harvard School of Public Health. As associate professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, she is a faculty member in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She served as the director of the Harvard FXB Center from January 1, 2010 until September 1, 2018. Prior to her appointment in 2010, Dr. Leaning served for five years as co-director of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. From 1999 to 2005 Dr. Leaning directed the Program on Humanitarian Crises and Human Rights at the Harvard FXB Center. During the 1980s and 1990s, Dr. Leaning held progressively responsible roles in medical management at Harvard Community Health Plan (now Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates) and was medical director of the Health Centers Division from 1992-1997. She has worked clinically in emergency medicine from 1978 (and at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston from 1986-2005).

Her research interests focus on issues of public health and international law in response to war and disaster, early warning for mass atrocities, and problems of human security in the context of forced migration and conflict. She has field experience in assessment of issues of public health, human rights, and international humanitarian law in a range of crisis situations (including Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Kosovo, the Middle East, Pakistan, the former Soviet Union, Somalia, the Chad-Darfur border, and the African Great Lakes area). She has published widely on these topics and submitted reports and policy briefings to US and UN agencies, the International Criminal Court, and major NGOs.

She has served on the boards of Physicians for Human Rights, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Oxfam America, and the Humane Society of the United States. She has served on several advisory committees, most recently as a member of the Global Health Advisory Committee for the Open Society Foundations.

Currently, she is a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes and the Board of Directors of the Norwegian Refugee Council USA, and the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross of the Massachusetts Region. She was editor of the international journal *Medicine and Global Survival*, from 1994-2001, and serves on several journal editorial boards as well as the Board of Syndics at Harvard University Press.

The author of many academic articles, she has also co-edited two books, including *Humanitarian Crises: The Medical and Public Health Response*, published by Harvard University Press in 1999. She earned her AB magna cum laude from Radcliffe College, her Masters of Science from Harvard School Public Health, and her MD with honors from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. She trained in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and is board certified in emergency and internal medicine.



Jennifer Leaning

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Jing Luo

Dr. Jing Luo is a graduate of Duke University and the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine. He completed his residency in primary care internal medicine at Yale-New Haven Hospital and fellowship in general internal medicine at the Brigham and Women's Hospital. He received his MPH in clinical effectiveness at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, is an Instructor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and a faculty member of the Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics at the Brigham and Women's Hospital. He is a member of the Program on Regulation, Therapeutics and Law (PORTAL), and has expertise in strategies to improve the affordability of insulin in the US. His research studies and perspectives have been featured in JAMA, The Lancet, JAMA Internal Medicine and The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology.



Laura Miller

Laura Miller is a Primary Health Care (PHC) Technical Advisor for the International Rescue Committee (IRC). She supports the technical design, monitoring and evaluation of IRC primary and reproductive health programs in conflict affected and refugee hosting countries. Over the past three years, she has supported primary health care projects in Bangladesh, Liberia, Libya, Myanmar, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Syria, Thailand, and Zimbabwe. Previously, she worked for the IRC in Sierra Leone, first as the Health Coordinator managing reproductive, maternal and child health programs, and then as the Coordinator of a national NGO consortium to support the government to respond to and recover from the Ebola outbreak. Prior to joining the IRC she worked for the New York City Department of Health Bureau of Communicable Disease and the International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC). She is a graduate of the program on Forced Migration and Health at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.



Kelly Mueller

Kelly Mueller, MS, PMP is the Vice President for Program and Product Business Integration at the American Diabetes Association. In this role, she leads the cross-functional collaboration and implementation of the Association's programs and products for consumers and healthcare providers. With a goal of expanding the reach and impact of the ADA's services, she is focused on engaging people living with diabetes, prediabetes, and those who are at-risk of diabetes in the future. In addition, she is leading special projects focusing on advances in medical technology for managing diabetes and emergency preparedness.

Prior to her work with the Association, Ms. Mueller led editorial services with Advancement Communications at the University of Rochester for the launch of the University's \$1.2B campaign, The Meliora Challenge. Her experience in community programs and partnerships extends through her prior work with The Rotary Charitable Trusts where she served as the Director of Marketing and Community Programs. Kelly holds a Masters Degree in Strategic Marketing and a Bachelors Degree in Biology/Environmental Studies with certification as a Project Management Professional and training in Lean Six Sigma methodology.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



James Meigs

James B. Meigs MD, MPH is Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital. His group studies causes and prevention of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease, approached using biochemical and genetic epidemiology of insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and health services translational research to improve type 2 diabetes and CVD prevention and clinical care. He is active research mentor and also is a practicing primary care internal medicine physician at MGH.



Sigiriya Aebischer Perone

Dr. Sigiriya Aebischer Perone is a medical doctor specialized in internal, tropical and travel medicine. Between 1999 and 2004, she worked as a clinician in Senegal, Benin, Zimbabwe and as coordinator of health programs the Balkans. She joined the ICRC in 2007 and oversaw physical and mental health of ICRC staff. She now works at the ICRC Health Unit as well in the Tropical and Humanitarian Medicine Division of the Geneva University Hospitals, as focal point for non-communicable diseases, with on-going clinical, project management and training activities focusing challenges in fragile environments.

Her most recent publications are Addressing the needs of terminally-ill patients in Bosnia-Herzegovina: patient's perceptions and expectations (2018), Psychological support post-release of humanitarian workers taken hostage: the experience of the International Committee of the Red Cross (2018), Non-communicable diseases in humanitarian settings: ten essential questions (2017), Modifying the Interagency Emergency Health Kit to include treatment for non-communicable diseases in natural disasters and complex emergencies: the missing clinical, operational and humanitarian perspectives (2017), A decade of an HIV workplace programme in armed conflict zones; a social responsibility response of the International Committee of the Red Cross (2016), and Partnerships in global health and collaborative governance: lessons learnt from the Division of Tropical and Humanitarian Medicine at the Geneva University Hospitals (2016).



Ruwan Ratnayake

Ruwan Ratnayake is an infectious disease epidemiologist, and a PhD student at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He was the senior epidemiologist at the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and has worked for the WHO, Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health, and others on epidemic response and research during crises. For the IRC, he is conducting research on the delivery of NCD care in Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria, and Jordan.



Bayard Roberts

Bayard Roberts is Professor of Health Systems and Policy at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Bayard has a public health background, much of it related to armed conflict, forced migration and health – focusing particularly on mental health, non-communicable diseases, and related harmful health behaviours. He works on projects with Médecins Sans Frontières to evaluate their NCD services. He also leads the RECAP project which seeks to support decision-making and accountability in humanitarian response, and is a co-investigator on the STRENGTHS mental health intervention study with Syrian refugees. Bayard is also Editor-in-Chief of the journal Conflict and Health.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Amulya Reddy, MD practiced internal medicine in the USA prior to transitioning to global health in 2004; initially with the Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) Amsterdam Emergency Team and subsequently in headquarters advisor and consultant positions with the MSF Access Campaign and other organizations. She currently supports MSF Amsterdam-based field teams in non-communicable diseases management.



Nisreen Salti

Nisreen Salti works on development economics and political economy. Her research is on inequality and inequity in resources, access, and outcomes, with a focus on health. She is especially interested in marginalized communities, particularly refugees. Her work has appeared in *Social Science and Medicine*, the *Lancet*, *Tobacco Control*, the *International Journal for Middle Eastern Studies* and the *Journal of Economic Studies* among others. She has been an active participant in local and regional policy debates, engaging policy-makers and analysts in government and at various multilateral organizations and arms of the UN. She obtained her PhD in Economics from Princeton University in 2006, and a Masters in Public Affairs in 1999.

Dr. Akihiro Seita is the Director of the Health Programme and the WHO Special Representative at UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East) HQ in Amman, Jordan since 2011. Dr. Seita is the leader in health reform. He manages the reform of UNRWA health services. He introduced person-centered, family medicine approach, or family health team (FHT), which is the best global practice within the Universal Health Coverage (UHC). He introduced the electronic medical record (or e-health). Both FHT and e-health are in all health centers of UNRWA, contributing to quality, efficiency and effectiveness improvement. He is the innovator in the health systems. While expanding the e-health (electronic medical records), he introduced an innovative cohort analysis for diabetes cases, contributed to 7 international peer-review articles. He took the lead in the introduction on the mobile application on the maternal and child health booklet (e-MCH booklet).



Akihiro Seita

He pursues the improvement of quality of primary health care by introducing the mental health services at present. His experience is summarized in his article "Governing the Reform of the United Nations Health Systems for Palestine Refugees: Moving Mountains" in the book, *Governing Health Systems*, published by the Harvard School of Public Health. He is a strong advocate for Palestine refugees' health issues, and published articles on right to health, such as "No health without peace: why SDG 16 is essential for health" (*Lancet*, vol. 388, November, 2016) and "Amid US funding cuts, UNRWA appeals for health and dignity of Palestinian refugees" (*Lancet*, 19 January 2018). Prior to UNRWA, Dr. Seita was the coordinator for tuberculosis, AIDS and malaria at the World Health Organization (WHO) Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office in Cairo, Egypt. He contributed to dozens of international scientific research papers based on UNRWA and WHO experiences. He received the Princess Chichibu Memorial TB Award for Global Contribution in 2014, and Takemi Life Science Award in 2017. He studied medicine at Kochi medical school in Japan. He was the research fellow for the Takemi Programme of International Health at Harvard School of Public Health (2003-2004).

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Vera Siesjö is the senior programme officer at The Defeat-NCD Partnership in Geneva. There, she works to assist low-resource countries to scale up sustained action on NCDs through national capacity building, community health scale-up, essential drugs and distribution and NCD financing. Ms Siesjö has over ten years of international experience in public health, health systems, quality and process improvement, eHealth and health financing. She was formerly country director of ACCESS Health International in the Philippines and Indonesia, where she initiated projects on health financing, healthcare quality improvement, eHealth, healthcare management and health policy and system research.



Vera Siesjö

Ms Siesjö also served as a health system consultant to the Asian Development Bank where she led work on people-centered healthcare and health system integration. Previously, Ms Siesjö led projects for the Centre for Health Market Innovations, an international network that acts to promote and connect innovative health care solutions, and for the Joint Learning Network for Universal Health Coverage, a network of practitioners and policymakers from thirty countries around the globe that focuses on advancing UHC in low- and middle- income countries. Her earliest career was in clinical psychology, primary health care and public health in public hospitals in Argentina, where as a programme manager she helped set up an integrated model of primary healthcare and mental health.

Ms Siesjö obtained a Master's in International Public Health from the University of Sydney and a Master's of Science in Psychology degree from the University of Palermo, Argentina.

Dr. Slim Slama is a medical doctor and specialist in Internal/Primary Care Medicine and Global Health. Dr. Slama currently assumes the positions of Regional Adviser in charge of NCD Prevention and Management Units, in the Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health Division (NMD), at the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, based in Cairo, Egypt.



Slim Slama

In his current position, Dr. Slama contributes to providing strategic and technical support to the 22 Member States of the region, in scaling up their efforts to better prevent and control NCDs. Part of his work is dedicated to the strengthening WHO normative and technical support to countries affected by humanitarian crises with the aim to improve NCD inclusion across the various phases of emergencies. In this regard, Dr. Slama led the development of WHO new NCD emergency kit, now deployed in five countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region. He is also a member of WHO Expert Working Group on NCDs in the refugee and migrant populations.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Michael VanRooyen, MD, MPH is the Director of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative at Harvard University and the Lavine Family Professor of Humanitarian Studies at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He is also the Chairman of Emergency Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) and a Professor of Emergency Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. VanRooyen founded and directs the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI), an interfaculty initiative at Harvard University. He has worked as an emergency physician with numerous relief organizations in over thirty countries affected by war and disaster, including Somalia, Bosnia, Rwanda, Iraq, North Korea, Darfur-Sudan, Chad and the Democratic Republic of Congo. He has worked in the field as a relief expert with several non-governmental organizations, including CARE, Save the Children, Oxfam, and Physicians for Human Rights. He has been a policy advisor to several organizations, including the World Health Organization and UN OCHA, the IASC Health Cluster.



Michael VanRooyen

Domestically, Dr. VanRooyen worked with the American Red Cross to provide relief assistance at the site of the World Trade Center in New York on September 11th, 2001. He also helped to coordinate the American Red Cross public health response to Hurricane Katrina, and oversaw the development of a 400 bed surgical field hospital in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake. He worked as a physician with the US Secret Service, NASA and with the US Public Health Service with the Navajo and Apache tribes in Arizona and New Mexico.

Dr. VanRooyen teaches courses at Harvard University and the Harvard School of Public Health on humanitarian operations in war and disaster. In 2012, he founded the Humanitarian Academy at Harvard, an educational program designed to advance humanitarian professionalism. He has authored the textbook "Emergent Field Medicine" and his most recent book, "The World's Emergency Room" describes the evolution of modern humanitarian aid and the threats to healthcare workers in conflict.