



**PMAC** | PRINCE MAHIDOL  
AWARD CONFERENCE **2018**



## **PARALLEL SESSION 1.2**

**STRATEGIC INFORMATION AND THE EVOLUTION OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS  
DISEASES: LESSONS FROM THE PAST AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES**



## | BACKGROUND

The last century has witnessed an increase in the frequency of emerging infectious diseases (EID) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Climate change, environmental pressure, population movement, population growth and increasing overlaps between human and animal livelihoods have contributed to an acceleration of novel infectious diseases. In addition, the increasing pace of human and animal pathogens resistant to antibiotic therapies raises serious concerns about treatable infections becoming life threatening, raising the death toll and the economic cost to potentially unsustainable level within decades.

In this context, early warning systems and strategic information play a key role in preventing, detecting and responding adequately to emerging zoonosis and antimicrobial resistance. More surveillance systems are needed. New technologies, electronic health records, internet and social media have the potential to provide timely information on emerging infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance that can supplement traditional surveillance systems. With these new tools, individuals and their communities can play a new role in participatory syndromic surveillance. Nevertheless, there are important caveats that need to be addressed, such as ensuring data privacy, underrepresentation of some categories such as infants, the elderly, or people lacking access to these new technologies.

## | OBJECTIVES

This session will look at the recent changes in strategic information and how can they contribute to current surveillance systems in order to identify appropriate actions and interventions for preparedness and response to emerging infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance.



Moderator

## Thierry Roels

*Director, Division of Global HIV/AIDS and TB*

Thailand MOPH – U.S. CDC Collaboration  
Thailand



Panelist

## Catherine Machalaba

*Policy Advisor*

EcoHealth Alliance  
United States of America



Panelist

## Kesete Admasu

*CEO*

RBM Partnership to End Malaria  
Switzerland

Dr Kesete served as Minister of Health of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia from 2012 to 2016. Dr Kesete has dedicated his career to public service and scientific research focused on major public health problems in Ethiopia and has received numerous national and international awards. A medical doctor by training with a Masters degree in public health, Dr Kesete has served in a number of clinical and public health positions. He has worked as a public private partnership team leader, the CEO of a tertiary hospital and the Director General of health promotion and disease prevention before assuming his current position as CEO of the RBM Partnership To End Malaria.



Panelist

## Lertrak Srikritjakarn

*Professor*

Chiang Mai University  
Thailand

In 1979, Lertrak Srikritjakarn graduated DVM from Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. After graduation, he started work as a veterinarian with Department Livestock Development, then 8 years as a field veterinary investigator in Epidemiology section of Thai-German, Regional Veterinary Diagnostic Centre in northeastern Thailand. In 1986 he completed Dr.med.vet study from Free University Berlin, Germany. In 1995 he started his profession as a lecturer of Division of Veterinary Public Health after joined the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Chiang Mai University and also Acting Associate Dean of Planning and Research. In 2003 he was a founder director of Veterinary Public Health Centre for Asia Pacific. His research interests are zoonoses control and VPH system. He was dean of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Chiang Mai University from 2006 - 2014 and currently is Dean's consultant in International Relations Affairs of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Chiang Mai University.



Panelist

## Mark Smolinski

*President*

Ending Pandemics

United States of America

Mark Smolinski, MD, MPH brings 25 years of experience in applying innovative solutions to improve disease prevention, response, and control across the globe. Mark is leading a well-knit team—bringing together technologists; human, animal, and environmental health experts; and key community stakeholders to co-create tools for early detection, advanced warning, and prevention of pandemic threats. Community health workers, village volunteers, farmers, and interested public citizens in Albania, Brazil, Cambodia, Europe, Laos, Myanmar, Tanzania, Thailand, and the United States are among those using their own solutions to address pressing local needs. Since 2009, Mark has served as the Chief Medical Officer and Director of Global Health at the Skoll Global Threats Fund (SGTF), where he developed the Ending Pandemics in Our Lifetime Initiative in 2012. His work at SGTF created a solid foundation for the work of Ending Pandemics, which branched out as an independent entity on January 1, 2018. Prior to SGTF, Mark developed the Predict and Prevent Initiative at Google.org, as part of the starting team at Google's philanthropic arm. Working with a team of engineers, Google Flu Trends (a project that had tremendous impact on the use of big data for disease surveillance) was created in partnership with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Mark has served as Vice President for Biological Programs at the Nuclear Threat Initiative, a public charity directed by CNN founder Ted Turner and former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn. Before NTI, he led an 18-member expert committee of the National Academy of Medicine on the 2003 landmark report "Microbial Threats to Health: Emergence, Detection, and Response." Mark served as the sixth Luther Terry Fellow in Washington, D.C., in the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General and as an Epidemic Intelligence Officer with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Panelist

## Osama Ahmed Hassan

*Centre for Global Health, Department of Community Medicine and Global Health*

Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo  
Norway

Dr. Osama (MSc, MBA, PhD) is an infectious disease epidemiologist with main interest and expertise on the "One Health approach" to study and tackle emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases with epidemic or pandemic threats. His fields' expertise focused on prevention and control including outbreak investigations and response, the One Health surveillance, risk analysis, as well as International Health Regulations (IHR) related to transboundary emerging diseases. Tackling antibiotic resistance from One Health perspectives as a related problem to emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases is at the core of his research and activity. Since he has expertise in Rift Valley Fever (RVF), he has worked earlier as UN/FAO consultant epidemiologist in expert mission in west Africa to advise on control of RVF outbreak. He also gives expert technical advice on preparedness against cross-border threats of emerging vector-borne diseases to EU-Health Commission. Dr. Osama is using the One Health approach findings to improve the national, regional and international policy towards prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging diseases threats. Currently, he is One Health Postdoctoral Research Fellow as well as responsible for the One Health signatory them at the Centre for Global Health, Department of Community Medicine and Global Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo, Norway.





Panelist

## Rico Gustav

*Senior Policy Advisor - Sustainability*

International Civil Society Support (ICSS)  
Netherlands

