



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



## **PARALLEL SESSION 2.1**

**BEYOND MERS AND ZIKA: ARE WE PREPARED FOR THE NEXT BIG EPIDEMIC?**



## | BACKGROUND

Over the past decade, Ebola, MERS, highly pathogenic avian influenza and, more recently, the Zika virus outbreaks have demonstrated the ability of epidemics to devastate communities through both extraordinary losses of life and severe morbidity as well as adverse social and economic impacts that jeopardize global health security. These recent disease outbreaks have not only made evident countries' lack of preparedness to adequately prevent, detect and respond to epidemics, but also the extent to which measures must cut across governance levels and all sectors of society in order to truly be effective. Furthermore, only one third of countries have met their commitments under the International Health Regulations (IHR). And although several tools and frameworks have been developed (by WHO, USAID, CDC, OIE, etc.) to provide guidance for countries to develop country epidemic preparedness and response plans, these are generally disease specific, have not been updated or tested through routine exercises, remain largely underfunded and are, therefore, not fully operational. As a result, many countries remain unprepared to prevent, detect, mitigate risks and respond to health threats and disease epidemics before they cause devastating consequences in the livelihoods of communities and the economies of countries.

## | OBJECTIVES

- To present country experiences on strengthening IHR core capacities, including efforts for effective coordination, partnership models and financing mechanisms to strengthen health security.
- To identify critical elements needed for sustainable, inclusive, and effective preparedness at country level and propose solutions for more effective epidemic preparedness guidance.
- To discuss gaps in the current guidance and frameworks that need to be filled to develop country epidemic preparedness and response plans.



Moderator

## John Nkengasong

*Director*

Africa CDC  
United States of America

Dr. Nkengasong Director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Until recently, he served as the deputy principal director (acting) of the Center for Global Health, United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S. CDC). He received a Masters in Tropical Biomedical Science at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium, and another Masters Degree in Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Brussels School of Medicine and a Doctorate in Medical Sciences (Virology) from the University of Brussels, Belgium. Between 1993-95 he was Chief of the Virology and the WHO Collaborating Center on HIV diagnostics, at the Department of Microbiology, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium. He joined the U.S., CDC in 1995 as Chief of the Virology Laboratory, U.S., CDC Abidjan, Ivory Coast. He has received numerous awards for his work including, but not limited to, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Award for excellence in Public Health Protection Research, the Sheppard Award, the U.S. Director's Recognitions Award and, most recently, the William Watson Medal of Excellence, the highest recognition awarded by CDC. Awarded for outstanding contributions and leadership in advancing global laboratory services and programs to support the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. He is also recipient of the knight of honour medal by the government of Cote d'Ivoire, and was on June 19th, 2017 knighted as the officer of Loin by the president of Senegal, H.E. Macky Sall, for his significant contributions to public health. He has authored over 200 peer-review articles in international journals and published several book chapters, and served on various international advisory boards.



Panelist

## Casey Barton Behravesch

*Director, One Health Office*

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
United States of America



Panelist

## Cassandra Kelly-Cirino

*Director of Emerging Threats*

FIND

Switzerland

Dr Cassandra Kelly-Cirino, Director of Emerging Threats at FIND, has over 20 years of experience working in Canadian and US public health and private sector settings. Cassandra began her career at the Canadian National Microbiology Laboratory working on emerging infectious diseases, including drug resistant bacteria, viruses and prions. In her 10-year tenure at the Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health, Cassandra served as the Deputy Director of the Biodefense Laboratory, a heavily regulated and accredited laboratory. During this time Cassandra also completed a PhD in Immunology and Infectious Diseases and developed vaccine and passive immunotherapeutic candidates for anthrax infections. She engaged national and international stakeholders in the development of public health policy for infectious diseases with a focus on emergency response and preparedness, developed novel diagnostic assays for multiple pathogens, and served as a development partner for commercial companies developing novel tools to combat infectious diseases. Most recently, Cassandra served as Vice President, Infectious Diseases with DNA Genotek, a Canadian company known for its sample stabilization and collection technologies. In this role Cassandra was responsible for multiple initiatives to bring simple collection and stabilization solutions to the global public health and outbreak response fields, including a Tuberculosis product designed specifically for low and middle income countries.



Panelist

## Hamid Jafari

*Principal Deputy Director, Center for Global Health*

United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

United States of America

Dr. Jafari is currently serving as the Principal Deputy Director, Center for Global Health, at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). Until February, 2016, Dr. Jafari was the Director of Global Polio Eradication at World Health Organization Headquarters, Geneva and the overall leader of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Before this appointment, Dr. Jafari served as the Project Manager of World Health Organization's National Polio Surveillance Project in India (2007-2012). As Project Manager of NPSP, he was the main technical advisor to the Government of India in the implementation of the nation's large scale polio eradication, measles control and routine immunization activities and directed WHO's extensive network of more than 2000 field staff. Previously, Dr. Jafari has served as Director of the Global Immunization Division at the CDC, Atlanta, USA. He has also served as the Medical Officer for Polio Eradication in the Regional Office of WHO for Eastern Mediterranean in Egypt on assignment from CDC. Dr. Jafari is a graduate of CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) program, Class of 1992. He obtained his MBBS degree from Sind Medical College, Karachi University. He completed his residency training in Pediatrics at Dartmouth Medical School and his Pediatric Infectious Disease fellowship training at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas. Dr. Jafari completed a research fellowship at Harvard Medical School. He has been certified by the American Board of Pediatrics in the sub-specialty of Pediatric Infectious Diseases. Dr. Jafari has published more than 70 scientific papers and book chapters on pathogenesis of infectious diseases, polio eradication and other vaccine-preventable diseases.



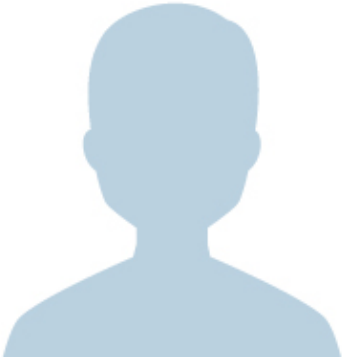
Panelist

## Isabella Ayagah

*IHR Focal Point*

Ministry of Health  
Kenya

Dr. Isabella Ayagah is with the Ministry of Health, Kenya. She has a working experience of 10 years with 9 years experience in Global Health Affairs and Diplomacy. She has played a key role in influencing national, regional and global health agenda through bilateral and multilateral engagements on behalf of the Government of Kenya and the East African Region. She also facilitated capacity building in Global Health Diplomacy for health ministers and over 150 senior government officials from the East, Central and Southern Africa- Health Community (ECSA-HC) member states since 2009. Dr. Ayagah has been in the frontline towards the establishment of the Eastern African Regional Collaborating Centre (RCC) of the Africa CDC hosted in Nairobi, Kenya. She was also part of the team that lead the JEE assessment process in Kenya. She is currently coordinating the Biological Threat Reduction Projects and IHR 2005 within the Ministry of Health and also provides technical support to the Eastern Africa RCC.



Panelist

**Itai Mupanduki**

*Public Health Consultant*

Independent Consultant  
United States of America







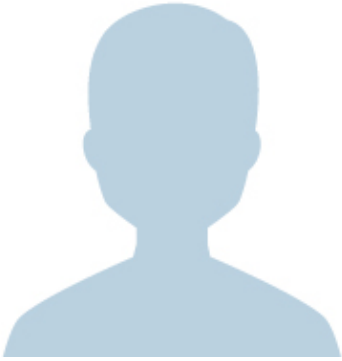
Panelist

## Ronello Abila

*OIE Subregional Office Representative*

World Organisation for Animal Health  
Thailand

Dr Ronello C. Abila is the Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia of the World Organisation for Animal health (OIE). Dr Ronello C. Abila is the Sub-Regional Representative for South-East Asia of the World Organisation for Animal health (OIE). Dr Abila is a Filipino Veterinarian who graduated as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from the University of the Philippines and a Master of Science in Epidemiology and Preventive Veterinary Medicine from Free University of Berlin, Germany. Dr Abila joined the OIE in June 2004 as Regional Coordinator of SEAFMD Campaign, and in September 2007 he was given additional task to manage the OIE/AusAID Programme on Strengthening Veterinary Services in South East Asia until March 2009. In April 2009, he was appointed as the OIE Sub-Regional Representative concurrent with his position as Regional Coordinator of SEAFMD Campaign. Dr Abila has a wide experience in managing disease control programs. Among the major contributions of Dr Abila is the development of the SEACFMD Roadmap 2020 and in assisting countries to control FMD. Dr Abila is instrumental in the eradication of FMD in the Philippines, and in various OIE support to control FMD in Myanmar and Lao PDR. He also coordinate the sub-regional control of rabies in South-East Asia supported by One Health Component of the STANDZ programme. He supervised the development of a South-East Asia Dog Rabies Elimination Strategy which was later transformed into the ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy (ARES).



Panelist

Tran Dac Phu

*General Director, General Department of Preventive Medicine*

Ministry of Health

Viet Nam



