



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.



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.