



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



## **PARALLEL SESSION 2.3**

**DEALING WITH AN INTER-CONNECTED WORLD: PARTNERSHIPS FOR  
PREPAREDNESS, DETECTION AND RESPONSE DURING HIGH VISIBILITY EVENTS**



## | BACKGROUND

Mass gatherings are recognised to have the potential to enhance spread of infectious diseases as well as being potential targets for deliberate events. Although both these risks are unlikely, the rise of Zika infection in the run up to the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in Saudi Arabia highlighted how these events can create a perceived, if not actual, global health threat and a political as well as health challenge.

The inspiration of this session derives from the next three Olympiads (Winter 2018, Summer 2020 and Winter 2022) being in the western pacific region (S Korea, Japan and China respectively). This session will be based on previous sporting mass gatherings such as the Rio Olympics, the London Olympics, and the World Cup, religious gatherings such as the Hajj, and large state events such as the King's funeral in Thailand. The session aims to share learning and best practices from a biosecurity and terrorism perspective and to explore how such mass gathering events can best be planned to minimise any health risks. Many mass gatherings, especially international sporting events, are organised by what are effectively private sector companies and the relationship between the private and public sector partners is vitally important.

## | OBJECTIVES

- To share learning and experience from previous events
- To explore effective risk mitigation strategies
- To examine the health and political interface of mass gatherings, including private sector partners
- To explore how mass gatherings can be used to improve global health security capacity



Moderator

## Brian McCloskey

*Senior Consulting Fellow*

Chatham House  
United Kingdom

Dr Brian McCloskey was formerly the Director of Global Health for Public Health England, London, UK and now works as a Consultant in Global Health Security. He has worked in public health at local, regional, national and international level over a period of 25 years, including the UK's Health Protection Agency, with a remit for emergency planning and responsibility for cross government aspects of the agency's response to major emergencies. This included the HPA's response to the London bombings, Buncefield Oil Depot fire, the Litvinenko polonium poisoning, flooding incidents and pandemic flu. He also had the lead role in planning the public health services for the 2012 London Olympics. Brian has been working with WHO's Mass Gatherings Advisory Group since 2008, and headed up the Collaborating Centre on Mass Gatherings until 2017, working with mass gatherings such as the Hajj, the World Cup in South Africa as well as the London Olympics and recently Rio and Tokyo. Brian acted as PHE's National Incident Director for Ebola when it became a national incident in 2014 and was then seconded to work with the UN Special Envoy on Ebola, based in Geneva, until April 2015. Brian was a member of WHO's Review Committee on the Role of the International Health Regulations (2005) in the Ebola Outbreak and Response and a member of the Eastern Mediterranean Region's IHR Regional Assessment Commission. He has also been involved in the evolution of the Global Health Security Agenda, the development of the WHO Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR capacity, and has participated in several JEE missions. Brian is a member of WHO's MERS, and Health Security Interface, Working Groups. Brian also works with the Chatham House Centre on Global Health Security on strengthening and coordination of R&D in outbreaks. Between 2015 and 2017, Brian was responsible for establishing the UK's Public Health Rapid Support Team for deployments in serious outbreaks globally. In the January 2013 New Year's Honours List, Brian was awarded a CBE for services to public health.