



**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



Panelist / Panelist

## Lucille Blumberg

*Microbiologist*

National Institute for Communicable Diseases  
South Africa

BLUMBERG Lucille Hellen Prof National Institute for Communicable Diseases of the National Health Laboratory Service, South Africa MB BCH MMed (Micro) ID (SA) FFCM (RCPS, Glasgow) DTM&H DOH DCH Johannesburg South Africa Email: lucilleb@nicd.ac.za Professor Lucille Blumberg is a Deputy Director of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, of the National Health Laboratory Service, and currently also medical consultant to the Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases for rabies and viral haemorrhagic fevers. She has specialist qualifications in clinical microbiology, travel medicine, and infectious diseases. Her special interests are in tropical diseases, travel medicine, malaria, the viral haemorrhagic fevers and rabies. She is a member of a number of South African expert groups on Ebola, rabies, malaria and serves on various WHO Advisory Groups. She established the Mass Gatherings Unit at NICD in 2009 to prepare for and respond to communicable diseases risks for the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa.