



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



## **PARALLEL SESSION 1.1**

**LESSONS LEARNED IN MANAGING EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EID)**



## | BACKGROUND

Several outbreaks since 2000 have shaped the way in which we prepare for and respond to infectious diseases outbreaks. The emergence of SARS CoV in the first years of this century was a wakeup call to the global health community followed by H5N1 avian influenza outbreaks and the first influenza pandemic in the 21st century. The renewed IHR (2005) marked a major change in the approach to global health security, going beyond specific diseases to apply to all health risks, irrespective of their origin or source.

## | OBJECTIVES

To present and discuss the management of a selection of recent crisis in different settings and draw lessons for the future. The session will tackle what works, what doesn't work from the political, public health, social and economic perspectives.

The following events will be discussed:

- **Ebola** : management of local and extended outbreaks: comparison of local outbreaks (DRC Uganda) and the epidemic in West Africa (2014-2015) with a particular emphasis on :
  - Community engagement and the socio-cultural aspects of outbreak response;
  - Cross-border collaboration between neighboring countries (surveillance, contact tracing, case management);
  - The role of international assistance;
  - Clinical management and vaccine.
- **MERS**: limiting spread example of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Korea and Thailand, managing the regional and global aspects of MERS-CoV, with a particular emphasis on:
  - Monitoring the health of international travelers and migrant workers;
  - Hospital preparedness
- **Zika and yellow fever** : managing vector borne outbreaks and emerging infectious diseases in Brazil / Angola (Yellow fever) and mitigating the risk of international spread (example of Portugal), with a particular emphasis on:
  - Controlling vectors and other environmental factors;
  - Vaccination and other preventive measures;
  - Effective communication to address public fear and potential panic.
- Also **potentially discussed** : From SARS to influenza A(H7N9); lessons learned in China, with a particular emphasis on:
  - Addressing the human-animal interface and cross-sectoral collaboration;
  - Resolving conflicting interests between the commercial and public health sectors
  - Strengthening preparedness based on experience of past outbreaks

Keywords: Ebola, Zika, MERS, Influenza, contact tracing, clinical management, migrations.



## Moderator



### Ronald St. John

*former Director General, Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response*

Sitata Corporation  
Canada

Ronald K. St. John, MD, MPH, has had a 35 year career in public health and infectious disease control in two countries, the USA and Canada, and in the World Health Organization, Regional Office for the Americas. Dr. St. John graduated from Yale University in 1961 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in chemistry. In 1965, he obtained his medical degree from Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons. In 1973, he obtained his masters degree in public health at Harvard University, School of Public Health. Prior to his retirement, Dr. St. John was the first Director General for the Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response at the Public Health Agency of Canada. The Centre serves as the country's single coordinating point for public health security in Canada. During his tenure, he was the national manager for Canada's response to 9/11 and SARS. Previously, Dr. St John was director of the Office of Special Health Initiatives at Health Canada with responsibilities for planning, programming and policy review for quarantine and migration health, travel medicine, the Global Public Health Intelligence Network, and counter-terrorism. Dr. St. John trained as a physician in the United States and has a specialty in public health in the United States and Canada. From 1989-1992 he was Deputy Director of the National AIDS Program Office in the US Department of Health and Human Services. He was also program coordinator for the Health Situation and Trend Assessment program with Pan American Health Organization, WHO Regional Office for the Americas. Until recently, Dr. St. John was also an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Ottawa. He retired in 2007 and has continued to consult in infectious disease control and management of emergencies in the health sector. He has given many lectures, presentations, and speeches in emergency preparedness and response, epidemiology, sexually transmitted diseases, migration health, emerging infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS and the use of the Incident Management System for health emergencies in national and international forums.