

Community of Practice - Long-Acting Therapeutics in Maternal and Paediatric Health.

Member Bios - September 2025



Dr Adeniyi Olagunju - University of Liverpool, UK.

Dr Olagunju is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Biochemistry, Cell and Systems Biology and a member of the Centre of Excellence for Long-acting Therapeutics (CELT), University of Liverpool.

He leads the Perinatal Pharmacology Group where research is focused on broadening our understanding of drug safety and efficacy during pregnancy and lactation. Working across three domains (human-relevant in vitro modelling, in silico modelling and clinical research).

Dr Olagunju's vision for his research programme is to transform the assessment of drug safety during pregnancy by developing a platform that will generate human pregnancy-relevant safety information early in drug development.

This will facilitate decisions about safe inclusion of pregnant women in early-phase clinical trials, enabling evidence-based, pregnancy-specific recommendations for potentially life-saving therapeutics. His research is primarily funded by the Wellcome Trust and Unitaid.



Dr. Brittany Goldberg - US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), USA.

Dr Goldberg is a pediatric infectious disease physician who joined FDA in 2012. She currently serves as a team lead for the Division of Anti-Infectives in the Office of New Drugs within the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research at FDA. She also maintains her clinical practice at Inova Fairfax Hospital.



Professor Brookie Best - UC San Diego Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, USA.

Professor Best is an expert in perinatal and pediatric clinical pharmacology, focusing on anti-HIV drug research and treatments for Kawasaki disease. Her work spans diverse populations, including infants, children, adolescents, non-pregnant and pregnant adults. Professor Best has made key contributions to the understanding of how these drugs function across different groups, with particular attention to their safety and effectiveness and penetration across different compartments.

She is involved in several major research networks, such as the International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials (IMPAACT) and Maternal and Pediatric Precision in Therapeutics (MPRINT), and collaborates with national and international groups on HIV/AIDS and pediatric pharmacology. Her leadership roles include editorial board memberships and participation in influential advisory panels.

Professor Best's academic background includes a B.S. in Chemistry, a Pharm.D., and an NIH/NRSA Fellowship in Pediatric Clinical Pharmacology. She has received numerous accolades, including the Valedictorian honor from the National Center for Leadership in Academic Medicine and the Professor of the Year Award.

Her notable research includes defining dosing guidelines for anti-HIV drugs in pregnant women, discovering the poor penetration of these drugs into cerebrospinal fluid, and determining the safety and pharmacokinetics of therapies for treating pediatric Kawasaki disease.



Catriona Waitt - University of Liverpool, Wellcome Trust, Infectious Diseases Institute, Uganda.

I am a Professor of Clinical Pharmacology and Global Health and hold a Part 2 Wellcome Clinical Research Career Development Fellowship, MILK: Maternal and Infant Lactation pharmacokinetics. The focus of all my research is to provide evidence for the safe and effective use of medication in the populations who will require these drugs, to do this in the most ethical and efficient ways, and to build capacity to undertake such work in the regions where these diseases are prevalent.

Prizes or Honours

- ASCPT Diversity and Inclusion in Research award (2024)
- BPS Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Prize 2021 (British Pharmacological Society, 2021)
- Research in 3 Prize (Academy of Medical Sciences, 2014)

Funded Fellowships

- MILK: Maternal and Infant Lactation pharmacokinetics (Wellcome Trust, Wellcome Trust, 2021 - 2026)
- Attaining EQUity of Access TO Research (At The EQUATOR) (Wellcome Trust, 2021 - present)
- Wellcome Trust Clinical Postdoctoral Fellowship (Wellcome Trust, 2014 - 2020)
- Starter Grant for Clinical Lecturers (Academy of Medical Sciences, 2012)
- Wellcome Trust Training Fellowship in Clinical Tropical Medicine (Wellcome Trust, 2005)



Professor Dan Hawcutt – University of Liverpool, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, UK.

Professor Hawcutt is a paediatric clinical pharmacologist at the University of Liverpool, and honorary consultant in paediatrics at Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

He is Director of Research at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, and Director of the NIHR Alder Hey Clinical Research Facility (CRF). Professor Hawcutt is also a member of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) / Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group (NPPG) joint standing committee on medicines, and a member of the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency Pharmacovigilance Expert Advisory Committees on both Pharmacovigilance and Paediatric Medicines.

In addition, he is chair of the RCPCH training committee for Paediatric Clinical Pharmacology.

His research interests include Pharmacogenomics, Pharmacovigilance, and Early Phase Clinical Trials.



Professor Dharani Hapangama – University of Liverpool, UK.

Dharani K Hapangama is Professor of Gynaecology at the department of Women's & Children's health, with an interest in translational Gynaecology research.

She is a Consultant Gynaecologist at Liverpool Women's Hospital and her research group works on normal regeneration of the human endometrium, uterine biology in the context of common gynaecological conditions such as 'endometriosis', 'fibroids' 'adenomyosis' peri-conceptual pathology and 'endometrial cancer'.



Diana Nakitto Kesi – Uganda National Drug Authority, Uganda.

I am a trained CRA, GCP trainer of trainers, with a pharmacy background and an Msc in clinical trials from LSHTM. I have been in research for 9 years now, with experience in managing multi site clinical trials.

A Clinical Research Professional CRA with working experience in Clinical Research.. Experience in infectious diseases such as HIV, MALARIA, as well as non communicable diseases like hypertension and diabetes in patients living with HIV.

Strong skills in;

- ICH GCP (E6, E2, E8)
- Clinical Trial Conduct & Monitoring
- Site Evaluation, Selection and Initiation.
- site close-out visits

as well as regulation and management of investigation products and other concomitant medication.

Emily Njuguna – PATH Africa, Africa Neonatal Association, Kenya.



Emily is a pediatrician and global health practitioner committed to transforming the healthcare environment for children, with a particular focus on neonates, who are most affected by healthcare inequities. With over 11 years of experience, Emily holds a Master of Medicine in Pediatrics and Child Health from the University of Nairobi, and she was awarded the best postgraduate student in Pediatrics for her academic achievements and efforts to educate postnatal mothers about newborn danger signs. She also holds a postgraduate diploma in Safety, Quality, Informatics, and Leadership in Healthcare from Harvard Medical School.

Emily is the Africa lead for Maternal, Newborn, Child Health, and Nutrition (MNCHN) at PATH and the nutrition lead for the Africa Neonatal Association. She is also involved in various technical committees at both the County and National levels. Previously, Emily was the Head of Pediatrics at Pumwani Maternity Hospital, where she was part of the team that helped establish the first human milk bank in East and Central Africa. Despite challenges like COVID-19, Emily led the team that sustained the project, which is now set for a national rollout.

Emily's dedication extends to Patient Safety and Advocacy, Medical Education, Healthcare Policy, and Quality Improvement in pediatric care across various levels.

Ethel Weld – The John Hopkins University, USA.



Ethel is an internist-pediatrician with subspecialty fellowship training in both Clinical Pharmacology and Infectious Diseases. Her research broadly focuses on improving treatment options for individuals with HIV, HIV and TB co-infection, and children with multi-drug-resistant (MDR) or extensively drug-resistant (XDR) tuberculosis (TB).

Ethel is particularly interested in the development of novel anti-infective drug delivery strategies, such as long-acting medications, including injectables and implants, that are patient-friendly and feasible for implementation in programs; these strategies may optimize adherence to both treatment and prevention regimens, especially among youth populations, where adherence is often a significant challenge.

As a clinical trialist, Ethel has expertise in drug development, particularly for pediatric and other complex populations. She serves as protocol chair for IMPAACT 2034, the first-in-children study of the novel nitroimidazole TB drug pretomanid, and for IMPAACT 2005, an international study of delamanid in children with rifampicin-resistant TB with and without HIV. These roles have deepened her understanding of the challenges in drug-resistant TB treatment for children and the need for shorter, injectable-sparing regimens.

Ethel is also involved in several high-impact studies, including the DOLPHIN-TOO study, assessing simultaneous initiation of dolutegravir-based ART and a shorter 3-month preventive treatment for TB for people with HIV. She leads the DOVETAIL study of a two drug ART regimen alongside rifampicin-based TB treatment for newly diagnosed people with HIV and TB, and contributes to the USAID SMART 4TB project, leading a study focusing on stratified shorter treatments for rifampicin-resistant TB treatment in children.



Hanu Ramachandrani – Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), Switzerland.

My expertise is in CMC development for drug products. Prior to joining MMV, I worked at Actavis, Forest Laboratories and Schering-Plough in the USA where I contributed to the development of many drug products that are now commercially available. I have a Master's degree in Industrial Pharmacy from The University of Toledo, Ohio and Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from The University of Maryland, Baltimore.

As VP, Pharmaceutical development at MMV, my job is to strategise and coordinate all aspects of chemistry, manufacturing and controls (CMC) for late-stage drug development projects in collaboration with pharmaceutical industry partners and consultants.

While working in the pharmaceutical industry for the past 15 years, I developed drug products in various therapeutic areas. MMV provides me with the unique opportunity to use my experience and skills to work towards eradicating a disease that affects millions of people in developing countries.



Jenny Preston - University of Liverpool, NIHR Alder Hey Clinical Research Facility, Conect4Children, NIHR CYP MedTech, UK.

Jenny is currently the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Policy Manager within the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences at the University of Liverpool. Her main role for the last 19 years has been to deliver a strategy for the involvement and engagement of children and young people and families in paediatric health research.

Jenny is also currently the PPI & Engagement (PPIE) Executive Lead for the NIHR HealthTech Research Centre in Paediatrics and Child Health. She is also strategic lead for PPIE in other initiatives including the recently funded UK National Hub for Advanced Long-acting Therapeutics (HALo); the NIHR GenerationR Alliance (www.generationr.org.uk) (Young Person's Advisory Groups across the UK, and internationally); NIHR Alder Hey Clinical Research Facility; and co-founder of a European Young Person's Advisory Group Network (eYPAGnet) (a network that empowers young people and families across Europe to contribute to paediatric health research: <https://eypagnet.eu>).

Jenny is also a PhD candidate at the University of Liverpool exploring what meaningful patient and public involvement means to children and young people.



Laxman Cherkupally – Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), Switzerland.

With 14 years of experience in pharmaceutical development, I specialize in pediatric dosage forms and new drug development. My decade-long journey at Novartis has been a continuous learning experience, evolving my expertise from the lab to market launch. I hold a Master's degree in Pharmaceuticals from BITS Pilani and an MBA from Osmania University, Hyderabad.

In my role, I support CMC (Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls) activities for various projects at both early and late stages of drug development. I manage the development and manufacturing of drug substances and products, collaborating closely with internal teams and external partners. Outside of work, I am passionate about Yoga and Meditation, which keeps me inspired and centered in my professional endeavors.



Linda L. Lewis, M.D - Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), USA.

Dr. Lewis is board certified in Pediatric Infectious Diseases with a special interest in the care and treatment of pediatric patients with HIV/AIDS and has worked in this field since the early 1990s. She began working with the Product development, Quality, Costing, and Regulatory Affairs (PQCRA) Team at Clinton Health Access Initiative in June 2016 and became the group's Director, Clinical and Regulatory Affairs in December 2018. In this capacity, she provides clinical and regulatory advice to other CHAI teams and to external partners in clinical care, research, industry, and normative bodies.

Her work has focused on advising stakeholders on appropriate development and regulatory pathways for drugs, primarily antiretrovirals. As a member of the PQCRA Team, she has proposed strategies for developing and registering new pediatric formulations intended for use in low- and middle-income countries.

She maintains an active role in global pediatric drug prioritization activities with the WHO as an observer on the Pediatric Antiviral Working Group (PAWG). Prior to joining CHAI, Dr. Lewis served as Medical Team Leader and was the senior pediatrician in the Division of Antiviral Products, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (1999-2016).



Maiara Camotti Montanha – Bristol Myers Squibb, UK.

Science, research and mentoring people are my passions. I have significant experience in Biopharmaceutics, Pharmacokinetic (PK) data analysis, PBPK modelling, metabolism, and clinical pharmacology.

Throughout my career I have developed practical experience on predicting human PK across different stages of the drug product development (preclinical, post-FIH, post-filing). Proactive and good personal relationships at the workplace.



Professor Mark Turner – Unibersity of Liverpool, Conect 4 Children, UK.

I have a passion for improving the medicines that are given to babies and children.

We have studied more than 15 medicines given to premature babies and examined methods to evaluate drug safety, medicines administration and the costs of off-label medicines.

This experience has led me to work with regulators, pharmaceutical and research networks in the UK, Europe and globally to improve the way we do research that involves children.

I am currently serving as CEO of a Dutch non-profit that operates a European paediatric clinical research network (conect4children.eu)

Clinical Academic / Retired Consultant Neonatologist.
BSc (St. Andrews); MBChB, PhD (Manchester);
CCST in Paediatrics / Neonatal medicine (Clinical training, Liverpool / Manchester)



Patrick Gad Iradukunda – Repolicy, Rwanda.

With a background in Biomedical Laboratory Sciences and an MSc in Clinical Trials, Patrick has a solid academic foundation to discuss the implementation of LA therapies. He has worked at the Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority for the past five years, gaining valuable experience in pharmaceutical regulation, with a focus on medicine safety, efficacy, and quality. This experience has driven him to contribute to the ongoing continental listing of pharmaceuticals through AUDA-NEPAD's AMRH program, a program responsible for harmonizing regulatory processes in Africa and for piloting the operationalization of the African Medicines Agency (AMA). He is also an affiliated researcher at Repolicy Research Centre and AROSE think tank.

As a researcher with an interest in public health and clinical trials, he is passionate about addressing unmet health needs and ensuring equitable access to therapeutic interventions. His scientific contributions have centered on improving the availability of medicines in LMICs and advancing the understanding infectious diseases prone to outbreaks including COVID-19, MPoX, and Marburg among others. The CoP offers an invaluable platform for engaging in discussions on LA therapeutics and shaping regulatory frameworks for chronic diseases.

He is particularly keen to support clinical trial designs in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), focusing on the unique physiological changes in pregnancy, lactation, and pediatric development.

Personally motivated by the opportunity to improve lives in resource-constrained settings, he is committed to advancing equitable healthcare. By participating in the CoP, he aims to leverage his regulatory expertise and research interests to contribute to the development, availability, and safe use of LA therapeutics, while fostering collaboration across stakeholders.



Pierre Gashema – Repolicy, Rwanda.

Pierre is a specialist in infectious diseases and global health with a focus on improving adherence to malaria treatment in Rwanda and addressing barriers to implementing evidence-based interventions, such as Long-Acting Injectable Antiretroviral Therapy (LAI ART). His work emphasizes tailoring strategies to the unique challenges within sub-Saharan Africa's healthcare systems.

Gashema earned a Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Laboratory Sciences from the University of Rwanda, where he began collaborating with the Rwanda Biomedical Centre and the University of KwaZulu-Natal on scaling up HIV self-testing programs. He later completed a Master's in Global Health and Infectious Diseases at the University of Edinburgh, focusing on adherence to malaria treatment in rural Rwanda.

Over the past four years, Gashema has coordinated a large-scale malaria molecular surveillance project funded by NIH, collaborating with Brown University, the University of North Carolina, and the Centre for Genomic Biology at INES Ruhengeri. This work aims to better understand the emergence of artemisinin resistance in Africa through the collection of liquid blood spots from malaria patients.

Gashema's career began with Jhpiego under the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative Impact Malaria project, conducting therapeutic efficacy studies. He has also led HIV research on nutritional challenges for PLHIV, risky behaviors among students, and the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns on ART access and he has authored and co-authored to more than 25 published papers in areas of infectious diseases. An expert in outbreak preparedness and response, he contributes to Marburg and Mpox outbreak responses as a laboratory scientist under Africa CDC's Africa Volunteer Health Corps.

As Executive Director of the Repolicy Research Centre in Rwanda, Gashema focuses on leveraging data to inform policy reform. He is also actively advancing LAI ART implementation, addressing challenges like cost, supply chains, and health system capacity to improve access and outcomes for underserved populations in SSA.





Dr. René Holm, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark.

Dr. Holm is a professor in pharmaceutical physical chemistry at the University of Southern Denmark. After receiving Master and PhD degree in pharmaceutics from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, he started his carrier in the pharmaceutical industry at H.Lundbeck in 2001 and changed to Janssen in 2016.

Dr. Holm has worked within pharmaceutical development, formulations for non-clinical testing in drug discovery, physical chemistry and material science covering both small and large molecules. In 2021 Dr. Holm engaged into a carrier change and became a full professor.

Dr. Holm is (co-) author of more than 250 original articles in peer-reviewed journals and patents in the field of biopharmaceutics, preformulation, formulation and physical pharmacy and book chapters and is co-inventor on 19 published patents. Dr. Holms academical research focus on parenteral drug delivery and manufacturing with special emphasis on long acting injectibles.



Sébastien Morin – Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), Switzerland.

Senior Manager – Policy, Strategy and Market Access.

Sébastien Morin joined the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP – based in Geneva, Switzerland) in 2019. His policy and market access work covers various disease areas (e.g., HIV - including PrEP, TB, RSV) and geographies (Latin America and MENA).

Sébastien is also MPP's lead on impact modelling and for paediatrics, including MPP's contribution to the Global Accelerator for Paediatric Formulations (GAP-f) WHO Network, for which he is the Vice-Chair of the Strategy and Coordination Committee. Sébastien holds a PhD in biochemistry from Laval University (Québec City, Canada), and completed post-doctoral training at the University of Basel (Switzerland).



Dr Shakir Atoyebi – University of Liverpool, UK.

Dr Atoyebi is a Postdoctoral Research Associate within the Perinatal Pharmacology group at the University of Liverpool, UK. He is developing mechanistic models to estimate fetal drug exposure during pregnancy towards better understanding of drug fetotoxicity.

He obtained a Bachelor of Pharmacy and Master of Science degrees from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria. He was awarded the Duncan Norman Research scholarship at the University of Liverpool where he completed his PhD studies.

For his doctoral studies, he developed physiologically-based pharmacokinetic models to study the disposition of long-acting cabotegravir and rilpivirine during pregnancy. In addition, he explored dosing strategies to overcome drug-drug interactions involving some antiretrovirals in children and pregnant women.

Professor WD Francois Venter - University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.



Professor WD Francois Venter, MD, FCP, PhD is Executive Director of Wits Ezintsha at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, where he received most of his training. His work involves health systems research and clinical trials, most recently involving the antiretrovirals dolutegravir, tenofovir alafenamide, cabotegravir, and doravirine.

He leads multiple antiretroviral treatment optimisation studies and is currently working on new access programmes through private pharmacies within South Africa, patient linkage-to-care interventions, self-testing projects, as well as most recently on new large-scale primary care delivery platforms addressing hypertension, diabetes, obesity, hyperlipidaemia and HIV.

He has led large PEPFAR-funded HIV programmes in South Africa, focusing on men, women, children, young people, truckers, sex workers, and LGBTI communities.

For over 20 years he has been an advisor to bodies such as the South African government, UNAIDS, and WHO, contributing to international, regional, and national HIV guidelines.. He has an active interest in medical ethics and has been involved in several HIV-related human rights cases within the southern African region. He supervises post-grad students and has over 300 publications, including first-author articles in major journals.



Andrew Butler - Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), UK.

Andrew earned his MSc and PhD in Physiology and Pharmacology from the University of Bristol and currently works as a postdoctoral researcher within the clinical pharmacology team at the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Presently, his work investigates the use of physiologically based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) modelling for the prediction of maternal exposure to medication during pregnancy; and for the prediction of infant exposure to maternal medication during breastfeeding.

It is hoped that improving regulatory confidence in such models will ultimately help to reduce the clinical trial burden and support more informed benefit/risk decision making for perinatal populations.

Ritah Nakijoba – Infectious Diseases Institute, Uganda.



I am a PhD scholar at Makerere University School of Public Health, with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health and a Master of Clinical Trials from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Based at the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) in Mulago, Uganda, I serve as a research coordinator for the Maternal Infant Lactation Pharmacokinetics (MILK) study.

My work focuses on investigating the pharmacokinetics of drugs used to treat uncomplicated malaria and tuberculosis in breastfeeding mother-infant pairs and my PHD works focuses on promoting health literacy on medication safety and practices among breastfeeding women.

I am passionate about bridging the gap between health researchers and the community.

I actively engage with stakeholders through quarterly community meetings, result dissemination, and health education talks. These initiatives empower breastfeeding women to share their experiences and concerns regarding medications, fostering a supportive environment for open dialogue.

Recognizing the lack of comprehensive data on drug concentrations in breast milk and its impact on infants, the study team strives to include breastfeeding women in research and address these knowledge gaps. My work aims to provide valuable insights into infant exposure to antimalarial and tuberculosis drugs through breast milk.

With my strong healthcare background and compassionate approach, I am dedicated to improving the well-being of breastfeeding mothers and their infants, advancing maternal and child health.



Shadia Nakalema - Infectious Diseases Institute, Uganda

I am a medical doctor and research scientist at the Infectious Diseases Institute, Mulago, committed to expanding my expertise in healthcare to address emerging challenges. I have extensive experience working with special populations, including pregnant and breastfeeding women. As part of the Contraceptive Implant Research Consortium for Low-Income Countries, I focus on building evidence for the safe use of contraceptive implants among women living with HIV. My primary research interests lie in pharmacokinetics and pharmacogenomics (PGx), with a particular focus on drug-drug interactions (DDIs) between antiretroviral drugs (such as efavirenz and nevirapine) and contraceptive implants.

I am also involved in the DolPHIN-3 consortium, which focuses on optimizing long-acting injectable antiretroviral therapy for pregnant and postpartum women living with HIV. As part of this, I am preparing to pursue a PhD, where I will study drug interactions between standard antiretroviral therapies and hormonal contraceptives. Additionally, I aim to explore implementation science aspects related to the use of long-acting ART among women living with HIV. This research will further contribute to improving treatment strategies and reproductive health options for women living with HIV feeding mothers and their infants, advancing maternal and child health.



Maud Majeres Lugand – Medicines for Malaria Venture, MMV, Switzerland.

Maud is an Associate Director of Social Research with over 18 years of expertise in global health, specializing in malaria in pregnancy for 8 years.

Her work focuses on improving healthcare access for underserved populations through community-driven approaches.

Maud co-leads the MiMBa initiative and serves as an advisory member for the Malaria and Gender Community of Practices. With a Master of Science in Public Health graduate from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Maud makes significant contributions to malaria research and global health at MMV, demonstrating a deep commitment to addressing critical health challenges.



Andre Tchouatieu – Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), Switzerland.

I'm a Medical Doctor and completed my studies at the University of Burundi. After serving as a local field doctor for MSF-France in Burundi, I joined Sanofi where I spent 12 years serving respectively in Burundi as Country Representative, in Kenya as Medical Advisor for Eastern Africa, and then in France as Senior Medical Manager for malaria within the Corporate Social Responsibility division. I have always been driven by the desire to add value to community health, either by caring for patients directly or indirectly by helping health workers at all levels gain access to information, training and platforms to share experiences.

Based on my experience in East Africa and working in the field of malaria, I strongly believe that health system strengthening is the way to go if we aspire to reach the level of development we all dream of. To this end I have enrolled in a MBA programme focusing on International Health Management, with the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute. I hope that by furthering my knowledge, I will be able to make a stronger contribution, which will enable my three children to one day go back to their roots in a better Africa.

My role at MMV is to lead activities that help increase access to high quality antimalarial drugs for the populations in malaria endemic countries, by applying both my experience as a medical doctor and my expertise in evaluating health care perceptions in remote areas.



Sharon Nachman – Stony Brook Children's Hospital, USA.

Professor Nachman is the Chief of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Disease at Stony Brook Children's Hospital. She is also the Associate Dean for Research at the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook, and directs the Office of Clinical Trials at the institution. As the PI and Chair of the IMPAACT Network, she has developed and directed the maternal and child HIV and TB clinical trial agendas for the past 10 years.

She has had leadership roles in over 25 clinical trials, including 20 as either protocol chair or vice chair. All studies have enrolled, analyzed, and published results that have changed the way we evaluate and treat a host of infectious disease illnesses affecting children and women worldwide. In addition to her focus on HIV and TB, she also developed studies helping to define the dose and PK for new antibiotics and antivirals, evaluate new vaccines, and understand the long-term issues that develop in infants born to HIV+ women worldwide.



Leena Zino – DADA Consultancy, Netherlands.

Leena Zino, PhD in Clinical Pharmacology of Antiretrovirals from Radboud UMC, is a clinical development expert at DADA Consultancy (Netherlands). She collaborates with pharmaceutical companies to optimize drug routes, dosages, and applications for marketing authorization, ensuring high-quality medicines reach those in need.

With a team of experts, Leena delivers a panel of specialized services in the areas of;

Regulatory Affairs of new drugs (dossier preparation & evaluation)

Drug Development trials (Trial planning, monitoring, regulatory compliance, scientific advice, and CRO selection.

Market Access of Drugs in Europe

As DADA Consultancy's Middle East representative, Leena is committed to delivering these specialized services to the region while connecting pharmaceutical companies and academic institutions with ideal partners to advance drug development.



Celine Audibert – Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), Switzerland.

I lead MMV's market intelligence activities, including primary market research projects and secondary data analyses aimed at providing actionable insight to Access, R&D and Corporate Affairs teams. This work contributes to the understanding and shaping of the malaria ecosystem in partnership with global partners, national players and drug suppliers. I also support corporate efforts to measure MMV's impact to share in official communications and support strategic discussions.

I have over 20 years of experience in market research and business intelligence in healthcare. I started my career with a Netherlands-based market research agency before moving to Merck Serono where I was Head of Business Intelligence for their Fertility and Endocrinology products. Prior to joining MMV, I worked for an investment company running market research projects for a broad range of diseases in Europe and the US. I hold a PhD in molecular biology and an MBA from Poitiers University, France, and a Master's in Public Health from King's College London, UK.



Abdulnaser Alsharaa – Pharma Primes, Jordan.

With a PhD in Bioanalytical Chemistry of Small Molecules from KFUPM/NUS, Dr. Alsharaa is a distinguished expert in bioanalysis and currently serves as the Bioanalysis Manager at PharmaPrimes Laboratories. He brings over a decade of experience in leading international CROs in the Netherlands, including Charles River Laboratories and Eurofins Central Laboratories. Throughout his career, Dr. Alsharaa has successfully overseen pharmaceutical drug development projects, ensuring strict adherence to global regulatory standards and delivering exceptional quality.

Driven by his passion for advancing pharmaceutical research and development, Dr. Alsharaa led the establishment of PharmaPrimes in Jordan. In collaboration with a team of international experts, PharmaPrimes has become a trusted partner for global pharmaceutical companies, offering world-class bioanalytical services tailored for clinical trials conducted in the Middle East and beyond.

At PharmaPrimes, the focus is on the precise and reliable analysis of small molecules across all biological matrices, supporting both clinical and preclinical phases.

Dr. Alsharaa and his team remain steadfast in their mission to advance bioanalytical science and provide cutting-edge support for the pharmaceutical industry worldwide.



Joelle Dountio – Treatment Action Group, USA.

I am a passionate Global Health Lawyer with high-level legal research, analytical and writing skills with a wealth of experience working with grassroots civil society organizations in sub-Saharan Africa, policy makers and researchers to promote community engagement in health programming and during research and development.

I work to promote evidence-based health policy; and global health equity through timely access to safe and effective vaccines, diagnostics and medicines for prevention and treatment in low- and middle-income countries, and marginalized populations in high-income countries.



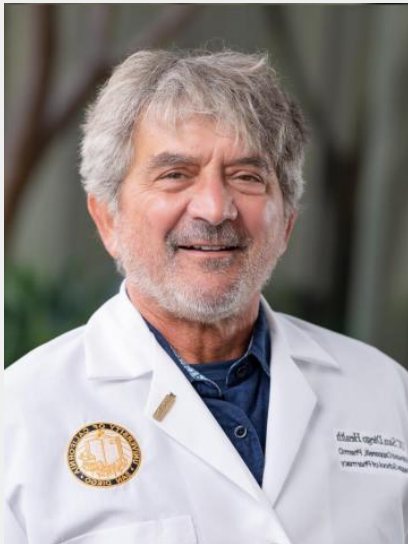
Dr Ramya Gopinath - US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), USA.

Dr. Ramya Gopinath is an adult infectious disease physician and the current Associate Director of Therapeutic Review in the Division of Anti-Infectives, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, FDA. She has been at FDA for the last 10 years and continues to see patients in the county TB clinic.



Adrie Bekker is a Neonatologist and Professor of Pediatrics at Stellenbosch University, Cape Town, South Africa.

Adrie has an interest in neonatal infectious diseases and the pharmacological evaluation of anti-infective medicines in preterm and term neonates. Prof. Bekker is actively involved in the NIH-funded International Maternal, Pediatric, Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials (IMPAACT) Network and is participating in various neonatal and pregnancy antiretroviral pharmacokinetic (PK) studies. Prof. Bekker is also co-principal investigator of a series of PETITE studies, evaluating the PK and safety of solid antiretroviral formulations in neonates. The PETITE-DTG study is one of only 2 studies evaluating the PK of dolutegravir (DTG) in term neonates and includes the assessment of a novel DTG oral dispersible film. Prof. Bekker has been a member of the WHO Pediatric AIDS Working Group and the Clinical Pharmacology Working Group within PENTA since 2021.



Professor Edmund Capparelli, Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Pharmacy at University of California San Diego.

Professor Capparelli specializes in pharmacometrics - the use of mechanistically based mathematical models to describe the time course of drugs in the body (PK-pharmacokinetic models), the effects that drug concentrations have their targets in the body (PD-pharmacodynamic models); and overall impact of drug effects have on disease and symptoms (DZ- disease models). A major emphasis of Dr. Capparelli's research has been to understand developmental, genetic, environmental and other factors that lead to PK and PD differences in infants, children and adults. His works includes novel approaches to therapies for infectious diseases including monoclonal antibodies and long-acting formulations. In particular, Dr. Capparelli has designed and performed numerous international studies for the prevention and treatment of HIV infection and its complications in infants and children.



Professor Robert Bies, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Associate Dean for Graduate Education at the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, State University of New York at Buffalo.

He is also affiliated with the Institute for Computational Data Science. Previously, he was Associate Professor of Medicine and Genetics at Indiana University School of Medicine and led the Disease and Therapeutic Response Modeling program at the Indiana Clinical Translational Sciences Institute.

He serves as a project scientist at CAMH, University of Toronto; international editor for the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*; and sits on editorial boards for several journals including *Journal of Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics*, *Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics: Pharmacometrics and Systems Pharmacology*, *Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*, and *Biopharmaceutics and Drug Disposition*. Dr. Bies is a member of ISoP, ACCP, and ASCPT, and has held leadership roles within ISoP and AAPS.



Katila George, Senior Clinical Trials Nurse, Centre for Preventive Neurology, Queen Mary University of London

With over 23 years of nursing experience in various clinical settings in the UK and Portugal, I have been working as clinical research nurse for the past 11 years, on a wider variety of phase II-IV clinical trials as NASH, metabolic diseases, Diabetes, Nutrition, cholesterol hypertension and cardiac Imaging in one of the leading Trusts in the country. Since 2019, I have been working with Prof Ruth Dobson at the Wolfson Institute of Population Health on the OPTIMISE MS study, a prospective, pragmatic, real world pharmacovigilance study in Multiple Sclerosis. I am responsible for providing day to day leadership to the OPTIMISE MS sites both on site and remotely. I am passionate in delivering high quality clinical trials to patients and volunteers, increasing patient participation and engagement and nurturing and developing the next generation of clinical research nurses.

In addition to my role as Research Nurse, I had the opportunity to serve on a Research Ethics Committee as an expert Member, where mostly CTIMP were reviewed.

I will be concluding the MSc in Pharmacovigilance at the University of Hertfordshire in 2025 and recently completed a NIHR Nursing & Midwifery short internship for research nurses and midwives who wish to develop publication writing skills.



Rachel K. Scott, MD, MPH, is the scientific director of women's health research for MedStar Health Research Institute and the associate chair for research for the Women's and Infants' Services Department of MedStar Washington Hospital Center (MWHC), where she is a practicing obstetrician/gynecologist. Dr. Scott's passion for women's health and commitment to underserved women drives both her clinical career and her commitment to clinical and translational research. She currently divides her time between clinical care and research, primarily focused on human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and HIV prevention in women. Dr. Scott is the director of the Women's Center for Positive Living, MWHC's HIV Obstetrics and Gynecology practice within the Department of Women's and Infant Services. In addition to her clinical responsibilities, she is an Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology Georgetown University and is active in resident and medical student education and mentorship. In recognition of her expertise in maternal health and HIV, Dr. Scott was selected to be a member of the national Department of Health and Human Services Panel on Treatment of Pregnant Women with HIV Infection and Prevention of Perinatal Transmission guidelines, which sets the preconception, antepartum, and postpartum clinical recommendations for women living with HIV and for HIV prevention/pre-exposure prophylaxis in women at risk for HIV.



Mili Karina is a passionate advocate for maternal, infant, and child health, bringing over 15 years of experience as a Public Health Specialist, Registered Nurse Midwife, and Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC).

With a Master's in Public Health from the University of Liverpool (UK), a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Curtin University (Australia), a Higher Diploma in Midwifery, and a Certificate in Monitoring & Evaluation from AMREF, Mili has dedicated her career to supporting mothers and families with evidence-based, compassionate, and holistic care.

A certified Lamaze Childbirth Educator, Doula, Breastfeeding Counsellor, Bereavement Counsellor and Maternal, Infant & Young Child Counsellor, she is deeply committed to guiding families through every step of pregnancy, childbirth, and early parenthood.

As the founder and CEO of Nurturing Moms Ltd, Mili offers a range of services including childbirth and breastfeeding classes, lactation consultations, labour support and perinatal bereavement counselling. Through her popular YouTube channel, she has shared expert knowledge across 141 videos, reaching nearly half a million viewers and creating a trusted space for parents to learn and connect.

In 2023, Mili was honored with the Afri Glo Choice Women's Award as Health Ambassador of the Year, recognizing her tireless efforts to uplift families and advance maternal and child health. Previously serving as Chairperson of the Kenya Association for Breastfeeding, she has led national efforts to protect, support, and promote breastfeeding practices, and remains a passionate voice and active member in this vital field. Mili's mission is simple: to support, educate and empower families, nurturing strong beginnings for every child and making a lasting impact for generations to come.



Martina Penazzato MD, MSc, PhD leads the [Global Accelerator for Pediatric Formulations](#) in the Research for Health Department of WHO's Science Division.

Prior to joining the Science Team she has lead the paediatric HIV portfolio at WHO for almost 10 years and in addition to providing a major contribution to several Guidelines development processes in the areas of HIV, TB and child health, she has provided technical assistance to several countries in the African region and beyond.

In her current role she contributes to a number of global initiatives to improve access to better medicines for children as well as pregnant and lactating women and offers her maternal and child health perspective to a broad set of WHO's activities enabling R&D for global health.



Osei Boateng is a passionate healthcare leader with over five years of experience in hospital administration and operations, having contributed to renowned institutions such as NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and Henry Ford Health System. He is the founder of the OKB Hope Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to delivering healthcare to remote and underserved communities in Ghana. Under his leadership, the foundation has provided free medical care to more than 10,000 individuals across 80+ rural communities and has offered mental health education and resources to over 3,000 high school students.

Beyond his work with OKB Hope Foundation, Osei is the co-founder of OneHealth+, a pioneering digital platform that allows individuals in the diaspora to conveniently fund healthcare services for their loved ones, ensuring access to quality care regardless of location.

Osei holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Biology and Society, with minors in business and gerontology, a Master's in Healthcare Administration from Cornell University, and a Master of Business Creation from the University of Utah.



Dorothy Akongo is a Research and Advocacy Manager dedicated to advancing maternal and child health and equity in Uganda. She leads impactful initiatives with the Busoga Health Forum, fostering partnerships with local and international institutions. Dorothy's expertise lies in research translation, advocacy, and collaboration to strengthen health systems and community



Andrew is co-director of the Centre of Excellence for Long-acting Therapeutics (CELT), a fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, a fellow of the British Pharmacological Society, a fellow of the Learned Society of Wales and a Trustee for the British Society for Nanomedicine.

His clinical and basic research focuses on understanding mechanisms that underpin inter-patient variability in pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. A major emphasis has been to employ knowledge of these mechanisms to accelerate the translation of novel drug delivery technologies.

Since March 2020, Professor Owen has been intensively engaged in preclinical and clinical evaluation of SARS-CoV-2 therapeutic candidates and he sits on the Trial Management Group for AGILE, a seamless phase I/IIa COVID19 platform and leads a local portfolio of preclinical candidate evaluation. He is co-inventor of patents relating to drug delivery and is principle investigator for LONGEVITY which is an international project that aims to translate novel long-acting medicines for malaria chemoprophylaxis, tuberculosis prevention and hepatitis C virus therapy.

He also leads a modelling core for the NIH-funded Long-acting/Extended release Antiretroviral resource Program. Professor Owen is a director and the CSO for Tandem Nano Ltd.



Dr Carolyn Atieno Odula is a Reproductive Health Specialist with over 20 years' experience in her field. She is a Senior Medical Specialist based at the University of Nairobi-Health Services.

She is the Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology as well as the Sexual and Reproductive Health Committee.

Dr Odula sits on two boards where she is the Chair of the Board of Directors of Population Council Kenya (PCK) and Marie Stopes International Reproductive Choices Kenya (MSI-RCK).

She is also a member of The East, Central and Southern Africa College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ECSACOG) – FIGO Community of Practice.



Henry Enzama

I am a PHD student deeply enthusiastic about PBPK/QSP Modeling and its applications in optimizing drug therapy, particularly for pediatric and underserved populations.

During my master's research, I developed a PBPK model for hydroxyurea in adults with renal impairment using gastroplus and in children to adjust the dose, addressing critical gaps in dosing recommendations where clinical data are limited. My broader research interests include PBPK/PD modeling, and quantitative systems pharmacology (QSP) to enhance drug development and regulatory decision-making.

I am passionate about applying model-informed drug development (MIDD) to influence health policy in Uganda ensuring safe and effective drug therapy for neglected and vulnerable populations. I aspire to contribute to regulatory science and precision dosing strategies at improve healthcare accessibility and outcomes.



Prof Archary is an Honorary Associate Professor in the School of Clinical Medicine and a Paediatric Infectious Disease Specialist in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health at the University of KwaZulu-Natal/King Edward VIII Hospital.

Prof Archary specialises in the management of children with infectious diseases in resource-limited settings. As part of his PhD thesis, he investigated the pharmacokinetics of antiretroviral drugs in severely malnourished HIV infected children. His research interests include antiretroviral and antituberculosis drug therapeutics, drug resistance, and the optimal timing of antiretroviral therapy initiation in the developing world. He serves on several local, national and international communities.



Prajith Venkatasubramanian is a pharmacist and pharmacologist specializing in drug delivery systems and long-acting therapeutics.

He holds a Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) and an MSc in Pharmacology and Drug Discovery, with extensive experience in clinical research, regulatory affairs, and scientific communication.

He is currently working as a research assistant in science communication and engagement within the perinatal pharmacology group at the University of Liverpool. With a strong foundation in drug development, pharmacotherapy, and stakeholder engagement strategies. Prajith is passionate about bridging science and practice to improve therapeutic outcomes in LMIC countries.



Benoit Bestgen

Strategic project leader in clinical drug development and goal-oriented team leader enabling effective collaboration within an international network of scientific and pharma partners in R&D projects from hits identification to clinical development in oncology and infectious diseases.

PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences driven by scientific problem solving in drug development with international work experience in translational research gain in biotech and innovative business models (PDP) with a proven track record of delivering results in collaborative projects (NCEs, oral treatment, prophylaxis, long acting injectables, mAbs) and in the sales division of Ecrins Therapeutics.



Chiagozie Mgbemena

As Assistant Director of Health Product Management at the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN), Pharm. Chiagozie Mgbemena provides technical guidance on procurement processes, warehousing, and distribution of health commodities for the Global Fund GC7 project which IHVN implements across the 36 states of the country and the Federal Capital Territory as the Principal Recipient. She represents the project at the national level and communicates the project's key priorities to internal and external stakeholders.

She drives innovation to optimize evidence-based supply chain operations and technology. Mrs. Mgbemena also oversees the execution of end-to-end health product and supply chain operations for the timely and accurate delivery of health products and services.

Her more than 20 years of experience in health product management, clinical and community pharmacy include career stints at IHVN from 2013 to 2021 as Senior Program Officer and Program Manager. She also worked at AIDS Prevention Initiative (APIN) from 2010 to 2013, and at Lagos University Teaching Hospital and General Hospital Randle, Surulere, Lagos State.

She is a Certified Supply Chain Analyst and Fellow of the West Africa Postgraduate College of Pharmacists. She obtained a Bachelors Degree in Pharmacy from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and a Master of Science Degree in Clinical Pharmacy from the University of Lagos, Nigeria.



Thokozile Malaba, University of Cape Town

I serve as Co-PI for the DOLPHIN-3 study, which is evaluating LA ART as a bridging strategy for postpartum women living with HIV. My broader research focuses on maternal and child health, particularly on optimising treatment strategies and ensuring access to safe, effective therapeutics during pregnancy and postpartum.

The potential of LA formulations to improve adherence, simplify care, and reduce stigma is a critical area of inquiry in my work, and I am keen to engage with others exploring similar questions. I also value the opportunity to contribute to discussions around equitable access, implementation strategies, and the development of community-informed approaches, particularly in LMICs.

Personally, I am passionate about building collaborative spaces where researchers, clinicians, policy makers, and community members can co-create solutions. I believe the CoP will be a powerful platform for advancing shared goals in this space, and I am excited to learn from and contribute to its development.



Dr. Elaine Abrams is a global expert in HIV prevention and treatment, a professor at Columbia University, and a founding member of ICAP at Columbia University where she is the Senior Research Director.

She is a global expert in HIV prevention and treatment, a professor at Columbia University, and a founding member of ICAP at Columbia University.

She leads various studies focusing on HIV prevention and treatment for pregnant women, children, and families, contributing significantly to global HIV policy through leadership roles at the US National Institute of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), the IMPAACT network and the WHO Pediatric Antiretroviral Working Group. She leads various studies focusing on HIV prevention and treatment for pregnant women, children, and families, contributing significantly to global HIV policy through leadership roles at the US National Institute of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), the IMPAACT network and the WHO Pediatric Antiretroviral Working Group and Pregnancy Therapeutics Working Group.



Grace Miheso

Grace is a global health enthusiast with over 20 years of experience, she has devoted her career to ensuring universal health coverage through directing, designing and implementing malaria, reproductive, maternal and child health, and HIV programs in clinical, public health and emergency contexts.

Grace is a results-oriented individual with robust organizational and team-building capabilities, coupled with a proven track record in fostering creativity, working autonomously, and nurturing the growth of multidisciplinary teams. Her expertise extends to training and mentoring professionals and community volunteers, orchestrating operational and randomized control trials, advocating for policy change based on research findings, mobilizing resources, and exercising effective leadership.

As a leader, Grace has spearheaded multiple local and national programs, delivering measurable impacts and fostering resilient communities. Additionally, her international collaborations have enabled her to contribute meaningfully to global health programs, leveraging her expertise to achieve tangible success and build extensive professional relationships locally and internationally.

Her passion for humanitarian work continues to be a driving force in all that she does, and she is committed to contributing to the betterment of global health through my leadership, strategic insights, and collaborative approach.”



Dr James Moss

Dr James Moss is a paediatric clinical pharmacologist and supports the conduct of early phase clinical studies on the NIHR funded clinical research facility at Alder Hey. He also supports other research activities within the Trust and works as an acute paediatrician.

James is training advisor for the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) College Specialty Advisory Committees (CSACs) for Clinical Pharmacology and sits on the assessment board for the Prescribing Safety Assessment



Elodie Jambert, Senior Director – Access and Product Management, Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV).

Elodie is a Senior Director in Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV)'s Access and Product Management team, where she supports the launch and uptake of new medicines for vivax malaria, particularly tafenoquine. Holding a Doctor of Pharmacy and various diplomas in Public Health, Elodie is a pharmacist by profession, specializing in public health and access to medicines. She has extensive experience working with Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF), particularly in MSF's Campaign for Access to Essential Medicines, addressing access issues in Middle Income Countries like China and India. Early in her career, Elodie contributed to polio and measles immunization programs at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and worked at the World Health Organization (WHO), supporting National Medicines Regulatory Authorities. She also served as a hospital pharmacist in France and worked in a small public manufacturing and hospital control unit.



Lobna Gaayeb

Lobna Gaayeb manages the Long-Acting Technologies project at the Medicines Patent Pool. She has experience in coordinating international networks and scientific projects. She previously worked at the Institut Pasteur, where she managed a 22-countries One Health Network of national laboratories, academia and public health institutions. Her previous work includes infectious diseases-related research and capacity building in low- and middle-income countries. Lobna is Veterinarian and holds a Masters in Biology and a PhD in Clinical Research, Technological Innovation and Public Health



Mr. Mphako Brighton Ratlabanya is currently the Manager in the Pharmaceutical Evaluation and Management Pre-Registration Unit within the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA).

Prior to assuming management responsibilities, he worked as a Medicines Registration Officer, responsible for evaluating both pharmaceutical quality Chemistry Manufacturing and Control (CMC) and Bioequivalence aspects. He holds a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree (BPHARM) from University of Limpopo and M.Sc. Pharmacy administration and Policy regulation from University of the Western Cape. Prior to joining SAHPRA, he worked as a pharmacist at various Pharmacy environments such as retail, private hospital, and public sector hospitals.

He possesses extensive knowledge in the field of Medicines regulation both locally and internationally. Mphako is very passionate about access to quality, safe, efficacious, and affordable medicines and participate in various international and regional platforms. He is a member of Continental Evaluation of Medicinal Products Technical Committee (EMP-TC), Co-chair of International Pharmaceutical Regulators Programme Quality working group (IPRP QWG), International Council for Harmonization (ICH) Q6 Expert Working Group (EWG) Member, EX member of ministerial pricing committee and he is the EX Focal person for Zazibona (SADC) collaborative registration procedure. He also serves under various SAHPRA committees such as Policy committee, Priority Request Review Committee, Skills development committee and Registration committee.