

# Creative Approaches to Improving Access to Medicines Globally

## Ideas from the Hepatitis C Experience

Organised by the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute,  
the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health and  
the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property

## BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

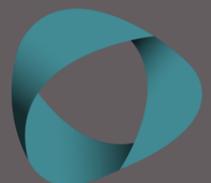
3 December 2019  
Maison de la paix, Auditorium Ivan Pictet  
The Graduate Institute, Geneva



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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Federal Office of Public Health FOPH



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### VINH-KIM NGUYEN

**Co-Director, Global Health Centre; Professor, Anthropology and Sociology, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies**



Vinh-Kim Nguyen is a medical anthropologist and physician. He continues to practice acute care medicine in Canada and with Médecins sans Frontières, most recently in emergency medicine in Yemen and in Ebola centres in the DRC. He practised HIV medicine in Montréal between 1992 and 2012, and was involved as a co-investigator in multiple clinical trials while teaching in the School of Public Health at the University of Montréal where he helped establish graduate programmes in Global Health. He now teaches Anthropology and Global Health in Geneva, and continues to conduct research on barriers to the elimination of infectious diseases.

His early anthropological research, based on extensive work in the field working with community groups, examines the introduction of antiretrovirals in West Africa from the mid 1990s and is detailed in his first book, *The Republic of Therapy: Triage and Sovereignty in West Africa's Time of AIDS*. With Margaret Lock he co-authored *An Anthropology of Biomedicine*, which provides a theoretical framework for analyzing health and illness in the era of globalized biomedicine and is now in its second edition. He is Vice President of MSF Switzerland and co-Director of the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute in Geneva.

### FELIX ADDOR

**Deputy Director General, Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property; Professor of International Negotiations, University of Bern**



Felix Addor serves as the Deputy Director General of the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property, the federal agency in charge of all intellectual property matters in Switzerland. As the Institute's General Counsel and Director of the Legal and International Affairs Division, he has been responsible for all legal and policy matters regarding all fields of intellectual property at the national and international levels since 1999. He also acts as Co-Head of the Swiss Federal Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Public Health, Innovation, Trade and IP, and he is a Member of the Strategy Committee on the Swiss health foreign policy. Since 2008, Dr Addor has been a Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Bern, too. He lectures on

intellectual property law, international negotiations and global governance. Additionally, Dr Addor is a Senior Fellow at the Global Health Centre of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. Prof Addor has authored numerous articles, and he is a regular guest lecturer on a broad range of issues of intellectual property policy and of negotiation issues. He received a MLaw (magna cum laude) and a Dr iur. (summa cum laude, awarded by the Professor Walther Hug Foundation) from the University of Bern.

### GREGORY DORE

**Professor, Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales, Sydney**



Gregory Dore is a Scientia Professor, Head of Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program at Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney, and Infectious Diseases Physician at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney, Australia. He has been involved in viral hepatitis and HIV epidemiological and clinical research, clinical care and public health policy for 20 years. He has developed extensive national and international collaborations, and is internationally recognized in the areas of HCV natural history and epidemiology, therapeutic strategies for acute and chronic HCV infection, particularly among people who inject drugs, and HCV elimination strategies.

### HEBA WANIS

**Researcher, Third World Network**



Heba Wanis is a researcher in public health and development. She has interest in access to medicines as a fundamental component of the right to health, and particularly focuses on pharmaceutical policy, drug regulation, pricing and intellectual property. She authored and contributed to several publications in this area. Ms Wanis has worked and consulted for organisations at national, regional and international levels, including the UNDP HIV/AIDS Regional Programme in the Arab States, the World Health Organisation, UN Women, South Centre, Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development, the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, People's Health Movement and Plan International Egypt. She is currently the focal point for Third

World Network's access to medicines project in Egypt. Ms Wanis studied pharmaceutical sciences, and holds a Master of Public Health from the University of Edinburgh and a MA in Community Psychology from the American University in Cairo.

### NOOR HISHAM ABDULLAH

**Director General of Health, Ministry of Health, Malaysia**



Noor Hisham Abdullah is a Senior Consultant Surgeon in Breast and Endocrine Surgery, Putrajaya Hospital and the current Director General of Health Malaysia. His area of expertise is in breast and endocrine cancers, with numerous published papers and textbook chapters in endocrine surgery. He has special interest in bringing personalised healthcare back to the community and home through digital technology and creative innovation. Dr Abdullah is actively involved as a policymaker in global organisations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DND<sup>i</sup>). He is also a Councillor-at-Large (2017-2021) in the Executive Board of the International Society of Surgery (ISS) and chairs the Global

Surgery Committee of ISS. He trained in breast and endocrine surgery under the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Fellowship training programme and obtained his Master of Surgery and Medical Degrees from the National University of Malaysia.

## **PHILIP BRUGGMANN**

**Chair, Swiss Hepatitis, University of Zurich**



Philip Bruggmann is internal medicine specialist and has worked as head of internal medicine at Arud in Zurich, Switzerland since 2003. Arud runs two outpatient clinics for addiction medicine that provide an interdisciplinary care setting with substitution treatment, psychiatric and psychosocial therapy, and a full range of hepatitis and HIV care. Dr Bruggmann is serving as head of the executive board of Swiss Hepatitis. In this function, he leads the Swiss Hepatitis Strategy project, which was initiated by civil society. The vision of the Swiss Hepatitis Strategy is the elimination of hepatitis B and C by 2030. Dr Bruggmann is a Privatdozent and research fellow at the Institute of Family Medicine of the University of Zurich.

Moderator

## **MARTINA SCHWAB**

**Co-Head, Global Health Section, International Affairs Division, Swiss Federal Office of Public Health**



Martina Schwab, previously worked at the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs in the field of international development cooperation, at the Swiss Delegation to the OECD in Paris, and as a consultant in the area of public management. She holds a M.A. in International Affairs and Governance from the University of St. Gallen.

| 12:00 – 13:00 | **LUNCH BREAK** (Hall Petal 1)

### REKHA RAMESH

**Head of Global Public Policy, Gilead Sciences**



Rekha Ramesh leads the global public policy group at Gilead and since 2014 has built a team responsible for analyzing policy impact, developing policy positions, translating and amplifying scientific evidence for policymakers, and engaging external stakeholders to create an environment that supports access for innovative medicines. Ms Ramesh oversees the following issue areas: coverage and reimbursement; intellectual property, value and innovation; and patient access and affordability across therapeutic areas. She joined Gilead in 2005 and until 2014 was responsible for policies related to pricing and reimbursement. Prior to joining Gilead, she consulted for Health Management Associates (HMA), a public policy consulting company where she worked with governments to develop policies that would provide greater access to health coverage and with private institutions to help them navigate the complexities of US health policy. She is also a published author of studies on health coverage. Prior to joining HMA, Ms Ramesh was an Analyst at the U.S. Congressional Budget Office. Ms Ramesh also held brief positions in the Health Care Financing branch of the Executive Office of the President's Office of Management and Budget and the Joint Committee on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations. She received her bachelor's degree in Biology from Washington University in St. Louis and her master's in Public Policy from the University of Chicago.

### VICTOR ROY

**Research Fellow, UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose**



Victor Roy is a physician and social scientist with a focus on biomedical innovation and health delivery for vulnerable patients and populations. He is currently a medical resident at Boston Medical Center and Codman Square Health Center and a Research Associate with UCL's Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose. As a social scientist, he has investigated the political economy of drug development and treatment access through the cases of hepatitis C and multi-drug resistant tuberculosis. He is a co-founder and served as Executive Director of GlobeMed, a network of students now at over 50 university campuses partnering with communities around the world to improve health of people living in poverty. He earned a doctorate in sociology from the University of Cambridge as a Gates Cambridge scholar and his M.D. at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine as a Paul and Daisy Soros New American Fellow.

### ARI-PEKKA LAITSAARI

**Senior Investment Officer, European Investment Bank**



Ari-Pekka Laitsaari has been involved with several growth-stage companies in Europe as an independent advisor with core competence in building the path to market and commercialization of innovations and science. While educated in Heidelberg, Germany, his professional expertise spans some 30 years covering investment and corporate banking as well as venture capital throughout Europe. Mr. Laitsaari is an astute advocate of hands-on management believing in strong management teams creating growth stage success stories. In his capacity in various boards as shareholder, chairman and executive board member, he has focused on growth strategies, deal structuring and execution guiding each of the companies he is involved with to get to market successfully. Mr. Laitsaari has been a regular speaker and panellist in European Venture and Private Equity events and was in the Boards of five Finnish and one Swiss Life Sciences companies before returning to Luxembourg to spearhead equity-type co-financing structures in life sciences with European Investment Bank.

## **BERNARD PÉCOUL**

**Executive Director, Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative***



Bernard Pécoul has led the Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DNDi) since its foundation in 2003. Under his guidance, DNDi – a not-for-profit research and development organization – with hundreds of public and private partners, has delivered six new treatments for the most neglected diseases (leishmaniasis, sleeping sickness, and Chagas disease) and for malaria. It has developed a robust portfolio of projects spanning from discovery to implementation for these diseases as well as filaria, paediatric HIV, mycetoma, and hepatitis C. As part of DNDi's dynamic portfolio approach, Dr Pécoul is also leading the incubation of a product development partnership to address R&D for new antibiotic treatments. DNDi aims to deliver a

total of 16 to 18 new treatments for neglected patients by 2023, with a total of EUR 650 million, spanning 10 disease areas. The initiative, through its R&D work, also builds capacity in disease endemic countries through research platforms and technology transfers and advocates for greater public leadership to sustainably address the health needs of neglected patients. Prior to DNDi, Dr Pécoul was Director of the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Campaign for Access to Essential Medicines from 1998 to 2003, a position he took on after that of Executive Director of MSF-France. While working with MSF, Dr Pécoul carried out field missions in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. In 1988, he co-founded Epicentre, an MSF-affiliated NGO specialized in epidemiology. After obtaining his medical degree at the University of Clermont-Ferrand, France, Dr Pécoul earned a master's degree in public health at Tulane University, USA. In 2012, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree by the University of Dundee, UK. Dr Pécoul holds a Medical Doctor and a Master of Public Health degree. He is also a member of the Joint Coordination Board of the Special Programme for Tropical Disease Research (WHO/TDR) and a board member of UNITAID's Medicines Patent Pool.

Moderator

## **LUCAS VON WATTENWYL**

**Senior Advisor, Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property**



Lucas von Wattenwyl is a Senior Advisor at the Swiss IP office (IPI), looking after matters in the interdisciplinary field of intellectual property, innovation and public health. In his previous position at the IPI, he negotiated the IP Chapter in free trade negotiations on behalf of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and was part of the Swiss delegation to the WTO/TRIPS Council. Before that, he worked for a multinational IT company in the UK looking after company secretarial matters, and prior to that as a lawyer in Switzerland.

| 14:30 – 14:45 | COFFEE BREAK (Interpetal)

### **NORA KRONIG ROMERO**

**Vice-Director General, Ambassador for Global Health, Swiss Federal Office of Public Health**



Ambassador for Global Health Nora Kronig Romero is Vice-Director General of the Federal Office of Public Health and heads the International Affairs Division. As a diplomat, she worked in the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) for more than 10 years. Her last position was Deputy Head of the Multilateral division at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office at Geneva. Before that, she worked as Chief of Staff of the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Yves Rossier (2012-2016) and as diplomatic assistant of the State Secretary Peter Maurer (2010-2012), among other positions. She holds a degree in economics from

the University of St. Gallen.

### **MARIÂNGELA SIMÃO**

**Assistant Director-General, Prequalification and Technology Assessment, World Health Organization**



Mariângela Batista Galvão Simão from Brazil was most recently WHO Assistant Director-General for Drug Access, Vaccines and Pharmaceuticals. She was Director of Community Support, Social Justice and Inclusion at UNAIDS. In addition to her work at UNAIDS, she brings more than 30 years of experience working in the Brazilian public health system and has played an active role in enhancing access and decentralizing health services in the country. Between 2006 and 2010, she served as Director of the National STD/AIDS and Viral Hepatitis Department in the Brazilian Ministry of Health, where she led successful price negotiations with pharmaceutical companies to lower the price of HIV medication. During this time, she also represented the Brazilian

Ministry of Health in the negotiations that led to the constitution of UNITAID in 2006, including its governing body, where she served as a board member until 2008. She was trained as a paediatrician in Brazil and holds an MSc degree in public health from University of London, United Kingdom.

### **THOMAS CUENI**

**Director General, International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufactures and Associations**



Thomas B. Cueni is Director General of IFPMA, the global association of pharmaceutical research companies, based in Geneva and is Secretary of the global Biopharmaceutical CEO Roundtable (BCR). Mr Thomas Cueni is Chair of the Business at OECD Health Committee, and also serves on the Board of Directors of the City Cancer Challenge (CCan), an initiative aiming to improve cancer care in major cities in low- and middle-income countries. Mr Cueni also serves as Industry Co-Chair of the APEC Biopharmaceutical Working Group on Ethics. Furthermore, he is Chair of the Board of the cross-sectoral AMR Industry Alliance, a group committed

to tackling the threat of antimicrobial resistance, which includes more than 100 companies and associations representing Rx pharma, generics, biotech, and diagnostics. Prior to joining IFPMA he was Secretary General of Interpharma, the association of pharmaceutical research companies in Switzerland, and for many years was a member of the Board and Chair of a key committee of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations. Prior to his appointment with Interpharma, Mr Cueni had a career as a journalist, inter alia as London correspondent for the “Basler Zeitung” and “Der Bund”, and he served as a Swiss career diplomat with postings in Paris (OECD) and Vienna (IAEA, UNIDO). He studied at the University of Basle, the London School of Economics, and the Geneva Graduate Institute for International Studies, and has Master degrees in economics (University of Basel) and politics (London School of Economics, LSE).

## **SHERINE HELMY**

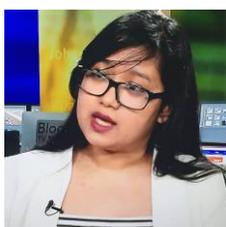
**Chief Executive Officer, Pharco Pharmaceuticals**



Sherine Abbas Helmy has 37 years of professional experience in the pharmaceutical industry. Throughout the years, Dr Helmy was appointed as CEO of Pharco Corporation, CEO of Pharco Pharmaceutical International-KSA, board member of Batterjee Pharmaceuticals, KSA; Pharco Impex, Romania; consultant of SEEG Pharm, Switzerland; and Presidio Pharmaceuticals, USA that discovered a new HCV drug. He is also the CEO of Tharawat for resources and mining, Board member of Royal resources for oil and Gas. He is the Technical CEO of Circle-Africa, CEO of Touran Investment, CEO of Cleo Pharmaceuticals, CEO of Sarapharma of Import & export, CEO of FEED International for industry and trade Co, Board Member of Sai for Medical Devices, Board Member of BioGeneric Pharma S.A.E (BCP), Board Member of WECAN Pharmaceuticals. Dr Helmy is a Board Member of several organizations as, Alexandria University, Faculty of Pharmacy, Azhar University, Scientific Research Committee of Alexandria University, the City Advisory Council Zewail City of Science and Technology, Drug Research Council (Academy of Scientific Research and Technology), Science & Technology Development Fund (STDF), and the Egyptian Exporters Association (Expolink). Dr Helmy is also a Founding Member of North Coast University (NCU). He is a Member of the board of trustees of the Egyptian Japanese University for Science & Technology (EJUST), the Egyptian E-Learning University, and El Morsy Abu El Abbas Mosque I Alexandria. He is a Member of the Strategic Advisory Board (SAB) of the American University in Cairo School of Business and the School of Sciences & Engineering. He is a Member in the Egyptian Lebanese, Egyptian Saudi, and the Egyptian Senegalese Business Councils. He is a Member of the Committee of the Pharmaceutical Education Sector at the Supreme Council of Universities. He is also a member in the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt (AMCHAM), the German-Arab Chamber of Industry and commerce (AHK-MENA), the Swiss Egyptian Business Association (SEBA) and the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Egypt (CCIFE).

## **FIFA RAHMAN**

**Board Member, NGO Delegation, UNITAID**



Fifa Rahman is a global health lawyer by profession and represents the interests of NGOs on the Unitaid Executive Board. She is currently working on a PhD on negotiating tactics, upper middle income countries, and biologics intellectual property in the Trans-Pacific Partnership at the University of Leeds. She was formerly the head of policy at the Malaysian AIDS Council, working on advocacy for the HepC compulsory licence that was announced in 2017, among other things.

Moderator

**SUERIE MOON**

**Co-Director, Global Health Centre, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies**



Suerie Moon, MPA, PhD, is Co-Director of the Global Health Centre and Visiting Lecturer at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva. She also teaches and advises doctoral students at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health as adjunct Lecturer on Global Health. Her research and teaching focus on global governance, the political economy of global health (focusing on innovation and access to medicines; outbreak preparedness and response; trade, investment and intellectual property rules; and development assistance for health), the evolution of international regimes, and innovative policies for addressing global problems. She

is the author, with Wolfgang Hein, of *Informal Norms in Global Governance: Human Rights, Intellectual Property Rules, and Access to Medicines* (Routledge, 2013). She has conducted research on the policies and politics shaping innovation and access to medicines for twenty years, starting at Médecins Sans Frontières in 1999. She has served on a number of expert advisory bodies, including most recently the Board of Directors of the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative, WHO Fair Pricing Forum Advisory Group, Expert Advisory Group to the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines, Proposal Review Committee of UNITAID, and US National Academies of Medicine Forum on Antimicrobial Threats. Prior to joining the Graduate Institute, she was Study Director of the Harvard-LSHTM Independent Panel on the Global Response to Ebola, and co-founded and led the Forum on Global Governance for Health, a focal point at Harvard University for research, debate and strategic convening on issues at the intersection of global governance and health. She received a BA from Yale, an MPA from Princeton, and PhD from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

| 16:30 – 17:00 | **CLOSING**

**Presentation of a Cartoon**

**CARO VAN LEEUWEN**

**Divisional Head, ECAP**



Caro van Leeuwen holds a BA in Social Anthropology and Gender Studies and a MA in African Studies. After graduating she worked as an intern at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in the Global Programme Health where she also (re)discovered drawing as a communication tool. During her internship and since then she has documented and summarised various projects visually with posters or videos. Today, her main occupation is in the area of education and integration.

**Synthesis of Themes and Closing Remarks**

**SUERIE MOON**

**Co-Director, Global Health Centre, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies**

**FELIX ADDOR**

**Deputy Director General, Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property; Professor of International Negotiations, University of Bern**

| 17:00 – 18:00 | **RECEPTION** (Interpetal)

**This event will be livestreamed on YouTube**

<https://youtu.be/rZneAPGUbqo>

**Venue**

Maison de la paix  
Auditorium Ivan Pictet, Maison de la paix  
Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2A, CH-1202 Geneva

**More information**

[graduateinstitute.ch/GHC-Medicines](http://graduateinstitute.ch/GHC-Medicines)



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