

Speaker Biographies

Philipp Lambach



Dr Philipp Lambach, MD, MBA, is the Maternal Immunization Focal Point for the WHO Initiative for Vaccine Research. In this function he is leading implementation research related to the implementation of current and future maternal vaccines, such as tetanus, influenza, RSV and GBS vaccine. As part of his activities, he is required to provide a better understanding of the factors contributing to the optimal service delivery of current vaccines during pregnancy in low resource settings (MIACSA project) and to identify research gaps affecting future vaccine introduction Advancing Maternal Immunization to reduce infant morbidity and mortality from respiratory syncytial virus (ARI). Dr Lambach is leading a collaborative effort between LSHTM and WHO that aims to develop and widely disseminate a comprehensive value proposition for Group B Streptococcus (GBS) vaccination for pregnant women, based on a thorough assessment of the preventable burden of disease and the costs and gains expected through vaccination of pregnant women, particularly in low, middle and high-income contexts. Dr Lambach has recently been awarded with leading the WHO Vaccine Research Initiative's activities on HCW vaccination and with managing the organization's activities related to influenza vaccine development and implementation.

Deshayne Fell



Dr. Deshayne Fell is a perinatal epidemiologist, appointed as an Assistant Professor in the School of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Ottawa, Canada, and as a Scientist in the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute. Her research uses large, linked population databases and registries to improve our understanding of factors affecting maternal and infant population health. Her current focus includes influenza and pertussis immunization during pregnancy and their relationship with birth outcomes and longer-term pediatric health outcomes; safety and effectiveness of maternal immunization; and epidemiological research methods.

Sarah O'Neill



Dr. Sarah O'Neill obtained her PhD in Social Anthropology at Goldsmiths College, University of London in 2013. Her PhD research was concerned with local people's opposition to the national ban on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Fouta Toro, northern Senegal. The thesis was awarded the Audrey Richards Prize of the African Studies Association of the UK in 2014. Since then she has also worked on African men's involvement in FGM/C in Belgium, the Netherlands and the UK in the context of a Daphne funded project (Men Speak Out). Dr. O'Neill has also worked as a consultant on FGM/C for the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). Recent fieldwork has been undertaken at an FGM specialist clinic in Brussels. Other research in the context of a postdoc position at the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp (ITM) was concerned with malaria clinical trials, research ethics, health-seeking behaviour and neonatal health at the Medical Research Council in the Gambia and on intra-vaginal practices and reproductive health in Tanzania. While at ITM, she also obtained a grant from the Flemish Government for a 3 year interdisciplinary study aiming to contribute to the identification of the cause of Nodding Syndrome/Epilepsy (Cameroon, Tanzania and Uganda).

Serese Marotta



Mrs. Serese Marotta is the Chief Operating Officer for Families Fighting Flu, a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to saving lives and reducing hospitalizations by protecting children and their families against influenza through education and advocacy. Mrs. Marotta originally came to Families Fighting Flu in 2010 following the loss of her five-year-old son, to the flu in 2009. She served on the Board of Directors for the organization for six years before coming on-staff in May 2016 as the COO. Prior to joining Families Fighting Flu, she worked as an environmental scientist for 16 years at a consulting firm conducting ecological and human health risk assessments for hazardous waste sites. She now works tirelessly to raise awareness about the seriousness of flu and the critical importance of annual flu vaccination for everyone six months and older.

John Tsang



Dr. John Tsang leads a laboratory focusing on systems immunology at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH). He also co-directs the NIH Center for Human Immunology (CHI) and leads its program in systems human immunology. Dr. Tsang trained in computer engineering and computer science at the University of Waterloo and received his Ph.D. in biophysics from Harvard University. Before the NIH, he conducted systems biology and bioinformatics research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Merck Research Laboratories. Dr. Tsang has won several awards for his research, including NIAID Merit Awards for the development of a data reuse and crowdsourcing platform [OMiCC](#) and for leading a system biology study of human immune variability and influenza vaccination, which was selected as one of the [top 20 NIAID Research Advances of 2014](#). He has served as a scientific advisor on systems immunology and bioinformatics for a number of programs and

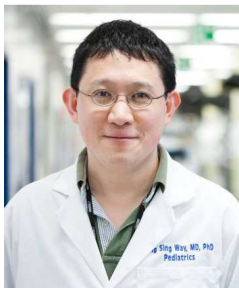
organizations including ImmPort (the clinical and molecular data repository for NIAID), the Committee on Precision Medicine for the World Allergy Organization, the NIAID Modeling Immunity for Biodefense Program, the Allen Institute, the Immuno-Epidemiology Program at the National Cancer Institute, and the Human Vaccines Project.

Madeleine Jennewein



Ms. Madeleine Jennewein is a PhD candidate at Harvard University in the Virology program. She studies the antibody characteristics that govern trans-placental transfer of antibody functionality.

Sing Sing Way



Dr. Sing Sing Way is an infectious disease pediatrician at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. He received his MD, PhD training at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and was later mentored by Dr. Christopher Wilson during post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Washington and Dr. Marc Jenkins at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Way's research investigates the immunological mechanisms responsible for shifts in infection susceptibility during reproduction and throughout postnatal development with the goal of more effective therapeutic and preventative strategies. He is an elected member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation, and recipient of numerous research awards including the March of Dimes Basil O'Connor award, Society for Pediatric Research E. Mead Johnson award, Gale and Ira Drukier prize in children's health research, and the NIH Director's Pioneer award. Dr. Way's current research is supported by the US NIH-National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, March of Dimes Foundation, Burroughs Wellcome Fund, and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Faculty Scholars Program.

Tobias Kollmann



Dr. Tobias Kollmann completed his MD and PhD at the Albert of Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx NY, followed by a residency in pediatrics and fellowship in infectious diseases at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA, where he also conducted a post-doctoral fellowship under Dr. Chris Wilson. He served as division head of the pediatric infectious disease at BC Children's Hospital, UBC, in Vancouver, Canada until recently. His expertise centers around newborn infectious diseases, immune ontogeny and early life vaccine responses employing cutting edge technology (systems biology) to extract the most information out of the typically small biological samples obtainable in early life.

David Goldblatt



Dr. David Goldblatt is Professor of Vaccinology and Immunology and Head of the Immunobiology Section at the Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, University College London (UCL) where he also holds the role of Institute Deputy Director for NHS Engagement. He is a Consultant Paediatric Immunologist at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (GOSH) where he is also Director of Clinical Research and Development. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, his Paediatric qualifications from the Royal College of Physicians (London) and a PhD in Immunology from the University of London, United Kingdom. He was awarded NIHR Senior Investigator status in 2012 which was renewed in 2016.

He has a long-standing interest in the immune response to vaccines and infectious diseases. He has an active research programme studying bacterial conjugate vaccines in the young and the elderly, the

ontogeny of the immune response to bacterial carriage and infection, evaluation of functional immunity to *S. pneumoniae* proteins, the development of new pneumococcal vaccines and the development of functional assays for evaluating immunity to bacterial candidate vaccines including Group A and Group B Streptococcus.).

Julie Bines



Professor Bines is the Victor and Loti Smorgon Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Melbourne and a Paediatric Gastroenterologist and Director of Clinical Nutrition & Intestinal Rehabilitation at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. Dr. Bines leads the Enteric Disease Group at Murdoch Children's Research Institute. This program is working to develop an affordable neonatal rotavirus vaccine, RV3-BB vaccine, aimed at preventing rotavirus disease from birth. This work also involves investigating early life influences on the gut and immune development. Dr. Bines is Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Child Health, the WHO Asia-Pacific Rotavirus Regional Reference Laboratory and the Australian Rotavirus Surveillance Program at Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

Dr. Bines graduated from Monash University (M.B.B.S.) before training in paediatric gastroenterology and nutrition at Children's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and Harvard Medical School. She was post-doctoral researcher at Massachusetts Institute of Technology before returning back to Melbourne to the Royal Children's Hospital and the University of Melbourne. Since then she has been a consultant for the World Health Organisation focusing on safety surveillance for rotavirus vaccine and the role of vaccine in the prevention of antimicrobial resistance.

Pierre Van Damme



Dr. Pierre Van Damme is an MD who obtained his PhD in epidemiology and social medicine in 1994, University of Antwerp. He is currently full professor at the University of Antwerp, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences where he had chaired the Vaccine & Infectious Disease Institute (VAXINFECTIO, University of Antwerp) from 2007 till 2018, and now became vice-dean of that Faculty. VAXINFECTIO is a WHO Collaborating Centre for the WHO European Region for the control and prevention of infectious diseases. Pierre Van Damme founded the Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccination (CEV) in 1994, which he chairs since 1994. The centre conducts research in 4 main areas: (1) (sero-) epidemiology and diagnostics of infectious diseases; (2) vaccine trial studies including assessment of safety, protective efficacy and immunogenicity of preventative as well as therapeutic vaccines; (3) injection and diagnostic device research; (4) kinetics of vaccine-induced antibodies, including passive transfer of maternal antibodies and maternal immunization.

Dr. Van Damme has authored more than 400 peer-reviewed papers and conducted more than 380 vaccine trials within the trial unit of the CEV. In May 2014, he was awarded with the prestigious Bill Marshall award of the ESPID society. In October 2017 he was awarded by the ACRP (Association of Clinical Research Professionals) with the European Outstanding Leadership Award; and end of 2017 with the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

He has been for more than 10 years a regular advisor for national and international organizations, including the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group, and the World Health Organization (European Regional Office and Headquarters). He has been appointed as chairman of the European Technical Advisory Group of Experts on communicable diseases and vaccines for the WHO European Region (ETAGE) (2005-2015). He is a member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine since 2008, and of the board of Unicef Belgium (2010-2018).

Stephanie Schrag



Dr. Stephanie Schrag is the Epidemiology Team Lead in the Respiratory Diseases Branch, Division of Bacterial Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Since 2000, she has led CDC's program on prevention of group B streptococcal (GBS) disease and the agency's domestic and international efforts to prevent the broader problem of neonatal sepsis. Domestically, she leads CDC's GBS policy activities and serves as subject matter lead for CDC's active surveillance for group B streptococcal invasive infections in 10 states. She also served as CDC lead of a maternal immunizations working group for the Advisory Council on Immunization Practices (ACIP). In the international context she served as co-Principal Investigator on the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-funded Aetiology of Neonatal Infections in South Asia (ANISA) study, as well as co-PI on a similar study in South Africa and has provided technical assistance to a range of neonatal sepsis and GBS-specific projects in Central America, Africa and Asia. She

has also contributed to recent systematic reviews and meta-analyses of the global GBS disease burden and has served as a consultant for the World Health Organization regarding considerations for GBS vaccine development, licensure, and disease burden assessment. Before her current position, Dr. Schrag was an Epidemic Intelligence Service Fellow and an American Society for Microbiology fellow at the CDC and a post-doctoral fellow in population biology at Emory University. Dr. Schrag received her bachelor's degree in biology in 1989 from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island and her doctoral degree in zoology in 1993 from Balliol College, University of Oxford, where she was a British Marshall Scholar. Dr. Schrag is the author of more than 120 publications.

Padmini Srikantiah



Dr. Padmini Srikantiah is a Senior Program Officer in Global Health at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In her role, she serves as the RSV and Influenza initiative lead, as well as the lead for the foundation's cross-cutting Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) strategy. Prior to joining the foundation, Dr. Srikantiah was with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a Senior Medical Epidemiologist, and led CDC's AMR platform in India, encompassing efforts to strengthen AMR surveillance and reduce key healthcare associated infections, and also served as the CDC-India lead for infectious disease surveillance. Dr. Srikantiah has previously served as medical officer for HIV treatment in the WHO South East Asia Regional Office where she led the HIV Drug Resistance Surveillance and Prevention program and provided extensive technical assistance on antiretroviral therapy scale-up and evaluation in numerous countries in Asia. She is board certified in infectious diseases from the University of California, San Francisco, served in the Epidemic Intelligence Service at CDC in the Foodborne & Diarrheal Diseases Branch, and received an MPH in epidemiology at the University of California, Berkeley.

Ruth Karron



Dr. Ruth Karron, is a Professor of International Health in the Bloomberg School of Public Health with a joint appointment in the Department of Pediatrics in the School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Karron is a pediatric infectious diseases physician, virologist, and vaccinologist, and is Director of the Center for Immunization Research and the Johns Hopkins Vaccine Initiative. Dr. Karron has substantial experience in the evaluation of respiratory virus vaccines in adult and pediatric populations. Dr. Karron's research interests also include the development of immune responses to respiratory viral infections in early life, the epidemiology of RSV and other respiratory viral diseases in low resource settings, and public policy and ethical issues related to vaccine development and distribution. Most recently, she co-led the Pregnancy Research Ethics for Vaccines, Epidemics, and New Technologies (PREVENT) Working Group, which released *"Pregnant Woman & Vaccines Against Emerging Epidemic Threats: Ethics Guidance for Preparedness, Research and Response"*, a guidance document with specific actionable recommendations to ensure that pregnant women are no longer excluded from receiving vaccines against emerging infectious diseases. Dr. Karron has served on a number of national and international vaccine advisory committees and panels, including the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and the FDA Vaccine and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC), which she chaired from 2006-2008. She is currently a member of the WHO Product Development for Vaccines Advisory Committee (PDVAC).