

2021 APACI Influenza Workshop - Speaker Information



Professor Yuelong Shu (APACI Chairman), China

Professor Dr Yuelong Shu is Dean at Public Health School (Shenzhen), Sun Yat-sen University, and Professor at the National Institute for Viral Disease Control and Prevention, China CDC. Dr Shu obtained his PhD degree in 1998 at the Institute of Virology, Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine. He got post-doctoral training at the Institute of Gene Therapy, Mount Sinai Medical School (1998–1999), and in Department of Molecular Pharmacology Medical School, University of California, Los Angeles (1999–2002). Dr. Shu has been committed to the research of influenza since 2002, and has made great contributions for influenza prevention and control in the world. He played a leadership role in establishing the national influenza surveillance network in China, which is the biggest influenza network in the world including 408 influenza laboratories and 554 influenza sentinel hospitals. He also led the CNIC to be designated as the first WHOCC in developing countries by WHO in 2010.



Professor Yasmin Bte A Malik MBBS (UM), MSc (UK), FRC Path (UK) – Malaysia

Professor Dr Yasmin Abdul Malik is currently the President of the Malaysian Society of Infectious Diseases and Chemotherapy. She is also the Visiting Clinical Consultant and part-time lecturer with the Medical Microbiology Department, University of Malaya Medical Centre. She was formally the Professor of Medical Microbiology and Head of the Preclinical Sciences Department at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman from 2012-2014. Before that she was with the Faculty of Medicine and Health, International Medical University (IMU) for 9 years, as the Professor of Medical Microbiology and held the positions of Dean of Postgraduate Studies (Post-graduate courses) and Dean of Medical Sciences. Before joining the IMU, she was with Medical Faculty, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) for nearly 20 years as Professor of Medical Microbiology, Senior Consultant of UKM Medical Centre and Deputy Dean of Academics.



Professor Zamberi Sekawi, Malaysia

Universiti Putra Malaysia | UPM · Department of Medical Microbiology and Parasitology. Zamberi Sekawi is a Professor of Medical Microbiology and Senior Consultant Clinical Microbiologist at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University Putra Malaysia. He is actively involved in research and has secured many research grants, had extensive publications and had won numerous research awards. His research is mainly on respiratory viruses, with special interest in influenza. He is also very active in the vaccine advocacy movement.



Professor Yasmin Gani, Malaysia GMT +8

Consultant Infectious Disease Physician at Hospital Sungai Buloh. Prior to that, Prof Gani was a Clinical Specialist in the general Medical Unit there and was officially gazetted as a Clinical Specialist in February 2012. She completed her Masters Of Internal Medicine Training in University Malaya Medical Centre in 2011, and was a medical officer in Hospital Kajang, Selangor prior to that. As an intern, she worked in

the surgical, medical, pediatrics, obstetrics & gynecology and orthopedics department doing ward rounds and managing patients with acute and chronic medical illness.



Dr Siti Aisah Mokhtar, Malaysia

Medical Lecturer, Universiti Putra Malaysia

Dr. Siti Aisah Mokhtar is a Medical Lecturer in the Department of Community Health at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). She obtained her Doctorate of Public Health (DrPH) from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) in 2018. Later she works as a public health physician under the surveillance section, Ministry of Health (MOH)

Malaysia, before joining university. During her MOH service, she was directly involved with surveillance activities, mainly on the emerging infectious diseases, including the influenza surveillance. She was also involved as one of the committee members for the COVID-19 pandemic response in Malaysia before leaving for UPM.



Dr Cheah Wee Kooi, Malaysia

Dr Cheah Wee Kooi is Physician and Geriatrician, currently the Head of Department of Medicine and Clinical Research Centre of Taiping Hospital. He is a member of the Taiping Hospital COVID-19 Readiness Task-force committee and the COVID-19 clinical lead in the same hospital. He has published several publications with regards to COVID-19 in Malaysia, locally and internationally.



Jamal I-Ching Sam, Malaysia

BMedSci, BM, BS, MSc, MRCP (UK), FRCPath (UK) Professor Dr Sam currently works at the Department of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, University Malaya, Kuala Lumpur and Head of the Diagnostic Virology Unit, University Malaya Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. His research interests include the clinical and molecular epidemiology of respiratory viruses, and the burden of influenza.



Professor Dr Siu Lun (John) Tam (Hong Kong, SAR)

Dr John Tam is currently the Visiting Professor at the Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He also serves as the Director and Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Alliance for the Control of Influenza, a position he held over 15 years ago as the founding chairman. Dr Tam had worked as Technical Officer of the Initiative for Vaccine Research at the World Health

Organization (WHO), Geneva, Switzerland and was responsible for the global research and development of seasonal and pandemic influenza vaccines as well as the focal point for influenza policy development under SAGE and the technical lead for the WHO Global Action Plan for Influenza Vaccines. He also served as Scientist at the Global Influenza Programme of WHO, Geneva and was responsible for the development and implementation of the WHO Public Health Research Agenda for Influenza including the coordination of influenza vaccine research and global seasonal influenza vaccine recommendations. John also worked in a leading role in the pharmaceutical industry on vaccine research and development. Prior to these, he was Professor in the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, the Chinese University of Hong Kong for 15 years. Dr Tam received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees from the University of Toronto majoring in virology, microbiology and biochemistry, and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Hong Kong on virology. John has been active in the field of medical virology and his interest included

influenza and other viral respiratory tract infections, viral diarrhoeal diseases, viral hepatitis and virus-associated cancers. He had published over 180 peer-reviewed articles relating to his fields of interest. During the outbreak of avian influenza in Hong Kong in 1997 and the SARS outbreak in Asia in 2003, John had served as advisor to the WHO, the Hong Kong government and other regional health authorities. He received the Bronze Bauhinia Star (B.B.S.) medal from the Government of Hong Kong SAR in 2004.



Dr. Zulkifli Ismail, Malaysia

Malaysia, KPJ Selangor Specialist Hospital. Zulkifli Ismail is a consultant paediatrician and paediatric cardiologist in a private hospital. He also serves as a visiting paediatric cardiologist at Damansara Specialist Hospital. He was formerly a professor of paediatrics and paediatric cardiology in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). He has served as the head of the paediatric department and the director of Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (HUKM) as well as the medical director of its private wing, UKM Specialist Centre.

Dr. Zulkifli also served as a past president of the Malaysian Paediatric Association (MPA) and is currently the editor of Berita MPA, a quarterly newsletter publication distributed to fellow members of the Association. He is also the chairman of the Positive Parenting Management Committee and serves as the chief editor of the Positive Parenting Guide, a quarterly publication aimed to equip Malaysian parents with reliable and practical local information on maternal, child and family care since 2002. Dr. Zulkifli is currently the president-elect of the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (APPA) and current chairman of the Asian Strategic Alliance for Pneumococcal disease prevention (ASAP). He is also president of the Thalassaemia Association of Malaysia (TAM) from 2003. He serves as a board member of the National Population and Family Development Board (LPPKN), is a member of the Ministry of Health Unrelated Transplant Approval Committee (UTAC) and in the editorial board of the Malaysian Journal of Paediatrics & Child Health (MJPC). He has also served as a reviewer for the Medical Journal of Malaysia and the Philippines Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal.



Associate Professor Holly Seale, Australia

Dr. Holly Seale is an Associate Professor at the School of Population Health, University of New South Wales and Deputy Director for the Collaboration on Social Science and Immunisation. As a social scientist, she leads a program of research that is focused on the attitudes and behaviour of health consumers and health providers and how they impact on engagement with public health and health service strategies. Her work focuses on improving awareness and acceptance of immunisation with a particular focus on special at-risk groups including children and adults with medical conditions, healthcare workers and refugees and migrants. By understanding the perceptions around immunisation, she is able to develop and test new interventions such as communication or education strategies. During the COVID-19 pandemic she has been a consultant to WHO and WHO Europe and has assisted with developing resources and guidance documents to support COVID vaccine uptake. Aside from immunisation, she also undertakes research which focuses on improving the level of engagement and compliance with infection control strategies in the hospital setting. This work crosses over a number of strategies including the use of non-pharmaceutical strategies (work maps across Australia, China and Vietnam), hand hygiene education and the role of the patient in infection control. Holly is also actively involved with other forms of research including clinical trials, surveillance and epidemiological based studies.



Clinical Professor David Smith, Australia

Clinical Professor David Smith is a Medical Virologist at PathWest Laboratory Medicine WA and Director of the PathWest QE2 Network. He is also a Clinical Professor in the School of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Western Australia, and Director of the National Influenza Centre at PathWest. He chairs the Public Health Laboratory Network and is a Director of the Asia-Pacific Alliance for the Control of Influenza. He has a particular interest in influenza and other respiratory viruses, mosquito-borne viruses and emerging infections.



Dr. Raja Dhar - India

Dr Raja Dhar is a Pulmonologist and a Critical Care Specialist with over 15 years of experience. He currently works at Fortis Hospital Kolkata. After finishing his MD in Respiratory Medicine from Calcutta University Dr. Dhar completed his MRCP and CCT from UK, and FCCP from USA. He is a member of many medical associations in India and abroad, and contributes regularly to several national and international journals.



Professor Suchitra Pandit, India

Professor Suchitra is a consultant at the Dept. of OBGYN Surya Group of Hospitals in Mumbai. Chairperson AICC – RCOG (2017- 2020). President ISOPARB (2018-20), President Organisation Gestosis (2016 -21), President , FOGSI & ICOG (2014 - 15) FIGO Women’s awardee 2018, FOGSI representative to AOFOG (2015-2017) Professor & unit chief LTMMC & LTMG hospital Sion (1988- 2009). Initiated FOGSI GESTOSIS Hypertensive Disorders in Pregnancy certificate course. Conceptualised FOGSI YOUTH MELA for empowering youth with more than 300 continuing activities. SHE is the secretary- FOGSI - Unicef Sion Kishori Adolescent Empowerment project at Dharavi and winner of Lord of Planets award (UK:2019), FIGO Women’s award 2018, Maharashtra Medical Council award 2016 , Hon.Fellowship of Nepal Society ,MOGS Dr.Desai award for excellence , FOGSI CORION , Best committee & publication award , FOGSI - Dr. Duru Shah & MOGS Ganatra community service award

Professor Suchitra has 134 publications and has authored 5 popular books : Caesarean birth, Fibroids , MCQs ,Pelvic Organ Prolapse, Manual for OBGYN Practitioners.



Professor Dr. Navin Kumar Devaraj, Malaysia

Senior lecturer and Family Medicine Specialist, Universiti Putra Malaysia
Dr Navin Kumar Devaraj holds a Master of Medicine in Family Medicine from University of Malaya since 2016. He is a family medicine specialist and medical lecturer with the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Univesiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). He has been a physician for more than 15 years. He has published more than 20 papers in reputable journals worldwide and has been actively involved in both academic and community level events, especially as advisor of Asian Medical Student Association, UPM chapter and a committee member of Traditional and Complementary Medicine committee of Malaysian Medical Association. His area of interest include hypertension, anti-smoking, hyperlipidaemia and men’s health. brain (meningitis, encephalitis) or the respiratory system (pneumonia, bronchiolitis) in children and adults in the UK, Australia, the Middle East and Tanzania.



Dr. Gary Grohmann PhD, FASM. Australia

Gary Grohmann is a virologist and a former Director of Immunobiology (a WHO Essential Regulatory Laboratory) at the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in Australia (1997- 2015), responsible for vaccine testing and registration. During this time he also represented the TGA on various WHO committees involving influenza issues. He then undertook a number of engagements with WHO (2015-2018) in Geneva with the Health Systems and Innovation Group (working with the Technology Transfer Initiative assisting developing vaccine manufacturers and the WHO Research blueprint), the Global Action Plan (GAP) for Influenza Vaccines, the Essential Medicines Programme (Reviewing Biocontainment); the Global Influenza Programme (Vaccine strain selection committee and the 'Switch' meetings); and the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework Review Group Secretariat (lead).



Professor Mary-Louise McLaws

Mary-Louise is a member of the World Health Organization (WHO) Health Emergencies Program Experts Advisory Panel for Infection Prevention and Control Preparedness, Readiness and Response to COVID-19. For several years she was a short mission World Health Organization Advisor to China and Malaysia for surveillance development. She collaborated with Beijing to review the response to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak and healthcare worker safety for the Hong Kong SARS designated hospital. Mary-Louise provided advice for 9 years to the WHO Clean Care is Safer Care Challenge program. She was commissioned by the Commonwealth to review the Pandemic Influenza Infection Control Guidelines for evidence of protection for healthcare workers.