



World Health
Organization



WHO O2CoV2 – Oxygen requirements and approaches to respiratory support in patients with COVID-19 in LMICs

An observational cohort study

**International Study Steering Committee
Biographies**



OVERVIEW

The International Study Steering Committee of WHO O2CoV2 – Oxygen requirements and approaches to respiratory support in patients with COVID-19 in LMICs – comprises individuals with broad expertise across global regions and income levels, and diversity across a variety of clinical and research disciplinary approaches.

All members of the group declare they have no conflicts of interest in conducting the objectives listed above as independent experts, and that they have no personal or professional involvement in the study. That is, none of the members will be implementers of the study, or formally affiliated with implementers of the study.

WHO acknowledges all the experts contributing to the ISSC and thank them for their commitment and support to generating meaningful evidence regarding oxygen use and requirements in patients with COVID-19.



Gasim Amrahli

Gasim Amrahli is Head, Regional Medical Divisions Administration, Azerbaijan. He graduated from the Medical Prevention Department of Azerbaijan Medical University in 2014, beginning his career in the General Resuscitation and Intensive Care Department of the Clinical Medical Centre, working as a paramedic (2012–2014). He then continued his residency education in public health at MediClub LLC and worked in the Occupational Health Department (2014–2018), at the Research Institute of the Lung Disease as Monitoring Specialist (2017–2018), and in the Department of Strategic Procurement of Medical Services at the State Agency on Mandatory Health Insurance as a specialist (2019–2020). Currently, he is studying for a doctorate at the Department of Child and Adolescent Health, Azerbaijan Medical University.



Yaseen Arabi

Yaseen Arabi was the Chief Medical Resident at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, USA (1992–1995). He obtained pulmonary and critical care training at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, USA (1995–1998). He is Chairman of the Intensive Care Department; the Medical Director, Respiratory Services; and Professor, King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, King Abdullah International Medical Research Center, Saudi Arabia. He is currently the Principal Investigator/Co-Investigator on several multicentre randomized controlled trials. He has been involved in MERS and COVID-19 research. He has contributed to more than 300 publications including articles in leading medical journals, and is currently a section editor for intensive care medicine on the editorial boards of several journals. In 2011, he received multiple grants and awards, including the Barry A Shapiro Memorial Award for Excellence in Critical Care Management, Society of Critical Care Medicine, USA.



Diptesh Aryal

Diptesh Aryal completed his Clinical Fellowship in Critical Care at the University of Toronto, Interdepartmental Division of Critical Care and St Michael's Hospital in 2015. Currently, he is working as ICU coordinator at Nepal Medciti Hospital. He is Vice-President and National Coordinator of the Nepal Intensive Care Research Foundation (NICRF), which, in collaboration with Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU), aims to implement hospital-based ICU registry in Nepal. The initiative that he leads adapts the platform from the electronic registry method used in the ICU registry from the Asian Critical Care Registry Network (CRIT Care Asia). Along with other critical registries in South and South-East Asia, NICRF is a member of "Critical Care Asia" – a Wellcome Trust and MORU project, the Collaboration for Research, Implementation and Training in Intensive Care (CRITICAL CARE Asia), which seeks to improve the quality of critical care in the region. Diptesh has been awarded an Honorary Physician position in Critical Care at the MORU in Thailand. Diptesh is Principal Investigator for the REMAP-CAP Trial in Nepal. Diptesh is pursuing a PhD from the D'Or Institute for Research and Education, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



DJ Christopher

DJ Christopher is Professor of Pulmonary Medicine at the Christian Medical College, Vellore; a well-reputed referral hospital in southern India. After basic medical training in India, he undertook advanced training in the United Kingdom and Australia. He is a Fellow of the Indian Chest Society, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow, the American College of Chest Physicians, and the Asia Pacific Society of Respiriology. He is Co-Director of the Diploma in Allergy and Asthma programme, the only formal training programme in the field of allergy in India. He is the Past President of the Indian Chest Society and the Indian Association of Respiratory Care and the former Chair of RePORT India, a consortium for Indo-US collaborative TB research. His research interests include TB, COVID 19, allergy and asthma, COPD epidemiology, interventional pulmonology, and pleural diseases. He is on the advisory boards of journals and reviews articles for national and international journals and has authored 14 chapters in books and over 190 journal publications.



Pauline Convocar

Pauline Convocar is an emergency medicine physician serving as Training Program Director of the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Medical Hospital, Head of Section of CardioPulmonary Resuscitation, Occupational Safety and Health Committee of the Manila Doctors Hospital, and Telemedicine and Patient Services Coordinator of the Southern Philippines Medical Center, Department of Emergency Medicine. As the lone doctor-volunteer in a geographically disadvantaged island in the Philippines, she significantly reduced neonatal mortality rate during her term. She finished her postgraduate studies on Magistratum Sanitatis Communitatis Administrationis at Ateneo Professional Schools, and her residency training in emergency medicine at the University of the Philippines, Philippine General Hospital, and is currently pursuing her doctorate in Public Health – Health Promotion and Education from the University of the Philippines, Manila. As the immediate Past President of the Philippine College of Emergency Medicine, she was instrumental in the development of the Advocacy Section, championing violence and injury prevention, advancement of the emergency care system in the country, gender equity and empowerment, and professional progression through continuing education and research. Her other interests include promotion of occupational safety and health among emergency health care workers.



Mohammed Derow

Mohamed M Derow is a physician with more than 6 years working on multidisciplinary in the fields of public health and medical emergencies. He is Head of Public Health Emergency and Surveillance, and IMS Tead Lead for COVID-19 Case Management at the Ministry of Health and Human Services, Federal Government of Somalia. In 2014 he graduated MBBS from Elrazi University, Sudan, and is now undertaking MPH-Infectious Diseases Specialization at James Lind, Geneva, Switzerland. As a medical doctor and public health expert leading and managing public health emergency interventions with multinational teams during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, he has played an instrumental role in the organization and institutions supporting developing countries' humanitarian preparedness, response and system building through policy/strategy development, service management, information and/or research and capacity development of human resources for humanitarian and development workers.



Madiha Hashmi

Madiha Hashmi is Professor and Chair, Department of Critical Care Medicine, Ziauddin University, Karachi, and Visiting Faculty at Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan. She is Honorary Physician, Mahidol Oxford Research Unit, Bangkok, Thailand, and Member of the Board of Directors of the International Severe Acute Respiratory & emerging Infections Consortium (ISARIC). She serves as Secretary, Faculty of CCM, College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan, and CEO of South East Asian Research & Education in Critical care Health (SEARCH), founded to promote research in critical care in Pakistan. She was President of the Pakistan Society of Critical Care Medicine from 2015–2019, leading the Pakistan Registry of Intensive CarE (PRICE) that is operational across the country. She acted as Principal Investigator for Pakistan for the REMAP-CAP Trial, and for operationalizing the WHO/ISARIC CCP during the COVID-19 pandemic in intensive care units across the country. She served as GDC member for WHO guidance and guidelines on: clinical management and therapeutics for COVID-19 (WHO, 2020–2021), and the new WHO Living guideline: drugs to prevent COVID-19 (WHO, 2021).



Leticia Kawano-Dourado

Leticia Kawano-Dourado, MD, PhD, is a Respiratory Medicine Physician and Clinical Researcher at the HCor Research Institute, Hospital do Coração, São Paulo, Brazil. She is an associate researcher at the Pulmonary Division, University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil, and at INSERM UMR 1152, University of Paris, France. Her research focuses are non-invasive support for acute respiratory failure, interstitial lung diseases, and, more recently, COVID-19.



Richard Kojan

Richard Kojan is a clinician physician, practising emergency medicine, intensive care and polyvalent critical care in low- and middle-income countries for more than 15 years. He has acted as contributor to several clinical works, particularly on emerging infectious diseases, Ebola virus disease, Lassa fever and COVID-19, frequently with sepsis complication. With colleagues, he has deployed the portable biosecurity emergency care unit (CUBE) to optimize the standard of care for patients in low-resource settings (EVD, LF and COVID-19 clinical trials, etc.). He is a specialist ICU physician and anaesthesiologist, currently working in collaboration with a number of teaching hospitals, and through multiple partnerships with international research societies (Africa, Europe, America, etc.) and UN organizations, to improve COVID-19 knowledge and define the disease characterization. He is currently President of the Alliance for International Medical Action (ALIMA), after experience with the NGO Doctors without Borders.



Arthur Kwizera

Arthur Kwizera is Senior Lecturer in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care at Makerere University College of Health Sciences, and a staff intensivist at the Mulago National Referral Hospital ICU, Uganda. After completing his specialist anaesthesia and intensive care training in Uganda, he received further training from the University of British Columbia in Canada and an interventional pulmonology fellowship in Venice, Italy. He is part of international collaborations looking at acute care in resource-limited settings with a particular emphasis on respiratory failure, sepsis management and anaesthesia/intensive care education. He is a member of the Surviving Sepsis Campaign Guidelines Taskforce. His research work is centred on epidemiology, pathophysiology and management of acute organ dysfunction and corresponding life support interventions in low-resource settings. He is a Cambridge THRIVE PhD fellow with a focus on acute lung disease, especially acute respiratory failure and acute respiratory distress syndrome, and on novel, low-cost strategies to manage acute respiratory failure in the low-resource African acute care settings. Arthur has participated in the GDG panel for WHO guidance and guidelines on: clinical management, therapeutics (corticosteroids) for COVID-19 (WHO, 2020–2021), and the new WHO Living guideline: drugs to prevent COVID-19 (WHO, 2021).



Maria Mendes

Maria Mendes is a registered nurse from Guinea-Bissau, with 8 years' bedside experience in Portugal and Saudi Arabia. In 2017 she moved to CERNER, an American health care technology company, as a clinical consultant, and has worked in the digital transformation of ICU wards of major hospitals in Lisbon and Oporto, Portugal. In January 2021 she joined the High Commissioner for COVID-19 in Guinea-Bissau, responsible for information and care access. Currently, she is coordinating the establishment and development of a functional network of ambulances to improve access for suspected cases and sick COVID-19 patients to treatment centres. She organizes and participates in the training, supervision and retraining of technicians involved in the operation of the ambulance network and establishment of COVID-19 vaccination centres.



Elisabeth Riviello

Elisabeth Riviello is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and an Attending Physician in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, MA, USA. Her passion is to improve care for critically ill patients in resource-variable settings. Her research focuses on acute respiratory failure, sepsis and mortality prediction in low-income countries.



Wangari Waweru-Siika

Wangari Waweru-Siika is a Clinical Associate Professor of Anaesthesia and Critical Care at the Aga Khan University in Nairobi, Kenya, with a medical career spanning more than 23 years. Her research interests are quality of care and critical care outcomes in low- and middle-income countries, with a focus on cost-effective strategies to improve outcomes among the critically ill in low-resource settings. She co-chairs the External Scientific Advisory Panel of the African Research Collaboration on Sepsis (ARCS) and is a member of the WHO Respiratory Studies Working Group. She currently leads the establishment of the first ever critical care registry in Kenya as Co-Investigator on an NIHR-funded project across seven African countries.