

WHO Reference Group on Health Statistics Members Biography



Dr Leontine Alkema
Assistant Professor in Biostatistics
University of Massachusetts Amherst
United States of America

Dr Leontine Alkema is an Assistant Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Previously, Dr Alkema held positions as an Assistant Professor at the National University Singapore and a Postdoctoral Fellow at Columbia University.

Dr Alkema's research focus includes the development of statistical models to assess and interpret demographic and population-level health trends and differentials as well as the development of estimation and projection methods for key global indicators, including child and maternal mortality rates, the total fertility rate, and the unmet need for contraceptive methods.

She is the Lead Technical Advisor for the UN Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group (UN MMEIG) and a Member of the Technical Advisory Group of the UN Inter-Agency Group on Child Mortality Estimation (UN ICME).

Dr Alkema earned a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Statistics from the University of Washington in 2008.



Dr Amneh Alnatsheh
Director, Satellite Accounts Department
Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
Palestine

Dr Amneh Alnatsheh is the Director for the Satellite Accounts Department and a Leader of the Palestinian Health Accounts team at the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. Dr Alnatsheh coordinated and built the National Health Accounts System for Palestine in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and influenced the transition of the Palestinian National Health Account system to the 2011 system of Health Accounts.

Dr Alnatsheh participated in statistical activities on national health accounts, regional training on measuring financial health protection in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and developed national capacity and contributed toward the development of the global health expenditure database. She also led the compilation of National Accounts based on the SNA 1993 and 2008 on the supply and use tables and worked on the strategic plan to implement a system of national accounts in collaboration with regional experts.

Dr Alnatsheh has a Master's Degree in International Studies and a Bachelor's in Mathematics Applied to Economics from the Science College in Birzeit, University of Palestine.



Dr Vindya Kumarapeli
Director, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD)
Act. Director, Policy Analysis and Development
Act. Director, Primary Care Services
Ministry of Health
Sri Lanka

Dr Vindya Kumarapeli is the Acting Deputy Director-General of Medical Services and Director of Primary Care Services in the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.

Dr Kumarapeli has extensive experience in mortality statistics related to non-communicable diseases (NCDs), polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) and public health emergencies. Her most recent publication is “Dr F.A. Wickramasinghe Oration, 2015 Beyond Borders: Enhancing Public Health Security at Points of Entry to Sri Lanka.”



Professor Lalit Dandona

Distinguished Scientist and National Chair of Population Health, Indian Council of Medical Research

**Distinguished Research Professor, Public Health Foundation of India
India**

Prof. Lalit Dandona is Director of the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative, which has reported comprehensive disease burden and risk factors trends for every state of India over the past quarter century to inform population health improvement strategies. His research teams have carried out research in India for about 25 years on health and disease measurement and its application to policy, health system assessment, and population-based studies. He is also Professor at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation in USA.

Prof. Dandona has published widely and serves on the editorial boards of several journals. His profile was published in *The Lancet* in 2001 and in 2017, and he received the 2006 BioMed Central Research Award in Medicine for population health research in India.

Prof. Dandona received his medical training at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore. He received his public health training at the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. He has taught researchers, policymakers and public health practitioners, and has served as a technical expert in public health and policy for governments, academic institutions, international organizations and funding agencies.



Professor Emmanuela Gakidou
Professor Health Metric Sciences
Senior Director, Organizational Development & Training
Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)
University of Washington
United States of America

Emmanuela Gakidou is a Professor of Health Metrics Sciences and Senior Director of Organizational Development and Training at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington. Professor Gakidou is also a Faculty Affiliate for the Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences at the University of Washington.

Professor Gakidou's research interests focus on impact evaluation, methods and tools development for analytical challenges in global health. Examples of current research projects include the evaluation of community-based interventions to improve non-communicable disease (NCD) management in underserved populations, the assessment of facility efficiency in the provision of health services, and the measurement of poverty and educational attainment at the small area level.

A founding member of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), Professor Gakidou oversees the Organizational Development and Training team. Before joining IHME, Professor Gakidou was a research associate at the Harvard Initiative for Global Health and the Institute for Quantitative Social Science. Prior to this, Professor Gakidou also worked as a health economist at the World Health Organization.

Professor Gakidou has a Doctor in Philosophy (PhD) in Health Policy from Harvard University.



Ihsan-ul-Haq
Chief Statistical Officer
Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
Pakistan

Mr Ihsan-ul-Haq is the Chief Statistical Officer at the Bureau of Statistics, where is responsible for the National Health Accounts (NHA). Mr ul-Haq has led several research efforts to improve the NHA and has led five rounds of NHA's (2005-2006, 2007-2008, 2009-2010, 2011-2012, 2013-2014 and 2015-2016) which were published.

Before this Mr ul-Huq was a statistician for the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics where he supervised several socio-economic surveys in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa such as the Pakistan Demographic Survey and Labour Force Survey.

Mr ul-Huq has lectured statistics at several institutions such as Pakistan Air Force Degree College, Peshawar; Pakistan Education Center, Doha, Qatar; Army Public College, Peshawar and Islamia College, University of Peshawar.



Dr Nayu Ikeda
Section Head of Population Health Metrics
International Center for Nutrition and Information
National Institute of Health and Nutrition
National Institutes of Biomedical Innovation, Health and Nutrition
Japan

Dr Nayu Ikeda is the Section Head of Population Health Metrics at the International Center for Nutrition and Information at the National Institute of Health and Nutrition (NIHN) which is part of the National Institute of Biomedical Innovation, Health and Nutrition (NIBIOHN) in Japan. In this position, Dr Ikeda works on the application of advanced quantitative methods to national survey data for the estimation and monitoring of health and the nutritional status of the Japanese and other countries.

Dr Ikeda held appointments as a Project Lecturer of Health and Human Security and an Assistant Professor of Global Health Policy at the Graduate School of Medicine at the University of Tokyo from 2009 to 2013. Prior to this, she was a Visiting Scientist at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington and a Research Fellow at the Harvard Initiative for Global Health from 2006 to 2009. Dr Ikeda received the Young Investigator's Award from the Japan Epidemiological Association in 2015.

Dr Ikeda earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Economics from Kobe University and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Interdisciplinary Science from the University of Tsukuba, Japan.



Dr Ardeshir Khosravi
Director, Health Statistics and Health Economics
Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education
Iran

Dr Ardeshir Khosravi is a Faculty Member and Director of the Group for Health Statistics and Health Economics at the Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education and a Senior Researcher of the Research Center for Health Equity at Tehran University of Medical Sciences. In 2017, Dr Khosravi was awarded by the Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education for improvement of the Iranian Causes of Death Registration system.

Dr Khosravi has contributed to various aspects of the Iranian Health Information System, including the implementation of various National Surveys in Iran, including IrMIDHS and Health Services Utilization and the Global Burden of Disease studies. He is one of the primary contributors and a member of the technical committee for developing and implementing the Electronic Health Record through the Iranian Primary Health Care and served as a WHO consultant to improve health information systems in Libya and Sudan in 2017.

Dr Khosravi holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the field of Population Health and a Diploma in Public Health from the University of Queensland, Australia.



Dr Soewarta Kosen
Member of Scientific Research Council
Researcher, National Institute of Health Research and Development
Ministry of Health
Indonesia

Dr Soewarta Kosen is a policy researcher at National Institute of Health Research and Development Indonesia. He is an expert on national health and economic policy. He has extensive experience in public health development at district and national levels. His scientific expertise covers Civil Registration and Vital Statistics and International Classification of Diseases, Multiple causes of deaths, health equity, primary health care, universal health coverage, health financing and insurance and health policy formulation.

Dr Koen has published widely on health systems in influential scientific journals.

Dr Kosen received his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Health Systems from the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health and has a Master's of Public Health (MPH) from the University of the Philippines and a Doctor of Science (MD) from the University of Indonesia.



Professor Sarah Lewington
Professor of Epidemiology and Medical Statistics
Nuffield Department of Population Health
University of Oxford
England

Professor Sarah Lewington is the Scientific Director for the Master of Science (MSc) in Global Health Science and Epidemiology, where she is responsible for the planning, development, delivery and management of all aspects of the MSc degree course. She is also a Senior Research Fellow with Green Templeton College, United Kingdom

Professor Lewington's primary research interest is studying the major avoidable causes of premature adult mortality (particularly tobacco, alcohol, blood pressure and obesity) in low- and middle- income countries.

Professor Lewington graduated in Mathematics and Statistics from Leicester University in 1988 and spent five years working as a medical statistician in the pharmaceutical industry before returning to university to study for a Master's of Science (MSc) in Applied Statistics at Southampton University, England.



Professor Alan Lopez
Laureate Professor at the University of Melbourne
Rowden-White Chair of Global Health and the Burden of Disease Measurement
Director, Global Burden of Disease Group
Australia

Professor Alan Lopez is a Melbourne Laureate Professor and the Rowden-White Chair of Global Health and Burden of Disease Measurement at the University of Melbourne. He is also Director of the Global Burden of Disease Group in the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health. He is an Affiliate Professor of Global Health at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington.

Professor Lopez is a highly cited author whose publications have received worldwide acclaim for their importance and influence in health and medical research. He is the co-author with Christopher Murray of the seminal Global Burden of Disease Study (1996), which has dramatically influenced debates about priority setting and resource allocation in health. He is the co-author with Sir Richard Peto of the Peto-Lopez method, which is widely used to estimate tobacco-attributable mortality to support policy action.

Professor Lopez is on the editorial board of PLoS Medicine, BMC Medicine, The International Journal of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine and is co-Editor in Chief of Population Health Metrics.

He received a Bachelor of Science (BSc) with honours from the University of Western Australia, a Master of Science (MS) from Purdue University in Lafayette, IN, and has Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from the Australian National University in Canberra.



Professor Rafael Lozano
Professor of Health Metrics Sciences and the Director of Health Systems
Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation
University of Washington

Rafael Lozano is a Professor of Health Metrics Sciences and the Director of Health Systems at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington.

Professor Lozano is a member of the National System of Researchers Level III (highest) in Mexico, the National Academy of Medicine of Mexico, and the Mexican Academy of Sciences. He has received numerous awards such as Medal of Health Merit from the Mexican Society of Public Health (2015), the Health Award for Lifetime Achievement in Research by the Carlos Slim Foundation (2016) and was recognized as Researcher of Excellence in Medical and Health Sciences (2017) by the Commission of the National Institute of Health of the Ministry of Health in Mexico.

Before joining IHME, Professor Lozano worked as Director of the Centre of Health Systems Research at the National Institute of Public Health (2013–2017). He was also the General Director of Health Information at the Ministry of Health in Mexico (2001–2007), where he coordinated the Health Information System for the Ministry of Health and the production of national health statistics.

Professor Lozano holds a Doctor of Medicine (MD) from Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico and a Master's in Social Medicine from Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana in Mexico.



Dr Isabel de la Mata
Principal Advisor for Health and Crisis Management
European Commission

Dr Isabel de la Mata is the Principal Advisor for Health and Crisis Management in the European Commission. Previously, she worked as Counsellor for Health and Consumers at the Permanent Representation of Spain to the European Union (EU), as Deputy Director-General for Health Planning at the Spanish Ministry of Health and as Advisor to the Vice-Minister of Health.

Dr de la Mata has worked with the World Health Organization (WHO), and also served as a member of the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee, Pan American Health Organization, Inter-American Development Bank and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation.

Dr de la Mata graduated in Medicine and Surgery at the University of Basque Country in 1983 and holds post-graduate degrees from the University of Leuven and Paris VI in Public Health, Hospital Administration and Statistics. She is a specialist in Preventive Medicine and Public Health.



Dr George Mensah
Director, Center for Translation Research and Implementation Science
Senior Advisor, Office of the Director
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Bethesda, Maryland
United States of America

Dr George Mensah is a Clinician-Scientist who serves as the Director of the Center for Translation Research and Implementation Science at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), a part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In this role, Dr Mensah leads a trans-NHLBI effort to advance late-stage translational research and implementation science to address gaps in the prevention, treatment, and control of heart, lung, and blood diseases and the elimination of related health inequities.

Dr Mensah has more than 20 years of public health experience having worked for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In addition to his public service, Dr Mensah has 15 years of experience providing direct patient care, teaching, and research at Cornell, Vanderbilt and the Medical College of Georgia (MCG).

Dr Mensah is an Honorary Fellow of the College of Physicians of South Africa and a Foundation Fellow of the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons. He maintains active collaborations with several international groups to advance research on the global burden of diseases and risk factors.

Dr Mensah is an honours graduate of Harvard University. He obtained his medical degree from Washington University and trained in Internal Medicine and Cardiology at Cornell. He was a full professor with tenure at MCG and is currently a Visiting Full Professor at the University of Cape Town, South Africa.



Dr Maria Margarita Ronderos Torres
Technical Coordinator
Malaria and arbovirus surveillance
Universidad Javeriana
Colombia

Dr Margarita Ronderos is a Colombian national and holds a Doctor of Medicine (MD) from Universidad del Rosario in Colombia and an MSc in epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Dr Ronderos worked at the Instituto Nacional de Cancerología as a Researcher and Head of the Epidemiology Division (1988-1996), where she led the design and implementation of the Cervical Cancer Control Programme and human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer research. Thereafter, she joined the Ministry of Health as Head of the Epidemiology Office and later as the General Director of Promotion and Prevention at the Ministry of Health in Colombia (1997-1999) where she was responsible for the expansion of a limited system of notification of diseases to a national system of public health surveillance.

Dr Ronderos also worked with WHO as advisor in non-communicable diseases in Costa Rica (2000-2002) and as a Medical Officer and Epidemiologist in Nepal (2005-2007). She was Director of the Department of Preventive Medicine at Universidad Javeriana (2008-2015), later working as technical advisor for the University of Melbourne in Colombia (2017-2019) for the Bloomberg funded D4H project to strengthen vital statistics, implementing verbal autopsy for indigenous and rural populations. At present, Dr Ronderos works at the Instituto de Salud Pública, Universidad Javeriana as the Technical Coordinator of a project to strengthen malaria and arbovirus surveillance in the Andean Countries.



Professor, Christopher J.L. Murray
Institute Director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)
Professor and Chair
Health Metrics Sciences
University of Washington, USA

Christopher J.L. Murray is the Chair and Professor of Health Metrics Sciences and Director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington. Dr Murray's work led to the development of a range of new methods and empirical studies to strengthen health measurement, analyze the performance of public health and medical care systems and assess the cost-effectiveness of health technologies.

Dr Murray is a founder of the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) approach, a systematic effort to quantify the comparative magnitude of health loss due to diseases, injuries, and risk factors by age, sex, and geography over time. After co-authoring the original GBD study in the early 1990s, he brought the GBD enterprise to IHME in 2007. He led the consortium of almost 500 researchers from 50 countries that produced the 2010 Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study. GBD now provides annual updates.

Previously, Dr Murray with Dr Alan Lopez focused on tuberculosis control and the development of the GBD methods and applications. As part of this work, they developed a new metric to compare death and disability from various diseases and the contribution of risk factors to the overall burden of disease in developing and developed countries. From 1998 to 2003, Dr Murray worked at WHO where he served as the Executive Director of the Evidence and Information for Policy Cluster. He went on to become Director of the Harvard Initiative for Global Health and the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies, as well as the Richard Saltonstall Professor of Public Policy at the Harvard School of Public Health from 2003 until 2007.

Dr Murray has authored or edited many book and chapters, including 420 journal articles in internationally peer-reviewed publications. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) and the 2018 co-recipient of the John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award.

Dr Murray holds a Bachelor of Arts and Science degree from Harvard University, A Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) in International Health Economics from Oxford University, and a medical degree from Harvard Medical School.



Dr Thet Thet Mu
Deputy Director-General, Health Information
Department of Public Health
Ministry of Health and Sports
Myanmar

Thet Thet Mu is the Deputy Director-General, Health Information at the Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health and Sports in Myanmar. Dr Mu gave overall guidance in the formulation of two rounds of five years of the strategic plan for Health Information (2011-2015) and (2017-2021). She was a front runner in the initial implementation and roll-out of nation-wide electronic health management information system that focuses on reporting by using open-source web-based District Health Information Software (DHIS2) in both public health and the hospital reporting system in Myanmar. She is the main initiator for the establishment of a Bachelor's Degree in Medical Technology (Health Information) course for capacity building, strengthening and sustainability of evidence-based health information for the future. She was Deputy Survey Manager in the first-ever Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey (2015-2016). In 2018, she received the "Women of Change Award" from the Ambassador of the Embassy of the United States of America, Yangon.

Dr Mu worked as the Director, Health Information at the Department of Health Planning (2010-2015) and also at the Department of Public Health (2015-2017). She played a critical role in the development of a uniform standard report form and metadata about the data which to be collected by essential health staff. She coordinated with Myanmar Private Hospital Association for sharing information from registered private hospitals. She has worked in various positions in government in the area of health information. Before this, Dr Mu was a medical officer at various Public Hospitals (1991-1998) and also had the experience of Rural Health Doctor (1989-1991).

Dr Mu holds a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) from the University of Medicine, Mandalay and a Master's Degree in Preventive and Tropical Medicine from the University of Medicine, Yangon in Myanmar. She received a Graduate Diploma in Health Sciences from the Queensland University of Technology in Australia.



Dr Randa Mohammed. S. Nooh
Training Supervisor & Head of the Research Committee for the Saudi Board in
Preventive Medicine
Field Epidemiology Training Program Training Center
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Dr Randa Mohammed S. Nooh is a Consultant for Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology and a Training Supervisor and Head of the Research Committee for the Saudi Board in Preventive Medicine, Field Epidemiology Training Program Training Center, Division of Preventive Health, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, in Riyadh.

Dr Nooh is a Clinical Associate Professor at the Department of Family and Community Medicine, College of Medicine, King Saud University and an Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine, College of Medicine, AlFaisal University, in Riyadh. She is a Member of the Consultative Committee for Public Health, Saudi Commission for Health Specialties and a Member of the Board of Directors of the Saudi Epidemiology Society, in Saudi Arabia. Dr Nooh has a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS), Master of Science (MSc) Epidemiology and has a Doctor of Philosophy (PHD).

Dr Nooh has published widely on various public health and epidemiology topics and was instrumental in developing the analytical capacity of emerging professionals using data to drive impact.



Joshua Salomon

Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies

Professor of Medicine for the Center for Health Policy and Center for Primary Care Outcomes and Research

Stanford University

Joshua Salomon is a Professor of Medicine and a core faculty member in the Center for Health Policy and the Center for Primary Care and Outcomes Research. His research focuses on priority-setting in global health, within three main substantive areas on measurement and valuation of health outcomes; modelling patterns and trends in major causes of global mortality and disease burden; and evaluation of health interventions and policies.

Dr Salomon is an investigator on projects funded by the Centers for Disease Control, National Institutes of Health and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, relating to modelling of infectious and chronic diseases and associated intervention strategies; methods for economic evaluation of public health programmes; measurement of the global burden of disease; and assessment of the potential impact and cost-effectiveness of new health technologies.

He is Director of the Prevention Policy Modeling Lab, which is a multi-institution research consortium that conducts health and economic modelling relating to infectious diseases. Before joining Stanford Faculty, Dr Salomon was Professor of Global Health at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



Dr Benn Sartorius
Assistant professor, Spatial Epidemiology
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
London, United Kingdom

Dr Benn Sartorius is an Assistant Professor in Spatial Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He is also a full Honorary Research Professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and an Affiliate Professor in Health Metrics Sciences at the University of Washington in the United States of America.

DrSartorius is an Official collaborator on the Global Burden of Disease (GDB) Project (IHME, University of Washington) and member of the GBD Scientific Council from 2015. Dr Sartorius is also a member of the WHO 13th General Programme of Work (GPW 13) Metrics Taskforce under the auspices of the WHO Expert Reference Group to accelerate the development of the triple billion methodologies focusing on three strategic priority areas: universal health coverage, health emergencies and healthier population targets.

Dr Sartorius's primary research interest is in the spatial epidemiology domain with a focus on the burden of disease mapping and associated determinants both at a small-area resolution as well as at the country and global scales.

His academic qualifications include a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in applied epidemiology/biostatistics; a 2-year applied field epidemiology fellowship (European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training [EPIET]) and a Master's in Science (MSc) in epidemiology and biostatistics.



Dr Samba O. Sow
Director-General of the Center for Vaccine Development
Ministry of Health
Mali

Professor Samba Sow is a Director-General of the Center for Vaccine Development, Ministry of Health, Mali. He also holds faculty appointments as a Professor at the University of Maryland, Division of Geographic Medicine. He has been Director of the CVD-Mali since its inception in 2001.

During his career, he has made substantial contributions to basic vaccinology, bacterial pathogenesis, clinical research, field epidemiology and public health policy in Mali and in Sub-Saharan Africa. Professor Sow serves as an alternate board member of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). He is an Honorary International Fellow of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Dr Sow received his Bachelor of Science (B.S.) from the Lycee Askia Mohamed, Bamako, Mali, Doctor of Medicine (MD) from the Ecole Nationale de Medicine et Pharmacie du Mali (ENMP), and Masters of Science (MSC), from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He has authored and co-authored more than 90 scientific articles and chapters.

Dr Sow is the recipient of the “Prix Laviron de Medecine Tropicale,” the Commemorative Fund Lecture of ASTMH, and was awarded the rank of “Officer of the National Order of Mali” (presented by the President of Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita) for efforts in controlling outbreaks in Mali.



Dr Elena Varavikova
Senior advisor for the Ministry of Health of Russia
Ministry of Health, Russian Federation

Dr Elena Varavikova is a Senior Advisor for the Ministry of Health of Russia in non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention and evaluation of the effectiveness of the State Public Health expenditures on population health and a leading researcher and lecturer at the Federal Research Institute for Health Organization and Information.

Dr Varavikova has extensive experience in health statistics and evaluation in Russia. Her research and policy work focuses on the harmonization of the global, national and regional health measurements and evaluation, including health policy development, interventions for the Alcohol Harm and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Prevention and Professional Education in Health Policy and Diplomacy.

She also worked for the World Health Organization and is a current Member of the Lancet-SIGHT Commission on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Scientific Council and European Burden of Disease Network.



Professor Gonghuan Yang
Institute of Basic Medical Sciences
Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences
Beijing, China

Gonghuan Yang is a Professor at the Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Beijing, China. She also serves as the Director of the Center of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) and The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) of the Institute of Basic Medical Sciences. Dr Yang is an expert of Public Health and epidemiologist on chronic non-communicable diseases.

Dr Yang served as the Deputy Director-General of the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Director of China's National Office of Tobacco Control and a Professor of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences. One of her primary contributions to public health has been to set up a disease surveillance system in China.

She is also the editor of the Atlas of the Huai River Basin Water Environment: Digestive Cancer Mortality.

Dr Yang led a study on China's Global Burden of Disease. She previously served as Vice Director of China CDC from 2005-2011. Dr Yang earned her degree in medicine from West-China Medical University and studied public health at Harvard University.