Biographies of Review Committee members on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) during the COVID-19 Response

AAVITSLAND, Preben

Dr Preben Aavitsland is a Senior Consultant in the Domain for infectious disease prevention, health and the environment, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Oslo, Norway, and a Municipal Medical Officer in Arendal and Froland municipalities, Norway. He has served on two previous IHR Review Committees and one Emergency Committee.

Dr Aavitsland is the former state epidemiologist of Norway (2002-2012). He served for 21 years in various posts at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health until 2012, including several leading roles, such as Director of Preparedness. He was the Norwegian member of the Advisory Forum of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the EU’s Network Committee for Communicable Diseases.

AGUILERA, Ximena

Director, Center of Epidemiology and Health Policy, Faculty of Medicine, Universidad del Desarrollo, Santiago, Chile. Currently dedicated to teaching and research in applied epidemiology to health policy and communicable diseases Dr Aguilera is also President of the Chilean Society of Public Health and Member of the Chilean Society of Infectious Diseases.

Dr Ximena Aguilera, MD is a Specialist in Public Health, Master in Public Health, Residence in International Health at the Pan-American Health Organization and formerly Senior Advisor in Communicable Diseases (2008-10) where among other duties she coordinated the technical response to the H1N1 pandemic. Previously, she was the Chief of Health Planning Division at the Ministry of Health in Chile (2005-08) and Head of the Department of Epidemiology at the same institution (1999-05). She was the Chilean representative during the negotiations of IHR2005; official delegate for APEC-HWG, and for MERCOSUR SGT-11. She was also primarily responsible for pandemic preparedness and the implementation of the IHR at the Ministry of Health of Chile. Dr Aguilera’s previous engagement with WHO includes consultancies and active participation as a WHO expert in several international meetings and forums on SARS, pandemic influenza preparedness, communicable diseases eradication and elimination, Universal Health Coverage measurement, and monitoring as well as the implementation of the IHR (2005). She has worked as a consultant for UNDP, International Development Bank and the World Bank in several countries in Latin America and participated in the WHO mission to support the SARS outbreak response in China (2003).

AL-ABRI, Seif Salam
Dr Seif Salem Al-Abri studied medicine at Sultan Qaboos University in Oman and qualified in 1993. He has done his training in Infectious diseases in Liverpool in the UK.

Dr Al-Abri is a practicing consultant in Infectious Diseases at the Royal Hospital, and he was appointed in 2014 as the Director General for Disease Surveillance and Control at the Ministry of Health of Oman. He is the National Focal Point of IHR for Oman and is currently leading the national technical team for COVID 19 response.

Dr Al-Abri has an interest in medical education and he is an international advisor for the Royal College of Physicians of London and the Lead Examiner for the MRCP (UK) Examination in Oman from 2011 until 2015, and he was the chairman of the Governing Council of Oman Medical College from 2015 until 2018, and is currently a member of the governing council of the National University of Science and Technology. In addition, he is an associate editor to several medical journals.

ANAMI, Vincent
Colonel (retired) Vincent Anami holds the position of Continent Representative for Africa of the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, Friends International Centre, in Nairobi, Kenya.

Previously, Colonel Anami was an in-country consultant to the International Medical Corps for the Prepare Project. He is the former Director of the National Disaster Operational Centre of the Government of Kenya and was the Director of Communications Information System Defence Headquarters within the Kenya Ministry of Defence, as well as a Staff Officer and a Commanding Officer in the same Ministry.

Colonel Anami’s fields of professional concentration include disaster management and security issues. Colonel Anami is a member of the Kenya Association of Security Professionals.

He participated in the WHO consultations on the Health Emergency Risk Management Framework and Improving Public Health Preparedness and on the Public Health Emergency Operations Center Network (EOC-NET). He is an advisor to EOC-NET.

Member since 2019, Joint Director at National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

ANNABI ATTIA, Thouraya

Dr Annabi Attia is a physician who has been always working on preventive medicine. She occupied many positions at regional and national level in the National Public Health system, since 1986, especially as occupational health inspector, head of regional then national service of public hygiene, director of the food safety department at The National Agency of Sanitary and Environmental Control of Products (ANCSEP) from 2006 to 2015. Since May 2015 she joined the National Observatory for new and emerging diseases (ONMNE), retired from public administration on July 2017. She then worked on a voluntary basis (hospital consultations and NGOs) and as an independent expert.

Along her carrier, she participated and conducted some epidemiological studies in a variety of sanitary topics (public health and sanitation, food poisoning and food safety, environmental impact on health, vector control, water hygiene, hospital infections and mental health). She worked a lot on health education and risk communication, sanitary regulation, information systems, population surveillance and product monitoring, risk assessment and risk management, strategic studies and national programs in prevention of water and foodborne diseases and in hospital infection control.
programs. She authored articles and gave lectures in all these subjects (more than one hundred and fifty publications and lectures). She is an associate professor in health and food legislation for the master’s degree in science faculties.

She is president of accreditation committee on food labs (TUNAC, national accreditation body) since 2007; Associate researcher at the Pasteur Institute of Tunis from 2010 to 2014. She was president of a scientific association on food safety for the Maghreb -AMSSA (Association Maghrébine de Sécurité Sanitaire des Aliments); Tunisian section from 2012 to 2018.

Dr Annabi Attia holds a Medical Doctor degree from Tunis University. She is a graduate in occupational health and psychotherapy (Thérapie inter-personnelle). She attended some specialized courses on epidemiology and practical training on items in her field of competence (food safety, Quality management, auditing, Health education and Risk Communication, etc.) at national and international level.

**ARAMBURU, Carmen**

Director of Health and Social Policy in Catalonia, Ministry of Health, Spain. Dr Aramburu is also the State Nominated IHR Expert for Spain.

She graduated as a medical doctor in Madrid and has a Master’s in Public Health for Developing countries from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and is a Field Epidemiologist (EPIET cohort 9, Switzerland).

Over a period of fifteen years she has undertaken humanitarian work with WHO, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), UNHCR and a number of NGOs. As a WHO consultant field officer and epidemiologist, she has worked on cholera epidemics in Papua New Guinea, Mozambique and Haiti. She also participated in the Marburg outbreak response in Angola and retrospective mortality study in Darfur, Sudan.

Dr Aramburu was the senior UNHCR Public Health Officer responsible for the area of Public Health for refugees and displaced people in specific settings, especially refugee camps and displaced people camps.

As Director of Health and Social Policy in Catalonia, she is responsible for:

- Border control of the import/export of pharmaceutical and sanitary products and the management of drug and narcotic substances.
- Sanitary veterinary control of merchandises for human consumption through the BIPs (port, airport and road)
- International Health Regulations (IHR)
- Sanitary inspection and control of vessels
- International vaccination centers (traveller’s consultations)

**BARUAH, Kalpana**

Dr Baruah, a medical entomologist by training, is the focal point for dengue and chikungunya at the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme. In this role, she is responsible for policy development, programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation, disease management, technical guidance to State Health authorities, outbreak containment, liaising with National and International stakeholders, inter-sectoral coordination, community awareness and operational research. She has more than 32 years of professional experience during which she worked for the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, National Centre for Disease Control and
the National Institute of Malarial Research. She is a Member of WHO International Health Regulations Roaster of Experts for Entomology/Vector Control since 2013 and she served as a Member of WHO Emergency Committees concerning Zika virus and Yellow Fever.

BLUMBERG, Lucille
Professor Lucille Blumberg is Deputy-Director, Head of Division and Head of Travel Health at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, National Health Laboratory Service, Johannesburg, South Africa Division of Public Health Surveillance and Response and Centre for Emerging, Zoonotic and Parasitic Diseases. She trained at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and has specialist qualifications in clinical microbiology, infectious diseases and travel medicine. She is the founding head of the of the Public Health Surveillance and Response Division which is responsible for outbreak preparedness and response, travel medicine, and surveillance for diseases of public health importance. She is a medical consultant to the Emerging Pathogens Centre on rabies and viral haemorrhagic fevers. Professor Blumberg’s special interests are tropical diseases, travel medicine, mass gatherings, severe malaria, the viral haemorrhagic fevers and rabies. She is a member of South African expert groups on Ebola, rabies, malaria (chair of the national advisory group) and NICD lead for the WHO collaborating centre for mass gatherings. She was a member of the first IHR Emergency Committee regarding the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2015. In January 2017 she was appointed chairperson of the Yellow Fever Advisory Group to WHO for travellers (GRYFF).

CHITTANGANPITCH, Malinee
Ms. Malinee Chittaganpitch is the Medical Scientist Advisor at Department of Medical Sciences, MoPH Thailand. She graduated Bachelor of Science (Microbiology) from Kasetsart University and Master of Science from Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, Thailand. She worked as the chief of Respiratory virus section and Thai National Influenza Center during the last fifteen years. therefore she has a lot of experience in respiratory virus diagnosis. Due to the outbreak of H5N1 in Thailand, she has extensive Influenza surveillance experience at global and national level by collaboration with international partners. She has been working as NIH laboratory coordinator for Thailand MOPH-U.S. CDC collaboration (TUC) since 2004.

LAVERY, John
Mr. John Lavery is the Executive Director of Health Emergency Management British Columbia (HEMBC), a program that provides emergency management leadership and support to the health system in British Columbia, Canada. Mr. Lavery has been an emergency manager for nearly 25 years and has worked in the health sector for over 20 years. In his career he has led a broad range of initiatives at the provincial, federal, and international levels, including leading health system preparedness for the 2010 Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Games, co-chairing the development of Canada’s Public Health Response Plan for Biological Events, and co-chairing the Pacific Northwest Border Health Alliance.
As an expert adviser to the WHO, Mr. Lavery was a member of the WHO 2016 Review Committee on the Role of the International Health Regulations (2005) in the Ebola Outbreak and Response, and is an active adviser to the WHO’s Emergency Operations Centres Network (EOC-NET).

LeDUC, James
Dr. James Le Duc is an expert in infectious diseases, public health and international biosecurity. He is the Director of the Galveston National Laboratory (GNL), one of the world’s largest biocontainment laboratories, located on the campus of the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas. Researchers at the GNL focus on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and are involved in both basic research and the development of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics for high consequence pathogens that require maximum containment. He is also a professor in the School of Medicine at UTMB. Prior to joining UTMB, Dr. Le Duc worked at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as director of the division of viral and rickettsial diseases, associate director for global health, and coordinator for pandemic influenza preparedness. Prior to the CDC, he was a medical officer in communicable diseases at the World Health Organization and was instrumental in implementing the WHO program in emerging infectious diseases. He is a retired U.S. Army officer who held leadership roles in government research programs and public health initiatives around the world.

Dr. Le Duc serves on numerous advisory boards and committees, including the Texas Governor’s Task Force on Infectious Disease and Emergency Response, the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity, the CDC Board of Scientific Counselors and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine’s Committee on International Security and Arms Control.

Li, Dexin
Dr. Dexin Li, is a senior professor of Virology from China CDC, Beijing, China. He graduated from Shanghai First Medical College in 1982 and Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine in 1988. Then, he is working in China CDC (Formerly known as Chinese Academy of Prevention medicine) up to, now. During 1991-1995, he was working at U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases. Fort Detrick, Maryland, USA as a visiting scientist. From 2004-2014, Dr. Li was the director of National Institute for Viral Disease control and Prevention, China CDC, which is the leading institute in viral disease control and virology research in China.

Dr. Li is a highly respected virology professor in China and gained multiple national awards for his scientific contributions to medical science. He has been working on viral hemorrhagic fever for more than 30 years, involved in laboratory research and responses to various epidemics of VHF, such as HFRS, SFTS, Dengue fever and so on. In particular for SFTS, His group played a key role in discovery and researches of the novel bunyavirus, which caused a new emerging infectious disease in China and other countries.

MAKSYUTOV, Rinat
As Director General of FBRI SRC VB VECTOR, Rospotrebnadzor, Dr. Maksyutov is currently leading the Institution’s COVID-19 vaccine development research. The Institution’s EpiVacCorona vaccine against COVID-19 is currently undergoing Phase I/II clinical trials in Russia. FBRI SRC VB VECTOR, Rospotrebnadzor, also played a key role in Russia’s early response to COVID-19 having developed and licensed the first PCR tests for SARS-CoV-2 in Russia. Previously, Dr. Maksyutov led the Institution’s vaccine development research related to Ebola virus disease (EVD) that resulted in developing and licensing (2018) the Russian Federation’s vaccine for EVD prevention, based on peptide antigens. He also played a leading role in coordinating the Institution’s technical assistance to the Republic of Guinea in combating the EVD outbreak (2014-2016) and during the post-epidemic period, as part of wider response and assistance activities provided by the Russian Federation to the Republic of Guinea. Dr. Maksyutov is also leading the Russian Federation’s research efforts focused on the development of safer, more effective vaccines, diagnostics and antivirals against smallpox. These efforts are coordinated with and approved by the WHO Advisory Committee on Variola Virus Research (ACVVR), according to the World Health Assembly resolutions WHA52.10, WHA55.15, and WHA60.1. Dr. Maksyutov is the Head of the WHO Collaborating Center Orthopoxvirus Diagnosis and Repository for Variola Virus Strains and DNA at FBRI SRC VB VECTOR and a Member of ACVVR since 2016. Dr. Maksyutov’s recent engagement with WHO includes consultancies and active participation as a WHO expert in several international meetings on high threat pathogens, smallpox vaccine stockpile policies, and implications of synthetic biology as it relates to smallpox research, preparedness and control. In addition, he has served as an adviser to the International Health Regulations (IHR) Emergency Committee for Ebola Viral Disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since 2018. Previously, Dr. Maksyutov was the Head of the Laboratory of Diagnosis of and Repository for Variola Virus DNA, and then Deputy Director General for Research at FBRI SRC VB VECTOR, Rospotrebnadzor.

MOKHTARI-AZAD, Talat

Director of the Iranian National Influenza Center, Department, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, School of Public Health, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Dr Mokhtari Azad is a full professor of virology in School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences. Since 1985 she has been the Director of National Influenza Centre and since 2006 Head of national Measles / Rubella laboratory. She has wide ranging experience in the research and higher education and has supervised MSc and PhD. students in different virology fields especially in, Isolation and molecular diagnostics and sero-epidemiology and have more than 100 articles. She is currently a member of the National Influenza and COVID-19 committee and National Vaccination committee in Iran. She has been from 2016- 2018 member of PIP framework and from 2019 a member pandemic Influenza preparedness. She also serves as a temporary advisor with WHO different committee.

Dr Mokhtari Azad has a degree in Veterinary Medicine from Tehran University, a Master of public Health (MPH) and PhD. degree in virology (1982) from Tehran University of Medical Sciences and a specialization degree in Clinical Medical Laboratory Sciences (1991) from the Iran University of Medical Sciences.
MOUSSIF, Mohammad

Dr Mohamed Moussif is the Chief Medical Officer at Casablanca International Airport and the National Coordinator of the points of entry program in Morocco. In this regard, he was in charge of the health measures implemented at borders during Ebola in 1996, then the SARS, H1N1, Ebola, Zika and currently the COVID-19.

Dr Moussif is a fellow and a graduate from the Center on Global Health Security in Chatham House in London. He holds a Master in Public Health as well as an MBA in Health Structures Management.

He holds also a Diploma in Aviation Medicine from the European School of Aviation Medicine in Frankfurt and a Diploma in Travel Health from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

Dr Moussif is member of the Africa CDC COVID-19 Steering Committee, member of the WHO Guideline Development Group of the WHO ITH (International Travel and Health) and member of the WHO Guideline Development Group on the effectiveness and impact of travel and trade restrictions during outbreaks. He is also ICAO Technical Adviser and the ICAO/CAPSCA focal point in Morocco.

Dr Moussif was part of the redaction of almost all the WHO guidelines and handbooks related to the points of entry. Since 2003, He performed more than fifty missions as WHO expert in the area of points of entry including consultancies and seven Joint External Evaluations (JJE). He is the medical adviser of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation Authority in Morocco and in charge of the project of Travel Health within the Directorate of Epidemiology and Disease Control.

Dr Moussif is a WHO selected “IHR Roster of Experts” member since 2017.

OJO, Olubunmi

She is a retired pioneer Director, Surveillance and Epidemiology and responsible for implementation of International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) at the National Public Health Institute, Nigeria Centre for Disease Control which also serves as the IHR National Focal Point.

A seasoned Public Health Professional with experience spanning over three decades. She has led numerous National assignments including leading the National technical delegation on the West Africa Regional Technical Committee on Ebola Virus Disease (2014), coordination of the Nigeria Joint External Evaluation of International Health Regulations Core Capacities in June 2017 and the National Action Plan for Health Security (2017/2018).

A graduate of the 1st cohort of IHR (2005) Implementation Course in 2010. She is presently an independent Public Health Consultant.

OKWO-BELE, Jean-Marie
Dr. Okwo-Bele is public health consultant and former Director of WHO Department of vaccines and immunization (2004-17). He currently provides board advisory and consulting services and contributes to advanced vaccinology courses as a faculty member. He was Chief of the UNICEF global immunization unit (2002-4), Head of the WHO regional vaccine and immunization programme in Africa (1989-2002) and National Manager for the DR Congo Immunization Programme (1984-9). He received training in medicine from University of Kinshasa (1981) and in public health from Johns Hopkins University (1986). Author of >30 articles and book chapters, Dr. Okwo-Bele led the national immunization program in DRC and coordinated the launch and management of polio eradication and other vaccine programs in Africa. He worked with GAVI on the roll-out of new vaccines and helped strengthen WHO vaccine policy recommendations at global level. He also has field and management experience in the preparedness and control of epidemics, particularly Monkeypox and Ebola Virus Diseases. Dr. Okwo-Bele received Rotary Paul Harris Fellow recognition for advancing polio eradication in Africa.

**SAITO, Tomoya**

Dr. Saito is the Director at the Department of Health Crisis Management, National Institute of Public Health of Japan. Saito’s research interest is public health emergency preparedness and response, especially on biological events such as pandemics and bioterrorism. Previously, Dr. Saito was a medical officer at the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) of Japan in charge of IHR NFP, preparedness and response to public health crisis including the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster and influenza H7N9. Saito received his MD from the School of Medicine, Keio University, Japan in 2000, his MPH from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 2006 and his PhD from the Graduate School of Medicine, Keio University in 2008.

**SALL, Amadou**

Dr Amadou A Sall is the CEO of Institut Pasteur de Dakar in Senegal and director of the WHO collaborating center for Arboviruses and viral hemorrhagic fever. He has been chairman of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network and a member of the has been member of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation (CEPI) Scientific Advisory Board. Dr Sall is a virologist with a PhD in Public health. He is an expert in epidemics response and control more specifically for arboviruses and viral hemorrhagic fevers (Ebola, Zika, Yellow fever). Dr Sall is member of several expert committees for WHO (GOARN, TDR, SAGE, STAG-IH...) and OIE.

**SALTER, Mark**
Dr Mark Salter is currently a Consultant in Global Health for Public Health England (PHE) in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. He is also a senior medical advisor within the PHE and a Consultant in Communicable Disease Control. Previously, Dr Salter has worked in the areas of disease control and incident management both locally and internationally, including in relation to dengue haemorrhagic fever, measles, and cholera in Central America; Lassa and SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) in Africa; and SARS and H5N1 in Asia.

Dr Salter fields of professional concentration include infectious diseases, public health emergency management, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), virology and microbiology. He is a member of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, of the Institute of Biology and of the Public Health Microbiology and Environmental Group. Dr Salter has worked with the WHO on a number of occasions, including in the areas of the clinical response to SARS, dangerous pathogens, disaster preparation and response and risk communication. He sits on a number of WHO groups, including the Virtual Interdisciplinary Group (VIAG) for Mass Gatherings and the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) Steering Committee.

SOHN, Myongsei

Professor Myongsei Sohn has spent more than three decades on the faculty of the Yonsei University College of Medicine. He has served on WHO executive board as a member and vice chair, in addition to serving as a special advisor to the Executive Director of UNAIDS. He also worked in global leadership positions, including as President of the Asia-Pacific Consortium for Public Health in the field of Preventative Medicine and Public Health. Professor Sohn has most recently served as a founding chair of the Institute for Global Engagement and Empowerment (IGEE) Yonsei University in Seoul. During his term as the executive board member of the WHO, he played an instrumental role in establishing Dr. Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health, and to successfully passing multiple resolutions of critical importance, including Primary Health Care, and Health Insurance and Drug Usage Payment Systems in Republic of Korea.

During four decades of academic research and education in health policy, He served as the Dean of Graduate School of Public Health at Yonsei University between 2010 and 2014. Professor Sohn’s participation and contributions involving the founding commission for Universal Health Coverage of the Republic of Korea has led him to the service as president of the Health Insurance Review and Assessment Service (HIRA) from 2014 to 2017. During his tenure as the president of HIRA, he led the organization’s innovation and systematization of the insurance claims review methods. Additional efforts on the foundation of real-time drug use management system by launching the Drug Utilization Review services (DUR) were considered significant- featured during a spotlight session in the 2018 Global Engagement and Empowerment Forum. He also further energized the efforts to create “Global healthcare commissioning organization” by establishing a formal channel for knowledge sharing program with Bahrein. As a founding member and chair at Institute for Global Engagement and Empowerment and Ban Ki-moon Centre for Sustainable Development at Yonsei University, his leadership has extended to working closely with 17 lead faculty members who coordinate academic initiatives and projects.
representing platforms of SDGs (sustainability development goals) from broad participation of 2,000 faculty members at the university.
He is continuing to focus his work on the accelerated efforts for realizing the goal of global universal health coverages – with localized empowerment for sustainable healthcare.

WIELER, Lothar

Prof. Lothar H. Wieler is president of the Robert Koch Institute in Berlin, the national Public Health Institute in Germany. A veterinarian by training, Lothar Wieler has focused his research on zoonotic diseases, i.e. infections that are passed between animals and humans, and account for many of the newly (re-)emerging infectious diseases. A particular research interest of Lothar Wieler are the molecular mechanisms, which enable bacterial zoonotic pathogens such as e. coli and s. aureus to infect different hosts and develop resistance to antibiotics. In his work, Lothar Wieler has used genome-based typing methods to identify zoonotic pathogens, which were subsequently analysed in functional experiments in order to learn more about their evolution and adaption to different habitats. The insights generated from this work can be used to develop new interventions to target pathogenic bacteria.
Lothar Wieler is deputy spokesperson for the research consortium InfectControl 2020, which pursues intersectoral approaches to preventing and treating infections from a One Health perspective. Within InfectControl 2020, Lothar Wieler also heads the IRMRESS and Neobiom networks. IRMRESS researches innovative strategies to fight mult-drug resistant bacteria and aims to use next generation sequencing techniques to establish a molecular surveillance system. Neobiom identifies factors that change the microbiome, resistome and mykobiome of premature babies. Lothar Wieler is executive board member of the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI). He is also a member of the scientific advisory board of the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R) and the WHO Europe Advisory Committee on Health Research (EACHR). Since 2010, he is also an elected member of the German National Academy of Sciences.