Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing

WHO Guideline development group on chronic pain in children
Geneva, Switzerland

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Surname, first name(s) and initial:  Atout, Maha  

Institutional affiliation(s): Nursing School, Philadelphia University  

Academic degrees: PhD Paediatric Palliative Care, MSc Maternity and Newborn, BSc Nursing  

City and country of primary residence: Jordan, Amman  

Biography:  

Dr. Atout completed her PhD at the University of Nottingham. She works as an Assistant Professor at the Philadelphia University of Jordan. Her experiences of working with children with life-threatening and life-limiting illnesses led to an interest in understanding communication between children with life-threatening conditions and their parents and health-care professionals. Her PhD work focused on investigating communication in the care of children with palliative care needs from the perspectives of Jordanian mothers, physicians, and nurses. She has published several papers in this field. She is also interested in investigating parental experiences of decision making at the end of life for children with life-threatening and life-limiting conditions. Currently, she is investigating children’s awareness of death, a subject that is largely neglected in the literature. During her training in the University of Nottingham, she gained a solid foundation in qualitative and mixed method research. She has presented at several international conferences and disseminated her research widely.

Surname, first name(s) and initial:  Benini, Franca  

Institutional affiliation(s): Department of Women’s and Children’s Health, University of Padua, Italy  

Academic degrees:  

City and country of primary residence: Padua, Italy  

Biography:  

Franca Benini is Director of the Veneto Regional Centre for Pain and Paediatric Palliative Care and the Children’s Hospice (Department of Women’s and Children’s Health, University of Padua) in Italy. In 1981, she graduated from Padua University with a degree in Medicine (cum laude). Subsequently, she continued her studies on Padua University specializing in Paediatrics (cum laude), in Anaesthesia and Reanimation, in Neonatology (honours) and in Pharmacology (cum laude). She lives in Padova, Italy.

She started her medical career working in Neonatal Intensive Care and then in Paediatric Intensive care. In both healthcare settings she focused her clinical interest and research in the area of pain and paediatric palliative care.

In 1982 she set up the first children’s pain management outpatients’ clinic in Italy and in 1983 launched a project aimed at instituting the first child-specific palliative care and pain management centre in the country. In 1989 she won a grant from the Italian National Research Council for an internship at McGill University in Montreal, Canada where she developed a project on pain in newborns. In 2007, she founded in Padua the first Italian children’s hospice.
At Padua University, she is an Adjunct Professor for the Specialization course in Paediatrics. She has published more than 200 scientific papers and has written or participated in the drafting of numerous texts and guides.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Bustamante Tuchez, Linda Marisol
Institutional affiliation(s): Unidad Nacional de Oncología Pediátrica
Academic degrees: MD (paediatrics), Masters in Palliative care, Certificate Program in Pediatric Bioethics
City and country of primary residence: Guatemala City, Guatemala
Biography:
Paediatrician, Master in Palliative Care, Medical Coordinator of Hospice "Hogar Estuardo Mini" Guatemala, Palliative Care specialist at Unidad Nacional de Oncología Pediátrica Guatemala, Coordinator of the Paediatric Commission of the Latin American Association of Palliative Care (ALCP), Member of the EPEC-Latino

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Chuan, Voo Teck
Institutional affiliation(s): Centre for Biomedical Ethics, National University of Singapore, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
Academic degrees: PhD, MA, BA (Hons)
City and country of primary residence: Singapore, Singapore
Biography:
Dr. Voo Teck Chuan is Assistant Professor at the Centre for Biomedical Ethics (CBmE), National University of Singapore (NUS), Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. His academic background is in Philosophy and Medical Jurisprudence. He has published widely in the areas of medical ethics and professionalism, public health ethics, and research ethics and governance. Teck Chuan is CBmE director of graduate education, and director of the Health Ethics, Law and Professionalism (Phase I) undergraduate programme at NUS Medicine. From 2015-2019, he co-directed CENTRES (Clinical Ethics Network and Research Ethics Support), a networking and training platform for ethics committees in Singapore. He has contributed to guidelines and policies on clinical care and treatment of various patient populations in Singapore, including treatment of transgender and gender non-binary adolescents. He is a Steering Committee Member of the Global Forum on Bioethics in Research and is an editorial board member of the journal Asian Bioethics Review. He has provided ethics support for the World Health Organization in various capacities.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Dans, Leonila F
Institutional affiliation(s): University of the Philippines - Manila
Academic degrees: MD, MSc Clinical Epidemiology
City and country of primary residence: Quezon City, Philippines

Biography:
After completing her medical degree at University of the Philippines-Manila, her residency training and postgraduate training in paediatrics and paediatric rheumatology at the Philippine General hospital, and her master's Degree in design, Measurement and Evaluation at McMaster University, Canada, she continues to practice paediatrics and pediatric rheumatology in the Philippines. She has also been involved in several research projects. Since around 2000, she has been actively teaching Evidence-based Medicine and Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) Methodology and has been a Reviewer of 4 Cochrane Reviews. She has been a member of the Knowledge Management Plus group of the International Clinical Epidemiology Network, developing modules for CPG development in the low-middle Income countries. She has also been a methodologist and consultant in several CPG developments in the Asia-Pacific region, producing more than 14 CPGs since 2004. She is a consultant and member of the Guideline Review Committee of WHO (Geneva) since 2009. More recently in the Philippines, she has conducted a situational analysis of the CPG process and developing a guideline for a standard CPG development process for the Department of Health. She has had experience convening and engaging stakeholders in several various CPG developments. Advocating equity and minimizing conflicts of interest are the main areas in CPG process she has been working on.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Doherty, Megan

Institutional affiliation(s): Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Ottawa, Canada and Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration (India) and World Child Cancer (Bangladesh)

Academic degrees: Post-graduate Residency in Paediatrics, Fellowship in Palliative Medicine

City and country of primary residence: Ottawa, Canada

Biography:
Dr. Megan Doherty a specialist in paediatric palliative care and consultant physician for the paediatric palliative care team at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and Roger Neilson House (paediatric hospice) in Ottawa, Canada. Dr. Doherty has extensive clinical and leadership experience in paediatric pain management in resource limited settings, through her leadership of the Children's Palliative Care Initiative in Bangladesh, the Paediatric Palliative Care Program of Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration in Hyderabad, India, and as a telemedicine consultant for Medecins Sans Frontieres. Her areas of expertise include developing and implementing paediatric palliative care and pain management clinical and education programs. She has also been instrumental in the development of palliative care programs for children in humanitarian crises situations, focusing on capacity building and training for health care workers and innovative models of community-based palliative care programs.
Surname, first name(s) and initial: Ezeanosika, Obumneme

Institutional affiliation(s): Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital

Academic degrees: MBBS, FWACP (Paediatrics), MSc

City and country of primary residence: Abakaliki Ebonyi State, Nigeria

Biography:

Dr Ezeanosike Obumneme is a Consultant Paediatrician with Alex Ekwueme Federal University Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki and the Head of the Newborn Unit. He is also a Senior Lecturer with the Ebonyi State University teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students of Paediatrics, Pharmacology, Statistics and Study design. He has interests in clinical research in Paediatrics, and in Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis.

He has served the Federal Ministry of Health Nigeria in developing guidelines for Essential care for Every Baby, Essential Care for Small Babies, Helping Babies Breathe, Kangaroo Mother care, and for National Guidelines for Newborn care.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Harrop, Jane Emily

Institutional affiliation(s): Helen and Douglas House, Oxford University Hospitals

Academic degrees: Diploma in Palliative Medicine, PhD Neuroscience (Infant Pain), MRCPCH, Diploma in Child Health, MBBS (Distinctions in Medicine and Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics), BSc in Pharmacology (First Class Honours)

City and country of primary residence: Oxford, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Biography:

Dr Emily Harrop is Medical Director of Helen & Douglas House (the world's first children's hospice). She is also an Honorary Consultant in Paediatric Palliative Care at Oxford University Hospitals. Emily recently acted as the Deputy Chair of the Clinical Guideline Development Group for the UK NICE guidance on End of Life Care for Infants, Children and Young People (NG61) and has also contributed to a number of other national / international guidance documents. Prior to her higher specialist training in Paediatric Palliative Care at Great Ormond Street Hospital, she undertook a PhD in the neurobiology of infant pain, supervised by Prof Maria Fitzgerald, and she continues to undertake grant funded research in to pain management in children receiving end of life care.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Jassal, Satbir

Institutional affiliation(s): Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young Adults

Academic degrees: FRT FSRS, DFSRH, PgDME, Dip Pal Med, MRCGP, DRCOG, Family Planning Certificate, BM BS, BMed Sci (Hons)

City and country of primary residence: Leicestershire, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Biography:

He is a full time senior partner general practitioner and medical director of Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young Adults in Loughborough, Leicestershire heading a team of 4 doctors on a 14-bedded unit that deals. He has been a GP for 30 years and have worked in children’s palliative care for over 25 years. He has written and edited the Rainbows Children’s Hospice Symptom Control Manual, co-authored the Oxford Handbook of Paediatric Palliative Medicine, and is editor of the PANG guidelines. She is an editor of Synopsis an abstract journal. He is chair and editor of the APPM Master Formulary. He helped develop the NICE guidelines for PPC as well as the RCPCH education and training curriculum in PPC. He is tutor at Cardiff University in Paediatric Palliative Medicine. I have been awarded FRCGP, an honorary FRCPCH and in 2014 a MBE.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Kayungo, Shakilu

Institutional affiliation(s): University of Dodoma and Benjamin Mkapa Hospital

Academic degrees: MD, Master of Science in Paediatric Haematology –Oncology

City and country of primary residence: Dodoma, Tanzania

Biography:

Paediatric Haematology Oncologist, employed as Lecturer at the University of Dodoma in Dodoma Tanzania. Also works Benjamin Mkapa Hospital Department of Oncology involved in the Care of Children with Cancer & Blood disorders.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Kolodny, Andrew

Institutional affiliation(s): Brandeis University, Heller School for Social Policy and Management; Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health; New York University, College of Global Public Health

Academic degrees: MD

City and country of primary residence: Massachusetts, United States of America

Biography:

Dr. Andrew Kolodny is the medical director for the Opioid Policy Research Collaborative at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, he teaches about the opioid crisis at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, and he is a research professor at the New York University College of Global Public Health. Dr. Kolodny previously served as the Chief Medical Officer for Phoenix House, a non-profit substance use disorder treatment agency, and as the Chair of Psychiatry at Maimonides Medical Center in New York City.

Dr. Kolodny has a long-standing interest in public health, treatment of opioid use disorder and treatment of pain. He began his career working for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in the Office of the Executive Deputy Commissioner. For New York City, he helped develop and implement multiple programs to improve the health of New Yorkers and save lives, including city-wide
buprenorphine programs, naloxone overdose prevention programs and emergency room-based screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment (SBIRT) programs for drug and alcohol misuse.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Lohman, Diedrick de Savorin
Institutional affiliation(s): Open Society Foundations, Human Rights Watch
Academic degrees: MA Russian Studies, MPSH
City and country of primary residence: New Jersey, United States of America

Biography:
Diederik de Savornin Lohman is a health and human rights researcher and advocate with more than 20 years of experience. He is currently a senior advisor in the Public Health Program of the Open Society Foundations and a consultant working on the Global Fund to Fights AIDS, TB and Malaria’s Breaking Down Barriers initiative. From 2016 to 2018, he directed the Health and Human Rights Division at Human Rights Watch, where he oversaw the organization’s work on health rights and the rights of older people. Prior to that, he worked as associate health director and senior health researcher at Human Rights Watch, leading the organization’s research and advocacy on palliative care, pain treatment, and drug policy issues, spearheading advocacy at the U.N. Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Health Organization and other international institutions. He has also conducted extensive research on and written about drug dependence treatment and HIV treatment for drug users, and HIV testing and counselling. From 1997 to 2006, he served as senior researcher for Russia, Ukraine and Belarus with the Europe and Central Asia Division of Human Rights Watch and as its Moscow office director.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Mwashala, Winifrida
Institutional affiliation(s): St. Lucia Nursing Home
Academic degrees: Master’s in nursing, Postgraduate Diploma in Palliative Medicine
City and country of primary residence: Arusha, Tanzania

Biography:
Trained as a registered nurse and midwife in Tanzania. In 2006 founded a home to offer an end of life care for the dying children with HIV/AIDS related symptoms, in Arusha. She is passionate about equality in social and health care settings. Has been involved and worked closely with the government and internationally projects in alleviating palliative care and social needs for the homeless children and most vulnerable populations. Enhancing accessibility to health care and social support services. Her research interests are on symptom management for patients with life threatening conditions at home-based care level, community mobilization and networking in public health and palliative care context.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Namisango, Eve
Institutional affiliation(s): African Palliative Care Association and the African centre for systematic Reviews and Knowledge Translation, College of Medicine Makerere University
Academic degrees: MSc (Palliative care, policy and rehabilitation), PhD

City and country of primary residence: Makerere, Uganda

Biography:
Eve Namisango is a child, adolescent health, palliative care, Policy, and Rehabilitation specialist. She has extensive expertise in measuring pain and its impact on patient wellbeing, costing care (including medicines), supply chain mechanisms and availability of controlled medicines in resource-limited settings. She has also undertaken robust research in pain and pharmaceutical systems in palliative care settings. Eve is reviewer for pharmacological study protocols on alternative herbal remedies to pain and symptom control as a vice-chair of the THETA research and ethics committee. She an outcome measurement specialist and passionate about person-centred outcomes in evaluating new treatment interventions.

Eve has worked with children living with life-limiting and life-threatening illness in the psycho-social/spiritual existential sector and studied their symptoms and concerns including illness and treatment experiences. She is also parent advocate for children living with life-limiting and life-threatening illnesses. She has studied outcome measurement in children and adults with life-limiting illnesses with a focus on prioritizing outcomes that matter to them and using these indicators to shape indicators of quality care. Eve combines this vast experience with a blend of skills in systematic reviews and knowledge translation and hence brings a wealth relevant expertise to this committee.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Osman, Hibah

Institutional affiliation(s): American University of Beirut Medical Center

Academic degrees: MD, MPH

City and country of primary residence: Beirut, Lebanon

Biography:
Hibah Osman is physician with training and American Board certification in both Family Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Her efforts have focused on clinical practice, program development, advocacy and research in palliative care since 2009. She is founder of the Lebanese Center for Palliative Care – Balsam and founding director of the Palliative and Supportive Care Program at the American University of Beirut Medical Center. She serves on the National Committee on Pain Control and Palliative Care in the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health and Chair of its Subcommittee on Practice.

Dr. Osman contributed to the WHO guideline for cancer pain management in adults and adolescents published in 2018 and was co-chair of the committee that developed the palliative care resource-stratified practice guideline at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). She has authored a number of publications including the Atlas of Palliative Care in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. She is currently Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and a
palliative care physician at Massachusetts General Hospital. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Hospice and Palliative Care.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Palat, Gayatri
Institutional affiliation(s): MNJ Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Centre
Academic degrees: Diploma in Anaesthesia
City and country of primary residence: Hyderabad, India
Biography:
Dr Gayatri Palat is PAX Program Director, India for the Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration, Canada. She is a consultant in the Department of Pain and Palliative Medicine at the MNJ Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Centre, Hyderabad, India and Secretary of the Pain Relief and Palliative Care Society in Hyderabad, India. Dr Palat was a member of the Board of Directors for the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Rajagopal, M. R.
Institutional affiliation(s): Trivandrum Institute of Palliative Sciences
Academic degrees: MNAMS (Anaesthesiology), MD (Anaesthesiology), MBBS, BSC (Zoology)
City and country of primary residence: Kerala, India
Biography:
Dr Rajagopal is the director of the WHO Collaborating Center at Trivandrum, Kerala for Policy and Training on Access to Pain Relief, and the founder-chairman of “Pallium India”.

His initiatives to remove regulatory barriers in availability of oral morphine for pain relief have contributed significantly to the recent Amendment of the NDPS Act of India in 2014. His initiative has also contributed to the development of a Government policy on Palliative Care in the state of Kerala in 2008 and Government of India’s National Palliative Care Strategy in 2012.

In 2014, Human Rights Watch honoured him with Alison Des Forges award for "Extraordinary activism in promoting the notion that denial of pain relief is a violation of human rights".

In 2017, a documentary film titled "Hippocratic: 18 experiments in gently shaking the world" based on Dr. Rajagopal’s contributions to palliative care was released by Moonshine Agency, Australia (http://hippocraticfilm.com/). In 2017, he was named one of the 30 most influential leaders in hospice and palliative medicine by American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM).

In 2018, Dr Rajagopal was honoured with Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award given annually from Republic of India.
Surname, first name(s) and initial: Toebes, Bridgit
Institutional affiliation(s): University of Groningen, Faculty of Law
Academic degrees: LLM, PhD
City and country of primary residence: Haren, Netherlands

Biography:
Prof. Brigit Toebes is a legal scholar with more than twenty years of experience in the international standards protecting health, with a strong emphasis on human rights. In 2013, she was awarded a Rosalind Franklin Fellowship at University of Groningen Faculty of Law, which led to her appointment in the Chair Health Law in a Global Context in 2018. She is the initiator of Global Health Law Groningen Research Centre, which hosts around fifteen researchers.

Currently, Brigit conducts research in the field of tobacco control and unhealthy diets, looking at these concerns particularly through a human rights lens. She has published widely in legal, public health and multidisciplinary journals, including Human Rights Quarterly, Harvard Health and Human Rights, the BMJ, and Tobacco Control.

Brigit is co-chair of the Global Health Law Committee of the International Law Association, board member of the Dutch Association of Health Law, and Coordinator of the Aletta Jacobs School of Public Health. Brigit was member of the Dutch Committee on vaccination for childcare (Commissie Vermeij, 2019), and acts as a consultant to various international bodies, including the WHO and UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Yael, Ban Gal
Institutional affiliation(s): Schneider Children's Medical Centre of Israel, Clalit Health Organization
Academic degrees: MHA, MA Clinical Nursing, RN BA Nursing
City and country of primary residence: Tel Aviv, Israel

Biography:
As Palliative Care Specialist, Paediatric Oncology Nurse, Head of palliative care services in Schneider Medical Center, the largest children hospital in Israel and the Middle East, I have extensive national and international clinical and leadership experience. I am tasked with managing quality audit of palliative patients’ medical records and managing the palliative pain management education of nurses courses, in an external accreditation process conducted by the Joint Commission International (JCC) since 2015. Whith in my consult expertise as a palliative care specialist and lecture adviser since 2014, I advance oncology nurses course and palliative specialist nurses courses (since 2017) under the Israeli National Head Nurse, Nursing Administration, Ministry of Health. Nationally I am a senior member of the Ministry of Health team developing palliative care in adults and children with an emphasis on integration of community services. To extend these to under-privileged communities I have been working with Augusta Victoria
Hospital in Arab East Jerusalem to develop palliative care teams for Palestinians. As a member of Board of Directors of the Israeli Society Oncology Nursing I have initiated comprehensive oncology educational symptoms management programs with for nurses. Internationally as a Board member of the ISNCC (International Society of Nurses Cancer-Care) and the founder and chair of the Cancer Policy Committee analysing the international cancer control environment and policy landscapes. In this role I have led the Society’s international activities in cancer control, especially in low- and middle-income countries collaborating with leading international partner organizations.

Surname, first name(s) and initial: Yotani, Nobuyuki

Institutional affiliation(s): National Center for Child Health and Development

Academic degrees: PhD, MD

City and country of primary residence: Tokyo, Japan

Biography:

Dr. Nobuyuki Yotani is a paediatrician who provides palliative care at National Center for Child Health and Development (NCCHD), Tokyo, Japan. He is particularly interested in advance care planning, paediatric palliative care, and the care of children with special health care needs. Yotani earned a medical degree at Osaka City University School of Medicine and completed a residency and chief residency in paediatrics at NCCHD. He also earned a PhD in public health at Osaka City University School of Medicine. Yotani established the Department of Palliative Medicine at NCCHD in Tokyo, Japan and is now a Head of the Department of Palliative Medicine.