FIND & NDWG SYMPOSIUM, 11 OCTOBER 2017
SPEAKERS BIOS

SESSION 1 - THE GLOBAL TB DIAGNOSTICS PIPELINE: PROGRESS AND NEEDS

DR CLAUDIA DENKINGER
Claudia is Head of TB Programme at FIND. Previously she worked in non-governmental organizations in HIV and tuberculosis care in South Africa and South America. After returning to the BIDMC for an infectious disease fellowship, Claudia went on to McGill University for a postdoctoral fellowship focused on tuberculosis epidemiology and impact assessment as well as mathematical modeling of tuberculosis diagnostics. She continues to hold a faculty appointment in the Division of Infectious Disease at the BIDMC, Harvard Medical School, Boston.

ERICA LESSEM
As director of TAG's TB/HIV Project, Erica oversees TAG's advocacy for improved tools and services to prevent, diagnose, and treat TB and TB/HIV. Erica works with activists, developers, donors, and policy makers to accelerate TB and TB/HIV research and ensure it reflects input from affected communities. She also advocates for access to evidence-based strategies to end TB and TB/HIV. Erica received her Master of Public Health as a Sommer Scholar at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and psychology from Georgetown University.

DR PURVESH KHATRI
Purvesh is an electronics and communications engineer turned computational systems immunologist. He is an assistant professor in Institute for Immunity, Transplantation and Infection and Division of Biomedical Informatics Research in Department of Medicine at Stanford University. His research focuses on developing novel methods for reusing and repurposing public data for translational medicine inexpensively and faster than traditional translational approaches. His lab leverages heterogeneity present across independent cohorts to better understand human immune system to develop novel diagnostics and therapies for inflammatory diseases including autoimmune and infectious diseases, organ transplant, vaccination, and cancer.

DR NIAZ BANAEI
Niaz Banaei received his medical education from Stanford University and completed residency training in laboratory medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. He then completed a postdoctoral fellowship in TB immunopathogenesis at the New York University. He is an associate professor of pathology and medicine at Stanford University and is the medical director of the clinical microbiology laboratory at Stanford Health Care. His research interests include development and assessment of novel infectious diseases diagnostics. He is recognized in the TB field for his contributions to understandings the source of IGRA variability.

FIND & NDWG SYMPOSIUM, 11 OCTOBER 2017
SPEAKERS BIOS

SESSION 2 - SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TESTS FOR LTBI: RECENT ADVANCES

DR SAMUEL SCHUMACHER

Samuel is an epidemiologist (PhD Epidemiology) with basic science background (MSc Molecular Biotechnology) and more than 10 years of research experience in Peru, India, South Africa, North America and Eastern Europe among others. Samuel has extensive methodological expertise in study design, conduct and analysis, as well as hands-on field experience. In his thesis, he focused on methodological challenges in the estimation of impact of TB diagnostics on patient outcomes, and the estimation of diagnostic test accuracy in the absence of a gold standard with projects in India and South Africa.

DR SUZANNE VERVER

Suzanne is senior epidemiologist with 17 years of experience in TB research in Europe, Africa and central Asia. She has a MSc in biomedical sciences and in epidemiology and received her PhD from the University of Amsterdam. She started her career with WHO in Pakistan and Tanzania and then worked for KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation as senior epidemiologist (of which 3 years as Head of the unit Knowledge, Research and Policy). Since 2016 she works for the department of Public Health of Erasmus MC on modelling control of tuberculosis and tropical helminths. She developed TB research projects in collaboration with numerous national TB control programmes and research institutes in high-burden countries.

PROF GAVIN CHURCHYARD

Gavin is a specialist physician, internationally-renowned for his contributions in tuberculosis. He is the founder and CEO of The Aurum Institute, an independent, not for profit, South African organisation that focuses on TB and HIV service delivery, management and research. He is an Honorary Professor at the University of Witwatersrand, School of Public Health and an Honorary Professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical medicine. He is, among others, a member of the WHO Strategic Technical Advisory Group for TB and the Chair of the WHO Task Force for developing policy for new TB drugs. He is the principal investigator on a number of TB trials being conducted in South Africa.

FIND & NDWG SYMPOSIUM, 11 OCTOBER 2017
SPEAKERS BIOS

SESSION 3 - PROGRESS IN THE USE OF NEXT-GENERATION SEQUENCING (NGS) FOR SURVEILLANCE, DIAGNOSIS AND PATIENT MANAGEMENT

DR TIMOTHY RODWELL

Tim is a Senior Scientific Officer at FIND, and an Associate Professor in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, UC San Diego. He received his MD from Standford, his PhD from UC Davis and his MPH from San Diego. Tim has spent the past 6 years focusing on the development and clinical evaluation of rapid clinical diagnostics and has worked in close collaboration with numerous industry, public health and NGO partners. He is currently working on development of next generation sequencing platforms for rapid diagnosis of drug resistant TB and host biomarkers for diagnosing bacterial causes of acute fever.

DR TIMOTHY WALKER

Tim read Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford before studying Medicine in London. His clinical training has been in London and Oxford, where he obtained his MRCP, FRCPath and DPhil, and where he is now an Academic Clinical Lecturer in Infectious Diseases and Microbiology. Tim is part of Derrick Crook's group where his links to PHE have allowed him to focussed his efforts on the translation of whole genome sequencing into public health and diagnostic practice. PHE have since implemented much of his work. He is closely involved with the CRyPTIC consortium through the same group."

DR CHRISTOPHER GILPIN

Chris Gilpin has over twenty years' experience as a TB Laboratory Scientist managing diagnostic laboratories in Australia and the Middle-East. Chris is currently employed by the World Health Organization as a Scientist in the Laboratories, Diagnostics and Drug Resistance Unit (LDR) of the Global TB Programme and is responsible for the development of policy guidance on TB diagnostics and for laboratory strengthening.

FIND & NDWG SYMPOSIUM, 11 OCTOBER 2017
SPEAKERS BIOS

SESSION 4 - PANEL DISCUSSION

STEPHANIE DENAMPS
Stephanie Denamps is part of the global TB Laboratory Services Team at CHAI and a Country Support Manager for a number of countries across Africa and Asia. Her TB diagnostics support work in recent years has included GeneXpert use optimization and connectivity roll out, forecasting and quantification trainings, S&M guidance and negotiations, and sample transportation projects. She's a graduate from McGill University (Bachelors) and the London School of Economics (MSc). She has been at CHAI for 3 years and has collectively 10 years of work experience spanning the international development sector, social enterprise, finance and management consulting.

DR GUNTA DRAVNIECE
Gunta Dravniece is a Senior Tuberculosis Expert bringing several years of clinical experience and programme management skills. Following a successful career in clinical care of TB and MDR-TB in 2010 she joined the KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation providing expertise in MDR-TB program management. For more than 10 years she has also served as a facilitator at the WHO collaborative Center on MDR-TB management in Latvia. She supports National TB Programs in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Africa in clinical and programmatic management of MDR-TB. Her main focus is introduction of new drugs and shortened MDR-TB treatment regimens.

DR. KATHLEEN ENGLAND
Kathleen England recently joined MSF Access Campaign as the new TB Diagnostics Advisor. She began her career as a TB researcher in drug and diagnostic development studies at Colorado State University and NIH. Over the past 7 years she pursued active field work as TB Diagnostic and Laboratory Specialist for various organizations and institutions, including NIH, MSF, Stanford University, KNCV TB Foundation, and USAID funded projects TB CARE I and Challenge TB. In her last position she was part of the Program Management Unit as Sr. TB Laboratory Advisor for 23 countries supported under the USAID's flagship project Challenge TB.

KAISER SHEN
Kaiser Shen serves as the Tuberculosis Lab and Diagnostic Network Advisor in the TB Division of the Office of Infectious Diseases. In this role, Kaiser aims to strengthen and improve TB laboratory and diagnostic network capacity. He also supports PEPFAR-funded USAID TB laboratory activities through monitoring and advising USAID partners on laboratory interventions. Previously, Kaiser served as a Senior Specialist for the Association of Public Health Laboratories, managing PEPFAR-related laboratory systems strengthening activities in Angola, Mozambique, Zambia and South Africa. Kaiser has worked in the academic arena with biomedical research experience in immunology, microbiology and vaccine development. Kaiser holds a Master of Public Health from John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a Master of Science in Microbiology from the University of Michigan.