

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Dr Kidong Park

Representative to Viet Nam

World Health Organization (WHO)

Dr Park has extensive experience in global health, health policy and management, and strategic planning and evaluation. His international career in public health spans from high level representative roles to technical work on communicable disease control and health system strengthening.

Dr Park first joined WHO in 2006 working with the Global Influenza Programme. After three years at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Dr Park moved to the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific. As the head of the Country Support Unit, he led the development and implementation of a new regional approach to WHO country cooperation strategies, the Organization's medium-term strategic vision for its cooperation with Member States. He also played a key role in coordinating and implementing WHO reform initiatives in the Region.

Before joining the Government, Dr Park participated in a WHO-funded District Health System demonstration project in Yonchon County, Republic of Korea from 1988 to 1991.

Born in the city of Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, Dr Park is a medical doctor and holds a Masters and PhD in Health Policy and Medicine from Seoul National University College of Medicine. He is married with two daughters.



Rana Flowers

UNICEF Representative to Viet Nam

Prior to her appointment as UNICEF representative to Viet Nam, she has led UNICEF teams as Representative in China, Cambodia, Mongolia and Belize. Ms. Flowers has also served in UNICEF Headquarters and in UNICEF's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Rana came to UNICEF with over 10 years of experience working on child development/rights issues in Australia.

Passionately committed to the achievement of concrete results for women and children, she applies her development expertise and emergency experience to inspire an approach at UNICEF and sister UN agencies that seeks to support the most excluded and vulnerable populations in particular.

Ms. Flowers is a national of Australia. She has a Master's Degree in Business Administration, and Bachelor Degrees in Social Work and Arts. She is the mother of two step children Patrick and Pilar and daughters Gabriela and Daniela.



Jeremy Day MA PhD FRCP**Head, CNS&HIV Infections Research Group**

Oxford University Clinical Research Unit

Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

Professor of Infectious Diseases

Centre for Tropical Medicine

Nuffield Department of Medicine

University of Oxford, U.K.



I am a doctor, specialized in infectious diseases, and I have lived in Ho Chi Minh City since 2007.

I lead the Central Nervous System and HIV Infections Research Group at the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, based within the Hospital for Tropical Diseases. We study infections that are important problems in Vietnam and also have global relevance. Our aim is to improve the outcomes from these diseases by rigorously testing and developing new treatments. We test treatments using randomized controlled trials that are carefully designed to help doctors make the best treatment decisions at the point that patients come to hospital. Alongside our clinical trials we run a programme of laboratory and field science investigating the ecology, pathogenesis (how germs cause disease), immunology (the patient response to infection) and drug susceptibility of the diseases of interest.

I am also leading the Recovery International trial on Covid-19 treatments, currently recruited almost 40,000 patients globally so far and has provided definitive evidence regarding whether particular treatments work including dexamethasone, azithromycin, hydroxychloroquine, tocilizumab and convalescent plasma, amongst others. The trial is on-going.

Before coming to Vietnam I studied medicine at Cambridge University in the UK, and worked as a doctor completing my specialist training in Edinburgh, London and Manchester.

Hoang Minh Tu Van MD PhD.

Post-doctoral Clinical Researcher
Oxford Clinical Research Unit,
Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.



I am a medical doctor and scientist with more than ten years' experience in pediatrics.

I have worked as a pediatrician at the Children's Hospital 2, HCMC for six years, and now also as a clinical researcher at the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit.

My postgraduate studies have been in the area of Infection and Immunity with my PhD with Oxford University focused on the "Clinical characteristics, virology and host genetic markers of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease in Southern Vietnam".

My research interests are in viral infections, central nervous system (CNS) infection, vaccine preventable diseases and more recently, innovation in improving health care service, particularly in pediatric emergency and intensive care unit. I am committed to exploring the use of new affordable medical devices in monitoring patients in ICU and PICU as well as improving vaccination rate in the community, and am a research member of the Vietnam ICU Translational Applications Laboratory (VITAL) project, a multidisciplinary project funded by the Wellcome Trust providing ICU/Critical care innovation exploring the use of bioengineering and artificial intelligence to define physiology and inform clinical decision making in the treatment of the commonest life-threatening infectious diseases (dengue shock, septic shock, tetanus, TB meningitis).