Pathogen Variants Network Meeting 2024

10 – 11 October 2024

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THE GLOBAL HEALTH NETWORK

Enabling research by sharing knowledge

Contents

Introduction

The Pathogen Variants network was developed to enhance the collective benefit of six Wellcome-funded SARS-CoV-2 multi-disciplinary research projects. The aim is to share best practices, resources, training and other activities to better understand the biological implications of novel SARS-CoV-2 variants, facilitate rapid uptake of project research findings into policy, and build capability in low- and middle-income countries in relation to SARS-CoV-2 research and in preparation for a research response to future infectious disease outbreaks. **The meeting has the following aims:** Convene researchers working on the six projects to:

- Facilitate the showcasing of project updates and collaboration within the network,
- Engage in discussions about the future of the network and outbreak preparedness,
- Provide a platform for scientific advancement, networking, and training opportunities for early and mid-career researchers

Agenda

All times British Summer Time (BST)

10 October 2024

09:30	**Arrival, registration and coffee**
10:00	**Introduction** Presenters: Titus Divala, Bethan Hamilton, Trudie Lang Chair: Paul Kingpriest
10:30	**1st Project Update Session** Presenters: Adaptive Responses, G2P Chairs: Anushka Ramjag, Carla Solorzano Gonzalez
11:30	**Break**
12:00	**2nd Project Update Session** Presenter: MUCOSAL Chairs: Kajal Reedoy, Adam Dale
12:30	**Lunch**
13:15	**Abstracts/Poster presentations**
14:00	**Public Engagement in Research** Presenters: Mary Chambers, Alun Davies, Alexandra Parsons Chair: Mary Chambers
15:00	**Break**
15:30	**3rd Project Update Session** Presenters: PRICOS, SEACOVARIANTS, WWW Chairs: Angela Maina, Nirutha Chetan Kumar
17:00	**Pre-dinner talk** Presenter: Kondwani Jambo
17:10	**Pre-dinner drinks**
17:45	**Dinner/Informal dinner talks**
19:45	**End of Day 1**

11 October 2024

09:00	**Arrival, tea and coffee**
09:30	**Working Group Meetings (Parallel Session)** Chair: Sainabou Laye Ndure
11:00	**Break**
11:30	**Working Group Update Reports and Plans** Presenters: Group representatives Chair: Vasista Adiga
12:15	**The Future: Year 3 of the Pathogen Variants Network** Presenters: TGHN Knowledge Coordinators Chair: Adam Dale
12:45	**Abstract/poster prizes presentation** Presenter: David Bauer Chair: Paul Kingpriest
13:00	**Lunch**
14:00	**The Future: The Network and outbreak preparedness** Presenter and Chair: Wendy Barclay
15:15	**Concluding remarks** Presenters: Tan Le Van, Titus Divala, Trudie Lang Chair: Trudie Lang
15:30	**Closing/Group photos**

Parallel Session/Working Groups Meeting

Working Group	Activities/Topics	Chairperson(s)
Data Sharing	• **Integration of Data Sets:** Discussions on effective integration of clinical, genomic, epidemiological, and serological data for a comprehensive understanding of SARS-CoV-2. • **Collaborative Software Use:** Group members will explore the integration of various software tools • **Data Sharing and Collaboration:** Discuss strategies to enhance data sharing and collaboration, including version control, data repositories, and collaborative platforms. • **Case Studies:** Present case studies highlighting interdisciplinary collaboration and data sharing to illustrate practical applications.	Alex Sigal and Isabelle Oyier
B & T Cells	• **Priority Areas:** Discussion on priority areas for T and B cell research related to pathogen variants. • **Standardising Assays:** Sharing of experiences on setting up flow and standardising assays, as well as viral sequencing and surveillance. • **Strategic Development Plan:** Identify members from each project to contribute to a strategic plan for collaboration beyond year 3.	Susie Dunachie, Annapurna Vyakarnam
Community Engagement / EMCR	• **Case Studies:** Case studies on public engagement in scenarios with no funding, low funding, and well-funded situations. • **Engagement Strategies:** Discussions on strategies for integrating engagement across research projects to strengthen funding applications. • **Funding Opportunities:** Presentations on Wellcome's Awards and other funding opportunities. • **Support Network for EMCRs:** Development of a support network and activities for EMCRs coordinated by TGHN. • **Strategic EMCR Support Plan:** Nomination of project members to contribute to a strategic plan for supporting EMCRs beyond this Wellcome-funded project.	Mary Chambers

Participants

Adaptive Responses

Zainab Baig
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Zainab Baig graduated with a MSc in Biochemistry from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa in 2019. Shortly thereafter, she joined the Steyn lab at the Africa Health Research Institute and worked as a research laboratory technologist focusing on TB bioenergetics. She then took on a very new and different role by joining AHRI's Clinical Core department as a Research Study Coordinator. She oversees the initiation and continuation of these studies, ensuring regulatory and ethical compliance, coordination and communication resulting in successful completion of these studies. These include studies focusing on TB, SARS-CoV2 and other infectious diseases.

Wendy Burgers
University of Cape Town
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Wendy Burgers is a Professor and Member of the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IDM) at the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa. She is a viral immunologist, studying the human immune response to infections. She established and directs the Cellular Immunology Platform at UCT, a hub for clinical immunology research, vaccine evaluation (preclinical and clinical) and capacity building, for new and existing pathogens and future epidemics and pandemics. In the past her research group has focused on understanding the cellular immune response to HIV and TB, for application to vaccine development. She is a member of the USAID-funded BRILLIANT Consortium, co-leading the Laboratory and Vaccine Design program, that seeks to harness and catalyse African scientists to contribute to an African-led effective HIV vaccine. During the COVID-19 pandemic, her research group studied T cell responses to SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccination, addressing globally relevant and timely questions on T cell cross-reactivity to viral variants. Prof Burgers led the Cellular Immunity subgroup of the South African National COVID Variant Consortium, and was a member of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID vaccines. Her group is funded by the South African MRC, Wellcome Trust, European Commission, Gates Foundation and USAID. Wendy leads a group of 20 postgraduate students, postdoctoral fellows, early and mid-career investigators and laboratory technicians. Her training and mentoring efforts are focused primarily on black women, who remain severely underrepresented in

laboratory science. She is an enthusiastic teacher of infectious disease immunology to undergraduates at UCT.

Zesuliwe Jule
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Zesuliwe completed her Masters degree in Medical Science, cum laude (Immunology and Virology) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Her research focused on the immune response to HIV-1 infection in people with low neutrophil counts and Duffy antigen receptor for chemokine (DARC) polymorphism. Zesuliwe previously worked as a research intern at the South African Medical Research Council and as a Laboratory Technologist at the HIV Pathogenesis Programme. Her current work at Africa Health Research Institute includes processing and storing specimens (including Liquid Nitrogen), maintenance of BSL2 and BSL3, and performing laboratory experiments on neutralizing SARS-CoV-2, Chikungunya, Dengue, and other emerging and re-emerging viruses. She also maintains primary cell lines, tissue culture work, and virus outgrowths of these viruses.

Khadija Khan
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Dr. Khadija Khan is the Programme Manager in the Department of Basic and Translational Sciences at the Africa Health Research Institute. During the Covid-19 pandemic her work focused on understanding and investigating SARS-CoV-2 immunity from infection and vaccination in the South African population. Her future research focus is expanding this knowledge to blood borne pathogens, common respiratory viruses and emerging infections with pandemic potential.

Robert Krause
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I am a research associate at the Africa Health Research Institute in Al Leslie's lab. I have a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of KwaZulu-Natal which focused on identifying novel diagnostic targets for malaria and producing immune reagents against these. I have since moved to TB-immunology with an interest in the function of B cells at the site of disease, the human TB lung. During the pandemic our work focused on B cell responses to SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccination in people living with HIV.

Kajal Reedoy
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Kajal completed her Masters degree in Medical Microbiology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, focusing on Mycobacterium tuberculosis metabolomics. Her current work focuses on virus outgrowths, live-virus neutralisation assays and microbiome sequencing. She works with SARS-CoV-2, chikungunya, dengue, and other respiratory viruses such as adenovirus, parainfluenza and respiratory syncytial virus. Her other duties include the processing and storing of clinical samples, propagation of host cell lines, SARS-CoV-2 sample processing, as well as general BSL2 and BSL3 maintenance.

Catherine Riou
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Catherine Riou is a Chief Research Officer and full member of the Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IDM) at the University of Cape Town (UCT). Dr Riou is an immunologist and flow cytometry expert. Her research focuses on cellular immune responses to HIV, M. tuberculosis and SARS-CoV-2.

Israel Sigal
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Prof. Alex Sigal and his lab at AHRI work on emerging and re-emerging infections, with a focus on the immune response to emerging and neglected viruses and viral evolution to evade immunity. At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, the lab pivoted to SARS-CoV-2 research and was the first to describe the escape of the Omicron variant from previous immunity. Alex is Faculty at the Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI), Honorary Associate Professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and Associate Member at the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA). Alex received his Ph.D. in Systems Biology from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel and was a postdoctoral fellow with David Baltimore at the California Institute of Technology, where he worked on HIV cell-to-cell spread and its effects on antiretroviral therapy.

Yashica Singh
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Yashica Singh is a Laboratory Manager at Africa Health Research Institute. She holds a Masters degree in medical science from the

University of Kwazulu-Natal. She has years of experience working with BSL3 pathogens like Covid-19 and TB, HIV, Adenovirus. Her expertise includes live cell imaging using confocal microscopy, flow cytometry, LVNA, in Vivo work and primary cell isolation from human tissue samples.

Constantinos Kurt Wibmer
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Dr Constantinos Kurt Wibmer is an early-to-mid-career investigator from Johannesburg, South Africa, and Director of the Wits Health Consortium ViPER (Venom & Vaccine Immunotherapeutics & Immunogens Protein Engineering Research) division. He received his PhD in 2016 from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, studying broadly neutralising monoclonal antibodies. He also trained in x-ray crystallography/cryo-EM with Peter Kwong (NIH/USA), Ian Wilson (Scripps/USA), and Aleksandar Antanasijevic (EPLF/Switzerland). His research has reshaped global vaccine responses and is at the forefront of structure-guided immunogen and immunotherapeutic protein design. As an independent researcher, Dr Wibmer is combining monoclonal antibody discovery with structural biology to design broad, potent, and thermostable biologics for use in Africa and the developing world.

G2P

Vasista Adiga
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I am a dedicated and passionate Scientist. My profound interest in understanding the intricacies of the human immune system, coupled with my research experience in infectious diseases, has fuelled my aspiration to contribute to the field of immunology through rigorous scientific investigation. Throughout my academic journey, I have actively engaged in diverse research projects that have enriched my knowledge and honed my technical skills. As a Scientist C in Prof. Vyakarnam's Lab at St. John's Research Institute, I am actively involved in projects focusing on maternal and new-born immunity, immune responses to COVID-19 vaccines, and immune profiling of individuals with acute COVID-19 infection and long COVID. This experience has exposed me to a wide array of techniques such as flow cytometry, ELISA, multiplex ELISA, CBA assay, cell sorting, and data analysis. Additionally, I have contributed to the optimization of experimental protocols, laboratory management, and coordination with clinical teams. My research contributions have been recognized through publications in reputable scientific journals. Having competed the Masters part of an integrated Masters/ PhD programme, I am

embarking on my PhD work on the G2P programme, which will provide me with the opportunity to delve deeper into the mechanisms underlying immune responses, explore novel therapeutic approaches, and contribute to the development of effective vaccines and immunotherapies. I am particularly intrigued by the interplay between innate and adaptive immunity, host-pathogen interactions, and the modulation of immune responses in infectious diseases. During my PhD, I aim to explore the fundamental aspects of immunology by investigating specific immune cell subsets, immune signalling pathways, and the development of immunotherapeutic strategies. I am keen on employing cutting-edge techniques, such as single-cell sequencing, advanced flow cytometry, and bioinformatics, to unravel the complexities of the immune system. I plan to integrate SARS CoV-2 sequence information, which I am conducting as part of G2P, into my doctoral programme. Furthermore, I am eager to collaborate with multidisciplinary teams and contribute to translational research efforts that bridge the gap between bench and bedside. I believe that by elucidating the fundamental principles of immunology, we can make significant strides in combating infectious diseases, advancing personalized medicine, and improving global health outcomes. I believe that I have strong foundation in immunology research, coupled with enthusiasm and dedication. I am committed to pursuing rigorous scientific inquiry, making meaningful contributions to the field, and ultimately, improving human health through innovative immunological research in India.

Martin Antonio
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Martin Antonio is Professor of Molecular Microbiology and Global Health, and Co-Director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) Centre for Epidemic Preparedness and Response, where he represents LSHTM at WHO's coordinated 'Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network'. He is affiliated with the Department of Infection Biology, Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases, LSHTM. Martin is based at the Medical Research Council Unit The Gambia at LSHTM (MRC Unit The Gambia at LSHTM) where he is an MRC Investigator. He was the founding Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for New Vaccines Surveillance and now directs the WHO Regional Reference Laboratory for invasive bacterial diseases. Martin is a member of the Senior Strategic Leadership Board and Chairs the Unit's West Africa Strategy and partnership. Additionally, he serves on numerous LSHTM and International Scientific Advisory Boards as Chair or member in Africa, Europe, UK and the USA. Martin obtained his BSc (Biochemistry) from the University of Glasgow (1991), MSc (Applied Molecular Biology of Infectious Diseases) from LSHTM in 1993. He then moved across the road to Bart's Medical College, the University of London (now Queen Mary and Westfield College) where he obtained his PhD (Molecular Microbiology) in 1997. Martin is a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences and Royal College of Pathologist (UK), Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians,

Honorary Professor at Warwick Medical School, University of Warwick. Martin's research is focused on the leverage of innovative molecular technologies in the diagnosis of tropical diseases (mainly tuberculosis, meningitis, pneumonia, diarrhoeal diseases), investigation of meningitis outbreaks and transmission, antimicrobial resistance, and clinical trials. Furthermore, his research applies molecular tools to understand the impact of air pollution on the nasopharyngeal microbiome and epidemic meningitis in Africa. He has published >210 research peer-reviewed articles with a research publication. H-index of 66, i10-index of 230 and > 20705 citations to my work

Dalan Bailey
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Dr. Dalan Bailey is a Group Leader working on the molecular biology of RNA viruses including human and bovine respiratory syncytial virus, as well as the morbilliviruses, coronaviruses, arenaviruses and henipaviruses. Dalan's lab has two major focuses: The first is virus-host interactions that take place during virus entry and exit, and how they govern host-range, e.g. receptor interactions and antibody neutralisation. The second major focus is the molecular virology of viral inclusion bodies, phase separated organelles that form in the cytoplasm of mononegavirales-infected cells. Since 2005 he has published over 70 manuscripts in this area including publications in Nature Microbiology, PLOS Biology, PLOS Pathogens, JBC and the Journal of Virology.

Wendy Barclay
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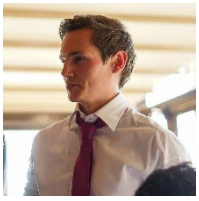
Prof Barclay's scientific career started at what was then the Common Cold Unit in Salisbury and later trained in molecular virology at the University of Reading and Mount Sinai Medical Centre, New York. Professor Barclay's research has focused on respiratory viruses and the factors affecting how they are transmitted and cause disease. She has contributed to the understanding of how these viruses cause pandemics, and how we can best develop strategies to combat them. Her lab's most prominent discovery is the identity of a host factor that is hijacked by the influenza virus when it replicates in our cells. She showed how differences in this factor between birds and humans explains why we don't get frequently infected by bird flu viruses. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, she contributed working in collaboration with the UK Health Security Agency, several government advisory committees and provided critical evidence on emerging threats from SARS-CoV-2 and its variants. Her lab pivoted to work on the newly emerged SARS-CoV-2 virus, in projects that spanned basic virology and immunology as well as analysis of environmental samples for traces of the virus. Her laboratory's work continues to inform

scientific discourse and public health policy on the potential pandemic threat of influenza strains and a host of other respiratory viruses.



Jonathan Brown
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Jonathan is a postdoctoral researcher at Imperial College London in the laboratory of Professor Wendy Barclay, working on SARS-CoV-2 variant virology with a particular interest in Delta vs Omicron phenotypes in airway epithelial cells. Working as part of the Genotype-to-Phenotype 2 (G2P2) consortium of UK virologists and part of the MUSICC consortium involved in sourcing and characterising clinical samples for generating SARS-CoV-2 human challenge isolates.

Nirutha Chetan Kumar
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I am a dedicated researcher based in Bangalore, India, with a strong academic foundation in immunology and biotechnology. I hold a Master of Science in Immunology from King's College London and a Bachelor of Science in Biotechnology, Chemistry, and Botany from Christ University, Bangalore. My research passion lies in host-pathogen interactions and adaptive immunity, particularly in infectious diseases. My career began with a research internship at the Centre for Infectious Disease Research (CIDR) at IISc, Bangalore, under Prof. Annapurna Vyakarnam, focusing on HIV and HIV-TB co-infection. This experience laid the groundwork for my subsequent roles. At the COVID-19 Testing Facility at IISc, I honed skills in handling infectious samples and performing RNA extraction and RT-PCR in a BSL3 environment, playing a key role during the pandemic. Currently, as a Senior Project Associate at St. John's Research Institute, I work with Prof. Annapurna Vyakarnam on SARS-CoV-2 and its immune interactions. My role involves advanced techniques like PBMC isolation, ELISA, multiplex ELISA, and pseudovirus neutralisation assays, providing valuable insights into COVID-19's adaptive immune response. My research has led to several peer-reviewed publications on immune profiling, SARS-CoV-2 vaccine immunogenicity, and BCG vaccination's impact on COVID-19 immunity. Additionally, I have gained experience in data management, clinical microbiology, and human genetics through various internships and certificate courses. My career reflects a commitment to advancing knowledge in immunology and infectious diseases.

Katie Doores
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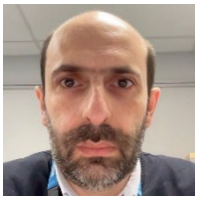
I am Professor of Viral Immunology at King's College London. My lab studies how the immune system responds to viral infection to inform the development of vaccines against biomedically important viruses and zoonotic viruses with pandemic potential. Our research currently focusses on studying neutralizing antibody responses to SARS-CoV-2, HIV-1, hantaviruses and phleboviruses. I obtained an MChem and PhD in Chemistry at the University of Oxford before conducting postdoctoral research in the lab of Professor Dennis Burton at Scripps, CA. In 2013, I moved to the Department of Infectious Diseases at King's College London funded by an MRC Career Development Award.



Rui Pedro Galao
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Lecturer in Infectious Diseases at King's College London. My lab works primarily on host-virus interactions, particularly focusing on studying host innate immune responses to viral infections and identifying mechanisms of evasion evolved by viruses to antagonise such immune pathways. The projects being developed use a diverse set of molecular virology techniques to uncover and characterise these interactions in the context of different viruses of clinical relevance. Among those we have:1) Characterisation of SARS-CoV-2 evolution during long-term persistent (LTP) infections of immunocompromised individuals. 2) Identification and characterisation of determinants of immune evasion during LTP infections.3) Identification and molecular characterisation of determinants of innate immune responses against diverse RNA viruses such as Ebola and Dengue viruses.

Doreen Lugano
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My research is focused on genomic and immunosurveillance of SARS-CoV-2 in Kenya. I am also interested in using next-generation sequencing and bioinformatics tools to understand the evolution of viruses, and the host responses to infection.

Stuart Neil
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Stuart Neil is currently Professor of Virology and Head of the Department of Infectious Disease at King's College London. He received his PhD in 2001 from UCL and worked with Robin Weiss and Aine McKnight on HIV-1/host interactions. In 2005 he moved to the laboratory of Paul Bieniasz Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center and The Rockefeller University in New York. Here he discovered the role of Tetherin/BST2 as a mammalian antiviral restriction factor counteracted by the HIV-1 Vpu protein and several other accessory proteins of diverse RNA and DNA viruses. He established his own research group as a Wellcome Career Development Fellow at King's College London in 2008. His work has continued to focus on virus/host interactions, in particular membrane-associated and RNA-directed antiviral factors that inhibit mammalian viruses, expanding his research interests from HIV/AIDS into Ebola virus, Influenza virus, and SARS CoV-2.

James Nyagwange
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Massimo Palmarini
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Massimo Palmarini is the Director of the MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research (CVR) and Chair of Virology at the University of Glasgow. A veterinarian by training, his research programmes have spanned diverse areas including virus pathogenesis, the host innate immunity to virus infections and the mechanisms of viruses cross-species transmission, focusing lately on influenza viruses. His work has been published in major research journals including Nature, Science and others. Palmarini's research programme is funded by the UK Medical Research Council and the Wellcome Trust. Massimo Palmarini has been elected Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and of the Royal Society of Biology and he was a Wolfson-Royal Society Research Merit Awardee. He is a Wellcome Trust Investigator and received an OBE for services to Public Health in 2021.

Suzy Pickering
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Suzy is a post-doctoral research associate at King's College London with a long-standing interest in viral pathogenesis. She has previously worked on antibody effector functions, intracellular signalling pathways

and investigation into the many functions of the HIV-1 accessory protein, Vpu. During early waves of the COVID-19 pandemic she undertook a secondment to St Thomas' Hospital, which involved evaluating commercial rapid antibody and antigen tests and the subsequent growth and characterisation of primary SARS-CoV-2 isolates. Her most recent work has focused on two aspects of COVID-19: the long-term persistent infection of immunocompromised individuals and the investigation of myeloid cells as an atypical cellular target for SARS-CoV-2 and associated pathogenic consequences.

Varadharajan Sundaramurthy
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My lab in NCBS works on the cell biology of host-pathogen interactions. Our research is in the intersection of fundamental research to gain deeper understanding of pathogenesis mechanisms as well as identify strategies to subvert the pathogens. We are particularly interested in the modulation of fundamental host cellular processes such as trafficking pathways during infections with SARS-Cov2 and M. tuberculosis. Our current research focus in SARS-Cov2 is in the area of drug screening and testing. We have performed high content screens and identified a dual inhibition mechanism that blocks endocytic uptake and acidification. Using this assay, we have successfully identified and validated inhibitors that both reduce SARS-Cov2 uptake and intracellular survival. In Mtb infections, current projects aim to understand the stresses Mtb experiences in vivo and identify their host correlates. Simultaneously, we are performing screens to identify chemicals that can alter these states. These studies have implications for drug tolerance and host directed therapeutics.

Annapurna Vyakarnam
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Prof. Annapurna Vyakarnam holds a dual academic affiliation: Professor of Microbial Immunology at King's College London and Adjunct Professor at St. John's Research Institute, India, where she heads the Human Immunology Laboratory within the Division of Infectious Diseases (Head: Professor M. Dias). Her laboratory's focus is to study the immunology of acute and persistent respiratory infections that pose global health challenges in adults, infants and the vulnerable (the elderly, subjects with Type 2 Diabetes and with defined cardiovascular risk). Her laboratory uses cellular, molecular, immunological, and functional genomic approaches to conduct an in-depth functional analysis of adaptive T cell responses in primary clinical samples. In the past eight years she has set up an active laboratory research programme with colleagues at St John's Research Institute, Bangalore, India, focussed on longitudinal human immune profiling

studies to understand heterogeneity, persistence and diversity of host antigen-specific T cell responses to SARS CoV-2, Influenza, and Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) (with and without HIV coinfection) during the symptomatic infection phase, recovery phase and contextualised with immune responses induced by current and emerging vaccines to the same pathogens in healthy subjects, the elderly, subjects with Type 2 Diabetes and with defined cardiovascular risk. An important focus is to understand mechanisms by which BCG revaccination may be used as a tool to diversify innate and adaptive immunity by enhancing Mtb-specific and heterologous adaptive responses to Influenza and SARS CoV-2 vaccines as part of a wider strategy to combat infections of global health importance: tuberculosis, influenza and SARS CoV-2.

MUCOSAL

Aaron Chirambo
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Aaron Chirambo is a PhD fellow registered with Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine but based at the Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Programme in Blantyre, Malawi. Aaron holds a master's degree in Immunology and inflammatory diseases from the University of Glasgow and a bachelor's degree in medical laboratory sciences from the then University of Malawi, College of Medicine (now Kamuzu University of Health Sciences). Aaron's research interest is in the immunology of infectious diseases. Coming from a region where infectious diseases are rife, Aaron hopes to contribute to the fight against infectious diseases by deploying various immunology techniques to tackle infectious diseases. His current work is looking at the role of killer cells known as cytotoxic T lymphocytes in infectious diseases by using human Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) as the model disease. His research utilises cells collected from the lung through bronchoalveolar lavage to study cytotoxic T lymphocytes function at the primary site of Mtb infection, the lung. After completing of his PhD, Aaron hopes to do post-doctoral studies to further ascertain his immunology and research skills and establish a niche where he could dive in and contribute to research in infectious diseases. Aaron also hopes that the training, expertise and mentorship he has received and will continue to receive will allow him to establish a solid background and form a research group that will deploy various techniques to study the immunology of infectious diseases.

Mariana Diniz
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I am a Senior Research Associate at the Maini Lab in the Division of Infection and Immunity at University College London, UK. I'm interested in regulation of adaptive immune responses in acute and chronic viral infections and liver cancer, particularly focusing on tissue-resident immune cells. A large part of my work also involves development of vaccines and immunotherapies.

Daniela Ferreira
University of Oxford and Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
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Daniela is a Professor of Mucosal Infection and Immunity at the Oxford Vaccine Group, Department of Paediatrics at the University of Oxford. She is also the Director of the Liverpool Vaccine Group at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine where she was the Head of the Clinical Sciences Department from 2018 till 2022.Daniela is a global leader in respiratory mucosal immunity and Controlled Human Infection Studies to accelerate vaccine development. Her research focus mainly on: 1) Accelerate development and testing of novel respiratory vaccines using controlled human infection 2) Understanding mucosal immunity (nasal and lung) and correlates of protection against respiratory pathogens 3) Defining how respiratory virus co-infections and host susceptibility (e.g. lung chronic disease, ageing) alters responses to bacterial infection Daniela obtained a PhD in Immunology in 2009 from the University of Sao Paulo (São Paulo, Brazil). From 2001 to 2009 Daniela trained at Butantan Institute (Sao Paulo, Brazil) on development of novel vaccines against respiratory infections.

Kondwani Jambo
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Kondwani is an Associate Professor in Immunology and Infection at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine but is based at the Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Programme in Blantyre, Malawi. His research interest lies in mucosal and tissue immunology, focusing on the respiratory and gastrointestinal tract in the context of infectious diseases. He also has a strong interest in developing controlled human infection models in relevant at-risk populations in low-middle-income settings. Lastly, Kondwani is passionate about mentorship and training the next generation of scientists, as such he founded the Science For All (Sci4O) initiative that promotes biomedical and clinical research careers among primary, secondary and university students.

Gloria Kapira
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Gloria Kapira is a highly motivated, talented, and ambitious research scientist with a strong interest in understanding the host's adaptive immune responses to pathogens. Currently, she is in her second year, pursuing a Ph.D. in Clinical Sciences at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) but based at Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Programme (MLW) in Blantyre, Malawi under the supervision of Profs. Kondwani Jambo (LSTM), Henry Mwanbumba (MLW), Daniela Ferreira (University of Oxford) and Mala Maini (University College London). Her project aims at understanding the role of airway tissue-resident T cells in providing a stable reservoir of long-lived cross-reactive immunity against previous and emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants. She believes that an understanding of SARS-CoV-2 specific T cells immune responses at the site of infection, nose, and lung, is the driver for differential control between severe disease and transmission, as these can be used for the development of next-generation disease-protecting and transmission-blocking mucosal-active vaccines.Moreover, Gloria holds a Master's degree in Molecular and Cell Biology from the University of Cape Town (UCT), second class upper. Following the completion on her studies at UCT, she worked as a research assistant at MLW in the Infection and Immunity group, where she developed a strong interest in immunology. Her long-term career goal and interest is to become an independent research leader, and pursue research in vaccine-and infection-induced immune responses.

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Mala Maini is a Professor of Viral Immunology in the Institute of Immunity and Transplantation, Division of Infection and Immunity at UCL, London and an Honorary Consultant Physician in the viral hepatitis clinic. Her lab studies adaptive immunity to hepatitis B, liver cancer and SARS-CoV-2 to inform the development of immunotherapies and vaccines for these major causes of morbidity and mortality. Through access to well-characterised patient cohorts, human tissue samples and models, their studies provide insights into beneficial and dysfunctional T and B cell responses. The lab is particularly interested in dissecting and harnessing tissue-resident immunity for frontline sentinel surveillance of viruses and cancer. Mala enjoys mentoring and supporting her lab members to obtain fellowships and develop their careers. Work in the Maini lab is funded by Wellcome (including Mala's Investigator Award), UKRI, Cancer Research UK, ERC Horizon 2020 and the Royal Free Charity.

Elena Mitsi
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Dr Elena Mitsi is a Senior Research Associate in the Oxford Vaccine Group, at the University of Oxford. In 2020, she completed her PhD at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK, which focused on understanding whether bacterial and viral infections contained in the nose can induce immunity in the lung. She leads the Immunology research of the Experimental Human Pneumococcal Challenge (EHPC model).Her research focuses on host-pathogen interactions, respiratory pathogen transmission, and the potential of respiratory mucosal cellular reservoirs to confer protection against infection and disease. She also uses lung infection models to better study lung diseases.

Memory Mvula
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Memory Mvula is a research assistant interested in infectious diseases and how they affect the body's immune responses. She holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Medical Laboratory Sciences from Kamuzu University of Health Sciences. She is working as a research assistant at the Malawi-Liverpool Wellcome Programme, under a project that aims to characterize the airway tissue-resident SARS-CoV-2 specific T and B cell responses associated with protection against the virus in Malawian adults with and without HIV infection. In this project, she investigates whether neutralising antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 spike protein are linked to specific B immune cells in the upper and lower respiratory system.

Robert Nyirenda
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Robert Nyirenda graduated with upper second-class BSc. Biomedical sciences from Mzuzu University in 2021. He is currently a research assistant based in Dr Kondwani Jambo's Laboratory which focus on mucosal immune responses to viral and bacterial infections. Currently he is working on a project aiming at understanding if cross protective tissue-resident immunity can be harnessed for SARS-COV2 Variants in Malawian population with or without HIV infection. Before joining the laboratory, Robert selflessly volunteered during the SARS-COV2 pandemic providing critical support to Malawi's ministry of health. His was involved SARS-COV2 point of care diagnostics and PCR tests for travelers which helped in managing the pandemic. This fueled his passion for research in immunology after appreciating the role immunology played in control of SARS-COV2 pandemic. Looking

ahead, Robert's short term career goal is to undergo advanced training in immunology of infectious diseases.

Joseph Phiri
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Joseph Phiri is a talented and ambitious early career research scientist with a strong interest in understanding role of immune response to host pathogen interaction particularly in mucosal surfaces . He holds a Master's degree in Immunology and inflammatory diseases from the University of Glasgow (UofG). He is currently finishing his PhD in clinical sciences at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM, UK) but based in the Infection and Immunity research group at Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Programme (MLW) in Blantyre, Malawi. Joseph's PhD project seeks to understand the mechanism of control of pneumococcal carriage density in PLHIV on ART. His supervisors are Profs. Kondwani Jambo (MLW/LSTM), Daniela Ferreira (University of Oxford) and Profs. Benjamin Kumwenda (Kamuzu University of Health Sciences). As a postdoctoral research assistant, Joseph's focus will be to understand the role of airway tissue-resident T cells in providing a stable reservoir of long-lived cross-reactive immunity against previous and emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants at the site of infection in the nose and lung. These insights will be important for the development of next-generation disease-protecting and transmission-blocking mucosal-active vaccines.

Hannah Shrader
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I am a 2nd-year DPhil student in the Oxford Vaccine Group (OVG) at the University of Oxford under the supervision of Prof Daniela Ferreira and Prof Teresa Lambe. My work focuses on answering the question: can cross-protective airway-resident immunity be harnessed for SARS-CoV-2 protection? I have Bachelor's degrees in Biochemistry, Medical Anthropology, and Translational Science from the University of Iowa. Following my univesrity education, I spent 2 years training as a Post-Baccalaureate Fellow at the National Institutes for Allergies and Infectious Disease (NIAID) under the supervision of Dr John Mascola. As a DPhil student and active member of the infectious disease/virologist community, I strive to find the big picture in my work, rooting my bench work in clinical outcomes and focusing my passions on translational goals.

Carla Solorzano Gonzalez
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Carla is a Senior Program Manager at the Oxford Vaccine Group in the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Oxford and the Liverpool Vaccine Group at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Carla manages a portfolio of studies related to respiratory diseases, respiratory challenge models and vaccine testing. Her role involves the support of all grant applications, management of delivery of funded studies and communication with study teams, funders and key stakeholders. Carla obtained a degree in Biology from La Universidad del Zulia (Maracaibo, Venezuela) and a PhD in Microbiology in 2016 from the University of Barcelona (Barcelona, Spain). She joined LSTM in 2016 as postdoctoral scientist and her research focused on identifying correlates of protection against pneumococcal carriage. During her time at LSTM, she was a member of LSTM's Equity and Inclusion Committee and was an organiser of a series of monthly meetings promoting communication and collaborations across LSTM and nearby institutions. She has worked as Program Manager since 2020 and joined the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Oxford in August 2022. She is the knowledge coordinator for MUCOSAL project.

PRICOS

George Githinji
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George holds a PhD in BioSciences from the Open University (UK) and is based at the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme in Kilifi Kenya. His research interest is in pathogen genomics, evolution and transmission of respiratory viruses including other virus of public health importance. His research involves development and application of novel genomics and bioinformatics methods in surveillance of infectious diseases. He co-led the COVID-19 genomics surveillance in Kenya and the region to inform on introduction, transmission and evolution of SARS-CoV-2 variants in Kenya. He is the co-investigator for the immunosurveillance study.

Bernadette Kutima
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Bernadette Kutima serves as a Research Officer at KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme, collaborating closely with Prof. George Warimwe and Dr. James Nyagwange. She completed her undergraduate studies with a BSc in Microbiology before securing an IDeAL training fellowship to pursue an MSc in Immunology at Pwani University. Her research passion lies in unraveling the intricacies of

viral infections, with a primary emphasis on understanding immune responses triggered by either natural exposure or vaccination.

Angela Maina
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Name: Angela Maina Title: Research Officer Project: Platform for rapid immunological characterization of SARS CoV-2 variants in Kenya and the Eastern Africa Region Angela serves as a Research Officer at the KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme and is a member of the Pathogen Epidemiology and Omics Group. She has a keen research interest in respiratory infectious diseases. Her current focus involves the surveillance and characterization of emerging SARS CoV-2 variants. By leveraging the existing genomics platform, she aims to elucidate the complexities of these contemporary variants, particularly their potential for immune escape in comparison to the ancestral variant. These findings will yield critical insights, shaping strategies to combat COVID-19 and ensuring that interventions remain effective against new variants.

Maureen Mburu
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Maureen Wanjiru Mburu, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biotechnology and Biosafety and a Postgraduate Diploma in Health Research Methods. She is currently a Research Assistant at KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme in Kilifi, Kenya. Maureen is involved in a diverse range of projects, including understanding how Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) alters the respiratory microbiome in infants, identifying molecular signatures of viral and bacterial pneumonia and isolation and characterization of monoclonal antibodies. As an aspiring systems biologist, she is interested in understanding the respiratory microbiome to improve health outcomes.

Jennifer Musyoki
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Jennifer is a project manager at the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme. She is passionate about overseeing research projects to ensure they run smoothly, meet their objectives, and deliver significant value.

Isabella Oyier
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Isabella Oyier is the Head of the Biosciences Department at KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Program (KWTRP), an Associate Professor, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford a Calestous Juma Fellow, funded by BMGF and a Global Research Fellow at Reuben College, University of Oxford. Her current research focuses on integrating malaria molecular epidemiology into routine surveillance in Kenya. A project that partners with the Division of National Malaria Programme to implement malaria molecular surveillance activities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she led the COVID-19 testing for the Coastal region. KWTRP is a regional COVID-19 genomic surveillance reference lab for Africa CDC and WHO-Afro and she leads and coordinates this effort. In addition, she is coordinating the scale up COVID-19 immunological surveillance in the East Africa region, to determine genetic variants with immune escape potential.

Elijah Thumbi
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As a laboratory technologist I have been keen in the field of virology and molecular biology with a key interest in respiratory viruses and advancing innovative techniques in laboratory diagnostics. Mostly specialized in the screening of respiratory viruses with novel diagnostic assays, enabling rapid and accurate identification of viral pathogens. I have been involved in mass spectrometry and protein microarray technology, where I elucidate the molecular mechanisms underlying viral and other pathogens that has led to understanding host-virus interactions and identifying potential therapeutic targets. In addition to research endeavors I am deeply committed to nurturing the next generation of scientists in training countless students in laboratory techniques and research methodologies.

SEACOVARIANTS

Mary Chambers
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Dr Mary Chambers is a Public and Community Engagement specialist. She has led the development of the PCE programme for the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit in Vietnam, Nepal and Indonesia. Mary's interests lie in using participatory methods to amplify community voices and bring them into conversations about biomedical research. She has recently published work on the ethics of participatory methods, vaccine uptake in hard-to-reach communities and on socio-cultural aspects of Covid-19. She has a PhD in Medical Entomology from the

University of Cambridge and has over 25 years of experience in Southeast Asia.

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Wanwisa Dejnirattisai, PhD Research lecturer at Division of Emerging Infectious Disease, Research Department, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol UniversityDr. Wanwisa graduated her joint PhD in Immunology from Mahidol University (Thailand) and University of Oxford. After completing her PhD, Dr. Wanwisa accepted a position as research fellow at Imperial College London before returning to University of Oxford. Her research primarily focuses on T cell and antibody responses to flaviviruses, particularly dengue and Zika to inform the next generation vaccine design as well as to understanding the pathogenesis of severe dengue disease. Over the past year when COVID-19 emerged, she has pivoted her research to SARS-CoV-2 and diverted her skills and knowledge to study immune responses against SARS-CoV-2. She is recently appointed as a research lecturer at Mahidol University, Thailand. Her current research focuses on the immune responses to other emerging diseases such as tuberculosis.

Susanna Dunachie
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Susanna is Professor of Infectious Diseases and NIHR Global Research Professor at Oxford University, and works as a Consultant in Infectious Diseases and Microbiology in Oxford. She is also Senior Immunologist at the Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU) in Bangkok, Thailand. In May 2024 she was appointed Director of the NDM Centre for Global Health Research at Oxford University. Susanna leads research to improve therapies and vaccines for the neglected tropical disease melioidosis, other Gram-negative bacteria with antimicrobial resistance and SARS-CoV-2. Her Oxford lab has a special interest in the impact of diabetes and ageing on the immune response to infection and vaccines. She spent 4 years living in Bangkok, and has ongoing research collaborations across Southeast Asia. She leads COVID immunity projects including the national UK PITCH study and the T cell work package of SEACOVARIANTs (Southeast Asia initiative to combat SARS-CoV-2 variants). Her advisory roles include Scientific Advisor to the Scottish Parliament's COVID-19 Recovery Committee, Immunologist to the UK government's New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threat Advisory Group (NERVTAG), and WHO advisor for Ebola treatment guidelines.

Alba Grifoni
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Alba Grifoni, PhD is a Research Assistant Professor at the La Jolla Institute of Immunology. She firmly believes that combining B and T cell targets is crucial for designing next-generation vaccines to better prepare for future pandemics. The mission of her lab is to provide the T cell knowledge necessary to achieve this goal. With over 150 peer-reviewed publications and more than 20,000 citations, Prof. Grifoni has made significant scientific contributions in understanding how T cell responses combat viral infections, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her research focus in the past decade has expanded from the Flaviviridae, Coronaviridae, Orthopoxviridae, Herpesviridae, and Retroviridae families to now include the Arenaviridae, Paramyxoviridae, and Enteroviridae families. This expansion aligns with the list of viral families of pandemic concerns listed by WHO and NIAID, showcasing a general commitment to advancing global health.

Raph Hamers
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Raph Hamers, MD, PhD, is an Associate Professor in Infectious Diseases at the Nuffield Department of Medicine at the University of Oxford and leads the Clinical Infectious Disease Research Programme at OUCRU Indonesia. Following his PhD in Medicine at the University of Amsterdam, he was the recipient of a Veni postdoc fellowship through the Dutch Research Council (NWO) Talent Programme. He also contributes his expertise as an honorary consultant internist and infectious disease physician at Amsterdam University Medical Centres, and as an Adjunct Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia. Prof. Hamers also works as a consultant for the Antimicrobial Resistance Division at the World Health Organization. Since 2017, he has played a crucial role in establishing the Universities of Indonesia and Oxford Clinical Research Laboratory (IOCRL), embedded in the Faculty of Medicine Universitas Indonesia. This research hub aims to strengthen local research, training and community engagement capabilities through collaboration with OUCRU Indonesia's primary partners and the Oxford Tropical Network. Prof. Hamers' research is wide-ranging across several global health challenges, with a focus on improving health outcomes of complex infectious diseases in low and middle income countries. He has extensive experience as a lead investigator of clinical trials and connected epidemiological, social and laboratory science studies in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. His research focuses on drug resistance and immune function in HIV-1 infection, the clinical management of tuberculosis, antimicrobial resistance and stewardship, and other emerging infectious diseases.

Nguyen Thi Thu Hong
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Hong joined the OUCRU family in 2015 and got her Master degree in Genetics in 2015. Her research involves setting up NSG-based metagenomics pipelines for detection and whole genome sequencing of pathogens causing brain infections, and hand foot and mouth disease in clinical specimens. Since 2020 she has been working on SARS-CoV-2 dynamics and immune response of COVID-19 in Vietnamese populations. Her works contribute to many different areas of COVID-19 research including improve our understanding of the replicative potential of SARS-CoV-2 over the course of illness, inform outbreak response, understand evolution of SARS-CoV-2 importation and circulation within Vietnamese population and assess the levels of T cell response against SARS-CoV-2.

Yvonne Jones
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Professor Jones holds the Sir Andrew McMichael Professorship of Structural Immunology at the University of Oxford. As an undergraduate she read physics at Jesus College, Oxford, and for her doctorate shifted her focus to biology, studying in the Laboratory of Molecular Biophysics. During her postdoctoral training she learnt protein crystallography and in 1989 reported the three-dimensional structure of tumour necrosis factor (TNF). In 1991 she started her research group at the University of Oxford as a Royal Society University Research Fellow. In 1999 she moved within the University to co-found the Division of Structural Biology (STRUBI) at the Wellcome Centre for Human Genetics in the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine (NDM). From 2001-2011 she was a Cancer Research UK Principal Research Fellow. She is currently co-Head of STRUBI and Deputy Head of the NDM. Within her own research group (funded by the UK Medical Research Council, the ERC and Wellcome) she investigates the molecular mechanisms by which cells signal to each other in the human body, an abiding interest first sparked by her studies on TNF. Professor Jones' work, built upon strong links with clinically related groups, has provided fundamental insights into signalling systems of importance for cellular immunology, developmental biology and cancer. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society, the Academy of Medical Sciences and the Learned Society of Wales as well as a Member of EMBO.

Barbara Kronsteiner-Dobramysl
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I am a Senior Immunologist at the University of Oxford (group of Prof. Susanna Dunachie) with more than 13-years experience in cellular immunology studying innate and adaptive host immune responses to intracellular pathogens including H. pylori, B. pseudomallei and SARS-CoV2 in animals and humans. My research focuses on understanding the mechanisms underlying increased susceptibility to infection and impaired immune functioning in response to vaccination/infection in the context of diabetes mellitus and ageing. Understanding how adaptive immune responses are established and maintained in these vulnerable groups is crucial for successful vaccine design and novel therapeutic approaches targeted at this population. I am a co-investigator for MELVAC01, the world's first clinical trial of a vaccine for the neglected tropical disease melioidosis, and I am the Oxford lab operations lead for the UK PITCH (Protective Immunity from T Cells in Healthcare workers) consortium. I lead the immunometabolism facility at the Peter Medawar Building for Pathogen Research, Oxford, providing scientific input and technical expertise on cellular metabolism assays to internal and external collaborators including extracellular flux analysis and flow cytometry-based methods. As part of the SEACOVARIANTs (Southeast Asia initiative to combat SARS-CoV-2 variants) consortium and other international collaborations, I work closely with colleagues from Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia to implement cellular immunology protocols, provide training and project input.

Nhu Le Nguyen Truc
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Nhu joined the OUCRU family in 2006 and worked in the virology lab for more than seven years. During that period, she involved in mammalian cell and influenza virus culturing (both seasonal and avian viruses). Nhu got her Master degree in Medical Sciences in 2014. After that, her research fields changed to molecular typing and next generation sequencing of enteroviruses causing hand-foot-mouth-disease. She also involved in a viral metagenomic project of undiagnosed patients with central nervous system infections. From 2020, she has been working on molecular surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 patients in Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam. Since then, her work has primarily involved in whole genome sequencing and surrogate virus neutralization assay for SARS-CoV-2. Additionally, Nhu has taken new role as project coordinator of SEACOVARIANTS Consortium from early 2023. This moderate career change has broadened her professional opportunities and brought new challenges at the same time.

Juthathip Mongkolsapaya
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My research focuses on host-viral interactions, immune responses, particularly antibody responses to virus infections, and vaccine development. The main pathogens I have worked on are Dengue virus, Zika virus, and SARS-CoV-2.

Lam Anh Nguyet
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I have been worked for 22 years in Oxford University Clinical Research (OUCRU) as a RA. I have lot of experiences in viral culture such as H5N1, H1N1, Enteroviruses and neutralization assay. I am the first year of PhD in University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. My title thesis is Evaluating neutralizing antibodies and T cell responses in children infected with EV-A71 by using micro-neutralization and ELISPOT assay

Prapassorn Poolchanuan
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Dr. Prapassorn Poolchanuan completed her doctoral degree in the Biotechnology program at Chulalongkorn University. Subsequently, she obtained a postdoctoral fellowship at Mahidol University, where her research centered on the immune response to COVID-19. This work was conducted within the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Faculty of Tropical Medicine in Thailand. Presently, Dr. Poolchanuan serves as a researcher in the same department. Her current work involves active participation in the SEACOVARIANTS project, which investigates the impact of SARS-CoV-2 variants on antibody and T-cell responses within the Southeast Asian population. Additionally, she conducts research on biomarkers in sepsis patients in Northeast Thailand, aiming to enhance early diagnosis and improve patient outcomes.

Dave Stuart
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Prof Sir David Stuart, FRSDavid is the MRC Professor of Structural Biology at the University of Oxford, where he is the Joint Head of the Division of Structural Biology, and Life Science Director at the Diamond Light Source. In Diamond he is responsible for Life Science strategy, beamlines (X-ray, IR and UV) and the National Centre for cryo-EM (eBIC) which he was instrumental in setting up and is now a key part of Diamond's science programme. His work in Oxford is on the structure of viruses, structural vaccinology and anti-viral drug discovery. Recent work of his Group with collaborators has included structures of the SARS-CoV-2 spike and interactions with antibodies, providing better understanding of how antibodies work against the virus and how variant viruses escape such antibodies.

Suwarti Suwarti
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I currently support the clinical laboratory diagnosis of infectious diseases like Tuberculosis, COVID-19, and Leptospirosis in various OUCRU-Indonesia projects and collaborations with the Faculty of Medicine at Universitas Indonesia. My work focuses on evaluating diagnostics using alternative samples and alternative method in Tuberculosis and Leptospirosis. I also evaluate the immune response of COVID-19 vacinnated cohort in Indonesia in SEACOVARIANTS consortium project. I have extensive experience in clinical laboratory support for infectious diseases, covering conceptualization, budgeting, research execution, analysis planning, data analysis, and manuscript writing.

Le Van Tan
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I have 20 years' experience leading research across emerging infections (encephalitis, hand foot and mouth disease and mpox) as well as direct experience as a frontline healthcare worker during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am the PI of the SEACOVARIANTS, and co-chair a Welcome-funded Africa-Asia genomics surveillance consortium. My research incorporates development and application of WGS pipelines, metagenomic assays for pathogen discovery, antibody and T-cell assays, and methods for isolation of class 3 viruses. As an independent investigator, my aim is to develop local and national expertise within Vietnam and the wider region so that ongoing and future emerging infectious disease challenges can be addressed from within the affected regions and communities.

Chee Wah Tan
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Dr. Tan Chee Wah obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Malaya in 2014. In 2017, he joined Professor Wang Linfa ‘s lab, mainly working on bat-borne viruses, including bat filoviruses, coronaviruses, and orthoreoviruses. During the COVID-19 pandemic, his focuses were on SARS-CoV-2 serology, origin, and virus-host interaction. He led the invention of the SARS-CoV-2 surrogate neutralization test, which was commercialized by Genscript under the trade name cPassTM and was the first serology test for SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing antibodies (NAbs) that was granted US FDA EUA approval. Since then, he has established a sophisticated multiplex sVNT, which can detect NAbs against SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern and other SARS-related coronaviruses that use ACE2 receptors.

Wee Chee Yap
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Wee Chee is a dedicated research assistant with over two years of experience in the research fields. She earned her Bachelor’s degree in Science (Biomedical Sciences) from Universiti Putra Malaysia. Wee Chee has contributed to multiple research projects, focusing on national COVID-19 responses, pandemic preparedness and virus-host interactions, and has co-authored several papers in peer-reviewed journals. As a member in Research Assistant Professor Tan Chee Wah’s lab in National University of Singapore, she mainly work on active surveillance of highly pathogenic zoonotic viruses in the human-animal interface using high-throughput and high-resolution serological assays. She is seeking opportunities to delve deeper into the intricate world of viruses through interesting scientific research.

WWW

Irene Amoakoh
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Irene Amoakoh Owusu is a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP) with training in Microbiology and Cell Biology. Her current research is on immunity to SARS-CoV-2. As a virologist and cell biologist, she employs eukaryotic cell culture and molecular systems to study virus-host interactions. Her hobbies are gardening and dancing.

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Gordon Awandare
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Gordon Awandare is a Professor of Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology and the Founding Director of the West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP). He is also the Pro Vice-Chancellor responsible for Academic and Students Affairs at University of Ghana. He obtained his BSc Biochemistry and MPhil Biochemistry degrees from the University of Ghana, and a PhD in Infectious Diseases and Microbiology from the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He did his postdoctoral fellowship at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Maryland. Since returning to Ghana in 2010, Gordon has made significantly contributions to research capacity building in Africa and mentored many young scientists. He led the establishment of WACCBIP as one of the World Bank's African Centres of Excellence. Subsequently he and colleagues have built WACCBIP into a major research hub in Africa, winning two DELTAS Africa awards and providing fellowships to 400 scientists from 19 African countries for Masters, doctoral and postdoctoral training. He has more than 160 peer-reviewed journal publications in a wide range of journals, including some of the leading infectious diseases and immunology journals. He has supervised 16 postdoctoral fellows, 20 PhD students and 23 Master's students, and mentored many young scientists in Ghana and across Africa.He is a Fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Royal Society of Biology, UK, and a recipient of the Royal Society Pfizer award 2015.

David Bauer
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David LV Bauer established the RNA Virus Replication Lab at the Crick in 2020. He received his DPhil in Clinical Medicine from Oxford in 2014, where he studied on a Rhodes Scholarship, and undertook a NSF postdoctoral fellowship in biophysics of transcription before training as a virologist with Ervin Fodor at the Dunn School of Pathology in Oxford. His lab focuses mainly on influenza and coronaviruses; together with the Crick/UCLH Legacy study & G2P-UK consortium, he has evaluated emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants with unprecedented "Big Data"-style analyses, and is part of the newly-established WWW Consortium, examining the basis for global variations in COVID-19 severity.

Yaw Bediako
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Yaw Bediako is a Ghanaian immunologist and biotech entrepreneur. Yaw obtained a PhD at Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, and undertook post-doctoral fellowships at the KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Programme in Kenya and subsequently at the Francis Crick Institute in London. In 2019 he took up a faculty appointment at the West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP) at the University of Ghana and was one of 5 scientists selected in the inaugural round of the prestigious Crick Africa Network Fellowship. Soon after returning to Ghana, Yaw became increasingly concerned about the almost complete lack of biotech industry across the African continent. Convinced that private biotech is crucial to the establishment of a sustainable R&D ecosystem, in June 2020 Yaw founded Yemaachi Biotech (www.yemaachi.com) an immunogenomics research company. Yemaachi's vision is to leverage Africa's unrivalled genetic diversity to develop novel diagnostic and therapeutic targets for cancer, that work uniformly well irrespective of genetic backgroundIn November 2021, Yaw was selected as a Calestous Juma Science Leadership Fellow by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Yaw is also a fellow of the Ghana Young Academy and an Affiliate member of the African Academy of Sciences. In 2022, Yaw was recognized as one of the top 40 under 40 business people in Ghana, and in January of 2023, was selected as one of the 100 most influential Africans by the New African magazine.

Christine Carrington
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Christine Carrington is Professor of Molecular Genetics and Virology at The University of the West Indies (UWI) in Trinidad and Tobago. She has over thirty years' experience in infectious disease research (esp. virus evolution, molecular epidemiology, genomic surveillance and phylogenetics). Her interest is in understanding evolutionary and ecological factors involved in the emergence, spread and maintenance of viruses, especially vector-borne and zoonotic RNA viruses. Work to date includes studies on a range of arboviruses, rabies virus and coronaviruses.

Prince Adom Nartey
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Prince Adom Nartey is a dedicated Research Assistant at the West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP). Under the esteemed supervision of Dr. Quashie, Prince is at the forefront of investigating the immunological impact of SARS-CoV-2

variants, contributing critical insights into pandemic control efforts. In addition to his role at WACCBIP, Prince serves as an assistant BSL-3 Lab supervisor at the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR). Leveraging the advanced BSL-3 lab resources, he conducts quality research, ensuring that his work meets the standards of safety and scientific rigor. This dual role underscores Prince's capability to handle complex and high-risk pathogens while adhering to stringent biosafety protocols. Bringing a robust scientific background and a passion for infectious disease research to his role, Prince is committed to advancing knowledge in the field of SARS-CoV-2 research. Engaging with leading experts and participating in cutting-edge research training forums, he continues to expand his expertise and collaborate with peers to drive forward the scientific community's efforts in pandemic control.

Peter Quashie
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Dr. Peter Kojo Quashie holds a PhD in Experimental Medicine from McGill University and has postdoctoral training in Structural Virology from the University of Toronto, both in Canada. Peter is a Senior Research Fellow and Group PI at the West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP. His research focuses on HIV, SARS-CoV-2 virus and other pandemic viruses with focus on host-viral interactions and therapeutics. He has over several publications in high impact journals such as Journal of Virology, Frontiers, Science, Nature Communications and BMC Medicine. In 2012, he reported that the substitutions R263K and G118R conferred subtype specific resistance against the new HIV drug, Dolutegravir- something which has since been reported in the clinic. As the Deputy Director in charge of research at WACCBIP, he oversees research operations, partnerships, student training, workshops and research staff at the Centre. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in Ghana, Peter coordinated much of WACCBIP's research into SARS-CoV-2 research, spanning molecular and sero-epidemiology studies, focusing on host-virus interactions and drug discovery.

Anushka Ramjag
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I am a researcher within the Carrington Lab in the Department of Preclinical Sciences at The University of the West Indies (UWI), St Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago. Our primary research interest is in understanding factors underlying infectious disease emergence/escalation and epidemic behaviour, especially diseases caused by vector borne and zoonotic viruses. My recent work focused

on characterizing immune responses to arboviral infections, in particular Chikungunya and Zika viruses. I was an integral member of the COVID-19: Infectious Disease Molecular Epidemiology for Pathogen Control & Tracking (COVID-19 IMPACT) project team which implemented rapid virus whole genome sequencing for the first time in Trinidad and Tobago and carried out genomic surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern for several Caribbean countries on behalf of the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health and Caribbean Public Health Agency. I am also interested in the use of pathogen agnostic metagenomic sequencing as a tool for genomic surveillance and viral discovery.

Timothy Russell
Timothy.Russell@lshtm.ac.uk

Madhumita Shrotri
Francis Crick Institute
madhumita.shrotri1@nhs.net

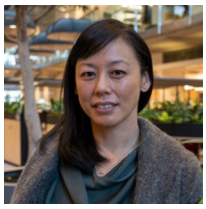
I am a clinical academic specialising in Infectious Diseases and Virology, currently undertaking a PhD in David Bauer's lab at the Crick.

Tamara Thompson
University of The West Indies
tamara.thompson@uwimona.edu.jm

Tamara Thompson is is a consultant physician and lecturer at the University of the West Indies (UWI) in Kingston, Jamaica, with a specialty in General Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases. Her recent research has centered on HIV and COVID-19. She also serves as an academic advisor to numerous undergraduate and postgraduate clinical trainees and is the program lead for the Clinical Infectious Diseases Fellowship at the UWI, Mona campus.

Emma Wall
emma.wall@crick.ac.uk

Dr Emma Wall is an academic consultant in Infectious Diseases and Acute Medicine. She holds a Senior Clinical Research Fellowship, jointly appointed between the Francis Crick Institute and UCLH Biomedical Research Centre. Emma the leads the Legacy study, a prospective observational cohort study investigating SARS CoV 2 susceptibility, transmission and disease severity.



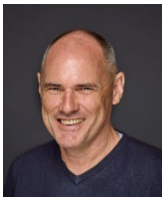
Mary Wu
The Francis Crick Institute
mary.wu@crick.ac.uk

Mary Wu currently heads the COVID Surveillance Unit at the Francis Crick Institute. Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, she worked closely with in-house virologists and immunologists to setup and validate a live virus high throughput microneutralisation assay pipeline that went on to support over 20 different serological studies with near real-time reporting on humoral immunity against emerging variants as well as the longitudinal serological profiling of healthy and vulnerable cohorts in response to vaccination and infection. Over the past 3 years, the assay pipeline has generated over 150,000 neutralisation titres published in over 30 manuscripts and supported advisory groups such as NERVTAG, JCVI, and TAG-CO-VAC. To catapult neutralisation data as a reporting tool into the realm of large data and systems vaccinology/immunology, she has been working to adapt the assay pipeline to accommodate different sample types (antivirals, mucosal samples) and viruses (influenza, RSV) to generate a plug-and-play microneutralisation assay.

The Global Health Network

Adam Dale
adam.dale@ndm.ox.ac.uk

Adam supports The Global Health Network to engage with collaborative research groups and to share knowledge and methods across therapeutic areas, disciplines and regions. Alongside working with wide ranging collaborators, he undertakes research into the processes and methods of knowledge transfer.



Alun Davies
alun.davies@ndm.ox.ac.uk

I lead Mesh, The Global Health Network's knowledge community and online platform and for community engagement with health research. With a team of coordinators embedded in health research institutions in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean we contribute to strengthening practice through sharing skills, knowledge and resources among engagement practitioners and researchers. A major personal achievement for me is the establishment of a large school engagement program with science in Kenya. It began as a pilot scheme in 2009 and has since become a flagship element of the KEMRI-Wellcome Research Programme's public engagement strategy, gaining international reputation. I have broader experience in leading engagement in multi-country projects in sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia and South America. Of note, I led a WHO technical working group on Good Participatory Practice for a multi-country Covid-19 Vaccine trial. My PhD in Public Engagement evaluation drew on mixed methods and participatory approaches, including participatory video to explore the impacts, outcomes and influences of engagement.

Paul Kingpriest
paul.kingpriest@ndm.ox.ac.uk

Paul Kingpriest is a dedicated research physician with extensive experience in global health research. He is a committed professional with expertise in research project management, data analysis, project planning, and community engagement. Currently, Paul serves as a Research Project Coordinator at the Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health, University of Oxford. In this role, he has successfully coordinated multiple global health research projects and is leading the development of an online tool for global health research leadership. His previous position as Research Coordinator at the Surgical Equity and Research Hub in Nigeria involved mapping surgical access in sub-Saharan Africa and investigating medical education.

Trudie Lang
trudie.lang@ndm.ox.ac.uk

Professor Trudie Lang Professor of Global Health Research; Head of The Global Health Network and Senior Research Scientist in Tropical Medicine, Nuffield Department of Medicine; Research Fellow, Green Templeton College My career has focused on combatting diseases of poverty through enabling locally-led generation of high-quality evidence embedded within research capability strengthening efforts. I have worked in Industry, Academia and UN organisations and types of research and methods. I have led major programmes to drive better health outcomes in vulnerable communities by strengthening local leadership and ground-up implementation of sustainable and high-quality health research programmes. I devised, founded and developed The Global Health Network (www.TGHN.org) which is a WHO collaborating centre and a highly regarded international collaborative enterprise that is tackling global imbalances of where research happens, who leads and who benefits. I have built an international reputation for my leadership, open negotiation and programme development abilities, gained through my effort to work in fair and balanced partnerships that discover optimal research processes and builds lasting teams. My approach centers on actively bringing people and organisations together to connect and convene to drive better approaches, determine gaps and overcome specific barriers; enabling equitable access to opportunities and progress – and supporting brilliant people in taking these up.

Sainabou Laye Ndure
sainabou.ndure@tss.ox.ac.uk

Sainabou is a Project Coordinator with The Global Health Network, working on the Pathogen Variants Network alongside other projects. She has a Masters in Genomic Medicine from Oxford University, and has a background in Molecular Biology and Genetics. She is also the founder of the Human Genetics Awareness Association.

Wellcome staff

Titus Divala
t.divala@wellcome.org

I am Interim Head of Epidemics & Epidemiology in Wellcome's Infectious Disease team. I lead a team responsible for shaping and coordinating Wellcome's scientific investments for ensuring preparedness and effective response to outbreaks. Our preparedness portfolio includes research targetting critical knowledge gaps in endemic pathogens and response-driven research during outbreaks. I am a Medical Doctor and Interventional Epidemiologist with experience in clinical research and public health delivery. My research interest is in the identification, evaluation, and implementation of interventions against infectious diseases. In my previous role as a researcher in academia, I conducted observational studies, randomized controlled trials and evidence synthesis studies on interventions for malaria, HIV, Tuberculosis, antimicrobial resistance, and COVID-19. I have also worked in public health at district, national and global levels. Among other work, I supported public health response against tuberculosis, antimicrobial Resistance, and COVID-19 in Malawi and United Kingdom. I have contributed to epidemiology and evidence synthesis research and guideline development for national public health agencies and for the World Health Organisation.

Bethan Hamilton
B.Hamilton@wellcome.org

Bethan is Epidemics Research Manager at the Wellcome Trust. She works in Wellcome's Infectious Diseases team, which focusses on preventing future escalations of infectious diseases through research on the sources and drivers of outbreaks and research to inform the sustainable and equitable development of new tools to prevent and control infections. She manages a portfolio of awards, many of which are focussed on Covid-19 research. Prior to joining Wellcome in 2018, she completed a PhD in immunology and worked in research funding managing projects and funding in brain banking and brain tumour research.

Natsuko Imai-Eaton
n.imai@wellcome.org

I am a Research Lead in the Infectious Disease Strategic Programme at Wellcome. I am responsible for leading Wellcome's epidemic research response as well as overseeing the surveillance and genomic sequencing research investments. With a foundation in infectious disease epidemiology and modelling, prior to joining Wellcome, I spent 10 years at the WHO Collaborating Centre for Infectious Disease

Modelling at Imperial, UK, coordinating outbreak response and analysis for Ebola Virus Disease outbreaks in the DRC and the COVID-19 pandemic. I was also seconded to the UK Government Office for Science during the COVID-19 pandemic, where I supported the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) as an External Science Cell Advisor, focusing on epidemiological advice and modelling.

Venue information

Venue

Wellcome Trust, Gibbs Building, 215 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE, UK
+44 (0)20 7611 8888
globalevents@wellcome.org

Getting here

By tube (London's underground train network)

The nearest underground stations are:

- Euston Square
- Euston
- Warren Street
- King's Cross St Pancras

Euston Square has step-free access between the platform and street level from the Westbound platform only.

Find out the best way to get to us by tube with Transport for London's journey planner.

By train

The nearest mainline stations are:

- Euston
- King's Cross
- St Pancras International

Collecting your train tickets:
If Wellcome has booked your train tickets, you will need a debit/credit card to collect your tickets but will not be charged.

From a London Airport

If you are arriving from Heathrow Airport, you can take the Heathrow Express train service to London Paddington Station. From Paddington Station, transfer to the London Underground and take the Circle Line eastbound to Euston Square Station. Wellcome is within walking distance from Euston Square Station.

If you are arriving from Gatwick Airport, you can take the Gatwick Express train service to London Victoria Station. From Victoria Station, transfer to the London Underground and take the Victoria Line northbound to Euston or Warren Street Station. Wellcome is within walking distance from Euston and Warren Street Station.

If you are arriving from Stansted Airport, you can take the Stansted Express train service to London Liverpool Street Station. From there, transfer to the London Underground and take

the Circle Line westbound to Euston Square Station. Wellcome is within walking distance from Euston Square Station.

By bus

The following buses stop close to our main entrance at 215 Euston Road:
18, 30, 73, 205, 390

Find out the best way to get to us by bus with Transport for London's journey planner.

By bike

There are bike stands near the main entrance of the Wellcome Trust on Euston Road, and at the side of the Wellcome Collection building on Gordon Street.

There are also Santander docking stations behind the building on Gower Place.

By car

If you're using a taxi, there are drop off points by our:

- Main visitor entrance at 215 Euston Road (raised kerb)
- Staff-only entrance on Gower Place (raised and dropped kerb).
  It's a short distance from here to our main visitor entrance at the front of the building
- We have parking spaces for Blue Badge holders

By coach

We don't have any parking spaces for coaches, but Transport for London has information about parking for coaches in London.

Transport accessibility guides

Transport for London have produced a range of helpful guides in alternative formats to help you plan your journey.

Connecting to Wi-Fi

There is free Wi-Fi for visitors to the Gibbs Building at 215 Euston Road.

Go the settings in your device and choose 'Wellcome-WiFi' from the networks list.

Alternatively, if you're a visitor from an organisation that uses eduroam, you'll be able to connect to eduroam at Wellcome using your organisation's credentials.

Accessibility

We don't want there to be any barriers to you visiting us. Here are some of the services we offer:

Step-free access

All the floors in Wellcome, including the entrance, have step-free access.

Accessible toilets

There are accessible toilets on every floor. A Changing Places toilet is available in Wellcome Collection next door at 183 Euston Road.

Assistance animals
You're welcome to bring along your assistance animals.

Blue Badge parking
We have two parking spaces for Blue Badge holders. If you'd like to book a space, call or email the global events organiser at Wellcome before you visit.

Our Blue Badge bays are in our underground car park at 42 Gower Place.
Gower Place is one-way. You drive into it from Gordon Street or Endsleigh Gardens.
Halfway along Gower Place on the right-hand side, just past the goods entrances, there are two silver car lifts. The lift you need is the furthest to the left. It has a sign for Wellcome Trust and Wellcome Collection. When you arrive, call +44 (0)20 7611 5778.

There are also Blue Badge parking bays near us. Find out where on Blue Badge's London map.

Induction loops
There is a fixed induction loop at our reception on the ground floor.

We also have portable induction loops which you can pick up at reception. If you'd like to reserve a portable loop, call or email the global events organiser at Wellcome before you visit.

Quiet room
We have a quiet room on the second floor. Please contact the event organiser if you wish to make use of this.

Prayer room
We have a prayer room on the ground floor. Please contact the event organiser if you wish to make use of this.

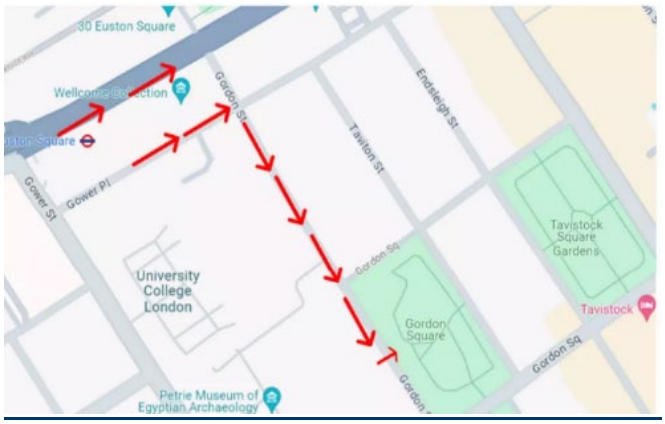
Contact us
For more information about the accessibility of our building, or to give feedback, please contact the event organiser.

Health and safety information

Fire evacuation
There are no fire alarm tests planned except for:

215 Euston Road – Tuesday 13:30

- The fire alarm within this building is a continuous siren. Any fire alarm tests will be announced before and after the test has taken place.
- On hearing the alarm, you must evacuate the building immediately via the nearest fire exit and proceed to the assembly point in Gordon Square, as shown in the diagram below.
- Fire Marshals will be on hand to show you where to go. Fire Marshals are identifiable by their fluorescent armbands.
- If you require assistance in an evacuation, please speak with reception or your Wellcome host who will discuss your needs.



In the event of a fire

If you discover a fire use a Manual Call Point (Red Break Glass) located by the fire exits to raise the alarm and evacuate the building as above.

- Do not use lifts
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings
- Do not re-enter the building until you have been told it is safe to do so by your host or fire marshal

Emergency assistance

For first aid and emergency assistance please call **020 7611 2001** from the internal phones or security **020 7611 5778** from your mobile.

Consent to photography at the event

This event may include photography to capture memorable moments, speakers, and activities. If you would prefer not to be photographed, please make the event organiser aware on arrival.

Virtual event guide

Etiquette for attending a virtual event

Pre-event:

- Make sure you have read the housekeeping slide at the beginning of the event
- Mute your microphone if you are not speaking
- Follow the chair's instructions on how to ask questions and the etiquette for the event

If you are invited to speak on video, please consider the following:

Lighting: light can play a major role in how others see you. Make sure the light source is not behind you and that your face is well lit.

Background: when joining from home, your background is important as others can see what is happening behind you. Choose a spot with a neutral background, which doesn't distract your participants. Make sure you are comfortable sharing with friends, colleagues and guests.

During the event:

- To gain access to the meeting, click the link you received via email or calendar invite. We recommend you join your live event via the programme's computer or phone application. If you do need to join via a web browser, please use Google Chrome. You will also have the option to join by phone.
- Make sure to mute your microphone and video unless you are a presenter and about to speak.
- If at any time you lose connection, please leave the call and re-join. If you are still experiencing connection issues, we will provide you with a recording of the event, where possible.

Post-event:

- There will be a short feedback questionnaire following the event – please fill this out as it helps us ensure our events are a success.

System requirements

To ensure you have the best possible experience, the following system requirements and advice is recommended.

- Are you using public Wi-Fi or 4G?: check your download and upload speeds at speedtest.net. Are your download and upload speeds at the low end of the metre? If so, you are more likely to have problems with your call.
- For a better connection: sit close to your Wi-Fi router or plug your computer directly into your router via an ethernet cable if possible.
- Capping: some internet service providers cap usage during busy periods, even with unlimited packages, in an attempt to reduce a drop-in service. Potentially this means

that your speeds are likely to vary more frequently, especially as there is an increased number of people working from home.

- Check your household usage: are multiple people running a video conference or streaming content (online gaming, films, downloading data) at the same time? Try to co-ordinate your usage to limit the pressure on your home internet service, think about disconnecting other devices not in use.
- Video quality low or jumpy: try switching to audio only but remember to consider your fellow participants. If someone is trying to lip-read or is looking to you for visual signals, try to improve your connection and only switch to audio as a last resort.
- Laptop Battery: when using a laptop, make sure your computer isn't low on battery. Plug-in the power supply and if using a Windows machine, change your power settings to "high performance".
- Recommend use of a headset or headphones: Using headphones instead of your computer speakers will minimise feedback throughout your event.

Code of Conduct and Guidance for Participants

We are committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for everyone regardless of their gender, race, religion, sexuality, disability or socio-economic status. We are dedicated to creating an inclusive space where topics can be openly discussed by everyone who attends a Wellcome event and the diversity of opinion is valued.

At the event

- Be respectful of each other and of the confidential nature of some of our events, recognising that individuals may be sharing unpublished work.
- Although the lead language for most of our events may be English, that may not be everyone's first language. Please be understanding and respectful of the audience that you are presenting to or participating with.
- Cultural diversity can create situations where differences in approaches may cause misunderstandings. Please work together to respect each other's differences and make everyone feel a part of the group.
- Act fairly, honestly, and in good faith with other participants.
- Please ask the event host for consent for photography, audio-visual recordings or quotes, as some participants may have opted not to have their information shared with others.
- Please keep mobile phones to silent during the event to minimise disruption. If you wish to make a telephone call, please step out of the room and use an appropriate space. If you require a private room for a scheduled call please inform the event organiser in advance and we will do our best to find an appropriate space.
- Please keep mobile phones/email/internet use to a minimum other than for accessibility.
- Please could remote participants remember to mute microphones during presentations.
- There will be scheduled breaks during the event. If you need to leave the room for a break at any other time, please feel free to do so.
- There may be opportunities during a Q&A session to ask questions, please follow the guidance of the chair/host on how to do this.
- If you need any additional help during the event, please ask a Wellcome member of staff who will do their best to help you.