

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION:

## Policy, Partnerships, and Systems Readiness

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## Speaker Biographies



Trudie Lang is a Professor of Global Health Research & Director of The Global Health Network. She brings 30 years' experience sporting research in low-resource settings on everyday poverty-related diseases and disease outbreaks. Trudie spent the first 12 years of her career in the pharmaceutical industry where she ran clinical trials from phase I through to phase IV in malaria, helminth infectious and diarrheal disease in Africa, Asia and South America. Trudie has worked within the varied settings of industry, public private partnerships, the World Health Organisation, NGOs and academia where she has designed and operated clinical studies in highly varied international settings, particularly in low resource areas within vulnerable populations. Trudie is now focused on developing research capacity and improving research methods in developing countries. She devised The Global Health Network ([www.tghn.org](http://www.tghn.org)) which is a global decentralised franchise network that is driving equity in where research happens, who leads and who benefits from the evidence. It works by transferring know-how and exchanging knowledge between organisations, disease areas, regions, and roles and by guiding faster and improved research processes. This platform is working online and, in the regions, to improve and encourage clinical research in places, situations and places where research is lacking, such as diseases of poverty and outbreaks.



Chaitali Sinha is a Senior Program Specialist in the Global Health Division at Canada's [International Development Research Centre \(IDRC\)](http://www.idrc.ca). She has over 20 years of experience with research for development in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East, with a focus on global health, sexual and reproductive health, and rights, health information systems, refugee health, feminist research and gender analysis, and digital innovation. Chaitali has published peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and blogs on issues of gender and digital health, health equity, gender transformative research, and health systems strengthening. She holds a Master of Arts in International Development Studies and a bachelor's degree in information management systems.



Prof. Wael Akl is the Executive President of Zewail City. Prof. Akl finished his Ph.D. from the Mechanical Engineering Department, University of Maryland-College Park in 2004 in the field of smart materials and ever since, Dr. Akl has been engaged in research work in the field of smart materials and structures with over 48 international publications with a focus on Acoustic Metamaterials for the past 5 years. Prof. Akl has been granted a Research Faculty Fellow and visiting professor at the University of Maryland for 10 years in a row starting 2006. Prof. Akl is the co-founder of the Group for Advanced Research in Dynamic Systems (The largest research group at Ain Shams University).



Professor Arash Rashidian (MD, PhD) is the Director of Science, Information and Dissemination at the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean. Since 2015, he has led the WHO regional agenda on evidence-informed policy making, health information systems, digital health, research promotion and governance, and knowledge sharing. His career in health policy research and health system development spans 25 years and several countries.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr Rashidian led the research and knowledge management pillar of the WHO response management team in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. He is Vice-Chair of WHO's Guideline Review Committee and Executive Editor of the *Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal*, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean's flagship publication.

He is an Affiliate Professor in the Department of Health Metrics Sciences at the University of Washington and a Professor of Health Policy (on unpaid leave) at the School of Public Health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS). His previous positions - in backward chronological order from 2015 - include: Deputy Chancellor, TUMS, Iran; founding Director, National Institute of Health Research, Iran; Honorary Visiting Professor, Imperial College, London, UK; Honorary Professor, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Iran; Visiting Professor, School of Pharmacy, TUMS, Iran; methodological advisor, National Collaborating Centre for Acute Care (affiliated to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence), UK; Assistant Professor, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK; Visiting Associate Professor, Aga Khan University, Pakistan and Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Bangor University, UK. He has led the development of strategic policy documents, advised national health policy committees and health insurance organizations, developed and taught post-graduate programs in health policy and economics, supervised over 30 PhD students, and co-authored over 200 academic papers (h-index: 68; May 2025). In his work with the WHO, in addition to policy advice, policy dialogue, capacity building, and implementation support to the countries, he has led the development of key WHO reports, and WHO resolutions (<https://www.emro.who.int/evidence-data-to-policy/about.html>).



**Dr Awad Mataria** is the Director of "Universal Health Coverage/Health Systems" at the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean. Dr Mataria has more than twenty years of experience in health systems, health economics and health financing. For the last fifteen years, Dr Mataria supported countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region to reform their health systems with focus on health financing reforms to move towards Universal Health Coverage. With COVID-19, Dr Mataria got interested in clarifying the conceptual linkages between Universal Health Coverage and Health Security through a health system strengthening lens. Since his early life, and throughout his professional career, Dr Mataria developed special interest in working in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Dr Mataria has a Ph.D. in Health Economics and a Masters in Health Systems Analysis, following his undergraduate degree in Pharmacy. His areas of expertise are: Universal Health Coverage; health systems financing and organization; Social Health Insurance; using economics in health care priority setting; measuring the benefits of health care mainly using stated preferences techniques; economic evaluation of health care interventions; and National Health Accounts. Dr Mataria has more than seventy publications in high impact journals, including, *Journal of Health Economics*, *Health Economics* and *The Lancet*; and is co-editor of a landmark Book on: "Making Health Systems Work in Low and Middle Income Countries". He also presented at several international and regional conferences. Dr Mataria is fluent in three languages: English, French and Arabic (mother-tongue).



Dr. Shadi Saleh is Founding Director of the Global Health Institute (GHI) at the American University of Beirut (AUB), the first such institute in the Middle East and North Africa region. In addition, he is a Professor of Health Systems and Financing. Previously, he served as an Associate Vice President for Health Affairs and as the Chairman of the Department of Health Management at Policy at AUB; and as a Professor of Health Systems at the State University of New York.



Dr. Eman Badr is an associate professor of Biomedical Sciences at Zewail City of Science and Technology. She also serves as the director of the Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Unit (BCBU). Dr. Badr earned her Ph.D. in Computer Science from Virginia Tech, USA, and obtained her M.Sc. and B.Sc. in Computer Science from the Faculty of Computers and Information at Cairo University. Her research interests span computational biology, machine learning, and medical imaging analysis. That includes large-scale data-driven problems, integrative NGS data analysis, and exploring how deep learning techniques can integrate different data sources into classification tasks. Dr. Badr is an executive committee member of the Egyptian Bioinformatics Network (BioNetMasr) and leads the Electronics, Communication, and Information Technology Committee of the Technical Office (ECIT) at the ASRT. Additionally, she is a member of the National Communications and Information Technology Council and the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils.



Dr. Iftikhar Ahmed is an AI Consultant with PHC Global (Pakistan), contributing to the AI-Sarosh project, and serves as a Professor at the University of Europe for Applied Sciences (Germany). At AI-Sarosh, he leads initiatives in technical guidance, evaluation design, data governance, and ethical AI practices. His areas of focus include Explainable AI, Large Language Models, and their practical applications in public health, particularly in low-resource settings.



Yi-Roe Tan is the Country Implementation Manager for HealthAI. Currently, she manages the establishment of the HealthAI Global Regulatory Network for Responsible AI in Health. This includes planning and implementation of workstreams with global partners on governance of AI innovations in health. She is involved in stakeholder engagement across governments, regulatory agencies, international organizations, academic and research institutions, and civil society representatives. With a passion for evidence-based implementation as well as participatory approaches, she has previously worked with the Ministry of Health in Singapore on healthcare transformation programs at the hospital level using digital tools as enablers. Based in Singapore, she has also worked as a research fellow at the National Centre for Infectious Diseases, employing mixed methods in implementing public health and community-based research projects.

Having a background in Traditional Chinese Medicine, she has also been practicing as a Chinese physician.



Shadi Albarqouni is a Professor of Computational Medical Imaging Research at the University of Bonn and an AI Young Investigator Group Leader at Helmholtz AI. Previously, he worked as a Visiting Scientist at Imperial College London and ETH Zurich, and as a Senior Research Scientist & Team Lead at the Technical University of Munich (TUM). Shadi has more than 100 publications (Citations > 9000, h-index: 33) in Medical Imaging Computing, Computer Vision, and Machine Learning published in MedIA, IEEE TMI, IEEE JBHI, IPMI, MICCAI, MIDL, ISBI, ICCV, ECCV, BMVC, NeurIPS, AAAI, and ICML. Shadi has been actively serving the community with different roles as a reviewer, session chair, area chair, program committee member, organizing committee member, and Program co-chair at MICCAI, MIDL, and ISBI, among other conferences. He has served as an Associate Editor for Special Issues at IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging and Medical Image Analysis.