

SPEAKERS BIOSKETCHES

Virtual Event: “How to maintain and build trust in immunization - a particular challenge in face of the COVID19 Pandemic ” - December 16th, 2020

The Mérieux Foundation Vaccine Acceptance Initiative

-With profound appreciation for their time and valuable contribution to this event -



KATHERINE L. O'BRIEN, MD, MPH World Health Organization (WHO)

Kate O'Brien is Director of the Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals Department at the World Health Organization, a role she took on in January 2019. In this role she is responsible for leading the overall work and strategy of the Department to advance the vision of reducing the health, social and economic burden of vaccine preventable diseases. The Director works across all levels of WHO (country, region and headquarters) in collaboration with partners to deliver country impact.

Dr. O'Brien trained as a pediatric infectious disease physician, epidemiologist and vaccinologist. She earned her BSc in chemistry from University of Toronto (Canada), her MD from McGill University (Canada), and her MPH from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (US) before completing her training at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as an Epidemic Intelligence Officer, in the Respiratory Diseases Branch.

Prior to joining WHO she was Professor of International Health and Epidemiology and Executive Director of the International Vaccine Access Center at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her scientific and policy work domestically and globally has focused on vaccine preventable illnesses, among both children and adults. The work has included surveillance, epidemiology, and vaccine clinical trials of pneumococcal disease; rotavirus; Haemophilus influenzae type b; respiratory syncytial virus and influenza vaccines. She has worked extensively with American Indian populations and in Africa and south Asia, partnering with local scientists and country program staff to develop rigorous scientific evidence and bring it into the vaccine policy arena, thereby accelerating the use and access to life-saving vaccines for children living in low resource countries and settings.

She has worked in close partnerships with the Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, university colleagues, NGOs, and with countries to advance programs and policies on child health. She has been honored with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Distinguished Service Award, the Sabin Vaccine Institute Young Investigator Award, the U.S. Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering (PECASE). She served on the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization for 6 years and on the Gavi Board.



MARGARET E. KRUK MD, MPH Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Dr. Margaret E. Kruk is Professor of Health Systems at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Kruk's research generates evidence on how health systems can improve health for people living in low-income countries. Working with colleagues in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nepal, South Africa, and India, among other countries, she develops novel measures of health system quality and studies the links between quality and population demand for health care, health outcomes, and confidence in the system. Dr. Kruk uses novel implementation science methods to evaluate large-scale health system reforms. She is Principal Investigator of the QuEST Centers and Network: a multi-country collaboration to produce evidence for improved health systems.

Previously, Dr. Kruk chaired the Lancet Global Health Commission on High Quality Health Systems in the SDG Era (HQSS Commission), a global initiative to redefine and measure quality in the health systems of lower-income countries. Prior to Harvard, Dr. Kruk was Associate Professor of Health Policy and Management and Director of the Better Health Systems Initiative at Columbia University and Assistant Professor of Health Management and Policy at the University of Michigan. She has held posts at the United Nations Development Program and McKinsey and Company and practiced medicine in northern Ontario, Canada. She holds an MD degree from McMaster University and an MPH from Harvard University. She is on Twitter @mkruk.



HEIDI LARSON
Vaccine Confidence Project at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

Heidi J. Larson, PhD, is Professor of Anthropology, Risk and Decision Science and is the Founding Director of the Vaccine Confidence Project at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. She is also Clinical Professor of Health Metrics Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, USA.

Prof. Larson's research focuses on the analysis of social and political factors that can affect confidence in and acceptance of health interventions. Her particular interest is on risk and rumour in health, particularly around vaccines and immunization. Professor Larson previously headed Global Immunization Strategy and Communication for UNICEF and chaired the GAVI Advocacy Task Force. She served on the FDA Medical Countermeasure (MCM) Emergency Communication Expert Working Group, and is Principle Investigator of

the EU-funded (EBODAC) project on the deployment, acceptance and compliance of Ebola vaccines in Africa. She is author of *STUCK: How Vaccine Rumors Start – and Why They Don't Go Away* (Oxford U Press, 2020).



THOMAS CUENI
IFPMA (International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations)

Thomas B. Cueni is Director General of IFPMA, the global association of pharmaceutical research companies, based in Geneva and is Secretary of the global Biopharmaceutical CEO Roundtable (BCR). In this capacity, Thomas B. Cueni was instrumental in creating the AMR Action Fund. A ground-breaking partnership, launched in 2020, that has raised nearly \$1 billion to bring 2-4 new antibiotics to patients by 2030. Thomas Cueni represents the innovative biopharmaceutical industry on the ACT Accelerator, the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, a unique global collaboration to accelerate development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines. Thomas B. Cueni is also Chair of the Business at OECD Health Committee.



ROBERT KANWAGI
Ebola Vaccine Deployment Acceptance & Compliance Programme (EBODAC)

Programme Coordinator for the Ebola Vaccine Deployment Acceptance & Compliance Programme (EBODAC) for the last 6 years and serves on executive committee for Sierra Leone programme and the steering committee for the vaccine deployment in DRC. Robert has led the development of context specific strategies for community engagement, participation and compliance for two doze regimen vaccine and the development and testing of enabling technologies to support data management and communication in Sierra Leone, DRC, Rwanda and Uganda.

Prior to joining EBODAC, Robert worked as a Technical Advisor for Adolescent Sexual Reproductive health with International Planned Parenthood Federation and as a Community Prevention Services Manager for USAID Northern Uganda Malaria AIDS & Tuberculosis (NUMAT) program in Uganda and with World Vision International in South Sudan as Integrated technical services Manager/Health Advisor. Robert holds a Bachelor of Arts Social Work & Social Administration from Makerere University Uganda, Master of Public Health from Lund University and post graduate diploma in International Youth & Adolescent work from Frobel Academy in Germany.

Robert has recently been appointed the Civil Society Representative to the COVAX Demand Working Group for the COVID-19 Vaccine roll out. Robert's area of interest is working in complex situations to deliver health programmes that target the most vulnerable. Teaching is my passionate, I approach everything with mindset of mentoring others.