



PRINCE MAHIDOL  
AWARD CONFERENCE

2017



ADDRESSING THE HEALTH OF  
VULNERABLE POPULATIONS  
FOR AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

# PS3.6

PARALLEL SESSION 3.6

Overcoming Stigma and Discrimination  
as Barriers to Social Inclusion

## BACKGROUND

Stigma and discrimination have profoundly negative impacts on health across a wide range of diseases and health conditions. A number of programs and interventions have had success in combating stigma, including those that have been responsive to the needs of key populations, and much has been learned from these programs in recent years. This session will draw on these experiences from HIV programs related to combatting stigma. The panel will also cover other health areas, conditions, or populations that are negatively impacted by stigma, including Ebola survivors, Ebola-affected communities, persons living with chronic viral hepatitis, and women affected by obstetric fistula. Panelists will be drawn from affected communities, public and private sector organizations, and advocacy groups, to discuss interventions enabling access to services as well as policy measures that establish standards and requirements of services, facilities and workplace settings.



MODERATOR

## Jennifer ADAMS

Acting Assistant Administrator  
US Agency for International Development

USA

Dr. Jennifer Adams is USAID's Acting Assistant Administrator in the Bureau for Global Health. She manages Population and Reproductive Health, Maternal and Child Health, and other special assignments.

Previously, Dr. Adams headed USAID's Office of Donor Engagement. Her duties involved analysis, communication, and collaborative efforts to generate joint understanding and action on key development priorities with both bilateral and multilateral donor partners around the world.

Jennifer Adams was appointed the first USAID Development Counselor to China in September, 2008. Before her post in Beijing, she was the Mission Director for USAID in Brazil, and was the Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Global Health Bureau.

Dr. Adams has worked for USAID for over 20 years, in the Central Asian Republics, Senegal, Brazil and Washington, D.C. Her positions included Economist, and managing social sector portfolios, including health, education and environment projects. In Brazil, she initiated a successful public private partnership, Mais Unidos, which engaged the 50 largest American companies to support social entrepreneurship.

Jennifer Adams graduated from Johns Hopkins University, has a M.Phil from the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex and a Ph.D in Economics from Cambridge University.



MODERATOR

## Quarraisha Abdool KARIM

Associate Scientific Director  
CAPRISA

South Africa

Quarraisha Abdool Karim, PhD, Associate Scientific Director of CAPRISA is an infectious diseases epidemiologist. She is the recipient of several prestigious local and international awards including the 2013 African Union's Kwame Nkrumah Prize for Science and Technology, 2014 TWAS-Lenovo Prize from The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) "for her exceptional and distinguished contributions to HIV prevention and women's health", and South Africa's highest honour, the Order of Mapungubwe, from the President of South Africa in 2013. Professor Abdool Karim's main research interests are in understanding the evolving HIV epidemic in South Africa; factors influencing acquisition of HIV infection in adolescent girls; and sustainable strategies to introduce HAART in resource-constrained settings. She has over 170 peer reviewed publications and several books and book chapters. She holds

Professorships in Clinical Epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, USA and in Public Health at the Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine, University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. Since 1998 she has played a central role in building the science base in southern Africa through the Columbia University - Southern African Fogarty AIDS International Training and Research Programme that has trained over 600 scientists in southern Africa. Professor Abdool Karim is currently a member of the PEPFAR Scientific Advisory Board and a member of the UNAIDS Scientific Expert Panel and Scientific Advisor to the Executive Director of UNAIDS. Notably she was the Principal Investigator of the landmark CAPRISA 004 tenofovir gel trial that provided proof of concept for Microbicides highlighted by Science as one of the Top 10 scientific breakthroughs in 2010.



## PANELISTS

### Christine AMISI

Coordinator of the Fistula Program  
Panzi Hospital

Republic of Congo

Dr. Christine Amisi, MD, MPH was born a small village in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Encouraged by her father to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor, Dr. Amisi excelled at school and graduated from medical college in the city of Bukavu, South Kivu. After working with organizations such as MSF, Dr. Amisi became the Coordinator of the Fistula Program at Panzi Hospital. In a region plagued with political instability and conflict, Panzi Hospital in Bukavu treats more than 2,000 survivors of SGBV a year including a large number suffering from traumatic fistula. Utilizing a holistic approach, Panzi Hospital provides medical care, psychosocial support, physical therapy, and job skills training for women and children seeing care the facility.



PANELISTS

Michael CASSELL

Team Leader for HIV and TB  
United States Agency for International Development  
Thailand

Dr. Michael Cassell is the Regional HIV and Tuberculosis Advisor for the U.S. Agency for International Development, and has served as an HIV technical advisor to the U.S. government for more than a decade in posts in Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Botswana. He served previously as the senior HIV prevention advisor in the Office of HIV/AIDS at USAID/Washington, and as co-chair of the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator's HIV prevention steering committee. He has worked on community-development initiatives in Thailand as a consultant for UNICEF, and as a research manager for the HIV Prevention Trials Network funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health. He has a doctorate in health behavior and health education from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health, a master's degree in journalism from Stanford University, and a master's degree in environmental management from Duke University. He is co-recipient of a regional Emmy award for his work as a scriptwriter on a televised news feature about a North Carolina teen's experience growing up with HIV, and received the 2016 Major Joe Haydon award from the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator for his contributions to HIV service innovations.



## PANELISTS

# Anchalee AVIHINGSANON

Head of Medical Department  
The HIV Netherlands Australia Thailand Research  
Collaboration (HIV-NAT)

Thailand

Dr Anchalee Avihingsanon is an infectious disease specialist and clinical trial researcher. She completed her medical student from Khonkean University in 1992, internal medicine from Chulalongkorn University in 1997 and Infectious Disease fellowship at Chulalongkorn University in 1999. She began her career as a general practitioner at the KhonKaeon hospital from 1992 to 1994. Later, she became an internist at the Samutsakorn hospital from 1996 to 1998. Then she underwent training for infectious diseases at Division of Infectious Diseases, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and the Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA from 2000-2002.

In 2003 to the present, she joined HIV-NAT, Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre (TRCARC as a clinical trial coordinator, served as an HIV consultant for several hospitals in Bangkok metropolitan, HIV consultant and education for Wednesday's Friend Club (a community based-organization), expert and consultant for the HIV working group for the Thailand National Health Security office, and member of the community Advisory Board (CAB) for the TRCARC. In 2011, she is a member of the committee for the Thai AIDS Society and continues to be a very important member of the organization. At the moment, she is the country's clinical hepatitis expert/consultant. Each year, she will provide HCV trainings in 5 different regions in Thailand for professional health care workers.

She has more than 10 years experiences doing clinical trials and working in the field of HIV/AIDS as a principle investigator/co-investigator or project leader/coordinator as per Good Clinical Practice (GCP). She has an expansive experience as project leader/coordinator for Thailand for several INSIGHT network studies.

Her interests are vast and plenty, ranging from HIV co-infections (i.e., hepatitis B Virus (HBV), hepatitis C Virus (HCV), syphilis, tuberculosis (TB), influenza), comorbidities (i.e., depression, anxiety, hypophosphate, diabetes, vitamin D deficiency, hypertension, dyslipidemia) and long-term effects of antiretroviral therapy (i.e., chronic kidney disease, osteoporosis/osteopenia/ cardiovascular disease), HIV in the elderlies and women, conducting low dose/optimization/cost-effectiveness studies. Recently, she has expanded to hepatitis B and C field. She is also focusing on drug user population, trying to promote HIV, HBV and HCV screening and treatment. Healthy liver campaign is launched this year. Next step will be tuberculosis, HIV, HBV, HCV in prisoners.

She has received many scholarships (i.e., 9 consecutive international scholarships to attend the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, USA) and awards (i.e., AUSAIDS: fellowship leader award) to attend various conferences (i.e., Australian Society for HIV Medicine, International AIDS Society, Resource Limited Scholarship from the International congress on Drug Therapy in HIV Infection, European AIDS conference, Glasgow). Most impressive is the NUFFIC PhD grant award from the Netherlands Embassy which she received from 2011 to 2013.

Since 2014, she is a member of the committee on hepatitis transformation for ACTG and member of the committee on International hepatitis coinfection working group. Last year, she became a member for both the Hepatitis B cure research and International HCV research committees. Currently, she is working as writing and working committee for National HIV/AIDS program, National Tuberculosis and HIV program and National Hepatitis program. She serves on the national working hepatitis group and was instrumental in getting HBV and HCV testing available through the national health care program annually for HIV-infected people, free HBV and HCV treatment.

At the moment, she has more than 10 hepatitis studies with ACTG (NIH, USA), Chulalongkorn University, the Kirby Institute for Infection and Immunity in Society (Sydney, Australia), amfAR/TREAT Asia (Bangkok, Thailand), and the Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity (Melbourne, Australia). Last year, she was awarded the Australia-APEC Women in Research Fellowship Award which is a prestigious award for women in the research field.

She has published more than 80 papers in international, peer-reviewed, journals. She has more than 50 Masters and PhD students. She is currently also an adjunct faculty member of the Division of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University. She is currently one of the most sought well-renowned infectious disease specialist from a resource-limited setting, Thailand. She is often requested to review manuscripts from international peer-reviewed journals and provide talks at various conferences globally.



PANELISTS

Guemou ACHILLE

Ebola Survivor /Association Representative  
John Snow Research & Training Institute

Guinea