

## 2.3

Making

### **REGIONAL NETWORKS WORK**

Less formal non-treaty non-regulation trust based disease surveillance networks represent the “art of the possible” with respect to responding in diverse ways to real needs and challenges. However, the networks are not yet fully developed in their expertise and also face the challenges of synergizing with the more formal systems such as the WHO International Health Regulations (IHR) framework and those by OIE and FAO for animal health. Nevertheless there are clear advantages of this less-formal approach and opportunities for systematization, building on the achievements of Regional Disease Surveillance networks; Middle East; Mekong Basin; Southern Africa; Southeastern Europe and East Africa. The balancing act is to maintain the nimble less formal nature of this distributed network resource while harmonizing and synchronizing efforts with the formal mechanism so that a robust response to globalized infectious disease is present anywhere and everywhere always.

#### **MODERATOR**

**Nigel LIGHTFOOT**

Executive Director

*CORDS*

*France*

This is what the modern world requires for population security; it will require work to accomplish. Part of the systematizing and synergizing of all these newly emerging less-formal trust based networks involves building multi sectoral and cross network connections; CORDS is doing that. By linking regional disease surveillance networks and intergovernmental agencies in various sectors, CORDS exemplifies the shifting patterns of international collaboration that will be needed to prevent, detect, and fight all types of biological dangers. CORDS combines informal trust based bottom-up and top-down solutions-oriented approaches, which together are re-shaping the global disease surveillance landscape. By pursuing a common vision where disease no longer threatens the well being of communities and prosperity of nations, CORDS is revitalizing international efforts against biological threats and helping to build ‘A World United Against Infectious Disease’.

## **GOAL**

To strengthen regional disease surveillance networks and CORDS by illuminating the concept of trust and providing solutions to promote global policies to build solidarity for cross border cooperation and a world united against infectious disease.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- Introduce the evolution and varying models of regional disease surveillance networks that compliment the existing global surveillance architecture
- Present innovations of cross border cooperation in surveillance using examples of regional networks and CORDS
- Identify political influences faced by regional surveillance systems that challenge and promote cross sectoral / cross border work
- Discuss forward thinking concepts to strengthen applied OH concepts on a global level using the example of CORDS and laboratory networks
- Record recommendations to expand regional and global cooperation

## **PANEL**

Critical analysis of Networks and creation of trust using some material from Emerging Health Threats Journal Supplement. How they started cooperation, what policies were created, reality of working across conflicted borders; what is needed to sustain, how they add value to surveillance and to IHR, models of networks.

### **PANELISTS**

- **Nigel Lightfoot**, Executive Director, CORDS, France
- **Alex Leventhal**, Chairman, MECIDS, Israel
- **Bounlay, Phommasack**, Chair of MBDS and Director General, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Health, Lao PDR
- **Dominic Kambarage**, Deputy Director (Animal Health), SACIDS, Tanzania
- **Stanley Sonoiya**, Principal Health Officer, EAIDSNet, Tanzania
- **Silvia Bino**, SEEHN and Head, Control of Infectious Diseases Department, Institute of Public Health, Albania
- **Pongpisut Jongudomsuk**, Chairman, APEIR and Director, Health Systems Research Institute, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
- **Christophe Longuet**, Medical Director, Fondation Merieux, France

## **AUDIENCE DISCUSSION**

### **ANALYSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**

Other networks will be given the opportunity to share their experiences by contributions from the audience. Identify the actions to increase global cooperation and overcome the barriers to effective cross border/ cross sectoral disease surveillance. How and where do we build the next regional networks of CORDS?

## **MOVING FORWARDS**

Reflections. How can regional networks move forward, financing, getting governments involved in sustainability and new networks.

### **PANELISTS**

- **Pierre Nabeth**, Team leader, World Health Organization, France
- **Louise Gresham**, CEO, Fondation Merieux, USA
- **Kumnuan Ungchusak**, ASEAN+3 Field Epidemiology Training Network and Senior Expert Preventive Medicine, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
- **Martyn Jeggo**, Director, CSIRO Animal, Food and Health Sciences, Australia
- **Nigel Lightfoot**, Executive Director, CORDS, France

### **MODERATOR**

**Mark RWEYEMAMU**

Executive Director

*Southern African Centre  
for Infectious Disease  
Surveillance (SACIDS)  
Tanzania*

### **SUMMATION**



Dr Silvia Bino, Associate Professor of Infectious Diseases, Head, Control of Infectious Diseases Department, Institute of Public Health, Tirana, Albania

Silva Bino, MD, Ph.D, is the Head of the Control of Infectious Diseases Department of the Institute of Public Health and an Associate Professor of Infectious Diseases at the Faculty of Medicine, Tirana University, Albania. She was the Director of National Public Health Institute from 2000-2006, and has devoted her career to novel strategies to control infectious diseases and strengthen surveillance systems in resource poor countries.

Dr Bino coordinated surveillance, diagnostic, and response activities for pandemic influenza A (H1N1) 2009 in Albania. She is also in the national group for IHR implementation, and has been involved in IHR implementation in Southeastern Europe.

Dr.Bino has been the Regional Coordinator of the network to strengthen surveillance and control of communicable diseases in South-eastern Europe, which has fostered strengthening of early warning systems, policy development, preparedness and response, applied epidemiology training and expert and institutional collaboration in IHR implementation.

Since 2000 she has been coordinating the Immunization program and helped to establish a syndromic Early Warning System in Albania.

She has served as consultant to WHO and other UN agencies and until April 2009 was a member of Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization and later on serving in Review Committee on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) in relation to Pandemic (H1N1) 2009.

She earned her medical and doctoral degrees from Tirana University and followed with postgraduate training on infectious diseases, microbiology, epidemiology and public health in Switzerland, Belgium, the United Kingdom and the USA.

## **SILVIA BINO**

Head

*Control of Infectious  
Diseases Department  
Institute of Public Health  
Albania*



Formerly Senior Director at the Nuclear Threat Initiative in Washington DC, Gresham has expertise in national and international disease surveillance systems in the Middle East, Southern Africa, and SE Asia, in particular managing the intersection of public health, international policy and global security.

Dr. Gresham participated in the development of the first modern tuberculosis laboratory in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

She earlier served as the senior epidemiologist San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency and is an adjunct associate professor with the Graduate School of Public Health, San Diego State University.

## **LOUISE GRESHAM**

CEO

*Fondation Merieux*  
USA



Prof Martyn Jeggo is the Director of CSIRO's Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) and has headed AAHL since September 2002.

Prof Jeggo brings a wealth of experience in controlling and detecting exotic and emerging animal disease to his role of Director.

In his time at the facility, some A\$55 million has been brought in to improve and upgrade the facility.

Prior to joining AAHL from 1996-2002, Prof Jeggo was the Head of the Animal Production and Health Science Section of the Joint Food and Agricultural Organisation/ International Atomic Energy Agency (FAO/IAEA) Division of Agriculture, in Vienna, Austria.

In that role, he managed a range of FAO/IAEA Coordinated Research Programs involving more than 200 research contracts relating to animal production and health. These were operational in some 130 countries.

Among other international activities, Prof Jeggo also developed an international external quality-assurance program for veterinary laboratories.

For more than 15 years, Prof Jeggo oversaw the management of laboratory networks dealing with, rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia in Africa, foot and mouth disease in Asia and brucellosis worldwide.

Prof Jeggo has visited more than 150 national veterinary laboratories in Africa, Asia and the Americas. He has held the positions of Director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories in the Yemen Arab Republic and Head of the Department of Immunology at the United Kingdom's Institute of Animal Health Pirbright Laboratories.

## **MARTYN JEGGO**

Director

*CSIRO Animal  
Food and Health Sciences  
Australia*

Prof Jeggo has a:

- Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine from the Royal Veterinary College, London, in the United Kingdom (UK)
- Master of Tropical Veterinary Science from the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine, Edinburgh University, UK
- Doctor of Philosophy from Surrey University, UK.

Prof Jeggo's is also a leading member of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Global Research Alliance.



Pongpisut Jongudomsuk, MD degree at the Faculty of Medicine, Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Master of Public Health at the Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp, Certificate of Preventive and Family Medicine of the Thai Medical Council.

After ten years working in rural district hospital in northeastern of Thailand, he changed his career to work in the Ministry of Public Health as Deputy Director of Health Insurance Office, National Project Director of the (EU-supported) Health Care Reform Project, Director of the Bureau of Policy and Planning at the National Health Security Office, and Head of the Technical Support Team of the Thai Minister of Public Health.

Currently he is the director of the Health Systems Research Institute. His main areas of interest are health financing, health care reform, primary care and health policy and systems research.

**PONGPISUT  
JONGUDOMSUK**

Chairman  
*APEIR*

Director  
*Health Systems Research  
Institute  
Ministry of Public Health  
Thailand*



Prof. Leventhal is the director of the Department of International Relations in the Ministry of Health of Israel. Previously he served for almost 16 years as the head of the Public Health Services in the Ministry and prior to that the position of district medical officer of Jerusalem in the Ministry of Health.

Prof. Leventhal is a physician who received his M.D. and M.P.H. degrees at Hadassah Hebrew University Schools of Medicine and Public Health in Jerusalem; and a Master in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He holds diplomas in Surgical Urology, Public Health and Health Administration. He is an adjunct clinical professor lecturer in the Hebrew University and Hadassah School of Public Health. He has published more than 120 articles in his research interest fields of public health policy, infectious disease surveillance and international and global health.

Prof. Leventhal is involved in various Public Health projects, seminars and steering committees in the European region of World Health Organization and serves as a member of its Standing Committee. He believes in public health as a bridge between nations and people. He is one of the founders and chairman of the Executive Board of the Middle East Consortium of Infectious Disease Surveillance (MECIDS). He is a member of the Executive Committee of SEEHN (South East European Health Network), CORDS (Connecting Organizations for Regional Disease Surveillance) and EpiSouth (network of Communicable Disease Control in Southern European and Mediterranean Countries).

## **ALEX LEVENTHAL**

Chairman

*MECIDS*

*Israel*





Professor Nigel Lightfoot CBE has a long and distinguished career in public health and global health security and is now the Chief Executive Officer of CORDS (Connecting Organisations for Regional Disease Surveillance). He is an Associate Fellow of Chatham House and a Member of the Kangaroo Group in the European parliament.

2012

Professor Lightfoot was until very recently the Chief Advisor for Emergency Response at the Health Protection Agency, leading on pandemic influenza, emerging health threats, CBRN response strategies and international relations in these areas. He continued this expert advisory work as consultant to the Department of Health, the Home Office and the Drinking Water Inspectorate. He is also Senior Advisor to Emergent Biosolutions.

Trained originally as a consultant medical microbiologist, Nigel served for several years in the Royal Navy. He was a Director in the Public Health Laboratory Service from 1982-2002 and appointed to the Department of Health as Head of CBRN Training and Scenario Development. He developed cutting edge multi-agency exercises for CBRN preparedness, and as Director of Emergency Response he set up the Emergency Response Division of the Health Protection Agency from its inception in 2003 until 2010. He was also a non-executive Director of the Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research, Porton Down, from 1994 to 2003.

Professor Lightfoot has enormous experience in public health microbiology. He was responsible for the development of medical countermeasures policy in the Royal Navy, becoming the Navy's consultant medical microbiologist in 1979, and on leaving continued in this role as consultant advisor. During the Gulf War in 1991 he developed methods for the detection of BW agents in water and thereafter directed a research project to develop rapid methods, now available to the water industry. This work built upon his wide experience in water and public health where he has published many papers and co-ordinated 4 important EU projects. He has carried out research into anthrax and tularaemia and in 1995 he joined a DH working group to develop guidance on responding to the deliberate release of chemical

## **NIGEL LIGHTFOOT**

Executive Director

*CORDS  
France*

and biological agents. He later implemented the PHLS Deliberate Release Team - a multi agency group that went on to produce the leading public health guidance on biological terrorism agents.

He is a past member of the Defence Service Advisory Council (CBRN Board), examining and informing MOD research in this area. He was appointed by Secretary of State for Defence to the Advisory Group on Medical Countermeasures - a body that advises on defence against chemical and biological weapons. As expert advisor to the Chief Medical Officer, he has made significant contributions to the Global Health Security Network of the G7 where he is co-chair of the Risk Management and Coordination Working Group. Nigel's breadth of work is a testament to his talent and expertise - he leads the Early Alerting and Reporting project, he is expert adviser to the FCO Arms Control Department and contributes to policy in the control of terrorist threats, he was a member of the Royal Society's Working group on Detection and Decontamination of Chemical and Biological Agents, and he has sat on Government Expert Inquiries into anthrax vaccine, quarantine of birds and the Foot and Mouth disease outbreak at Pirbright.

Professor Lightfoot was appointed CBE in the 2009 New Year's Honours List for services to public health.



Dr Christophe Longuet is the Medical Director of Fondation Mérieux since March 2007.

Its responsibilities at the foundation include training and knowledge sharing for health professionals and projects aiming to strengthening the health systems and the access of the populations to better services.

Medical doctor, specializing in tropical diseases and HIV/AIDS, he worked during twelve years at Bichat Claude Bernard Hospital, Paris, where he participated in clinical research into HIV/AIDS and malaria treatment, and in medical care of people. He still keeps a clinical practice on a part time basis in the infectious diseases department of Croix Rousse Hospital, Lyon.

Dr. Christophe Longuet has a nine-year experience in the pharmaceutical industry (Merck Sharp & Dohme) where he had the responsibility to introduce antiretrovirals in Africa within international partnerships with WHO and UNAIDS. At MSD he has also been in charge of the humanitarian donation of Mectizan for the control of onchocerciasis.

Prior to this, he has been district medical officer in the Commonwealth of Dominica for the French Co-operation and then practiced internal medicine in Pointe à Pitre University Hospital, Guadeloupe.

Dr. Christophe Longuet also holds a Master's Degree in International Public Health from the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, and a postgraduate degree in Health Economics from Paris IX-Dauphine University.

## **CHRISTOPHE LONGUET**

Medical Director

*Fondation Merieux  
France*



## **PIERRE NABETH**

Team leader  
*World Health Organization  
France*

Dr Pierre Nabeth graduated as a Medical Doctor from the University of Paris, France, with a specialization in biostatistics and epidemiology.

He started his professional life in hospital settings and in general practice, then worked for medical NGOs in Liberia, Guinea, and Malawi, as coordinator and head of missions. He has gained a large experience in the management of health systems and in the control of outbreaks (mainly cholera) in populations in precarious situations (war, refugees).

He worked at Epicentre, an agency specialized in epidemiology, as a researcher, primarily on viral haemorrhagic fevers, nutrition, and epidemiological surveillance, contributing to the investigation of the Ebola virus outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo, in 1995. He was also in charge of the training department.

As a technical adviser in the Ministry of Health, Nouakchott, Mauritania, he was in charge of analyzing and disseminating information produced by the National Health Information System, but was also involved in several outbreak investigations. He contributed to the building of a project associating laboratory specialists, and animal and human health specialists for the detection and control of Rift Valley Fever outbreaks.

He joined the Pasteur Institute in Dakar, Senegal, as Head of the Epidemiology Unit where he was in charge of the management of a cohort follow-up study on acquisition of protection against malaria, but also conducted epidemiological studies on resistance to anti-malarial drugs and to antibiotics. He investigated outbreaks of Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever in Senegal, Mauritania and Iran.

He coordinated two training courses in epidemiology targeting professionals from Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia.

Since 2006, he has been working at WHO where he has held different positions. He is currently leading a team providing support to countries in field epidemiology training, epidemiological surveillance, and building of networks, in the scope of the International Health Regulations. His current projects concern the development of guidance on early warning, event based surveillance, coordination of surveillance between points of entry and national surveillance systems, and development of national strategies for the strengthening of human resources in field epidemiology. He is also coordinating the development of software for weekly surveillance of epidemic prone diseases in Africa.

He is a member of network steering committees and boards: Tephinet, Episouth, SURVAC.



Dr. Bounlay PHOMMASACK, Medical Doctor and Public Health Specialist, has spent nearly 30 years working at Provincial Health Department (nearly 15 years) and working at Ministry of Health (nearly 15 years). Currently working at the Ministry of health, holding two positions such as Director General of the Department of Disease Control (DDC), Ministry of Health of the Lao PDR, and Director General of the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Coordination Office (NEIDCO), under the National CDC Secretariat of the Government's Office.

Since 2010, Dr. BounlayPhommasack,was elected as Chair of the Executive Board of the MBDS (Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance), Chair of Inter-Ministerial Task Force for Tobacco Control in Lao PDR in 2008.

Since 1994 up to 2012, Dr. BounlayPhommasack has been invited by WHO to be Temporary Advisor in several disciplines ranking from: Healthy Cities, Partnership for Parasite Control, Communicable Diseases, Maternal Child Health and Tobacco Control.

Under ASEAN, currently Dr. BounlayPhommasackis the Head of Asean Expert Group on Communicable Diseases and Alternate Chair of SOMHD of the Ministry of Health, Laos.

**BOUNLAY  
PHOMMASACK**

Chair of MBDS and  
Director General

*Department of Disease  
Control, Ministry of Health  
Lao PDR*



Mark Rweyemamu is the Executive Director of the Southern African Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance (SACIDS), which is a One Health Virtual Centre linking academic and research institutions in Southern Africa (primarily the DRC, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia) in smart partnership with centres of science in industrialised countries, especially the Royal Veterinary College and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He manages grants from the Wellcome Trust, Rockefeller Foundation and Google Foundation which total approximates USDollar 11 million. The SACIDS Headquarters is located at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Morogoro, Tanzania where it is associated with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

He is a Visiting Professor at the RVC, London and the Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, Tanzania. Previously he headed the FAO programme on infectious diseases including the coordination of global rinderpest eradication. He has worked in government, industry and academia. He has consulted widely for national governments and international organisations. He was a member of the EFSA Working Group on assessing the risk of Foot and Mouth Disease introduction into the EU from developing countries, and The Foresight study on Infectious Diseases – Preparing for the Future.

He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the UK Institute for Animal Health and the Chairperson of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the GALVmed, a public-private partnership that focuses on supporting the development of biologicals and therapeutics for orphan diseases in developing countries. He is Chair of CORDS, a One Health focused global network that connects organizations for regional disease surveillance. He has published over 100 papers in peer reviewed journals.

**MARK  
RWEYNEMAMU**

Executive Director

*Southern African Centre  
for Infectious Disease  
Surveillance (SACIDS)  
Tanzania*



Dr. Stanley Sonoiya is the Principal Health Officer of the East African Community which is the regional inter-governmental organization that comprise five (5) Partner States, namely; the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, with its Headquarters located in Arusha, Tanzania. The Mission of the East African Community is to widen and deepen economic, political, social and cultural integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa through regional cooperation on health, including taking joint action in the prevention and control of various diseases and public health events of national and internal importance, among other provisions as stipulated in the Treaty on the Establishment of the East African Community.

Dr. Sonoiya was appointed by the Council of Ministers of the East African Community (EAC) as the Principal Health Officer and the first employee under the EAC Health Sector with effect from 1st October, 2004. Before he joined the Community in the year 2004, Dr. Sonoiya was working as a Medical Specialist in Paediatrics, Nephrology and Immunology at Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya.

Previously, Dr. Sonoiya worked in various capacities within the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kenya including holding the position of the District Medical Officer of Health in-charge of Nakuru District, Rift-Valley Province, Kenya, the Medical Superintendent of the Rift Valley Provincial General Hospital, Rift-Valley Province, Kenya and also the National Manager of the Kenya Expanded Programme on Immunization (KEPI).

Dr. Sonoiya has wide local and international training in various institutions of higher learning in Kenya, United States of America (USA), United Kingdom (UK) and Japan. He graduated from the University of Nairobi with the degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB, ChB) in 1986 and also with the post-graduate degree of Master of Medicine in Paediatrics and Child Health (M. Med. Paeds) in 1993.

Subsequently, Dr. Sonoiya undertook further post-graduate medical training in General Nephrology at the Sheffield Kidney Institute, University of Sheffield, England, UK. In addition, he also undertook

## **STANLEY SONOIYA**

Principal Health Officer  
*The East African  
Integrated Disease  
Surveillance Network  
(EAIDSNet)  
Tanzania*

further graduate studies in Immunology at the Graduate School of Health and Life Sciences, King's College, University of London, UK and at the Renal Transplant Unit, Department of Nephrology, Transplantation and Urology at Guy's and St. Thomas Hospital NHS Trust, London, England, UK.

Previously, Dr. Sonoiya attended public health management training at the Harvard University School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts, USA and he is a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow (HHHF) of Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Dr. Sonoiya also undertook further training on the "Eradication of Vaccine Preventable Diseases" in Fukuoka, Japan under a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Programme.





Dr. Kumnuan Ungchusak was born in 1955. He received his MD from Siriraj Medical School, Thailand, and got his Master of Public Health from Mahidol University. He also joined a two-year on the job training of the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) under the Thai Ministry of Health in 1984.

Since then he acted as field epidemiologist who supervises communicable diseases surveillance and outbreak investigation in the country. He served as the director of Thailand FETP and became the Director of Bureau of Epidemiology from 2001-2008 oversee the country surveillance and investigation network. At present, He is the senior expert in preventive medicine, Department of Disease Control. He played role for the establishment of “SRRT” or Surveillance Rapid Response Team which is now on function in every district and province of Thailand.

His recent work are related to Avian Influenza, Pandemic Influenza , Public health emergency of international concern especially in the Asean region. He has served as one of the review committee appointed by WHO Director General for the first review of International Health Regulation and pandemic response. He is also currently Chair of the ASEAN+3 Field Epidemiology Training Network.

**KUMNUAN  
UNGCHUSAK**

Senior Expert Preventive  
Medicine

*Department of Disease  
Control  
Ministry of Public Health  
Thailand*