



# KEYNOTE ADDRESS

- **Uche Veronica Amazigo**, Prince Mahidol Award Laureate 2012 and Former Director, African Program for Onchocerciasis Control, World Health Organization, Federal Republic of Nigeria
- **Sir Michael David Rawlins**, Prince Mahidol Award Laureate 2012 and Founding Chairman, National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, United Kingdom
- **Bernard Vallat**, Director General, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), France
- **Punchawee Sukbut**, Epidemiologist and Technical Health Officer, Mukdahan Provincial Health Office, Thailand
- **David Rockefeller, Jr.**, Board Chair, The Rockefeller Foundation, USA



Dr. Uche Veronica Amazigo is internationally recognized as a leading figure in the introduction and application of the innovative Community-Directed Treatment mechanism and control of neglected tropical diseases. Working with remote rural communities in her native Nigeria, who had been plagued for centuries by Onchocerciasis (River blindness), she discovered the previously unrecognized importance of onchocercal skin lesions, severe itching, depigmentation and resultant devastating social stigma. This landmark research led to the expansion of Onchocerciasis control efforts to 19 countries in Africa. She was instrumental in the development and scaling-up of a novel model that made it possible for community members to play a determining role in distributing medicine to affected villagers. Dr. Amazigo played a pivotal part in the success of Onchocerciasis control by strengthening community health systems and helping to engage and empower 500,000 communities across all countries covered by the African Programme on Onchocerciasis (APOC), especially while she was Director of the Programme from 2005-2011. This unique, approach, ideally suited to African conditions, is cost-effective and tremendously increases the coverage of eligible persons being treated by the safe and highly-effective drug donated specifically for the purpose. Furthermore, it proved that trained drug distributors selected by the community from among their peers, no matter their resources or skills, can adopt the role normally played by trained healthcare specialists - and will do so voluntarily if provided with the opportunity. The concept of community-directed treatment has, since 1997, been implemented in many African nations and around the world. In 2015, an estimated 90 million people will be regularly receiving treatment for Onchocerciasis and 40,000 people annually will be prevented from losing their sight. It is envisaged that Onchocerciasis may well be eliminated as a public health problem in many areas in Africa by 2025.

**UCHE VERONICA  
AMAZIGO**

Prince Mahidol Award  
Laureate 2012 and  
Former Director

*African Program for  
Onchocerciasis Control  
World Health Organization,  
Federal Republic of Nigeria*

The success of the community-directed approach results from linking research and management strategies and by empowering communities to fully participate in distributing medicines to the affected population.

Although community-directed treatment was introduced as a strategy to increase coverage and access to a drug for Onchocerciasis, it went on to have impact on the control of several other major diseases and essential healthcare services in Africa as it can easily be adapted to deliver a variety of cost-effective health interventions to the remotest of communities and difficult to access locations. It is estimated that, in addition to protecting 120 million Africans from Onchocerciasis, the community-directed treatment system benefited a further 40 million Africans in 2011 by delivering products and interventions to combat malaria and a variety of intestinal parasites, along with vaccines, nutritional supplements and health education. Dr. Amazigo received her Ph.D. in Biology and Medical Parasitology from the University of Vienna in Austria, a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Parasitology from the Bernhard-Nocht Institute of Tropical Medicine in Hamburg, Germany and a Fellowship in International Health from Harvard School of Public Health, U.S.A. After retiring from WHO in 2011, she has launched an NGO to apply the community-directed approach in school health and feeding programmes in Nigeria.



Chairman, National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)  
President, Royal Society of Medicine, London  
Honorary Professor, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine  
Emeritus Professor, University of Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne  
President, Royal Society of Medicine, United Kingdom

Sir Michael David Rawlins is an academic physician specializing in clinical pharmacology and general (internal) medicine. He has been passionate about basing decisions on the use of diagnostic and therapeutic interventions on evidence whether from randomised controlled trials or observational studies. Moreover he believes that the evidence base should encompass both clinical and cost effectiveness. He established the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) in 1999 in order to give advice to healthcare professionals, working in the British health service, measures to provide patients with the highest attainable standards of care. The institute appraises the cost effectiveness of both new and established interventions as well as publishing clinical guidelines that encompass the pathway of care for people with specific conditions.

The global interest in NICE's approach to developing evidence-based advice for healthcare professionals and healthcare systems prompted the Institute, in 2007, to establish an international division. This offers assistance, particularly to lower and middle income countries, in developing healthcare programmes informed by evidence. The Institute's international division has led missions to over 40 countries (including Thailand) and provided assistance in developing national health technology assessment programmes, in developing clinical guidelines and – in some instances – establishing their own institutes.

## **SIR MICHAEL DAVID RAWLINS**

Prince Mahidol Award  
Laureate 2012 and  
Founding Chairman

*National Institute for  
Health and Clinical  
Excellence,  
United Kingdom*

Sir Michael graduated in medicine from obtained his medical degree from St. Thomas's Hospital, University of London. He undertook postgraduate training in general medicine and clinical pharmacology at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School in London, and at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm.



**DAVID  
ROCKEFELLER, JR.**

Board Chair

*The Rockefeller  
Foundation  
USA*

David Rockefeller, Jr. was elected Board Chair of the Rockefeller Foundation in 2010. As the twelfth board chair, he is at the helm of the Foundation as it celebrates its centennial in 2013. Mr. Rockefeller has been an active trustee of the Foundation since 2006

Mr. Rockefeller is a director and former chairman of Rockefeller Financial and is an active participant in the nonprofit arena, especially in the areas of environment, the arts, public education and philanthropy.

Mr. Rockefeller is a past vice chair of the National Park Foundation, where he reported directly to the Secretary of the Interior. He served as a member of the Pew Oceans Commission that issued a comprehensive report on the health of U.S. marine waters in June 2003. His commitment to the recommendations of the Pew Commission —and his passion for sailing and the sea—fueled the formation of Sailors for the Sea, a “new voice for ocean conservation.” As a sailor, he has raced and cruised for more than 40 years in waters throughout the world.

Mr. Rockefeller is an advisor and former vice chair of the Alaska Conservation Foundation, and a founder of the Alaska Fund for the Future, an organization dedicated to preserving the Alaskan natural environment and its native cultures.

Mr. Rockefeller is the former chair of the North American Nominating Committee for the Praemium Imperiale, the Japanese prize for outstanding international achievement in the arts. In addition, he is a trustee of the Museum of Modern Art, the Asian Cultural Council, and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He chaired Arts, Education and Americans, which produced the book, *Coming to Our Senses: The Significance of the Arts for American Education*. He is also a founding trustee of The Cantata Singers in Boston and performed with them as a chorister for four decades.

Mr. Rockefeller is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. His former foundation affiliations have included service as Trustee and Chairman of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, President of the Rockefeller Family Fund, and a Trustee of the Boston Foundation.

He is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.



Dr Bernard Vallat was elected Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in May 2000 by the World Assembly, which brings together the national Delegates of all OIE Member Countries. His first five-year term of office began on 1 January 2001 and his second term on 1 January 2005. In May 2010, the Organisation's 178 Member Countries elected Dr Vallat for a third term of office.

Bernard Vallat graduated from the National Veterinary School in Toulouse (France) in 1971, qualifying as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. He then took two postgraduate courses, first in tropical veterinary medicine (1972) and then in animal nutrition at the Institut National Agronomique in Paris (1973). In addition to this scientific training he studied economics and management at Paris X University, where he obtained an advanced graduate diploma in 1983.

He joined the French civil service in 1973, having passed the national competitive examination for a post as public Veterinary Inspector.

The first seventeen years of his professional career were spent outside France, working on multilateral or bilateral overseas cooperation schemes in a number of countries in Central Africa and the Indian Ocean.

This work involved managing programmes on livestock health and production and training for farmers/livestock producers. He ran these programmes at the field level for six years before going on to supervise them at a national level in various developing countries.

In 1990, Dr Vallat was recalled to France by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Overseas Cooperation. His new responsibilities included the management of international negotiations for the establishment and follow-up of development projects and technical assistance arrangements in developing countries, in most cases co-financed by specialist international organisations.

His activities within the Ministry were then broadened from livestock production and health matters to include the supervision of phytosanitary issues, agricultural production and markets, agronomic research, agricultural and industrial policies and the promotion of North-South trade.

## **BERNARD VALLAT**

Director General

*World Organization for  
Animal Health (OIE)  
France*

In 1994, he returned to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to manage the Mission for International Sanitary Co-ordination within the General Directorate for Food, and was promoted a year later to the post of Chief Veterinary Officer for France, with the title of Deputy Director General for Food (in charge of animal and plant health and food safety and quality at national level). In this capacity he was closely involved in the national and European Community management of major health crises, such as those involving BSE and dioxin.

Dr Vallat was elected President of the OIE International Animal Health Code Commission from 1997 to 2000. The work accomplished under his presidency, within the framework of the priorities and requirements decided by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE led to numerous normative texts being adopted within the space of three years.

In 2008 he received in Philadelphia the Penn Vet World Award at the University of Pennsylvania, an award that is seen in the profession as the major Prize for Veterinary Medicine worldwide.

During the past few years the OIE's activities and influence in the world have grown to an extent unprecedented in the history of this Organisation, which was created in 1924 before the United Nations and has its Headquarters in Paris.

Bernard Vallat was born in 1947 and is the father of three children. He has received several French decorations: Officier de la Légion d'honneur and Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite français; he is also Officier du Mérite Agricole in France and holds equivalent awards in several other countries. He is a member of a number of scientific and/or veterinary academies in France and in several other countries around the world.



Punchawee Sukbut is a trained epidemiologist and technical health officer at Mukdahan Provincial Health Office in a border province of Thailand. She received a Degree in Nursing Science in Advanced Midwifery from Boromarajonani College of Nursing in Ubon Ratchathani province in 1988 and has worked in the field of epidemiology and border health for 23 years. She has received numerous training in epidemiology, including Pre-service Training in Field Epidemiology, Community Epidemiology, and “International Training Course in Partnership Building for Healthy Border” under the Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance project (MBDS) supported by the Rockefeller Foundation.

Her work has been recognized with many national awards such as Outstanding Officer in SARS Control and First Place for the project entitled “Development of Surveillance System in Mukdahan – Suvannakhet and Development of Geographic Information System (GIS) for Poultry Farms for Avian Influenza Prevention and Control” at the “Network Development for Zoonotic Outbreaks Preparedness and Response” Contest. In addition, Punchawee Sukbut was awarded “Outstanding and Dedicated Epidemiologist” in 2009 from the Bureau of Epidemiology and Society for Strengthening Epidemiology, Thailand. She was selected by the Thai Ministry of Public Health to be the Thai-Lao Border Coordinator and member of the working group to draft the Second Master Plan for Thai Border Health, 2012-2016. Punchawee Sukbut has been invited to speak on epidemiology, surveillance and disease control, and cross-border collaboration and communication for border health at many conferences.

## **PUNCHAWEE SUKBUT**

Epidemiologist and  
Technical Health Officer

*Mukdahan Provincial  
Health Office  
Thailand*