

# Films for Health: an Indo-Swiss Partnership

March 31-April 1, 2015, Basel, Switzerland

## Tuesday, March 31, Stadtkino, Klostersgasse 5, Basel

### Welcome and Screening of Feature Film

- 18.30 **Welcome and Introduction**, *Mitchell Weiss, Swiss TPH, and Mohan Agashe, principal actor*
- 18:45 **Astu - So Be It**: Screening of award-winning feature film  
Experience of caregivers and family of an aging parent with dementia in urban Pune, India. A retired Sanskrit scholar suffering from Alzheimer's dementia is by turns philosophical, wise, loving, angry and childlike. *Directors: Sumitra Bhave and Sunil Sukthankar. Principal actor: Mohan Agashe*
- 20:45 **Discussion followed by cocktails**

## Wednesday, April 1, Hotel Bildungszentrum 21, Missionstrasse 21, Basel

### Welcome and Registration

- 8.30 **Registration**
- 9.00 **Welcome and Programme Overview**, *Marcel Tanner, Swiss TPH Director, and Mitchell Weiss Sebastien Hug, Scientific Advisor, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation*

### Cinema, Health and Social Content: Experience of Indian and Swiss Partners

- 09:15 **Motivation for mixing psychiatry and films**, *Mohan Agashe, actor and psychiatrist*  
**Journey from social scientist to filmmaker**, *Sumitra Bhave, film director*  
**Challenges of making films that are accurate and engaging**, *Sunil Sukthankar, film director*
- 10:30 **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 **Use of films for awareness and communication of health and social issues: illustrations from filmmaking experience over three decades**, *Sunil Sukthankar and Sumitra Bhave*
- 12:00 **Communicating on mental health: WHO's recent experience**, *Shekhar Saxena, Dept. of Mental Health, World Health Organization*
- 12:30 **Lunch**
- 13:30 **Power of films and prospects for public awareness, professional training and health research**, *Mitchell Weiss*
- 13:50 **Experience with films and video for health education at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences**, *Jayashree Ramakrishna, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences*
- 14:10 **Medical humanities and use of films in medical education in Basel**, *Alexander Kiss, University of Basel*
- 14:30 **Coffee Break**
- 15:00 **Panel Discussion** - Swiss TPH videos and media experience with public, patient and professional communications: aims, skills, collaboration and lessons learned.  
*Roundtable: Constanze Pfeiffer, Carine Weiss, Samuel Fuhrmann, Lukas Fenner, Giovanna Raso and Peiling Yap. Moderator: Christian Heuss, Swiss TPH*
- 16:00 **Using video for health in Swiss television journalism**, *Gerald Toppelmann, Swiss Radio and Television SRF*
- 16:20 **Partnership prospects for filmmakers and health professionals**, *Mohan Agashe*
- 16:40 **Closing Words**, *Nino Künzli, Swiss TPH Deputy Director*
- 17.00 **Close of Day / Cocktail Hour**

## Speaker Profiles

Film Screening and Symposium 2015

### Films for Health: an Indo-Swiss Partnership

31 March -1 April 2015, Basel, Switzerland

#### Welcome and Screening of Film – March 31

**Symposium Organizer, Mitchell Weiss, Swiss TPH**

Mitchell Weiss, MD, PhD, is a health social scientist at the Swiss TPH, professor at the University of Basel and lecturer in the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He is a research psychiatrist specializing in cultural psychiatry with extensive field experience over a period of more than three decades in partnerships in India and other areas of Asia and Africa. At the Swiss TPH, he headed the Department of Public Health and Epidemiology for 12 years until 2010, promoting an interdisciplinary public health agenda. Innovating methods and an approach to cultural epidemiology that harnesses synergies of anthropology and epidemiology, the work of his research group has addressed fundamental questions about the influence of culture, community and illness experience on health risks, illness prevention, use of vaccines, help seeking and other aspects of health behaviour. Contributions to curricula in his courses and workshops have been developing capacity for integrated research designs. The impact of media on health has been a long-standing interest amply represented in his research and teaching. Since 2008, he presides as president of the biennial Frame of Mind Film Festival in Chennai, organized by the Schizophrenia Research Foundation.



**Mohan Agashe, Principal Actor, Psychiatrist, India**

Mohan Agashe, MD, is a psychiatrist by profession and an internationally acclaimed Indian theatre and film actor, awarded with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1996. Mohan's love of acting made him take time out of his busy schedule as a doctor to work in plays. From 1997-2002 he was Director of the Film and Television Institute of India. In the 1980s and 1990s, Mohan's unique contribution to theatre manifested through the launching of 'Grips Theatre' in India on the Berlin model where children's plays revolve around real life experiences of emotions and environment rather than fairy tales. This novel experimental theatre earned him prestigious German awards 'Bundesverdienstkreuz' (the Cross of Order of Merit) in 2001 and the 'Goethe Medal' in 2004. Mohan studied in B. J. Medical College, Pune, India for his MBBS and PG degree in Psychiatry where he, in addition to Sassoon Hospital in Pune, later worked as Professor of Psychiatry. During his medical career Mohan worked at the Government Hospital at Pune, chaired the Organizing Committee meetings for the Annual National Conference of Indian Psychiatric Society and was a founding Director of Maharashtra Institute of Mental Health (MIMH) established in 1991. He headed the rehabilitation of Victims of Latur Earthquake of 1993. He also headed the Advanced Research Centre of Indian Council of Medical Research at MIMH and was Principal Investigator of research on 'Health consequences of Natural Disaster with focus on Mental Health'. His students have progressed in their careers to become renowned psychiatrists in India, the UK and the United States.



#### Welcome and Programme Overview – April 1

**Marcel Tanner, Director, Swiss TPH**

Marcel Tanner obtained a PhD in medical biology from the University of Basel and an MPH from the University of London. He is Director of the Swiss TPH, and Professor of Epidemiology and Medical Parasitology at the University of Basel and at the Federal Institute of Technology. Since 1977, his research ranged from basic cell biology and immunology of malaria, schistosomiasis, trypanosomiasis and filariasis, to epidemiological and public health research on risk assessment, vulnerability, health impact and district health planning. His research, teaching and health planning expertise are based on substantial long term experience from working in rural and urban areas in Africa (mainly Tanzania, Chad, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire) and Asia (China, Thailand, Laos). He was co-investigator and coordinator of the first African malaria vaccine trial in 1992 and participated as co-principal investigator in several major intervention trials on malaria (iron supplementation, intermittent preventive treatment) and schistosomiasis. Besides research, the capacity building and North-South partnership was a main interest as reflected in the development of the Ifakara Health Institute in Tanzania. He has published extensively in the many fields of global health (>500 original papers). He also acts as advisor on communicable diseases research and control, health systems strengthening and capacity building in various national and international agencies/bodies and in boards/committees such as, e.g. WHO/TDR, Wellcome Trust, DNDi, NITD, INCLEN-Trust and INDEPTH.



**Sebastien Hug, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation, Switzerland**

Sebastien Hug is Scientific Advisor at the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation, SERI, in charge of coordinating the swissnex and Science and Technology Counsellor Network. Previously, he worked as a Project Manager for Higher Education and Partnerships at swissnex Boston, USA, and Science Attaché at the Swiss Embassy in Ottawa, Canada. He studied History, Political Economy and Public Administration at the Universities of Fribourg, Paris-Sorbonne and Ottawa.



## Cinema, Health and Social Content: Experience of Indian and Swiss Partners

### **Sumitra Bhave**, Film Director, India

Sumitra Bhave is a trained social worker turned filmmaker in 1983. She completed her Social Work studies at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India, and thereafter worked for voluntary organisations. She taught at the Karve Institute of Social Service at Pune for ten years and worked extensively with women and gender as her subject of interest. Bhave, together with Sunil Sukthankar, has made 14 feature films, more than 50 short films, five telefilms and four TV serials. She has scripted all her short and feature films and won several individual awards for story, screenplay, dialogues, lyrics, art direction and costumes. Bhave and Sukthankar have together won three International awards, seven National awards, several National level awards and more than 50 state level awards. For the film **ASTU**, Bhave won the National Award for Best Dialogues.



### **Sunil Sukthankar**, Film Director, India

Sunil Sukthankar graduated in commerce from BMCC, Pune, India. During his college education he wrote three plays and a number of one-act plays. He joined Sumitra Bhave, then a social researcher, in her maiden short film venture, as an assistant. He later received his diploma in Film Direction from the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune in 1989. Since then Sumitra Bhave and Sunil Sukthankar have been working as co-directors for all their films. They have 14 feature films, more than 50 short films, five telefilms and four TV serials to their credit. Together with Bhave, Sukthankar has won three International awards, seven National awards, several National level awards and more than 50 state level awards for short and feature films.



### **Shekhar Saxena**, Department of Mental Health, World Health Organization

Shekhar Saxena, MD, is a psychiatrist by training with 35 years of experience in mental health. He has been working at World Health Organization since 1998. His responsibilities include evaluating evidence on effective public health measures and providing advice and technical assistance to ministries of health on prevention and management of mental, developmental, neurological and substance use disorders and suicide prevention. His work also involves establishing partnerships with academic centres and civil society organizations, and global advocacy for mental health and substance use issues. Dr. Saxena leads WHO's work to implement the Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020 adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2013, and scaling up care for priority mental, neurological and substance use disorders. Within his promotion and advocacy efforts to raise awareness on mental health he has contributed to a number of video productions most importantly the video "I had a black dog, his name was depression" which has scored a WHO YouTube traffic record with more than 5 million hits.



### **Jayashree Ramakrishna**, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS)

Jayashree, PhD, is a medical anthropologist with training in public health education from the University of California, Berkeley, USA. She worked at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, for five years. Since 1987 she has worked at the NIMHANS, Bangalore India. Her interests include culturally appropriate communication, qualitative research methods, mental health and HIV/AIDS.



### **Alexander Kiss**, University Hospital Basel, Switzerland

Alexander Kiss, MD, is Head of the Clinic for Psychosomatic Medicine at the University Hospital Basel and responsible for the Medical Humanities School, Basel. In 2006 he was awarded the Cancer Prize of the Swiss Cancer League for the development and implementation of the communication training for oncologists. In 2004 he began his Lectureship in Medical Humanities at the University of Basel. In 1992 he began his Lectureship in Psychosomatic Medicine at the University of Basel and in 1994 he became Professor of Psychosomatic Medicine at the University of Basel. In 1990 he pursued his Habilitation in Internal Medicine at the University of Vienna. In 1989 he was Head Psychosomatic Division, Cantonal Hospital Basel and in 1985 Head of the Psychosomatic Outpatient Clinic, I. Medical University Clinics, Vienna. In 1980 he finished his Psychoanalytic Training (Psychoanalytic Society Vienna) and began as an Internist at the Psychosomatic Station, Psychiatric University Clinics, I. Medical University Clinics, Vienna. In 1978 he studied medicine at the University Clinic for Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Vienna and in 1971 at the University Hospitals of Vienna and Heidelberg.



### **Gerald Tippelmann**, Swiss Radio and Television SRF, Switzerland

Gerald Tippermann, MD, is the editorial staff leader of the Medical department at Swiss Radio and Television.



## Panel Discussion: Swiss TPH Videos and Media Experience

### **Session Moderator, Christian Heuss, Swiss TPH**

Christian Heuss, PhD, is Head of Communication/Public Relations at the Swiss TPH. He is a biologist and science communicator by training. For almost 10 years he worked as a science journalist, radio producer and anchor for Swiss Radio and Television covering a wide range of topics in the life sciences, on health and science politics.



### **Constanze Pfeiffer, Swiss TPH**

Constanze Pfeiffer, PhD, is a project leader within the Society, Gender and Health Unit at the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at Swiss TPH, Switzerland. She is the coordinator of the Health Social Sciences Program at SwissTPH. From 2009-2013 she was based at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where she led a project funded by the Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research (NCCR) North-South focusing on teenager pregnancy in Ghana and Tanzania. Her research focuses on adolescent health, qualitative methods, resilience as well as sexual and reproductive health.



### **Carine Weiss, Swiss TPH**

Carine Weiss, a Psychologist by background, is a scientific collaborator at Swiss TPH with a focus on adolescent's health in the Great Lakes Region. She also works as a project leader at Medicus Mundi Switzerland focusing on Sexual and Reproductive Health. In 2014 she obtained her 2nd Master Degree in International Health with the Master Thesis "Myanmar Midwife – an eye opening look at midwifery in rural Myanmar". She has spent three years working in developing countries (Cambodia, Haiti, Myanmar) and came back in 2013.



### **Samuel Fuhrmann, Swiss TPH**

Trained in infection biology and epidemiology (MSc), Samuel Fuhrmann is currently a PhD fellow in epidemiology at Swiss TPH. Samuel considers himself as an environmental epidemiologist and is thus, concerned with the study of environmental exposures that contribute to adverse health conditions and the identification of public health interventions to manage associated risks. His research focuses on health risk and impact assessment along the resources recovery and reuse chains in urban centres in low- and middle income countries. For his PhD studies he specifically focuses on microbial and chemical risk assessments in the context of sanitation planning and urbanization in the city of Kampala (Uganda) and Hanoi (Vietnam). Over the past five years, Samuel has been involved in epidemiological and environmental data collection in combination with qualitative and quantitative risk assessments approaches. Applied methods range from clinical studies and environmental sampling to mathematical modelling (QMRA, individual based transmission models). Hence, he has a particular interest in visualization of environmental pollution related to health issues.



### **Lukas Fenner, Swiss TPH, Tanzania**

Lukas Fenner is an MD, clinical microbiologist, epidemiologist and international health specialist at Swiss TPH, currently based as TB team leader and scientific project leader at the Ifakara Health Institute in Tanzania. His research interests include the epidemiology and molecular epidemiology of TB and its interaction with HIV in Switzerland and sub-Saharan Africa. He led various studies in Switzerland and sub-Saharan Africa, including projects within the large NIH-funded network of the International epidemiologic Databases to Evaluate AIDS (IeDEA, [www.idea-sa.org](http://www.idea-sa.org)).



### **Giovanna Raso, Swiss TPH**

Giovanna Raso, PhD, is a project leader and epidemiologist in the Ecosystem Health Sciences unit of the Swiss TPH. Over the past 12 years she has carried out research on the epidemiology of malaria and neglected tropical diseases with particular emphasis on the spatial epidemiology of single and multiple parasite species infections. She has spent four years in Côte d'Ivoire heading a research department at the Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques, while doing field-based transdisciplinary research and supervision students. She has led and been involved in the conception, implementation and coordination of many cross-sectional and longitudinal health surveys (parasite infections, anaemia, nutrition) in Côte d'Ivoire and China. Recently, she conceived, implemented and coordinated an innovation project on the impact of community-led total sanitation and health education on helminth infections in the Taabo health and demographic surveillance site, Côte d'Ivoire.



### **Peiling Yap, Swiss TPH**

Peiling Yap, PhD, is a Post-Doctoral Fellow Ecosystems and Health group in the Epidemiology and Public Health department of the Swiss TPH. She was trained in pharmacy (BSc), infectious diseases (MSc) and epidemiology (PhD) and pursues research on the epidemiology and control of neglected tropical diseases in the developing world, with a focus on school-aged children.

