

# Evidence Meets Decision Makers: Better Use of Evidence for Better Health

6 April 2017, Parterre Rialto Basel, Switzerland

Swiss TPH Spring Symposium 2017

## Thursday, April 6

### Registration and Welcome

**08.30** Registration Opens

**09.00** Setting the Stage, *Xavier Bosch Capblanch, Swiss TPH*

### Session 1 – Policy Makers' Perspective

*Moderator: Angela Oyo-Ita, University of Calabar, Nigeria*

**09:30** Who Is Really Shaping Health Policies? Stakeholders' Engagement in Côte d'Ivoire, *Mamadou Samba, Ministère de la Santé, Côte d'Ivoire*

**10:00** Institutional Support to the Use of Evidence by Policy Makers: Focus on the Mozambique Immunization Programme, *Graça Matsinhe, Ministério da Saúde, Mozambique*

**10:30** Does the Use of Data Depend on the Context? Lessons from LMIC and HIC, *Rodion Kraus, Health Partners International, UK*

**11:00** Coffee Break

### Session 2 – Producing Quality Evidence and Promoting its Effective Use

*Moderator: Adriane Martin Hilber, Swiss TPH*

**11:30** Use of Computerised Health Services Monitoring Systems to Improve Policy Planning: Case Study from the Egyptian Health Care System, *Martin Raab, Swiss TPH*

**12:00** The Truth, the Lie and the In-Between of Data: Focus on Vaccination Coverage, *Anthony Burton, former WHO – Immunization, Vaccination and Biologicals, Switzerland*

**12:30** Should Policy Makers Participate in the Production of Evidence? How Then? *Abdullahi Garba, National Primary Healthcare Development Agency, Nigeria*

**13:00** Lunch

### Session 3 – Synthesis and Dissemination of Evidence

*Moderator: Axel Hoffmann, Swiss TPH*

**14:15** Beyond Evidence Synthesis on the Effects of Interventions, *Meike Zuske, Swiss TPH, Switzerland*

**14:45** Informing Policy When the Best Evidence is Inadequate: Focus on Vaccination Coverage, *Angela Oyo-Ita, University of Calabar, Nigeria*

**15:15** How Environmental Synthesis Contributes to Regulatory Limits: Some Swiss TPH Examples, *Martin Röösl, Swiss TPH*

**15:45** Coffee Break

### Session 4 – Bringing Evidence to the Decision Makers' Table

*Moderator: Xavier Bosch Capblanch, Swiss TPH*

**16:15** Round Table: *A. Oyo-Ita, M. Samba, G. Matsinhe, A. Garba, A. Burton, R. Kraus*

**17:30** Closing Words, *Jürg Utzinger, Swiss TPH*

**17.45** Close of Day

To register visit: [www.swisstph.ch/en/about/events/spring-symposium-2017](http://www.swisstph.ch/en/about/events/spring-symposium-2017)

## Speaker Profiles

### Setting the Stage

**Xavier Bosch-Capblanch**, Swiss TPH, Switzerland

Xavier Bosch-Capblanch (XBC) is a Medical Doctor with an MSc in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, a PhD done on data to policy in immunisation, and an official speciality degree in Public Health (Spain). He leads the Data Evidence Evaluation and Policy group of the Swiss Centre for International Health at the Swiss TPH, and is an Honorary Lecturer at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Dr. Bosch-Capblanch started his career as a clinician in Spain and has lived and worked in rural settings of Sub-Saharan Africa for 10 years. He progressively moved from clinical work to health care management, public health and project management, including four years coordinating a rural health research centre in Mozambique. He has lectured and given on-the-job training to government officials and national consultants involved in the design and/or implementation of public health programmes in Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Liverpool and Basel. His areas of expertise include health information and evidence around health systems interventions. He has also been involved in numerous initiatives to assess the quality of routine administrative and survey data, led several surveys in different countries and lectured on data and information for decision making. A significant part of this work is directly related to health systems evidence and vaccination coverage data. He has been involved in several Cochrane systematic reviews and has led initiatives to bridge the gap between research evidence and management and policy making.



### Session 1 – Policy Makers' Perspective

**Chair: Angela Oyo-Ita**, University of Calabar, Nigeria

Professor Angela Oyo-Ita is a Fellow of the West African College of Physicians. She is a community physician and lectures in the Department of Community Medicine, University of Calabar, Nigeria. She is also the Deputy Director of the Nigerian Branch of the South African Cochrane Centre. She has been involved in the development of Cochrane systematic reviews, training on evidence-based medicine, and dissemination of information on evidence-based health care. She served as the Commissioner for Health in Cross River State, one of the 36 States in Nigeria from 2013 to 2015 and was responsible for the regulation of health care for the State. Currently she is conducting a cluster-randomised trial to measure the impact of traditional and religious leaders in improving vaccination coverage in Cross River State with a grant from International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie).



**Mamadou Samba**, Ministry of Health, Ivory Coast

Professor Mamadou Samba is Associate Lecturer in Public Health and Health Economics and a researcher at Houphouët-Boigny University in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. In addition to his academic duties, Prof. Samba holds several administrative functions. He is also the Director of Community Health for the Ivory Coast Ministry of Health. There was the Director of Forward Planning, Evaluation and Health Information for a decade and established several strategic documents including the National Health Development Plans 2012–2015 and 2016–2020 and the health financing strategic paper towards universal health coverage. He also led the drafting of the 2010 and 2015 reports on the MDGs in Health.



**Graça Matsinhe**, Ministry of Health, Mozambique

Graça Matsinhe, MD, received her medical degree in 2008. Since then she has worked in Health Systems Management and Disease Control. From 2008 to 2011 she served as Physician and Hospital Director in a rural area of Mozambique. In 2012 she completed a Masters degree in Public Health - Health Systems Management and Policy at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium. Since 2012 to date, she works as a National Program Director at the Ministry of Health, Mozambique. Initially she functioned as the National Malaria Control Program Director (2012-2014) and is currently the Director of Expanded Program of Immunization. Her current responsibilities include resource mobilization for EPI; design, development and implementation of National Policies for Immunization, coordination and implementation of grants, and introduction of new vaccines in routine immunization, as well as financial and human resources management.



**Rodion Krause**, Health Partners International, UK

Rodion Kraus is an MD, health systems expert and Managing Director of Health Partners International. Dr. Kraus previously worked for 7 years in Nigeria as technical lead for PRRINN-MNCH (a comprehensive health systems strengthening programme focusing on MNCH and immunisation services.) and Women for Health (which aims to train 6000 new female health workers in northern Nigeria). In this role, he facilitated planning and budgeting and oversaw technical execution and quality assurance. Dr. Kraus has extensive experience working within African health systems, particularly in Nigeria and Southern Africa including more than 10 years in health sector reform at senior management level in the public sector in Namibia. He facilitated rationalisation of hospital and district health services in a number of Provinces in South Africa for eight years and in Malawi for four years prior to extensive work in northern Nigeria focused on revitalising primary health care. He has consulted in Tanzania, Nigeria, Botswana, Malawi and South Africa, with a particular focus on strategic planning and health sector reform.



### Session 2 – Producing Quality Evidence and Promoting its Effective Use

**Chair: Adriane Martin Hilber**, Swiss TPH, Switzerland

Adriane Martin Hilber, PhD, is the Deputy Head of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Unit. She has 25 years of experience in project management of large implementation and research projects in developing countries with broad experience in multi-sectoral (including government stakeholders) strategic planning, policy development and analysis, accountability and human rights based approaches; building evidence for action, health system strengthening, and project evaluation at



global, regional and local levels. She has worked for a variety of organisations at all levels from local community and subnational participatory advocacy, research and policy projects to the United Nations to support international UN and other commissions and expert advisory groups to bring evidence to inform policies.

**Martin Raab**, Swiss TPH, Switzerland

Martin Raab, MSc, MPH, is the Head of the Health Technology and Telemedicine Unit (HTTU) of the Swiss Centre for International Health (SCIH). He has 25 years of extensive international working experience in health systems development and capacity building in the Middle East and in various Eastern European countries. Currently he is the managing director of a large scale health project in the Ukraine and in Egypt. In both projects, technology assessment and capacity building are main fields of work. The Health Technology Unit is a member of the Swiss Network for Health Technology (SNHTA) Assessment. Beside his managerial and consultancy activities he regularly lectures at various University Master programmes on Health Technology Management, telemedicine and Health Technology Assessment. He also coordinates the Institutes eHealth programme and leads the Institute's assignment as a Collaborating Centre to the World Health Organisation in Geneva, department of health systems governance and service delivery.



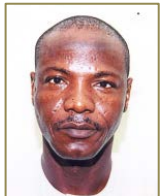
**Anthony Burton**, former World Health Organization, Switzerland

Anthony Burton is a systems analyst specializing in public health surveillance systems, disease burden estimation and health care system monitoring. Between 1980 and 1987 he worked for the United States of America Centers for Disease Control and Prevention establishing the Electronic Network for Nationally Notifiable Diseases. Beginning in 1988 he worked for the World Health Organization in Geneva, initially in the Global Programme on AIDS helping establish a global HIV/AIDS surveillance network and estimating the global and national prevalence of HIV. From 1996 until his retirement in 2014 he worked for WHO's Immunization Department helping establish the WHO polio/acute flaccid paralysis and measles surveillance systems, estimating national and global immunization coverage and vaccine-preventable disease burden and participating in trials of polio vaccine.



**Abdullahi Bulama Garba**, National Primary Healthcare Development Agency, Nigeria

Abdullahi Bulama Garba, MD, is Director Planning, Research and Statistics at the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHDA) in Nigeria. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Ilorin in 1992 and completed his residency training in Public Health at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, for the fellowship of West African College of physicians from 1994-1998. Before his current position Dr. Barba held several positions in the NPHDA and the defunct National Programme on Immunization (NPI) in Nigeria. These included: Chief Medical Officer/Head M&E Division, NPHDA headquarters Abuja; Zonal Coordinator for Northwest Zone based in Kano; NPI Zonal Coordinator for North Central Zone based in Minna; NPI National Desk Officer for Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination.



## Session 3 – Synthesis and Dissemination of Evidence

**Chair: Axel Hoffmann**, Swiss TPH

Axel Hoffmann obtained a PhD in Psychology at the Albert-Ludwigs-University in Freiburg, Germany. He is Deputy Head of the Education & Training department at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, and heads the Teaching Technologies and Didactics unit. He is also responsible for the MBA in International Health Management and other activities of the Institute in continuing education for several professions. Since 2014, he has represented the Institute in a capacity building project on biosafety and biosecurity, financed by the German Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He teaches, among other topics, project management and case study development. Being involved in the network's activities since 1998, Axel Hoffmann has been the General Secretary of tropEd, the Network for Education in International Health, since 2008. The promotion of the common Masters study and the quality control of the offered modules and courses are one of the priorities of the network, as well as cooperation with other networks and international organizations in this field.



**Meike Zuske**, Swiss TPH, Switzerland

Meike Zuske's is a Social Science and Law graduate of the University of Basel, Switzerland, and has carried out postgraduate studies in the fields of epidemiology and public health. Her main interest is in understanding how politics shape public health discourses and the implications in health policies and practice. This perspective is even more relevant in the field of health systems strengthening, where Ms. Zuske focuses on complex interventions into the real lives of the most vulnerable populations, and particularly, on issues of sustainability. Her interdisciplinary approach has gained her knowledge with quantitative and qualitative approaches. She has led, managed and collaborated on several research syntheses initiatives, including efficacy systematic reviews, scoping reviews and 'framework syntheses', in the areas of equity and vaccination, among others. Ms. Zuske explores how different types of evidence on the same topic may portray different realities by combining efficacy reviews with other types of reviews, particularly for lymphatic filariasis (exploring efficacy and communities perceptions) and health information systems (exploring efficacy and theoretical frameworks evidence).



**Angela Oyo-Ita**, University of Calabar, Nigeria

See above

**Martin Rösli**, Swiss TPH, Switzerland

Martin Rösli is Professor of environmental epidemiology at the Swiss TPH and Head of the Environmental Exposures and Health Unit. He has a background in atmospheric physics and a PhD in environmental epidemiology. His research focuses on various environmental topics including ionizing and non-ionizing radiation, transportation noise, climate change, pesticides, passive smoking and ambient air pollution. He is conducting exposure assessment studies, aetiological research



and health impact assessments. Prof. Dr. Rösli is a member of the Swiss Noise Abatement Commission as well as various national and international commissions dealing with environmental health risks and is active in translating research insights into policy. He leads the expert group BERENIS, which consults the Swiss Government on scientific findings in the field of non-ionizing radiation research and their relevance for guideline setting. He is also a member of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, providing guidelines for non-ionizing radiation protection together with the WHO, and was engaged in the International Agency for Research on Cancer evaluation of cancer risk from radiofrequency electromagnetic fields.

**Closing Words: Jürg Utzinger, Swiss TPH, Switzerland**



Jürg Utzinger, Director of the Swiss TPH, is trained in environmental sciences (MSc) and epidemiology (PhD) with several years of postdoctoral research in demography and epidemiology at Princeton University. Before his appointment as Director of the Swiss TPH, Dr. Utzinger headed the Ecosystem Health Sciences unit at the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Swiss TPH. The group pursues a wide variety of epidemiological research, including health impact assessment of large foot-print development projects in the tropics and risk profiling of parasitic diseases, and they have ongoing collaborative projects in Côte d'Ivoire, China and elsewhere in Africa and Asia. Together with colleagues in Côte d'Ivoire, Dr. Utzinger established the first health and demographic surveillance system in the Taabo area, which serves as a platform for monitoring and surveillance of health and well-being of 40,000 mainly rural dwellers. Dr. Utzinger is also Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Basel focusing on epidemiology, diagnosis and integrated control of neglected tropical diseases and malaria. He has extensively published in peer-reviewed literature, edited several special thematic journal issues and wrote numerous book chapters. He is founding deputy editor of PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases and acts on the editorial boards of Acta Tropica, Geospatial Health and Parasites & Vectors.

## Upcoming Symposia

### Helminth Infection - from Transmission to Control

7-8 December 2017, Parterre Rialto, Basel, Switzerland



The Swiss TPH Winter Symposium 2017 invites medical parasitologists, infection biologists, epidemiologists and public health specialists and students to review and discuss progress in research, control, elimination and eradication of helminth infections. Topics will include:

- Health impact versus health benefits of helminth infections
- Towards better treatment options for helminth infections
- Latest diagnostic developments
- From morbidity control to elimination and eradication

### Clinical Research in Resource Limited Settings – Mission Impossible or Role Model for Future Drug Development?

Date and venue to be announced, Basel, Switzerland



The Swiss TPH Summer Symposium 2018 invites clinical researchers, drug development specialists and students to review and discuss future approaches to drug development. Topics will include:

- Cost explosion of drug development
- Impact of GCP-guideline amendment 2016
- Conducting sponsor-investigator trials in Switzerland
- Clinical trials in low resource settings
- The Biotech approach to clinical development
- The Pharma view on clinical development
- Alternative business models and partnerships
- What we can learn from R&D in low resource settings

For more information and to register visit: [www.swisstph.ch/en/about/events](http://www.swisstph.ch/en/about/events)