

**Proposed membership of the GDG for WHO's 2022  
Virtual Meeting on the update of the preferred induction  
therapy for the management of cryptococcal disease in people  
living with HIV**

**2 February 2022**

**Hosted in Geneva, Switzerland**

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**Alexandra Calmy** obtained her medical diploma in 1994 and was trained in internal medicine and in Infectious diseases; she completed a PhD in clinical research in 2009 in Sydney, Australia. She was nominated Associate Professor in 2014 and Full Professor in 2021, and is head of the HIV/AIDS Unit of the University Hospital of Geneva. Professor Calmy's research interest focuses on public health and humanitarian response to HIV/AIDS, specifically the provision of antiretroviral therapy and management of side effects in resource limited settings. She worked with Médecins Sans Frontières in Cambodia in 1996 and has subsequently supported MSF's HIV/AIDS work for more than 10 years. She is a member of the WHO working groups on the writing and the implementation of guidelines related to the treatment of HIV in developing countries

since 2001, co-lead of CSS13 committee at the “Agence National de Recherche sur le SIDA – maladies émergentes” (ANRS-MIE), member of the scientific board of the Swiss HIV Study Cohort (SHCS), and co-chair of the COVID-19 Federal Commission on clinical care in Switzerland.

**Mohamed Chakroun** is a Medical Doctor specialist in Infectious Diseases. He works full-time in the University Hospital of Monastir, Tunisia, and he is a Professor in the Faculty of Medicine. As a physician, He provides care and support for people living with HIV, and has extensive experience in HIV care, ART and prevention. He has been engaged with national AIDS programmes, community groups and health organizations in HIV care, prevention and policy development for several years. He is also a national and regional expert on HIV/AIDS. He was Scientific Coordinator for the Tunisian Guidelines for Antiretroviral Therapy in 2010 and 2013. He provided training on HIV testing counselling, ART, management of opportunistic infections, and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) in Djibouti, Egypt, Libya, Sudan and Tunisia. He provided technical support to the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) Unit in the WHO Regional Office (Cairo, Egypt). He has written many national and regional manuals on HIV/AIDS, as well as several papers on HIV/AIDS in peer-reviewed journals. He attended several WHO regional workshops and inter-country meetings of national AIDS programme managers as temporary advisor. He was a member of the external review group for WHO’s consolidated guidelines for key populations (2014), HIV testing services (2015), and HIV self-testing (2016). He was also a member of the WHO Guideline Development Group for HIV post-exposure prophylaxis (2014) and the use of antiretroviral drugs (2016 and 2018). Currently, he is a member of the Global Network of Researchers on HIV/AIDS in the Middle East and the HIV Drug Resistance Network.

**Andreas Jahn** is a clinical epidemiologist with 20 years of working experience in Africa, primarily in HIV. He has worked in the academic and program sector. Dr Jahn has published over 100 papers in peer-reviewed journals, including the first evidence globally for a population-level impact of ART roll-out on adult mortality (The Lancet, 2008). He has worked with the International Training and Education Center for Health (I-TECH, University of Washington, Seattle) as technical assistant for the National ART/PMTCT Program in Malawi since 2008. He has made a profound contribution to the national roll-out of ART and PMTCT and shaped the integrated M&E system for the HIV program in Malawi. He holds a position as Clinical Associate Professor in the Department for Global Health at UW. He continues to contribute to national and international HIV programs and policy with innovative monitoring systems and initiatives such as Option B+ for PMTCT, which has been adopted as a global recommendation by WHO in 2013.

**Aleny Couto**, is a Mozambican physician with over 8 years of experience in the public health field. Currently, she is the Head of HIV program at MoH, with experience in the management and implementation of national and provincial level health programs with specific focus on HIV/AIDS, as well designing policies, country guidelines and strategic plans following WHO guidelines. She has participated in the elaboration of

actual scale up plan that aims to reach 80% of treatment coverage and reduce 50% of sexual transmission of HIV. Has also worked at District level (mainly primary care) and implemented a wide range of Public health Programs in the field. Prior to 2011, Dr. Couto was a clinician in the local hospital, assisting HIV patients in an HIV day care hospital. She has 10 years of experience working in HIV, in resource limited settings.

**Tom Ellman** is director of the Southern Africa Medical Unit (SAMU). Since first working for MSF in Rwanda in 1995, he has over 20 years of experience in humanitarian medical work mostly with Médecins Sans Frontières. His focus has been on HIV, TB, and malaria in Africa and South-East Asia, apart from a three-year 'break' working on Chagas disease – the 'AIDS of the Americas' – in Bolivia. Tom received his medical training in Edinburgh, has a Diploma from the School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (Liverpool), and a Masters in Communicable Disease Epidemiology from the School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (London). He is a member of the Royal College of Physicians, UK and a beekeeper.

**Brenda Crabtree** is an assistant professor of the HIV program at the Autonomous National University of Mexico (UNAM). She has been working in clinical care and research of people with HIV since 2005. She has participated in phase I-III clinical trials with anti-HIV/AIDS and opportunistic infections therapies. Her main area of research is in observational studies of comorbid infection in HIV. Through participation as a sub-investigator in Mexico for the Caribbean, Central and South America network for HIV epidemiology (CCASANet), the region 2 of IeDEA Network, She has participated in most of the projects of the network including those focused on sociodemographic and clinical characteristics, such as non-AIDS and AIDS related events in people with HIV in the region. Since its establishment in 2006, CCASANet has served as a regional research model to support evidence-based HIV responses. Currently I'm sub-investigator of the MOSAICO trial conducted in Mexico City and the CRS coordinator for our site as part of the ACTG Network since 2020. Finally, She served as local scientific chair of the International AIDS Society Scientific Conference in 2019 (#IAS2029) and currently she has been appointed as leader of the clinical track (track B) of the Scientific Committee on AIDS 2022 which will take place in Montreal in July this year.

**Nelesh Govender** is Head of the Centre for HAIs, AMR and Mycoses at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases and a Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. His group is among a few worldwide working in public health mycology. A major theme of his work is HIV-associated fungal diseases, many of which are life-threatening. His research and public health activities span laboratory science, population-based observational epidemiological studies, cost-effectiveness modelling of public health interventions and treatments, and clinical trials. He runs South Africa's national mycology reference laboratory and his centre serves as a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for antimicrobial resistance. He is a pathologist, infectious diseases epidemiologist and medical mycologist by training.

**Sayoki Mfinanga** is global health and clinical research expert. He is a Centre Director and Chief Research Scientist for the National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR), Muhimbili Centre in Tanzania and Honorary Professor of Global Health at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) in the UK. His main area of expertise includes clinical trials/research and epidemiological studies, mainly in TB, HIV and NCDs. He has led high-impact multi-Centre trials that have impacted national and global policy, particularly TB and HIV and NCDs, and contributed to national and global management, prevention, and control of emerging and reemerging disease outbreaks, such as Ebola and COVID19. He has published over 150 scientific articles in international Journals. He supervises and mentors fellows at LSTM, the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences and Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, Tanzania. He leads research capacity building networks, including RESPOND AFRICA (<https://www.lstmed.ac.uk/RespondAfrica>), TB node of excellence of East Africa under East Africa Consortium for Clinical Research (EACCR: <https://eaccr.org/>) and Afrique One ASPIRE (<http://afriqueoneaspire.org/>).

**Dr. Stephen Watiti** was born on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 1953 in Mbale, Uganda. Stephen went to Nabumali high School, Uganda from 1972-1978 before joining Makerere University Kampala in 1979 to study medicine. From 1984-1988, Dr. Watiti worked as a medical officer at Rubaga Hospital Kampala before moving into private medical practice from 1988-2004. From 2004- 2013, he worked at Mildmay Uganda, an HIV and AIDS treatment facility before stepping going into private consultancy work; focusing on HIV and AIDS. Dr. Stephen Watiti thinks he got infected with HIV in 1986, early in his career as a doctor and soon after getting married. Since 2000, doctor Watiti has been on ARVs after going down with TB, cancer (Kaposi's sarcoma) and cryptococcal meningitis at the same time. His quality of life greatly improved on antiretroviral therapy (ART) and he believes that HIV; though incurable is manageable with the advent of ART if it is accompanied by good psychosocial support. Dr. Stephen loves, gardening plus reading and writing and from 2006, he has been writing a column in The New Vision; Uganda's leading daily newspaper titled: "**Towards Zero**". He has published two books: "**HIV and AIDS: 100 Commonly asked questions**", and "**Conquering HIV and AIDS: My personal experience of living with HIV**". Dr. Watiti is a regular inspirational speaker on health especially HIV and AIDS. He has been recognized nationally and internationally by the parliament of Uganda, Action Aid International, Tearfund UK and the international Christian Medical and Dental Association (ICMDA) for his efforts in fighting HIV and AIDS. Dr. Watiti is the chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Forum of PLHIV networks of Uganda (NAFOPHANU), a trustee of The Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance ((WHPCA) and is a board member of several other organizations involved in HIV and AIDS work. He is passionate about HIV treatment literacy; aimed at stopping new HIV infections, AIDS related deaths plus eliminating stigma associated with HIV and AIDS. Stephen is married to Naomi, and they have grown up children.

**Tom M. Chiller**, MD, MPHTM is the Chief of the Mycotic Diseases Branch. As Branch Chief, Dr. Chiller provides leadership and support for fungal disease activities nationally and internationally. With over 25 years of experience in global health. Dr Chiller also serves as the Associate Director for Global Programs in the Division of

Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases (DFWED). Previously, Dr Chiller has held numerous positions in DFWED including Associate Director for Epidemiologic Science and lead of the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System for Enteric Bacteria (NARMS). He still remains actively involved in antimicrobial resistance activities for fungal and enteric diseases. Dr Chiller is board certified in infectious diseases and is a faculty member in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the Emory School of Medicine. He practices infectious diseases at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Atlanta. He has authored numerous articles and book chapters and given many lectures on public health surveillance and infectious diseases. During his past decade with the Mycotic Diseases Branch, Dr Chiller has fostered strong international collaborations and helped to drive forward fungal public health programs in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia

**Roger Chou**, MD, FACP is a Professor of Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University and Director of the Pacific Northwest Evidence-based Practice Center, with a clinical background in internal medicine. Dr. Chou has led numerous systematic reviews, including reviews on screening, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of HIV and viral hepatitis. His reviews have been used by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, the American College of Physicians, the American Pain Society, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other groups to develop clinical practice guidelines. He is active in development of systematic reviews methods and standards, including the recent update to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA), and has served as methodologist for a number of World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, including WHO guidelines on HIV service delivery and viral hepatitis testing and treatment. He served as Co-ordinating Editor of the Cochrane Back and Neck Group and is a Senior Editor for the Cochrane Musculoskeletal Group.

**Ni Ni Tun** started at work as HIV/TB national coordinator with Médecins sans Frontières in Myanmar in 2003. She has trained about 1000 local doctors related with HIV, TB case management, STD and malnutrition. Moreover, Nini was trained for screening and treatment of CMV retinitis in HIV patients in 2006 and has treated about 600 CMV retinitis patients and trained about 1000 national doctors together with her trainer, Dr David Heiden (consultant Uveitis, San Francisco).

From 2009 till now Nini started to work with a new medical organization, Medical Action Myanmar, with which Nini is working as a medical director, supervising the prevention and treatment program of HIV, TB, malaria and malnutrition program. Furthermore, Nini is the lead for HIV innovative research for the Myanmar Oxford Clinical Research Unit (MOCRUC). MOCRUC is a new tropical medical research organization formed as an extension of the medical research activities of the University of Oxford in Southeast Asia. On 2017, Nini was involved in GDG meeting for the guideline on the management of patients presenting with advanced HIV disease. On 2020, Nini started a Research collaboration program with Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM), Antwerp in which she is involved in three research projects with department of clinical science and department of public health at Institute of Tropical

medicine, Antwerp under the supervision of Professor Lut Lynen including Perception, acceptability of Pre-exposure prophylaxis of HIV infection among men who have sex with men and transgender in Suburban Yangon, Myanmar (mixed-method) , Treatment failure in HIV-positive children in Myanmar and Outpatient opioid substitution therapy integrated with HIV/HCV care in low-and middle-income countries: A systematic review.

On 2021, She received the master of clinical science in Tropical Medicine from Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp.

Currently, she is the PhD Fellow student at the University of Antwerp, Belgium with the research areas of relevant interventions to tackle the gaps in HIV prevention and treatment care in Key Affected Populations (KAPs), Myanmar.

And the followings are a few examples of the research that Nini is involving right now in Myanmar

- HIV viral load uptake and utilization after rapid decentralized testing with GeneXpert in Urban area, Myanmar
- HIV test uptake and treatment cascade of care among PWIDs population in remote area, with integrated community volunteer model, Myanmar.
- Specialized HCV care for people who inject drugs in HIV care settings in remote Myanmar with tele-mentoring of general practitioners and peer-led community support
- Demonstration of Pre-exposure prophylaxis of HIV infection among MSM and TG population in Suburban, Yangon, Myanmar.
- feasibility and accessibility of cervical cancer screening and early one-stop treatment for HIV positive high risk women in a primary care setting
- demonstration of outcomes of HCV treatment by using DAAs among HIV positive and negative patients in suburban Yangon.

**Serge Paul Eholié** is a professor of Infectious and Tropical Diseases at Treichville University Teaching Hospital in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. He is a senior lecturer in Medical School of University Felix Houphouët Boigny, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. He received his medical degree for the university of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire and later specialized in infectious and tropical diseases. He was trained in HIV management in France (Marseille and Paris) and has served as a trainer in HIV in several African countries. Dr Eholié is currently the co-director of INSERM International Research Center of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, the President of the Réseau Africain des Praticiens Assurant la prise en charge des personnes vivant avec le VIH/SIDA or African Network of HIV Practitioners for People living with HIV/AIDS (RESAPSI/ANEP), and is the vice president of Alliance Francophone des Acteurs de la Santé contre le VIH (AFRAVIH). He is currently involved in research around HIV therapeutic strategies, HIV and hepatitis co-morbidities, HIV and non communicable diseases, HIV and ageing and Ebola therapeutic trials.

**Thuy Le** is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Duke University, an Adjunct Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Hawaii and a Visiting Fellow at the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit in Vietnam. She leads a research program to improve HIV clinical outcomes in Southeast Asia by mitigating HIV drug resistance development

and developing novel diagnostics and treatment strategies for a leading HIV-associated opportunistic infection caused by the dimorphic fungus *Talaromyces marneffe*. She led the IVAP clinical trial in talaromycosis treatment that demonstrated the superiority of amphotericin B over itraconazole in reducing deaths. The study has redefined international treatment recommendations for this important endemic mycosis and calls for amphotericin to be made widely available in Asia. She is a Member of the Program Committee for the Asia Pacific AIDS and Co-Infection Conference, Member of several WHO Guidelines Committees on Management of HIV, Member of the NIH/CDC/HIVMA/IDSA Guidelines Committee on Opportunistic Infections, and a Coordinator of the European Confederation of Medical Mycology Guidelines for Endemic Mycoses. She has published in the New England Journal of Medicine, Lancet, Clinical Infectious Diseases, AIDS, and Antiviral Therapy.

**Eduardo G. Arathoon** is the Medical Director at Clínica Familiar Luis Ángel García, Asociación de Salud Integral, Hospital General San Juan de Dios, Guatemala. During the initial years of the AIDS epidemic in Guatemala most of his time was devoted to study the opportunistic infections that threatened persons infected with advanced HIV. It was clear that those infections greatly varied from the ones he had seen before. The infections they presented with, were greatly influenced by environmental and social issues. Although tuberculosis was considered by WHO to be the most important opportunistic infection in AIDS patients in developing countries, histoplasmosis was for Guatemalans, the most lethal opportunistic infection among AIDS patients, with 48 % percent mortality. At that time, it took us up to 3 weeks to diagnose AIDS patients with disseminated histoplasmosis, with conventional methods. Because most histoplasma infected patients died after two weeks, it was too late for them to be treated. With the existing information, it was obvious that a faster diagnostic test was indispensable to improve patient survival. In 2004 with the Mycology Division at CDC, a urinary antigen test that was cheap and easy to perform in developing countries was proposed. The test was initially developed at CDC, with samples from the Guatemalan patients. The test, proved to be a valuable tool to improve the diagnosis not only in Guatemala but in Latin America and probably other similar resource poor regions of the world in need of diagnostic models that would improve survival.

**José E Vidal** is a Medical Doctor trained in Lima, Peru, and a Specialist in Infectious Diseases and Neuroinfectology trained in São Paulo, Brazil. He holds a PhD in Infectious Diseases in Public Health obtained in São Paulo, Brazil. He works at the Department of Neurology of Infectious Diseases of the *Instituto de Infectologia Emílio Ribas* and the Department of Infectious Diseases of *Hospital das Clínicas*, São Paulo University School of Medicine, São Paulo, Brazil. He supervises and mentors Residents in the Speciality of Infectious Diseases at both institutions and is preceptor of the Fellowship in Neuroinfectology at the *Instituto de Infectologia Emílio Ribas*. He is Honorary Professor at *Instituto de Infectologia Emílio Ribas*. He is member of the Technical Group of Systemic Mycoses and Consultant to the Brazilian Ministry of Health in AIDS, neurological opportunistic diseases with focus in cryptococcosis and toxoplasmosis, and HTLV-1-related diseases. He was collaborator of the “Rapid advice: diagnosis, prevention and management of cryptococcal disease in HIV-infected adults, adolescents and children” (WHO, 2011), “Guidelines for managing advanced HIV

disease and rapid initiation of antiretroviral therapy” (WHO, 2017), and “WHO Guidelines for the diagnosis, prevention and management of cryptococcal disease in HIV-infected adults, adolescents and children” (WHO, 2018). He is a reviewer for several medical journals and has published over 100 articles in peer-reviewed medical journal.

**Rachael Burke** is an infectious disease physician (registrar) and a research fellow at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She works full time in Malawi and is the deputy group head of the Public Health Research Group at Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust Clinical Research programme. She is the Principal Investigator of the CASTLE trial, which is investigating enhanced diagnostics to reduce mortality among adults hospitalised with HIV in Malawi and a co-investigator of several other trials and studies related to TB and HIV in Malawi. She is a registered medical doctor in UK and Malawi, and works clinically at Zomba Central Hospital in Malawi, alongside her research work. She has contributed to the Technical Working Groups for Malawi Department of HIV/AIDS guideline development, and as an expert reviewer for WHO TB and HIV guidelines. She previously worked as a researcher and HIV physician in Sierra Leone at Connaught Government Hospital, and as an infectious disease registrar in London.