

WHO Guidelines for Managing Advanced HIV Disease (update)

Biographies of proposed Guideline Development Group members
[6 December 2024]

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Ana Alastruey-Izquierdo, Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Spain

Dr Ana Alastruey-Izquierdo is a Research Scientist at the Mycology Reference Laboratory of Spain. She chaired the technical expert group for the development of the first Fungal priority Pathogens list by WHO. She serves on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Joint Program Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR) and is the president of the Spanish Society for Mycology (AEM). Ana has led the Fungal Infection Study Group (EFISG) from European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) from 2018 to 2024 and has been the director of the Latin American programs for GAFFI until 2023. She is a fellow of ESCMID and European Confederation of Medical Mycology (ECMM).

Her main research interest includes public health mycology, diagnostics, epidemiology and characterization on antifungal resistance. She has published more than 180 peer reviewed articles in scientific journals including several guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of fungal infections. Ana is an editor for Clinical Microbiology and Infection and Journal of Fungi, and reviews for over 25 scientific journals. She collaborates with international agencies such as the CDC, ECDC and WHO, participating in risk assessments, developing guidelines and other projects connected with public and global health.

Eduardo Arathoon, Asociación de Salud Integral, Guatemala

Dr Eduardo Arathoon is a distinguished physician specializing in infectious diseases, particularly HIV and fungal infections. He earned his medical degree from the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala in 1976 and completed advanced training in Internal Medicine at the same institution. After moving to the USA, he repeated his Internal Medicine training at Wayne State University from January 1981 to December 1983. He then spent six months in the Infectious Diseases Program at Wayne State before moving to Stanford University for a three-year Infectious Diseases fellowship in 1984. In 1988, he founded Clínica Familiar Luis Ángel García, Guatemala's first HIV clinic, significantly advancing HIV care in the country.

Dr Arathoon's research has led to key innovations in diagnosing and treating HIV-related opportunistic infections, particularly histoplasmosis. He collaborated with the CDC to develop a rapid, cost-effective urinary antigen test for histoplasmosis, a vital diagnostic tool for resource-limited settings. In addition, his work in advancing HIV treatment includes developing screening methods for rapid ART initiation in patients with advanced HIV and fungal infections. He has been instrumental in shaping global health guidelines, including those on managing advanced HIV disease and opportunistic infections.

With over 70 publications and more than 2,800 citations, Dr Arathoon has made a lasting impact on the field of infectious diseases. He has also led numerous research projects funded by organizations such as USAID and GAFFI, furthering HIV care and treatment strategies in Guatemala. His contributions continue to influence global health practices and improve care for HIV patients worldwide.

Nelesh Govender, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa

Professor Nelesh Govender leads a research group in medical mycology in South Africa, one of the few globally dedicated to public health mycology. His team focuses on life-threatening fungal diseases, particularly affecting individuals living with HIV and critically ill patients in hospitals. His research spans various fields, including laboratory science, disease surveillance, observational epidemiology, and clinical trials. As a National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Global Research Professor, he is currently on long-term leave from his role as the head of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases' (NICD) Centre for Healthcare-Associated Infections, Antimicrobial Resistance, and Mycoses. He also provides technical support to the World Health Organization (WHO) through the WHO Collaborating Centre on Antimicrobial Resistance. His research is funded by grants from organizations such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United Kingdom Medical Research Council (MRC), the Wellcome Trust, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the United Kingdom National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR).

Tom Heller, LightHouse trust, Malawi

Dr Tom Heller graduated from medical school in Germany in 1995. He specialized in general internal medicine, as well as in infectious diseases and worked in Germany, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa. He has been working for more than 6 years as clinical advisor with Lighthouse Trust and its network of large HIV referral level care clinics in Malawi. His special focus is on the various aspects of care of patients with advanced HIV disease, TB co-infection and other opportunistic diseases - as well as the development of context-adapted trainings and training material for health care workers in HIV care.

Throughout his career, his research interests were ultrasound applications in the resource-limited setting and sonographic diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases. He developed a protocol for the diagnosis of extra-pulmonary TB in KwaZulu-Natal and conducted ultrasound trainings in various countries like Germany, Italy, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, South Africa, Ghana, Gabon, Malawi, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Peru, and Laos.

Dr Tom Heller specialized in general internal medicine and infectious diseases and has been working in South Africa and in Malawi for almost 10 years. His special focus lies on aspects of care for patients with advanced HIV disease, TB co-infection and other opportunistic diseases. Throughout his career, his interests were ultrasound protocols and application for resource-limited settings and sonographic diagnosis of infectious diseases. He taught ultrasound in Germany, Italy, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa, Ethiopia, Ghana, Gabon, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Peru, and Laos.

Imelda Mahaka, Pangaea Zimbabwe AIDS Trust, Zimbabwe

Imelda Mahaka (BSW) is the Executive Director with Pangaea Zimbabwe AIDS Trust (PZAT). She has strong advocacy and stakeholder engagement experience, working in conjunction with international, regional and local organizations to strengthen demand, uptake and quality of HIV

prevention, care and treatment and services. She has vast experience implementing and coordinating socio behavioral HIV research activities focusing on adolescent girls and young women including key populations. In the past decade, she has also been working around policy advocacy and service delivery with community-based HIV prevention programs and adapting public health intervention models to be more culturally appropriate for low resourced communities.

Syed Faisal Mahmood, Aga Khan University Hospital, Pakistan

Dr Syed Faisal Mahmood is a Professor of Infectious Diseases in the Department of Medicine and the Associate Chief Medical Officer at the Aga Khan University Hospital for Infection Prevention and Control. He has been working in the field of HIV for almost two decades. He is the lead author of the last three National HIV Treatment Guidelines. He has also helped develop the National Pre-exposure Prophylaxis, Differentiated Service Delivery, and HIV Testing and Counselling guidelines. He is also part of the WHO Guideline Development Group for HIV testing and has been involved in PrEP simplification guidance. As part of his work, he has been the lead trainer for HIV treatment physicians nationally and has been involved with the WHO in developing a Train-the-Trainer workshop to build the capacity of trainers in the country. Similarly, he has provided training on PrEP not only to the physicians in the HIV treatment centres but also to members of community-based organisations.

His research work includes a wide variety of projects, assessing the genetic variability of the HIV virus in the country, and conducting the first National Survey of Acquired HIV Drug Resistance. He also has several ongoing projects on barriers to accessing PrEP, stigma in PLHIV, health system readiness in HIV centres, and assessing barriers towards same-day initiation of ART.

Graeme Meintjes, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Graeme Meintjes is a Clinical Professor of Infectious Diseases at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) and a Professor of Medicine at the University of Cape Town (UCT). He is an adult Infectious Diseases Specialist. He leads a research programme that focuses on the clinical conditions affecting patients with advanced HIV disease including disseminated HIV-associated tuberculosis, the immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome and cryptococcal meningitis. His group also investigates drug-resistant tuberculosis, diagnostics for TB and antiretroviral therapy strategies. He has been the PI or local PI of several clinical trials and conducts observational cohort studies that address questions related to disease pathogenesis. He has contributed to the development of management guidelines for HIV, TB and cryptococcal meningitis at a provincial and national level and in WHO Guideline Development Groups. He previously held the SARCHI Chair of Poverty-related Infections at UCT (2015 to 2023) and was the Second Chair and Deputy Head of the Department of Medicine at UCT (2020 to 2024). He has over 370 publications in peer-reviewed journals and has been an author or co-author on 17 book chapters.

David Meya, College of Health Sciences Makerere University, Uganda

Dr David Meya is an Infectious Disease physician and Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine at the College of Health Sciences, Makerere University, in Uganda. David trained at Makerere Medical School, attaining his Masters in Internal Medicine degree in 2005. In 2016, he completed his PhD in Clinical Immunology under the THRiVE program at the College of Health Sciences, Makerere University in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Over the last 18 years, he has established a research group with colleagues from the University of Minnesota focused on clinical and Translational research related to HIV-associated Meningitis and Advanced HIV disease. He has served on WHO and national guideline committees on Cryptococcal and Advanced HIV Disease and chairs the Technical Working Group on Advanced HIV Disease at the Ministry of Health in Uganda. He is actively involved in clinical research and training at the Infectious Diseases Institute in the College of Health Sciences and is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Minnesota.

Sayoki Mfinanga, National Institute for Medical Research, Tanzania

Professor Sayoki Mfinanga is a global health and clinical research expert, mainly in Public Health, Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine with over 20 years of research experience. He is the 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). He has led high-impact multi-centre Clinical trials that have identified novel biomedical treatment and prevention strategies that are practical, low-cost and effective, which have been incorporated into national and World Health Organization guidelines and led to changes in clinical practice in Africa, in particularly TB and HIV. He has published 189 scientific articles in international Journals, including the Lancet and New England Journals. He supervises and mentors fellows at NIMR, LSTM, the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences and Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, Tanzania. He leads-Co/led research capacity building networks, including RESPOND AFRICA, TB node of excellence of East Africa under East Africa Consortium for Clinical Research (EACCR) and Afrique One ASPIRE.

Zainab Mohamed, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Dr Zainab Mohamed is a Clinical and Radiation Oncologist and Associate Professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Groote Schuur Hospital and the University of Cape Town (UCT). She occupies the position of head of the clinical unit, manages the Lymphoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, and thyroid cancer clinics, and provides radiotherapy services to Clinical Haematology. Her role encompasses the provision of clinical services, hospital and university management and administration, educating Radiation Oncology trainees from South Africa and the rest of Africa, supervising master's students in Radiation Oncology, and serving as an examiner for the South African Radiation Oncology specialist examinations.

Dr Mohamed is the lead oncologist involved with the integrated palliative care service at Oncology and co-facilitates the Palliative Care for the Oncologist course at UCT. She is an educator on the Department of Radiation Oncology's Access to Care program, a radiotherapy teaching initiative

aimed at Radiation Oncologists, registrars, and physicists from South Africa and other African countries. Additionally, she is a member of the University of Cape Town Human Research Ethics Committee and the South African National Tertiary/Quaternary Essential Medicines List Committee. Her research interests include HIV-associated cancers, lymphoma, and palliative medicine, particularly as it relates to low- and middle-income countries.

Dr Mohamed's interest in participating in the WHO guideline development group stems from her clinical experience treating patients with advanced HIV and Kaposi's sarcoma in a resource-limited setting, as well as the complex biopsychosocial profile of the patients seen at her institution.

Lloyd Mulenga, Ministry of Health, Zambia

Dr Lloyd B. Mulenga (BScHb, MBChB, MSc, MMed, PhD) is an Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases Physician with duo-appointment as 1) Director of the Infectious Diseases for the Zambia Ministry of Health and 2) Professor of Infectious Diseases at the University of Zambia (UNZA) School of Medicine (SOM) and its accredited teaching hospital, the University Teaching Hospital (UTH). He serves on various International and Local Boards.

His research focuses on 1) HIV Prevention and Clinical outcomes 2) HIV drug resistance 3) HIV and non-communicable diseases (kidney, cardiovascular diseases and diabetes) and 4) Infectious diseases epidemiology and clinical outcomes. He has authored a number of publications in peer reviewed journals on the same subjects.

His other affiliations include University Teaching Hospital, Lusaka, Zambia; University of Zambia, Division of Infectious Diseases, Lusaka, Zambia; and Vanderbilt University, Division of Infectious Diseases, Nashville, USA.

Andrew Phillips, University College London, United Kingdom

Professor Andrew Phillips is an epidemiologist from a mathematical and statistical background who has worked extensively on HIV cohort studies and randomized trials. He has a strong interest in addressing questions of public health significance and have worked extensively in design and analysis of HIV observational study research (including with EuroSIDA, UK CHIC, UK HIV Drug resistance database, UK Seroconverter Register, CASCADE, and COHERE), as well as randomized trials (SMART, START, PROUD), the PARTNER study, which led to the U=U initiative. Currently, he works on HIV modelling and economic evaluation, particularly in the context of sub-Saharan Africa, using the individual-based HIV Synthesis model. He has previously been the PI for the HIV Modelling Consortium. He also has an interest in modelling of a broader range of diseases in the context of a model of the health care system in sub-Saharan Africa.

Mark Polizzotto, The Australian National University College of Health and Medicine, Australia

Mark Polizzotto is Professor of Medicine at The Australian National University College of Health and Medicine, where he leads the Clinical Hub in Interventional Research (CHOIR) and is a group leader at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, and Senior Staff Haematologist at The Canberra Region Cancer Centre, Canberra Hospital.

He is a clinical triallist whose work sits at the intersection of immunity, infection and cancer. He has a focus on developing new therapies to prevent and treat malignancy, particularly infection-related cancers. Mark's work on viral and HIV-associated cancers has influenced guidelines globally, including co-leading development of an oral immunomodulator for Kaposi sarcoma which led to the first new drug approval for KS in over 20 years. During the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, at the invitation of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, he led international randomised trials of immunotherapies for COVID-19.

Mark's work in clinical trials and therapeutic development has led to new therapy registrations and influenced treatment guidelines in Australia and internationally, while his contributions to translational science have led to paradigmatic shifts in our understanding of the pathogenesis of key viral malignancies and complications of HIV infection. He has published in the most influential journals in his areas of interest, including Blood, Clinical Infectious Diseases, the Journal of Clinical Oncology, Lancet journals, Nature Medicine and the New England Journal of Medicine. From 2017 to 2021, Mark was head of the Therapeutic Research Program at the Kirby Institute. During that time in addition to his work in infection-related cancers he led several international randomised trials in HIV, influenza, and COVID-19 infection in collaboration with the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), the World Health Organization, Unitaaid, and others. He also led capacity development efforts in clinical trials for the NIH in West Africa and Indonesia.

Radha Rajasingham, University of Minnesota, USA

Dr Rajasingham is an Infectious Diseases physician and physician-scientist at the University of Minnesota. Her primary research interest is to maximize the public health impact of screening HIV-infected persons for opportunistic infections in order to decrease HIV/AIDS-related mortality. She is particularly interested in the evaluation of cost-effective diagnostics and treatment algorithms to care of persons with advanced HIV disease. Dr Rajasingham is the co-PI of a phase II randomized clinical trial in Uganda evaluating the safety of high dose AmBisome to prevent cryptococcal meningitis in persons with advanced HIV disease, and PI for an R01 cluster-randomized trial evaluating point-of-care diagnostics in persons with advanced HIV disease, funded by NIAID.

Agnes Ronan, Paediatric Adolescent Treatment for Africa, South Africa

Dr Agnes Ronan is the Head of Programmes and Knowledge at PATA and brings over 15 years of experience in public health, with a focus on program implementation and operational research in maternal, child and adolescent health in sub-Saharan Africa. She holds an MBA from the University of Reading, UK, and an MPH from the University of Cape Town. Previously, Agnes worked as a Senior Technical for adolescent health at mothers2mothers and held several research project management positions at the School of Public Health and Family Medicine, the Department of Adolescent Health at the University of Cape Town, and St. George's University, London. She is deeply committed to advancing HIV programming that drives impactful change in paediatric and adolescent HIV policy and service delivery.

Maria Ruano Camps, International Training & Education Center for Health (I- TECH), Mozambique

Dr Maria Ruano Camps is a medical doctor with over 25 years of experience in internal medicine and infectious diseases, specializing in HIV and tuberculosis (TB) care and treatment. She holds a master's in international public health from Universitat de Barcelona and completed her medical degree and specialization at Universidad de Valencia, Spain.

Dr Ruano Camps began her career in Spain, delivering clinical services in internal medicine and infectious diseases while mentoring junior physicians. In 2007, she transitioned to global health, working in Mozambique's Namapa Rural Hospital, where she provided direct care for HIV, TB, and tropical diseases in resource-limited settings. She also trained healthcare workers to strengthen local health systems. In 2008, Dr Ruano Camps joined I-TECH Mozambique, University of Washington, where she advises the Ministry of Health on HIV and TB policies, guidelines, and training programs. More recently, she became the Clinical Director at CRAM, a referral center in Maputo City, leading care for advanced HIV disease and training health workers across the country.

Her work focuses on improving healthcare delivery in fragile systems through clinical care, policy development, and capacity building.

Sengeziwe Sibeko, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), South Africa

Dr Sengeziwe Sibeko is a Public Health Expert and Clinician Scientist with formal training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Epidemiology, Global Health, and HIV Mucosal Immunology. Dr Sibeko is recognised globally for her involvement and contribution in high-level committees. Notably, she was a member of the Data and Safety Monitoring Board of a landmark clinical trial, ECHO, that was convened by the World Health Organization (WHO). Prior to that she was a member of the WHO that convened a 14-member task force team charged with reviewing data that links the use of the contraceptive Depot Provera with HIV-1 acquisition in women. Coming from a gynaecological background, Sibeko is driven by her passion for women's empowerment from a health point of view, particularly with regards to the HIV epidemic. Her research interests centre around alleviating the burden of HIV/AIDS epidemic in women. Dr Sibeko was a Research Gynaecologist in the internationally acclaimed, multi-award winning CAPRISA004 tenofovir gel clinical trial. The CAPRISA004 trial was the first trial at international level to demonstrate that tenofovir gel, a microbicide, applied intravaginally, reduces HIV risk by 39%. She has recently resolved to study Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infection as well. HPV is sexually transmitted and infects the uterine cervix which is her area of specialization. HPV interacts with HIV to worsen the other's pathogenesis and clinical outcomes. HPV is associated with cancer of the cervix in more than 99% of cases and cancer of the cervix is the 2nd most common cancer related cause of death in South African women after breast cancer. As such, HPV infection is also a public health enigma. She has participated in national and international meetings where she either facilitated sessions or given talks in consultations in the United States of America, United Kingdom, Europe and Africa. Further, she has occupied various leadership positions within the HIV-1 prevention research sector and particularly took part in 10 high-level international leadership committees. Recently, she was

the Lead Writer for the development of the National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs. She has been recognised by the National Department of Science and Innovation, as part of the celebration of "Women in Science," for the work she has done for women in the category of "development of rural women." Also, she has received the Sidney Kark Award for her contribution and demonstration of commitment to global health research, which was awarded by the Mailman School of Public Health in New York.

Nadia Sam-Agudu, Institute of Human Virology (IHV), Nigeria

Prof. Nadia Sam-Agudu is a Professor of Paediatrics in the Division of Paediatric Infectious Diseases and Director of the Global Paediatrics Program at the University of Minnesota Medical School, USA. She has served as the Senior Technical Advisor for Paediatric and Adolescent HIV at the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) since 2010 and is a senior research faculty at IHVN's International Research Center of Excellence (IRCE).

Prof. Sam-Agudu's research focuses on the prevention and treatment of HIV, TB, Mpox, and other infectious diseases of public health importance among children and youth in African countries. Her HIV program implementation experience drives the formulation of research questions for formal evaluation. She applies implementation science methods to generate evidence for sustainable infectious disease prevention and control. She contributes her expertise to committees such as the WHO's Adolescent HIV Service Delivery Working Group and the WHO Paediatric ART Working Group.

Prof. Sam-Agudu is a member of the Nigeria Implementation Science Alliance (NISA) and the NIH/Fogarty Adolescent HIV Prevention and Treatment Implementation Science Alliance (AHISA). She leads the Central and West Africa Implementation Science Alliance (CAWISA), which has collaborators in Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, and DR Congo. Prof. Sam-Agudu supports and mentors motivated early career African scientists to pursue academic excellence and to make an impact on health outcomes in Africa.

Anuradha Subramanian, Maulana Azad Medical College, India

Serves as Director-Professor of Medicine at the Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi, India, a premier government medical institution in the country. Her main responsibilities include teaching, patient-care, and research. She is involved in teaching, assessment, and evaluation of undergraduate (MBBS) and postgraduate (MD-Internal Medicine) students and supervises and guides doctoral and post-doctoral dissertations. Dr Subramanian's area of expertise and specialization is Infectious Diseases. As the Nodal Officer for HIV services, including antiretroviral treatment (ART) at the hospital, she is in-charge of all HIV services in the institution. She is the co-chair of the National Technical Resource Group (TRG) on Antiretroviral treatment (ART) of the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, on ART.

Dr Subramanian also serves as a member of the TRGs on Basic Services for HIV: Counselling and Testing, Surveillance & Epidemiology (S&E), and Paediatric HIV. She is a resource person for curriculum development and training for faculty, medical officers, and other healthcare workers for NACO. She is a member of the National AIDS Control Expert Panel (NACEP) for the management of referred HIV patients from across the country and the Programme Director for the Center of Excellence (COE) in HIV/AIDS at Maulana Azad Medical College, in collaboration with NACO. Dr Subramanian was part of the guideline development committee for the National Guidelines on Advanced HIV Disease. She has been the Head of the Department of Medicine in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Delhi since 2022 and is the Chair of the Departmental Research Committee for Medicine. She contributes to the National HIV guidelines and serves on technical and administrative committees for the National Viral Hepatitis and National TB programs.

She is a peer reviewer for many international journals of repute, including *PLoS One*, *PLoS Medicine*, *Journal of Postgraduate Medicine*, *British Medical Journal of Case Reports*, *Indian Journal of Medical Research*, *Journal of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh*, *WHO South-East Asia Journal of Public Health*, *Journal of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (JIAPAC)*, *Journal of the Association of Physicians of India*, and *Lancet Infectious Diseases*. She also reviews research projects for the Indian Council of Medical Research. Dr Subramanian is the Chief Coordinator for the Postgraduate Diploma in HIV Medicine Programme, run jointly by NACO and the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). She has more than 100 publications in peer-reviewed journals and has been the Principal Investigator for numerous research projects in HIV and Medicine.

Katayoun Tayeri, Ministry of Health, Iran

Infectious diseases specialist, HIV/AIDS fellowship and national HIV/AIDS care and treatment advisor. She has been working in the field of HIV/AIDS (clinically and administrative) for 23 years ago. She is focal point of HIV testing, prevention, care, treatment, and PMTCT in ministry of health. As a member of the national scientific HIV/AIDS care and treatment committee, she is closely involved in developing and revising national HIV/AIDS care and treatment guidelines. She has been organized and conducted high level workshops in field of HIV/AIDS care and treatment for general physicians (GPs) and infectious diseases specialists (IDs), more than 270 GPs who are working in VCT clinics and 64 IDs who are the provincial HIV focal points have been trained. All trained physicians have been joined to networks for online updating and problem solving which is managed by her. Developing especial guideline for HIV chronic care, HIV self-testing, reducing loss to follow up among PLWH, guideline of integration HIV testing services in harm reduction centers, training manuals about PMTCT and adherence to treatment for PLWH and HCP, HIV nutritional guidelines for PLWH and HCP are some of her activities and publication. She has been involved in developing a management information system for the national HIV program that led to improved quality of data documentation and management. She has been engaged in developing some of WHO guidelines including: one of the member of GDG group for developing “WHO 2019 HTS Guideline”, one of external guideline review group of “The public health response to pretreatment HIV drug resistance, July 2017”, external temporary advisor on developing “Definition and

categorization of the timing of mother-to-child transmission of SARS-CoV-2 Scientific brief 8 February, 2021”, one of the external guidelines review group of WHO guideline “Recommendations and guidance on hepatitis C virus self-testing, 2021”, one of the GDG group of “Guidelines for the management of symptomatic sexually transmitted infections, 2021” and one of the GDG group member of “Consolidated guidelines on differentiated HIV testing services, 2024”. She is a member of EMRO regional validation committee for EMTCT of HIV and Syphilis.

Ni Ni Tun, Medical Action Myanmar and Myanmar Oxford Clinical Research Unit, Myanmar

Ni Ni Tun started to work as a HIV/TB national coordinator with Médecins sans Frontières in Myanmar in 2003. She has trained about 1000 local doctors related to HIV, TB case management and malnutrition. Moreover, Ni Ni was trained for screening and treatment of Cytomegalovirus 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). In 2009 Ni Ni has joined Medical Action Myanmar. Ni Ni is the lead for HIV innovative research for the Myanmar Oxford Clinical Research Unit (MOCRU). MOCRU is a new tropical medical research organization formed as an extension of the medical research activities of the University of Oxford in Southeast Asia. Currently, she is also 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.

Mihoko Yotsumoto, Tokyo Medical University Hospital, Japan

Dr Mihoko Yotsumoto attended the International AIDS Conference held in Yokohama in 1994 as a member of the AIDS Memorial Quilt while she was a university student.

She graduated from Shinshu University Medical Course in 1999. After graduation, she worked and trained in Internal Medicine at Toranomon Hospital for two years. In 2001, she began her HIV clinical practice at Shinshu University Hospital. During this time, she worked in the Haematological Department of the hospital and gained experience in AIDS-related malignant lymphoma.

Since 2008, she has been working at Tokyo Medical University Hospital, which, as of 2024, provides care to the second-largest number of people with HIV in Tokyo (1,600 patients). She earned a degree focusing on HIV-associated Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2013.

Since 2019, Mihoko Yotsumoto has been responsible for revising HIV treatment guidelines in Japan annually. Additionally, she has collected evidence and information on the current state of HIV prevention and treatment in Japan, preparing resources for the ongoing revision of AIDS prevention guidelines by the Japanese government.

Methodologist, Roger Chou, Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), USA¹

Roger Chou is a Professor of Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) in the Department of Medical Informatics & Clinical Epidemiology and the Department of Medicine. His clinical background is as an MD trained in internal medicine. He has over 20 years of experience in systematic reviews and guideline development and serves as the Director of the Pacific Northwest Evidence-based Practice Center at OHSU. He has led over 100 systematic reviews for organizations such as the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health, the World Health Organization, the American College of Physicians (ACP), the American Urological Association, and others.

Prof. Chou has served as Coordinating Editor for Cochrane Back and Neck and Senior Editor for Cochrane Musculoskeletal. He has extensive experience in developing clinical practice guidelines, having collaborated with the USPSTF to develop over 30 recommendations on prevention and screening. Additionally, he has served as director of clinical guidelines development for the American Pain Society, as a member of the ACP Clinical Guidelines Committee, and as a steering committee member for the CDC guideline on opioids for pain. He actively develops and advances methods and standards for conducting systematic reviews for the AHRQ Effective Health Care Program, the USPSTF, Cochrane, and other organizations. He was also an author on the recent PRISMA update on reporting standards for systematic reviews.

Prof. Chou has previously served as methodologist for numerous WHO guidelines, including those on hepatitis C virus infection, hepatitis B virus infection, medical eligibility criteria for contraceptives, leprosy, physical activity, low birth weight infants, neonatal sepsis, prevention of childhood marriage, and mass distribution of azithromycin to young children, among others. Of particular relevance to this consultancy opportunity, he served as the GRADE methodologist for the updated recommendations on service delivery for the treatment and care of people living with HIV (April 2021) and for the updated guideline on diagnosing, preventing, and managing cryptococcal disease among adults, adolescents, and children living with HIV (June 2022). Additionally, he led systematic reviews on HIV screening (2005, 2012, 2019, and 2024), prenatal screening (2005, 2012, 2019, and 2024), and the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (2019 and 2023) for the USPSTF, as well as systematic reviews on screening for HCV and HBV and diagnostic testing and imaging for viral hepatitis.

¹ Professor Roger Chou provides methodological support and facilitation of evidence to decision making for the Guideline development process and does not contribute to the formulation of WHO recommendations.