



Implementing the WHO Strategy for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming

Monday 19 September 2022, 14:00–15:30 CET (90 min)

PANELLISTS



Gautam Biswas

Gautam Biswas is the Director ad interim of WHO's Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (WHO/NTD) and also leads the WHO/NTD Strategic Information and Analytics unit. He coordinated the planning, drafting and publication of the NTD road map for 2021–2030. He has more than 30 years of experience in the medical field and has authored several publications in peer-reviewed journals on NTDs.



Bernadette Abela-Ridder

Bernadette Abela-Ridder is a veterinary epidemiologist in the Veterinary, Public Health, Vector Control and Environment unit of WHO/NTD. As a One Health team leader, she works closely with FAO, OIE, UNEP and other institutions to advance common priorities at the interface of human, animal and environmental health. Previously, she worked in WHO's Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses. She has also worked in public health, with a focus on antimicrobial resistance.



Andrew Korkor

Andrew Seidu Korkor is a medical officer in the Tropical and Vector-borne Diseases division of WHO's Regional Office for Africa, where he also serves as focal point for dracunculiasis eradication and snakebite envenoming. He has more than 25 years' experience in managing public health programmes, including providing dedicated technical support to the national Guinea-worm eradication programme for more than 8 years. In his native Ghana, he led the country's fight against dracunculiasis for almost 13 years.



David Williams

David Williams is a technical officer (antivenoms) in WHO's Prequalification Unit, Regulation and Prequalification Department. He was previously head of the Australian Venom Research Unit at the University of Melbourne, the Charles Campbell Toxinology Centre, University of Papua New Guinea, and CEO of the Global Snakebite Initiative. His background is in herpetology and toxinology, with over 20 years' field and clinical research experience in low and middle-income countries, particularly Papua New Guinea, including antivenom design, development, preclinical and clinical testing, distribution and surveillance.



Bethany Sarah Moos

Bethany Sarah Moos is a clinician based in Oxford, UK, who is working for WHO/NTD. She is passionate about community engagement and is currently focusing on the development of a community engagement toolkit on snakebite envenoming.



Anna Pintor

Anna Pintor is a research scientist in WHO's GIS Centre for Health, Division of Data Analytics and Delivery for Impact. Her research interest is integrating snake ecology and biogeography into snakebite prevention and control strategies.



Rafael Ruiz de Castaneda

Dr Rafael Ruiz de Castaneda is a consultant at the WHO/NTD. He is also a researcher and lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Geneva, where he leads an interdisciplinary team using One Health and innovative digital tools (e.g., artificial intelligence) to better understand and tackle snakebite and other public health issues such as zoonoses at the interface of humans, animals and their environment.



Mike Turner

Mike Turner is an independent consultant for the WHO snakebite initiative, an Honorary Professor at the University of Glasgow, UK, and a member of council at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and of the Science Advisory Board at the MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research. He is a former Director of Science at Wellcome. Prior to joining Wellcome he worked at the University of Glasgow where he held Beit, Royal Society and Leverhulme Fellowships.



Aya Yajima

Aya Yajima is the Regional Adviser for Vector-Borne and Neglected Tropical Diseases Control in the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, where she coordinates with WHO Headquarters, Country Offices, donors and partners to provide technical support for NTD-endemic Member States in the Region to accelerate control and elimination of NTDs.



Diogo Martins

Diogo Martins is a medical doctor from Portugal and the Policy and Advocacy Lead for the Snakebite priority area at the Wellcome Trust. This £80 million programme aims to transform the ways in which snakebite treatments are researched, developed and delivered, to make them safer, more effective and accessible for all. His responsibility is to shape, develop and implement a policy, advocacy and public affairs strategy for the snakebite portfolio, in collaboration with regulators, manufacturers, donors, governments and multilateral agencies, including WHO.