



MMS Symposium 2024

Speakers



Giorgio Cometto

Unit Head - Health Workforce Department, World Health Organization

Dr Giorgio Cometto is a medical doctor with post-graduate studies in health policy, health economics and health sector governance. He has more than 20 years' experience in health system development at national and international levels, in humanitarian, post-conflict and development settings. He joined WHO Headquarters in 2010 and since 2017 he is the head of the unit responsible for the policies, norms and standards in WHO's health workforce department. Among the focus areas of his work, he facilitated the development of the WHO Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health and is responsible for the health workforce migration portfolio, including the WHO Global Code of Practice on International Recruitment of Health Personnel.



Julia Tainijoki

World Medical Association

Dr Tainijoki is the Senior Medical Advisor of the World Medical Association, representing the millions of physicians worldwide. WMA acts on behalf of patients and physicians to achieve the highest possible standards of medical care, ethics, education and health-related human rights for all people.

Dr Tainijoki manages a variety of strategic projects at WMA ranging from infectious and non-communicable diseases to strengthening health systems, health workforce issues, access to quality-assured medicines and the social determinants of health. She serves as the WMA representative to the UN organizations, including WHO and other international institutions in Geneva, Switzerland. For over 10 years she also headed the secretariat of the World Health Professions Alliance, was advisory board member of the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for UHC2030, member of several international expert committee at WHO and other organisations such as member for the third review of the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel, Members of the Steering Group on Influenza Vaccination, management board member of the Global Social Observatory and editorial board member of Southern Medical Journal.

She is a family physician, trained in Germany, UK and Switzerland with a Master's Degree in International Health Economy, Public Health and Health Policy from the University of Bocconi in Milan, Italy.



Genevieve Gencianos

Public Services International

Genevieve leads PSI's global policy work on migration and public services, bringing the perspective of human rights, labour rights and social justice in the areas of health worker migration and forced displacement in the context of conflicts and climate change.

Genevieve assists PSI unions in implementing projects in the regions and bringing the voice of public service workers in shaping global policy at various governance levels.

Genevieve has a Master's Degree in Public Administration (University of the Philippines) and a Master's Degree in International Development (University of New South Wales, Australia). She lives in Geneva with her husband and two daughters.



Natalia Postolachi
CASMED

Natalia Postolachi, Executive Director of CASMED, was recognized as one of 50 inspirational champions in healthy ageing on the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing Platform. With over 17 years of experience in project management, she has significantly contributed to the development of the home-based care sector in Moldova and the advancement of caregiving professions, ensuring vital support for elderly and vulnerable populations. Natalia is experienced in evaluating healthcare providers to ensure compliance with national standards, while also promoting innovation in community care. Her leadership has been instrumental in shaping programs focused on healthy ageing, social inclusion, and humanitarian support for those in need



Martin Leschhorn Strebel
Medicus Mundi Switzerland

Martin Leschhorn Strebel is historian and the Director of the Network Medicus Mundi Switzerland, an umbrella organisation uniting around 50 Swiss organisations working in the fields of international health cooperation and global health. He acts as well as the president of Medicus Mundi International.



Farah Rummy
Swiss National Councilor

Farah Rummy MP is a Swiss politician, nurse and vocational schoolteacher for nurses. In March 2021, she was elected to the Cantonal Council of Solothurn. Since 2023 Farah is Member of the Swiss Parliament, representing the Social Democratic Party in the National Council. She is Co-Chair of Swiss nurse Association (SBK-ASI) of the Cantons Solothurn and Aargau



Marc Reynaud de la Jara
Swiss Medical Students' Association (swimsa)

Marc Reynaud de la Jara is a fifth year medical student. He is doing his masters degree in Lausanne after having completed his bachelors at ETH Zurich. He has been involved within the Swiss Medical Students' Association (swimsa) for several years, where he now leads the Advocacy Board.



Itai Rusike
Community Working Group on Health –Zimbabwe

Itai Rusike is the Executive Director, Community Working Group on Health (CWGH) - Zimbabwe. Itai is a Public Health Activist with more than 20 years' experience organising involvement of communities in health actions in Zimbabwe. He is a member and chairperson of various health related committees, along with being the Chairperson for the People's Health Movement in Zimbabwe.



Maria Marelli
Handicap International

Maria Marelli is an international specialist in Rehabilitation, Health Systems Strengthening and Early Childhood Development (ECD) targeted to children at risk of developmental delays and disability, and their family. She holds a Bachelor in Physiotherapy and a European Master of Science Degree in Adapted Physical Activity (Disability Inclusion). She currently works as ECD Global Specialist with Humanity & Inclusion (HI), focusing on supporting a global Inclusive ECD framework in development and humanitarian setting. She supports HI ECD programmes around the world at household, community, services and system level. Prior to this post Maria worked around 3 continents for different International Non-Governmental Organizations, where she undertook lecturing, research, project management and technical advisory roles on the topics of Global Health, Disability Inclusion and ECD.

Maria has worked in the ECD and disability sector in high and low-income countries for over 10 years, supporting community-based rehabilitation (CBR) practices, pediatric centers, new-born care and rehabilitation services in general and specialized hospitals. She has supervised several international bachelor and public health master degree students for their final research and produced two original research thesis, learning to master qualitative and quantitative research methods.



Patrick Thomas
SolidarMed

Patrick Thomas, born, raised, and educated in South Africa; is a seasoned public health specialist who has extensive expertise in health systems strengthening, capacity building, and program development and implementation. His passion lies in localizing development aid, effective program management, and addressing planetary health and climate change for health and development opportunities.

In his position as Head of International Programmes at SolidarMed, in Lucerne, Switzerland, Patrick plays a pivotal role in supporting access to healthcare for all, through critical health systems strengthening, human resources for health, and healthcare service strengthening across South-eastern Africa.

Prior to SolidarMed, he served as a project director at FHI 360 and a regional manager at BroadReach Healthcare, in South Africa, where he contributed significantly to large-scale health systems strengthening, NGO capacity building, and OVCY program implementation for PEPFAR-funded USAID and CDC initiatives in Southern Africa..



Thomas Schwarz
Medicus Mundi International

Thomas Schwarz is the former Director of Medicus Mundi Switzerland and, since 2018, has been working as Executive Secretary of Medicus Mundi International - Network Health for All. Thomas describes himself as an experienced and trusted civil society manager, networker, facilitator and advocate in the fields of global health governance, international health cooperation, universal and equitable access to health care, and the social, political and economic determinants of health and health policies. He likes to explore, initiate, and facilitate new, and often financially hopeless, civil society initiatives.



Labila Sumayah Musoke (Host)
Medicus Mundi International

Labila Sumayah Musoke is a health and human right lawyer. She has had the good fortune to work in fields that interest her. Labila firmly believes in accountability, equity, and justice. She exudes confidence, and is not afraid to network to broaden both her personal and professional networks. She perceives everything in terms of its place in the system, its inclusion or exclusion, and how to ensure that the system works for everyone. This perception guides her to respectfully appreciate other people's views, values and beliefs.



Carine Weiss (Host)
Medicus Mundi Switzerland

Carine Weiss has been project leader at Medicus Mundi Switzerland since September 2014. She holds a master's degree in clinical psychology and a master's in international health from the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute where she worked for over seven years. She has worked in the field for three years, spending six months in Cambodia, six months in Haiti and two years in Myanmar (2010 – 2013).
