

**Migration and Health Technical Briefing  
World Health Assembly  
27 May 2016**

**Speaker biographies**

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**Dr Margaret Chan**

**Director-General, World Health Organization**



Dr Margaret Chan is the Director-General of WHO and was first appointed by the World Health Assembly on 9 November 2006. The Assembly appointed Dr Chan for a second five-year term at its sixty-fifth session in May 2012. Dr Chan's current term began on 1 July 2012 and will continue until 30 June 2017. Before being elected Director-General, Dr Chan was WHO Assistant Director-General for Communicable Diseases, as well as Representative of the Director-General for Pandemic Influenza.

Prior to joining WHO, she was Director of Health in Hong Kong. During her nine-year tenure as Director, Dr Chan confronted the first human outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza in 1997.

She successfully defeated the spate of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in Hong Kong in 2003. She also launched new services to prevent disease and promote better health.

**Ambassador William Lacy Swing**

**Director-General, International Organization for Migration**



Ambassador William Lacy Swing of the United States is on his second five-year term as Director-General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

From May 2003 to January 2008, he successfully led the largest UN peacekeeping operation, as UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). He served from 2001 to 2003 as the Special Representative to the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and Chief of Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). During a long diplomatic career at the US Department of State, he was a six-time Ambassador, managing some of the largest diplomatic missions and foreign development and humanitarian aid programmes in two hemispheres, with a record of strengthening

bilateral relationships.

Ambassador Swing has a deep understanding of the multiple factors affecting international migration through his diplomatic assignments in countries facing significant migration movements.

**Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab**

**Regional Director, WHO Regional Office for Europe**



Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab took up her duties as Regional Director on 1 February 2010. In January 2015, the WHO Executive Board appointed her for a second term, which began on 1 February 2015. A native of Hungary, she has held a number of high-profile national and international public health policy positions in the last three decades. She began her career in Hungary's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in 1975, being responsible for external affairs, including relations with WHO.

Born in 1951 in Hungary, Dr Jakab holds a PhD degree in Health Sciences from the University of Debrecen, Hungary; a Master's degree from the Faculty of Humanities, Eötvös Lóránd University, Budapest; a postgraduate degree from the University of Political Sciences, Budapest; a diploma in public health from the Nordic School of Public Health, Gothenburg, Sweden; and a postgraduate diploma from the National Institute of Public Administration and Management, Hungary.

### **Mr Steven Corliss**

#### **Director, Division of Programme Support and Management, UNHCR**



Mr Steven Corliss is Director of the Division of Programme Support & Management (DPSM) with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva. Mr Corliss coordinated the development of UNHCR's Policy on Alternatives to Camps and oversees the programmatic aspects of the agency's expanding engagement with development partners and international financial institutions, most notably the World Bank Group.

Mr Corliss is responsible for programme policy, planning and management, UNHCR's strategic direction, partnerships and technical support to field operations in the areas of public health, HIV and AIDS, nutrition and food security, water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter and settlements, livelihoods and self-reliance, cash-based interventions, environmental management and energy, camp coordination & camp management, registration, information management and statistics.

### **Dr Fernando Llorca Castro**

#### **Minister of Health, Costa Rica**



Dr Fernando Llorca Castro is the Minister of Health for Costa Rica. He served as Deputy Minister of Health from August 2014 and became Minister of Health in February 2015. Prior to this, he was a consultant and researcher in health management and policy. He has worked as a doctor in rural hospitals and as Head of outpatient care, as well as been a Medical Director and Manager for insurance companies in Spain, managing medical costs, ensuring the quality of services and developing information systems.

He also worked as a Health Risk and Disability Analyst at the Department of Work and Pensions in the UK. He has participated in research projects on preventable mortality in Costa Rica identifying inequalities in health care, in studies of cost analysis of health services in Madrid and professional incentives and financial sustainability of health systems for the OECD countries for the London School of Economics. He has practised medicine in three countries.

### **Dr Bernice Dahn**

#### **Minister of Health, Liberia**



Dr Bernice Dahn is the current Minister of Health & Social Welfare in Liberia. She previously held the position of Deputy Minister for Health Services and Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for the Ministry of Health in Liberia. At the height of the Ebola outbreak in Liberia, Dr Dahn played a key role in combating the virus as CMO. An exemplary leader, she quarantined herself in September for nearly a month after one of her assistants died of Ebola. As Liberia looks ahead, Dr Dahn will lead Liberia's efforts as the country builds back strong health systems and ensures that access to universal health coverage is achieved for all.

### **Dr Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala**

**Director-General of Health Services, Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicines, Sri Lanka**



Dr Palitha Gunarathna Mahipala is Director-General of Health Services at the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka, a post he has held since 2012. He received his MBBS from the University of Peradeniya in 1983, an MSc in Community Medicine from the University of Colombo in 1995, MD in medical administration from the University of Colombo in 2006, and an MBA from the University of Rajarata in 2007.

As a medical doctor, he worked for several years as a medical officer and district medical officer, before posts as a Regional Director of Health Services and the Director of a teaching hospital in Colombo. He has worked across a range of posts in the Sri Lankan Ministry of Health, including as director of tertiary care services, Acting Director of Medical Services, and most recently as Director-General of Health Services. Dr Mahipala has served on the boards of numerous professional colleges and associations, NGOs, and health providers, while also maintaining an academic portfolio including a range of publications and visiting lectureships.

### **Dr Phusit Prakongsai**

**Director, Bureau of International Health, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand**



Dr Phusit Prakongsai was appointed Director of the International Health Policy Program (IHPP), in the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand from October 2010 to December 2014. Subsequently he was appointed as Director of the Bureau of International Health (BIH), at the Ministry, in October 2014.

He earned his PhD in Public Health and Policy from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 2008, and his Medical Doctor Degree from Mahidol University in 1988, and a Certificate in Preventive Medicine from the Thai Medical Council in 1993. He has 10 years of field experience in public health and health service management in three district hospitals in rural areas of Thailand. He has served as the principal investigator and co-investigator of several research projects related to health system and policy, health insurance, universal health coverage, and health care finance at the International Health Policy Program (IHPP), from 1999 to present. He received a WHO long-term fellowship for pursuing his PhD studies in London in 2002.

### **Dr Ioannis Baskozos**

**General Secretary of Public Health, Greece**



Dr Ioannis Baskozos has been Secretary General for Public Health in the Ministry of Health since February 2015. He heads the Committee for the National Action Plan for migration and health. He is also the Coordinator of the Committee for health coverage of refugees, migrants and vulnerable groups. He is responsible for the development of international cooperation of the Ministry of Health and for establishing cooperation with World Health Organisation (WHO) and other international organizations.

He graduated from the Medical Faculty of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, later attaining his specialization in Endocrinology from the Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism Department of Athens General Hospital. He has participated in congresses in Greece and abroad – as a speaker – and has published papers in scientific journals and congresses on the topics of endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism. He also served as Vice-President and Chairman in the scientific and professional syndicate of Greek endocrinologists, the Hellenic Endocrine Society.

## **Dr Ranieri Guerra**

**Director-General of Preventive Health and Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, Italy**



Dr Ranieri Guerra is Director-General of Preventive Health and Chief Medical Officer, at the Ministry of Health of Italy. He was previously Science and Technology Attaché at the Embassy of Italy, Washington, D.C. He was also the former Director of URE, External Relations Office, the President's cabinet for the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, the National Institute of Health of Italy, in Rome. His role at the ISS included management activities on Health system reform, equity and impact assessment, capacity-building and institutional development at central and intermediate levels, especially in public-private systems. He has significant experience in the integration of NGOs' participation in national health programmes, monitoring and evaluation of health activities, epidemiological research applied to health system management, strategic planning, telematics in health, health systems design and appraisal, training, multi-sectoral HIV/AIDS responses and poverty diseases within national frameworks, and poverty reduction strategies programme development.

Dr Guerra has published widely on health strategies topics. Since 2000, Dr Guerra has worked as a consultant and team leader for UNICEF, UNDP, WHO and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on projects in Palestine, Eritrea, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Swaziland and China.

## **Professor Walid Ammar**

**Director-General, Ministry of Public Health, Lebanon**



Professor Walid Ammar has been Director-General of the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) of Lebanon since 1993. Under his leadership, reform efforts led to significant improvements in health indicators, while decreasing the GDP share of health expenditures, mostly as a result of a meaningful reduction in households' out-of-pocket spending. Professor Ammar established the Primary Health Care Network in Lebanon and developed the National Nursing Training Programme in 1997. He lobbied for the public hospitals' autonomy Law, issued in 1996, and has been leading the Hospital Accreditation Programme since 1999. He recently introduced a set of hospital performance indicators making performance contracting a well-established practice in the MOPH.

He is a Professor at the Lebanese University, and Senior Lecturer at the American University of Beirut (AUB). He chairs several National Committees and was appointed in 2011 as Commissioner in the United Nations Commission on Information & Accountability for Women & Children's Health. He served as a member of the Executive Board (EB) at the World Health Organization (2012-2015), and is currently a member of the WHO Emergencies Oversight and Advisory Committee. He has many publications including two published books: "Health System and Reform in Lebanon" (2003), "Health Beyond Politics" (2009).

## **Professor Hikmet Selcuk Gedik**

**Director-General for Emergency Health Care, Ministry of Health, Republic of Turkey**



Professor Hikmet Selcuk Gedik was appointed as Director-General for Emergency Health Care at the Ministry of Health in 2016. He worked at several University and State Hospitals in Turkey and is founder and Director of the Cardiovascular Diseases Clinic at Duzce University Medical School and Ankara Numune Training and Research Hospital. Professor Gedik is the author of several international publications and speaks Turkish, English and Arabic. He graduated from Cukurova Medical School and the Turkish High Specialist Hospital in cardiovascular diseases.

## Moderator

### **Dr Edward Kelley**

**Director, Service Delivery and Safety, World Health Organization**



Dr Kelley is Director of the Department of Service Delivery and Safety at the World Health Organization. In this role, he leads WHO's efforts to strengthen the safety, quality, integration and people-centredness of health services globally and is the lead for WHO's work on strengthening health systems and security. Dr Kelley has also been leading health systems work within WHO's Ebola and Zika response teams. He manages WHO's work in a wide range of programmes, including health services integration and regulation, patient safety and quality, blood safety, injection safety, transplantation, traditional medicine, essential and safe surgery and emerging areas, such as mHealth for health services, and genomics.

Prior to joining WHO, he served as Director of the National Healthcare Reports for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Dr Kelley also directed the 28-country Health Care Quality Improvement (HCQI) Project of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Prior to this, Dr Kelley served as a Senior Researcher and Quality Assurance Advisor for the USAID-sponsored Quality Assurance Project (QAP) and Partnerships for Health Reform Project Plus (PHRPlus). His work over two decades has focused on strengthening links between health security issues and the quality, safety and organization of health services, including metrics and measurement in health services and health systems improvement approaches and policies.