

2024 Update Course Speaker Bios



Aisha Khatib, MD, CCFP(EM), DTM&H (Course Co-Chair)
Received a CTropMed® Certificate

Dr. Aisha Khatib is an Assistant Professor with the Department of Family & Community Medicine at the University of Toronto. She trained in family and emergency medicine from the University of Toronto and McGill University and completed an Infectious Diseases fellowship in Clinical Tropical Medicine at the University of Toronto. She holds certification in Travel Medicine from the University of Otago in New Zealand, and a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from the Gorgas Course in Peru. She has done global health work in India, Haiti, and Nepal, with certification in global health through the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto and Disaster Response and Humanitarian Relief training through Harvard School of Public Health. She worked as a Travel Doctor in New Zealand for five years before returning to Canada. She is currently the Clinical Director of Travel Medicine at Medcan and staff physician at Immigrant Women's Health Centre in Toronto, Canada. She is a member of CATMAT, the Committee to Advise on Tropical Medicine and Travel, an external advisory body to the Public Health Agency of Canada. Her recent research focused on the safety of air travel during the pandemic, as well as climate change and travel.



German Henostroza, MD (Course Co-Chair)

Dr. German Henostroza is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He serves as President of the ASTMH Clinical Group, Director of the Gorgas Institute for Geographic Medicine and Director of Gorgas Courses in Clinical Tropical Medicine. He has lived and work in Zambia for almost eight years. Primary interests have included understanding the epidemiology and pathology of TB-HIV co-infection through building, studying and evaluating a cohort of patients in Africa and in prison populations. He also has participated in multiple diagnostic and clinical trials of novel TB diagnostics, drugs and vaccines.



Bernadette Abela-Ridder, DVM, PhD

Dr. Bernadette Abela works in the Global Programme for Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) of the World Health Organization (WHO) as the lead on neglected zoonotic diseases and NTDs that have a human animal interface. She is closely involved in advancing common areas of work with FAO, WOA, UNEP and other global health actors. Bernadette previously worked with the WHO Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses, the US Food and Drug Administration, l'Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) in Cameroon, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N. and in clinical veterinary practice.



Tom Fletcher, MBChB, PhD

Dr. Tom Fletcher is a Senior Clinical Lecturer at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) and a specialist in high consequence infectious diseases. He completed his undergraduate training at the University of Leeds. Following this, he undertook general duties in the Defence Medicine Services and then completed higher specialist training in Infectious Disease and General Internal Medicine in Liverpool. Additionally, Dr. Fletcher has a PhD, which he earned through a Wellcome Trust fellowship that involved investigating immune response interactions with viral

infections.



Tom Heller, MD

Dr. Tom Heller graduated from the Medical School of the Technical University Munich, Germany in 1995. He has worked in various international settings in the field of Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases for more than 20 years. In the field of HIV and (MDR-) tuberculosis he gained extensive experience while working in Hlabisa, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. He is a dedicated clinician, experienced trainer and clinical mentor. Since the beginning of his career his particular interest has been lying in diagnostic and interventional ultrasound.

His research and teaching interests are ultrasound applications in the resource-limited setting and sonographic diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases. He developed a protocol called (FASH) Focused assessment with Sonography for HIV/TB. This protocol focuses on using ultrasound to diagnose HIV-associated tuberculosis. Tom has also taught ultrasound in various countries in Africa, Asia and South America.



Susan Hills, MBBS, MTH

Dr. Susan Hills is a medical epidemiologist specializing in arboviral diseases at the Division of Vector-Borne Diseases at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Fort Collins, Colorado. With nearly three decades of experience, Dr. Hills has focused extensively on the epidemiology, prevention, and control of diseases such as chikungunya, Zika, and Japanese encephalitis. Her career has included significant contributions to public health, such as responding to chikungunya outbreaks in South America and the Pacific. She has also led the Advisory Committee

on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Work Groups in developing recommendations for chikungunya, Japanese encephalitis, and tick-borne encephalitis vaccines.



Wasin Matsee, MD, MCTM, Dip. Board Travel Medicine, CTH™

Dr. Wasin Matsee serves as Assistant Professor in Travel Medicine and Clinical Tropical Medicine at the Travel Medicine Research Unit, Department of Clinical Tropical Medicine, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University in Bangkok; and attending physician at the Thai Travel Clinic, Hospital for Tropical Diseases, Bangkok, Thailand, where he provides care to patients with travel-acquired illnesses and infections in his medical practice. His research interests are involved with travel medicine, travel-related diseases and clinical tropical medicine.



Sarah McGuinness, MBBS, BMedSc, MPH&TM, FACTM, FRACP, PhD

Dr. Sarah McGuinness is an academic infectious diseases physician. She currently holds dual positions as Consultant Physician in the Department of Infectious Diseases at the Alfred Hospital (Travel Medicine Clinic) and Senior Research Fellow in the Infectious Diseases Epidemiology Unit within the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University. Her research focuses on improving strategies to combat preventable infections in at-risk populations (including travellers, immigrants and refugees, healthcare workers, and those living in resource-constrained settings), both locally and globally, with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region.



Edwin Nuwagira, Mmed

Dr. Edwin Nuwagira is a lecturer in the Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) and a physician at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital in Uganda, East Africa. He completed his medical degree at MUST in 2012 and an internship year at Mengo Hospital in Kampala, before serving as a medical officer at the same hospital for eight months. Dr. Nuwagira joined a research group at the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI), Mulago, and while there worked on three groundbreaking clinical trials in cryptococcal meningitis. He also holds a Master's degree of Medicine in Internal Medicine, which he completed in 2018 and a post-graduate certificate in Medical Mycology from the University of Cape Town South Africa. Dr. Nuwagira is currently the clinical head of the USAID-funded drug-resistant TB treatment program in Mbarara and is conducting two NIH-funded studies on severe forms of TB and post-TB lung disease. Apart from research, he is a cattle keeper and enjoys watching soccer.



Mena Ramos, MD

Dr. Mena Ramos holds a medical degree from the Universidad de Ciencias Médicas de La Habana in Cuba. She completed her residency in family medicine at the UCSF Contra Costa Family Medicine Residency program. Following her residency, she pursued a fellowship in Global Health at the UCSF Contra Costa Global Health Fellowship. Dr. Ramos is a co-founder of the Global Ultrasound Institute and has extensive experience in teaching and advocating for the use of point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) in primary care settings and in low-resource environments.



Priscilla Rupali, MD, DTM&H, FRCP

Dr. Priscilla Rupali is Professor and head of Department of Infectious Diseases, Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, India. She was a Senior ID fellow in the Department of Adult Infectious Diseases, Auckland City Hospital and has a "Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene" from Universidad Cayetano Heredia, Lima. She runs an annual course in Clinical Tropical Medicine at CMC. Early 2000s, she joined in pioneering distance learning course educating people in HIV Medicine. She has formal training in "Transplant Infectious Diseases", Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, has established Transplant related services in her hospital and founded the Transplant Infectious Diseases Conference in Vellore, Chennai and Ludhiana. She has set up an antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) program in her hospital and plans to implement AMS at the primary, secondary and tertiary care levels, targeting clinical pharmacists and physicians working long term at secondary care hospitals. Her department pioneered promoting ID as a clinical specialty in India and is the 2nd Department there to run the DM in Infectious Diseases.



Carlos Seas, MD, FIDSA

Dr. Carlos Seas is a Gorgas Course Director. He is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Subdirector of the Alexander von Humboldt Tropical Medicine Institute at Cayetano Heredia University. His research interests include tuberculosis, cholera, shigellosis, hospital-acquired infections, HIV/AIDS, skin and soft tissue infections, infections in travelers, antimicrobial resistance, and *S. aureus* bacteriemia.



Simon Smith, MBBS, MD, FRACP

Dr. Simon Smith is an infectious diseases physician and general internal medicine specialist based at Cairns Hospital in Queensland, Australia. His research interests focus on tropical diseases such as melioidosis and leptospirosis, and he is actively involved in managing severe clinical manifestations of these diseases in the region. Dr. Smith's work includes significant contributions to understanding the epidemiology and clinical features of melioidosis in Far North Queensland, which has seen a notable

increase in incidence over recent years



Miriam Songa Stegemann, MD

Dr. Miriam Songa Stegemann, is a distinguished specialist in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases. With a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from Gorgas Memorial Institute of Tropical and Preventive Medicine in Lima, Peru, Dr. Stegemann brings of expertise to her field. She is currently serving as a Senior Consultant in Infectious Diseases at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Department of Infectious Diseases, Critical Care and Respiratory Medicine since 2018.

Dr. Stegemann holds the position of Head of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, where she leads initiatives aimed at combating antibiotic resistance at Germany's largest university hospital centre. She is actively involved in research and has a robust academic background. She served as a Research Assistant at the Institute of Tropical Medicine & International Health, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, from 2003, including a Magna Cum Laude doctoral thesis focusing on genetic variants in severe malaria.



Carolina Talhari, MD, PhD

Prof. Dra. Carolina Chrusciak Talhari holds a medical degree from the Universidade Federal do Amazonas (UFAM) and specialized in Dermatology at the Department of Dermatology of the Heinrich-Heine Universität in Düsseldorf, Germany. She is also recognized as a specialist in Dermatology by the Sociedade Brasileira de Dermatologia (SBD) and earned her PhD in Tropical Medicine from the Universidade do Estado do Amazonas (UEA).



David A. Warrell, DM, DSc, FRCP, FRCPE, FMedSci

Professor David A. Warrell is Emeritus Professor of Tropical Medicine and formerly head of the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford. In 1979, he founded the Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Network. His career has been as physician, zoologist, teacher, researcher, resident and traveler in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Papua New Guinea. His major research interest has been in tropical medicine and toxinology.



Henry Wu, MD, DTMH, FIDSA

Dr. Henry Wu is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Distinguished Physician in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Emory University. Dr. Wu serves as the director of the Emory TravelWell Center, Emory's clinical center dedicated to the prevention, treatment, and surveillance of infections related to travel and migration. He previously served at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer and Medical Epidemiologist at the Meningitis and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Branch. Dr. Wu's interests include infectious diseases epidemiology, tropical diseases, travel medicine and the evaluation of patients for serious emerging infections.