

21st Welsh Immunisation Conference

Wednesday 24th April 2024

2 Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street, Cardiff

Speaker Biographies

***Professor Sir Andrew Pollard BSc MA MBBS MRCP(UK) FRCPCH PhD DIC FHEA
FMedSci Ashall Professor of Infection and Immunity***

Sir Andrew is Director of the Oxford Vaccine Group at the University of Oxford and an honorary consultant paediatrician (infectious disease and immunology) at Oxford Children's Hospital. He received a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2021 for services to Public Health and the Order of Medical Merit from the Federal Republic of Brazil in 2022.

His research includes the design, development and clinical evaluation of vaccines including those for typhoid, meningococcus, Haemophilus influenzae type b, pneumococcus, plague, pertussis, influenza, rabies, coronavirus and Ebola. His work on pneumococcal and meningococcal vaccines has been used in global public health policy. His studies on typhoid both using the human challenge model and in field sites supported the WHO prequalification of a new typhoid conjugate vaccine and WHO recommendations for its use in countries with a high burden of disease with more than 50 million vaccinated since 2021. He was the chief investigator for the clinical trials of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine in 2020 in 24,000 participants in UK, South Africa and Brazil, which led to authorisation of the vaccine for use in more than 180 countries with over 3 billion doses distributed and award of the Copley Medal by the Royal Society in 2022. He has supervised 50 PhD students and his publications includes over 700 manuscripts. He chairs the UK Department of Health and Social Care's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation and was a member of WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (2016-2022). He chaired the European Medicines Agency scientific advisory group on vaccines (2012-2020). He received the Bill Marshall Award of the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Disease (ESPID) in 2013, the ESPID Distinguished Award for Education and Communication in 2015 and the Rosén von Rosenstein medal in 2019 from the Swedish Society of Medicine, the James Spence Medal from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health in 2022. He is chair of the Knoop

Charitable Trust and is a trustee of the Jenner Vaccine Foundation, the Academy of Medical Sciences and the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra.

Dr Siddhartha Sankar Datta, MD, MPH

Regional Adviser

Vaccine-preventable Diseases and Immunization programme,

Division of Communicable diseases, Environment and Health,

WHO Regional Office for Europe



Siddhartha Datta, a medical postgraduate from India with a master's in public health from Manchester Metropolitan University UK, has been involved in the field of immunization since 2004. He joined the National Polio Surveillance Project (NPSP), WHO India as a Surveillance Medical Officer in 2004 and followed as State Routine Immunization Officer. He joined WHO Papua New Guinea in 2010 and thereafter served in WHO Lao PDR as Immunization Team Lead until 2016. Upon his relocation to Vaccine-preventable Diseases and Immunization programme in WHO Europe in 2016, he has served as Technical Officer in the Accelerated Disease Control team and acting Team Lead of Immunization and Surveillance Data team. Since Jan 2019, he has led the Vaccine-preventable diseases and Immunization programme in the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

Over the past 20 years working in subnational, national and regional levels, Siddhartha has served in three WHO Regions and brings the experience of understanding the varied needs of the Member States. He has led the outbreak management related to polio, measles, diphtheria, pertussis, cholera, and led the implementation of COVID-19 and mpox vaccination roll-out in the WHO European Region.

He has around 30 publications to his credit until date in peer-reviewed journals on various aspects of the vaccine-preventable diseases.

Professor Adam Finn

Adam Finn is Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Bristol and Honorary Consultant at Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and leads the Bristol Vaccine Centre. Until Jan 2024 he was a member of the UK NITAG, the JCVI and remains a member of several JCVI sub-committees include for varicella and zoster vaccines. Previously chair of the WHO EURO technical advisory group on immunisation

“ETAGE”, he remains a member of the WHO SAGE COVID vaccines working group. He receives research funding from several governmental and charitable funders and from vaccine companies for clinical trials and infectious disease epidemiology and immunology and vaccine effectiveness studies including Pfizer, GSK, Merck, Sanofi and Valneva and undertakes paid consultancy for Bionet Asia, GSK, the Helmsley Trust, Hillevax, Imophoron, RQ Bio, GPN Vaccines and Seqirus.

Dr Dipti Patel MBBS FRCP FFOM FFTM RCPS (Glasg) LLM OBE

Dr Dipti Patel is a consultant in occupational medicine and in travel medicine. She is Director of the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC), and the Chief Medical Officer at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). She is also an honorary lecturer in Population Health, Health Services Research and Primary Care within the School of Health Sciences at Manchester University.

She is a member of the UK Advisory Committee on Malaria Prevention, the Travel Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, and the WHO International Travel and Health Guideline Development Group.

Dipti is an associate editor for Travel Medicine and Infectious Diseases, New Microbes and New Infections, and co-editor of the ABC of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Previous roles include being a Non-Executive Director at the Health Protection Agency, the Director of Clinical Services at the Medical Advisory Service for Traveller’s Abroad, and Consultant in Occupational Medicine at the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Kailey Ben-Sassi

A graduate of the Welsh School of Pharmacy, I have had a varied and interesting pharmacy career to date. Following completion of a rotational clinical diploma, and a year exploring the Southern hemisphere I gained my prescribing qualification at The Royal Glamorgan Hospital in a surgical ward setting. Having such a broad prescribing base gave me the confidence and ability to adapt my prescribing skills which have been valuable in roles including surgery, anticoagulation therapy, antimicrobial and infection management. The COVID-19 pandemic gave me the opportunity to pursue an interest in vaccinations and immunisations which led to my enrolment in A master’s in public health at The University of Edinburgh (online). Since returning to North Wales from Cardiff in 2014, I have worked at BCUHB and am currently the Clinical Pharmacy lead for Vaccination and Immunisations; a role which provides plenty of challenges and interest in the current climate! When not working, I’m either on a trip or panning the next one.

Fran Rowley

Fran Rowley has been working in public health since 2019. Fran graduated from the UK Field Epidemiology Training Programme in 2023 following a successful two-year placement in Wales. Fran is currently a senior epidemiological scientist working in the Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme and Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre at Public Health Wales.

Rhian Meaden

Rhian is a Principal Public Health Practitioner working within Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, and predominantly works across two topics: Vaccinations and Immunisations, and the Making Every Contact Count programme. Rhian has worked on a number of vaccination programmes and interventions and is a co-author of a publication focussing on Influenza vaccination of 3-year-old children. Rhian is a registered Public Health Practitioner and holds an MSc in Health Psychology

Rhianydd Davey

Rhianydd is Immunisation Coordinator for Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board and has worked in the Specialist Immunisation Team for the past 4 years. After qualifying as a Registered General Nurse in 1990, Rhianydd has held several posts, including a fulfilling role as practice nurse in Treorchy for 20 years, gaining BSc (Hons) Adult, SPQ GPN in 2011.

Dr Simon Cottrell

Simon is Scientific lead in the Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme of Public Health Wales, heading up the surveillance and epidemiology team. Simon has a background in public health and infectious disease. He has worked in epidemiology of vaccine preventable diseases, vaccination programmes and respiratory infections since 2005 and has an extensive publication record in the field. During 2022-23 Simon also worked as a consultant for WHO European Region generating guidance on immunisation equity

This event is sponsored by the following pharmaceutical companies in the form of funding towards the production and hospitality. They have had no involvement or influence on the agenda and content.

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