

CDC-NIH/NIAID-MBRU Joint Conference
**Research and Public Health Priorities in the MENA Region: Lessons from the COVID-19
Pandemic and Future Preparedness**

April 26 – 27, 2024

MBRU, Dubai, UAE

Day 1: Lessons learned from COVID-19 pandemic and the future of preparedness and response

7:30 – 8:15 am: Registration / Coffee

8:30 – 9:00 am: Welcome Remarks

- Welcome; *His Excellency Dr. Amer Ahmad Sharif, CEO of Dubai Health, President of Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences*
- Introduction to Speaker; *Heather Burke, Regional Director, U.S. CDC Middle East/North Africa Regional Office*
- Deputy Chief of Mission Remarks; *His Excellency Eric Gaudiosi, Deputy Chief of Mission to the United Arab Emirates*
- U.S. CDC Remarks; *Dr. Kayla Laserson, Director for Global Health Center, U.S. CDC*
- Closing; *Dr. Mohamed H. Sayegh, Senior Scientific Advisor to the Director, NIH/NIAID*

9:00 – 10:00 am: Opening Session: Remembering the pandemic and what we have learned

Chairs: *Dr. Rasheed Al Hammadi, Research & Innovation Center, Abu Dhabi, and Dr. Mohamed Ridha Barbouche, Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain*

- Public health response to the pandemic: CDC; *Dr. Henry Walke, CDC*
- Research and translational science: NIAID; *Dr. Jane Knisely, NIH, USA*
- Regional perspective; *His Excellency Dr. Alawi Alsheikh-Ali, MBRU, UAE*

10:00 - 11:30 am: Panel 1: Predicting the next pandemic and its impact

Chairs: *Dr. Omar Najim, Al Saqer Group, Abu Dhabi and Dr. Alicen Spaulding, PREMISE, NIH, USA*

- SARS, MERS, COVID-19: Can we predict the future coronavirus pandemic? *Stanley Perlman, MD, PhD, University of Iowa Distinguished Chair, USA*
- Predictive Analytics for Pandemic Response
 - o Supporting Decision Makers with Real-Time Forecasting, Modeling and Scenario Analysis; *Dr. Alison Kelly, CDC*
 - o Lessons learned from the Chilean experience during COVID-19 and the South American ECLIPSE initiative; *Dr. Tomas Perez-Acle, Fundacion Ciencia & Vida, Chile*
- Preparing for the next pandemic and its impact – The PREMISE program; *Dr. Daniel Douek, PREMISE, NIH, USA*

Panel discussion

11:30 am – 12:00 pm: Coffee break

12:00 - 1:30 pm: Panel 2: Preparedness and Response for the next pandemic

Chairs: *Dr. Abeer AlShukairi, KSA and Dr. Mohamed Chakroun, Tunisia*

- Infection Prevention & Control in the Post-Pandemic Era; *Dr. Amal Saif Al-Maani, Ministry of Health, Oman*
- NIAID pandemic preparedness plan; *Dr. Jane Knisely, NIH, USA*
- Workforce development programs in MENA; *Dr. Zayid Almayahi, CDC*
- Policies and cross sector coordination for preparedness and response; *Dr. Abdulrahman Alrajhi, Consultant, Infectious Diseases, King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, KSA*

Panel discussion

1:30 - 2:30 pm: Lunch

2:30 – 4:00 pm: Panel 3: Mass gatherings, migrant populations and travel during pandemics

Chairs: *Dr. Maha Almozaini, RDIA, KSA & Dr. Zayid Almayahi, CDC*

- Infections in the setting of mass gatherings: an introduction of the problem; *Dr. Ziad Memish, KSA*
- Travelers' Health: novel approaches developed during the pandemic; *Dr. Cindy Friedman, CDC*
- Infectious diseases in conflict emergency settings: *Dr. Chiori Kodama, WHO/EMRO, Egypt*
- Building resilient systems and preparing for risks; *Dr. Omar Najim, Al Saqer Group, Abu Dhabi*

Panel discussion

4:00 - 5:30 pm: Abstract Session

Chairs: *Dr. Mohamad Alameddine, University of Sharjah, UAE, Dr. Gamal Esmat, Cairo University, Egypt*

Day 2: MENA Regional Priorities

8:30 – 10:30 am: Panel 1: Unique Problems to the MENA Region

Chairs: *Dr. Ghassan Matar, American University of Beirut, Lebanon & Dr. Abiola Senok, MBRU, UAE*

- Understanding AMR in the MENA region and the dream of AMR registry; *Dr. Zeina Kanafani, American University of Beirut, Lebanon*
- Models of emerging zoonotic disease risk; *Dr. Pranav Pandit, UC Davis, USA*
- Forgotten and emerging zoonosis in the MENA region; *Dr. Paige Armstrong, CDC*
- Climate change and emerging threats: mosquito and tick born infections in the MENA region; *Dr. Alia Zayed, NAMRU-3, Egypt*

Panel discussion

10:30 am – 12:00 pm: Abstract Session

Chairs: *Dr. Bernice Lo, Sidra Medicine, Qatar and Dr. Fawaz Alzaid, Dasman Diabetes Institute, Kuwait*

12:00 – 2:00 pm: Working Lunch and Panel breakout sessions to discuss what are we missing in the MENA region

Breakout 1: Mass gatherings, conflicts and migrant populations; *Dr. Alicen Spaulding, NIH and Dr. Ahmet Ozen, Marmara University, Turkey*

Breakout 2: Preparedness and Response; *Dr. Gulfaraz Khan, UAEU, UAE and Dr. Noha Farag, CDC*

Breakout 3: Unique problems for the MENA region; *Dr. Mohamed Ridha Barbouche, Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain and Dr. Samira Al-Mahruqi, Association of Public Health Laboratories, Oman*

2:00 - 3:00 pm: Report from the Breakout sessions by the six session moderators

Chairs: *Dr. Walid Zaher, Carexso, Dubai & Dr. Pierre Zalloua, Khalifa University, UAE*

3:00 - 3:30 pm: Coffee Break

3:30 - 4:00 pm Extramural presentation: Collaborative research and funding opportunities in the MENA region: DMID resources presentation; *Dr. Erik Stemmy, NIH*

4:00 – 5:00 pm: Closing Session: Open discussion on what is missing and needed in the MENA region; *Heather Burke, CDC and Dr. Mohamed H. Sayegh, NIH*
