



# Religious Mass Gatherings & Global Health Conference 2018

Think globally, act locally



Mass Gatherings &  
Global Health Network



# Programme

Thursday, 22nd November 2018 | 09.30am - 4.30pm  
Regent Hall, 275 Oxford Street, Mayfair, London, W1C 2DJ

09.30-10.00 REGISTRATION

10.00-10.05 WELCOME

10.05-10.10 SPONSOR'S MESSAGE

Session 1	Religious Mass Gatherings	Chair: Dr Brian McCloskey
10.10-10.20	WHO Perspective of Mass Gatherings	Dr Tina Endericks
10.20-10.35	Global Centre for Mass Gathering Medicine (GCMGM) - Hajj	Dr Saber Yezli
10.35-10.45	Hindu Mass Gatherings	Dr Arabinda Padhee
10.45-10.55	Vaisakhi - Sikh Mass Gathering	Ms Sunder Chita
10.55-11.05	Arba'een – Muslim Mass Gathering	Dr Alaa Amin
11.05-11.15	Other Religious Mass Gatherings	Dr Salim Parker
11.15-11.35	Q&A	Conclusions

11.35 - 11.50 COFFEE BREAK ☕

Session 2	Preparing the Pilgrim – minimising health risks	Chair: Dr Osman Dar
11.50-12.05	IR / Hajj Health Guidelines	Dr Salim Parker
12.05-12.15	Hindu Mass Gatherings	Dr Gopal Rao
12.25-12.35	UK and Other Approaches to Preparing Pilgrims	Dr Shuja Shafi
12.35-12.45	Faith Action	Rodie Garland
12.45-13.00	Panel Discussion	Conclusions

13.00 - 14.00 LUNCH 🍽️

Session 3	Pilgrims' Progress – caring for the pilgrims	Chair: Prof Eskild Peterson
14.10-14.20	Public Health Challenges & Opportunities	Dr Ozayr Mohamed
14.20-14.30	Community Identity	Prof Stephen Reicher
14.30-14.40	UK Pilgrims	TBC
14.40-14.50	Kumbh Mela – Hindu Mass Gathering	Mr Arabinda Padhee
14.50-15.15	Panel Discussion	Conclusions

15.15 - 15.30 TEA BREAK 🍵

Session 4	Returnee Pilgrims	Chair: Prof Stephen Reicher
15.30-15.45	Clinician Perspective	Dr William Lynn
15.45-15.55	Pilgrim's Experience - Reflection	Dr Yasmin Drabu
15.55-16.05	Surveillance	Dr Ozayr Mohamed
16.05-16.15	Opportunities for Research / Training	Prof Eskild Petersen
16.15-16.25	Q&A	Conclusions
16.25-16.30	Recommendations	-



## Dr Brian McCloskey CBE

Dr Brian McCloskey was formerly the Director of Global Health for Public Health England, London, UK and now works as a Consultant in Global Health Security. He has worked in public health at a local, regional, national and international level over a period of 25 years, including the UK's Health Protection Agency, with a remit for emergency planning and responsibility for cross-government aspects of the agency's response to major emergencies. This included the HPA's response to the London bombings, Buncefield Oil Depot fire, the Litvinenko polonium poisoning, flooding incidents and pandemic flu. He also had the lead role in planning the public health services for the 2012 London Olympics.

Brian has been working with WHO's Mass Gatherings Advisory Group since 2008 and headed up the Collaborating Centre on Mass Gatherings until 2017, working with mass gatherings such as the Hajj, the World Cup in South Africa as well as the London Olympics and recently Rio and Tokyo.

Brian acted as PHE's National Incident Director for Ebola when it became a national incident in 2014 and was then seconded to work with the UN Special Envoy on Ebola, based in Geneva, until April 2015. Brian was a member of WHO's Review Committee on the Role of the International Health Regulations in the Ebola Outbreak and Response. He has also been involved in the evolution of the Global Health Security Agenda, the development of the WHO Joint External Evaluation (JEE) of IHR capacity, and has participated in several JEE missions. Brian has also been a member of several WHO missions on MERS, to Saudi Arabia and Korea, and is a member of WHO Working Groups on MERS, and on the Health Security Interface.

Brian also works with the Chatham House Centre on Global Health Security on strengthening and coordination of R&D in outbreaks and is a Professor in the Infectious Disease Epidemiology department at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical medicine.

Between 2015 and 2017, Brian was responsible for establishing the UK's Public Health Rapid Support Team for deployments in serious outbreaks globally. He was appointed CBE in 2013 for his services to public health.



## Tina Endericks

Improving global health security and meeting responsibilities under the International Health Regulations and providing expert advice on global health security activities, including the Global Health Security Agenda the Global Health Security Initiative.

Developing the evidence base and guidance for public health at mass gatherings, building capacity globally, sharing learning with host countries and ensuring a positive health legacy. Lead author and editor for the WHO Public Health Planning for Mass Gatherings: key Considerations (2005). Provision of technical expertise to countries hosting events, for example, Summer and Winter Olympics; Brazil, Tokyo, Russia and Republic of Korea, South East Asia Games; Burma, and Indonesia and religious festivals; the Hajj and Arbae'en.

Programme Director for London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games: Planning and delivery of health protection activities for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games through strategic cross organisational working and stakeholder engagement. Activities included the enhancement of public health surveillance and response, diagnostics, emergency response, testing and exercising and corporate services such as workforce planning, finance, day to day working.



## Saber Yezli

Saber Yezli is a pioneer in the emerging field of Mass Gatherings. He has extensive experience in Infectious Diseases and Public Health Medicine. Saber is multilingual and known for his intellectual excellence. He holds a list of awards for academic achievement. He has authored and co-authored numerous peer-reviewed publications, book chapters and abstracts, and has been an invited speaker at various conferences.



## Dr Arabinda Kumar Padhee

Arabinda Kumar Padhee is presently working as the Indian Country Director of ICRISAT, a non-profit and non-political organisation that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. He has a Master's degree in Agricultural Science from Banaras Hindu University and a PhD from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi. He also holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Birmingham, UK. He has taken public policy courses at the University of Toronto; Civil Services College, Singapore; and the University of Cambridge at various points in his career.

Dr Padhee joined the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in 1996 and belongs to Odisha cadre. He has held various important positions in both provincial and federal Governments, some of which include District Magistrate and Collector; Director, Agriculture and Food Production; Revenue Divisional Commissioner; Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Tourism and Culture Department, Government of Odisha and Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India. During his tenure as Chief Administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple, Dr Padhee initiated and implemented several reforms in the 12th-century shrine that won him many accolades. He has edited a book titled, 'Nabakalebara: an Archival Document' on the grand festival of Lord Jagannatha at Puri.

Some of the notable awards and citations Dr Padhee has received during his career in the Indian Civil Service include the Best Collector & District Magistrate award (2003-04) and the National Award for contribution to humanitarian services given by the Indian Red Cross Society (2006-07). He was recognised with the AIASA National Award for outstanding Leadership in Agriculture for the year 2016. Dr Padhee regularly writes popular articles/OpEds around issues related to agriculture and food policies and climate change. Follow Dr Arabinda on Twitter @arvindpadhee



## Ms Sunder Chita

Sunder is the Health Service Research Manager and Patient Public Involvement lead at London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust. She is currently a Vice Chair of a Research Ethics Committee and a Trustee at Brent Sikh Centre.

Sunder's background is in Pharmacology and MPhil in Social Science Evaluation of Public Services and her interest in research include fetal cardiology, Health Service and Clinical Research. She has published extensively in journals. Sunder is an experienced programme manager and has managed implementation of operational frameworks, organisational improvements, transformation projects and translational research. Having worked with the Price Waterhouse Coopers as a senior healthcare manager delivered turnaround projects and managed departmental mergers and leadership courses.

When working for the Centre for Infections in Colindale, Sunder set up the national Audit Programme for Public Health Doctors and in the current role has set up the Patient Research forum and Research and Development Annual Excellence Awards for London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust which are supported by the Executive Trust Board



## Alaa Amin

Alaa was trained in Baghdad and graduated from Almustansyriah Medical School in 1983. He undertook postgraduate training in Iraq for seven years. Alaa started his surgical training in the United Kingdom in 1990, gaining a Master of Surgery degree from The University of London and Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. He was appointed as a Consultant Surgeon at Watford General Hospital in 2002.

Since then Alaa has been active in training at undergraduate and postgraduate levels of students of both the Imperial and University College Medical Schools, and career surgeons. He is also a final year examiner at the Imperial College School of Medicine.

Alaa has been extensively involved in professional and social activities of the United Kingdom Iraqi Medical Association. He served as an elected member of that organisation's management committee between 2004 and 2010 and was elected as the association's president in 2011.

Since 2003 Alaa has participated in many workshops promoting the development of health care in Iraq. Alongside medical colleagues from the United Kingdom, he has worked on multi-disciplinary team management of cancer. He was appointed as an external advisor in this regard to the Iraqi Cancer Board, which is chaired by the country's Minister of Health. In addition, Alaa has been involved in many Iraqi charity and fund-raising groups, promoting health, education and welfare of poor and displaced Iraqis.

Amongst these is the Iraqi Welfare Association, which has been based in London since 1991 and aims to develop the health and social status of the Iraqi community in the United Kingdom. For fourteen years Alaa has been central to the association's activities, serving as an elected trustee and, for two years, as its president.



### Dr Salim Parker

Dr Salim Parker is the Cape Town-based Past President of SASTM (South African Society of Travel Medicine). He is the co-director of the CDC's Cape Town GeoSentinel site, which monitors travellers' afflictions. He currently serves on the Liaison Committee of the ISTM (International Society of Travel Medicine) as well as on the editorial board of the Journal of Travel Medicine. In collaboration with the Global Centre for Mass Gathering Medicine, he is involved in Hajj pilgrimage related research. Original research has been presented at the last five ISTM conferences. He authored book chapters, including co-authoring the 2018 Hajj chapter in the CDC Health Information for International Travel.



### Osman A Dar

Osman A Dar is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh (FRCP Edin) and a fellow of the Faculty of Public Health (FFPH London). Osman is a consultant in global public health at Public Health England where he is a technical lead on projects that support low-income countries build core capacities and implement their commitments under the International Health Regulations through the development of strengthened national public health institutes. At Chatham House, he is director of the Centre on Global Health Security's One World-One Health project, an umbrella term referring to the Centre's work on zoonotic emerging infections, ecological approaches to disease control, antimicrobial resistance, sustainable livestock development and food security.



### Dr Guduru Gopal Rao OBE

Dr Guduru Gopal Rao is a Consultant Microbiologist for 28 years and is currently head of clinical microbiology and lead clinician for infection control at the London North West Healthcare NHS Trust. He is also an honorary senior lecturer at Imperial College, London. He has been a member of international and national professional groups including being Specialist Advisor to NICE, International Advisor for The Royal College of Pathologists and Council Member of the Healthcare Infection Society.

His main research interests are in the field of prevention of the spread of infections in healthcare facilities. As a clinician, his research is grounded in field research such as practical methods to improve hand hygiene in hospitals, prevention of infections in the new-borns and antimicrobial stewardship.

He was appointed OBE in 2009 for his services to medicine.



## Dr Mohammed Shujauddin Shafi

Dr Shuja Shafi is a former Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) and currently chair of its Research & Documentation Committee.

Shuja has led a lifelong career in medicine, working in the NHS, Public Health Laboratory Service and Health Protection Agency a hospital consultant medical microbiologist with an interest in public health and community health protection. The former director of Public Health Laboratory and consultant medical microbiologist in NW London he had the additional responsibility of providing food and public health microbiology services to environmental health departments in North West London and to support investigation of outbreaks in the community and institutions. He has many years' experience of professional teaching of medical and bioscientist graduate and postgraduate trainees and served as Regional Advisor for the Royal College of Pathologist for many years.

Shuja has undertaken research into various aspects of clinical and public health with over 90 publications in professional, peer-reviewed journals. His recent publications have been on health protection at the Hajj.



## Ms Rodie Garland

Rodie Garland is policy adviser at FaithAction, a national network of faith-based organisations involved in social action and delivering public services. She manages FaithAction's programme of work with the Department of Health and Social Care, which comes under the Health and Wellbeing Alliance: a partnership between the voluntary sector and the Department, NHS England and Public Health England. As part of this programme, she has researched how faith-based organisations have an impact on a variety of health issues, including dementia, homelessness and keeping pressure off hospitals. She has also produced FaithAction's guidance for faith groups on evaluating their work, overseen FaithAction's work as secretariat to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Faith and Society and run the Faith and Health Award.

Rodie has 15 years' experience in research and policy analysis. Before joining FaithAction, she worked as an education researcher in the voluntary, private and academic sectors. At the Centre for Research on the Wider Benefits of Learning at the UCL Institute of Education, she contributed to a variety of Government-commissioned research reports exploring the social determinants of educational outcomes. She holds an MA in Policy Studies in Education from the UCL Institute of Education, and an honours degree in Russian from the University of Oxford. She is very involved in the life of her local church and community, including mentoring young people in alternative educational provision.



## Prof. Eskild Petersen

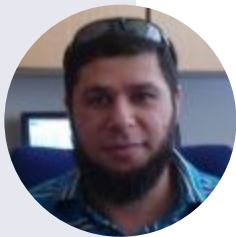
Eskild Petersen graduated from Aarhus Medical School, Denmark in 1978 and obtained his specialist degree in Infectious Diseases in 1985 and Tropical Medicine in 1988.

After spending two years in Liberia on a malaria research programme by the University of Stockholm sponsored by the WHO TDR program, he worked from 1999 to 2003 at the National Public Health Institute in Copenhagen. For five years he headed the WHO Collaborating Center for TB diagnostics at National Public Health Institute.

After moving back into clinical infectious diseases in 2003 his research interests have included TB, infectious endocarditis, infections in implants and malaria. He has been teaching tropical medicine at medical school, participated in clinical supervision and organized ESCMID postgraduate courses on emerging infections, tuberculosis, malaria and migrant health and supervised 12 PhD studies.

In 2015, Eskild Petersen took up a position as senior consultant, infectious diseases at the Royal Hospital, Sultanate of Oman, continuing as adjunct Professor of Tropical Medicine at the Institute for Clinical Medicine, University of Aarhus, Denmark.

His is co-chairing the ESCMID Emerging Infections Task Force, is a ProMED moderator since 1999, and is the Editor-in-Chief for the International Journal of Infectious Diseases, the official journal of the International Society for Infectious Diseases, since 2012.



## Dr Ozayr Mahomed

Dr Ozayr Mahomed is a consultant public health medicine specialist at the University of KwaZulu Natal. During the period 2012 to 2017 Dr Mahomed served as the Academic Coordinator of the Graduate Programme of Public Health. He has supervised to completion in excess of 10 Masters Graduates and is currently supervising 6 Doctorate students. He has published 15 peer-reviewed articles.

In addition to his academic work, Dr Mahomed has been actively engaged with the National and Provincial Department of Health working with the Government, University and Funding agencies in projects aimed at strengthening the health system and improving the quality of healthcare in South Africa. Dr Mahomed worked with the Global Centre for Mass Gathering Medicine in Saudi Arabia during Hajj 2016 and 2017. He worked on the Service Readiness and Availability Assessment in 2016. For 2017- he was the co-investigator on Surveillance of the Health of Pilgrim during Hajj from South Africa and in 2018 was part of the Fitness for Hajj assessment.





## Prof. Stephen Reicher

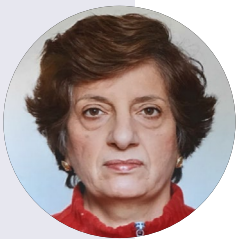
Stephen Reicher is Wardlaw Professor of Psychology at the University of St. Andrews. He is a Fellow of the British Academy, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. He is a former Editor of the British Journal of Social Psychology, a Scientific Consultant to Scientific American Mind. Stephen's is a social psychologist with some 300 publications covering a range of group phenomena. He is the world's leading authority on crowd behaviour.

Amongst other things, he has studied collective mobilisation, crowd conflict, crowd leadership, influence processes in the crowd, crowd behaviour in disasters and emergencies and the wider individual and social impacts of crowd participation. He has also acted as an advisor on crowd-related issues to the UK Government, the Scottish Government, UK and European police agencies and other emergency services. Latterly, Professor Reicher has studied the impact of crowds on overall well-being (mental and physical), on health-related behaviours and on the effectiveness of health communications. This is principally based on a five-year study of the Magh Mela at Allahabad.



## Dr William Lynn

William (Bill) Lynn is a consultant in Infectious Diseases at London North West University Healthcare based at Ealing Hospital in London. Dr Lynn qualified from St Georges Medical School in 1983 and trained in Infectious Diseases in London and Boston USA before his appointment to Ealing in 1995. London North West University Healthcare serves a diverse population and sees a range of travel-related infections. Ealing Hospital notifies around 250 cases of TB every year and managing patients with TB is one of Dr Lynn's main areas of clinical practice. He also looks after patients with HIV and other acute or chronic serious infections. Dr Lynn is chair of the London TB Clinical Leadership Group and a member of the London Tb control board.



## Yasmin Drabu

Yasmin Drabu has over 44 years of experience in the NHS. She was appointed as a Consultant Microbiologist in the Health Service in 1982. She has worked as Medical Director from 2000 – 2010 in two NHS hospitals in London where she implemented major programs of developing clinicians as leaders. In 2004 she was awarded the Asian Professional Woman of the Year; in 2007 she was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians and in 2009 her hospital was voted the top NHS Trust for Innovation in London. She was seconded to the Department of Health 2010-11. She was a Non- Executive Director at the Medical Protection Society 2009-2017 and is on the Medical Council of the Joseph Foundation. She is presently writing a self-help book on empowering the public to keep themselves safe when using the Health Service.

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