



Frontline Worker Safety in the Age of COVID-19 A Global Perspective

September 14, 2022 - Health Watch USAsm Webinar

Conference Welcome & Overview: Kevin T. Kavanagh, MD, MS, Health Watch USAsm



Morning Session Moderator: Associate Professor Matthias Maiwald, Singapore Assoc. Prof. Maiwald, MD, is a Senior Consultant and the Head of Microbiology at KK Women's and Children's Hospital in Singapore. He previously worked at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, then at Stanford University, USA, and then at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia. His areas of interest include microbiological aspects relevant to women's and children's health, molecular detection and characterization of fastidious and emerging pathogens, and infection control with an emphasis on hand hygiene and skin antiseptics.



Professor Imogen Mitchell: Clinical Director, ACT COVID-19 Response, Executive Director of Research & Academic Partnerships, Canberra Health Services and Australian National University, Intensive Care Specialist, Canberra Hospital. Professor Imogen Mitchell has a background in intensive care and is an internationally recognized health systems expert. Professor Mitchell is playing a key role in the Australian Capital Territory's clinical response to COVID-19. Her current research is focused on improving end-of-life care at a local and national level. She led the development of an innovative teaching program, COMPASS, which is now used in healthcare organizations around the world to help healthcare professionals recognize signs of patient deterioration. <https://www.anu.edu.au/news/for-journalists/professor-imogen-mitchell>



Professor Lidia Morawska, PhD, MSc. Dr. Morawska is a Distinguished Professor in the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, at Queensland University of Technology (QUT); the Director of the International Laboratory for Air Quality and Health (ILAQH) at QUT, which is a WHO Collaborating Centre on Air Quality and Health; a Vice-Chancellor Fellow at the Global Centre for Clean Air Research (GCARE), University of Surrey in the UK, and a Co-Director in Australia for the Australia – China Centre for Air Quality Science and Management (ACC-AQSM); Dr. Morawska was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by Time Magazine in 2021 for “recognizing the importance of aerosol transmission and marshalling the data that would convince the World Health Organization and other authoritative bodies to do the same. <https://research.qut.edu.au/ilagh/people/lidia-morawska/>

Professor Nele Brusselaers, MD, PhD: Nele Brusselaers is a Professor in Clinical Epidemiology



at Antwerp University in Belgium (Global Health Institute), Associate Professor at the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden (Centre for Translational Microbiome Researcher), and Guest Professor at Ghent University, Belgium. Regarding the pandemic, Nele was the lead-author of the study entitled “Evaluation of science advice during the COVID-19 pandemic in Sweden” published in Humanities and Social Sciences Communications in March 2022, and “Coronavirus pandemic in the Nordic countries: health policy and economy trade-off” published in the Journal of Global Health during spring 2022. She has also been an active member of the Swedish Scientific Forum Covid-19, a group of independent researchers and medical doctors “that disseminates science-based knowledge about the major issues and challenges that the ongoing pandemic have posed to the world and our country”. https://www.healthconference.org/healthconference.org-files/2022Conference_bios/Brusselaers.htm

Univ. Prof. Eike Steinmann, PhD: Eike Steinmann studied biology at the University Hannover, with emphasis on Virology and Microbiology. After a DAAD scholarship for study at Northeastern University in Boston, he completed his diploma at the Institute for Virology of the Veterinary University of Hannover. For his Ph.D. thesis, Eike Steinmann switched to the Department for Molecular Virology in Heidelberg. Together with Prof. Pietschmann, he then was appointed to TWINCORE in 2007. The research group “Virus Transmission” of Prof. Eike Steinmann is working on molecular and clinical transmission pathways of HCV and HEV causing severe infections in humans. Therefore, new prevention strategies and therapies for these two RNA viruses should be developed. Risks of virus transmission in the environment, especially in the hospital should be identified as well as effective methods for virus inactivation established and validated. In April 2018, Eike Steinmann was appointed as Director to the Department of Molecular and Medical Virology at the Ruhr-University in Bochum.



Professor Laith Jamal Abu-Raddad, PhD: Dr. Abu-Raddad is a Professor of Population Health Sciences, Associate Dean for Extramural Research Funding, Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Disease Epidemiology Analytics on HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections, and Viral Hepatitis, Director of the Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Biomathematics Research Core at Weill Cornell Medicine - Qatar (WCM-Q), and the Principal Investigator of the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Group. He serves as a consultant or advisory member for a number of key public health projects for organizations such as the World Bank, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, World Health Organization, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He was the lead author or co-investigator of several high impact studies in recent years such as in relation to HIV/AIDS, HCV, tuberculosis, and SARS.



Afternoon Session Introduction – Past Surgeon General Dr Joycelyn Elders

Afternoon Session Moderator – Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, MD, MS, Health Watch USAsm



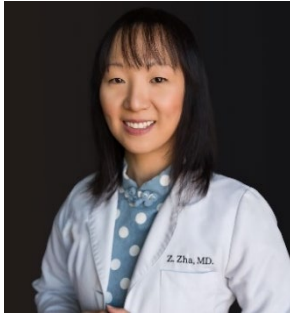
Ziyad Al-Aly, MD, FASN: Dr. Al-Aly a physician-scientist; he serves as the Chief of Research and Development Service at the VA Saint Louis Health Care System. He is a clinical epidemiologist with broad interests including pharmacoepidemiology, environmental epidemiology, global health, and most recently short- and long-term effects of COVID-19 on health outcomes.

Dr. Al-Aly is a globally recognized expert on Long Covid. He serves as the co-chair of a US Government-wide committee tasked by the President to develop a National Research Action Plan on Long Covid. His work is published in several major journals including Nature, Nature Medicine, BMJ, JAMA, JAMA-Internal Medicine, Lancet, NEJM, and others. According to Google Scholar, his work has been cited more than 60,000 times. His work is frequently featured in major national and international media outlets including New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, LA Times, NPR, BBC, CNN, the Guardian, Bloomberg, The New Yorker, the Atlantic, Scientific American, Science Magazine, Nature News, and several others.



Frazier B. Beatty, PhD, MPH, CHES: Frazier B. Beatty, PhD, MPH, CHES: Dr. Beatty is a public health professional with a diverse background in online educational leadership. Currently, Dr. Beatty is the Program Director for Regis College's Online Master of Public Health Program. He has a combination of over 20 years of educational training and educational management experience. He also has over 20 years of experience conducting research and using best-practice approaches and data to improve student academic programs. Dr. Beatty has worked for state and federal government agencies, including the University of

North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. His research interests include using Telehealth to address HIV and other infectious diseases. Dr. Beatty has been teaching Public Health online since 2010 and also mentoring PhD students since 2012.



Mengyi "Zed" Zha, MD: Zed Zha, MD, is a board certified family physician. She graduated from the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, where she received Gold Humanism Honor Society Award and the John F. Radebaugh Community Service Award. She completed her residency training at the Mayo Clinic - La Crosse Family Medicine Residency, where she was the recipient of the Residency Research Award. Dr. Zha currently practices full-scope primary care with obstetrics and hospital medicine in rural Washington state. She served as her organization's COVID-19 Task Force Physician Lead during the first year of the pandemic. Dr.Zha is an upcoming fellow in the Underserved Dermatology Fellowship in Family Medicine. Dr.Zha's guest Op-Ed on workplace violence against healthcare workers on [MedPage Today](#), and her recent commentary on safety issues in rural medicine on the [Daily Yonder](#) inspired much internet debate on this topic.



Ambassador Deborah Birx, MD. Deborah L. Birx, M.D., served the United States, as an Army Colonel and later, running some of the most high-profile and influential programs at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Department of State. Dr. Birx served as the White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator, using complex data integration to drive decision-making, as well as worked closely with state officials across the country to provide state-specific advice and guidance. Dr. Birx is a world-renowned medical expert and leader whose long career has focused on clinical and basic immunology, infectious disease, pandemic preparedness, vaccine research, and global health. As the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator from 2014-2021, she oversaw the spending of the \$6 billion annual budget of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease in history, as well as all U.S. Government engagement with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Dr. Birx recently completed her first book entitled *Silent Invasion* published by HarperCollins; is a Bush Institute Senior Fellow and Independent Board Director at Innoviva.



Jeannie P. Cimiotti, PhD, RN, FAAN: Jeannie P. Cimiotti, PhD, RN, FAAN is an Associate Professor, tenured, in the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. She is an internationally recognized health services researcher with expertise in nurse workforce issues and the quality of patient care. Dr. Cimiotti uses an interdisciplinary approach better understand the work-related outcomes of acute care nurses and the patients for whom they provide care. Her research has been cited for its expertise on nurse outcomes such job dissatisfaction and burnout and patient outcomes, specifically healthcare-associated infections and the sequela of infection such as extended lengths of stay, hospital readmissions, and mortality. Her work on healthcare-associated infections has been recognized with widespread press coverage not only in the U.S., but globally including NBC News, the Daily Mail, Modern Healthcare, and National Public Radio (NPR).



Christine Pontus, MS, RN, COHN-S/CCM, Associate Director of the Division of Health & Safety for the Massachusetts Nurses Association: Chris has worked as a staff nurse in the hospital, a certified occupational health nurse and a certified case manager in the manufacturing environment. She also was a risk manager administering workers compensation for a self-insured's business and a consultant to the Insurance Industry.

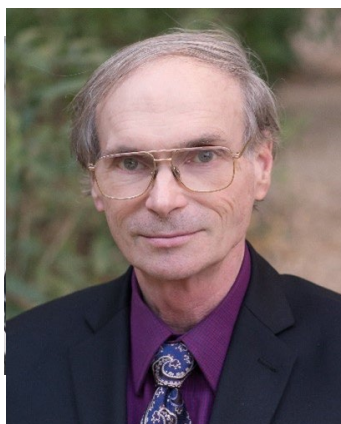
Currently she is involved in identifying and analyzing research, policy and current trends in the field of Occupational Health and Safety as it impacts nurses. As an educator and Nurse Planner, she is responsible for planning, developing and presenting approved educational programs for registered nurses. Chris is directly involved with injured nurses helping them through the Workers Compensation System and testifying on their behalf. She represents the Massachusetts Nurse Association working in collaboration with diverse organizations and professionals both on a national and international basis.



Elizabeth (Betty) Sparks, RN, CNOR, ADN: Elizabeth Sparks is a member of the Massachusetts Nurses Association and on the Board of Directors. She also currently serves as a member of Disaster Medical Assistance Teams as a Federal Disaster Nurse. She has two decades of operating room and emergency department nursing experience.



Omid Razmpour, BSN, RN, PHN: In May 2020, as a new nurse graduate Omid Razmpour was a direct hire into the surgical and neurological ICU at the University of Minnesota Medical Center. Shortly after starting his position in the ICU, Omid witnessed his unit rapidly transitioned into a COVID ICU. During this time, as a new nurse, Omid encountered numerous workforce issues and he witnessed the impact of these issues on other nurses, as well. This experience in the ICU ignited within Omid a newfound passion for research that would focus on nursing workforce issues and the physical and emotional exhaustion of frontline nurses. Omid left bedside nursing and he is currently a first-year Ph.D. student in the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University. His dissertation research will focus on nurse burnout, workforce issues, and the impact these factors on patient outcomes.



Janet Haas, PhD, RN, CIC, FSHEA, FAPIC: Janet Haas is the CEO of Innovative Infection Prevention a consulting firm focused on infection prevention in healthcare, public health, and private industry. Before consulting, Dr. Haas was the director of infection prevention and epidemiology at several hospitals in New York, most recently Lenox Hill Hospital. She earned a PhD in Nursing from Columbia University, and a MS in Epidemiology from the State University of NY at Albany. Dr. Haas is an associate editor of the American Journal of Infection Control, she's a past president of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) and is the 2022 APIC Carol DeMille lifetime achievement award winner.

Kevin T Kavanagh, MD, MS Dr. Kevin Kavanagh retired from medical practice over twenty years ago from long-standing severe arthritis which was treated with multiple operations and the placement of bone morphogenic protein in his neck which caused long-term symptoms. Recently, he has undergone surgical treatment for prostatic cancer, a treatment which was successful, but delayed due to the hospital being overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients. Dr. Kavanagh is currently Board Chairman of Health Watch USA, a Kentucky based patient advocacy and research organization. Health Watch USA is a member of the National Quality Forum and has been designated as a “Community Leader” for Value-Driven Healthcare by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Kavanagh is an Associate Editor for the Journal of Patient Safety. On Aug. 20, 2014, Dr. Kavanagh became a CDC & ATSDR Honor Award Nominee. He has served on the 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2018 Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services’ Hospital-Acquired Condition Reduction Program Technical Expert Panel, along with on the AHRQ Standing Working Group for Quality Indicators for 2016 to 2017. He served on the AHRQ for Health Care Effectiveness and Outcomes Research (HEOR) Study Section from 2018 to 2022. Currently, he serves on the CMS Hospital Harm Technical Expert Panel. He has published 30 peer-reviewed manuscripts on healthcare policy and/or healthcare associated infections. In addition, he has published letters in peer-reviewed journals including the Journal of the American Medical Association and New England Journal of Medicine. Dr. Kavanagh is also a frequent contributor to the Lexington Herald Leader and Courier Journal regarding Healthcare Issues and has been a weekly guest on the Jack Pattie Radio Show, discussing COVID-19 health policy issues for over 2 years.