

Accelerator Program- Team Member Biographies

March 2023

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I. Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) – Program Sponsor

Dr Sanjay Sarin



Accelerator role: Program Sponsor Representative

Dr Sarin is responsible for leadership of FIND India and FIND's country programmes across the globe. Sanjay has been extensively involved in the lab strengthening projects for TB, HIV, Hepatitis C and the current COVID-19 response as well as for QMS in India and South- East Asia.

Sanjay joined FIND from Becton Dickinson (BD), where he was Regional Director of Global Health for the Asia Pacific region and was responsible for design, development, and implementation of BD's public health strategies.

Organization: Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND)
Position: Vice President (Access)
Email address: sanjay.sarin@finddx.org

Dr Jessica Markby



Accelerator role: Program Sponsor Representative

Dr Markby (PhD, MPH) has 17 years of experience in laboratory system strengthening programs and research/ access to appropriate diagnostics technologies in the African and Asia Pacific regions. Dr Markby is Program Manager at FIND, the global alliance for Diagnostics overseeing a portfolio of access projects in the Asia Pacific region.

Organization: Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND)
Position: Program Manager
Email address: jessica.markby@finddx.org

II. Kirby Institute (KI) – Consortium Lead

Professor Andrew Vallely



Professor Andrew Vallely is a clinical epidemiologist at the Kirby Institute UNSW Sydney, and the PNG Institute of Medical Research, Goroka. Andrew has led multi-disciplinary collaborative research teams in low- and middle-income countries for more than 25 years in the epidemiology and prevention of HIV, sexually transmitted and other infectious diseases, working in Kenya, Tanzania, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. His research focusses on evaluating innovative solutions to improve women's reproductive health in high-burden settings; and in the last decade has led the search for effective, scalable, and cost-effective same-day HPV testing and treatment strategies for cervical screening in PNG and other high-burden countries in our region.

Accelerator role: Executive Steering Committee Chair; Country Lead, PNG, Program Academic Lead/Chief Investigator.

Organization: Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney
Position: Professor, MBBS MRCP DTMH MSc DLSHTM PhD Program Head, Global Reproductive Health
Email address: Avallely@kirby.unsw.edu.au

Professor John Kaldor



John Kaldor is a NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow and Professor at the Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney. For over 30 years he led internationally recognised research programs on the epidemiology and prevention of infectious diseases with a particular focus on blood borne viral infections, sexually transmitted infections, and neglected tropical diseases. With over 770 peer reviewed scientific publications and extensive collaborations in countries of the Asia-Pacific region, Professor Kaldor has been a highly influential contributor to public health knowledge and policy.

Accelerator role: Executive Steering Committee Member, Project Lead (A4: Research, Cambodia)

Organization: Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney
Position: Global Health Program Lead
Email address: jkaldor@kirby.unsw.edu.au

Associate Professor Philip
Cunningham



Associate Professor Philip Cunningham OAM is the Chief Scientist at the NSW State Reference Laboratory for HIV at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney and is the Deputy Director of Research & Chief Operating Officer for the St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research. As a qualified lead auditor, he has implemented laboratory quality management programs in resource constrained settings in South East Asia and the Western Pacific for more than 20 years. His research interests include testing strategies for acute HIV infection, public health surveillance of target priority populations for HIV and STI improving uptake and to increase demand for testing including near patient testing. He has consulted widely for WHO and US CDC for HIV diagnostics including HIV drug resistance. He is a visiting senior research fellow and conjoint Associate Professor at the Kirby Institute at the University of New South Wales.

Accelerator role: Executive Steering Committee Member (alternate), Advisor (A3, A7: QA and Sequencing Projects in PNG & Cambodia)

Organization: Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney
Position: Program advisor & technical consultant
Email address: philip.cunningham@svha.org.au

Professor Virginia Wiseman



Professor Wiseman has researched and published widely in the fields of health economics and health systems, primarily in low- and middle-income countries. She is Professor of Health Economics and Health Systems at the Kirby Institute (Faculty of Medicine, UNSW) and at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (Department of Global Health and Development). She leads the Health Economics Research Network (HERN) at UNSW, a cross-Faculty Initiative for generating, reviewing, and disseminating evidence and information on health economics. Virginia has been awarded substantial research funding to lead studies in two key areas: (1) impact evaluations of complex public health interventions in the areas of malaria, HIV and STIs, TB, Hepatitis C and antimicrobial resistance; and (2) the evaluation of health financing systems to support universal health coverage. She is co-chief editor of *Health Policy and Planning* and on the board of the International Health Economics Association. Virginia has continuing involvement in supporting capacity development in health economics and health systems in low- and middle-income country universities and research institutions.

Accelerator role: Project Lead (A4: Research, Indonesia)

Organization: Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney
Position: Professor in Health Economics and Health Systems, Lead for Cross Cutting Initiative in Health Economics and Health Systems, Surveillance and Evaluation Research Program
Email address: virginia.wiseman@lshtm.ac.uk

Dr Luh Putu Lila Wulandari



Dr Wulandari is a Research Fellow in the Surveillance, Evaluation and Research Program at the Kirby Institute. She currently focuses on several infectious disease related research projects in Indonesia and other countries in South East Asia region, including COVID-19 responses at the private drug sellers in Indonesia, syphilis testing at antenatal care settings in Indonesia, HIV testing among men in Indonesia, neglected tropical disease control in Indonesia and the Philippines, and antimicrobial resistance. She has a keen interest in improving access to and quality of health care services in low- and middle-income countries.

Accelerator role: Project Team,
(A4: Research, Indonesia)

Organization: Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney
Position: Research Fellow - Public Health Interventions
Research Program, Surveillance and Evaluation Research
Program
Email address: lwulandari@kirby.unsw.edu.au

Dr Florian Vogt



Dr Vogt is a Senior Fellow based at the Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales. His research experience and interests include operational research in health emergencies and humanitarian settings, field epidemiology and outbreak response, and neglected tropical diseases.

Accelerator role: Project Co-
Lead (A4: Research, Cambodia)

Organization: Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney
Position: Senior Research Fellow, Public Health Interventions
Research Program
Email address: fvogt@kirby.unsw.edu.au

Liza Doyle



Liza Doyle (MPH, RN) is the International Training and Development Manager at the Kirby Institute and Program Director of the Accelerator program.

Liza has extensive experience leading and managing health programs in the private, non-government and academic sectors, working in Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Fiji and Australia. With a strong interest in the prevention and management of infectious diseases, Liza's work focuses on strengthening regional capacity and global health partnerships to improve health outcomes in low- and middle-income countries. Liza oversees a range of international health initiatives at the Kirby Institute, including the CHART Program, a regional HIV research capacity building initiative.

Accelerator role: Program
Director

Organization: Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney
Position: International Training and Development Manager
Email address: ldoyle@kirby.unsw.edu.au

Dr Michaela Riddell



Dr Riddell, B.AppSc(MLS), GradDipEpidemiol&Biostats, PhD, is a multidisciplinary scientist with training in medical laboratory infectious diseases diagnostics and Public Health epidemiology and biostatistics. Based at Monash University, Melbourne 2009 she managed and implemented two large community-based intervention trials incorporating group peer support to assist with self-management of type 2 diabetes (Victoria) and hypertension (India). She joined UNSW in 2016 as the Senior Clinical Trial Coordinator for the WANTAIM trial, an investigation of the clinical and economical value, with respect to birth outcomes, of testing and treating pregnant women for sexually transmitted infections in 3 provinces in Papua New Guinea. She is skilled in community recruitment for research projects, statistical evaluation and is experienced in laboratory and epidemiological capacity building in Pacific Island countries and Papua New Guinea.

Accelerator role: Project Team, PNG

Organization: Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney and the PNGIMR

Position: Clinical Project Coordinator

Email address: mriddell@kirby.unsw.edu.au

Kirsten Ridley



Kirsten Ridley is the Program Manager for the Accelerator Program at the Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney.

Kirsten is a dedicated global development professional, bringing more than a decade of experience working with for-purpose organizations to sharpen their focus on program quality and impact, strengthen management systems, and embed best practice transparency and accountability approaches. She has extensive experience in the establishment and management of for-purpose initiatives. Most recently, prior to joining the Kirby Institute, she formed part of the founding team at the Institute for Global Development at UNSW Sydney.

During her career Kirsten worked across sectors and regions (primarily in South Asia and East Africa), and with a diverse range of international NGOs, including Action Contre La Faim Bangladesh and Caritas Australia, leading program evaluations, impact reporting, organisational benchmarking and accreditation exercises, as well as DMEL and safeguarding capacity building initiatives. Currently, Kirsten serves on the Program Advisory Committee of the Australian Himalayan Foundation where she primarily supports program strategy and learning.

Accelerator role: Program Manager

Organization: Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney

Position: Program Manager

Email address: kridley@kirby.unsw.edu.au

Divya Jacob



Divya coordinates multiple complex national and international research projects in Australia, South- East Asia and the Pacific.

Divya has over 15 years' experience across private, not for profit and academic sectors in Australia and India. She brings extensive experience in media and communication, project coordination, education, and office management.

Accelerator role: Program Coordinator

Organization: Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney

Position: Program Coordinator

Email address (optional): djacob@kirby.unsw.edu.au

III. Burnet Institute (BI)

Dr Philipp du Cros



Philipp is a Principal Research Fellow and Co-head of the Tuberculosis Elimination and Implementation Science Working Group. An infectious diseases physician and researcher, he has more than 15 years of clinical and public health experience in TB and infectious diseases programs. He has an appointment at Monash Health as an infectious disease physician, and is the chair of the WHO Western Pacific Regional Green Light Committee. Philipp's research has a strong focus on improving the management of drug resistant TB through shorter multidrug resistant TB treatment, including being a member of the steering committee for the TB-PRACTECAL randomised clinical trial. Current research interests include strategies for TB elimination, improving TB diagnostics, and implementation research on TB active case finding, TB preventive treatment, and combined TB /COVID testing.

Accelerator Program role:
Executive Steering Committee
Member & Project Lead (A5:
Bi-directional Screening,
Indonesia)

Organization: Burnet Institute
Position: Co-Head, TB and Implementation Science
Email address: philipp.ducros@burnet.edu.au

Professor Leanne Robinson



Professor Leanne Robinson BSc Adv (Hons) PhD MPHTM is a NHMRC Leadership Fellow and Senior Principal Research Fellow. She is Program Director of Health Security and Pandemic Preparedness and Head of the Vector Borne Diseases and Tropical Public Health Group at the Burnet Institute. Leanne is a recognised expert in epidemiology, intervention trials, surveillance and implementation research for the control and elimination of malaria and neglected tropical diseases. She leads a highly collaborative and inter-disciplinary research program, with strong links to disease control programs. Leanne has >17 years experience working in Papua New Guinea (PNG), leading the implementation of novel cohort studies and intervention trials at the PNG Institute of Medical Research.

Accelerator Program role:
Executive Steering Committee
Member (alternate)

Organization: Burnet Institute
Position: Program Director of Health Security and Pandemic Preparedness; Head, Vector Borne Diseases and Tropical Public Health
Email address: leanne.robinson@burnet.edu.au

Dr Yi dan (Dani) Lin



Dr Yi dan (Dani Lin) is an infectious diseases physician with a background in international development and public health. She joined Burnet Institute in Jan 2020 as a TB specialist in the Tuberculosis Elimination and Implementation Science Working Group within the International Development discipline. She has worked on COVID-19 support projects with online training and on the ground training for health care workers in Papua New Guinea.

Prior to working with Burnet, Dani worked in Northern Australia and Uzbekistan with humanitarian organisations. Her current research interests include using novel technologies for tuberculosis active case finding and capacity building for health care workers in multi-drug resistant tuberculosis.

Accelerator Program role: TB specialist, Burnet Institute, PNG Projects

Organization: Burnet Institute
Position: TB specialist
Email address: Dani.Lin@burnet.edu.au

Dr Stefanie Vaccher



Dr Vaccher is an infectious disease epidemiologist with experience working in outbreak management and preparedness, disease surveillance, and HIV prevention across the Asia-Pacific Region. She has been living in Papua New Guinea and working on the COVID-19 response since October 2020, including the Ag-RDT rollout. She has a PhD in Public Health/Epidemiology, which focused on adherence to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in Australia. Her broader research interests include vaccine-preventable diseases, international public health, and sexual and reproductive health.

Accelerator Program role: Study Coordinator and Project Lead (A1: Literature Review, PNG)

Organization: Burnet Institute
Position: Senior Research Fellow, Immunisation and Health System Strengthening
Email address: stefanie.vaccher@burnet.edu.au

Samuel McEwen



Sam is an epidemiologist at the Burnet Institute working on the STRIVE PNG project where his role has been primarily to oversee the development and implementation of an integrated febrile illness sentinel surveillance network in Papua New Guinea. Sam is a graduate of Australia's field epidemiology training program – the Master of Philosophy (Applied Epidemiology) at the Australia National University with a professional background in public health and communicable disease control. His research interests include communicable disease epidemiology and control, vector borne diseases, spatial epidemiology and environmental health.

Accelerator Program role:
Study Coordinator and Project Lead (A6: Digital User Guidance Tools, PNG)

Organization: Burnet Institute
Position: Epidemiologist
Email address: samuel.mcewen@burnet.edu.au

Marcela Lima



Marcela is a Public Health and Development professional, with experience managing large-scale projects, including health services research projects on quality of TB / HIV care in Brazil, and on access to TB care in the UK. Marcela has also worked in the alcohol and drug sector in Australia, including program design, implementation and capacity building for the prevention of AOD harms across South Australia and the Northern Territory. Marcela holds a Master of Global Health and Development from University College London, which focused on access to TB diagnosis and treatment completion in urban settings in England.

Marcela joined the Burnet Institute in August 2022 in the role of Project Manager with the Tuberculosis Elimination and Implementation Science Working Group within the International Development discipline. She is currently supporting various projects in Papua New Guinea.

Accelerator Program role:
Project Manager, Burnet Institute, PNG Projects

Organization: Burnet Institute
Position: Project Manager
Email address: marcela.lima@burnet.edu.au

Rob Franzone



Rob is a Project Manager in the Tuberculosis Working Group at the Burnet Institute, based in Melbourne. Rob's geographical focus is Indonesia and supporting the strategies of the Working Group more widely. Rob has a background in community development and engagement with a Masters of Public Health from the University of Melbourne. He has a strong interest in health system strengthening and universal health coverage, with significant in-country experience in Indonesia.

Accelerator Program role:
Project Manager, Burnet
Institute, Indonesia Project

Organization: Burnet Institute
Position: Project Manager - TB Elimination and Implementation
Science (Indonesia)
Email address: robert.franzone@burnet.edu.au

Rachael Farquhar



Rachael works as an International Health Research Officer and Project Manager in the Vector Borne Disease and Tropic Public Health (VBDTPH) Working Group at Burnet Institute. Health Systems Research has been a particular area of interest since completing her studies from the University of Melbourne, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in 2015 and Master of Public Health in 2018 and now, throughout her time at Burnet Institute.

Rachael has experience working cross-culturally in malaria endemic settings in vector control, surveillance, malaria treatment guidelines and have utilised health systems strengthening and acceptability theoretical frameworks to strengthen the quality, implementation and methodology of mixed methods qualitative research, primarily in Papua New Guinea.

Accelerator Program role:
Project Manager, Burnet
Institute, PNG Projects

Organization: Burnet Institute
Position: International Research Project Officer, Project
Manager
Email address: rachael.farquhar@burnet.edu.au

Kate Mills



Kate has a background in international development and public health, having worked in humanitarian and development organisations across the Asia-Pacific region for the last eight years. Kate joined Burnet Institute in March 2020 as Project Manager in the Tuberculosis Elimination and Implementation Science Working Group within the International Development discipline. She is currently supporting several projects in Papua New Guinea.

Prior to working with Burnet, Kate worked with Save the Children in Australia, the UK and Pacific Islands to coordinate high-quality health, education and protection programming for children. She has also worked with the Red Cross, supporting projects across the Asia-Pacific, including the coordination of a mass sanitation program in the refugee camps of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Accelerator Program role:
Project Manager, Burnet
Institute, PNG Projects

Organization: Burnet Institute

Position: Project Manager

Email address: kate.mills@burnet.edu.au

IV. Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)

Arika Garg



Arika Garg is an Associate Director in CHAI's Global Laboratory Services Team. She has 10 years of experience in the fields of public health and business management. She manages CHAI's diagnostics program in the Southeast Asia-Pacific region, as well as CHAI's supply-side work in the diagnostics space globally. More recently, her work has focused on supporting countries in the Southeast Asia-Pacific region, as well as in sub-Saharan Africa, on their Covid-19 response.

Prior to CHAI, Arika worked as a research analyst for a U.S. public health research organization, as well as a management consultant with Bain & Company. She holds an MBA from the Yale School of Management.

Accelerator role: Executive Steering Committee Member

Organization: Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)

Position: Associate Director, Global Laboratory Services Team

Email address: agarg@clintonhealthaccess.org

Garrett Young



Garrett Young is the Country Director for CHAI in Lao PDR. He is an experienced public health manager with more than 12 years' experience leading teams in Africa and Asia. Through his career, he has overseen programs in communicable disease, health financing, maternal and child health, and health systems strengthening. He has led the Lao PDR team since 2015 and currently oversees more than 50 staff doing work across eight program areas in the country.

Accelerator role: Country Lead, Lao PDR Projects

Organization: Clinton Health Access Initiative, Lao PDR

Position: Country Director, Lao PDR

Email address: gyoung@clintonhealthaccess.org

Thabo Taleng



Thabo joined CHAI in February 2022. He is a Clinical Pathology trained and registered Biomedical Technologist with over 20 years' experience working in both private and public health laboratories. He is a SLMTA graduate and QMS auditor and has over the years trained and supervised laboratory and clinical staff on molecular techniques and laboratory processes. He has assessed and provided technical assistance in the scale up of HIV early infant diagnosis and viral load testing in several low to middle income countries. Thabo has previously worked as a Laboratory Technical Advisor and Manager where he engaged closely with laboratories to improve clinic and laboratory interphase initiatives in health facilities and was recently involved in the establishment and commissioning of COVID-19 laboratories for a mining company in South Africa.

Accelerator role: Project Lead
(A5: Bidirectional Screening, Lao PDR)

Organization: Clinton Health Access Initiative
Position: Program Manager, Lab Systems
Email address: ttaleng@clintonhealthaccess.org

Bongkot Soonthornsata



Bongkot Soonthornsata is a Senior Technical Associate for Laboratory Systems Strengthening Program for CHAI in Lao PDR. She was trained in Health Sciences, specifically in control and prevention of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases with more than ten years' experience as a technical coordinator and as a research fellow.

Prior to CHAI, Bongkot worked as a technical coordinator participating in the control and prevention of malaria and dengue in several endemic countries, including in the Greater Mekong Subregion. She also brings extensive experience working with multiple and diverse stakeholders ranging from policymakers and academia institutions to public health personnel and village health volunteers.

Accelerator role: Project Team
(A5: Bidirectional Screening, Lao PDR)

Organization: Clinton Health Access Initiative, Lao PDR
Position: Senior Technical Associate, Laboratory Systems Strengthening Program, Laos
Email address: bsoonthornsata@clintonhealthaccess.org

Leonie Ruape



Accelerator role: Project Lead
(A2: Training, PNG)

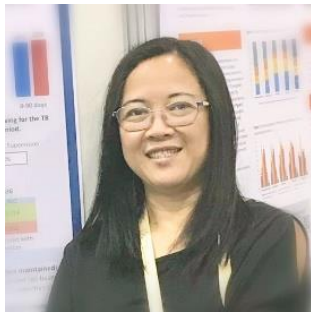
Leonie has a medical laboratory scientific background and over eight years of experience working in the public health sector diagnostics space. Over the years, she has supported the HIV viral load pilot work, overall supervision of a TB laboratory, and contributed to the Covid-19 pandemic response in Papua New Guinea (PNG). She currently works with the Clinton Health Access Initiative– PNG as the program manager of diagnostics overseeing the implementation of diagnostics programs in partnership with the government and provinces and providing technical guidance as needed.

Organization: Clinton Health Access Initiative, PNG

Position: Program Manager, Diagnostics

Email address: lruape@clintonhealthaccess.org

Maria Rosezoil Rioja



Accelerator role: Project, DMEL
and Reporting Manager, CHAI
Projects in Lao PDR and PNG

Maria Rosezoil Rioja is a Registered Medical Laboratory Scientist with advanced degree in Laboratory Management. She brings over 15 years of experience in diagnostics and program implementation. She is a cross-cutting laboratory technical expert and supported work across CHAI diagnostics program in 10 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. She was involved in the TB/HIV integration operational research and POC testing implementation. She is currently the Technical Advisor for Global Diagnostic Team based in Cambodia. She provides support to CHAI countries in South-East Asia and the Pacific on their laboratory systems strengthening program including the COVID-19 testing strategies and implementation. She is passionate on integration and leveraging existing systems to provide a comprehensive and holistic approach across all tiers.

Organization: Clinton Health Access Initiative, SEAP Region

Position: Technical Advisor, Global Diagnostics Team

Email address: mrjoja@clintonhealthaccess.org

V. Doherty Institute (DI)

Professor Deborah Williamson



Professor Deborah Williamson is a Clinical and Public Health Microbiologist, Professor / Director of the Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory and Microbiology at the Royal Melbourne Hospital at the Doherty Institute and a laboratory head in the Department of Infectious Diseases at the University of Melbourne. Her research group at the Doherty Institute focuses on the application of genomic technologies to clinical microbiology and public health, with a strong focus on antimicrobial-resistant pathogens. She is an NHMRC Investigator Grant recipient and received a L’Oreal-UNESCO Women in Science Fellowship in 2017, and was awarded the 2020 Frank Fenner Award for research by the Australian Society for Infectious Diseases.

Accelerator role: Executive Steering Committee Member, Multi-country Lead for QA and Sequencing Projects

Organization: Doherty Institute
Position: Director, Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory and Royal Melbourne Hospital Microbiology, Doherty Institute
Email address: deborah.williamson@unimelb.edu.au

Professor Ben Howden



Professor Benjamin Howden is Director of the Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory and Medical Director of Doherty Applied Microbial Genomics, at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, Australia. He has an extensive program of work in public health research, with a focus on pathogen genomics and antimicrobial resistance, regional capacity building and training and genomics, including national and regional coordination and implementation of pathogen genomics into clinical and public health practice.

Accelerator role: Executive Steering Committee Member (alternate)

Organization: Doherty Institute
Position: Director, Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory, Doherty Institute
Email address: bhowden@unimelb.edu.au

Consortium Member and Partner Team Member Biographies
FIND Act -A Accelerator Program

Dr Marilyn Ninan



Dr Marilyn Ninan (M.D.) is a clinical microbiologist trained at the Christian Medical College, Vellore. She currently works as a research fellow at the Doherty Institute and also holds an Associate Professor position at the Department of Clinical Microbiology, CMC Vellore. She brings to the consortium experience in the implementation of diagnostics for infectious diseases, particularly tuberculosis, in resource limited settings and is a trained auditor for laboratories. Her research interests are mycobacterial diseases and mycology, with a special focus on drug resistant tuberculosis. She is passionate about universal access to health and leveraging existing systems to provide comprehensive healthcare across all settings.

Accelerator role: Project Lead
(A3: EQA in Cambodia, Lao PRD & PNG)

Organization: Doherty Institute, Melbourne, VIC, and Christian Medical College, Vellore

Position: Research Fellow

Email address: marilyn@cmcvellore.ac.in

Chantel Lin



Chantel Lin is the Program Manager for Antimicrobial Resistance and Genomics at the Doherty Institute. She is responsible for the management of programs focused on antimicrobial resistance, microbial genomics and public health, including translational research projects, national and regional capacity building and training programs, coordination of collaborative partnerships and public health networks, and contribution to the Institute's strategic initiatives across her work areas. Chantel holds a Master of Public Health from the University of Melbourne, her interests include translational research and training programs to understand and combat antimicrobial resistance, and the translation of microbial genomics into public health and clinical microbiology.

Accelerator role: Project Manager (A3, A7: QA and Sequencing Projects in PNG & Cambodia)

Organization: Doherty Institute

Position: Program Manager

Email address: chantel.lin@unimelb.edu.au

Consortium Member and Partner Team Member Biographies
FIND Act -A Accelerator Program

Dr Louise Judd



Dr Judd is the Senior Genomics Laboratory Scientist at Doherty Applied Microbial Genomics and Training Scientist for the Centre for Pathogen Genomics. Our goal is to help laboratories across Australia and Internationally apply cutting edge genomic technologies to all aspects of clinical, research and public health microbiology, in order to help safeguard the future health of the Australian and International communities. Within the framework of collaborative partnerships, we offer sequencing capacity, established expertise in bioinformatics and critical training to undertake microbial genomics research.

Accelerator role: Project Team
(A7: ONT Pilot, Cambodia)

Organization: The Doherty Institute, Melbourne, VIC
Position: Senior Genomic Laboratory Scientist
Email address: lmj@unimelb.edu.au

Hasini Walpola



Hasini Walpola works as a genomics scientist for the Centre for Pathogen Genomics. She develops and implements genomics training programs in the Asia Pacific region and participates in capacity building activities throughout the region. Her past experience includes working in the molecular diagnostics team at the Microbiological Diagnostic Unit where she performed whole genome sequencing and amplicon sequencing Illumina and Oxford Nanopore Technology platforms. She has extensive experience in automating next generation sequencing workflows.

Accelerator role: Project Team
(A7: ONT Pilot, Cambodia)

Organization: The Doherty Institute, Melbourne, VIC
Position: Scientist
Email address: hwalpola@unimelb.edu.au

VI. University of Health Sciences Cambodia

Professor Vonthanak
Saphonn



Professor Saphonn is the Rector of the University of Health Sciences (UHS) in Cambodia where he is helping to educate the next generation of Cambodian health professionals. He is the Founder and former head of the School of Public Health at the National Institute of Public Health in Phnom Penh, and former Associate Director of the National Institute of Public Health. He previously also established the School of Public Health at the National Institute of Public Health with grants he received from the Rockefeller Foundation and the China Medical Board.

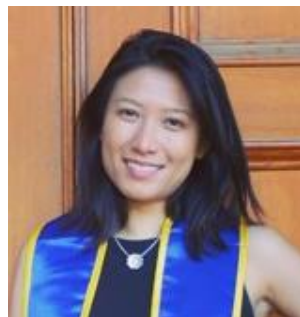
Professor Vonthanak received his medical degree from the UHS in 1995 and both his PhD in Epidemiology in 2003 and MS in 2004 from the Fielding School of Public Health at UCLA in the USA, where he is now an Adjunct Associate Professor of Epidemiology. He has authored and co-authored more than 70 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters.

Throughout his career, Professor Vonthanak has contributed to the development of research and policy in Cambodia and internationally, and played a key role in the effort to mitigate HIV/AIDS in his role as the head of Cambodia's HIV surveillance program. He has been Chief of the Research Unit at the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs since 2003, and his work has focused on the epidemiology of HIV/AIDS. During the past decades, he has led many HIV-related research projects and mentored many local and international students, due his experience in global HIV research.

Accelerator role: Organisation
Lead, UHS Cambodia

Organization: University of Health Sciences Cambodia
Position: Rector
Email address: vonthanak@uhs.edu.kh

Dr Kennarey Seang



Dr. Seang holds a medical degree from the University of Health Sciences (UHS) Cambodia, and a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) in the USA. Since her PhD graduation in 2020, and also during her doctoral studies, much of Dr Seang's work has focused on the epidemiology of HIV and social and behavioral aspects of people living with HIV. Currently Dr Seang leads a number of projects, including a collaboration between the University of Health Sciences and the Kirby Institute at the University of New South Wales, looking at access to COVID-19 testing for PLWH in Cambodia, as well as a community engagement research with the World Health Organization (Western Pacific Region) aiming to improve the access and retention rates in PLWH.

Accelerator role: Project Co-
Lead (A4: Research, Cambodia)

Organization: University of Health Sciences Cambodia
Position: Grant Management Officer
Email address: seang.kennarey@uhs.edu.kh

Dr. Chan-Leakhena Phoeung



Dr. Chan-Leakhena Phoeung graduated with a PharmD degree from the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Health Sciences (UHS) in 2010, and subsequently completed a specialized degree in pharmaceutical sciences at UHS in 2013.

Early in her career she joined the Rodolphe MERIEUX Laboratory in Phnom Penh as quality officer where she was involved in numerous research projects related to infectious diseases, molecular biology and toxicology. From 2012 Dr Phoeung has also been engaged a university lecturer at UHS, where she is responsible for teaching pharmacy and master degree students across a range of different subjects such as Molecular Biology, Toxicology, Biophysics and also supervising students preparing their master degree thesis.

In 2021, Dr Phoeung was promoted to become the Director of Rodolphe MERIEUX Laboratory and also a leader of COVID-19 testing team at UHS. The UHS laboratory became one of COVID-19 testing laboratories during the COVID-19 outbreak in Cambodia. Dr Phoeung has been a guest speaker at many national and international events. She has and continues to undertake a lot of continual training and professional development in the areas of infectious diseases, molecular biology, quality management and toxicology and has several publications.

Accelerator role: Project Co-Lead (A3, A7: QA and Sequencing Projects, Cambodia)

Organization: University of Health Sciences Cambodia & Rodolphe MERIEUX Laboratory

Position: Director of UHS-Rodolphe MERIEUX Laboratory & COVID-19 testing team, UHS

Email address: p_chanleakhena@uhs.edu.kh

Dr. Sothavireak Bory



As a health sciences researcher, Dr. Sothavireak Bory is particularly interested in how we generate research findings that are translated into practice and create real benefits for human health. Dr. Bory has developed numerous international research collaborations with partners in Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe. Over the past decade, he has led research on ethnopharmacology surveys, infectious diseases and clinical pharmacy. Through his research he has worked closely with different populations, including traditional healers, drug users, policy makers and worked with multidisciplinary teams addressing profoundly important public health issues and health policy in Cambodia. Dr. Bory is currently conducting collaborative projects with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the National University of Singapore, Kazanawa University, the University of New South Wales and Fudan University.

Accelerator role: Project Co-Lead (A3, A7 Cambodia)

Organization: University of Health Sciences Cambodia

Position: Vice-Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy

Email address: s_bory@uhs.edu.kh

VII. Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia

Dr Rina Triasih



Dr. Triasih is a lecturer, researcher and paediatrician at the Division of Respiriology, Department of Child Health, Dr. Sardjito Hospital/Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Her research fields are: respiratory problems in children, including pneumonia, asthma, cough; Tuberculosis in children; International child health; Surveillance of infectious diseases and Vaccination.

Dr Triasih's medical training was at Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia (1987-1993), followed by specialist paediatric training at the same institution (1999-2003). She undertook clinical and research fellowship in Department of Respiratory Medicine at the Royal Children Hospital, Melbourne, Australia (2006-2008), and completing her Master degree at the University of Melbourne in 2008. She has completed her PhD at the same University (2014) and was short-listed for the Chancellor's Prize.

Dr Triasih has been involving in some works related to Tuberculosis (TB), in the national and global level. She is an active member of child TB working group of WHO, the member of national TB expert committee and lead the project of Zero TB Yogyakarta in Indonesia. She has published her works in, and has also been a reviewer for, international journals.

Accelerator role: Project Lead
(A5: Bi-directional Screening, Indonesia)

Organization: Dr. Sardjito Hospital/Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta

Position: Lecturer, researcher and paediatrician - Division of Respiriology, Department of Child Health

Email address: rina_triasih@yahoo.com

Professor Tri WIBAWA



Professor Tri works at the Universitas Gadjah Mada, Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine public health and nursing. He has a Doctor, Molecular Medicine, Kobe University, Japan (2002), and a Master, Clinical Microbiology Specialist Training, Universitas Gadjah Mada, (2014)

Professor Tri's research Interests include; Antimicrobial resistance, Drug and Vaccine Development, Genetics Susceptibility of Infectious Diseases. Please find a brief profile and publications list [here](#).

Accelerator role: Project Lead
(A4: Research, Indonesia)

Organization: Universitas Gadjah Mada

Position: Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine public health and nursing.

Email address: twibawa@ugm.ac.id

Professor Ari Probandari



Professor Ari Natalia Probandari is a lecturer, researcher and the Head of Doctoral Program in Public Health at the Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Sebelas Maret (UNS). She is also a guest lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine, Public Health and Nursing, Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM). Her current research project focuses on implementation research in prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, including tuberculosis, neglected tropical diseases, hypertension and diabetes; and health systems and policy research.

Aside from her main role as an academic staff, she is also the researcher at the Center for Tropical Medicine, Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM); coordinator of research and innovation, tuberculosis expert committee Indonesian Ministry of Health; associate editor for BMC Health Services Research; grant reviewer for Indonesia RISPRO LPDP and UNS; and peer reviewer for several academic journals.

Prof Ari holds a medical doctorate from UGM and Master of Science and PhD in Public Health from Umea University, Sweden. Prof Ari is a member of the WHO-AIC Health Rapid Review Network.

Accelerator role: Project Team
(A4: Research, Indonesia)

Organization: Universitas Sebelas Maret and Universitas Gadjah Mada

Position: Professor of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine

Email address: ari.probandari@gmail.com

VIII. National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology (NCLE) Lao PDR

Dr Bouaphanh
Khamphongphane



Dr Khamphongphane is the Deputy Director of the National Centre for Laboratory and Epidemiology in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. She is also a supervisor of the Laos Field Epidemiology Training program and the ASEAN-Australia Health Security Fellowship. During the early days of COVID-19 outbreak, she supervised rapid response teams in provinces to look for suspect cases and worked closely with WHO to conduct COVID-19 testing.

Hear more about Dr 's work during the COVID-19 response in her interview on the Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security [Podcast 'Contain This' \(Episode 23\)](#)

Accelerator role: Project Co-Lead (A5 & A3: Bidirectional Screening and EQA Projects, Lao PDR)

Organization: National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology (NCLE) Lao PDR

Position: Deputy Director of the National Centre for Laboratory and Epidemiology in the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Email address: bkhamphongphane@gmail.com

IX. Papua New Guinea Institute for Medical Research (PNGIMR)

Dr William Pomat



Dr Pomat is the Director of the (PNGIMR). He has a BSc from the University of PNG, a MSc from the University of New South Wales and a PhD from the University of Western Australia. Formerly, he was the head of the IMR's Infection and Immunology Unit. His research focuses on respiratory disease vaccine immunology, particularly pneumonia, which is a major cause of death and hospitalisation in PNG. He coordinates field and laboratory research on pneumococcal vaccine trials to determine the best schedules for PNG. Since joining the Institute in 1987, Dr Pomat has worked towards assessing immune responses of children to *Streptococcus pneumoniae* with aim of having a vaccine introduced into the national schedule. He has vast experience in pneumococcal serology and pneumococcal immunology and has contributed to the body of knowledge in this field in PNG and internationally. He is also Deputy Chair and Secretary of the Institutional Review Board.

Accelerator role: Organisation
Lead, PNGIMR

Organization: Director

Position: Papua New Guinea Institute for Medical Research (PNGIMR)

Email address: William.Pomat@pngimr.org.pg

Dr Pamela Toliman



Dr Toliman is part of a scientific team at the PNG IMR that developed PNG's in-country testing capacity for COVID-19 and advised policymakers of what was needed to effectively respond to COVID-19. At the same time, she is doing post-doctoral research into COVID-19 transmission in the population.

Dr Toliman initially specialized on sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS. Her first research was on the effectiveness of standard treatments for gonorrhoea in PNG, in light of an increase in antibiotic resistance. For her master's, from the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), she studied co-infections in those who are HIV positive. Her research provided an insight into the most common diseases that affect those living with HIV and identified the fact that people were being diagnosed as HIV positive at a late stage, which had a major impact on prognosis. In 2016, she received the Australia Award's Allison Sudradjat Prize in recognition of her outstanding qualities as a scholar and emerging leader.

Later, Dr Toliman began investigating cervical cancer screening, for which she obtained a PhD from the Kirby Institute of the University of New South Wales in 2020. Concurrently, she participated in the Australia Award Women's Leadership Initiative. Dr Toliman researched whether a rapid human papillomavirus (HPV) test could reduce cervical cancer rates by detecting strains of HPV and seeing women with high-risk strains referred for further treatment. Her aim is to establish a national screening programme and she has been trialling a system whereby women can take a test and have the result within an hour.

Accelerator role: Project Lead (A5, A7 Biobank and VOC Screening, PNG), and Project Co-Lead (A3: QA, PNG)

Organization: Papua New Guinea Institute for Medical Research (PNGIMR)

Position: Medical Researcher

Email address: Pamela.Toliman@pngimr.org.pg