

Commonwealth Civil Society Policy Forum 2023

Commonwealth Year of Youth 2023

Supporting young people for a safe, secure, happy and healthy future

Programme

The Commonwealth Health Professions and Partners Alliance (CHPA) host a policy forum each year in conjunction with the Commonwealth Health Ministers' meeting. **REGISTER NOW** to participate in this important forum.

Registration is essential. Following registration you will receive a confirmation email with instructions on how to access the Forum.



2023

Wednesday 12 April 2023
12:00–14:00
(London Time)
Virtual Meeting

**THE YEAR OF
YOUTH
2023**

Eminent speakers will address topics of concern to young people:

- staying healthy, healthy eating, healthy lifestyle
- maintaining mental health and wellbeing
- climate change and associated impacts on health and wellbeing
- effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people.

Further information will be available on the CHPA website: <http://www.chpa.co>



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Virtual Meeting

12:00–12:10	Welcome Professor Vajira Dissanayake Chairperson, Commonwealth Health Professions and Partners Alliance
12:10–12:20	Forum Opening Rt Hon Baroness Scotland KC Secretary General of the Commonwealth
12:20–12:30	Innovation in tackling youth violence and exploitation – a global perspective Ms Dorcas Gwata Mental health and public health nurse
12:30–12:40	Music and resilience: charting a path with a carers heart Mr Oritsé Williams Musician, poet and founder of the Band JLS
12:40–12:45	The Young Carers Charter Dr David Jones (with Jill Iliffe) Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work
12:45–12:55	Youth action on leveraging technology and research to improve community health in Kenya Mr Stephen Ogweno Optimist, Author, CEO Stowelink Inc
12:55–13:00	Song for the Commonwealth Commonwealth Children’s Choir and Youth Orchestra
13:00–13:10	A Role for the Commonwealth: Young People Speak Out Dr Anne Gallagher AO Director General Commonwealth Foundation
13:10–13:15	The influence of the Commercial Determinants of Health on young people’s nutrition Questions from the Chair to Dr Tony Nelson Commonwealth Association for Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition

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13:15–13:25	Young people’s concerns regarding climate change Dr J A Jayalal Secretary-General, Commonwealth Medical Association
13:25–13:35	A conversation – responding to the mental wellbeing of young people after the pandemic: the response of one provider in England Gillian Nightall (with David Jones) Clinical Director Children’s Services Northamptonshire Health Care Foundation Trust
13:35–13:45	When the drugs don’t work – impact on young people of substandard and falsified medicinal products Mr Adam Aspinall Senior Director, Access and Product Management, Medicines for Malaria Venture; Chair, Fight the Fakes Alliance
13:45–13:50	Believe Commonwealth Children’s Choir and Youth Orchestra
13:50–14:00	Forum Close Professor Vajira Dissanayake Chair, Commonwealth Health Professions and Partners Alliance

Invited Speakers

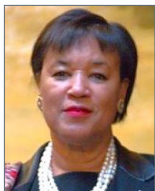
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PROFESSOR VAJIRA DISSANAYAKE

Professor Vajira Dissanayake MBBS PhD is the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Health Professions and Partners Alliance (since 2021). He is Chair and Senior Professor in the Department of Anatomy, Genetics, and Biomedical Informatics and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. He is a pioneer in Genetics, Genomics, Biomedical Informatics and Bioethics in Sri Lanka. Professor Dissanayake has held many leadership positions in the field of medicine. He was the President of the Sri Lanka Medical Association in 2012; President of the Commonwealth Medical Association from 2016 to 2019; Chairperson, Commonwealth Centre for Digital Health (since 2018); and current President of the Sri Lanka Medical Council.



HER EXCELLENCY BARONESS PATRICIA SCOTLAND KC

The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC took office as the 6th Secretary General of the Commonwealth on 1 April 2016. She was the first woman to be elected to the position. Patricia Scotland trained as a lawyer and became the first black woman and the youngest woman to be appointed a Queen's Counsel (QC) in 1991. She was the first black woman to be appointed Deputy High Court Judge, Recorder and Master of Middle Temple. Patricia joined the House of Lords in 1997 as Baroness Scotland of Asthal going on to serve as a minister in the Foreign Office, Home Office and Lord Chancellor's Department. In this position, she undertook major reform of the criminal justice system including introduction of the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act. She was appointed Attorney General in 2007, the first woman to hold the post since it was created in 1315. Patricia founded the Eliminate Domestic Violence Global Foundation in 2011.



DR ANNE GALLAGHER AO

Dr Anne Gallagher AO is the Director General of the Commonwealth Foundation and is the Commonwealth's ambassador for civil society working closely with Member States to advance people's participation in all aspects of public dialogue. A lawyer, practitioner, teacher, and scholar, Anne's long international career has involved specialisation in a wide range of areas including human rights and the administration of criminal justice. Anne served for 12 years at the United Nations, including as special adviser to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Anne also worked with the Association of South-East Asian Nations to strengthen legislative and criminal justice responses to human trafficking and related exploitation



ORITSE WILLIAMS

Oritsé Williams, musician, poet and founding member of the Band JLS, presented a BBC World Service programme on young carers in January (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3ct4m2h>). As a teenager, Oritsé was a young carer for his mother, Sonia Williams, who has Multiple Sclerosis. He and his siblings vowed to strive to find a cure for MS. He is proud to be the new Commonwealth Young Carer Champion working with Commonwealth Organisations to promote the Young Carers Charter. The Band has just announced a nationwide tour of 20 stadium venues (<https://www.jlsofficial.com>) which will raise the profile of young carers.



DR DAVID N JONES

Dr David N Jones qualified as a social worker in 1974 and has extensive international, national and local government, NGO and private sector experience. He is a Board Member of the Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work (COSW), represents civil society on the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Health and is a Trustee of Children and Families Across Borders (ISS-UK). He was President of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) 2006–10 and Global Coordinator of The Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development (2010–2020). He has published and spoken extensively on social work practice and management in the UK and overseas.



DORCAS GWATA

Dorcas is a globally recognised, experienced and innovative mental health and public health nurse clinician, researcher, advisor and leader. She has the lived experiences of a hospital cleaner who became an award-winning nurse, a global health consultant, and climate change advocate. Dorcas has wide-ranging grassroots experience in designing and delivering innovative global health programs specialising in youth violence, mental health, the nursing diaspora, and nursing and health partnerships. Dorcas is highly experienced in working in government advisory roles advocating on ethical recruitments, health systems strengthening, equity and equality whilst navigating complex geo-political contexts. Dorcas is an African Affairs Analyst, Chair of Primary Care International, and an Advisor for the Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET).



OGWENO STEPHEN

Ogweno Stephen is a multi-award-winning global health practitioner, a non-communicable diseases (NCDs) advocate, and an innovator. His background is in Global health having studied at Cambridge University and the University of Manchester. He is known for his vast work in developing programs and innovations, aimed at improving health literacy and access to care for chronic diseases. As the founder and CEO of Stowelink Foundation based in Kenya, he has led the implementation of such programs in over 8 countries in Africa and continues to develop innovations to make health accessible to the next 1 billion Africans.



PROFESSOR DR J A JAYALAL

Professor Dr J A Jayalal is the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Medical Association 2022–2024 and was the National President of the Indian Medical Association 2020–2021. Dr Jayalal is Senior Consultant in Laparoscopic Surgery at Annammal Hospital, Kuzhithural Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu, India and Professor of Surgery Kanyakumari Government Medical College. On his election as Secretary General of the CMA Dr Layalal said that his priority would be ensuring affordable, accessible, sustainable and quality health care to all people of the Commonwealth. Dr Jayalal holds many prestigious positions including: National Head of the Indian Medical Association UNESCO Bioethics Initiative; Governing Council Member of the National Board of Examination (India); and Member of the Senate and Board of Studies, the Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University.



GILLIAN NIGHTALL

Gillian Nightall is Clinical Director and Consultant Clinical Psychologist at Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. The Trust delivers many physical, mental health and speciality services in the community, offering care to more than 700,000 people. Services are delivered from many sites including hospitals, GP surgeries, clinics and in homes. Gillian works with families, individuals and couples where at least one family member has experienced significant mental illness. She has worked in children and adolescent and also adult mental health services. She is an experienced trainer and supervisor and is passionate about enabling teams to deliver quality care.



PROFESSOR TONY NELSON

Professor Tony Nelson is Clinical Professional Consultant and Professor of Practice in Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Chinese University of Hong Kong. Tony has published widely on vaccine preventable diseases, infant and child nutrition, and sudden infant death syndrome. He has conducted studies on respiratory and diarrhoeal disease surveillance; influenza and rotavirus vaccine effectiveness; rotavirus vaccine efficacy and rotavirus vaccine economic evaluations. He chairs the Steering Committee of Immunization Partners in Asia Pacific. Tony coordinated Paediatric undergraduate teaching 1994–2020 and was a Faculty of Medicine Year coordinator 2005–2017. During this time, he has been involved in curriculum design and innovative projects to enhance student learning and participation.



ADAM ASPINALL

Adam Aspinall, Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) and Fight the Fakes Alliance. Adam is Senior Director, Access and Product Management, at Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), a Geneva-based Product Development Partnership engaged in the discovery, development and delivery of novel antimalarial medicines. In this role he is responsible for MMV's portfolio of in-development and launched drugs for uncomplicated malaria, and is also MMV's lead in the area of falsified and substandard medicines. In November 2020, Adam was elected as the first Chair of the Fight the Fakes Alliance, a new multi-stakeholder non-profit association dedicated to the fight against substandard and falsified medicines. Prior to joining MMV, Adam spent over 20 years in the pharmaceutical and biotech industry.