Commonwealth Civil Society Policy Forum 2021

Equitable and appropriate access to quality medicines and vaccines in the Commonwealth: innovative approaches and lessons learned from COVID-19

The Commonwealth Health Professions and Partners Alliance (CHPA) host a policy forum each year in conjunction with the Commonwealth Health Ministers’ meeting. ‘Save the Date’ to share in this important forum.

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

2021

Tuesday 18 May 2021
10:00–13:00
(Geneva Time)
Virtual Meeting

The Commonwealth Pharmacists Association is organising the 2021 Commonwealth Civil Society Policy Forum in partnership with the CHPA. Further information will be available on the CHPA website http://www.chpa.co

Objectives

1. To raise awareness of the need for equitable access to quality medicines and vaccines.
2. To share best practice and innovations across the Commonwealth in ensuring equitable access to quality medicines and vaccines.
3. To provide an opportunity for information sharing and discussion on the journey to equitable access to quality medicines and vaccines.
4. To propose actionable recommendations for Commonwealth Health Ministers on innovative strategies to increase access to quality medicines and vaccines across the Commonwealth.
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Programme
Tuesday 18 May 2021, 10:00–13:00 (Geneva Time)
Virtual Meeting

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<td>10:00–10:10 Welcome</td>
<td>Prof Vajira Dissanayake, CHPA Chair</td>
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<td>10:10–10:20 Opening Remarks</td>
<td>HE Baroness Patricia Scotland, Secretary General of the Commonwealth</td>
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<td>10:20–10:30 Introduction to the Forum</td>
<td>Dr Anne Gallagher AO, Director General, Commonwealth Foundation</td>
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<td>10:30–10:50 Challenges to equity and access to medicines and vaccines: a health systems approach</td>
<td>Prof Zaheer-Ud-Din Babar, Professor in Medicines and Healthcare. Director, Centre for Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice Research, University of Huddersfield</td>
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<th>CASE STUDIES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Innovative approaches to support access to medicines during COVID–19 and beyond</td>
<td>Session Chair: Ms Meghna Joshi–Von–Heyden, Strategic Development Advisor, CPA</td>
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<td>10:50–11:05 Collaborative working with the private sector to overcome access issues, during COVID-19 and beyond – a global perspective</td>
<td>Mr Greg Perry, Assistant Director General, International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association</td>
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<td>11:05–11:20 Access challenges and recommendations from a local manufacturer’s perspective</td>
<td>Mr Emmanuel Mujuru, Chairperson of Federation of African Pharmaceutical Manufacturers’ Association</td>
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<td>11:20–11:35 Innovative initiatives to support better access to medicines - pooled procurement networks, case study from East Africa</td>
<td>Ms Nduta Kamere, Facilitator and Coordinator of the East African Community Pooled Procurement Initiative</td>
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<td>11:35–11:50 Q&amp;A Questions from the chat box</td>
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### PANEL DISCUSSION

**Reflections on equitable access to COVID-19 vaccination programmes**  
**Moderator:** Dr Anne Gallagher AO, Director General, Commonwealth Foundation

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<td>11:50–12:20</td>
<td>PANEL SPEAKERS</td>
<td>Dr Martlie Mocke-Richter, National Executive Committee, Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa</td>
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<td>Dr Hu Yuan Qiong, Legal and Policy Advisor and Policy Coordinator, Médecins Sans Frontières Access Campaign</td>
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<td>Dr Carlene Radix, Head of Human and Social Division, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission</td>
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<td>Mr Luigi D’Aquino, Chief of Health, UNICEF India</td>
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### CLOSING SESSIONS

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<td>12:20–12:40</td>
<td>Working for a future of equitable access to medicines and vaccines (COVAX)</td>
<td>Dr Jim Campbell, Director Health Workforce, WHO</td>
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<td>12:40–13:00</td>
<td>Summary of key points, recommendations and close</td>
<td>Mrs Victoria Rutter, Executive Director, CPA</td>
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Invited Speakers

PROFESSOR VAJIRA DISSANAYAKE
Chairperson, Commonwealth Health Professions and Partners Alliance

Vajira is an academic holding clinical, research, teaching, and leadership positions. He is Chair Professor of Anatomy, Human Genetics and Biomedical Informatics at the University of Colombo. Vajira is the current Chairperson of the Commonwealth Health Professions and Partners Alliance, President of the Sri Lanka Medical Council, and past President of the Commonwealth Medical Association. Vajira was one of the founders of the Health Informatics Society of Sri Lanka and its President since 2009. He founded the Biomedical and Health Informatics Programme at the University of Colombo in 2008 and in 2016 he founded the Commonwealth Digital Health Initiative that resulted in the establishment of the Commonwealth Centre for Digital Health in 2018 and is its current Chair.

HER EXCELLENCY BARONESS PATRICIA SCOTLAND QC
Secretary General of the Commonwealth

The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC became the 6th Secretary General of the Commonwealth in 2016, the first woman to hold the position. Born in Dominica and brought up in the UK, she became, in 1991, the first black woman and the youngest woman ever in the UK to be appointed a Queen’s Counsel. She was also the first black woman to be appointed a Deputy High Court Judge. As Baroness Scotland of Asthal, she joined the House of Lords in 1997, serving as a minister in the Foreign Office, Home Office, and Lord Chancellor’s Department where she undertook major reform of the criminal justice system, including the 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.

DR ANNE GALLAGHER AO
Director-General of the Commonwealth Foundation

Appointed to the position of Director-General of the Commonwealth Foundation in 2019, Anne's long international career has involved specialisation in a wide range of areas including human rights and the administration of criminal justice. After several years teaching in the law school of the Australian National University, Anne was recruited to the United Nations where she served for 12 years, including as a special adviser to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson. From 2003, Anne worked with the Association of South East Asian Nations and its ten Member States to strengthen legislative and criminal justice responses to human trafficking and related exploitation. Her recent and current appointments include President of the International Catholic Migration Commission; Co-Chair of the International Bar Association's Presidential Task Force on Human Trafficking; Academic Adviser at Doughty St Chambers; and member of the Asia Dialogue on Forced Migration. Anne’s work for human rights, justice, and equality has been widely recognised, earning her, among other honours, the Australian Freedom Award and the ‘Peace Woman of the Year’ award for the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. In 2012, she was appointed Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) and named a ‘2012 hero’ by US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton.
PROFESSOR ZAHEER-UD-DIN BABAR
Professor in Medicines and Healthcare and Director, Centre for Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice Research, University of Huddersfield, UK

Professor Zaheer-Ud-Din Babar is the Professor in Medicines and Healthcare, and Director of the Centre of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice Research at the University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom. A pharmacist by training, and with a PhD in pharmacy practice, Professor Babar is the recipient of the prestigious “Research Excellence Award” from the University of Auckland. He understands health systems and pharmacy globally and is widely known for his work in pharmaceutical policy and practice, including quality use of medicines, access to medicines, medicine prices and issues related to pharmaco-economics. He has published in high impact journals such as PLoS Medicine and Lancet and has acted as a consultant for the World Health Organization, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Health Action International, International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, World Bank, Abbott, Pharmaceutical Group of European Union, the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), and for the Pharmaceutical Management Agency of New Zealand.

MS MEGHNA JOSHI-VON HEYDEN
Strategic Development Advisor, Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association

A pharmacist by background, Meghna has worked in a number of regions including the UK, Singapore and Switzerland. She started her career as a clinical pharmacist at the regional medicines information centre, University Hospital Southampton. She then joined the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (CPA); developing and implementing a number of national policy programmes, standards and guidance across the UK that improved health services and the safe and effective use of medicines. During her time in Singapore, Meghna joined the Ministry of Health Holdings, implementing policies to digitise Singapore’s health services and develop the national App to enable better access for patients to their health data and resources. Meghna brings her extensive experience in strategy and programme management to drive CPA initiatives and partnerships across the Commonwealth.

MR GREG PERRY
Assistant Director General, International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (IFPMA)

Greg Perry joined IFPMA on 1st February 2018 and has responsibility for IFPMA’s external outreach and stakeholder engagement in global health topics including innovation, access, and the international regulatory environment. Greg Perry brought with him more than 20 years’ leadership and advocacy experience in the public healthcare arena. Prior to joining IFPMA, Greg worked as Executive Director of the Medicines Patent Pool, which he joined in 2013 and as Director General of the European Generic Medicines Association (1999–2013) in Brussels. Previously he worked as a partner in a UK public affairs company as a European Union policy advisor to corporate and non-governmental organizations, and before that as a Parliamentary Advisor to Members of the European Parliament. Greg is a Member of the Advisory Council of the Organization for Professionals in Regulatory Affairs (TOPRA) and is a former member of the Standing Advisory Committee before the European Patent Office (SACEPO). Greg also holds the Golden Cross of Merit of the Republic of Poland.
MR EMMANUEL MUJURU
Chairperson of Federation of African Pharmaceutical Manufacturers’ Association

Emmanuel Mujuru is the Chairperson of the Federation of African Pharmaceutical Manufacturers’ Associations (FAPMA), a federation that represents pharmaceutical manufacturers in Africa. Emmanuel is the Chief Executive Officer and founder of Plus Five Pharmaceuticals (Private) Limited which is a vertically integrated pharmaceutical company with operations in pharmaceutical manufacturing, wholesaling and retailing in Zimbabwe including exports to regional markets. Emmanuel is a qualified pharmacist, entrepreneur and business man with a passion for the development of local pharmaceutical production not only in Zimbabwe but in Africa in general. Emmanuel has been active in the pharmaceutical industry for the past 25 years during which he gained extensive experience in pharmaceutical business development, management and strategy, production, research and development, quality assurance, marketing and distribution. He holds professional qualifications that include: Bachelor of Pharmacy Honors Degree; Bachelor of Accounting Sciences Honors Degree (B Acc Hons); Master’s in Business Leadership (MBL) and is currently a PhD candidate.

MS NDUTA KAMERE
Facilitator and coordinator of the East African Community Pooled Procurement Initiative

Nduta Kamere is an enthusiastic Pharmacist, Supply Chain Professional and Global Health Advocate. She holds a Bachelor Degree in Pharmacy and certification in Humanitarian Medical Logistics Practice. Her professional experience spans pooled procurement, project management, humanitarian medical logistics, immunisation supply leadership, health system strengthening, medical supply chain assessment and pharmaceutical supplies management (PSM). Nduta also believes in creating impact to people and communities through innovative solutions.

DR MARTLIE MOCKE-RICHTER
National Executive Committee, Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa

Dr Martlie Mocke-Richter is a dynamic young pharmacist, obtaining her B.Pharm degree in 2009, and her M.Pharm degree with distinction in 2011 at the North-West University (South-Africa). Martlie served on the Student Representative Council of the North-West University for the term 2010/2011. She obtained her PhD in Clinical Pharmacology in 2019 at the University of the Free State with the title: “Factors influencing the utilization of biological medicines in South-Africa”. Her research interest is in the field of Biological Medicines and Antimicrobial Stewardship. Martlie started her career as a pharmacist in Bloemfontein in 2012. In 2013 she was appointed at National District Hospital and presently she is working as Clinical Pharmacist at National District Hospital (Free State Department of Health) (South-Africa). Martlie has several leadership awards, and she serves on the South-Africa Ministerial Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance for the term November 2020-November 2023; is an Executive Committee member of the Pharmaceutical Society of South-Africa (2019-2021); Chairperson of the Pharmaceutical Society of South-Africa, Free State branch (2018-2021); Vice-chairperson of NDH (National District Hospital) PTC (Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee) (2018-2021); and a member of the Free State Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee (2019-2021).

DR YUAN QIONG HU
Legal and Policy Advisor and Policy Coordinator, Médecins Sans Frontières Access Campaign

Dr Hu works as Senior Legal and Policy Advisor and Policy Co-Coordinator for Access Campaign of Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders). She is a licensed lawyer and researcher with an affiliation with the Law, Development and Environment Research Centre at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Yuan’s main expertise looks at the intersections between intellectual property, human rights and access to medicines. Academically, she taught intellectual property law, technology transfer and public international law and has published several works on the issues of intellectual property, access to medicines and the right to health. Yuan holds a PhD in law from SOAS, University of London; an MPhil in theory and practice of human rights from the Norwegian Centre of Human Rights, the University of Oslo; and LLM and LLB from the University of London and Shandong University in China.
DR CARLENE RADIX
Head of Human and Social Division, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Commission

Dr Carlene Radix is the Head of the Human and Social Division at the OECS. The Human and Social Division encompasses health, education, social protection and pooled procurement of essential medicines and supplies for the region. She is a Public Health physician and Health Administration leader in the Caribbean. She completed Medical School at St George’s University in Grenada and a combined Internal Medicine and Paediatric Residency in the United States, followed by an Occupational Medicine and Environmental Health Fellowship during which she completed her Master’s degree in Public Health. Carlene returned to the Caribbean and has held various positions in Clinical Medicine, Academia, Public Health and Administration and has consulted for regional and international public health agencies. Carlene’s life purpose is to contribute to each person’s realisation of their full potential by collaborating with strategic partners to champion the use of best practices and technologies to improve and to build sustainable and resilient systems.

MR LUIGI D’AQUINO
Chief of Health UNICEF India

Luigi joined UNICEF-India as Chief of Health in June 2019. Currently, he is also serving as the COVID-19 Response Coordinator for the UNICEF India office. Luigi has worked for 20 years in the international development sector, contributing to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of health policies and programmes in many countries in Africa and Asia. He holds a degree in Economics and Management, an MSc in Health Systems Strengthening at the London School of Tropical Medicine, and a short course diploma in Tropical Epidemiology. Prior to joining UNICEF India, Luigi worked at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, at UNICEF Mozambique, at Save the Children, at MSF and with other civil society organizations. Of Italian nationality, Luigi is the happy and proud dad of three children: Mattia (18), Luca (15) and Simone (9). He enjoys reading, football, playing tennis, listening to music and good food!

DR JIM CAMPBELL
Director Health Workforce, World Health Organisation

Dr Jim Campbell is the Director of the Health Workforce Department, World Health Organisation (WHO). He oversees the development of global public goods, evidence and tools to inform investment in the education, development and retention of the health and social sector workforce. This work aims to ensure that these investments match the pursuit of global health security, universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Department’s recent work includes WHO’s Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030; the report of the High level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth, and the subsequent adoption of the joint ILO, WHO, OECD five-year action plan on #Working4Health which aims to implement the Commission’s recommendations; and ongoing support to the United Nations Secretary General’s High Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth. Dr Campbell coordinates the Global Health Workforce Network engaging Member States and all relevant partners in WHO’s work. Dr Campbell is widely recognized as a keen advocate and champion of HRH issues. Previously, Dr Campbell was the Executive Director of the Global Health Workforce Alliance, Director with the Institute of Social Cooperation, and a consultant for the UK Department for International Development.

MRS VICTORIA RUTTER
Executive Director, Commonwealth Pharmacists Association

Victoria is a qualified pharmacist and was appointed as the very first Executive Director of the Commonwealth Pharmacist’s Association (CPA) in 2016. The charity’s work focuses on policy development, advocacy and practitioner engagement to support better access to and use of medicines in lower resource settings. This includes addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and provision of accessible and affordable education and training to support the development of the pharmacy workforce. Victoria was responsible for bringing together a partnership with THET and led the pioneering of the Commonwealth Partnerships in Antimicrobial Stewardship (CwPAMS) programme, which is growing expertise and capacity in addressing AMR across international boundaries. Prior to this Victoria led both service and workforce development through international collaborations in flagship hospitals in London and Singapore. She has an extensive portfolio of clinical practice activities within a global health context, and a special interest in medicines-related health systems strengthening and professional development.