

MMV Access Symposium

Expanding Reach of ACTs in the Private Sector: Dialogue with Countries

SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES

Accra, Ghana, 2 June 2008

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■ **Dora Akunyili**

Professor Dora Nkem Akunyili is the Director General for the Nigerian National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and currently leads an initiative to address internal corruption and enforce high standards for food and medications. Prior to her present appointment, she was a Senior Lecturer and Consultant Pharmacologist at the College of Medicine, University of Nigeria Nsukka. She received a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences in 1985 and was appointed professor at the University of Nigeria Nsukka in 2000.

Prof. Akunyili is an active member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria where she has served in various capacities, including the National Vice President of Association of Lady Pharmacists (1992-1995) and President of the Enugu State Branch (1992-1998). She serves as a member in additional societies including the New York Academy of Science, International Union of Pharmacology, and the International Pharmaceutical Federation. Prof. Akunyili is also a post doctorate fellow of University of London and a fellow of the West African Post Graduate College of Pharmacists.

For her work in public health and commitment to the values of honesty and transparency, Prof. Akunyili has received over 260 Awards and Recognitions locally and internationally. She has presented 20 papers at national and international scientific conferences, published two books, and written 33 articles in the area of pharmaceuticals and public health.

■ **Larry Barat**

Dr. Lawrence Barat serves as Senior Malaria Advisor at the US Agency for International Development (USAID), working on the \$1.2 billion President's Malaria Initiative. Dr. Barat received his degree in Medicine (1986) and completed a residency in Internal Medicine (1989) from SUNY Downstate Medical Center. After completing a fellowship in Infectious Diseases at Boston University School of Medicine, he joined the BUSM faculty and worked with the Boston City Hospital Clinical AIDS Program and the Harvard Hospitals/Boston City Hospital AIDS Clinical Trials Unit. From 1992 to 1993, Dr. Barat served as AIDS Policy Advisor ("AIDS Czar") for the Mayor and Health Commissioner of Boston and played an instrumental role in starting the first legal needle exchange program in Massachusetts.

After completing the MPH program at the Harvard School of Public Health (1995), Dr. Barat joined the Malaria Branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where he conducted research and published widely on malaria diagnosis and treatment, assisted several countries in the design and implementation of malaria control activities, and co-managed USAID's Blantyre Integrated Malaria Initiative in Malawi. In 2000, Dr. Barat was assigned to the World Bank by CDC, where he led the Bank's Malaria Team and represented the Bank on the Roll Back Malaria Global Partnership

Board. He left the Bank in 2004 to work for AED, a Washington-based nonprofit organization, where he provided technical support to several USAID projects, including NetMark, SARA and Africa 2010 and served as Senior Malaria Advisor to the USAID BASICS project (USAID's flagship program on child survival).

In May 2007, he joined USAID and now provides technical leadership on malaria diagnosis and case management for the PMI, serves as country lead for Mozambique, and coordinates a joint US-Brasil collaboration on malaria control in lusophone countries in Africa.

■ **Constance Bart-Plange**

Dr Constance Bart-Plange is a Medical Officer, obtaining her basic degree at the University of Ghana Medical School and a Masters' in Public Health from the University of Leeds, UK. She also holds a Diploma in Health Systems Strengthening and has received several trainings in Malaria and other major diseases of public health importance. She is a highly motivated, innovative, proactive and dedicated team player. She has rich experience in malaria program management at both national and regional levels, having been a national program manager since year 2000. She has also served as regional tuberculosis program coordinator. Before then, she had worked as district director of health services in three districts over a ten-year period.

She has special interest in health systems research and epidemiology. She has served as W.H.O Temporary advisor on several occasions. She was a board member of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission and the Cape Coast School for the Deaf.

As a member of the pioneer national health research team, she has undertaken several researches into malaria, community-based activities, tuberculosis, two of which have been published. Her research into the feasibility of using community volunteers to administer Tuberculosis (TB) drugs largely influenced the decision of the nation to implement community-based TB treatment.

Constance thrives on challenges and is not afraid to break new grounds: as evidenced by her spearheading the anti-malaria drug policy change from chloroquine to Artesunate-Amodiaquine, implementation of Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) for pregnant women as well as the adoption of indoor residual spraying in the country.

Her passion is to see her country free of malaria: a country where no-one dies from malaria.

■ **Alex Dodoo**

Dr Alex Dodoo is a pharmacist, trained at the university of Kumasi (Ghana) and King's College London (UK). He is currently acting Director of the Centre for Tropical Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics at the University of Ghana Medical School. Early in his career, he worked with Roche as a senior research scientist, before returning to Ghana full time to work for the Medical School.

Dr Dodoo has a special interest in the issues of pharmacovigilance, and was previously the coordinator of the national centre for pharmacovigilance in Ghana. Among his many international roles, he is a member of a number of Boards and advisory committees on

the theme of pharmacovigilance, participating actively in the WHO advisory committee on the safety of medicinal products, the WHO expert panel on drug evaluation, an executive committee member of the International Society of Pharmacovigilance, as well as a member of the safety monitoring board for HIA/AIDS trials in Africa of the USA National Institutes of Health. Dr Dodoo has also taken a keen interest in malaria, as part of the global consortium safety panel for intermittent preventive treatment of malaria in infants (IPTi).

Seeking to promote the role of pharmacists and good pharmacological practice in Ghana, Dr Dodoo is currently President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana.

■ **Uzo Gilpin**

Uzo Gilpin has over 12 years experience in public health programming, providing technical leadership for the development and implementation of maternal and child health projects. She has worked in a number of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa including Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Nigeria on diseases as diverse as malaria and trypanosomiasis.

Uzo Gilpin worked with Population Services International as Malaria Advisor and during her tenure, PSI started several malaria control programs including malaria treatment projects in Madagascar and Nigeria, working primarily with the private sector. She works in Nigeria as the Maternal and Child health Advisor with Society for Family Health, Nigeria, a Nigerian NGO affiliated to PSI with a large malaria program that include GFTAM malaria and USAID malaria treatment projects. Uzo Gilpin is also currently serving as the Southern NGO representative to the Roll Back Malaria Board.

Uzo Gilpin is a parasitologist and trained at King's College University of London and Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, both in the UK.

■ **Austin Gumbo**

Mr Austin Gumbo is a Malawian national. His professional background is in the health field, having trained in clinical medicine at Malawi College of Health Sciences. He currently holds the position of Chief Clinical Officer. He has direct experience in delivery of health services at district level in an endemic country, having worked as a clinician at Mchinji District Hospital for 10 years.

Mr Gumbo is now working at the National Malaria Control Programme of malaria, where he is the Malaria Officer responsible for Malaria Case Management.

■ **Catherine Hodgkin**

Catherine Hodgkin is one of the Directors of the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in Amsterdam. She leads the Department KIT Development Policy and Practice a multidisciplinary team of 60 professional staff carrying out research, training and advisory work in the area of international development. She studied Politics and Economics at Oxford University and later Public Health at the Netherlands School of Public Health.

Before coming to KIT Ms Hodgkin worked for ten years as coordinator of an international network of NGOs, and consumer and public interest groups working to promote a rational use of drugs (Health Action International). In this position she established herself as an international expert in the field of drug policy, drug information, IEC and rational drug use and consumer advocacy. She is part of the WHO National Medicines Policy Committee and a Board member of AIDS Foundation East West.

In her current position she has overall responsibility for the KIT WHO Collaborating Centre on Human Resources for Health and for KIT's Masters Programmes – in which she teaches health policy. She is involved in supporting health policy development in a number of countries and programmes and she contributes to complex evaluation processes.

In 2007 she chaired the Meeting in Amsterdam that led to the commitment to develop a subsidy mechanism to radically improve access to ACTs and she is currently leading an evaluation of onchocerciasis programmes and chairing the Oversight Committee of the UNAIDS evaluation.

■ **Kinny Nayer**

Kinny is a Pharmacist of more than twenty years standing; graduating from School of Pharmacy, London University. Additionally he holds an MBA in Finance from City University, London now known as John Cass Business School; and is a Chartered Management Accountant. He is registered as a pharmacist in the UK and in Uganda, his current place of domicile.

Kinny has extensive experience in the retail and wholesale pharmaceutical sectors with a brief three year stint in industry working for Glaxo. Additionally, his blue chip work experience extends to working for Boots and Merrill Lynch.

For the last eleven years he has worked as the Managing Director of Surgipharm, a private pharmaceutical wholesaling, distribution and marketing organisation in East Africa based in Uganda and covering Rwanda too. Surgipharm represents more than 30 manufacturing companies comprising of multinational pharma companies, some quality generic entities as well as representation for diagnostic machines, surgical procedures such as hip and knee implants and spinal procedures. Surgipharm is the only ISO 9001:2000 quality certified private pharmaceutical company in the whole of East Africa and is the largest private pharmaceutical distributor in its markets.

Kinny has also served as the past Chairman of the Uganda Pharmaceutical Promoters Association.

■ **Renata Mendike**

Dr. Renata Mendike is Deputy Programme Manager, National Malaria Control Programme. She is focal person for monitoring and evaluation and a member of the technical malaria group for monitoring and evaluation at the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.



■ Jackson Sillah

Dr Jackson Sillah is a medical doctor and trained clinical epidemiologist. He is currently an employee of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in the African Region. As a member of the WHO Inter-country support (IST) team for West Africa (based in Ouagadougou; Burkina Faso) and focal person for malaria drug policy and case management, he provides technical support to countries in the sub-region. This includes providing technical guidance to countries in developing and implementing adequate policies in the area of malaria case management and malaria in pregnancy. He also supports countries to develop proposals to mobilise financial resources to implement recommended cost effective interventions in the fight against malaria.

For over 10 years, Dr. Sillah has been working in the area of communicable diseases prevention and control with special interest in Malaria and Tuberculosis, which are among the major causes of morbidity and mortality in sub-Saharan Africa. During this period he served in different capacities and started as a medical officer at the Royal Victoria Hospital (now Royal Victoria Teaching Hospital) in The Gambia. Prior to joining WHO in 2002, he worked as a Research Clinician at the Medical Research Council, Laboratories, The Gambia. These job experiences provided him the opportunity in contributing towards improving the health of the African people.

■ Ambrose Talisuna

Prior to moving to MMV, Dr Ambrose Talisuna was the Assistant Commissioner with responsibility for the Division of Epidemiology and Surveillance at the Ministry of Health in Uganda. Dr Talisuna was trained in Medicine at Makerere University and later did post graduate training in Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and in epidemiology and biostatistics at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. He was awarded a PhD at the University of Antwerp and the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium.

Dr Talisuna has experience in running both pharmaceutical clinical trials as well as epidemiological research in Uganda. He has served previously as a WHO consultant on several assignments, including as a WHO consultant to the product development team (PDT) of CDA, a member of the WHO/AFRO regional network of experts for response to Epidemics in Africa. He has also served as a WHO consultant in the evaluation of integrated disease surveillance in Eritrea and for the development of the monitoring and evaluation protocol and global indicator data base for surveillance. He is an honorary lecturer at the Makerere University School of Public Health (MUSPH), Kampala and a visiting lecturer at the Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi.

Dr Talisuna's work on malaria drug resistance and transmission intensity has contributed to the understanding of this important yet intricate relationship. He is presently, the Vice president of the East Africa network for Monitoring Antimalarial Treatment (EANMAT) and was very instrumental in the establishment of the Ugandan EANMAT sentinel sites. Dr Talisuna is now leading MMV's work in Uganda around the distribution of a subsidised ACT to ensure improved uptake and health impact.

■ Pape Moussa Thior

Dr Pape Moussa Thior is currently the head of the National Malaria Control Programme of Senegal. A medical doctor trained at the National Military School of Health in Senegal, Dr Thio also holds a certificate of specialized studies in Public Health and Preventive Medicine. After many years as a practicing clinician, including as personal physician to



the President of the Republic of Senegal, Dr Thior has moved to specialize more in public health matters, taking up the position at the Ministry of Health to take overall responsibility of malaria control in the country.

Dr Thior has been involved in research into a number of clinical and public health issues including analyzing the operational costs of health units focusing on maternity care, looking into local health conditions and formal / informal participation in primary healthcare. His work at the NMCP has included a focus on educational strategies as well as improvements in prevention and case management. He has focused on strengthening community support networks to fight malaria.

