

Biographies

IHR Emergency Committee for the COVID-19 outbreak

MEMBERS

Professor Stuart D. BLACKSELL



Senior Research Scientist, Center for Tropical Medicine and Global Health, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Professor Stuart Blacksell is a Senior Research Scientist at the University of Oxford based at the Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU) in Thailand where he has been since 2001. He has been actively involved in studies in South-East Asia since 1989, where initially worked as a member of the diagnostics team for the CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory (1983-2001) which first brought him to Thailand (1989-1994) and Laos (1996-2001).

In his current post, he is the Health & Safety team leader and Biorisk and Zoonosis group leader. He leads projects on One Health pathogens focussing on biosafety and biosecurity in veterinary and human health laboratories in Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. He is also responsible for rickettsial and tropical disease diagnostics and is the MORU post-graduate student coordinator.

He is a Fellow of the Faculty of Science of the Royal College of Pathologists (Australasia). He is an Associate Professor at the University of Oxford and at the University of Sydney. He is also a Visiting Professor at the Open University, United Kingdom.

He is a member of the WHO biosafety advisory group and WHO Laboratory Biosafety Manual revision editorial team and is included on the International Health Regulations Roster of Experts, as an expert in Laboratory Issues (Laboratory Biosafety/Biosecurity) for the period from 2018-2022. He is an advisor to FAO One Health/Biosafety programs on matters regarding biosafety throughout South-East Asia and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries.

Professor Blacksell has authored or co-authored more than 170 scientific papers in international journals and book chapters.

Dr Martin CETRON



Director, Division of Global Migration and Quarantine, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, United States of America

Dr Cetron holds faculty appointments in the Division of Infectious Disease at the Emory University School of Medicine and the Department of Epidemiology at Rollins School of Public Health. He received his B.A. from Dartmouth College in 1981 and his M.D. from Tufts University in 1985.

He trained in Internal Medicine at the University of Virginia and Infectious Diseases at the University of Washington before joining the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service and becoming a Commissioned Officer in the United States Public Health Service (PHS) in 1992.

His primary research interests are global health and migration with a focus on emerging infections, tropical diseases, and vaccine-preventable diseases in mobile populations. Dr Cetron has co-authored more than 100 publications. He has also been a leader in public health emergency preparedness and response activities at CDC and is a graduate of the Harvard School of Public Health & Kennedy School of Government's National Preparedness Leadership Institute. For over 20 years, he has conducted epidemiologic research globally, developed global health policy and led domestic and international outbreak investigations including high profile international emergency responses to emerging infectious disease outbreaks [Anthrax bioterrorism 2001, SARS epidemic 2003, U.S. Monkey pox 2003, Hurricane Katrina/ Rita 2005, H1N1 influenza pandemic 2009, Haiti Earthquake / Cholera Responses 2010-11, Japan Tsunami-Radiation 2011, H7N9 2013, and MERS CoV 2012-3, Coronavirus Response (2013), Unaccompanied Children Central America (2014), Ebola Response (2014) & Zika Virus (2015).

Dr Cetron has been a consultant to several WHO Expert Committees: the United States delegation intergovernmental negotiations of IHR 2005, the Pandemic Influenza and IHR Review Panel 2010, and the IHR emergency committee roster of independent experts. He also was elected in 2016 for a fellowship with IDSA (Infectious Diseases Society of America) & ASTMH (American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene).

Dr Cetron was a member of the 2018 IHR Emergency Committee for Ebola Virus Disease which took place in October 2018.

Dr Supamit Chunsuttiwat



Advisor, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, Bangkok, Thailand

Dr Supamit Chunsuttiwat is Advisor to the Department of Disease Control (DDC), Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) of Thailand. He advises on management of communicable disease control with emphasis on national immunization and emerging infectious diseases programs. He had training in medicine, field epidemiology and public health. Since 1985, has been working in policy and strategy development and the coordination of national immunization program and control programs of several communicable diseases including dengue, diarrheal diseases, zoonotic diseases, influenza and emerging infections. For the national immunization program, he had a leading role in the introduction several new vaccines including hepatitis B, Japanese encephalitis and measles-mumps rubella, combined DTP-HB, and influenza. He led the coordination of national poliomyelitis eradication campaign for many years before the South East Asia Region was finally certified polio free. Currently, he is a member of Thailand's National Vaccine Committee that drives policy for national capacity in vaccine. He has been serving as WHO's South East Asia Regional Certification Commission for Poliomyelitis Eradication since 2012. For emerging infectious disease control, since 1994 he has been involved in the development and coordination of policy and strategies for preparedness and response to emerging infectious diseases. He supervised the development of the current National Strategic Plan on Preparedness and Response to Emerging Infectious Diseases.

Dr Vladimir M. DUBYANSKIY



Head of Department of Epizootic Monitoring and Forecasting, Stavropol Plague Control Research Institute and Head of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Plague, Stavropol, Russian Federation

Dr Vladimir M. Dubyanskiy, B.D., PhD, ScD received his PhD from the Institute of Zoology in Kazakhstan, then Doctor of Science degree in Moscow in the National Research Centre of Epidemiology and Microbiology named after N.F. Gamalea. He has had a long career in science, specializing in epizootiology and epidemiology zoonotic diseases as plague, tularemia and arthropod-borne and hemorrhagic fever viruses.

Before 2010 he worked for 25 years as a biologist and epidemiologist in the Central Asia natural plague foci. Now he is working in the Caucasus natural plague foci, CCHF and other viruses' foci in Russia and continue to study Central Asia plague.

His main scientific interests are mathematic modelling for forecasting of zoonotic diseases outbreaks and ranking territory by the risk of human infecting with using modern technology like remote sensing and imitation computer modelling. He created the models which have been using for forecasting plague activity in the Republic of Kazakhstan, South Region of Russian Federation and forecasting of CCHF outbreaks in Russian Federation.

He has published numerous scholarly manuscripts and has been a consultant and advisor to various individual countries, scientific groups and commissions.

Professor Didier HOUSSIN



President, AP-HP International, the subsidiary of Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, Paris, France

Professor Didier Houssin is presently the president of AP-HP International, the subsidiary of Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris (AP-HP) (Greater Paris University Hospitals). Professor of surgery and liver transplant specialist at Paris-Descartes University since 1988, Didier Houssin served as head of surgery at Cochin hospital in Paris, then as executive director of the French transplant agency and, later, as medical policy director of Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris and vice-president of Paris-Descartes University.

From 2005 to 2011, he was director general for health at the French Ministry of health and inter-ministerial delegate for pandemic flu preparedness.

President of the French agency for the evaluation of research and higher education (AERES, then HCERES), from 2011 to 2015, and president of the management board of the French agency for food, environmental and occupational health and safety (ANSES) from 2013 to 2016, he served also as an advisor to the World Health Organization since 2011.

At the World Health Organization, he was chair of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework Agreement Advisory Group and, later, chair of the Review Committee on the Role of the International Health Regulations (2005) in the Ebola Outbreak and Response.

He is a member of the management board of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and a member of the French National Academy of Medicine.

Dr Youngmee JEE



Advisor, Global Center for Infectious Diseases, Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea

Dr Youngmee Jee (M.D., Ph. D) is an advisor for the Global Center for Infectious Diseases, Seoul National University College of Medicine. Until October 2019, she served as the Acting Director of Korea NIH and the Director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research (CIR) of Korea NIH under the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

Dr Jee received her M.D. from Seoul National University Medical School, a Diploma in Medical Microbiology from the London School of Hygiene Tropical Medicine, and her Ph.D. in Virology from the University of London in the United Kingdom.

From August 2007 to October 2014, Dr. Jee worked as the regional laboratory coordinator in the Expanded Programme on Immunization of the WHO Western Pacific Region. Dr Jee's work at the WHO involved the coordination of extensive collaborations between public health laboratories and technical assistance to the poliomyelitis, measles/rubella, Japanese encephalitis, rotavirus and invasive bacterial disease network laboratories in the WHO Western Pacific Region with a view to ensuring a high-quality laboratory performance

Dr. Jee is the Chairperson of the National Poliomyelitis Certification Committee (NCC), the National Authority for Containment for Polioviruses (NAC) and a member of the Korea Advisory Committee for Immunization in the Republic of Korea. Dr Jee served as a member of the WHO-ROK joint mission on MERS outbreak in Korea in June 2015 and led the WHO International Health Regulation (IHR) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) in 2017 as the head of National JEE Task Force. She also led the Task Force for the Forum on Infectious Disease Research and Development, which is a coalition organization between the government, academic societies, universities and industries in the Republic of Korea during 2015- 2019. Dr Jee also served as the Chairperson of the Korean Society of Infectious Diseases and the Vice-chairperson of the Korean Society for AIDS during 2017-2019.

Dr Jee has been involved in advisory groups and boards of international organizations including WHO. She is a member of the WHO SAGE (Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization) since April 2017 and SAGE measles and rubella working group since 2018 and serves as a member of the WHO R&D Blueprint Scientific Advisory Group and the Market Information for Access (MI4A) to Vaccines for WHO HQ and a member of hepatitis B expert resource panel in the WHO Western Pacific Region. Dr Jee also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Vaccine Institute and Board of Directors for RIGHT (Research Investment for Global Health Technology) Fund and the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Institut Pasteur Korea (IPK).

Dr Joanna JORDAAN



Chief, Aviation Medicine Section, International Civil Aviation Organization, Montreal, Canada

Dr Jordaan is also the Manager of the “Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events” (CAPSCA) programme in Civil Aviation. CAPSCA is a global multi-partner programme (ICAO, WHO, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, aviation industry and other partners) providing assistance to international airports and States to help build capacity to manage public health emergencies.

Previously, Dr Jordaan was the Medical Director of Occupational Health at International SOS, where she was responsible for the oversight of Emergency Medical clinics and occupational Health clinics of International SOS corporate clients in remote areas in sub-Saharan African countries. In this position she also facilitated air ambulance transport of patients from remote clinics to specialized medical centres of care.

Prior to International SOS she was employed by the Life Occupational Health Hospital group as the Project Director for Transnet Freight Rail in South Africa, reviewing the client’s health policies based on occupational risk assessments and compliance audits and assuming accountability for quality management of clinic operations.

From 2007 to 2011 she was the Medical Director of South African Airways, responsible for planning and managing all medical related aspects of the company’s operations including strategic management, on-board medical care and public health emergencies.

Prior to this she was an Independent Consultant for four years in the aviation industry, consulting to private and corporate clients on various aspects related to aviation medicine.

In 1999 she established the Civil Aviation Medicine department in the South African Civil Aviation Authority, after having worked in the military medical aviation industry for several years. She remained at the Civil Aviation Authority as the Senior Manager of Civil Aviation Medicine until 2003 and was responsible for developing civil aviation medical standards and ensuring industry compliance with national regulations and international standards.

Other current professional activities include memberships in the Aerospace Medical Association, International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine Faculty, South African Society of Aerospace and Environmental Medicine and the South African Society of Occupational Medicine.

Dr Hiroshi KIDA



University Professor and Head, Research Center for Zoonosis Control, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan; Head, Collaborating Research Center for the Control and Prevention of Infectious Diseases, Nagasaki University, Nagasaki, Japan; Head, WHO Collaborating Centre for Zoonoses Control;

Expert, OIE World Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza; Member of Japan Academy; and Person of Cultural Merit.

Dr Kida has been devoting himself to the control of zoonoses, especially how to control highly pathogenic avian influenza and how to prepare for human pandemic influenza. His research specialties are Virology, Bacteriology, Immunology and Vaccinology. He has also trained many academic experts who are now working internationally.

Professor Marion Koopmans



Chief, Virology Department, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, Kingdom of the Netherlands

Professor Marion Koopmans, DVM PhD focuses on global population level impact of rapidly spreading zoonotic virus infections, with special emphasis on foodborne transmission. Her research focuses on unravelling the modes of transmission of viruses among animals and between animals and humans, and the use of pathogenic genomic information to unravel these pathways and to signal changes in transmission or disease impact. She is scientific coordinator of COMPARE, a large H2020 funded project (20 MEuro), exploring the potential uses of next generation sequencing techniques for outbreak detection and tracking (www.compare-europe.eu), and co-PI in the FP7 funded PREPARE project (www.prepare-europe.eu) aimed at building a pan-European operational network for rapid and large-scale European clinical research in response to infectious disease outbreaks with epidemic potential. She is the director of the WHO collaborating centre for emerging infectious diseases at Erasmus, and Scientific Director “Emerging infectious diseases” of the Netherlands Centre for One Health (www.ncoh.nl). She has received the Infectious disease award of the Dutch Association for Infectious Diseases and is the recipient of the Stevin Premium 2018. In 2019, she became a member of the KNAW (Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences). She has co-authored more than 500 papers that have been cited more than 20.000 times.

Professor Wannian LIANG



Professor Wannian Liang, M.D., Professor, Director General of the Department of Healthcare Reform of National Health Commission, Beijing, People’s Republic of China

Professor Liang He is among the Recipients of special government allowances under the State Council, National-level Young and Middle-aged Expert with Outstanding Contributions. He previously served as Vice President of Capital Medical University, Executive Deputy Director General of Beijing Municipal Health Bureau, Director General of Health Emergency Response Office of Former Ministry of Health, Deputy Director of

Healthcare Reform Office of the State Council, Director General of Department of Healthcare Reform of Former National Health and Family Planning Commission.

Professor John S Mackenzie



Emeritus Professor John S Mackenzie, Faculty of Health Sciences, Curtin University, Perth, Australia

Professor John Mackenzie is Emeritus Professor at Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia. He is an Honorary Professor in the School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences at The University of Queensland, and Honorary Senior Principal Fellow at the Burnet Institute, Melbourne, He is currently a part-time Senior Research Scientist at PathWest in Perth.

He was Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for the Collection and Dissemination of Data on Virus Diseases of SE Asia and the Western Pacific from 1984 to 1994. He was a member of the steering committee of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network from 2002-2016 (Chair in 2009-10), and the Asia-Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases. He chaired the WHO IHR Emergency Committee for Pandemic H1N1 influenza in 2009-10 and is currently a member of the Emergency Committee for Poliovirus. In 2003-04 he worked at WHO to support post-SARS response efforts. He had earlier led a mission into China investigating the origin of SARS in March 2003 and was a member of the WHO Indian Ocean Tsunami response team in Aceh.

He co-founded the One Health Platform, a non-profit Foundation based in Belgium, which is responsible for the International One Health Congresses, of which the 6th will be held in Edinburgh in 2020.

He was elected to Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, and as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. In 2002, he was appointed as Officer in the Order of Australia for services to public health research and to education and is the recipient of various awards including the Akademi Sains Malaysia's Mahathir Science Award for Excellence in Tropical Research.

Professor Ziad MEMISH



Senior Infectious Disease Consultant, Director, Research Centre, King Saud Medical City, Ministry of Health, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Professor Ziad Memish is currently senior consultant in infectious diseases and Director of research & Innovation Center at King Saud Medical City, Ministry of Health. Professor at the College of Medicine in Alfaisal University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; and Adjunct Professor in the Hubert Department of Global Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, Georgia, United States of America.

Professor Memish obtained his MD from the University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada in 1987 and is Board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine, the American Board of Infectious Diseases as well as a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (Canada, Edinburgh and London) and the American College of Physicians. He is widely recognized as a pioneer in Mass Gathering Medicine and Infection Control & established the WHO collaborating Center for mass gathering medicine in the Ministry of Health and WHO Collaborating Center for Infection Control in the Saudi Ministry of National Guard (Health Affairs). He was the first Deputy Minister of health for public health, KSA (2009-2014).

He has presented many abstracts and plenary talks internationally and published more than 700 peer reviewed papers and book chapters. He is the editor-in-chief of 2 journals: Journal of Epidemiology & Global Health indexed in PubMed & Dr. Sulaiman Alhabib Medical Journal both published by Atlantis Press. He is a recipient of the King Abdulaziz Medal from the First Degree, the highest National award in Saudi Arabia for achievements in the field of infectious diseases and infection control.

Professor Babacar NDOYE



Professor Babacar NDOYE, Independent Expert-consultant, Infection prevention and control, Antimicrobial resistance, Dakar, Senegal

Professor NDOYE is a physician, associate professor in microbiology from University of Rabat (Morocco). He graduated in microbiology at the Pasteur Institute of Paris, then in army hospitals in France (Marseille and Paris), and Pharo Institute in Marseille. He has then graduated in Epidemiology at the Swiss Tropical Institute in Basel and also completed an Audit Expertise course in Hospital Hygiene at the Pasteur Institute in Lille, France.

For nearly 10 years, he directed Senegal's national program for the control of hospital-acquired infections (PRONALIN), which was one of the first programs of the day set up in sub-Saharan Africa.

Since his retirement, he has worked as a consultant, mainly at the WHO level (headquarter and AFRO office), for whom he has carried out numerous expert missions, particularly in Africa. He has led the development of national AMR plans in countries like Guinea, Niger and the governance component in Cameroon.

He is currently a member of numerous technical working groups on the fight against AMR and HAIs at international level (WHO Headquarters and Regional Offices, Africa-CDC, WAHO). Professor NDOYE received the distinction of Commander of the Order of the Lion in Senegal.

Ms Karen TAN



Senior Director, Public Communication Division, Ministry of Communications and Information, Singapore

Ms Karen Tan is the Deputy Chief of Government Communications with the Ministry of Communications and Information (MCI) Singapore. Karen holds a key role in managing Whole-of-Government's information management and response in crisis situation, and is responsible for the transformation of government communications, including capacity building. Karen joined MCI as Senior Director in August 2011. She headed the Public Communications Division (2011 - 2018) and oversees the planning and execution of Whole-of-Government public communications campaigns, including data driven communications, content production and Singapore national marketing.

Prior to this, she was in Ministry of Health for ten years as Director of Corporate Communications and Press Secretary to the Minister of Health. She has also been previously involved in managing mass communications during the SARS epidemic in 2003 and the influenza A (H1N1) pandemic in 2009.

Professor Linfa WANG



Director, Programme in Emerging Infectious Diseases, Duke-National University of Singapore Medical School, Singapore

Professor Linfa Wang, PhD, is currently the director of the Programme in Emerging Infectious Diseases at Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore. Having completed his bachelor's degree in 1982 at the East China Normal University in Shanghai, Wang went on to obtain his PhD at the University of California, Davis. His early research was at the Monash Centre for Molecular Biology and Medicine. In 1990, he joined the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL), where he started his career on virology and emerging infectious diseases.

Throughout his career, he has worked on all major bat-borne emerging zoonotic virus, from Hendra, Nipah to the Covid-19 outbreaks. He played a leading role in identifying bats as the natural host of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV). His research then extended from bat-borne viruses to bettering understanding virus-bat interaction, and he led an international team carrying out comparative genomic analysis of two bat species. They discovered an important link between adaptation to flight and bats' ability to counter DNA damage repair as a result of fast metabolism and to co-exist with a large number of viruses without developing clinical diseases.

Wang is active internationally by serving on various editorial boards for publication in the areas of virology, microbiology and infectious diseases. He is currently the editor-in-chief of the Virology Journal. In 2010, Wang was elected as a fellow of Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering in recognition of his expertise in new and emerging diseases. He is a member of multiple WHO committees and working groups.

ADVISORS

Dr Keith HAMILTON



Head of the Preparedness and Resilience Department, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), Paris, France

Keith Hamilton is currently Head of the Preparedness and Resilience Department at the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Keith is a veterinarian with a background in international health. During his time at the OIE, which spans 10 years, he has worked on emergency management; improving pandemic preparedness; emerging infectious diseases; building capacity of veterinary services; and on supporting global strategies for biological threat reduction. He has collaborated closely with colleagues at WHO and FAO to better understand and manage risks from emerging infectious diseases at the human animal interface, including zoonotic avian influenza, pandemic H1N1, and MERS CoV.

For two years, from 2015-2017, he was recruited by Kansas State University (USA) College of Veterinary Medicine to establish an international program. During this period, he developed and delivered educational material; established international projects; and initiated a guiding coalition on sustainable crop-livestock systems.

Prior to joining the OIE, he worked for the UK Government (2004-2007) providing veterinary advice to inform policies for exotic animal disease surveillance and control.

Earlier experiences include working for 6 years in mixed animal practice in the UK, Australia, and India, and in field disease surveillance and control programmes.

He was educated in the United Kingdom at Liverpool University Veterinary School and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Professor Malik PEIRIS



Director, School of Public Health and Chair in Virology, Co-Director, WHO H5 Reference Laboratory, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, People's Republic of China

Professor Malik Peiris is professor and chair in virology at the School of Public Health at The University of Hong Kong. He is a clinical and public health virologist with a particular interest in emerging virus disease at the animal-human interface, including influenza, coronaviruses (SARS-CoV, MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2) and others. His research encompasses the pathogenesis, innate immune responses, transmission, ecology and epidemiology of human and animal (poultry, swine, wild birds) influenza viruses. His collaborative research has provided understanding on the emergence and pathogenesis of the 2009 pandemic H1N1 virus and on avian influenza viruses H5N1, H9N2 and H7N9. Using a “one health” approach, these studies have provided evidence-based options for the control of these viruses in poultry and in humans. In 2003, he played a key role in the discovery that a novel coronavirus was the cause of SARS, its diagnosis and pathogenesis and contributed to its control. Recently he is researching the recently emerged MERS coronavirus and more recently, the newly emerged SARS-CoV-2.

He co-directs the WHO H5 Reference Laboratory at HKU and the HKU-Pasteur Research Pole, one of the network laboratories of the International Pasteur Network. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London in 2006, Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology in 2016 and Foreign Associate of National Academy of Sciences in 2017. He was awarded the Officier de la Légion d'Honneur, France (2017), Mahathir Science Award, Akademi Sains, Malaysia (2007) and Silver Bauhinia Star (S.B.S.), Hong Kong SAR (2008).

Dr David POWELL



Chief Medical Officer, International Air Transport Association, Auckland, New Zealand

Dr David Powell is Medical Advisor to IATA (International Air Transport Association). He is a medical graduate from Auckland, New Zealand, specialised in occupational and aviation medicine,

and has worked for over 30 years in medical roles across most aspects of aviation (Air Force, airlines, air ambulance, aviation consulting, and university teaching). He has over 20 academic publications and holds commercial helicopter and aeroplane licences. David is a past President of the International Airline Medical Association and a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

Dr Theresa TAM



Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, Ottawa, Canada

Dr Theresa Tam was named Canada's Chief Public Health Officer on June 26, 2017. As the federal government's lead public health professional and advisor to the Minister of Health, she is championing the reduction of health inequities impacting all Canadians.

Dr Tam works closely with a variety of partners, within and outside of government, on public health matters. She also provides advice to the President of the Public Health Agency of Canada and works in collaboration with the President in the leadership and management of the Agency.

Dr Tam is a physician with expertise in immunization, infectious disease, emergency preparedness and global health security. She has played a leadership role in Canada's response to public health emergencies including severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), pandemic influenza H1N1 and Ebola.

Dr Tam has served as an international expert on a number of World Health Organization committees and has participated in multiple international missions related to SARS, pandemic influenza and polio eradication.

Dr Tam obtained her medical degree from the University of Nottingham in the U.K. She completed her paediatric residency at the University of Alberta and her fellowship in paediatric infectious diseases at the University of British Columbia. She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and has over 55 peer-reviewed journal publications in public health. Dr. Tam is also a graduate of the Canadian Field Epidemiology Program.