

The Opportunity for Vaccine Production: Creating RVCs through Localisation

Date: Tuesday 1 February, 13:00 – 15:00 (SAST)

Speaker Bios



Simon Agwale, Ph. D is the CEO of Innovative Biotech, Nigeria and Innovative Biotech USA Inc. He is a member of the board of the African Vaccine Manufacturers' Initiative (AVMI) and in 2019 was asked to lead their Covid-19 Vaccine Task Team. He is also an advisor to WAHO, and part of a recently established ECOWAS vaccines taskforce. He is currently the Lead (Technology and IP) of Partnership for Africa Vaccines Manufacturing (PAVM) of Africa Centers for Disease Control (AfricaCDC).

Dr. Agwale has a vision for the development and investigation of HIV vaccine constructs from prevalent Nigerian strains which are relevant to Nigerians. He is also currently developing novel vaccines against Covid-19, Ebola, cervical cancer, and HIV using innovative viral-like particles (VLPs). Through INNOVATIVE, Dr. Agwale is striving to further develop and refine these dynamic, novel treatments, and in doing so, expand domestic vaccine manufacturing capabilities in Nigeria to serve the African community.

Dr. Agwale was a Postdoc fellow at the Institute of Human Virology Baltimore, USA and Visiting Scientist at various institutions in Brazil, Germany, UK including the US Vaccine Research Center/NIH, and US Center for Disease Control and prevention in Atlanta. Dr. Agwale was West Africa's representative on HIV/AIDS for Developing countries Coordinating Committee (DCCC) at European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Programme, where he was also the chair of the African Scientists committee (DCCC). He is a recipient of several scholarships, fellowships and grants from reputable organizations around the world. He has also authored and co-authored numerous noteworthy publications.



Dr. Paul A. Larley is a Pharmaceutical Industry Best Practice Advisor at the National Coordination Center and Senior Consultant for Pharmaceutical R&D at BioBridges in the U.S. He worked for decades as a drug discovery scientist and was Director of Infectious Diseases Drug Discovery Research at Abbott, Pharmacia & Upjohn and at Pfizer.

He founded LaGray, Inc. in the U.S., focused on pharmaceutical sector development in Africa, and established LaGray Chemical Company in Ghana. LaGray was the first fully vertically integrated pharmaceutical company in West Africa and was the first to develop and manufacture active pharmaceutical ingredients in West Africa.

Dr. Lartey was the founding Chair of the Federation of African Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations. In that capacity, he was directly involved in the development of the Business Plan for African Union's Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa, and was on the Steering Committee for the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization initiative of AUDA-NEPAD. He also recently served on the Infrastructure Development work stream of the Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing (Africa Centers for Disease Control).



Mr Rajinder Suri

Rajinder Suri is CEO-DCVMN. He is responsible for leadership, governance, strategic orientation and operational excellence of DCVMN Secretariat.

To meet un-precedented challenge posed by COVID-19, Rajinder worked shoulder to shoulder with industry associations like IFPMA and BIO along with COVAX partners. He is member of several advisory expert groups including COVAX Manufacturing & Supply Chain Task Force Leadership Team, MI4A (Market Information for Access to Vaccines) Advisory Group to WHO on Malaria, Global TB Vaccines R&D Roadmap by EDCTP, Expert Group on Seasonal Influenza Vaccine and Market Design and Demand Intelligence pillar of the Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM).

Rajinder brings with him over 43 years of experience and deep insights of the industry including Pharmaceuticals and Biological products as well as Organizational Development in India and International markets. He has invested over 24 years at the top management level including four years on the Board of Directors of the Indian subsidiary of Sanofi Pasteur and remaining in Pharma.

Rajinder has been Member-Gavi- Program and Policy Committee (PPC) as well as Vice-President, DCVMN Executive Committee (2014-16).

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Dr Chidi Victor Nweneka, MBBS (Benin), MSc. Epid. (London), PhD (Glasgow), MBA (South Wales)

Dr Nweneka is a Global Health and Strategic Management expert with extensive experience in vaccine advocacy. He is currently the Chair, Advocacy Working Group of the African Vaccine Manufacturing Initiative (AVMI), as well as a member of the Board of AVMI. He was also a member of the Market Design and Demand Intelligence Workstream of the Africa CDC's Pan-African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM) Initiative, and until recently (January 2021), a member of the Global Fund Technical Review Panel. Dr Nweneka has held several senior management positions including Head of Strategy and Planning for the

National Agency for The Control of AIDS, Nigeria, Deputy Director Public Health Programs and Policy for the US Department of Defense Walter Reed Program, Nigeria (for which he received an award for Leadership Excellence) and Executive Director of the African AIDS Vaccine Partnership. He is presently the Head of Programs for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Madagascar. Dr Nweneka has served on the Boards of several national and international organizations including the Boards of the Adventist Health Services in Nigeria and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, The Gambia.

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