The World Heart Federation Emerging Leaders program welcomes the 2017 cohort of emerging leaders!

Our 2017 cohort includes 25 Emerging Leaders, representing 20 countries and numerous areas of expertise.
HEALTH SYSTEMS TEAM

Abhishek Sharma
Associate Health Economist
Precision Health Economics
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Abhishek is a pharmacist and researcher with over five years of experience in global health focusing in evaluating healthcare and pharmaceutical systems to improve medicine access and utilization policies. Currently, Mr. Sharma works as an Associate Health Economist at Precision Health Economics (Boston | Vancouver) where he conducts research regarding clinical and economic outcomes of novel/candidate and approved therapeutics. As an Adjunct Researcher at Boston University’s Center for Global Health and Development, Mr. Sharma’s research focus on global access to insulin and other medicines for non-communicable diseases, role of the private sector in provision of equitable access to medicines and vaccines, medicine price evaluations, and the impact of trade policies on population health.

Recently he served as a Commission on The Lancet Youth Commission on Essential Medicines Policies that aimed to provide evidence-based policy recommendations for improving medicines access and to raise the awareness regarding Essential Medicines Policies.

Ahmadou Jingi
Research Assistant, CRENC
University of Yaounde
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Ahmadou is a member of the research group: Clinical Research, Education, Networking, and Consultancy (CRENC), as well as the first batch of the African Diabetes Academy (D2A). He has special interest in the fight against Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases. His main interests are in Hypertension, Diabetes, Heart failure, Pulmonary Hypertension, and Echocardiography. As a GP, he worked as the Chief Medical Officer at the Centre for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Tuberculosis in the west region. He also served as the West Region Focal Point for the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and Reproductive Health, and used this opportunity to create awareness of CVD in primary care Physicians. Ahmadou has also initiated field studies on sources, availability, and affordability of essential medicines and participated in two national surveys on diabetes and hypertension.

Jennifer Jones
Reader in Physiotherapy
Brunel University
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Jennifer is a physiotherapist by training with a strong interest in preventive cardiology. She led the physical activity component of the EUROACTION trial – a multicentre cluster RCT demonstration programme of a multidisciplinary preventive cardiology programme implemented in general hospitals and general practice across eight European countries. She also led the creation of the National Institute for Preventive Cardiology in Ireland.

In her current role, Jennifer is responsible for 1) development and delivery of a wide portfolio of education and training opportunities in the area of cardiovascular health and disease prevention, 2) development of innovative models of preventive care and service delivery, 3) patient case load in the area of physical activity and exercise in the prevention and management of CVD, and 4) current research cost benefit analyses of integrated versus specialist rehabilitation service delivery models.
Jordan Jarvis
Executive Director
Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network
jordan@ncdaction.org

Jordan is the Executive Director of the Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network (YP-CDN), a non-profit organization dedicated to advocacy, policy and capacity building to address non-communicable diseases (NCD) globally. Jordan previously worked on integrating NCD screening and care into existing health programs with Amref Health Africa in Kenya, cancer epidemiology at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), and NCD policy in low- and middle-income countries at the World Health Organization (WHO). Jordan was a member of the Lancet Youth Commission on Essential Medicines Policies, and is a member of the Editorial Board of the journal Globalization and Health. She sits on the board of directors of Femme International and the Union for Affordable Cancer Treatment, both non-governmental human rights-focused organizations with global mandates. Jordan holds a Bachelors of Science from The University of Western Ontario, a Master of Science in Medical Biophysics/Cancer Biology from the University of Toronto, completed a global health fellowship through Duke University, and a research fellowship on global cancer control with the Harvard Global Equity Initiative/Harvard Medical School.

Jose Ferrer
Science and Medicine Advisor
American Heart Association
Jose.ferrer@heart.org

Jojo has a background in family and community medicine, and currently works for the AHA. In his role, he develops and reviews numerous courses, as well as serving as the staff lead for Saving Children’s Lives, AHA’s program addressing under-5 mortality in resource-limited settings around the world. Jojo is also the AHA staff lead for the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation, the global coalition of national resuscitation councils which continually evaluates resuscitation science and first aid research to publish treatment recommendations for adoption around the world.

Jojo previously practiced in the Philippines and in Trinidad and Tobago, where he was a medical officer under the United Nations Development Program and the Ministry of Health. He is also a health informaticist and has been involved in numerous healthcare IT projects in both countries.

Neusa Jessen
PhD student and Hospital assistant - cardiologist
University of Porto and Central Hospital of Maputo
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Neusa is a general clinician and the clinical director of the only hospital of a district in the north of Mozambique, where she has worked for the past two years. In her current role, she has worked with an NGO to provide continuous education to health professionals and to launch HIV treatment in the district, which started her interest in public health. Neusa completed additional training in cardiology, half in Brazil and half in Mozambique. Throughout her career at the Central Hospital of Maputo, as a resident and as a cardiologist, she has collaborated in a variety of studies in the cardiology research center. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Public Health, at the Public Health Institute of the University of Porto, in Portugal.
HEALTH SYSTEMS TEAM

Sainimere Boladuadua
Public Health Advisor
Fiji RHD Prevention and Control Program
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Sainimere has a background in Obstetrics and Gynaecology plus Public Health Medicine both in Fiji and New Zealand. She has worked as a Senior Advisor with the Rheumatic Fever Prevention Program at the New Zealand Ministry of Health and is currently working in a senior advisory role within the Fiji Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) Prevention and Control Program.

In Sainimere’s current role, she provides oversight over interventions aimed at improving secondary prophylaxis which includes ensuring adequate supplies of BPG to the 4000 patients currently registered on the national RHD information system. Sainimere’s passion for her work stems from a desire to reduce health inequities and improve health outcomes particularly for Pacific peoples.

Tangeni Auala
Specialist Physician
Windhoek Central Hospital
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Tangeni is a specialist physician planning to subspecialise in adult cardiology. Currently she works in the Adult Clinical and Interventional Cardiology and Rheumatic Heart Disease Departments of Cardiac Unit at the Windhoek Central Hospital Complex in the capital city of Namibia. Her interests include clinical and interventional cardiovascular medicine, preventative medicine, health promotion and research.
Asim Katbeh
Chair
Syrian young cardiovascular association
Asimkatbeh@yahoo.com

Asim is a cardiologist by training, and currently serves as the chair of Syrian young cardiovascular association and the director of Syrian heart society. Asim’s research interests include echocardiography, valvular heart disease and also fields such as ischaemic heart disease, invasive and non-invasive coronary imaging. Asim’s goal is to find low cost solutions for common valvular heart interventions in the community and increase involvement of all society classes in all aspects of cardiovascular disease management.

Augustine Odili
Associate Professor
University of Abuja
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Augustine’s research interest is in cardiovascular epidemiology with special focus on Masked Hypertension and effect of salt on blood pressure. He initiated and has been the principal investigator of three research projects viz: REMAH (REmoving the MAsk on Hypertension), NIPREGH (Nigerian Population Research on Environment Gene and Health) and Nigerian Salt Survey. He is a member of a number of international research consortia including the International Database on HOMe Blood Pressure in relation to Cardiovascular Outcome (IDHOCO), International Database on Ambulatory Blood Pressure in relation to Cardiovascular Outcome (IDACO) and European Project of Gene in Hypertension (EPOGH). He was part of the team that conducted the first multinational clinical antihypertensive drug trial in sub-Saharan Africa; the Newer vs Older Antihypertensive Agents in African Hypertensive Patients (NOAAH).

Emily Atkins
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
The George Institute for Global Health
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Emily is a postdoctoral research fellow with the Cardiovascular Division at The George Institute for Global Health. She completed her undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the University of Western Australia. Emily’s PhD studies used linked administrative hospital morbidity, deaths, and pharmacy data to investigate the cost-effectiveness of cardiovascular medicines for secondary prevention of atherothrombotic disease. Her current work is focused on the use of combination pills, their impact on cardiovascular risk-factor control, and their use in high- and low-resource settings.
IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE TEAM

Godsent Isiguzo
Consultant Physician
University of Cape Town
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Godsent has been actively managing CVD patients in Nigeria, as well as teaching, conducting research, and mentoring students and young Physicians. Godsent has previously attended the 43rd ten-day teaching seminar of the International Society of Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention, and is a member of the Nigerian Cardiac Society, International Society of Hypertension, European Society of Cardiology, Heart Failure Association, Pan African Society of Cardiology and American Thoracic Society.

Godsent’s research interests include rheumatic heart disease, endomyocardial fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension, peripartum cardiomyopathy, ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, cardiovascular risk identification, and HIV-related cardiac dysfunction. Currently, Godsent is studying for a Ph.D. at University of Cape Town South Africa, in clinical trials in Cardiology with research focusing on the use of intra-pericardial fibrinolysis in patients with large pericardial effusion.

Karla Santo
PhD Candidate
University of Sydney - The George Institute for Global Health
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Karla is a cardiologist from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and is currently completing the last year of her PhD. Karla’s research interests are prevention of cardiovascular disease, and technology to improve cardiovascular health, especially the use of mobile technologies for behavioural change and improvement in medication adherence. Her experience in mHealth research includes being part of the team that conducted a successful randomised clinical trial that investigated the use of lifestyle-focused text-messages on risk factor modification in patients with coronary heart disease. Karla’s PhD research focuses on improving medication adherence using mobile devices. She is working on another randomised controlled trial investigating the effectiveness of smartphone apps in improving adherence. She has pioneered a systematic stepwise process to identify high-quality medication adherence apps available in the online stores, being able to identify two high-quality apps to be studied in this trial. The innovative concept of this project has recently been recognised by the National Heart Foundation of Australia through a competitive research grant scheme.

Lilian Mbau
Project Manager, NCD Technical Lead
Amref Health Africa in Kenya
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Lilian is a medical doctor and a public health practitioner working with Amref Health Africa in Kenya. She currently leads the Non-communicable Disease (NCD) programming within the organization. She received a Global Executive Master of Business Administration in Health from United States International University and is completing her Master of Public Health degree from Moi University. She is currently researching on effective models to sustainably deliver non-communicable disease interventions in low resource settings with a focus on integration. Lilian has also recently completed a Global Health Leadership Fellowship program with the Afya Bora Consortium and is also an awardee for a Cancer Advocacy grant from the American Cancer Society. She has also received training on Global Issues on NCDs at the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.
IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE TEAM

**Rajmohan Panda**
Senior public health specialist/ Additional professor  
Public Health Foundation of India  
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Rajmohan is a preventive medicine specialist with further training in global health leadership. Raj is adept in leading operational research projects in India and had considerable experience in the application of mixed methodology, epidemiological study designs in various projects in health systems strengthening in India. He has led many projects in tobacco control including a health system intervention project by BMGF on Strengthening of Tobacco control. A significant part of the research work has been in producing evidence for low-cost models for primary prevention of CVD and other diseases through integrating tobacco cessation in health systems. His recent work will help test innovative ideas for prevention of cardiovascular risk factors (including tobacco cessation interventions) using low-cost mobile technology. The larger vision of research grants is to establish the evidence for an innovative low-cost model for tobacco cessation across primary care and NCD clinics in India and finally across South Asia. All projects are embedded within government programs and produce evidence through "realistic evaluation" with cost effective data for suitable scale up.

**Salim Virani**
Associate Professor  
Baylor College of Medicine  
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Salim is a Cardiologist with specialized training in Lipids. His research portfolio aims to understand several domains in the delivery of high quality cardiovascular care (especially risk factor control) including effectiveness, equity, safety, and efficiency. Via funded research grants from the American Diabetes Association and American Heart Association, his team is evaluating whether a strategy of primary care delivery for chronic diseases by advanced practice providers (nurse practitioners and physician assistants) is comparable to that delivered by physicians. His team is also evaluating how best to leverage technology to deliver high-quality care. In this regard, his team is evaluating whether a culturally sensitive text-message based intervention delivered on mobile phones can improve health literacy and medication adherence in patients with cardiovascular disease in Pakistan. His team is also involved in a project in Tajikistan which aims to improve hypertension care delivery in the remote Gorno Badakshan district. He is involved in research and clinical capacity building with institutions in East Africa, South East Asia and Central Asia.

**Shiva Raj Mishra**
Research Advisor and board member  
Nepal Development Society  
shivarajmishra@gmail.com

Shiva Raj Mishra, is a cardiovascular epidemiologist, trained in Australia and Nepal. He is a recipient of prestigious Australia Award Scholarship from 2015-2016. Shiva has interests in global Non-communicable diseases and medicine policies research in low-income setting with emphasis on cardiovascular diseases and diabetes. He also wrote prolifically on the disaster response and recovery on the aftermath of Nepal earthquakes contributing to several publications. He is the founding Chief Editor of The Health Prospect and Assoc. Editor of BMC Public Health. Also, he served as a commissioner at The Lancet Youth Commission on Essential Medicine Policies from 2015-2016, and freelance writer for The Lancet, The Lancet Diabetes Endocrinology and WHO Bulletin contributing to several news features from 2015-16. In Nepal, he is affiliated with Nepal Development Society, a community-NGO as a founding member and research advisor since 2014.
Adrianna Murphy
Assistant Professor Health Systems and Policy
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
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Adrianna’s research focuses on the impact of health care costs for cardiovascular disease on healthcare-seeking behaviour and risk of impoverishment among households in middle- and low-income countries. My research interests also include health systems and health care delivery in fragile or developing country settings.

Adrianna is currently working in Kigali, Rwanda, supported by a 3-year Fellowship by the Wellcome Trust to develop new methods for estimating costs of cardiovascular disease treatment incurred by households in low- and middle-income countries, and the impact of these costs on health care-seeking behaviour.

Alberto Salinas Morales
Head of Research
Ernesto Che Guevara Cardiology Hospital
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Alberto is specialist in family medicine and cardiologist, as well as associate professor and researcher with additional training in public health and cardiac imaging, with around 20 years of experience in all levels of the cardiovascular disease prevention, and health care in Cuba. Alberto has organized many research and teaching activities. He is Member of the Boards of the Cardiology and Hypertension Societies. He lead the first cuban poblational registry about acute myocardial infarction. Alberto’s main research interests are in management of the hypertension, epidemiology, risk scoring, and imaging. Alberto recently served as the chairperson of the first international consensus about mild hypertension with low cardiovascular risk, also in latest Task Force of the Latin American Society of Hypertension (in press).

Christelle Crickmore
Executive Secretary
African Heart Network
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Christelle has a background in nutrition with experience in the corporate world and more recently as Nutrition Science Manager at the Heart and Stroke Foundation South Africa,. These experiences reinforced with her the importance of messaging and communication between researchers and experts and the general public, leading her to obtain additional degrees and education in Culture, Communication and Media Studies and Public Relations. Christelle currently holds the position of Executive Secretary at the African Heart Network.
UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE TEAM

João Pedro Ferreira
University and Hospital Assistant
CIC-P/CHRU Nancy
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João completed his medical studies at the University of Porto, Portugal with specialization in Internal Medicine at Centro Hospitalar do Porto, where he also followed patients in the Heart Failure clinics. During his PhD, João studied the safety and possible efficacy of "high-dose spironolactone in acute heart failure". He currently works as Hospital and University Assistant at the Centre for Clinical Investigation - Plurithematique, with focus on research (medical writing, statistical analysis, patient enrolment and follow-up in several trials and cohort studies, and performance of complementary exams such as echocardiography and thorax echography). Currently, João is also focused on “fibrotic” mechanisms within the aims of the FIBROTARGETS (http://www.fibrotargets.eu/) and HOMAGE (http://www.homage-hf.eu/) projects. João has a particular interest in health-care system organization, geographical asymmetries, and treatment supply and adherence at a global scale.

Roopa Shivashankar
Senior Research Scientist and Associate Professor
Public Health Foundation of India
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Roopa is a physician-scientist with an MD in Community Medicine from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi (India), MSc in Epidemiology from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), London and post-doctoral training in cardiovascular health research from Centre for Chronic Disease Control (CCDC) and Emory University, Atlanta, US. She is currently a research scientist at 4Cs (Centre for Control of Chronic Conditions consortium of four institutes for control chronic conditions) at Public Health Foundation of India and heads the division of epidemiology at Centre for Chronic Disease Control. Her role is project director for Centre for Cardiometabolic Risk Reduction in South Asia (CARRS) cohort study. She oversees conceptualization, execution, data management and analysis for one of largest cohort for cardio metabolic diseases of ≈ 30000 adults in South Asia. Her research interest includes epidemiology and improving quality of care of chronic diseases.

Sandeep Kishore
Assistant Professor and Associate Director of the Arnhold Institute for Global Health
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
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Sunny has extensive experience with cardiovascular essential medicines, including past experience working with the World Health Organization for addition of life-saving essential drugs for cardiovascular disease to the list of essential medicines. He has developed new tools to measure, map and monitor drug access (http://apps.knoema.com/m3access/) at the shelf level to determine drug price and availability to monitor progress toward the WHO and WHF roadmap goals. He has founded the Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network, which supports over 6000 social entrepreneurs, researchers and implementers in 150 countries and helped launch a Next Gen Leaders program in East Africa to support the development of regional technical advocates and leaders placed into ministries and with leading non-profits. In his current role, in this role, he is actively building an NCD Action Center to focus on global non-communicable diseases with economists, designers, systems engineers, clinicians and communication experts through innovative commissions, campaigns and catalytic research that moves the access to care field forward.
Sarah Kraus
Clinical Research Fellow, Specialist and Senior Lecturer
University of Cape Town
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Sarah's clinical and research interests are focused on the clinical diagnosis and management of cardiomyopathy, myocarditis and heart failure in the African setting, cardiogenetics with particular focus on the genetic cardiomyopathies, and cardiovascular magnetic imaging in cardiomyopathy and myocarditis. The main focus of her PhD research has been the development and implementation of the African Cardiomyopathy and Myocarditis Research Program (IMHOTEP) under the supervision of Professors Bongani Mayosi and Ntobeko Ntusi. Sarah is affiliated with the Molecular Genetic Laboratory at the Hatter Institute, University of Cape Town, where she works with Professor Bongani Mayosi, Professor Karen Sliwa and Dr. Gasnat Shaboodien in the field of cardiogenetics research. Her primary role is in clinical genetics and phenotyping – establishing proband diagnoses, extension of family pedigrees and conducting clinical screening in families affected by genetic forms of cardiomyopathy.

Xiaodong Guan
Assistant Professor
Peking University
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Don's main research field is equitable access to medicine and rational use. Don took up studies on medicine policy in 2005, obtained his Doctor of Science Degree in Pharmacy Administration from Peking University in 2011, and has been a teacher there since then as an assistant professor and a researcher in International Research Center for Medicinal Administration (IRCMA), Peking University. He is also secretary-general of Medicinal Policy Council of China Pharmaceutical Innovation and Research Development Association, a member of Drug Administration History Council of China Society for Drug Regulation, and a member of Evidence-based Medicine Branch of China International Exchange and Promotive Association for Medical and Health Care. He took on a project of Natural Science Foundation of China and other projects from National Health and Family Planning Commission and National Development and Reform Commission, etc. Those projects provide policy recommendations on public hospital reform, essential medicine policy, medicine bidding and purchasing, pharmaceuticals pricing and reimbursement and etc.
Abigail Baldridge
Biostatistician
Northwestern University
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Abi Baldridge is a biostatistician and project manager, and works with several faculty in the Department of Preventive Medicine at Northwestern University and Northwestern Memorial Hospital. She focuses on cardiology, genetic epidemiology, software development, and education. Abi has worked with the Emerging Leaders Program for the past 4 years.

Ana Mocumbi
Associate Professor of Cardiology at Universidade Eduardo Mondlane
Head of Non Communicable Diseases Division at National Institute for Health
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Ana Mocumbi is an Associate Professor at Universidade Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo, Mozambique. In her current position, as Ana is a part of North-South and South-South collaborations developing research into low-cost, sustainable approaches to improving health education and information on cardiovascular diseases. Ana’s prior research has focused on cardiovascular disease in poor settings, through multidisciplinary approaches and multifaceted training (epidemiology, administration, clinical care and research), to develop innovative strategies for diagnosis and treating neglected cardiovascular diseases.

Bongani Mayosi
Professor of Medicine and Head of the Department of Medicine
Groote Schuur Hospital and University of Cape Town
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Bongani Mayosi is the Professor of Medicine and Head of the Department of Medicine at Groote Schuur Hospital and University of Cape Town, and Dean Elect of the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Cape Town. He is the Chairman of the South African National Health Research Committee, President of the Pan African Society of Cardiology (PASCAR), and Chairman of the African Advisory Committee on Health Research and Development of the World Health Organization – Africa Region.

Professor Mayosi's work focuses on heart diseases particularly prevalent in developing countries. He led a groundbreaking series of multinational research studies into the management of pericarditis, including an African trial of the use of steroids in treating tuberculous (TB) pericarditis. More recently, Professor Mayosi led the first large-scale, multinational study of rheumatic heart disease in the world (first phase).
**FACULTY**

**David Wood**  
Garfield Weston Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine  
International Centre for Circulatory Health, National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London  
d.wood2@imperial.ac.uk

David Wood is the Garfield Weston Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at the International Centre for Circulatory Health, National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London, and Honorary Consultant Cardiologist to Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust. He is president of the World Heart Federation, and has been involved in every Emerging Leaders Think Tank Seminar since inception in 2014.

With a special interest in prevention of cardiovascular disease (CVD), Professor Wood has developed Guidelines on CVD prevention for the World Health Organisation, European Society of Cardiology and the British Cardiovascular Society. He has contributed to policy development through the European Heart Health Initiative, leading to the St Valentines Day declaration on CVD Prevention, and subsequently the European Heart Health Charter, which aims to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease through political advocacy.

As principal investigator for the EUROASPIRE surveys he has described the changing practice of preventive cardiology across Europe. This led to the concept of the EUROACTION trials – evaluating the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of nurse-led, multidisciplinary cardiovascular prevention programmes in hospital and general practice across Europe - which have raised standards of preventive care. The principles of EUROACTION were subsequently embodied in the MYACTION preventive cardiology model now being delivered in the NHS.

**Gary Maartens**  
Head of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology  
University of Cape Town  
Gary.Maartens@uct.ac.za

Gary Maartens is Head of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology at Groote Schuur Hospital and University of Cape Town. Professor Maartens leads research on tuberculosis and the effectiveness, adherence, and pharmacoeconomics of antiretroviral therapy in resource-limited settings.

**Jean-Luc Eiselé**  
Chief Executive Officer  
World Heart Federation  
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Jean-Luc Eiselé is the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of the World Heart Federation. Jean-Luc has extensive international experience in the field of association management, public health and advocacy. Previous roles include Director of Les Ligues de la santé, which focuses on primary prevention and health promotion, and Executive Director of the FDI World Dental Federation. In this latter role he was responsible for developing global and national advocacy activities, and successfully launching and developing World Oral Health Day.
Jeremiah Mwangi
Director of Policy and Advocacy
World Heart Federation
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Jeremiah leads policy and advocacy work at World Heart Federation to achieve a goal of a 25% reduction in premature mortality caused by CVD by 2025. He coordinates WHF’s work with the WHO, supports the translation of WHF science work into policy, and works with key stakeholders to support the implementation of WHF’s key asks in the areas of heart health. Jeremiah was previously the Policy and External Affairs Director for the International Alliance of Patients’ Organizations (IAPO).

Karen Sliwa-Hahnle
Director of the Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research in Africa
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Karen Sliwa-Hahnle is the Director of the Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research in Africa at University Cape Town. She is president-elect of the World Heart Federation. Professor Sliwa’s main areas of interest are cardiovascular disease in pregnancy and postpartum. Her work in this space has led to a large international registry under the EuroObservational Programe on Peripartum Cardiomyopathy.

Professor Sliwa established a population study in Africa called the ‘Heart of Soweto Study’ to investigate the prevalence, presentation and management of cardiac disease in an urban African population. This study, on more than 8000 patients, highlighted the high prevalence of hypertension, obesity and cardiac disease in women of childbearing age. She has recently expanded her population studies (under the umbrella of the ‘Heart of Africa studies’) to other African countries, including Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Kenya and Sudan. She has designed a number of innovative research programs and leveraged funding for several major research projects, not only in South Africa and the rest of Africa, but also internationally.

Keith Cleote
Deputy Director-General: Chief of Operations
Department of Health Western Cape Government
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Keith Cleote is the Deputy Director-General: Chief of Operations for Western Cape Department of Health. His prior roles include Chief Director for Metro District Health Services, and Director: HIV/AIDS/ STI and TB. He has extensive experience working in the Western Cape Public Health sector in many different capacities over the past 26 years. He is a qualified medical doctor and has worked as a medical officer at various health facilities in the Western Cape Government: Health from 1989 to 1996, and as a Chief Medical Officer in Public Health Programmes in the Cape Metro Region from 1996 to 2003. He is a founding member of Western Cape Reference Group for Health Promoting Schools and is involved in numerous inter-sectorial initiatives which address a wide range of issues affecting the health of communities in the Cape Metropole, including hygiene and sanitation projects in various informal settlement communities.
Marc Blockman
Professor
Department of Internal Medicine, Groote Schuur Hospital and University of Cape Town
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Marc Blockman is an associate professor in the Department of Medicine, and senior specialist in the division of clinical pharmacology at Groote Schuur Hospital and the University of Cape Town. He has been involved in the science of pharmacology and its application to clinical medicine for 25 years. He is recognised as an expert on International, National and Provincial Drug Policy, serving on the Medicines Control Council Committee (Medicines regulatory committee) of South Africa, becoming Chairman of the South African Essential Drugs Programme and being appointed an Executive member of the Provincial Government of the Western Cape's Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee. He serves as an International Consultant for the WHO, assessing drug policy and drug regulation in many countries and advises on the implementation of remedial systems where appropriate. He is a member of the Western Cape Clinical Guideline Advisory Committee, to assess Service Packages within the Province. He is a consultant expert to medicines formulary development committees in both the private and public sectors in South Africa, and has a special interest in the cost-effectiveness of medicines, pharmaco-economics and drug utilisation review. He is consultant to the Council for Medical Aid Schemes process of algorithm development for the chronic disease aspect of the PMBs. He is currently Chair of the Faculty of Health Sciences Human Research and Ethics Committee.

Mark Huffman
Assistant Professor
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
mhuffman@nm.org

Mark Huffman is an assistant professor of preventive medicine and medicine-cardiology at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. Mark is a practicing cardiologist and researcher with an interest in global cardiovascular epidemiology, prevention, and implementation science research and research training. He recently completed an acute coronary syndrome quality improvement clinical trial including more than 21,000 participants across 63 sites in Kerala, India funded by a NHLBI K99/R00 award. Mark has served as the senior program advisor to the World Heart Federation Emerging Leaders Program since inception in 2014. He currently serves as co-director of Northwestern's Fogarty-funded global health training program in collaboration with the Harvard University, Boston University, Northwestern University, University of Mexico (HBNU) consortium.

Nathan Mulure
Head of Novartis Social Business
Novartis, East Africa
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Nathan Mulure is head of Novartis Social Business in East Africa. His day to day role with Novartis is to ensure drugs are available within the community. Nathan is part of the largest access to medicine program in the pharmaceutical industry—the Malaria Initiative of Novartis. Through this program, hundreds of millions of treatments have been delivered over the last decade, saving many lives and contributing directly and indirectly to the general wellbeing of patients, families and caregivers. Nathan's interests are in furthering medical research into better health and increasing access to medicines such that the poor and disadvantaged can afford high quality drugs and promote equity and equality for all patients.
Pablo Perel
Senior Science Advisor
World Heart Federation
Jeremiah.Mwangi@worldheart.org

Pablo Perel is the senior science advisor to the World Heart Federation. Pablo’s main area of interest is global cardiovascular implementation research and he plays a key role in the development of our Roadmaps and Emerging Leaders programme. He has a background in internal medicine and cardiology and is also Associate Professor and Director of the Centre for Global Non Communicable Diseases at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in the UK.

Salim Yusuf
Professor of Medicine
McMaster University
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Salim Yusuf is Professor of Medicine at McMaster University, Director of the Population Health Research Institute, and is Chief Scientist at Hamilton Health Sciences. He holds a Heart and Stroke Foundation Research Chair, was a Senior Scientist of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (1999-2004), and has received (among others) the Lifetime Research Achievement award of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, the Paul Wood Silver Medal of the British Cardiac Society, the European Society of Cardiology gold medal, the American Heart Association Clinical Research Award, and over 35 other international and national awards for research, induction into the Royal Society of Canada, and appointment as an Officer of the Order of Canada. He has led over 25 major trials and several of them have changed medical practice. He has published over 900 articles in refereed journals, rising to the second most cited researcher in the world for 2011. He is Past President of the World Heart Federation, and has been involved with the Emerging Leaders program since it’s inception in 2014.

Veronica Wirtz
Associate Professor, Global Health
Boston University
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Veronika Wirtz is a pharmacist, educator and researcher with over ten years of experience in international public health focusing on health system strengthening and program evaluations of medicines access and utilization. Currently, Dr. Wirtz is Associate Professor of Global Health at Boston University School of Public Health where she teaches courses in health systems, pharmaceuticals in public health, and non-communicable diseases. She is a Visiting Professor of the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) in Mexico and coordinator of a student exchange program between the institutions of her affiliation.

Her interest and expertise include medicines price analysis, generic medicines policies, access to medicines for non-communicable diseases and the role of the private sector to promote equitable access and efficient use of medicines in low and middle income countries. Among other international studies Dr Wirtz carried out cross-national comparison of medicines consumption using large sales data bases to inform policy making about adequate use of medicines and prevention of antimicrobial resistance.