

Procurement of Health Technologies and Price Negotiation

Dr. Ruth Lopert, Director and Principal Consultant, LWC Health



Dr. Ruth Lopert is a public health physician and independent consultant in global health, pharmaceutical policy, and health technology assessment. She is a Chercheur Associé Principal at the University of Strasbourg and holds adjunct professorial appointments at George Washington University in the Department of Clinical Research & Leadership and in the Department of Health Policy & Management, where she was a visiting professor in 2011–12 and a Harkness fellow in Health Policy in 2006–07. Ruth has worked in more than 15 countries on assignments for the World Bank, the Inter-American

Development Bank, PAHO, WHO, NICE-International, Oxford Policy Management Limited, and Management Sciences for Health, as well as directly for various national Ministries of Health. From 2008-11 Ruth was the chief medical officer in the Australian drug and therapeutics regulatory agency, the Therapeutic Goods Administration. Previous roles include establishing and directing the pharmaceutical policy unit in the Australian Department of Health, managing the operations of the national drug coverage program, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme; and as a clinical and policy advisor to the national formulary committee. Ruth is a fellow of the Faculty of Public Health of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, a member of the Royal Society of Medicine of the UK, a foreign corresponding member of l'Académie Nationale de Pharmacie of France, and a former member of the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Drug Policies & Management. She is the author of more than 80 refereed articles, book chapters, and monographs on drug and therapeutics regulation, public health policy, health and pharmaceutical economics and policy, health technology assessment (HTA), and issues at the intersection of trade, globalization, intellectual property, and access to medicines.

Dr. Netnapis Suchonwanich, Advisor, Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program (HITAP), Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

Former Deputy Secretary General, National Health Security Office (NHSO), Thailand



Dr. Netnapis Suchonwanich is Former Deputy Secretary-General of National Health Security Office in Thailand, graduated her Bachelor's degree in Pharmacy, Master degree in IT Management, and recently been awarded her PhD for her long standing experience and contributions to the field of procurement and price negotiation of medicines from the Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. She played a key role in Universal Coverage Scheme in Thailand since 2002. During the times, she was the pioneer in health insurance information systems development at National

Health Security Office and developed many core applications needed for UHC such as Beneficiaries enrollment system, Provider registration, Medicines and medical devices administration, Financial and accounting system, Electronic claim system with automatic financial tracking process.

In 2009, she started to collaborate with Government Pharmaceutical Organization for establishment the central procurement with Vendor managed inventory program for high costly medicines, vaccines listed in national priority program finally extended to National Antidotes program in the year 2011. From the experiences in universal health care administration, she has been nominated as member for National Essential Drug Subcommittee and chairs for price negotiation working group for competitive medicines submitted to be Essential medicines in Thailand. Currently, she has participated as a Temporary Advisor to the World Health Organization (WHO) in developing the Guideline on Country Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy.

Mrs. Joycelyn Azeez, Director, Pharmacy Unit, Ministry of Health, Ghana



Mrs. Joycelyn is a pharmacist with an MBA (Finance) and a Masters in Procurement & Supply Chain. She has over 28 years of experience with the Ghana Public health sector. She has worked in various capacities including Director for Procurement and is currently the Director of Pharmaceutical Services of the Ghana Moh.

Dr Hugo Turner, Lecturer, Department of infectious Disease Epidemiology, Imperial College London



Dr. Hugo's research focuses on health economic analyses of infectious diseases in low and middle-income countries. He specializes and has extensive experience in performing costings of healthcare interventions, cost of illness analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis. He works on projects on a wide range of infectious diseases (including neglected tropical diseases, dengue, HCV, HPV, hospital-acquired infections, and tetanus). He has conducted fieldwork in Ghana and Kenya and was based at a research unit in Vietnam for over three years. The goal of his research

career is to use health economics to help optimise healthcare policy in low and middle-income countries.

Dr Merawi Aragaw, Head, Division of Emergency Preparedness & Response, Africa CDC
Co-Chair, Supply Chain and Stockpiling Medical Commodities



Dr Merawi Aragaw is a Medical Epidemiologist with more than 10 years of experience in health systems and public health programmes, disease surveillance, investigation and management of disasters and outbreaks, and evaluation of surveillance system. He currently serves as Acting Head of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Division at Africa CDC, where he oversees coordination and capacity building of African Union Member States for emergency preparedness and response, and the preparation for medical and non-medical countermeasures. He coordinates activities of the African Volunteer Health Corps (AVoHC), an initiative that enables

young Africans to serve the continent as standby public health emergency workforce. From 2013 to 2016, he served as a member of the African Union Multinational Task Force for the establishment of Africa CDC, which developed the structural, legal and financial blueprint for Africa CDC as demanded by the African Union Heads of State and Government. Before joining the African Union, Dr Aragaw served as advisor to the Minister of Health of Ethiopia on Public Health Emergency Management for more than six years. He played a pivotal role in the operations of various supervisory and advisory mechanisms, supported policy and strategy development, and provided guidance on matters related to public health emergencies. He served as National Coordinator for the Ethiopian Contingency of 187 health professionals who supported the response mission of African Union Support for Ebola Outbreak to West Africa (ASEOWA) in 2014 to 2015. Dr Aragaw is a medical doctor by training and holds a master's degree in public health specializing in field epidemiology. He has taken several short courses, including infectious disease modelling, disaster risk management and leadership; and has expert skills in surveillance and disease intelligence, public health emergency management, Emergency Operation Center (EOC), and incident management systems.