



**Webinar: Thursday, 1st July, 2021, 14.00-16.00 (CET)**

## **Multiple Jeopardies: Long-term Impact of COVID-19 on Migrants & Ethnic Minorities' Physical and Mental Wellbeing**

**Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2021 from 14.00 -16.00 (CET)**

Worldwide, the COVID-19 pandemic has hit migrants and ethnic minorities hard. Wherever the data are available, they show higher rates of infection, hospitalisation and death than in the majority population. The already precarious situation of millions of migrants and ethnic minorities has been exacerbated by lockdowns, financial hardship, social isolation and increased xenophobia. Many frontline health workers from migrant and ethnic minority backgrounds have sacrificed their physical and mental health and even their lives while helping others. While vaccines offer hope, supplies are still short and inequitably distributed in many countries, new variants are rapidly emerging and economic recovery is patchy. This points to a future in which many migrants and ethnic minorities face multiple jeopardies. The effects of acute and long COVID interacting with pre-existing health conditions, chronic stress and ongoing financial hardship can all be worsened if access to health and social services is restricted or unaffordable, and housing or job opportunities compromised by structural or casual racism. As countries struggle to recover, there is a serious risk that migrants and ethnic minorities will be further disadvantaged or even excluded. It is thus imperative that the additional physical and mental health challenges they face are recognised and addressed fairly and equitably by governments and service providers everywhere.

This Webinar is organised by the **Global Society on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health (GSMERH) COVID-19 Working Group, and the Migrant & Ethnic Minority Health Section of the European Public Health Association, in collaboration with the Global Health Section of the Amsterdam University Medical Centres**. It will bring together leading experts to consider and discuss the emerging long-term impact on COVID-19 on the health and wellbeing of migrants and ethnic minorities across the world. The meeting will be chaired by **Prof Charles Agyemang & Prof Nadav Davidovitch**. Presentations by four eminent speakers will be followed by a panel discussion with the speakers and questions from the audience.

### **Programme: Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2021, 14.00-16.00 (CET)**

- 14.00-14.05: **Welcome and scene setting.** Prof Charles Agyemang (Scientific Chair of GSMERH, Amsterdam University Medical Centres, The Netherlands)
- 14.05-14.25: **Long COVID: implications for migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and ethnic minorities.** Prof Marie Norredam (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)
- 14.25-14.45: **The impact of COVID-19 on mental health in migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and ethnic minorities.** Prof Marit Sijbrandij (Amsterdam UMC, VU University, Amsterdam)
- 14.45-15.05: **The impact of COVID-19 on burnout among frontline migrant health workers.** Prof Nadav Davidovitch (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel)
- 15.05-15.25: **Policy measures to mitigate the long-term impact of COVID-19 among migrants and ethnic minority groups.** Dr Santino Severoni, WHO, Geneva
- 15.25-15.55: **Panel discussion with speakers.** Facilitated by Prof Bernadette Kumar (Chair of GSMERH, University of Oslo, Norway) & Prof Laurence Gruer (Secretary of GSMERH, University of Edinburgh, Scotland)
- 15.55-16.00: **Closing remarks.** Prof Charles Agyemang (Scientific Chair of GSMERH, University of Amsterdam)

**The Webinar is completely free of charge, but you need to register in advance. Please see the link below for registration: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_9XYs8qebSSO8nH1rTx97fQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9XYs8qebSSO8nH1rTx97fQ) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.**

Planning Committee: GSMERH Working Group on COVID-19 in Migrants

## **About the Chairs & Speakers**

### **Professor Charles Agyemang**



Prof Agyemang is Professor of Global Migration, Ethnicity and Health and Principal Investigator at Amsterdam University Medical Centres, University of Amsterdam. He received his PhD from Erasmus Medical Centre, University of Rotterdam and a Master's degree from Edinburgh University Medical School. His research focuses on ethnic inequalities in cardiovascular and other non-communicable diseases in low- and middle-income countries. Prof Agyemang has about 20 years research experience and has authored/co-authored over 280 published papers and edited several books. He is the PI of the RODAM study – a European Commission funded project on gene-environmental interaction on obesity & diabetes among African migrants. He is a fellow of the prestigious European Research Council (ERC) under the Consolidation Award programme. He is currently the Vice President of the Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health section of the European Public Health Association and Scientific Chair of the Global Society on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health. He is an Associate Editor for Internal and Emergency Medicine and serves as an Editorial Board member for several journals. He was a member of the WHO taskforce on NCDs in Migrants and a member and a rapporteur of the Planning Committee for the WHO Global Consultation on Migrant Health.

### **Professor Bernadette Nirmal Kumar**



Prof Kumar is a medical graduate with a doctorate in Epidemiology and Public Health from the University of Oslo, Norway and post-doctoral research fellowship at the Institute for Psychiatry, University of Oslo. She has several years' international experience working for UNICEF, WHO, WFP, World Bank and NORAD in Southern Sudan, Somalia, North West Kenya, West Bank and Gaza, North Korea, China and Bhutan (1989-2000). Migration and Health has been the focus of her research since 1999 and she is the co-editor and author of a Textbook on Immigrant Health in Norway: Flerkulturelt folkehelsearbeid (Fagbokforlaget 2009) and Migrant Health - A Primary Care Perspective (Taylor and Francis, 2019). She was appointed Director of NAKMI (Norwegian Center for Migration and Minority Health now part of the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, 2010) and Associate Professor, Global Health at the Institute for Health and Society, University of Oslo (2013). She is Professor at the Empower School of Health, India and Kathmandu University, Nepal. She has been a commissioner of the Lancet Commission on Migration and Health (2018) and now co-chairs Lancet Migration. She leads the Migration Health work package of the EU Joint Action on Health Inequalities. She is President of the EUPHA section of Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health (2018-) and Chair of the Global Society on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health (2019-).

### **Professor Nadav Davidovitch**



Prof Davidovitch is Director of the School of Public Health at the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Guilford-Glaser Faculty of Business and Management at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel and Chair of the Israeli Public Health Physicians Association. He is affiliated with the Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health at the School of Public Health, Columbia University, NY and with the School of Public Health, University of Illinois - Chicago. His current research deals with health policy; health inequities; health and immigration; vaccination policy; environmental health and public health history and ethics. He serves on several international and national committees, among them: the Israel National Advisory Committee on COVID19, Executive Committee, European Public Health Association; Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region Executive Board and COVID19 Task Force member. He has authored or co-authored over 140 papers and book chapters, coedited five volumes and books and published his work in leading medical and health policy journals, such as the New England Journal of Medicine, Clinical Infectious Diseases, Emerging Infectious Diseases, Journal of Pediatrics, Vaccine, Social Science and Medicine, and Law & Contemporary Problems.

## **Professor Marie Norredam**



*Prof Norredam is a professor in Migration, Ethnicity and Health at the University of Copenhagen and Director of the Danish Research Centre for Migration, Ethnicity and Health, MESU. She also works part-time as an infectious disease specialist with the Section for Immigrant Medicine, University Hospital Hvidovre, Copenhagen. Her work has been focusing on migrant and ethnic minority health, infectious diseases and migration, vulnerable groups of migrants and equity in health and access and use of health services in Denmark and internationally. She has published more than 150 books and articles and is a member of several national and international boards and steering committees related to work on migrant and ethnic minority health.*

## **Professor Marit Sijbrandij**



*Dr Sijbrandij is a Professor at the Department of Clinical, Neuro- and Developmental Psychology at VU University, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre at VU University. Starting with her PhD at the Department of Psychiatry at the Amsterdam UMC (AMC) Amsterdam, she conducts transdisciplinary and transmethodological research. Her areas of interest are prevention, early interventions and public mental health interventions for mental disorders in populations exposed to trauma and adversities, including refugee populations and populations in low- and middle-income countries. She has completed multiple trials, including one debunking the use of debriefing in the acute aftermath of trauma. Other trials involved evaluating the effectiveness of early cognitive behavioural therapy for acute post-traumatic disorder (PTSD), internet-based prevention of PTSD, and the effects of Psychological First Aid training for health care workers in Sierra Leone. She was a co-investigator in three previous studies on the scalable WHO mental health programmes in Pakistan and Kenya. Currently, she is coordinator of the EU H2020 STRENGTHS project evaluating the effectiveness of the scalable WHO programs for Syrian refugees across countries in Europe and the Middle East. In addition, she is coordinator of the recently funded EU H2020 RESPOND project, aimed at evaluating remotely delivered stepped-care programmes to improve wellbeing and reduce psychological distress among individuals affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown. She is also involved in many other studies, such as a trial on the effects of an innovative intervention using eye movements in the treatment of suicidal imagery in depressed suicidal patients. She supervises ten PHD students.*

## **Dr Santino Severoni**



*Dr Severoni is Director of the Global Health and Migration Programme, Office of the Deputy Director-General, at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva. He is a medical doctor, health economist, epidemiologist, and experienced in systems management. He has over 24 years' experience as an international senior technical advisor and executive. He has worked for WHO, governments, NGOs and foundations in Eastern Africa, the Balkans, Central Asia and Europe. He has dedicated his work to global health, focusing on health sector reforms, health systems strengthening, health diplomacy, aid coordination/effectiveness and management of complex emergencies, and was a WHO Representative in Albania and Tajikistan. Since 2011 he has led the WHO EURO work on health and migration. In 2019 he was appointed EURO Special Representative on health & migration and Director a.i. Division of Health Systems and Public Health. In June 2020, he was appointed Director of the Global Health and Migration Programme at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva to lead the WHO's global work on health and migration.*

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*Professor Laurence Gruer*



Prof Gruer is Honorary Professor of Public Health at the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow and the former Director of Public Health Science for NHS Health Scotland. His 35yr career in public health has spanned research; policy; service design, management and evaluation; and health promotion. He has addressed a wide range of topics at regional, national and international level including HIV/AIDS, drug, alcohol and tobacco use, mental health, obesity and health inequalities.

He has had a particular interest in migration, ethnicity and health since 2006. He directs a small community health NGO in northern Ghana which he founded in 2015 ([drnanaghana.com](http://drnanaghana.com)). He is Secretary of the Global Society on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health.