

Export Date: 23/01/2025

SPEAKER PROFILE



Prof Dr Sazaly Abu Bakar

Malaysia

Place of Practice: Tropical Infectious Diseases Research & Education Centre (TIDREC), Higher Institution Centre of Excellence (HICoE), Universiti Malaya

Current Position: SENIOR PROFESSOR

Achievements: Sazaly Abu Bakar is a prominent figure in the field of virology, with significant contributions to the understanding and management of infectious diseases, particularly those caused by arboviruses. His research has been instrumental in elucidating the epidemiology, transmission dynamics, and pathogenesis of viruses such as dengue, chikungunya, and Zika. He has developed innovative diagnostic tools and strategies that have improved the detection and monitoring of these viral infections. His work in molecular virology has advanced the knowledge of virus-host interactions, revealing critical insights into viral replication and immune responses. Furthermore, his research extends to public health, where he has been involved in designing effective disease control and prevention programs. His contributions have been pivotal in addressing emerging viral threats, enhancing global health security, and shaping policies to mitigate the impact of infectious diseases.

Short Biography: Sazaly Abu Bakar is a senior professor at Universiti Malaya. He received his PhD and training in virology at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas, USA. He is the Founder and Executive Director of the Tropical Infectious Diseases Research and Education Center (TIDREC), a Higher Institution Centre of Excellence (HICoE) of the Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia. He also serves as the director of the WHO Collaborating Centre For Arbovirus Reference & Research (MAA-12) and the Head of the Tick Cell Biobank Asia Outpost. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia since 2015. He was the Editor and Chairperson of the subcommittee for the drafting of the first Malaysia Biosafety and Biosecurity Policy and Guidelines. He has over thirty years of research experience in emerging infectious diseases especially in dengue and other arbovirus infections. To date, he has published over three hundred research papers in academic journals and graduated over sixty-five post-graduate students, including Masters and PhD students. He held numerous national and international grants for research, especially in emerging vector-borne infectious diseases. He espouses better health for poverty eradication.

CV: <https://storage.unitedwebnetwork.com/files/184/d4951d8040949114aa555b3b248e11a7.pdf>



contact@aprc4.com



www.aprc4.com

ORGANISED BY:



Export Date: 23/01/2025

SPEAKER PROFILE



Prof Dr Na Jia

China

Place of Practice: Beijing Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology

Current Position: Professor

Short Biography: Prof Dr. Na Jia is an expert in emerging infectious diseases, specializing in tick-borne disease transmission. With expertise in influenza, viruses, immune responses, zoonotic diseases, and tick ecology, their work focuses on understanding infectious disease dynamics and improving public health strategies against vector-borne and zoonotic diseases.

Export Date: 23/01/2025

SPEAKER PROFILE



Assoc Prof Charlotte Oskam

Australia

Place of Practice: Murdoch University, Australia

Current Position: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH | HEAD OF CRYPTICK LABORATORY

Achievements: • Young Tall Poppy Award recipient in 2022 for outstanding contribution to science and science communication. • 18 successful research grants worth ~\$2.8M • 69 refereed articles/book chapters in the top international scientific journals • Executive Secretary for the Australian Society for Parasitology (2017-2019) • Inspiring and supporting the next generation of STEM professionals over the past 14+ years • Featured in the 'Women in Parasitology 2023'

Short Biography: I am an award-winning mid-career researcher in the Centre for Biosecurity and One Health in the Harry Butler Institute at Murdoch University. For over 10 years, I have led an internationally recognised team of researchers consisting of academics and post-doctoral researchers, along with PhD, veterinary masters (DVM) and honours students, in collaboration with industry and government partners, to deliver world-first results in the field of vector and water-borne disease. In more recent years as head of the CrypTick Laboratory, I manage the team applying a diverse range of diagnostic tools as part of internationally funded research projects which have required an advanced understanding and application of diagnostic laboratory techniques, including microscopy, molecular (qPCR, conventional PCR, next generation sequencing, genotyping, environmental DNA including flora, fauna, and microbes) and data analysis. My research program is 3-fold, which captures essential data from vertebrate hosts, ticks, and pathogens. Anticipated outcomes include identifying biomarkers before clinical symptoms are detected, which would be crucial for early treatment and limiting disease progression. Knowledge gained from my research program provides valuable insights into other vector-borne diseases globally.

CV: <https://storage.unitedwebnetwork.com/files/184/a05d8ad2d29fbe58ce092543adcae4b5.pdf>

Export Date: 23/01/2025

SPEAKER PROFILE



Prof Dr Gerardo Acosta-Jamett

Chile

Place of Practice: Universidad Austral de Chile

Current Position: Full Professor

Short Biography: Dr. Gerardo Acosta is Full Professor at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, Universidad Austral de Chile. Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Master in Ecological Sciences at the Universidad de Chile and PhD in Veterinary Epidemiology at the University of Edinburgh. His research interests are mainly on the pathogen exchange among domestic animals, wildlife and humans and its consequences on public health, wildlife conservation and animal health. He has taken part in many investigations on infectious and parasitic diseases in both animals and humans. He is chair of the Latin-American Section of the Wildlife Disease Association and past chair of the Chilean Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (AMEVEFAS) and past member of the Committee of Emerging Diseases at the Chilean Society of Infectiology. He Has mentored many undergraduate and postgraduate students from America, Europe and Africa and collaborated with colleagues all over the world and is very interested in maintaining collaborative networks for enhancing the capacity building mainly of young scientists in developing countries.

CV: <https://storage.unitedwebnetwork.com/files/1236/bdad651ae5e6792e5cd7d93d235c25a6.pdf>

Export Date: 23/01/2025

SPEAKER PROFILE



Prof Dr Kun-Hsien Tsai
Taiwan

Place of Practice: Institute of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, and Global Health Program, College of Public Health, National Taiwan University

Current Position: Associate Dean, Director, Professor

Field of Interest: Scrub typhus, Rickettsiology, Vector Control, Medical Entomology, Mosquito Biology, Tick Biology, Tropical Medicine, Vector-borne Infectious Diseases, Malaria, Dengue.

Short Biography: Our laboratory is a forward-thinking and multidisciplinary team with world-leading expertise in vector-borne diseases, vector ecology, and vector control. We are recognized for our balance in research and practice and for our international collaborative works. Dengue fever. Half of the world's population is now at risk of dengue according to the World Health Organization (WHO). My research group works on the development of eco-friendly and sustainable measures to control dengue vectors, including biological control methods like copepods, parasitic fungi, and Wolbachia, and physical control methods like short-waved blue light and UVC light, and specific chemical control methods like pyriproxyfen. Students in our laboratory are encouraged to deliver health education to school children and community members. Rickettsioses. Rickettsioses are among the most common neglected vector-borne diseases. Our laboratory actively monitors rickettsial infections in arthropods, wild animal hosts, and humans, resulting in the identification of Rickettsia felis infection, anaplasmosis, and ehrlichiosis in Taiwan. Projects of development of diagnostic tools for scrub typhus using recombinant proteins were carried out by collaborating with the US Navy Medical Research Center. Another project of novel identification technique applying MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry and genomic analysis is being carried out by collaborating with Dr. Pierre-Edouard Fournier of the Research Team 6 of Vectors Tropical and Mediterranean Infections (VITROME) Research Unit, in IHU Mediterranean Infection in Marseille. Vector ecology. Approximately 135 species of mosquitoes have been recorded in Taiwan, but their distribution and vector competence are not updated. Our laboratory systematically survey mosquitoes as well as other vectors, such as ticks, chiggers, and fleas and nuisance arthropods, such as biting midges and bed bugs in Taiwan. The whole genomes of Leptotrombidium deliense and Leptotrombidium scutellare are being sequenced by collaborating with the US Navy Medical Research Center. A project of investigation of the competence of Culex tritaeniorhynchus to transmit yellow fever virus is being carried out by collaborating with Pasteur Institute in Paris. Global health. As an entomologist, I was invited to join the Anti-malaria Mission in the Democratic Republic of Sao-Tome and Principe (DRSTP), West-Central Africa. Our team has successfully reduced malaria incidence to a slide positive rate less than 5%, which has satisfied the WHO criteria of pre-elimination stage, in certain districts by integrated pest management. To further improve health of the residents, our team used our expertise and identified several vector-borne infectious diseases that have never been reported in the nation. After the DRSTP, our laboratory worked on serological studies of dengue fever and scrub typhus with a non-governmental organization in Malawi as well as dengue fever and other vector-borne diseases with Universitas Semarang in Indonesia.

CV: <https://storage.unitedwebnetwork.com/files/1236/a65e753afe4dc18314d282fa907c05c5.pdf>



contact@aprc4.com



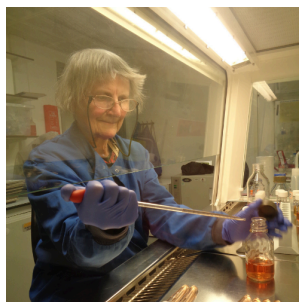
www.aprc4.com

ORGANISED BY:



Export Date: 23/01/2025

SPEAKER PROFILE



Dr Lesley Bell-Sakyi

United Kingdom

Place of Practice: University of Liverpool

Current Position: Senior Research Fellow

Short Biography: Dr Lesley Bell-Sakyi founded the Tick Cell Biobank, the world's largest collection of continuous cell lines derived from ticks and other arthropods. Her particular expertise lies in the establishment of continuous cell lines (over 70 to date) from embryonic, larval, nymphal and adult tissues of a range of tick and insect species, and the propagation and study of viral, bacterial and protozoan pathogens in arthropod cell and organ culture systems. Lesley's career spans 47 years of research on ticks and tick-borne diseases of livestock and humans at the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine (1977-2008) and Roslin Institute (2008-2012), The Pirbright Institute (2012-2017) and the University of Liverpool (since 2017). She has worked with arboviruses, intracellular bacteria of the genera *Anaplasma*, *Ehrlichia*, *Rickettsia*, *Spiroplasma* and *Wolbachia*, and protozoa of the genera *Babesia* and *Theileria*. She holds degrees of BSc in Biology (Aberdeen, 1976), MPhil (Edinburgh, 1983) and PhD (Utrecht, 2004). Lesley has co-authored over 140 research papers and, through the Tick Cell Biobank, maintains collaborative links with over 45 research institutes in UK, Europe and worldwide.



contact@aprc4.com



www.aprc4.com

ORGANISED BY:



Export Date: 23/01/2025

SPEAKER PROFILE



Dr SARASWATI

Indonesia

Place of Practice: National University of Singapore

Current Position: Research fellow

Achievements: 2024 SG Academies South-East Asia Fellowship (SASEAF) Programme; 2022 Travel award, Joint International Tropical Medicine Meeting 2022; 2019 Travel award, 2nd Asia Pacific Rickettsia Conference; 2018 Winner, 3-Minutes Thesis Competition, 2nd MORU-OUCRU Student Conference; 2017 Oxford Tropical Network DPhil scholarship; 2015 Indonesia Endowment for Education (LPDP) master's scholarship.

Short Biography: I am a clinician by training with experience in tropical medicine and global health research. My research interests include neglected tropical diseases e.g. rickettsial diseases. Employing evidence synthesis (systematic review and meta-analysis), modelling, and serological data, I am hoping to address relevant research questions in resource-limited settings. Currently, my research focuses on applying mathematical and geospatial modelling techniques to analyse serology data of tropical diseases, including scrub typhus and murine typhus.

CV: <https://storage.unitedwebnetwork.com/files/1236/92f8ac8dbc86f594731214b6c7353350.pdf>



contact@aprc4.com



www.aprc4.com

ORGANISED BY:



Export Date: 23/01/2025

SPEAKER PROFILE



Dr Wolf Schmidt

Germany

Place of Practice: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Current Position: Assistant Professor

Field of Interest: Epidemiology

Short Biography: I am an infectious diseases epidemiologist with focus on scrub typhus and other rickettsial infections. I was trained as a doctor in Germany, before moving to the UK to work at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Since 2014 I am based at CMC vellore in India to conduct epidemiological studies on scrub typhus and spotted fever.



contact@aprc4.com



www.aprc4.com

ORGANISED BY:





29TH SEP - 1ST OCT 2025



PARKROYAL Penang, Malaysia

**CONFRONTING RICKETTSIAL AND TROPICAL DISEASES:
INTEGRATED STRATEGIES FOR GLOBAL HEALTH**

Export Date: 23/01/2025

SPEAKER PROFILE



Dr Yazli Yuhana

Malaysia

Place of Practice: Hospital Sungai Buloh

Short Biography: I am involved in patients care, health education and medical research focusing in infectious diseases and tropical medicine. My goals are to improve health care deliveries, educate and update our future and current health practitioners and to discover and consolidate knowledge in infectious diseases and tropical medicine.



contact@aprc4.com



www.aprc4.com

ORGANISED BY:

