

SUBJECT: CONSENT AGENDA: IRC NOMINATIONS

Report of: Peter Hansen, Director of Monitoring & Evaluation

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Agenda item: 02d

Category: For Decision

Strategic goal: Alliance operations

Section A: Overview

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 This report proposes the extension of membership in the Independent Review Committee (IRC) pool for current members whose terms expire in March 2016.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Gavi Governance Committee recommends to the Gavi Board that it:

Extend the terms of the IRC members listed in Annex A of Document 02d for a further three-year term until March 2019.

3. Executive summary

3.1 Under the Gavi by-laws, the IRC is an independent, impartial group of experts that serves to guarantee the integrity and consistency of an open and transparent funding process. In August 2013 the Secretariat refreshed and replenished the IRC pool in order to broaden and deepen available expertise, especially in the areas of gender and equity and logistics and cold chain. Korn Ferry was selected through a competitive process to conduct the search. The final pool of candidates was approved by the Board in April 2014. Existing members among that pool were appointed for two-year terms (until March 2016), and newly-identified members were appointed for three years (until March 2017).

3.2 According to the IRC Terms of Reference (approved by the Executive Committee in November 2013), IRC members may be appointed for a term of up to 3 years, and this term may be renewed for another period of up to 3 years.

4. Risk implication and mitigation

- 4.1 The current IRC pool includes a balanced set of expertise and language skills. The extension of the terms of those IRC members listed in Annex A whose terms expire in March 2016 mitigates the risks of not having enough reviewers to conduct a robust and impartial assessment of new applications for Gavi support.

5. Financial implications: Business plan and budgets

- 5.1 If these IRC reviewers' terms are extended, the Secretariat would identify a recruiter to refresh and replenish the pool toward the end of 2016. However, if these IRC reviewers' terms are not extended, the Secretariat would need to identify a recruiter to conduct a search as soon as possible in order to have a full pool by mid-2016. The financial implications in terms of amount of payment to the recruiter would be the same, but in the former case, the bulk of the payment would be in 2017, and in the latter case, in 2016.

Section B: Content

6. Composition of IRC pool after extension of expiring members' terms

- 6.1 With the extension of the IRC members' terms, the pool maintains its geographical diversity: 35% are from Africa, 10% are from Asia, and 41% are from Europe and North America. The gender split is 61% men and 39% women. The pool includes five gender and equity experts and seven cold chain and logistics experts. There are 16 French speakers, 3 Spanish speakers, and 2 Portuguese speakers.

7. Length of terms

- 7.1 Upon approval of the extended terms, 43% of the members will be in the pool until 31 March 2019, and the remaining 57% will be in the pool until 31 March 2017. The staggered terms will avoid the need to recruit the entire pool at the end of a period.

Section C: Implications

8. Impact on countries

- 8.1 The pool includes representation of Gavi-eligible countries and contains an appropriate mix of skills to best assess country applications. Eighteen members (37%) are from Gavi-eligible countries.

9. Impact on Gavi stakeholders

- 9.1 The pool will ensure the robust review of applications for Gavi support and adequate representation of an independent element on Gavi's High-Level Review Panel, which reviews renewal of existing Gavi support.

10. Impact on Secretariat

- 10.1 The pool will enable the Secretariat to identify appropriate members to participate at each IRC meeting and at each High-Level Review Panel meeting.

11. Legal and governance implications

- 11.1 There are none to note beyond those listed throughout this paper.

12. Consultation

- 12.1 Due to the need to maintain independence in the identification of members of the IRC pool, the Secretariat identified an external recruiter to undertake the search in 2014. WHO provided input into the process to help identify suitable candidates with the expertise necessary to review country requests for Inactivated Polio Vaccine.

13. Gender implications

- 13.1 The Board gender guidelines call for a minimum of 40% women Board members and alternate members. Although the Board guidelines do not mention the composition of the IRC specifically, the IRC pool of 49 members has 30 men (61%) and 19 women (39%). The Secretariat draws from this pool in such a manner to ensure appropriate gender balance, to the extent possible, in each IRC meeting. Across all IRC rounds in 2015, there was 55% overall male participation and 45% overall female participation. In 2014, there was gender balance at 50% overall male/female participation.

Section D: Annexes

Annex A: List of IRC members whose terms are proposed for extension

Annex B: Biographies of IRC members whose terms are proposed for extension

Annex A: List of IRC members whose terms are proposed to be extended

	Name	Proposed Term
1	Annette Bongiovanni	Until 31 March 2019
2	Gabriel Carrasquilla	Until 31 March 2019
3	Linda O'Neal Eckert	Until 31 March 2019
4	Abdul Wali Ghayur	Until 31 March 2019
5	Ulla Kou Griffiths	Until 31 March 2019
6	Terence Hart	Until 31 March 2019
7	Elsie Le Franc	Until 31 March 2019
8	Marty Makinen	Until 31 March 2019
9	Sandra Mounier-Jack	Until 31 March 2019
10	Frank Nyonator	Until 31 March 2019
11	Adepeju Olukoya	Until 31 March 2019
12	Bolanle Oyeledun	Until 31 March 2019
13	Koyejo Oyerinde	Until 31 March 2019
14	Zeenat Patel	Until 31 March 2019
15	Bob Pond	Until 31 March 2019
16	Kshem Prasad	Until 31 March 2019
17	Diana Rivington	Until 31 March 2019
18	Ousmane Amadou Sy	Until 31 March 2019
19	Michael Thiede	Until 31 March 2019
20	Beena Varghese	Until 31 March 2019
21	Charles Shey Wiysonge	Until 31 March 2019

Annex B: Biographies of IRC members for whom an extension is proposed

Annette Bongiovanni

Current position: Principal at International and Business Technical Consultants, Inc. (IBTCI), where she established the firm's first health practice which specializes in performance and impact evaluations, operations research and capacity building. Her portfolio includes a five-year projects which provides evaluation services for the USAID/Kenya and USAID/East Africa and USAID/West Africa health programs. She also serves as a principal investigator on an impact evaluation of a performance based financing project being implemented in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Previous positions and experience: Ms. Bongiovanni has led and participated in numerous evaluations and operations research studies covering an array of global health programs.

Areas of expertise: Programme management, monitoring and evaluation, and operations research

Education and degrees: Ms. Bongiovanni obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the State University of New York at Binghamton and an MPA from Harvard University.

Additional information: She has authored numerous technical reports and articles and has co-authored a manuscript setting out 10 guiding principles for health systems strengthening that informs frameworks for policy, strategy, and programming and provide benchmarks for measuring success. She is based in Washington DC and has previous technical review committee experience in the past, including the Technical Advisory Group on Vaccine Preventable Diseases convened by the World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization.

Gabriel Carrasquilla

Current position: Independent health sector researcher and consultant.

Previous positions and experience: He was Director of Health Research Center of Fundación Santa Fe de Bogotá (2003-2014), Director of Health Division of the FES Foundation from 1990 to 1999 and Secretary of Health of the State of Valle del Cauca in 2000. Professor of the MSc in Epidemiology at Universidad del Valle (1986-2010) and currently at Universidad del Bosque in Bogotá, Colombia. At Andean Health Organization (2003-2007) was coordinator of the Global Fund project for malaria prevention and control in the borders of the Andean countries. He is current member or Gavi Alliance IRC and has been appointed member of Malaria Policy Advisory Committee (2016-2018). He is a member of the National

Academy of Medicine and was member of the National Council in Social Security in Health until Council was closed in 2009. He has been member of the National Council of Health for Colciencias (Colombian Governmental Research Funding Agency), Advisory Board of the National Institute of Health. In addition, he is a temporary consultant to WHO, PAHO, CIID/IDRC, OAS, Rockefeller Foundation, European Union, Andean Organization of Health and to the Ministry of Health, National Planning Department, and other governmental organizations in Colombia. He has been a principal investigator in several projects funded by national and international organizations of projects conducted in Colombia and Latin America.

Areas of expertise: Epidemiology, Health services Research, Vector Borne Diseases, Primary Health Care Strategy

Education and degrees: Dr. Carrasquilla obtained his MD degree and MPH from Universidad del Valle, Colombia, and his Master of Science in Tropical Public Health and Doctor of Public Health from Harvard.

Additional information: Dr. Carrasquilla has several publications in Colombian and international peer review journals.

Linda Eckert

Current position: Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Global Health at the University of Washington in Seattle

Previous positions and experience: She has practiced medicine in Kenya, Nicaragua and Liberia. In 2009, while on sabbatical, Dr. Eckert worked at WHO as the HPV Vaccine Focal Point and was involved in HPV vaccine policy development. Since returning to the University of Washington in 2010 she has continued to work with WHO on vaccine policy (HPV and maternal immunization) as well as cervical cancer screening and prevention.

Areas of expertise: Vaccines, especially in the intersection of immunisation with reproductive health, infectious Diseases in Obstetrics & Gynecology, cervical cancer screening.

Education and degrees: Dr. Eckert received her MD degree from the University of California at San Diego. She did her residency and chief residency in Obstetrics & Gynecology at University of Texas in Houston. She then completed a fellowship in Infectious Diseases at University of Washington.

Additional information: She serves on the Expert Immunisation Committee for the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the ACIP Workgroup for HPV Vaccine. She is widely published in leading journals including the New England Journal of Medicine. She is a guest editor for *JAMA*, *Vaccine* and lead journals in Obstetrics & Gynecology.

Abdul Wali Ghayur

Current position: Senior Technical Advisor to Afghan Public Health Minister

Previous positions and experience: Dr. Wali has worked for more than 13 years with number of national and international NGOs, academic institutions, donors, Government of Afghanistan, and UN agencies at country, regional and international levels.

Areas of expertise: health coordination, health information management, policy and strategy development, assessments, health system strengthening, immunization, fund raising, programs design and implementation, monitoring and evaluation

Education and degrees: Dr. Wali obtained an MD from Kabul Medical University with honors and a certificate in Public Health from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Additional information: He has authored or co-authored several publications including one in the British Medical Journal.

Ulla Kou Griffiths

Current position: Part time senior lecturer in Health Economics in the Department of Global Health and Development at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and part-time independent consultant

Previous positions and experience: Between 2006 and 2009, she was Director of Cost-effectiveness for the Hib Initiative, a GAVI funded project with the objective of accelerating the use of Hib vaccines in low-income countries. Before joining LSHTM, she worked in the Department of Vaccines and Biologicals at WHO in Geneva for six years, where she was responsible for managing vaccine cost-effectiveness studies. Ulla has been principle investigator on numerous economic studies in vaccines, including estimating the cost-effectiveness of future tuberculosis vaccines and estimating the costs of expanding meningitis surveillance in Chad. She has also undertaken economic evaluation studies within other disease areas, including eye health, diabetes, tuberculosis and obesity.

Areas of expertise: economics of vaccines; economic evaluations of new vaccines; estimating costs of introducing new vaccines into low-income settings, including assessing health systems and logistical aspects

Education and degrees: Dr. Griffiths is from Denmark and holds degrees in economics from Copenhagen University and the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. Her PhD is from LSHTM.

Additional information: Dr. Griffiths has authored or co-authored many articles on immunisation and health systems.

Terence Hart

Current position: Sustainable Energy and Supply Chain & Logistics Consultant

Previous positions and experience: Senior immunization supply chain and logistics consultant to UNICEF/HQ and UNICEF/WCARO since 2009. CEO and Technical Director of a major Indian subsidiary of an internationally reputed renewable energy and climate change consulting firm (<http://www.itpowergroup.com/>) for more than a decade; World Bank consultant advisor to the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (<http://www.ireda.gov.in/>), a Government of India Financial Institute dedicated to renewable energy financing. Resident for more than 40 years, designing, managing, assessing and providing advocacy to sustainable energy and EPI programs in low and middle-income countries in Africa, South and South East Asia for Ministries of Health, Energy, multi-lateral and bi-lateral Agencies (WHO, UNICEF, PATH, World Bank, DFID, EC, USAID). Lead consultant for Effective Vaccine Management Assessments (EVMA) and supply chain improvement planning in 14 countries.

Areas of expertise: Vaccine management, immunization supplies chains & logistics, health information systems, corporate management, advocacy, design engineering, renewable energy, climate change, sustainable development.

Education and degrees: Higher National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering, UK (MSc equivalent); Ordinary National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering, UK; Diploma in Design Engineering, (UK).

Elsie Le Franc

Current position: Professor Emeritus and Adjunct Professorial Research Fellow, University of the West Indies, Jamaica. Independent Consultant.

Previous positions and experience: Dr. Le Franc has had teaching, research and consulting experience in the Caribbean, where she has also worked on and evaluated regional and national health sector reform efforts. She has assessed government health policies and systems in several Caribbean countries. With support from PAHO and the IADB, her team developed the health sector reform strategy for the Caribbean region in 1995. More recently she has been involved in initiatives across Latin America to develop regional networks that would focus on strengthening health systems so as to improve the use of evidence in policy-making.

Areas of expertise: health systems research, health inequalities, the social determinants of health, operational research, resource mobilisation for research, research management, project evaluation, policy analysis, reproductive health, interpersonal violence and aggression, and HIV/AIDS-related behavioural research

Education and degrees: Dr. Le Franc has a Bachelor's degree from Manchester University [UK], and Master's and Doctorate degrees from Yale [USA].

Additional information: Since 2007 Dr. Le Franc has been a member of the Technical Review Panel at the Global Fund to fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. She was part of the international expert team which used the Joint Assessment of National Systems [JANS] tool developed by the International Health Partnership [IHP+] to review the National Health Systems of Ghana and Malawi. She has recently completed an assessment by the Organisation of American States of the systems [government and non-governmental] for addressing and reducing violence against women in the Caribbean.

Marty Makinen

Current position: Principal and Managing Director of Results for Development Institute (R4D) in Washington, DC since 2008. Dr. Makinen leads R4D's work on health systems and financing as one of the implementers of two USAID-funded global Projects: (1) Health Financing and Governance and (2) the Maternal and Child Survival Program and country-specific projects in Benin, Ghana, and Senegal. He directs the Bill and Melinda Gates- and Rockefeller Foundation-funded expanding coverage and primary health care initiatives of the Joint Learning Network for universal health coverage. The work led by Dr. Makinen involves work in 15 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Previous positions and experience: Prior to joining R4D, Dr. Makinen was at Abt Associates Inc. for 23 years. His experience includes working on immunisation financing and systems issues including leading two studies of new vaccine adoption by middle-income countries.

Areas of expertise: health economics and systems, immunisation

Education and degrees: Dr. Makinen received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Michigan and his B.A. in Economics from Kalamazoo College.

Additional information: Dr. Makinen also works on projects on nutrition, food policy, and agriculture issues, including a cost-effectiveness analysis of community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) in Nigeria that was funded by the Children's Investment Fund Foundation.

Sandra Mounier-Jack

Current position: Senior Lecturer in Health Policy at the Faculty of Public Health and Policy of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Previous positions and experience: Ms. Mounier-Jack's research projects have included evaluations of health policy on the control of communicable diseases including vaccination programmes, HIV and tuberculosis. Her research focuses in

particular on the interface between health systems and infectious disease control programmes. She is currently involved in a study synthesizing lessons learned for HPV demonstration projects in low and middle income countries and is leading on collaborative research with Public Health England on the effectiveness of the UK vaccination programme implementation. From 2010-2013, she was the Co-Principal Investigator of a Gates-funded project aimed at understanding decision making process for new vaccine introduction in low- and middle-income countries and assessing the impact of new vaccine introduction on the immunisation programme and the wider health systems. She was a member of the WHO working group studying the impact of new vaccines introduction on the health systems (2010-2012).

Areas of expertise: analysis and evaluation of health policy, particularly with respect to vaccination programmes; evaluation of health systems; vaccination policy, particularly in French-speaking Africa; health economics

Education and degrees: She has a Master of Science in Public Health from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, and graduated from Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Paris, with a Master of Business Administration from the University of Drexel, Philadelphia, USA.

Additional information: She has published in high profile journals including the Lancet and the WHO bulletin. She was an advisor to the UK House of Lords, the UK House of Commons and also advised the UK government's Cabinet Office on influenza pandemic preparedness.

Frank Nyonator

Current position: Country Project Director for the USAID/Ghana Evaluate for Health (E4H) Project and a part-time Senior Lecturer of the School of Public Health, University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho, Ghana

Previous positions and experience: Dr. Nyonator was the Acting Dean of the School of Public Health at Ghana's University of Health and Allied Sciences in Ho, Ghana, from April 2013 to November 2014, and a Gro Harlem Brundtland Senior Leadership Fellow, Harvard School of Public Health, Cambridge, MA, USA. In 2012-2013 Dr. Nyonator served as Ministerial Advisor on Health Systems Strengthening, Decentralization, and Universal Health Coverage; and as director of human resources for health development in the Ghana Ministry of Health. Prior to that, he was the Director General of the Ghana Health Service and Regional Director of Health Services at the Volta Regional Health Administration, Ho. He has served as the health system advisor for the World Health Organization Country Office in Abuja, Nigeria.

Areas of expertise: health systems and health service provision

Education and degrees: Dr. Nyonator earned certificates in financing health care in developing countries from Boston University and in health sector reform for primary health care from the University of Sussex. He earned a master's degree in public health from Leeds University and a bachelor of medicine and bachelor of surgery degrees from the University of Ghana Medical School.

Bolanle Oyeledun

Current position: Chief Executive Officer at Centre for Integrated Health Programs (CIHP), Nigeria

Previous positions and experience: Dr. Oyeledun was Country Director of the International Centre for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs (ICAP)-Nigeria program and an Associate Research Scientist with Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University.

Areas of expertise: Health systems strengthening, PMTCT, comprehensive HIV/AIDS care and treatment, reproductive and adolescent health, immunization, quality of care in health services.

Education and degrees: Dr. Oyeledun holds a medical degree from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and has Master's degrees in Public Health and Health Management from the Universities of Lagos, Nigeria, and Heidelberg, Germany. She is an associate fellow of the National Post-graduate Medical College of Nigeria (equivalent to the MRCP UK). She has additionally undergone health management and communications training at the Harvard School of Public Health and the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, USA.

Additional Information: Dr Oyeledun is the first woman to chair the Technical Review Panel of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. She was a visiting fellow at the University of Washington Population Leadership Program and has served as a member of the program's external advisory board. She has considerable working experiences working in different countries e.g. Tanzania, Lesotho, Swaziland, Nigeria, Sudan, Nepal amongst others.

Peju Olukoya

Current position: Independent consultant

Previous positions and experience: Dr. Olukoya has over three decades of experience in public health and is an expert in health policy research and assessment, primary health care, reproductive health, adolescent health and development, and gender equity and the health of women. She worked with WHO in Geneva where her last assignment was to integrate gender equity into public health. This involved providing direct and back-up technical expertise and support to WHO at all levels and national governments in assessing readiness, crafting policies and designing processes and activities to integrate gender into their programmes. She also served as Associate Research Professor and Director (a.i)

of the Institute of Child Health and Primary Care of the College of Medicine of the University of Lagos, Nigeria. Her work included provision of health care to rural and peri-urban children, immunisation services, and operations research on utilization of community health workers and various topics related to the provision of PHC as well as maternal mortality reduction. She has recently worked on ageing and health with a focus on developing evidence based policy and strategies for government entities and others. She has served on GAVI IRC since 2012.

Areas of expertise: Gender, women and health; adolescent health and development, sexual and reproductive health; health systems, ageing and health.

Education and degrees: She is an alumna of the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in the top 10% of her class. She has received MPH & M.Ed degrees from the University of Lagos, Nigeria

Additional information: Dr. Olukoya was a member of the GAVI ad-hoc Advisory Committee to set up the GAVI Alliance gender policy in 2008, and also participated in the policy review in 2012/2013.

Koyejo Oyerinde

Current position: Attending Pediatrician, CHI St. Alexius Medical Center, Minot, ND USA

Previous Position and Experience: Dr. Oyerinde was for five years an Assistant Clinical Professor at the Heilbrunn Department of Population & Family Health, Columbia University, New York, where he coordinated a global health program on the evaluation of emergency obstetric and newborn care services in 30 low and middle-income countries. He is a US-trained pediatrician and public health expert, with extensive clinical experience in Nigeria, Lesotho, and USA. As a public health expert he has led several survey teams and policy formulation teams in Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Western Pacific.

Areas of expertise: Delivery of quality maternal, newborn and child health services

Education and degrees: Dr. Oyerinde has an MSc (Epidemiology) from the University of Pretoria; an MPH from the University of Lagos, Nigeria; and an MBChB and BSc from Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria. His DrPH (Health Policy and Management) from the University of North Carolina, USA, is pending.

Additional Information: Dr. Oyerinde is a grant and manuscript reviewer and is published widely on the subjects of maternal and newborn health.

Zeenat Patel

Current position: Public Health Physician & Independent Consultant

Previous Position and Experience: A physician specializing in Public Health & Preventative Medicine and Reproductive/Sexual Health, Dr. Patel has first hand international experience as both the Clinical Epidemiologist for WHO's Western Pacific Regional Office and a WHO consultant, providing technical expertise to countries in the region including China, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Laos, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Malaysia. As Regional Medical Officer and Director of the Public Health Unit for Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Ontario Region she has launched new vaccines (rotavirus, MMRV, adult pertussis, meningococcal), strengthened the capacity of First Nations health systems to deliver immunisation, improved immunisation coverage rates for existing vaccines, managed immunisation budgets and workplans, and dealt with outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.

Areas of expertise: public health, epidemiology, immunisation programming, policy development, reproductive health, programme planning and implementation, and the delivery of community based preventative programmes

Education and degrees: Dr. Patel received her MD from the University of Calgary, Canada; an MPH from the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; and an MBA from the John Hopkins Carey Business School.

Additional Information: Dr. Patel has written numerous policies and reports for WHO and Health Canada relating to health protection including immunisation, as well as published articles in professional journals.

Robert (Bob) Pond

Current position: Independent consultant

Previous positions and experience: Dr. Pond is a public health physician with over 25 years of international health experience including 12 years of long-term assignments in sub-Saharan Africa. For four years he was closely involved in the development of the WHO's Health Metrics Network (HMN). More recently, at national workshops in Tanzania, Myanmar, Zimbabwe and Nigeria he supported the World Health Organization to build capacity in the review of data quality and analysis of routine health data. Other recent work included evaluating the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response program of South Sudan, the emergency cholera response in Haiti, malaria control activities in Ghana and Uganda; and design, management and analysis of household surveys in Indonesia, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

Areas of expertise: health systems strengthening with special emphasis on information system development, child health and disease control.

Education and degrees: Dr. Pond received a MD from the University of California at Los Angeles and a MSc. in Health Policy, Planning, and Finance from London School of Economics/London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Additional information: He has published articles including one in the Lancet on health worker migration ([http://thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(06\)68346-3/fulltext](http://thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(06)68346-3/fulltext)) and a meta-analysis of urban malaria in Africa in the Malaria Journal (<http://www.malariajournal.com/content/12/1/313>).

Kshem Prasad

Current position: Independent consultant

Previous positions and experience: Dr. Prasad has worked in various technical capacities related to immunisation supply chain. His missions, mandated by WHO or UNICEF, have covered assessments of vaccine supply chain and defining specific recommendations for system strengthening through improvement plans, developing cold chain equipment inventory and multi-year replacement plan, vaccine forecasting, implementing capacity building of mid-level managers, developing user-friendly forms for various reports, developing supply chain related SOPs, and helping to improve immunisation handbooks. He has also been involved in defining and verifying the PQS specifications and equipment pre-qualification.

Areas of expertise: assessments of vaccine supply chain based on EVM, developing comprehensive improvement plans (cIP) and developing cold chain equipment inventory and forecasting, supporting countries to incorporate improvement plans into cMYP and HSS, evaluating and capacity building for solar refrigeration.

Education and degrees: Dr. Prasad holds both a master's degree and a PhD from the University of Neuchatel, Switzerland, with specialization in solar technology.

Additional information: Dr. Prasad has over fifteen years of experience in capacity building and guiding projects that aim to phase out ozone depleting substances, including development of associated technical training materials.

Diana Rivington

Current position: Independent consultant, Senior Fellow in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ottawa

Previous positions and experience: Ms. Rivington was the Director of Human Development and Gender Equality at CIDA, and was responsible for developing CIDA's Action Plan on gender equality to implement the recommendations of the 2008 Evaluation of CIDA's Gender Equality Policy.

Areas of expertise: Gender equality, children's rights

Education and degrees: BA (Political Science), Bishops University, Quebec; Diploma in International Cooperation, University of Ottawa

Additional information: Ms. Rivington participates regularly in international fora focused on women's empowerment, including as Chair of the OECD Working Party on Gender Equality from 1998-2000. She also served on the Canadian delegations to the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994 and to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. During her 2003-2007 posting to the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, Ms. Rivington sat on the Advisory Committee of UNIFEM and on the Governing Bureau of UNICEF and was a key player in Canada's successful involvement in the global effort that created UN Women.

Ousmane Amadou Sy

Current position: Independent consultant

Previous positions and experience: Mr Ousmane Amadou Sy has over 17 years of practical experience in public health financing, grant management, and organizational development, particularly in the African region. In Senegal he has led the Finance and Administration Department of Alliance Nationale Contre le Sida (ANCS), one of the first ISO 9001 certified civil society organizations in Africa. Mr. Sy also worked for nearly 4 years as a Senior Field Support Finance Officer at the International HIV/AIDS Alliance headquarters in Brighton (United Kingdom) providing technical support and financial oversight to field-based grantees in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Morocco, Nigeria and Senegal.

Areas of expertise: strengthening of financial management systems for public health projects, budgeting tools and systems, proposal development, internal controls, and grant management policies and guidelines.

Education and degrees: Diploma of Higher Studies in Accounting / Commerce and Business from the University of Dakar, Senegal

Additional information: Since 2009, Mr. Sy has been among a group of international independent consultants providing technical assistance to principal recipients and country coordinating mechanisms receiving the Global Fund grants to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. This is done through the USAID-funded project GMS (Grant Management Solutions).

Michael Thiede

Current position: Managing director of the Scenarium Group GmbH, a Berlin-based consulting firm specialized in international management and policy consulting around health care and social protection

Previous positions and experience: Dr Thiede is a health economist with a particular focus on health financing as well as programme planning and implementation. He was based in Cape Town until 2008, where he held a post as Associate Professor for Health Economics at the University of Cape Town and was Director of the Health Economics Unit.

Areas of expertise: Theoretical and applied health economics, national and international health policy, and health systems, pharmaceutical markets, procurement and logistics

Education and degrees: Dr. Thiede obtained his PhD in Health Economics from University of Kiel, Germany.

Additional information: Dr. Thiede is widely published on the subject of health economics. Most of his collaborative work has been carried out in sub-Saharan Africa.

Beena Varghese

Current position: Senior Health Economist at the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), since 2007.

Previous positions and experience: Dr. Varghese was a Senior Fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta for six years (1997 to 2003). Prior to her joining PHFI, she worked as the head of health economics team at the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Areas of expertise: Evaluation of maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) interventions; Cost-effectiveness analyses; Research on health system strengthening issues ; Evaluation of HIV/AIDS programs.

Education and degrees: Dr. Varghese has a PhD in Health Economics from the University of Memphis, TN (1997).

Additional information: Her current focus is on costing and evaluation of maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) interventions; analysis of health system level issues in MNCH; improving district level planning process; and developing initiatives to address quality of maternal and newborn care in India. She was a member of technical advisory group for the Maternal Health Task Force, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston.

Charles Shey Wiysonge

Current position: Full Professor and Deputy Director in the Centre for Evidence-based Health Care, Stellenbosch University, South Africa; and Chief Specialist Scientist at the South African Medical Research Council.

Previous positions and experience: Dr. Wiysonge has past experience in strategic planning, implementing, and monitoring of the national Expanded Programme on Immunisation in Cameroon; research, analysis and evaluation of scientific data substantiating the global work of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

Areas of expertise: Vaccinology, systematic reviews, knowledge translation, programme management, teaching, and research.

Education and degrees: Professor Wiysonge holds an MD from the University of Yaoundé I (Cameroon), an MPhil from the University of Cambridge (UK), and a PhD from the University of Cape Town (South Africa). He also undertook postgraduate non-degree training at the UK Cochrane Centre and the University of Oxford, UK.

Additional information: Professor Wiysonge has published more than 100 scientific articles in international peer-reviewed journals which are highly cited and have a wide impact on policy and practice. He is a Member of the Academy of Science of South Africa. In addition, he is a member of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation (SAGE), WHO African Task Force on Immunisation, and the African Advisory Committee on Health Research and Development among other professional groups.