

ASIAN **STIGMA & DISCRIMINATION** FORUM 2020

VIRTUAL | 14 OCTOBER 2020



PROGRAM BOOK



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Needs Statement

Stigma and discrimination can cause major problems for people living with HIV(1,2,3). Not only does it have a negative impact on an individual's (PLWH) daily life and health, but it can also have a serious impact on the public HIV response, treatment, and prevention. HIV stigma has been linked to depression, psychological distress, compromised adherence to therapy, and overall poor treatment outcome and quality of life(4).

It also largely affects timely diagnosis due to a fear of the public perception of an HIV positive status, further increasing a gap in the diagnosis and treatment cascade. People living with HIV often internalize the stigma they experience, which in turn affects their emotional wellbeing and mental health(5). Discrimination and stigma can be experienced at the individual, institutional, community, national, or global level, and it reflects the local societal and cultural context. Reduction requires orchestrated efforts of all relevant stakeholders to develop solutions to solve these issues, and these solutions must be tailored to local epidemiological patterns and context of care. This is one of the main milestones towards elimination of HIV, as HIV stigma presents a barrier to good health care and accessing services. To get to a stronger HIV response overall, we need to understand the causes and implement strategies to reduce stigma and discrimination at the individual, institutional, community, national, and global level. The joint commitment guided by national policies and community involvement is required to eliminate misconceptions, increase awareness, and implement adequate communication and behavioral models to reduce and ultimately eliminate stigma. The triumph of HIV treatment can only truly begin when we can succeed in improving testing and linkage to care. All stakeholders are obligated to take part in this challenge.

HIV is not the only stigmatizing infection. For centuries, stigma has been practiced against those with or thought to be the source of infections. One only needs to think back to leprosy and syphilis, or more recent examples with the Ebola, Zika, and COVID-19 infections to recognize these associations and prejudices. We appear to have not learned that discrimination is unnecessary and harmful. This indicates an urgent unmet need to educate healthcare providers and other relevant stakeholders on how to reduce and eliminate stigma and discrimination associated with people living with HIV. It is vital to establish an educational platform that will provide the necessary tools and knowledge to fight stigma and discrimination. This information will empower and encourage communities to enhance and sustain their response to HIV and achieve the 90-90-90 targets. The "Stigma Discrimination Forum" will meet this need by bringing together healthcare providers, community advocates, policymakers, and other relevant stakeholders to join forces and reduce stigma and discrimination.

Meeting Objectives

- Highlight the issues of stigma and discrimination in different settings and from different perspectives
- Summarize key strategies for the elimination of stigma and discrimination
- Review the scientific data supporting the U=U concept
- Strengthen the HIV care cascade in the Asian region, focusing on local solutions to fight stigma and discrimination

1. UNAIDS data 2018. Available at: www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/unaids-data-2018_en.pdf

2. The People Living With HIV Stigma Index. Available at: www.stigmaindex.org/

3. UNAIDS, 2019. *Global Aids Update 2019. Communities At The Centre.*

4. Tran BX, Phan HT, Latkin CA, et al. *Understanding Global HIV Stigma and Discrimination: Are Contextual Factors Sufficiently Studied? (GAPRESEARCH).* *Int J Environ Res Public Health.* 2019;16(11).

5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *Facts about HIV Stigma.2019* Available at: www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/hiv-stigma/index.html



Practical Information

Certificate of Attendance

Certificates of attendance will be sent by e-mail when you complete the feedback form after the completion of the forum.

Feedback

Your feedback is very valuable to us and enables us to further improve this forum. After the forum, a survey will be sent to you via email, with questions to improve this forum.

Presentations and Webcasts



Webcasts of the presentations along with the PDF presentations will be posted as webcasts on www.AcademicMedicalEducation.com shortly after the meeting.

Social Media

We encourage you to post news about the Asian Stigma & Discrimination forum to your social media accounts and tweet about **#StigmaSeries** as often as you like during the forum. You can either post your own tweet to your followers using the hashtag **#StigmaSeries** or retweet a message through the official **@Virology_Edu** account.

Technical Problems

Should you encounter any technical problems, please contact us at pimm@flexsolutions.services or yukonthon.p@gmail.com.

Time Zones

Times are in Indochina Time (ICT). If you need to convert the times to your time zone, this website might be of interest to you:

<https://www.worldtimebuddy.com/>

Disclaimer: This forum aims to offer participants the opportunity to share information. The Virology Education, cannot accept any liability for the scientific content of the sessions or for any claims which may result from the use of information or publications from this forum. Virology Education disclaim all liability for injuries or losses of whatever nature incurred by individuals attending the forum.

Our Team



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Program



Program

WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER

Times are in Indochina Time (Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam)

Opening Session

- 14:00 **Opening Words**
Mark Nelson, MD, FRCP
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, United Kingdom
Nittaya Phanuphak, MD, PhD
Institute of HIV Research and Innovation, Thailand
- 14:05 **How will Stigma Impact the 90-90-90 Goals**
Adeeba Kamarulzaman, MBBS, FRACP, FASc
University of Malaya, Malaysia
- 14:20 **U = U Science**
Nittaya Phanuphak, MD, PhD
Institute of HIV Research and Innovation, Thailand
- 14:35 **Q&A**

14:45 Break

Session 1 Impact of Stigma on U=U (part 1: Real World Voices)

Chair: Midnight Poonkasetwattana

- 14:55 **What U=U Means for a Person**
Martin Choo, MMedSc
Asia Pacific Council of AIDS Service Organizations, Malaysia
- 15:05 **Online Bullying when a PLHIV Advocates for U=U**
Thitiwatt Sirasejtakorn
Pete Living with HIV, Thailand
- 15:15 **Youth Perspectives on U=U Communications**
Eddy Rudram
Youth LEAD, Thailand
- 15:25 **U=U and Stigma in Transgender Community**
Raine Cortes
Asia Pacific Transgender Network, Thailand
- 15:35 **Discussion**



16:05 **Break**

Session 2 Impact of Stigma on U=U (part 2: Provider and Policy Maker Perspectives)

Chair: Mark Nelson

16:15 **Stigma and ART Uptake and Retention in Asia-Pacific**

Inad Quiñones Rendon

APCOM, Thailand

16:25 **The Clinician**

Wong Chen Seong, MBBS, MRCP (UK), FAMS

National Centre for Infectious Diseases, Singapore

16:35 **The Policy Maker**

Do Huu Thuy, MD, MPH

Vietnam Authority for AIDS Control (VAAC), Ministry of Health, Vietnam

16:45 **Discussion**

Closing Remarks

17:15 **Closing Remarks**

Mark Nelson, MD, FRCP

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, United Kingdom

Nittaya Phanuphak, MD, FRCP

Institute of HIV Research and Innovation, Thailand



Faculty





SPEAKER

MARTIN CHOO

Asia Pacific Council of AIDS Service Organizations, Malaysia

Martin Choo is the Managing Director and Trustee of the Asia Pacific Council of AIDS Service Organizations (APCASO), a Malaysian public limited company and charity licensed by the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs. Martin has been an AIDS activist based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for a decade. He is trained in sociological research and has a Master of Medical Science in Public Health from the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur.

He currently champions the equitable access to mental and sexual healthcare in the Asia Pacific region with community systems interventions that reflect the socio-cultural norms and meet the needs of key populations. Martin has contributed to HIV advocacy at global, regional, national and local levels: He has crafted global policy and guidelines for WHO/UNAIDS; conducted peer-led research on negotiating positive living for the staff association of people living with HIV in the United Nations (UN Plus) and the Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV (APN+); and developed a differentiated service delivery approach to HIV care that minimises attrition from care for the Kuala Lumpur AIDS Support Services Society (KLASS) in Malaysia.

Martin is a member of the WHO Steering Group on HIV Drug Resistance Research Network, and have served on Clinical and Consolidated Guidelines Development Groups on the use of antiretroviral drugs for treating and preventing HIV infection (2019, 2017, 2015), HIV testing services (2015), HIV self-testing (2016), and on HIV drug resistance (2017). Martin believes in, and fights for, equitable and sustainable access to HIV treatment. He has been living with HIV since 2004.

No potential conflict of interest



SPEAKER

RAINE CORTES

Asia Pacific Transgender Network, Thailand

Raine Cortes, a trans woman advocate originally from the Philippines, has a Master's Degree in Health Social Science, and a Bachelor's Degree in Behavioral Sciences major in Organization and Social Systems Development. She has more than 10 years of professional experience in M&E, program, financial, and grant management of HIV and AIDS prevention and control, community systems strengthening, and trans-specific health and rights-focused interventions and research, both country and regional scope.

As Senior Project Manager of the Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTN) based in Bangkok, Thailand, she leads and coordinates four projects including a peer-led rights and social experiences study among trans people and legal gender recognition assessment in Fiji, Samoa, and Papua New Guinea; a capacity building project for trans engagement in all Global Fund processes in 5 Asian countries funded by the CRG-SI; a technical assistance support focused on trans-competent health services to the SKPA Global Fund Multi-country HIV grant in 8 Asian countries, and to the EpiC-KPIF grant under FHI 360 in 6 Asian countries.

No potential conflict of interest



Faculty



SPEAKER

ADEEBA KAMARULZAMAN

University of Malaya,
Malaysia

Adeeba Kamarulzaman is presently the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya. In 2007 she established the Centre of Excellence for Research in AIDS (CERiA) at the University of Malaya to develop and enhance HIV related research activities in Malaysia. CERiA's research efforts focus on key affected populations and transcend clinical, translational as well as public health research.

Professor Kamarulzaman has used her clinical and academic leadership to engage in evidence-based response to the HIV epidemic in Malaysia and the region.

She is presently the President of the International AIDS Society and was recently honoured with a Doctor of Laws honoris causa from her alma mater, Monash University.

No potential conflict of interest



PROGRAM CHAIR

MARK NELSON

Chelsea and Westminster
Hospital,
United Kingdom

Mark Nelson is a consultant physician at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London. He trained at Jesus College, Cambridge and Westminster Hospital medical school from where he qualified in 1986. He was appointed Consultant Physician at this hospital in 1991 where he is presently the professor of HIV medicine at Imperial College Medical School where he is also the senior tutor. Since that time he has built a large HIV practice with a special interest in HIV in patient care, co-infection with hepatitis B and C and the clinical utility of new antiretroviral agents. He has published over 650 papers on HIV and hepatitis.

Professor Nelson has chaired the BHIVA guidelines committee for opportunistic infections and for hepatitis C. He is a member of the Guidelines Committee for Treatment, Malignancy and for HIV transmission. He was previously the chair of the BHIVA hepatitis special interest group and of the BHIVA science and education committee. He is a trustee of several charities associated with HIV. He has been awarded a visiting professorship at the Aga Khan Hospital, Nairobi, Kenya and most recently the certificate of merit by the government of Vietnam.

Potential conflict of interest:

ViiV, Gilead, AbbVie, Mylan, Hetero, and MSD.





REGIONAL CHAIR

NITTAYA PHANUPHAK

Institute of HIV Research and Innovation, Thailand

Nittaya Phanuphak is currently the Executive Director at the Institute of HIV Research and Innovation for Innovation in Bangkok, Thailand. She has deep interest in HIV prevention and key populations (KP), especially around the use of Key Population-Led Health Service (KPLHS) approaches to enhance access to HIV testing, prevention and treatment among men who have sex with men and transgender women. She currently works actively with community and government partners to establish a national technical assistance platform to support the accreditation and legalization of KP lay providers to ensure KPLHS sustainability through domestic financing mechanism.

In 2015, she supported the establishment of the Tangerine Community Health Center at TRCARC using integrated hormone therapy and sexual health service approach to effectively bring almost 3,000 transgender women (TGW) and transgender men into services over a 3-year period. The model is currently being expanded to community-based organizations (CBOs), as well as public and private clinics, working with transgender people in the region.

No potential conflict of interest



SPEAKER

MIDNIGHT POONKASETWATTANA

APCOM, Thailand

Midnight is the Executive Director of APCOM based in Bangkok, working in multi-sectoral partnerships with governments, donors, the United Nations, development partners and most importantly the community and civil society organisations working on advancing SOGIESC rights, and alleviating HIV in Asia Pacific region.

Midnight is a member of various advisory committees, World Health Organisation Global PrEP Coalition and Guidelines Development Group for HIV Testing Services, and ASHM's Regional Advisory Group member leading on Key Populations of the Taskforce on BBVs, Sexual Health and COVID-19.

In 2016 Midnight gave the Closing Plenary Statement at the 2016 High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS at the UN General Assembly.

No potential conflict of interest



Faculty



SPEAKER

INAD QUIÑONES RENDON

APCOM,
Thailand

Inad Rendon is from the Philippines. He identifies himself as a gay man, and openly living with HIV. He works with APCOM as Programmes Officer. He has been with APCOM since 2013.

His role includes overseeing and provide strategic directions to APCOM's portfolio under the programmes unit including (a) research and strategic information; (b) demand generation and behavioral change communication; (c) capacity building and technical assistance; and (d) human rights and SOGIESC.

With a legal background, he also focuses on providing technical assistance to community-based organisations in the countries in relation to advocacy and policy.

No potential conflict of interest



SPEAKER

EDDY RUDRAM

Youth LEAD,
Thailand

Eddy Rudram is from Thailand/UK and is the Communications Officer at Youth LEAD. Eddy joined Youth LEAD in 2018 after completing his Master in International Development from the Global Development Institute at the University of Manchester. Eddy is responsible for managing Youth LEAD's social media presence and works to promote the impact of Youth LEAD's activities.

Eddy develops communications strategies, provides reporting assistance and engages with stakeholders to strengthen partnerships. In his role, Eddy has successfully worked on campaigns with UNICEF ROSA to raise awareness on emerging issues among YKPs in South Asia. In 2019, Eddy co-chaired the IATT (Inter-Agency Task Team) on Young Key Populations Asia Pacific; a collaboration of UN agencies and civil society organisations/networks working on YKPs.

Currently, Eddy is managing the YKP COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund, a grant scheme aimed at supporting youth-led initiatives in the time of COVID-19 for YKPs and YPLHIV across Asia and the Pacific.

No potential conflict of interest





SPEAKER

WONG CHEN SEONG

National Centre for Infectious Diseases, Singapore

Wong Chen Seong is a Consultant physician with the Dept of Infectious Diseases, Tan Tock Seng Hospital, as well as the National Centre for Infectious Diseases, where he is the Head of the Clinical HIV Programme, and the Deputy Director of the National HIV Programme.

His clinical and research interests are in HIV medicine, including HIV treatment and prevention, and the sociobehavioural determinants of HIV and other STIs.

He is also actively involved in medical education and training, and is the Programme Director for the National Healthcare Group Infectious Diseases Residency Programme, in addition to his appointment as Adjunct Assistant Professor with the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore.

No potential conflict of interest



SPEAKER

THITIWATT SIRASEJTAKORN

Pete Living with HIV, Thailand

Thitiwatt Sirasejtakorn is independently advocating as a person living with HIV. He has disclosed to the public and since then he has been sharing his life-story to help others “Live with HIV with Happiness”.

Since he disclosed his HIV status, he has shared his story through TV programs, news, and websites. His name for being an advocate is “Pete Living with HIV”

No potential conflict of interest





SPEAKER

Do Huu Thuy

Vietnam Authority for AIDS Control (VAAC), Ministry of Health, Vietnam

Dr Do Huu Thuy is a Medical doctor and working for more than 15 years for the Vietnam Authority for AIDS Control (VAAC), Ministry of Health of Vietnam. He graduated at Thai Binh Medical University in 1988.

Before working for VAAC, he specialized and worked as a Gynecologist and Obstetrician in the field of maternal child health care and family planning.

In 1999, he graduated MPH in University of the Philippines, Manila and then continued to work for the field of maternal child health care and family planning as well as in the field of health education and communication.

He was the Head of Communication and Community Mobilization Department for many years and at present, he is the Deputy Chief of Prevention Department, Vietnam Authority for AIDS Control; Ministry of Health. He has also been assigned as the focal point of stigma, discrimination program and U=U activities of VAAC. With this position, he is activity involved in the field of HIV-related stigma, discrimination programs and U=U movement activities especially in the HIV-related stigma and discrimination in healthcare setting.

No potential conflict of interest



LATIN AMERICAN **STIGMA & DISCRIMINATION** FORUM 2020

VIRTUAL | 28 OCTOBER 2020



AFRICAN **STIGMA & DISCRIMINATION** FORUM 2020

VIRTUAL | 11 NOVEMBER 2020



Registration to both forums is complimentary for all academic registrants including representatives from universities, hospitals, other educational institutes, NGOs, and government agencies.

Latin American Stigma & Discrimination Forum: <https://virology.eventsair.com/stigmalatam2020/registration>

African Stigma & Discrimination Forum: <https://virology.eventsair.com/stigaf/registration>



CORPORATE SUPPORT



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