

Amsterdam Public Health: Global Health Section Symposium



Challenges and Realistic Solutions to Migrant Health Burden in Europe

12th June, 2019

Europe has diversified ethnically because of international migration. Approximately 10% of the European population is currently estimated to be migrants. In some urban centres such as Amsterdam, the figure can be up to 30%. Migration is a double edged sword. On one hand, migration has many positive aspects e.g. improvement of migrants' socioeconomic circumstances, provision of a safety net from persecution and violence; and migrants' massive social and economic contribution to both the destination countries and their countries of origin. On the other hand, migrants remain vulnerable in many respects particularly in terms of poor health. Keeping migrants healthy is in the best interest of both destination countries and the countries of origin because of the massive bi-directional contribution they make towards them. Sadly, migrant health still remained under-researched.

In Europe, progress has been made in the last few decades especially in characterising the health burden among migrants. However, many challenges remain including developing realistic and achievable clinical and public health policy solutions to the burden particularly for chronic non-communicable diseases. Addressing this critical niche is crucial for improving and sustaining the health of migrants in Europe.

This symposium is being organised by **APH-Global Health Section**, addresses this issue head-on by bringing together leading scholars and policy makers in Europe to discuss the challenges and set priorities for realistic and achievable solutions for migrant health burden in Europe. The symposium will be composed of three key note lectures by leading scholars in the field of migration, ethnicity and health including *Prof. Raj Bhopal (University of Edinburgh)*, *Prof. Allan Krasnik (University of Copenhagen)* & *Prof. Karien Stronks (Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam)*.

Following the keynote lectures, a *Round Table Discussion* will be carried with the keynote speakers and leading scholars and policy makers including *Prof. Maria van den Muijsenbergh (University of Nijmegen)*, *Prof. Ama de-Graft Aikins (University College London)*, & *Dr Santino Severoni (Public Health and Migration, WHO Regional Office for Europe)*.

This will be followed by the inaugural lecture of *Prof. Charles Agyemang*, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam entitled 'Healthy Migrants, Healthy Society'.

VENUE: Singelkerk (Doopsgezind Amsterdam): Singel 452, 1017 AW Amsterdam

Programme

12th June, 2019: 09:00-18.00

9.00 – 10.00: *Registration with coffee and tea*

10.00 –10.15: *Welcome address* Prof. Frank Cobelens, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam & Prof. Jacqueline Broerse, VU University Amsterdam

10.15-10.30: *Opening address* Prof. Anton Kunst, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam

10.30-12.00: Plenary program with international and national speakers

10.30-11.00: *Challenge of understanding the causes of, and tackling, chronic diseases among migrant and ethnic minority groups in Europe: the example of South Asians.* Prof. Raj Bhopal, University of Edinburgh

11.00–11.30: *Challenges and realistic solutions to the health problems of refugees and asylum seekers in Europe.* Prof. Allan Krasnik, University of Copenhagen

11.30-12.00: *Migrant health as an emergent property of human interactions in a wider societal context.* Prof. Karien Stronks, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam

12.00-12.30: *Lunch*

12.30 – 13.00: *Poster session*

13.00–14.00: *Round Table discussion* Prof. Charles Agyemang, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam with:

Prof. Maria van den Muijsenbergh, University of Nijmegen

Prof. Ama de-Graft Aikins, University College London

Dr Santino Severoni, Public Health and Migration, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Prof. Allan Krasnik, University of Copenhagen

Prof. Karien Stronks, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam

Prof. Raj Bhopal, University of Edinburgh

14:00–14.15: *Wrap up & Closing remarks* Prof. Frank Cobelens, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam & Prof. Jacqueline Broerse, VU University Amsterdam

14:15–14.45: *Coffee & Tea*

14.45-15.50 – *Travel to Aula - Oude Lutherse kerk, Singel 411, Amsterdam for Inaugural Lecture*

16.00-17.00: *Inaugural lecture – Healthy Migrants, Healthy Society* – Prof. Charles Agyemang, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam.

17.00-18.00: *Drinks*

18.00: *Programme closed*

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About the Keynote Speakers and discussants

Professor Raj Bhopal



Prof. Dr. Raj Bhopal was born in India, brought up in Glasgow and studied medicine in Edinburgh University. He is a medically qualified Professor of Public Health in Edinburgh University, holding the John Usher Chair of Public health and the post of honorary consultant in public health with NHS Lothian until May 2018. He is now emeritus professor of public health. Before this, he held posts including Professor of Public Health and Epidemiology at Newcastle University, and prior to that Lecturer in Public Health at Glasgow University. His established, published books include Concepts of Epidemiology and Migration, Ethnicity, race and Health (both By Oxford University Press). He has a new book explaining why heart disease, stroke and diabetes are so common in South Asian people to be published by OUP in February 2019 (Epidemic of Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes: Explaining the Phenomenon in South Asians Worldwide). In this regard, Raj is a patron of the charity, the South Asian Health Foundation. He has published on many aspects of public health epidemiology, with about 300 research and scholarly papers. He has served on numerous high-level health committees, been the leader of many research projects, and taking on leadership roles in the NHS. He was the leader of the 19th World Congress of Epidemiology 2011, and is leading the first World Congress on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health in 2018, both congresses being in Edinburgh. Raj has enjoyed several honours and prizes, most notably being appointed CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in 2001.

Professor Allan Krasnik



Prof. Dr. Allan Krasnik is an MD, specialized in Public Health. He had his Master of Public Health from Hebrew University and has a PhD degree from the University of Copenhagen. He is Professor of Health Services Research at this university and works as a senior researcher at the Danish Research Center for Migration, Ethnicity and Health in the Department of Public Health. He was until recently President of the Section of Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health in the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) and he is a member of a number of international committees related to projects and programs within migrant health and health services research. His research has since 1972 been focusing on health care reforms, migrant and ethnic minority health, healthy ageing and equity in access and use of health services and he has been involved in a number of international, comparative studies as well as Danish research. He has published more than 200 scientific articles on these subjects and is presently leading a large Nordic project on health and welfare among children and adolescents with a migrant background.

Professor Karien Stronks



Prof. Dr. Karien Stronks holds a master in health sciences and political sciences. She is now professor of Public Health at the Amsterdam UMC, location AMC, department of Public Health. She was trained as an epidemiologist and obtained her PhD (1997) at the Department of Public Health at the Erasmus University, Rotterdam. Her research relates to health inequalities in Europe, with special interest in strategies to effectively combat socioeconomic inequalities in health in real-world situations, and ethnic inequalities in cardiovascular

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health. She acts as principal investigator on a large number of projects, among which the HELIUS study on ethnic inequalities in cardiovascular health, and the EuroDHYAN study on the prevention of diabetes mellitus type 2 in South Asian populations in Europe. She works closely with several departments in the AMC and at other Dutch and European universities, as well as with the Amsterdam municipal health service.

Professor Ama de-Graft Aikins



Prof. Dr. Ama de-Graft Aikins is Professor of Social Psychology and Dean of International Programmes at the University of Ghana (UG). She received her PhD in Social Psychology from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and completed postdoctoral training at the University of Cambridge. Her research and publications focus on experiences and representations of chronic physical and mental illnesses, developing community-based interventions for chronic conditions and Africa's chronic non-communicable disease (NCD) burden. She has led, and participated in, funded interdisciplinary NCD research projects based in Ghana and Europe with colleagues from UG, University of Amsterdam, New York University (NYU), London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). She is one of a first cohort of 10 global scholars awarded the prestigious British Academy Global Professorship in 2018. Her project, titled *Chronicity and Care in African Contexts*, will be based at University College London. Blending longitudinal social psychological research on chronic illness experiences and care among West African communities in London and public engagement activities, the project aims to address diaspora Africa's disproportionate burden of chronic diseases through a "whole-of-society" approach.

Professor Maria van den Muijsenbergh



Prof. Dr. Maria van den Muijsenbergh is general practitioner and researcher at the department of Primary and Community care at Radboud University Medical Centre and at Pharos, the Dutch centre of expertise on health disparities. Her chair on "health disparities and person centered integrated primary care" focusses on the possible contribution of (primary) healthcare in reducing existing socio-economic and ethnic health disparities, and how healthcare best can be tailored to the needs of patients with limited health literacy and of migrants. Hence she is involved in national and international community oriented research projects and has ample experience in participatory research with these groups in the EU – funded projects RESTORE, EUR-HUMAN and Oramma, projects with low literate and migrant patients with chronic stress in primary care, and on palliative care and shared decision making. Besides she is involved in undergraduate, post-graduate and vocational education for doctors, nurses and other medical professionals on health disparities, and person centred integrated care for migrants and persons with low health literacy. She was one of the initiators of the Radboud University Network On Migrant Inclusion RUNOMI.

Dr Santino Severoni



Dr. Severoni he is Coordinator Public Health and Migration and area programme manager, Division of Policy and Governance for Health and Well-being at the WHO Regional Office for Europe. Since 2000 he has held senior positions at the World

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Health Organization European Office. He is a medical doctor, health economist, epidemiologist and experienced system management. He has over 24 years of experience as international senior technical advisor and executive, and has worked for, governments, multilateral organizations, NGOs and foundations in Eastern Africa, Balkans, Central Asia and Europe. During his professional career he has dedicated his work to global health with particular focus to health sector reforms, health system strengthening, health diplomacy, aid coordination/effectiveness, management of complex emergencies and since 2011 coordinating the public health aspect of migration work for the WHO Regional Office for Europe. In 2010 he moved to the WHO Regional Office for EURO in Copenhagen as the Regional Adviser on Strategic Relation with Countries. In 2011 with the crises in Northern Africa and the massive migration phenomenon to South Europe he was appointed as Regional Director's Special Representative for health and migration. Since 2013 he is leading the Public Health and Migration programme in the WHO Regional Office for Europe, Division of Policy and Governance for Health and Well-being. Dr Severoni has written many scientific articles, book chapters, has given interviews and participated to various TV and Radio Broadcasts related to Public Health aspect of migration both in Italian and International networks.

Prof. Charles Agyemang



Prof. Dr. Charles Agyemang is a 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 Master degree at Edinburgh University Medical School. His research is focused on ethnic inequalities in cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) and NCDs in low- and middle-income countries. Prof. Agyemang has about 20 years research experience has authored/co-authored over 250 published papers, and edited several books. He is a project leader of the RODAM project – 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. Prof. Agyemang is currently the Vice President of the Migrant Health section of the European Public health Association. He is an Associate Editor for BMC Public Health and Internal and Emergency Medicine, and serves as an Editorial Board member for several journals. He is member of the WHO taskforce on NCDs in Migrant and was a member and a rapporteur of the Planning Committee for WHO Global Consultation on Migrant Health