



APH Global Health



Migrant Health: screening and prevention

Symposium programme

Date: 24 October 2024, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Location: Amsterdam UMC, AMC Costerzaal, Meibergdreef 9, Amsterdam

Registration: [Register here](#) (Admission is free and open to the public)

Accreditation: Accreditation has been applied for from the Accreditatie Bureau Algemene Nascholing (ABAN).

Background

Around 3.6% of the global population (281 million) are international migrants, distinguished by their heterogeneous health needs, which can be determined by biological factors, circumstances around departure and arrival, their journeys, and their socioeconomic and legal circumstances. There has been an increasing research interest to better describe and define health needs and care access of migrants, as well as to define effective interventions in screening and prevention. Traditionally such efforts have been informed by health security concerns and therefore focussed on infectious diseases, for example in migrant screening at international borders. However, an improved understanding of migrants' wider health needs will allow a shift of focus to disease prevention and use screening interventions for the benefit of individuals and society. This symposium aims to summarise and discuss the evidence of disease burden alongside prevention and screening programmes for migrants.

Objectives

- To provide an overview of health and illness among migrants globally.
- To sketch out and discuss opportunities for disease prevention among migrants.
- To discuss current and potential future migrant screening programmes and their role in disease control programmes, in The Netherlands and beyond.
- To explore health service-related issues in Migrant Health.



Target audience

Researchers from within the Amsterdam Public Health Institute as well as practitioners working in public health and migrant health in the Netherlands.

Programme

Chair: Prof. Frank Cobelens, Amsterdam UMC

14:00	Health and disease in migrants - an outline of epidemiology and possible interventions	Prof. Ibrahim Abubakar <i>University College London, UK</i>
14:20	Cardiometabolic diseases in migrants: opportunities in prevention	Prof. Charles Agyemang <i>Amsterdam UMC</i>
14:40	Migrant tuberculosis screening	Dr Dominik Zenner <i>Amsterdam UMC and Queen Mary University of London, UK</i>
15:00	Short break	
15:10	Screening for viral hepatitis and HIV in migrants	Dr Marieke van der Werf <i>European Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Sweden</i>
15:30	Migrant screening in The Netherlands: challenges and opportunities	Em. Prof. Maria van den Muijsenbergh <i>Radboud University, Nijmegen</i>
15:50	Discussion	
16:10	Drinks	

About the speakers and their talk

Prof. Ibrahim Abubakar

Ibrahim Abubakar is the Pro-Provost for Health and Dean, Faculty of Population Health Sciences the University College London. He is a Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology. He was Head of Tuberculosis at Public Health England and previously served as the Chair of the World Health Organization Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Tuberculosis until 2019. Dr. Abubakar is the Chair of Lancet Migration, the Lancet Nigeria Commission and the NIHR Global Professorship Panel. He was a Scientific Adviser to the UK House of Lords Science of COVID-19 Review in 2020. Until July 2021, he was the Director of the UCL Institute for Global Health.

Professor Abubakar qualified in Medicine from Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, and gained an MSc from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, a Diploma in Public





Health from the University of Cambridge, and a PhD from the University of East Anglia. He is a Fellow of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences, the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and a UK NIHR Senior Investigator.

Health and disease in migrants - an outline of epidemiology and possible interventions

Migration and health is one of the defining issues of our time. It brings our focus to global inequalities in access to health care, climate change and the wider political and economic determinants of health. My presentation will focus on recent epidemiological research, a systematic review and meta-analysis on mortality outcomes in migrants (Aldridge 2018) and proposed interventions to improve migrant health. I will present the current evidence on health of people who migrate and how it depends on structural and political factors: the impetus for migration, the condition of their journey, and their destination. I will consider the work of the Lancet Commission on Migration and Health, and our 5-year Commission update report, to articulate evidence-based approaches to inform public discourse and policy on migration and health. In particular, I will focus on the current challenges including displacement from conflict, lessons from the covid-19 pandemic and climate change and its impact on health in countries of origin.

I will argue that we need effective political leadership to positively and effectively address the health of migrants by improving leadership and accountability and address global moral failure. In particular, we need to advocate for universal and equitable access to health services and attaining high standards of health within the scope of UHC and interventions to enable migrants to obtain effective healthcare (eg portable health records). We also need to ensure that we have robust high-quality data on migration and health in order for us to shape our policies to improve healthcare access and meet the future needs of this vulnerable population.

Prof. Charles Agyemang

Prof. Charles Agyemang is a Professor of Global Migration, Ethnicity and Health and Principal Investigator at Amsterdam University Medical Centres, University of Amsterdam; and an Adjunct Professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA. Prof. Agyemang is currently the Vice President of the Migrant Health section & Secretary of the Governing Council of the European Public Health Association; Scientific Chair of the Global Society of Migration, Ethnicity, Race & Health; a member of the US National Academy of Medicine, European Academy, The Lancet Racial Equality Advisory Board, & World Health Organisation taskforce on NCDs in Migrants. His research is focused on ethnic inequalities in health and non-communicable diseases (NCD) in LMICs. He is the PI of European Commission and European Research Council funded projects such as RODAM study, Pros-RODAM study (www.rod-am.eu) and Generation-H study (<https://www.generationh.org/>). Prof.



Prof. Agyemang is a highly productive scholar with over 400 research articles, reviews and book chapters. He serves as a member on several scientific advisory boards. He is Section Editor for Journal of the American Heart Association (JAHA), an Associate Editor for Internal and Emergency Medicine, and serves as Guest Editor and Editorial Board member for several



journals. Prof. Agyemang is passionate about training the next generation of scientists and health leaders, and he has trained and mentored several undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students worldwide.

Cardiometabolic diseases in migrants: opportunities for prevention

In the last few decades, the number of international migrants has increased exponentially. Maintaining good health upon migration remains one of the important challenges that migrant populations face. This lecture will discuss cardiometabolic disease burden, risk factors and potential culturally sensitive interventions among migrants with major focus in Europe. Examples will be drawn from the HELIUS and the RODAM studies.

Dr Dominik Zenner

Dominik works as Infectious Disease Epidemiologist in Queen Mary University and as General Practitioner in East London. Previously he worked as migration health advisor for IOM and consultant epidemiologist in the national TB section, Public Health England. He helped develop the TB strategy for England and rolled out latent TB screening and lead on health aspects of the UK refugee programme and UK pre-entry screening. He has academic and strategic interest in infectious disease epidemiology and migration health, with high impact publications and prizes. His work has informed national and international policy.



Migrant TB screening

The WHO End TB strategy with its ambitious targets has led to a renewed focus on global TB control, widening eligible groups for TB and TB infection screening and creating considerable member state interest. Many low incidence countries offer TB screening for migrants, however these programmes vary significantly between in their setting, target groups, screening algorithms and other modalities. This talk will summarise the current TB screening landscape and present recent evidence for TB screening programmes among migrants.

Dr Marieke van der Werf

Dr. Marieke J. van der Werf is head of section sexually transmitted infections, blood-borne viruses and tuberculosis at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in Stockholm. She coordinates European Union guidance development, surveillance, and training on sexual transmitted infections, blood-borne viruses, tuberculosis, and substances of human origin. She (co-)authored over 150 articles in international peer-reviewed journals and participated in the work of international policy advisory groups and guidance developments groups from the World Health Organization and other organizations.



Screening for viral hepatitis and HIV in migrants

A substantial proportion of hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV cases are reported as imported in the European Union and European Economic Area (EU/EEA). The European Centre for



Disease Prevention and Control assessed the evidence for screening of newly arrived migrants and developed recommendations in 2018. The ECDC monitoring programmes for HIV and hepatitis B and C regularly assess whether countries have HIV prevention and testing policies and hepatitis B and C testing policies that include migrants. Even though recommendations for testing for HIV and hepatitis B and C have been in place since 2018, countries report restrictions for HIV testing for undocumented migrants. Furthermore, only 3 of 30 EU/EEA countries reported having a policy or programme including testing all migrant groups for hepatitis B and 2 had such a policy of programme for hepatitis C. When screening is implemented, it should be voluntary, confidential, non-stigmatising and carried out for the benefit of the individual and a positive screening test should be followed with referral, and linkage to care and treatment for all individuals who require it.

Em. Prof. Maria van den Muijsenbergh

Maria van den Muijsenbergh worked 40 years as a general practitioner in a practice with many migrant patients. As professor on health disparities and person centred primary care she studied how healthcare and services can best tailored to the needs of migrant patients, in order to achieve equity in access and quality of care.



Migrant screening in The Netherlands: challenges and opportunities

Despite higher risks for certain infectious diseases and a.o. cervical cancer, migrant patients are less involved in health screening activities than other patients in the Netherlands. This is due to barriers related to the healthcare system as well as by barriers faced by healthcare providers and migrants. In this lecture I will summarize these barriers and provide examples and suggestions how to overcome these barriers, how to tailor information and programmes to the needs of migrant patients and how to train and support healthcare providers to play an active role in this.