

50<sup>th</sup>



**RSTMH**

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# Topics in Infection: 50 years in Clinical Infection

**Friday 31 January 2025, 8:45AM - 6:25PM GMT**

**Event Venue: Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish  
Square, London W1G 0RN**

## About RSTMH

The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene is a charity and membership society that has been dedicated to improving tropical medicine and global health since 1907. Our ambition is to save lives and improve health around the world through increased access to and greater equity in global healthcare.

Through our activities we help further our members and Fellows careers. We also harness their collective knowledge and expertise to achieve change within the sector. Our members and Fellows, based in over 100 countries, are at all stages of their careers, across a multitude of disciplines, and from a range of sectors.

### Become a member today!

Support our work and be part of a community that helps to save lives and improve health around the world. Member benefits include:

- Being part of a tropical medicine and global health community
- Discounts for RSTMH events and access to travel scholarships, **including up to a £70 discount on Topics in Infection!**
- Access to our peer-reviewed journal, *Transactions*
- Professional networking and opportunities for collaboration
- Eligibility to nominate and be nominated for RSTMH Medals and Awards
- Access to the RSTMH Members Area with exclusive content, announcements, and offers
- A 10% discount on open access fees for our journals *International Health* and *Transactions*
- Eligibility to apply to our Country Ambassador and Student Ambassador programmes
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- Enhancements to your professional knowledge
- Opportunities to share your expertise and learn from established experts in the field
- A fortnightly newsletter that contains exclusive news and opportunities for our members
- A 25% discount on thousands of Oxford University Press books
- Supporting RSTMH's vision and governance through our work towards identifying areas within the sector where our knowledge, networks and collective expertise can achieve change

Please email our Membership Manager, Nell Dasso ([nell.dasso@rstmh.org](mailto:nell.dasso@rstmh.org)), today to receive **15% off** any membership type or to learn more about RSTMH.

## Topics in Infection: 50 years in Clinical Infection: Event Feedback

Your feedback on the event is very much valued and helps us plan for future events. Please fill out the post-event survey by scanning the QR code. Alternatively, we will be sending through a link in our follow up email.



## Sign up to our newsletter

Sign up to the RSTMH newsletter for the latest news and updates in the world of tropical medicine and global health, as well as the latest blogs, news and opportunities from RSTMH.



## Publish in our journals!



***Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (TRSTMH)*** publishes authoritative and impactful original, peer-reviewed articles, reviews, opinion pieces and correspondence on all aspects of tropical medicine.

***International Health*** publishes original, peer-reviewed articles, reviews, opinion pieces and correspondence on all aspects of global health – including the social and economic aspects of communicable and non-communicable diseases, health systems research, policy and implementation, and the evaluation of disease control programmes and healthcare delivery solutions.

Both journals benefit from:

- Rigorous, constructive, fast & fair peer review
- Support from a renowned, global, and authoritative Editorial Board
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- Online publication within approx. 20 days of acceptance by the Journal
- Compliance with the major funding body requirements for open access publication
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- Options for funding support through our Read and Publish agreements
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- Alternative article-level metrics (Altmetrics) illustrates how the community engages with your article and can facilitate networking, readership, and additional attention to your research

For more information about our journals, please email our Managing Editor, Tom Pinfield ([Thomas.pinfield@rstmh.org](mailto:Thomas.pinfield@rstmh.org)).

## Topics in Infection: 50 years in Clinical Infection Programme

08:45 - 09:05	<b>Registration</b>
09:05	Welcome and introduction <b>Tamar Ghosh</b> , Chief Executive, <i>Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene</i> <b>Session 1</b> , Chaired by <b>Professor Rick Holliman</b>
09:10	50 years of public health interventions to reduce infections <b>Professor Sir Chris Whitty</b> , Chief Medical Officer for England and chief medical adviser to the UK government, Consultant NHS physician at UCLH and The Hospital for Tropical Diseases
09:50	Microbiology through the Ages <b>Professor Armine Sefton</b> , Emeritus Professor of Clinical Microbiology at Queen Mary, University of London
10:30	<b>Refreshments and networking</b> <b>Session 2</b> , Chaired by <b>Dr Gee Yen Shin</b> , Consultant Virologist, University College London Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, London
10:50	Avian flu and risks to human health: from geese in Guangdong in 1997 to US cows in 2024 <b>Professor Nicola Lewis</b> , Director of the Worldwide Influenza Centre and the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Response Francis Crick Institute and Professor in One Health Evolutionary Biology at the Royal Veterinary College
11:30	From crisis to control: reflections on four decades of HIV therapeutic advances <b>Professor Anna Maria Geretti</b> , University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy and North Middlesex University Hospital, London, UK
12:10	Medical Mycology: Past and Future Challenges <b>Professor Tom Rogers</b> , Emeritus Professor, Clinical Microbiology, Trinity College Dublin
12:50	<b>Lunch</b> <b>Session 3</b> , Chaired by <b>Professor Rohini Manuel</b> , Consultant Medical Microbiologist at the UK Health Security Agency
13:50	Experiences in clinical infection globally through the last 50 years <b>Professor David Heymann</b> , Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at LSHTM and a Distinguished Fellow at the Centre on Universal Health at Chatham House, London
14:30	The changing landscape of Mosquito-borne diseases in the UK & continental Europe in the era of global warming <b>Dr Jolyon Medlock</b> , Medical Entomologist at the UK Health Security Agency, Porton Down

- 15:10 Infection Surveillance: from 50 years ago to 50 years in the future  
**Professor Robin May**, Chief Scientific Adviser at the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and Professor of Infectious Disease at the University of Birmingham
- 15:50 Refreshments and networking**
- Session 4**, Chaired by **Martina Cummins** Clinical Director Infection Prevention & Control at Barts Health NHS Trust
- 16:10 Tuberculosis: Can past lessons help with the challenges of today?  
**Dr John Moore-Gillon**, Consultant Physician Emeritus, St Bartholomew's Hospital
- 16:50 What's new in the world of viral haemorrhagic fevers  
**Dr Jake Dunning**, Consultant and Hon. Clinical Associate Professor in Infectious Diseases at the Royal Free Hospital, London
- 17:30 Summation and close  
**Tamar Ghosh**, Chief Executive, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
- 17:35 – 18:30 Networking and drinks reception**



## Chair Biographies

**Dr Gee Yen Shin**, Consultant Virologist, University College London Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, London

Dr Shin is a consultant virologist at UCLH NHS Foundation Trust in London. He is the Health Services Laboratories (HSL) consultant lead for virology. Prior to joining UCLH, Dr Shin worked for Public Health England in London. He is a member of the UK Advisory Committee for Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP). His interests include emerging infectious diseases, public health virology, infection prevention and control, medical ethics and global/planetary health.



**Martina Cummins**, Clinical Director Infection Prevention & Control at Barts Health NHS Trust

Martina Cummins has been a driving leadership force in the field of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) for over 25 years. Martina qualified as a nurse in 1991 and following a clinical career primarily in critical care nursing, moved into the field of infection prevention and control in 1999. Martina has worked in several nurse specialist, management, and nurse consultant roles in the specialty and was appointed to the role of Clinical Director, Infection Prevention and Control at Bart's Health NHS Trust in December 2014.

Martina has led the development of a dynamic IPC team at Barts Health NHS Trust and championed a robust approach to IPC that impacts directly on patient safety. She worked tirelessly to standardise clinical IPC practice across one of the largest healthcare trusts in the country, ensuring its visibility from ward to Board.

Throughout her career she has been a key leadership voice for IPC, providing insights into the frontline experience which has informed regional and national policy and practice. Martina has contributed to the many aspects of the infection prevention and control vision, strategy and body of knowledge. Martina was awarded a prestigious honorary contract as Consultant Nurse with Public Health England [PHE] (now the UK Health Security Agency [UKHSA]) in 2015 and has made major contributions to a number of national (Ebola, Zika Virus, Candida auris) and regional incidents (invasive Group A streptococcus); in addition, she leads and supports clinical peer reviews of external organisations and outbreak investigations.

Martina has been highly active in provision of scientific evidence to inform government policy as a core member of the national Mycobacterium chimeara Incident Management Team and the national Candida auris Incident Management Team. In 2022, Martina was recognised for her hard work, dedication and commitment to Infection Prevention & Control and her profession, she was presented with the prestigious Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) Gold Award. These national awards recognise a lifetime achievement for nurses and midwives.



### **Professor Rick Holliman**

Rick Holliman studied medicine at St Mary's Hospital Medical School. After qualification, he completed his specialist training in Medical Microbiology at hospitals across London, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Stanford University. Subsequently, he took up a consultant post at St George's Hospital & Medical School where he developed specialist interests in infections of the immune compromised and toxoplasmosis. Later he became the Health Protection Agency Regional Microbiologist for London and Professor of Public Health Microbiology, University of London. He has served on several government advisory committees and worked overseas in countries such as Brazil, Ghana, Romania, South Africa and

USA. He retired in 2016 but returned to clinical work temporarily during the COVID pandemic.



### **Professor Rohini Manuel, Consultant Medical Microbiologist at the UK Health Security Agency**

Professor Manuel is a Consultant Medical Microbiologist at the UK Health Security Agency and at Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust. Rohini has a keen interest in healthcare associated fungal outbreaks/incidents and is a peer-reviewer for NHS England. She is currently Chair of the English Surveillance Programme for Antimicrobial Utilisation and Resistance (ESPAUR) Antifungal Subgroup. She is an Editor for the Oxford Textbook in Medical Mycology and was a Trustee of the British Society for Medical Mycology. She is a Senior Examiner in Medical Microbiology at the Royal College of Pathologists and a module coordinator for the MSc in Medical Mycology at the University of Exeter. She has

contributed to the development of the next UK Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) National Action Plan (2025 to 2029) as a member of the AMR subgroup of the Food Standards Agency's Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food. Rohini's special interest is in continuous quality improvement and patient safety, and she is Chair of the UK National External Quality Assessment Scheme (UK NEQAS) for Microbiology Steering Committee. She has authored > 80 publications.



## Speaker Biographies



**Professor Anna Maria Geretti**, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy and North Middlesex University Hospital, London, UK

Professor Anna Maria Geretti (MD, PhD, FRCPath, DHMSA) is a medical virologist with extensive experience in clinical, academic, and pharmaceutical research settings. She holds a professorship in infectious diseases at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy and practices at the North Middlesex University Hospital in London. Anna Maria also serves as editor-in-chief of Sexually Transmitted Infections, a journal of the BMJ Group, and chairs the immunisation guidelines panel of the British HIV Association (BHIVA). With over 300 publications and an H-index of 66, her research spans laboratory, clinical, and epidemiological studies, including collaborations with the WHO

and projects in Africa. Much of her work focuses on HIV, contributing to advancements in antiretroviral therapies, resistance monitoring, and diagnostics. Recently, Anna Maria earned a diploma in the history of medicine, highlighting her belief that insights from past medical challenges hold valuable lessons for shaping innovations in infectious disease care. Her lecture will reflect on the many scientific advances that, through four decades, fostered the shift of HIV care from a public health crisis to a controllable condition.



**Professor Armine Sefton**, Professor of Clinical Microbiology at Queen Mary, University of London

Armine Sefton trained in general medicine and infectious disease before entering microbiology. In 2003 she became Professor of Medical Microbiology at Barts and the London and remained there until she retired from full-time practice in 2015. Subsequently she returned to work part-time at her local hospital, Princess Alexandra, Harlow where, largely due to Covid, she remained working for six years. She retired for the second time in April 2023 in order to spend more time with her family, her horses and travelling but she continues to provide occasional microbiology cover at both her local and other hospitals.

Throughout her career, Armine maintained a major interest in education both at the undergraduate and postgraduate level. She was course director of the MSc in Clinical Microbiology at Barts and the London for over 20 years and at various times acted as an external examiner at the Royal Free/ UCH, Guys kings and Thomas's, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical medicine, Trinity college Dublin and the University of Kuwait. She chaired the London Microbiology STC for eight years and was chair of the Microbiology RCPATHology examination panel for four.

Armine's research interests were always in areas of direct or potential clinical relevance. Her MD was on endocarditis prophylaxis but she soon began to develop an increasing interest in respiratory pathogens and co-supervised two successful PhDs in this area. She was involved in research with Professor John Oxford trying to discover the cause of the 1918 flu pandemic which involved her attending the occasional exhumation and being lowered underground to obtain samples. Having had four Infection doctors from the Armed Forces attend the MSc she organised at Barts and the London, she became interested in Biological

Defence and for several years performed collaborative research with Lt. Colonel Tim Brooks at Porton Down on anti-infectives suitable for both post-exposure prophylaxis and early treatment of potential agents of biological warfare. In 2006, she spent three months doing a sabbatical at the Genomics and Proteomics Unit at HPA Colindale which resulted in a project between the clinical laboratory at Barts and the London and the Genomics/Proteomics Unit at the HPA looking at the then new technique, MALDI-TOF-MS of intact cells, for rapid identification of clinical isolates.



**Professor Sir Chris Whitty**, Chief Medical Officer for England and chief medical adviser to the UK government, Consultant NHS physician at UCLH and The Hospital for Tropical Diseases. Professor Sir Chris Whitty is a physician and epidemiologist who works in public health, science policy and clinical medicine. He is currently Chief Medical Officer for England and chief medical adviser to the UK government, Consultant NHS physician at UCLH and The Hospital for Tropical Diseases. He was previously Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA), Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), Professor of Public and International Health at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Director of the Malaria Centre. Other previous roles include leading the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and CSA and director of research at the Department for International

Development (DFID).



**Professor David Heymann**, Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at LSHTM and a Distinguished Fellow at the Centre on Universal Health at Chatham House, London David Heymann is a medical doctor and epidemiologist, and Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at LSHTM. From 1989 to 2009 he held various leadership positions in infectious diseases at WHO, and in 2003 headed the WHO global response to SARS in his role as executive director of communicable diseases. In 1976, after spending two years working in India on smallpox eradication, he was a member of the CDC (Atlanta) team to investigate the first Ebola outbreak in DRC and stayed on in sub-Saharan Africa for 13 years in various field research positions on Ebola, monkeypox, Lassa Fever, malaria and other tropical diseases after which he was seconded

by CDC to WHO. He has published over 275 peer reviewed articles and book chapters, is editor of the Control of Communicable Diseases Manual, and is an elected member of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences and the US National Academy of Medicine. In 2009 he was named an Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for services to global health.



**Dr Jake Dunning**, Consultant and Hon. Clinical Associate Professor in Infectious Diseases at the Royal Free Hospital, London

Dr Jake Dunning is Consultant and Hon. Clinical Associate Professor in Infectious Diseases at the Royal Free Hospital, London, where he leads the HCID service and the High-Level Isolation Unit. He is also Director of NHS England's Contact HCID Network, and an Honorary Consultant in EPRR at UKHSA. He is also a Senior Research Fellow at the Pandemic Sciences Institute, University of Oxford, where his national and international research focuses on emerging and high consequence infectious diseases, including mpox and viral haemorrhagic fevers, and acute respiratory and enteric virus infections.



**Dr John Moore-Gillon**, Consultant Physician Emeritus, St Bartholomew's Hospital.

Dr John Moore-Gillon saw his first patient with tuberculosis when he was a medical student exactly 50 years ago, at which time standard treatment was just reducing from 18 months, and the consultants had trained and practised in the pre-chemotherapy era. John later became Lead Clinician of the Tower Hamlets Tuberculosis Service, Chair of the British Thoracic Society TB Specialist Advisory Group, Chair of the DH Service Delivery Group for England, and involved in the development of BTS and later NICE TB guidelines. He describes himself as "Yesterday's Man" in TB terms but keeps an eye on the present and the future.



**Dr Jolyon Medlock**, Medical Entomologist at Public Health England, based at Porton Down

Dr Jolyon Medlock has worked on vector-borne diseases for >25 years, firstly in Africa on malaria control and lymphatic filariasis and since 2002, at Porton Down, for UK government health agencies (UK Health Security Agency, PHE, HPA). He leads the Medical Entomology group advising UK government on entomological aspects of vector-borne disease risk, managing UK-wide vector surveillance systems and research on mosquito- and tick-borne disease ecology & entomology, including impacts of environmental and climatic change. He works on Lyme disease ecology, detection of invasive mosquito vectors of dengue, and conducts ecological surveillance and research on the vectors of diseases such as West Nile and Usutu viruses and Tick-borne encephalitis virus. He also supports the UK Overseas territories in their dengue prevention work and ECDC in European tick surveillance projects.





**Professor Nicola Lewis, Director of the Worldwide Influenza Centre and the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Response Francis Crick Institute and Professor in One Health Evolutionary Biology at the Royal Veterinary College**

Nicola Lewis (BSc BVetMed PhD PGCert FHEA MRCVS) is Director of the Worldwide Influenza Centre and the WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Response at the Francis Crick Institute in London. She is also Professor in One Health Evolutionary Biology at the Royal Veterinary College, from where she also graduated as a veterinary surgeon. After a period in general practice Nicola returned to the University of Cambridge to undertake a PhD in infectious diseases – focussing on using state-of-the-art computational methods to quantify the evolution of influenza A viruses in animals.

Her research now focuses on investigating the ecology and evolution of influenza A viruses in multiple animal hosts and the risks that these viruses might pose to the human population, with a global context. This internationally-collaborative high-impact research spans huge diversity from implementing surveillance in wild birds, analyzing emerging highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses, to using state-of-the-art computational techniques to analyse influenza virus antigenic and genetic evolution, to assess pandemic risk, and to inform international stakeholders on vaccine strains and antiviral susceptibility. Her recent research publications encompass avian, swine, marine mammal and human influenza A viruses as well as Newcastle Disease.

She is a partner in the UK Covinet consortium and serves on the WHO TAG-CO-VAC Subgroup on Strain Selection for SARS-CoV2 vaccine. She is also a co-investigator on PROVAC: a project on selecting vaccine strains that provide the best possible protection against SARS-CoV2 for the UK population. In her roles, she provides consultancy to a range of stakeholders but specifically including the European Commission, WOA, FAO, EFSA, ECDC, WHO and UKHSA. Alongside her WHOCC analyses of human seasonal influenza virus evolution, Nicola also contributes data and analyses biennially to the WHO Vaccine Composition Meeting submission for animal influenza viruses of zoonotic potential.



**Professor Robin May, Chief Scientific Adviser at the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and Professor of Infectious Disease at the University of Birmingham**

Professor Robin May took up his role as the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) for the Food Standards Agency (FSA) in July 2020.

As the FSA's Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor May provides expert scientific advice to the UK government and plays a critical role in helping to understand how scientific developments will shape the work of the FSA, as well as the strategic implications of any possible changes. He is responsible for the integrity of the science and evidence that underpins FSA activities, as well as for communicating the FSA's evidence-based approach to other government departments, external stakeholders and consumers.

Professor May's early training was in Plant Sciences at the University of Oxford, followed by a PhD on mammalian cell biology at University College London and the University of Birmingham. After postdoctoral research on gene silencing at the Hubrecht Laboratory, The Netherlands, he returned to the UK in 2005 to establish a research program on human infectious diseases. He was Director of the Institute of Microbiology and Infection at the University of Birmingham from 2017-2020.

Professor May continues his work on Infectious Disease at the University of Birmingham. A Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and the Academy of Medical Sciences, Professor May specialises in research into human infectious diseases, with a particular focus on how pathogens survive and replicate within host organisms. In May 2022 he was appointed as the 39<sup>th</sup> Gresham Professor of Physic, a role in which he provides public lectures on medicine, health and related sciences.



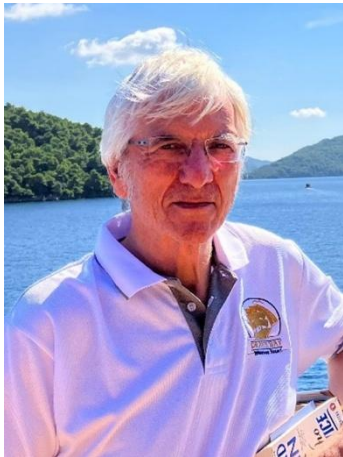
**Tamar Ghosh, RSTMH Chief Executive**

Tamar joined as Chief Executive of RSTMH in November of 2016.

Before then she was at Nesta running the Longitude Prize, a £10m science prize looking for a rapid diagnostic test to fight antibiotic resistance. Before Nesta, Tamar founded and ran two social enterprises in global and national healthcare, which continue in her spare time.

She was Director of the social action campaign "Give More" on behalf of one of the Pears Foundation, promoting increased giving of money and time amongst the UK public. Prior to that, she spent 15 years developing and delivering funding strategies for international NGOs, including ActionAid and VSO.

She has an MBA from Imperial College, London and a Masters in Development Studies, following an undergraduate degree in Mathematics at Bristol University. Tamar is a consultant on fundraising and strategy development, and a guest speaker at Imperial College Business School on innovation and entrepreneurship as part of their MBA and masters in health programmes.



**Professor Tom Rogers, Emeritus Professor, Clinical Microbiology, Trinity College Dublin**

Tom Rogers trained in Medical Microbiology at Westminster Hospital Medical School (1975-1979). Following its merger with Charing Cross Medical School he also worked briefly as Senior Lecturer/ Consultant at Chelsea & Westminster, and Charing Cross Hospitals. In 1995 he was appointed Professor in Infectious Diseases and Bacteriology at Royal Postgraduate Medical School (and later Imperial College London) and Consultant Bacteriologist at Hammersmith Hospital.

In 2004 he moved to Trinity College Dublin as Chair in Clinical Microbiology and Consultant Microbiologist at St. James's Hospital Dublin. He also took on the role of Clinical Director of the Irish Mycobacteria Reference Laboratory. His research interests have focused mainly on management of fungal diseases, in particular aspergillosis, and he has additionally supervised research projects on healthcare associated and mycobacterial diseases. He is a past President of the Healthcare Infection Society, the British Society for Medical Mycology, Inaugural President of the Irish Fungal Society, and past Editor in Chief of the Journal of Hospital Infection.

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### Inivos

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## Notes
