

COUNCIL ELECTION 2022

Candidates for Election (in alphabetical order)

G.K. Balasubramani University of Pittsburgh, USA



G.K. Balasubramani (Bala) has served on the ISIRV Council for a three-year term and is standing again for election. Most recently, he was part of faculty at the ISIRV School of Respiratory Viruses held at the CMC, Vellore, India (November 2022).

He is an Associate Professor at the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Epidemiology and Clinical and Translational Science, focused on statistical and epidemiological investigations of multi-center clinical trials research. He has contributed significantly to seven major studies and over 25 other projects and published 130 peer-reviewed research papers as an investigator and a primary statistician. In his early career, he also received the Young Statistician award from the International Statistical Institute, Netherlands.

His primary research interests are the Design and analysis of multi-center clinical trials on Influenza infectious disease vaccine effectiveness, hospitalized inpatient and outpatient COVID-19 surveillance, and Ophthalmologic Advances through Primary Open Angle Glaucoma (POAG) research. He is a Principal Investigator for the recently funded study 'Clarifying the Optimal Application of SLT Therapy' (COAST) by the United States National Institutes of Health- National Eye Institute (<https://www.coasttrial.org>). He is collaborating with the University of Pittsburgh Department of Family Medicine investigators on influenza vaccine effectiveness, SARS-CoV-2 research funded by the CDC, and MERCK study on Epidemiology, Burden of RSV infection in adults. Since 2011, Bala has been a Co-Investigator for three of the CDC's US Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness Network studies (US Flu VE). In addition, he coordinates the Data Management and Statistics core for the CDC's outpatient and inpatient influenza vaccine effectiveness and new vaccine surveillance network.

Lien Anh Ha Do

Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI), Melbourne, Australia



Lien Anh Ha Do is a Senior Research Officer in the New Vaccines Group at MCRI. She is also an Honorary Fellow in the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Melbourne.

As a medical doctor and a scientist, she has been involved in designing and implementing different clinical study protocols as well as in coordinating/ managing clinical studies on respiratory viruses, mainly on RSV.

Currently, Dr. Do is leading projects in Viet Nam, in Mongolia and in Australia. These projects aim to understand the pathogenesis and molecular characteristics of RSV, how these factors impact clinical outcomes and health economics, and how these findings can be translated into improved clinical management and prevention of RSV, particularly in low-middle income countries (LMICs) settings. These projects also contribute to build research capacity, clinical sites and research networks for future RSV vaccine trials, in Australia, Mongolia and Vietnam.

Dr Do obtained a PhD in BioMedical Sciences through a program between the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit (OUCRU), VietNam, Genome Institute of Singapore, Singapore and Open University, the United Kingdom in 2013. Her PhD project focused on respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infections in infants and small children in Viet Nam and encompassed (molecular) epidemiological, clinical, virological and host expression profile studies. In addition, she graduated as a medical doctor (M.D) in Viet Nam in 2001. She had training programs with Pasteur Institute in Paris, France (2018) and Virology laboratory at University Hospital Pellegrin, Bordeaux, France (2002-2005). She had worked at HIV laboratory, Pasteur Institute Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), Viet Nam for 3 years, at Emerging Viral Infections Group, OUCRU, HCMC, Viet Nam for 7 years and at Clinical Pathology laboratories of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Mekong Hospital HCMC, Viet Nam and of Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Queensland, Australia for 1.5 years prior to joining Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) in 2016.

In total, she has 14 research active years, leading to 43 manuscripts with a Medical Text Book Chapter in press. Among these, 17 were focused on RSV. She is the first author and the last author of 13 and 3 publications respectively.

Nusrat Homaira

UNSW, Sydney, Australia



Nusrat Homaira is a public health professional and a medically-trained respiratory epidemiologist with over 15 years of international working experience in both low- and high-income countries. Dr Homaira currently works in Australia as a Senior Lecturer in the discipline of Paediatrics and Child Health, at UNSW Sydney and Respiratory Scientist at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick.

Prior to joining UNSW, Sydney, she worked as an Assistant Scientist, at the Centers for Communicable Diseases at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research (icddr,b) in Bangladesh. In 2019, she was awarded the highly competitive Research Fellowship of the National Health and Medical Research Council of the Australian Government. Her work has been published extensively in high-impact journals. She has received several international awards for her research and established extensive collaborative networks nationally and internationally.

A substantial part of her research has focused on the prevention of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) disease in childhood. She believes the future holds great promise for RSV as there are multiple therapeutics and vaccines that will become available for clinical use over the next couple of years. In addition to her ongoing research, her planned approach is to lobby health providers, policymakers, and public health organisations with global influence to work collaboratively in order to ensure the availability and accessibility of new RSV therapeutics in low middle income (LMIC) countries, where the burden is clearly the greatest.

In addition, Dr Homaira is keen to promote inclusion and cultural diversity within scientific societies with particular attention to representation from low middle income (LMIC) settings, females and minority groups including LGBTQIA community. She is also an enthusiastic supporter of broadening engagement with like-minded professional societies as this can provide the potential for global research collaborations and development opportunities for early career professionals.

Emanuele Montomoli

University of Siena, Italy



Emanuele Montomoli has served on the ISIRV Council for a three-year term and is standing again for election. In the past, he has had a lead role in hosting and organising the first three editions of the ISIRV School of Influenza (2011, 2012, 2016) and co-chaired the Correlates of Protection meeting in 2019 – all held in Siena, Italy. He is currently on the organizing committee for the Correlates of Protection for Next Generation Influenza Vaccines meeting, to be held in Seattle next year.

In 2003 he was appointed Professor on Public Health at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Siena. He is also the President on the Board for the Masters in Vaccinology and Drug Development qualification at the University of Siena.

He graduated in Life Sciences at University of Siena in 1997 discussing a thesis on *Optimisation of the use of MDCK cell cultures (Madin Darby canine kidney) for the epidemiological control of influenza*. He received his Masters degree in Biochemistry and Enzymology at University of Siena in 2002 discussing his thesis entitled *Purification of haemoagglutinin of the type B influenza virus through isoelectric focalisation*.

Since 1994, he has carried out seroepidemiological research in order to evaluate the immune state of the Italian and European population toward influenza and other respiratory viruses. He currently co-ordinates and personally conducts epidemiological and seroepidemiological studies for monitoring the various infective diseases preventable with vaccination (tetanus, diphtheria, hepatitis B, etc.).

From 2000, he has concentrated on assessment of new assays for vaccines evaluation and evaluation of correlates for protection. He was Scientific Coordinator for one European Project IMI (Innovative Medicine Initiative) titled “Standardization and development of assays for assessment of influenza vaccine correlates of protection (FLUCOP)”.

He is the author of more than 200 papers, as well as numerous abstracts and letters, published in international scientific journals

In addition to his academic career, he founded VisMederi srl, a private enterprise involved in laboratory activities for vaccines and antiviral drugs clinical trials and preclinical protocols (2008). He is currently non-executive President and Chief Scientific Officer in VisMederi srl.

Hafizullah Safi

WHO CO -Afghanistan



Hafizullah Safi is a public health professional and is currently working as a Technical Officer for Influenza with the WHE unit of WHO CO - Afghanistan.

He has a business administration background and attained an MBA in 2015. To enhance these credentials, he worked for a Masters in Public Health (MPH) with a particular focus on Epidemiology and Biostatistics - attained 2022.

He has more than seven years of public health experience in Afghanistan. working primarily in the areas of planning, surveillance, and response activities under the PIP program.

His first abstract was published in the supplement of Oman Medical Journal [2020], Vol. 35, No. 1. He is also the co-author of the paper *Influenza Activity during 2018-19 season in Afghanistan*.

Mirella Salvatore

Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, USA



Mirella Salvatore has a clinical background and is currently an Associate Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine, New York. Her core interest is to promote and contribute to educational programs and to facilitate scientific interchange on respiratory virus infections.

As a physician-scientist she has had a long-standing interest in respiratory viruses, mostly influenza and more recently COVID-19. Her work includes basic and translational research with a focus on host responses and therapeutics for influenza and novel vaccine development. More recently, she has been working on the identification of host and viral predictors of progression to severe COVID-19 and is currently co-chair of the Science Committee of the PRESCO study, a multicenter study aiming to the characterization of clinical and laboratory predictors of long COVID.

She obtained a M.D. cum laude from the Catholic University in Rome, Italy and then completed her Internal Medicine residency, Infectious Disease fellowship and postdoctoral fellowship training on influenza at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City. Her commitment to research and education is supported by her active involvement in Infectious disease societies. She is a Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), a member of the IDSA Research Committee, a Council member of the Infectious Disease Society New York, and a past member of the International Society of Travel Medicine (ISTM) Research and Awards Committee. She is also an Associate Editor of Frontiers in Medicine, section of Infectious Diseases, Pathogenesis and Therapy, and an Editorial Board Member of Vaccines.

Dr Salvatore is a passionate supporter of educational activities and diversity. She is also a strong advocate of creating the setting/context for interaction between trainees and more experienced members of the infectious disease and related communities, to share expertise and stimulate new ideas and perspective.

Giuseppe A. Sautto

Florida Research & Innovation Center (as part of the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute), USA



Giuseppe A. Sautto is currently Assistant Staff Faculty at the Florida Research & Innovation Center as part of the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute. The main area of investigation of his lab is the development of immunotherapeutic and immunoprophylactic approaches for infectious diseases

(<https://www.lerner.ccf.org/fric/sautto/>).

He obtained his Bachelor's degree in Medical Biotechnology at the University of Milan (Italy) in 2006. He then received a Master's Degree in Molecular and Cellular Medical Biotechnology in 2008, and a PhD in Molecular Medicine in 2012 at the Vita-Salute San Raffaele University of Milan.

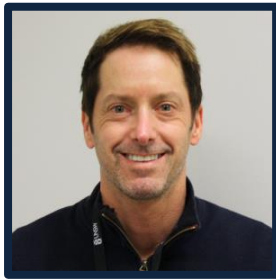
Since 2007 Dr. Sautto has focused his research activity on the selection, cloning, characterization and engineering of monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) of human and animal origin, and directed against infectious agents (such as HCV, influenza virus, SARS-CoV-2 and opportunistic fungi). In particular, he investigates the potential of these mAbs not only as possible therapeutic drugs, able to directly neutralize infectious pathogens but also as indirect molecules to be exploited for the development of prophylactic approaches. Moreover, their possible engineering in order to improve (i.e. their binding or stability characteristics) or gain new functions (such as in the case of chimeric antigen receptors, CARs), represents a promising and alternative approach explored by his lab for difficult-to-eradicate infectious pathogens.

He joined the International Novartis BioCamp in Basel (Switzerland) in 2012, the J-P. Ebel - CNRS Institute of Structural Biology in Grenoble (France) in 2013 and the Institute of Virology of the Technical University of Munich (Germany) in 2014, as a visiting scientist. In 2015 he was awarded by the Carlo Erba Foundation in recognition for his research activity on viral diseases. In 2016 he moved to the US, to the Center for Vaccines and Immunology of the University of Georgia as a postdoc and was subsequently promoted to faculty assistant/research scientist. Here he expanded his area of investigation to the development and characterization of next-generation vaccines, especially in the context of influenza, and started obtaining independent funding from NIAID/NIH. During this period, he also completed the MBA program of the Terry College of Business of the University of Georgia. Through the training funds awarded, he also had the opportunity to join as a visiting scientist the Vanderbilt University Medical Center in 2020 and the University of Texas at Austin in 2021. As adjunct professor, he has delivered lectures on Microbiology and Virology and mentored undergraduate and graduate students.

Dr Sautto is an author, editor and reviewer of several international scientific journals with a current Scopus H-index of 19.

Matthew Scotch

Arizona State University, USA



Matthew Scotch has served on the ISIRV Council for a three-year term and is standing again for election. Most recently, he was a member of the Scientific Programme review team for OPTIONS XI (Sept. 2022). He is currently Professor of Biomedical Informatics in the College of Health Solutions and Assistant Director of the Biodesign Center for Environmental Health Engineering at Arizona State University, USA.

His research focuses on the theory and application of phylogeography to study the migration of zoonotic RNA viruses with a particular interest in influenza A viruses. Work in his lab includes the integration, analysis, and presentation of viral genetics for public health/animal health surveillance. Current projects include studying approaches to advance phylogeography models and geospatial metadata in virus sequence databases for virus surveillance and analysis of viruses from wastewater, with a focus on influenza, using bioinformatics. Matthew's lab group is also interested in the molecular epidemiology of RNA viruses including the amplification and sequencing of seasonal influenza for public health surveillance.

Since 2017, he has published many recent articles on influenza in the following journals: Virus Evolution; Emerging Microbes & Infections; Environment International; Infection, Genetics, and Evolution; Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses; PLoS Computational Biology. He is also on the editorial board for Infection Genetics, and Evolution.

S. Mark Tompkins

University of Georgia, USA



Mark Tompkins has served on the ISIRV Council for a three-year term and is standing again for election. He was Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee for OPTIONS XI (Sept. 2022). He is currently Chair of the ISIRV Scientific Meetings Committee and a member of the Organising Committee for the upcoming Correlates of Protection for Next Generation Influenza Vaccines meeting, (Seattle, March 2023).

Dr. Tompkins is the Athletic Association Distinguished Professor in Virology and Immunology and Professor and Assistant Department Head of Infectious Diseases at the University of Georgia, Athens, USA. In addition, he is the Director and Principal Investigator of the Center for Influenza Disease and Emergence Research, a NIAID Center of Excellence in Influenza Research and Response (CEIRR) at the University of Georgia.

He received his doctorate in Immunology from Emory University and then studied immune mechanisms of antigen- and virus-induced autoimmune diseases as a National Multiple Sclerosis Society Postdoctoral Fellow before joining the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research at the FDA where he studied heterosubtypic immunity elicited by influenza vaccination. He was recruited to the University of Georgia in 2005 where he established a diverse research and training program focusing on understanding and controlling zoonotic influenza viruses.

Dr. Tompkins was awarded a Senior Fulbright Scholar Award in 2012 and most recently was appointed the Distinguished Professor in Virology and Immunology at the University of Georgia.

His laboratory develops and utilizes experimental models to understand virus-pathogen-host interactions. His research continues to focus on human and zoonotic influenza viruses, but also includes other respiratory pathogens including RSV, pneumococcus, and most recently, SARS-CoV-2. These studies also support development of novel vaccine and vaccine delivery platforms, as well as therapeutic interventions. Together with his team, he works to achieve these goals through national and international collaboration with academic, government, NGO, and industrial partners.
