

Preconference Monday 12 October from 14:00 – 17:00

## *Migration, ethnicity, racism and the COVID-19 pandemic: key perspectives on a global crisis*

**Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 from 14.00 -17.00 (CET)**

The coronavirus pandemic has had a profound global impact, exacerbating pre-existing inequalities. The lives of millions of international and internal migrants have been turned upside-down by lockdowns and border controls, endangering their health in numerous ways. The latest evidence, mainly from the UK and US, suggests that ethnic minority groups are disproportionately at risk of COVID-19. In the midst of the pandemic, the horrific murder of George Floyd, an African American, by a White US policeman sparked worldwide protests and intense debate about how to tackle systemic racism and the injustices and inequalities it perpetuates in the US and elsewhere. While these events and findings have received intense if short-lived publicity, much remains unknown, the situation is rapidly unfolding and solutions are in short supply. This on-line pre-conference is organised by the newly formed **Global Society on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health** and the **EUPHA Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health section**. It will address these important issues head-on by bringing together leading scholars to discuss some key perspectives on how the pandemic is affecting the health and well-being of migrants, ethnic minorities and Indigenous peoples around the world and what can be done to lessen the impact. The meeting will be chaired by **Prof. Charles Agyemang & Prof. Allan Krasnik** and will begin with the official launch of the **Global Society on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health**. Thereafter, there will be a series of presentations by eminent speakers including Q&A and a concluding panel discussion.

### **Programme Monday, 12th October, 2020 from 14.00 -17.00**

14.00–14.10: *Welcome and scene setting* – Prof. Charles Agyemang, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands & Prof. Allan Krasnik, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

14.10-14.25: *Launch of the Global Society* – Prof. Bernadette Kumar, University of Oslo, Norway

14.25-14.50: *A global overview of the impact of COVID-19 on migrants, refugees and asylum seekers*. Dr Miriam Orcutt, University College London, UK

14.50-15.15: *Disproportionate effect of COVID-19 on ethnic minorities and migrants in the UK and the Government's response* - Prof. Raj Bhopal, University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

15.15-15.25: *Break*

15.25-15.50: *Racism and health in the shadow of Covid-19* - Dr Sharelle Barber, Dornsife School of Public Health, Drexel University, Philadelphia, USA.

15.50-16.05: *How has COVID-19 affected Indigenous populations in Australia?* Prof. Anthony Zwi, University of New South Wales, Australia

16.05-16.25: *COVID-19 in Brazil and the plight of disadvantaged communities*. Prof Mauricio Barreto, Federal University of Bahia, Brazil.

16.25-16.55: *Panel discussion with speakers* – Facilitated by Prof Bernadette Kumar & Prof. Laurence Gruer, University of Edinburgh, Scotland

16.55-17.00: *Closing remarks* – Prof. Charles Agyemang, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands & Prof. Allan Krasnik, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

*Planning Committee: Charles Agyemang, Laurence Gruer, Antonio Chiarenza, Allan Krasnik, Bernadette Kumar.*

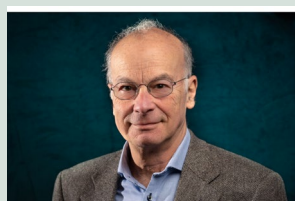
## **About Chairs & Keynote Speakers**

### ***Professor 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. 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 and has authored/co-authored over 280 published papers, and edited several books. He is the PI of the RODAM study – 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 Internal and Emergency Medicine, and serves as an Editorial Board member for several journals. He was 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.*

### ***Professor Allan Krasnik***



*Prof. Allan Krasnik is an MD, specialized in Public Health, he is a 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 has been 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 now leading a large Nordic project on health and welfare among children and adolescents with a migrant background.*

### ***Professor Bernadette Nirmal Kumar***



*Prof. Bernadette Nirmal Kumar, a medical graduate has a doctorate in Epidemiology and Public Health from the University of Oslo, Norway and post-doctoral research fellowship at the Institute for Psychiatry, University of Oslo. Kumar has several years' international experience working for UNICEF, WHO, WFP, World Bank and NORAD in Southern Sudan, Somalia, North West Kenya, West Bank and Gaza, North Korea, China and Bhutan (1989-2000). Migration and Health has been the focus of her research since 1999 and she is the co-editor and author of Text Book on Immigrant Health in Norway: Flerkulturelt folkehelsearbeid (Fagbokforlaget 2009) and Migrant Health - A Primary Care Perspective (Taylor and Francis, 2019). She was appointed Director of NAKMI (Norwegian Center for Migration and Minority Health now part of the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, 2010) and Associate Professor, Global Health at the Institute for Health and Society, University of Oslo (2013). She is Professor at the Empower School of Health, India and Kathmandu University, Nepal. She has been a commissioner of the Lancet Commission on Migration and Health (2018) now co-chair of Lancet Migration. Kumar leads the Migration Health work package of the EU Joint Action on*

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*Health Inequalities. She is President of the EUPHA section of Migration and Ethnic Minority Health (2018-) and Chair of the Global Society on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health (2019-).*

### Dr Miriam Orcutt



*Dr Miriam Orcutt is a Senior Research Fellow in Global Public Health and Forced Migration at the Institute for Global Health, University College London, and Executive Director of Lancet Migration: global collaboration to advance migration health. Her main areas of academic and policy interest are: global health policy and governance, health system and medical-humanitarian resilience and response, forced migration and health, structural and political determinants of health for migrants. Her ongoing research collaborations are in Lebanon, Peru and South Africa. Miriam has a particular interest in the effective translation of research into policy and practice. She worked as a Migration Health Specialist for Médecins sans*

*Frontières for a year between 2018 and 2019, and as a Public Health and Migration Consultant at the World Health Organisation (WHO EURO, WHO EMRO, WHO Headquarters, Geneva). She is a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Conflict and Health Research Group, King's College London, and a Steering Committee Member of the Syria Public Health Network. Miriam previously worked as a medical doctor in the UK's National Health Service (NHS), on the Academic Clinical Foundation Programme in Epidemiology and Global Public Health, in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK. She has published academic articles in the field of global public health, migration and health and health policy in peer-reviewed journals, such as The Lancet and The British Medical Journal, and was one of the lead authors of 'The UCL-Lancet Commission on Migration and Health' (published in the Lancet in December 2018). In 2018 she was named a Canadian Woman Leader in Global Health, on the inaugural list by The Lancet.*

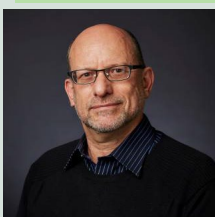
### Professor Raj Bhopal



*Prof. 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 from 1999 until he retired in May 2018. He is now Emeritus Professor of Public Health at the University of Edinburgh. Earlier, 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 books include Concepts of Epidemiology, Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health, and Epidemic of Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes: Explaining the Phenomenon in South Asians Worldwide (all Oxford University Press). 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 organisations and 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 the first World Congress on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health in 2018, both 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 Anthony Zwi



*Prof. Zwi is a Professor of Global Health and Development. His work focuses on global health and development policy and has interests in their interface with equity, social justice and human rights. He seeks to build partnership between Australia, the Asia-Pacific, and Africa and to promote capabilities in global health, development policy, and disaster planning, management and response. He currently leads a range of projects including one focused on human resources for health in public health emergencies and two realist reviews - one on Community Based*

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*Disaster Risk Management and the other on the Evidence for Effective Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict and Emergencies. He has worked most extensively in Timor-Leste (East Timor), but also has been involved with research and education activities in Sri Lanka, the Solomon Islands, Vietnam and Cambodia as well as worked in a number of countries in Africa. He is interested in understanding, and improving mechanisms, to facilitate evidence-informed health and development policy. Professor Zwi is keen to build links between humanitarian relief and development organisations and academic institutions. He works on global health and development policy and related international aid issues. He has interests in injury and violence as public health problems. He heads a team which explored how health-related interventions in countries which have experienced disasters and wars could be more sensitive to culture, conflict, and to rebuilding trust and social cohesion. He and colleagues work on the ethics of research in conflict-affected settings, and the role of service providers and community members, including young people, in shaping and influencing research and responses to violent political conflict.*

#### **Dr Sharrelle Barber**



*Dr Sharrelle Barber is a social epidemiologist whose research focuses on the intersection of “place, race, and health” and examines the role of structural racism in shaping racial health inequities among Blacks in the Southern United States and Brazil. Dr. Barber has authored peer-reviewed articles in leading journals including the American Journal of Public Health and Social Science and Medicine and her research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, the Robert Wood*

*Johnson Foundation, and the American Heart Association. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Barber has been funded to examine the impact of racism and segregation on racial inequities in COVID-19 in Philadelphia and has provided expert commentary on the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 in Black communities for local, national, and international media outlets including the NY Times, Smithsonian Magazine, the Philadelphia Inquirer, NPR and Al Jazeera. In March, she convened a group of public health experts from Harvard (FHB Center for Health and Human Rights), UCLA (Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice, and Health), and other academic institutions across the country to serve as an advisory committee to the Poor People’s Campaign, providing justice-centered public health expertise for the movement as it engaged in collective action and advocacy. Dr. Barber is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and the Urban Health Collaborative at the Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health. She received a Doctor of Science degree in Social Epidemiology from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, a Master of Public Health from the UNC-Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health, and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Bennett College.*

#### **Professor Mauricio Barreto**



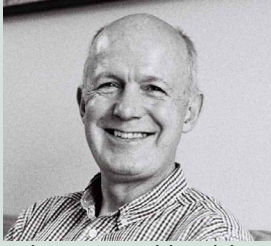
*Prof Mauricio Barreto is Emeritus Professor at the Federal University of Bahia and a Senior Investigator at the FIOCRUZ, born and based in Brazil. His research in Epidemiology and Collective Health covers an extensive range of different topics, but always exploring background questions around social and environmental determinants of health, health inequalities, the impact of social and health interventions on health and health inequalities, integration of social and biological knowledge for causal explanations in health and the use of scientific knowledge*

*to policy-making. He has published over 500 peer-reviewed scientific papers. In 2016, he founded the Center for Data and Knowledge Integration for Health (CIDACS), as part of Fiocruz and based in Salvador-Bahia. His current major project is the 100 million Brazilian Cohort, focused on investigating the role of social protection policies on the health of the poor, throughout the integration of large Brazilian databases and using quasi-experimental approaches to ‘big-data’. He has been a commissioner of the Lancet Commission on Migration and Health. He is elected fellow of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences (ABC) and of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), and Honorary Professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.*

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*Professor Laurence Gruer*



*Prof. Laurence Gruer is Honorary Professor of Public Health at the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow and the former Director of Public Health Science for NHS Health Scotland. His 35yr career in public health has spanned research; policy; service design, management and evaluation; and health promotion. He has addressed a wide range of topics at regional, national and international level including HIV/AIDS, drug, alcohol and tobacco use, mental health, obesity and health inequalities. He has had a particular interest in migration, ethnicity and health since 2006. He directs a small community health NGO in northern Ghana which he founded in 2015. He is Secretary of the Global Society on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health.*