

Biographies of the Speakers of the International Symposium on Multimorbidity | 2024

Last name alphabetic order



Dr. Valentina A. Andreeva is a senior epidemiologist and a behavioral scientist with expertise in chronic disease epidemiology, nutritional epidemiology, mental-physical comorbidity, multimorbidity, prevention science, and behavioral health promotion especially via proper nutrition and physical activity. At Sorbonne Paris Nord University, she has held the tenured position of Associate Professor since 2013. She is also a Visiting Associate Professor of Epidemiology in the Department of General Medicine at Columbia University Irving Medical Center (New York, USA). Dr. Andreeva is a member of numerous public health, epidemiology and nutrition non-profit professional organizations. She has mentored numerous master's, doctoral and postdoctoral fellows. She has published >200 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, monographs, and conference proceedings; the full list of her publications can be assessed at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/valentina.andreeva.1/bibliography/public/>

Dr. Andreeva holds a Dr. Habil in Epidemiology from Sorbonne Paris Nord University, a Ph.D. in Preventive Medicine from the University of Southern California (USA) and a B.A. in Behavioral Science/Psychology from Green Mountain College (USA).



Dr. Pierre Arwidson studied at the Tours Faculty of Medicine in France. He was initially involved in medical education and the development of problem-based learning. Then he worked at the departmental and regional level in health education and health promotion, in the fields of AIDS and cardiovascular prevention. He has been deputy director of the evaluation department of the French Health Education Committee from 1997 to 2001. He then became director of the scientific department at the French National Institute for prevention and health promotion from 2002 to 2016. He is now deputy director of the Prevention and Health Promotion department of Public Health France since 2016. His main interest is to disseminate evidence-based prevention interventions.



Dr. Franca Barbic She graduated at Medicine and Surgery, University of Milan, Medical School, Italy in 1990 and specialized on Occupational Medicine and Industrial Hygiene, University of Pavia, Italy in 1994.

Hers areas of research are Occupational Medicine, Environmental Health, and Cardiovascular Disease.

Currently she is an Associate Professor of Occupational and Environmental, Health and Health Promotion in Community at Medical School, MEDTEC, School of Nurses and Science, Master Science in Nursing, Post Graduate School of Public Health, Emergency at Humanitas University, Milan, Italy. She is a Visiting Professor of Occupational Cardiology at Post-Graduate School of Occupational Medicine, Università Cattolica Sacro Cuore, Rome, Italy and Adjunct Professor at Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University, London, Ontario, CA.

Since 1988, she was involved in clinical studies on human neural mechanisms controlling the cardiovascular system during physiological and pathological conditions. She studied the effects of rotating 24-hour shift work, and night work on autonomic cardiovascular system. In the last years she did researches on Parkinson Disease and other autonomic syndromes including Pure Autonomic Failure, Vasovagal Syncope, Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS), Fibromyalgia, Ehler Danlos and consequences on work ability. Recently, she has been working in research projects aimed at evaluating the incidence of post-Covid19 autonomic syndrome and consequences on work ability.



Prof. Eric Breton is professor at the EHESP School of Public Health and a researcher at the Arènes research unit (UMR CNRS 6051: RSMS team INSERM U1309). Before settling in France, he acquired extensive international research experience in Canada, Australia and the United Arab Emirates. His research programme focuses on three main areas: 1) strategies and policies for strengthening local capacity for action on the social determinants of population health, 2) health policy change processes and, 3) evaluation of complex public health programmes (PATTERN project). In 2020, he co-edited the second edition of the first French-language health promotion handbook. At EHESP, his teaching activities include modules in MPH programmes. He has also co-initiated with the UNESCO Chair Global Health & Education the Global Community Health Annual Workshop, an online course aimed at an international audience.



Dr. Amaia Calderon Larrañaga I am Associate Professor in Aging Research (background in pharmacy and public health) with more than ten years of experience in the epidemiological study of multimorbidity, frailty and healthy aging. We investigate health in older age shifting from the traditional focus on single diseases towards multidimensional and longitudinal health trajectories. I am particularly interested in the physiological and psychosocial determinants of such trajectories, as well as the interaction of these health pathways with the use of medical and social care services. I am vice-PI of the population-based [Swedish National study on Aging and Care in Kungsholmen](#), was the main organizer of the [International Symposium](#) “Multimorbidity research at the crossroads: developing the scientific evidence for clinical practice and health policy” held in Stockholm on May 2018, and was part of the Scientific Committee for the [International Symposium on Multimorbidity](#) “Ariadne revisited: gains and gaps in research and care” held in Bielefeld on May 2024.



Dr. Laure Carcaillon-Bentata, PhD is an epidemiologist, specialized in public health. For more than 15 years, she has conducted and coordinated numerous studies in the field of ageing: etiological studies, production of public health indicators. She has extensive experience with French claims databases (SNDS): evaluation, algorithm development, matching, cohort studies. Recently, she participated at the national and European level in the evaluation of the impact of the Covid-19 health crisis on population health. Currently head of scientific research at BPE platform (Inserm CIC 1401 de Bordeaux), Laure Carcaillon-Bentata designs and coordinates the implementation of real life national and multi-countries pharmaco-epidemiology studies, particularly in the field of ageing. She is also involved in the supervision of master and PhD students. She has published more than 70 articles and 10 reports and book chapters in peer reviewed journals.



Dr. Michele Cecchini leads work on public health at the OECD - the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Working at the intersection of health and economics, Michele's team focuses on priority setting and programme evaluation of policies affecting population health, helping countries implement better public health policies for better lives. Since 2016, Michele has led all major OECD publications on overweight, diet and physical activity, tobacco and alcohol use as well as work on infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance. Michele's work has also appeared in major academic journals such as the Lancet and the American Journal of Preventive Medicine. Michele is an Adjunct Professor of Applied Health Economics at the School of Public Health, University of Siena, and has held a visiting position at the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School in Singapore. He has been a consultant to a number of governmental and international agencies, including WHO, IARC, the EC and the World Bank. Michele is a medical doctor specialised in public health and holds master's degrees from the London School of Economics and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a PhD on health economics from Imperial College London.



Dr. Panayotis Constantinou is a medical doctor, trained in public health and health economics (MD, PhD). He has conducted several studies based on the French National Health Data System (SNDS) as a public health expert for the French National Health Insurance (current position). His main field of expertise is morbidity measurement in large medico-administrative databases, with a particular focus on healthcare utilization and expenditure modeling. Panayotis is also a member of the French Ethics and Scientific Committee assessing requests for access to health data (Comité éthique et scientifique pour les recherches, les études et les évaluations dans le domaine de la santé) and an associate researcher for the Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (Inserm-CESP).



Prof. Joël Coste is a rheumatologist, epidemiologist and historian of medicine, and professor at Paris Cité University and Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, France. A significant part of his research has been devoted to chronic diseases.



Dr. Sarah Cuschieri, a medical doctor since 2011, pursued an academic and research career at the University of Malta before becoming an Adjunct Research Professor at Western University, Canada, in 2023. She also serves as Vice-President of the chronic diseases section of EUPHA. Her academic journey includes a postgraduate Diploma and Masters in Diabetes Mellitus type 2 from Cardiff University, where she received distinction and a silver award of excellence. In 2019, she earned her Ph.D., focusing on diabetes in Malta's adult population, and a certificate in Public Health Epidemiology from the University of Utrecht. Recognized for her leadership, she won the TOYP Academic Leadership Award in 2021 and became a Faculty of Public Health UK Member through Distinction in 2022, later achieving fellowship with AdvanceHE in 2024. Her research interests span population health, particularly non-communicable diseases, COVID-19, and medical education. Dr. Cuschieri, a top-cited scientist, authored books and chapters and serves as principal investigator for the Horizon Europe Project RAPIDE, among other collaborative research endeavors.



Prof. Fabrizio Faggiano is a Full Professor of Public Health with a background in Epidemiology. He has coordinated national and international programs and projects focused on the development and evaluation of interventions and policies in the field of Health Promotion, particularly in addiction and risky behavior prevention.

He was the Principal Investigator of the European Drug Abuse Prevention project (EUDAP), which developed and evaluated the school-based prevention program Unplugged. He has also evaluated several other national school-based interventions.

Prof. Faggiano founded the Italian Network of Evidence-based Prevention, advocating for the adoption of effective prevention programs and strategies within the National and Regional Italian Prevention Plans.

He participated in the foundation of the Cochrane Drugs and Alcohol Review Group and the European Society for Prevention Research. Prof. Faggiano is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of Santé Publique France and has served as a consultant for UNODC and UNESCO in the development and evaluation of effective prevention programs at the international level.



Prof. Laetitia Huiart is a professor of public health with expertise in epidemiology, clinical research methodology and statistics, and a particular interest in oncology. After obtaining a doctorate in medicine, with a specialization in public health - Aix-Marseille University, Paris XI (M.Sc.) and McGill University (M.Sc.), she obtained a doctorate in clinical research and public health in 2013, and an authorisation to direct research in 2014. She worked as a clinician-researcher for 8 years at the Institut Paoli-Calmettes, a regional cancer center in Marseille. She then joined the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de la Réunion, where she helped structure clinical and epidemiological research by creating the Unité de soutien méthodologique pour la recherche clinique, then coordinating the Centre d'investigation clinique - épidémiologie clinique.

From 2017 to 2020, she was Director of the Population Health Department at the Luxembourg Institute of Health and structured the theme of digital health (e-health) and innovative exposure measures. During the COVID-19 crisis, she joined the Ministry of Health's Crisis Unit and the Luxembourg Health Directorate to develop and implement strategies for crisis information systems, isolation and contact tracing. Since 2020, she has been Scientific Director of Santé Publique France, a public body under the authority of the French Minister of Health. In particular, she is responsible for developing and implementing the Agency's scientific strategy, and for the scientific and operational coordination of all the Agency's COVID missions.



Prof. Licia Iacoviello, MD, PhD, professor of Hygiene and Public Health at the LUM University of Casamassima (BA), currently heads the department of Epidemiology and Prevention at the IRCSS Neuromed of Pozzilli and the Center for Big data and Personalized Health, at the Polo di Ricerca e Innovazione Neurobiotech of Caserta, Italy. She holds an appointment as Professor of Genetic Epidemiology at SUNY Buffalo (USA).

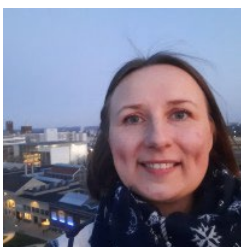
She has been working on the impact of genes and environment and their interaction on cardiovascular risk and on the role of dietary habits in the development of chronic degenerative diseases. She developed a great experience in the organization and management of epidemiological studies such as multicenter cohort studies and in organizing clinical trials of dietary supplements and functional foods in subjects with cardiovascular risk factors.

Since 2005 she is coordinating the Moli-sani Study, a large cohort study involving over 24,000 adult people aged in southern Italy in order to assess risk factors related to lifestyle and genetics for chronic-degenerative and metabolic diseases and from 2018, the PLATONE Study a clinical research network for Big-data, machine learning and personalized health.

In the last 20 years her activity has been mainly devoted to provide scientific bases to the healthy effect of the Mediterranean diet and to understand the determinants of Mediterranean diet adhesion.

She has been member of the Subcommittee for Cardiovascular Risk Prevention of the Italian Health Ministry and member of the "Scientific Advisory Board", Department of Population Health, Institute of Health of Luxemburg. Luxemburg.

Licia Iacoviello has published over 590 scientific articles (H-Index 109) and is named by VIA Academy in the list of 100 Top Italian Scientists and in the world's top 2% of Scientists List Stanford-Elsevier Ranking.



Dr. Tatjana Makovski MD, MPH, PhD is a researcher and project coordinator at the French National Public Health Agency (Santé publique France). She is a medical doctor, trained in public health and epidemiology. She has worked on numerous national and international public health projects related to chronic disease prevention, health education and promotion, health equalities and management in health across several European countries. She has a particular interest and extensive experience in the field of multimorbidity research. She sits on the Scientific Boards of the French national solidarity fund for autonomy (CNSA) and Chronic diseases section of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA).



Prof. Julian Mamo M.D., Ph.D.

MD (University of Malta) 1984

M.Sc. Epidemiology (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) 1988

PhD (King's College London in Ageing and Health) 2004.

Head, Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery (University of Malta) 2006-2020.

Currently Associate professor Department of Health, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery (University of Malta). Former head of same department 2008-2021.

Since 2008 - ongoing held various positions including member of governing board within the European Public Health Association (EUPHA). Member and former president, Malta Association of Public Health Medicine.

Research areas: non-communicable disease risk factors, Diabetes

Conducted numerous short-term missions for World Health Organisation 1990-2001

Participated on multiple occasions as expert in reviewing proposals for EU funding with diverse EU sections (2007-)

Continues to practice in clinical Primary Care sector (private) in Malta.

Age: 63 years

Teaching experience: teaching epidemiology to various faculties at undergraduate and postgraduate levels since 1990



Dr. Iveta Nagyova (PhD, FABMR) is the Head of the Department of Social and Behavioural Medicine and a Senior Research Leader at Pavol Jozef Safarik University (UPJS) in Kosice, Slovakia. She is also the President of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA), and a member of several advisory groups at the World Health Organisation (WHO), including the WHO Technical Advisory Group on Behavioural Insights and Sciences for Health and the WHO/Europe's Regional Director's Advisory Council on Innovation for Noncommunicable Diseases. She graduated in Clinical Psychology at UPJS, obtained her PhD in Medical Sciences from the University of Groningen, the Netherlands, and received postgraduate training at the University of Oxford within the Oxford International Primary Care Research Leadership Programme. Her research interests are in biobehavioural and psychosocial innovations in chronic condition prevention and management, non-pharmacological interventions, behaviour change, improvements in functional status and quality of life in persons with a chronic disease and their implications for integrated care. She is involved in academic publishing, supervision of PhD students, and knowledge translation. At the national level, she serves as an advisor to the WHO Country Office and the Slovak Ministry of Health in the field of chronic diseases, integrated care, behavioural insights, and public health.



Dr. Kathryn Nicholson, PhD Kathryn has had a significant interest in multimorbidity since completing her PhD on the prevalence and patterns of multimorbidity in the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics at Western University in London, Ontario, Canada. She continued this work while completing her Post-Doctoral Fellowship in ageing in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario Canada. She has continued this research on multimorbidity, polypharmacy, deprescribing, ageing, complexity and primary care using large, longitudinal and national datasets in Canada with teams of Canadian and international collaborators. She is currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics at Western University and the Department of Family Medicine at McMaster University, as well as a Quality Improvement Specialist funded through the Ministry of Health in Ontario.



Prof. Elio Riboli is Chair in Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention at Imperial College London. He is also Founding Director of the Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention Research Unit, jointly established by Imperial College and the Institute for Cancer Research. Before moving to Imperial, he worked at the International Agency for Research on Cancer where he initiated the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC) that recruited over half a million participants in 10 European Countries and established the first dedicated large-scale population biobank. Over the past three decades, Professor Riboli has been leading research based on EPIC and other prospective cohort studies in the fields of epidemiology, cancer prevention and the fight against chronic illness. Alongside this work, he was appointed the first Director of the School of Public Health in 2006. By 2008 the School was ranked second-best among UK academic institutions in Epidemiology and Public Health by the UK Government Research Assessment Exercise. He also cemented links between the Imperial College Faculty of Medicine and the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and led ground-breaking partnerships in Singapore and Qatar that developed the first biobanks in the Middle East. In 2018, Professor Riboli was made an Officer of the Order of the Star of Italy in recognition of his work to promote British-Italian relations in science, university teaching and research. In 2021, he received the Imperial College Medal, awarded for meritorious or praiseworthy service to the College or for having otherwise enhanced its reputation, mission and objectives. He has co-authored over 1,000 peer-reviewed publications, of which 700 are based on EPIC. He has contributed to over 100 book chapters and three books and serves on editorial boards of major journals on nutrition, cancer, epidemiology and medicine and also on national and international committees addressing health policy in relation to cancer epidemiology/prevention and nutrition. Professor Riboli holds an M.D. degree (1977, State University of Milan), a Master of Public Health (1980, Milan) and a Master of Science in Epidemiology (1982, Harvard University). Professor Riboli is a Registered Physician (General Medical Council, UK, 2005) and an Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health of the Royal College of Physicians (2008) and Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences of UK (2009).



Prof. Saverio Stranges, MD, PhD, FAHA Dr. Saverio Stranges is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics within the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University in Canada. He holds cross-appointments as Professor in the Departments of Family Medicine and Medicine. At Western University, he is also Director of the Africa Institute. Dr. Stranges completed his medical education in 1996 (cum laude), and specialty training in Preventive and Public Health Medicine in 2000 at the University of Naples Federico II in Italy. He then completed the requirements for a PhD Program in Epidemiology and Environmental Health in the Department of Epidemiology & Environmental Health at the State University of New York at Buffalo in 2004. In 2005, Dr. Stranges began his academic career as an Assistant Professor at SUNY Buffalo. Thereafter, he was an Associate Clinical Professor of Cardiovascular Epidemiology in the Division of Health Sciences at the University of Warwick in the UK. Prior to his appointment at Western University, he worked as Scientific Director of the Department of Population Health within the Luxembourg Institute of Health. Dr. Stranges is a medical doctor, public health specialist and chronic disease epidemiologist, with extensive experience in the field of epidemiology and public health research. His research focuses on Global Health as well as on the epidemiology and prevention of chronic disease and aging across the life-course, specifically regarding the role of lifestyles, behavioral and psychosocial factors, such as dietary patterns, sleep behaviors and social determinants of health. Throughout his career, Dr. Stranges has been involved in several international epidemiological projects, clinical trials, secondary data analyses and systematic review work, and has published extensively in epidemiology and public health research, with over 300 publications as scientific articles, reviews and book chapters (H-index=80). His research has been funded by several international agencies as the National Institute for Health Research in the UK, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. He was recently elected as President of the Chronic Disease Section for the European Public Health Association. He is an Associate Editor for several scientific journals in the area of Public Health.



Prof. Jose M. Valderas is an Academic Family Physician with extensive contributions to the field of multimorbidity. Currently a Professor of Medicine and the Director of the Centre for Research in Health Systems Performance at the National University of Singapore, his pioneering research utilizes patient-reported outcomes to enhance health policy and clinical practices, particularly focusing on models of care for patients with multiple chronic conditions. Dr. Valderas has authored over 300 publications and led numerous high-impact research projects funded by international organizations, significantly advancing the understanding and management of multimorbidity.



Prof. Marjan van den Akker PhD is professor for Polypharmacy and Health Services Research, appointed at the Institute of General Practice of Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main, Germany since 2019. She is also affiliated to the Department of Family Medicine in Maastricht, the Netherlands and the Academic Center of General Practice in Leuven, Belgium. She was trained as a health scientist and epidemiologist in Maastricht (graduated 1992), where she also did her PhD (defense 1999). Her research focuses on multimorbidity and polypharmacy using both qualitative and quantitative designs, for observational and interventional studies. She was one of the founding members of the International Research Community on Multimorbidity (IRCMo) and is a co-editor of the Journal of Multimorbidity and Comorbidity and a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Clinical Epidemiology.



Dr. Piotr Wilk, PhD

Primary Affiliation: Associate Professor, Departments of Epidemiology & Biostatistics and Paediatrics, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University, Canada

Dr. Piotr Wilk received his PhD in 2005 at Western University. He also spent one year as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University. His public service career includes several years with the Middlesex-London Health Unit where he worked as a Community Health Researcher and Educator. He also worked in the Health Division at Statistics Canada in Ottawa. Currently, Dr. Wilk is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Epidemiology & Biostatistics and Paediatrics at the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry and a visiting Professor at the Department of Epidemiology, Maastricht University, the Netherlands. He is also an Adjunct Scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences as well as a Scientist at the Children's Health Research Institute (Division of Children's Health & Therapeutics) and at the Lawson Health Research Institute in London.

Dr. Wilk's primary area of research focuses on chronic disease surveillance and prevention and the links between social determinants of health, health-related modifiable behaviours, and health outcomes at the local, national, and international levels. In particular, he is interested in assessing the contribution of socioeconomic, behavioural, and environmental risk factors for onset and development of chronic disease, using linked survey, administrative, and environmental datasets.