Challenges in COVID-19 Vaccination
Virtual Panel Discussion · 3 February 2021

SPEAKERS’ PROFILES
[in order of appearance]

PROFESSOR REGINA T. RIPHAHN, PhD  ●  Host
Vice President of the Leopoldina and Professor of Statistics and Empirical Economic Research, Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany
Regina T. Riphahn earned a PhD in economics (University of North Carolina) in 1995 and a habilitation (LMU Munich) in 1999. She holds the Chair of Empirical Economics at the Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg (FAU) since 2005. Professor Riphahn’s research focuses on social policy, labor market research, and population economics.

PROFESSOR GAGANDEEP KANG, PhD
Chair of the Immunization Technical Advisory Group for the WHO South East Asian Region and Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy
Gagandeep Kang is a well-known Indian scientist investigating the complex relationships between infection, gut function and physical and cognitive development, and seeking to build a stronger human immunology research in India. To develop practical approaches to support public health, she has built national rotavirus and typhoid surveillance networks, established laboratories to support vaccine trials and conducted phase 1-3 clinical trials of vaccines, a comprehensive approach that has supported two WHO pre-qualified vaccines. Based at the Christian Medical College, Vellore, India, she has established strong training programmes for students and young faculty in clinical translational medicine aiming to build a cadre of clinical researchers studying relevant problems in India.

DR INGMAR HOERR
mRNA Pioneer and Co-Founder of CureVac
Ingmar Hoerr founded “CureVac, the RNA people” together with colleagues in Tübingen, Germany in 2000. His entrepreneurship was motivated by his surprising discovery during his doctoral research that naked mRNA can be expressed in vivo without the risk of rapid degradation, while exhibiting the ability to generate strong specific immune responses, in contrast to what had previously been believed. During his time as CEO until June 2018, Ingmar initiated with CureVac the first clinical human trials testing mRNA therapeutics, thereby contributing to the development of the mRNA industry. During this time, he and his colleagues raised approximately $500 million in equity and significantly grew the company. CureVac today has several potential therapeutics in its pipeline for the protection against infectious diseases, the treatment of cancer and for protein replacement. It has entered into various collaborations with multinational corporations and organizations, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Elon Musk’s Tesla Grohmann. Since August 2020, CureVac is listed on Nasdaq.
RICHARD HATCHETT, MD

Chief Executive Officer of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)

Richard J. Hatchett, MD, is Chief Executive Officer of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), a partnership of public, private, philanthropic and civil organizations that supports the development of vaccines against high priority public health threats and technology platforms to allow the rapid development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases such as COVID-19. Dr Hatchett was previously the acting Director of the U.S. Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) and served as Director of Medical Preparedness Policy on the Homeland and National Security Councils under Presidents Bush and Obama, respectively. He received his medical degree from Vanderbilt and completed clinical training in internal medicine and medical oncology at Cornell and Duke.

PROFESSOR HEIDI LARSON, PhD

Director of the Vaccine Confidence Project, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine; United Kingdom

Heidi J. Larson, PhD, is Professor of Anthropology, Risk and Decision Science and is the Founding Director of the Vaccine Confidence Project at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. She is also Clinical Professor of Health Metrics Sciences, University of Washington, Seattle, USA, and Guest Professor at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. Dr Larson previously headed Global Immunisation Communication at UNICEF, chaired GAVI’s Advocacy Task Force, and served on the WHO SAGE Working Group on vaccine hesitancy. The VCP is a WHO Centre of Excellence on addressing Vaccine Hesitancy. Professor Larson’s research focuses on the analysis of social and political factors that can affect uptake of health interventions and influence policies. Her particular interest is on risk and rumours management from clinical trials to delivery – and building public trust. She served on the FDA Medical Countermeasure (MCM) Emergency Communication Expert Working Group, and is currently Principal Investigator for a global study on acceptance of vaccination during pregnancy; an EU-funded (EBODAC) project on the deployment, acceptance and compliance of an Ebola vaccine trial in Sierra Leone; and a global study on Public Sentiments and Emotions Around Current and Potential Measures to Contain and Treat COVID-19. She is author of STUCK: How Vaccine Rumors Start – and Why They Don’t Go Away (Oxford UP, 2020).