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.

FLORIAN VON DER MÜLBE, MBA, PhD
Chief Production Officer and Co-Founder of CureVac
Florian von der Mülbe, PhD, MBA is the Chief Production Officer (CPO) of CureVac AG since
October 2018 and Managing Director of CureVac Real Estate GmbH since February 2017. Dr von
der Mülbe founded CureVac in 2000 together with Dr Ingmar Hoerr, building their business from
the ground up.
Prior to his current position as CPO, Dr von der Mülbe served as Chief Operating Officer,
accountable for a variety of internal functions such as IT, Project Management, Quality etc., but
always including Technical Development and Manufacturing, where he established the first GMP
(good manufacturing practice) production for mRNA worldwide.
He started his professional career as trainee at Roche AG. Dr von der Mülbe is trained in
biochemistry and business administration, and he received his PhD in biochemistry from the
University of Tübingen and an MBA from the European School of Business in Reutlingen.
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 rumour 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 Press, 2020).