

## **RUWSEC Public Health Ethics WriteShop**

**Dates: 07-09 April 2022**

**Venue: Resource Centre for Youth Mental Health, SCARF, Greams Dugar, Greams Road, Chennai**

### **Mentor's Bionote**

#### **1. Prof. Mala Ramanathan (Email: mala@sctimst.ac.in)**



Prof. Ramanathan is on the faculty of the Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies (AMCHSS), Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, since October 1996. She is currently Professor at the AMCHSS.

She has a Masters' in Statistics from the University of Madras (1984) as also an M Phil (1989) and PhD (1993) in Population Sciences from the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai. She also has a Masters' in Medical Anthropology from the University of Amsterdam (1998). She has undergone Bioethics training as an Ethics Fellow at the Harvard

School of Public Health, Boston (2002-04). She is part of a larger group affiliated to the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics that engages with bioethics issues in general and research ethics in particular. She has published extensively in areas of women's health and bioethics, particularly public health and research ethics. She has been a member of the IEC for the Health Action for People, Thiruvananthapuram, since April 2013, and was a member of the SCTIMST-IEC for five years from 2004-2008. She is currently the member secretary of the IEC, SCTIMST since June 2014.

#### **2. Prof. Olinda Timms (Email: olindatimms@gmail.com)**



Dr Olinda Timms is Adjunct Associate Professor in the Division of Health and Humanities at St. Johns Research Institute, Bangalore. A graduate of Christian Medical College, Vellore, she specialized in Anesthesiology, and worked as Consultant at Private and Mission Hospitals in Bangalore since 1987. Her interest in the field of Medical Ethics led to a Post Graduate Diploma in Medical Law and Ethics from the National Law School of India University, Bangalore and a Post Graduate Diploma in Bioethics from the Indian Council of Medical Research. She authored 'Biomedical Ethics' published by Elsevier India in 2016 and currently in its 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. It is used as a resource book for teaching medical ethics in Colleges across India. Dr. Timms is a Working Editor of the Indian Journal of Medical Ethics and on the Advisory Board of Research and Humanities in Medical Education. She serves on the Institution Ethics Committee of hospitals and

research institutions in Bangalore.

**3. Dr. Anant Bhan (Email: anantbhan@gmail.com)**



Dr. Anant serves as Site-Principal Investigator, ESSENCE, EMPOWER Tata Trusts/LMSAI, SARATHA & SHARP

Principal Investigator, DRISHTi, TransCare COVID 19, Co-Investigator, TransCare MedEd (Sangath Lead), EMPOWER J&J

Dr. Anant Bhan works with Sangath at its Bhopal Hub office. He is a medical graduate with a master's (MHSc) in Bioethics from the University of Toronto in Canada. He is a researcher in global health, health policy and bioethics with over 18 years of experience and numerous publications to his name. Anant Bhan is currently one of the leading voices on issues related to medical ethics and social justice in India. He is also the

immediate past president of the International Association of Bioethics (2017-19), serves as an Adjunct Professor in Yenepoya University and as an Adjunct Faculty at KMC, Manipal, and is a member of several committees.

**4. Dr. Varalakshmi Elango (Email: varalakshmie@gmail.com)**



Dr. Varalakshmi Elango is a Medical Microbiologist and a Researcher who having served the Government of Tamilnadu for fifteen years as a microbiologist at the King Institute, Guindy, Chennai, moved on to become a Consultant for the World Health Organization and INGOs for the past nine years. Her extensive travel to Africa and South East Asia, work on neglected Tropical diseases that afflict the poorest of the poor and the living conditions that prevail in such settings has for long prompted

rather encouraged the idea of setting up a charitable organization that would focus on the upliftment of the poor and downtrodden in India. She is the founder trustee of the philanthropic organization called Kaarunya Trust. Her areas of interest include neglected tropical diseases, good clinical practice, good laboratory practices, quality assurance in biomedical research and research ethics. She is an expert in adult learning and facilitation of workshops in national and international settings. She holds an MSc in International Health from University of Heidelberg.

**5. Dr. Subha Sri Balakrishnan (Email: subhasrib@gmail.com)**



Dr Subha Sri Balakrishnan is an obstetrician with extensive experience of close to two decades working with community organizations to improve women's health in India. She has worked on maternal and sexual and reproductive health issues in India and has engaged with both governments and civil society to bring attention to and address the health systems factors contributing to poor maternal and reproductive health outcomes. She has led civil society initiatives in implementing maternal death reviews in marginalized populations and worked with governments to respond to the findings. She has represented civil society organizations on the Global MPDSR Technical Working Group of the WHO. Through her work for over a decade with Rural Women's Social Education Centre, a dalit women's organization in Tamil Nadu, Dr Subha Sri has gained a deep understanding of the realities of gender, caste and poverty, and their role as key social determinants in women's health. This has led her to adopt a human rights

based and social determinants focused lens in all her work.

**6. Dr. Balasubramaniam Palanisamy (Email: researchbalu@gmail.com)**



Dr P. Balasubramaniam is a social scientist with PhD in Population studies. He did his master's and doctoral degrees at Annamalai University. He is the Executive Director of Rural Women's Social Education Centre (RUWSEC), an organization working for women's health and reproductive rights issues. He had also done a short course on Reproductive Health Research - RHR at LSHTM, London. He has been working in RUWSEC as a research coordinator since 1998 and involved in developing Management Information System – MIS, action and intervention research studies. He is also the programme manager of community-based sexual and reproductive health education projects and health

advocate for 25 years. His field of experience is on research and documentation on population, gender, Social Determinants of health, sexual and reproductive health of young people and women. He has published more than 30 research articles in peer-reviewed reputed journals both at the national and international levels. He has been an active trainer for 23 years; specializing in conducting sessions for government school teachers, state social welfare board officials, Statistical officers of Health and family welfare, ICDS workers, VHN and NYKS volunteers on gender and SRHR training. He has also produced training manuals on gender and SRHR for different target groups. He has collaborated with UNICEF, WHO, European Commission and UNESCO aided projects and produced good publications. He is the Course Director cum trainer of the youth SRHR leadership programme and over the last eight years, he has trained over 300 youth volunteers. He is an approved research supervisor for M.Phil., PhD students and guided seven research scholars. He has visited ten countries and presented papers and participated in discussions at various international forums including European Commission and United Nations Commission on Women.

**7. Dr. Prashanth N. S. (Email: prashanthns@iphindia.org)**



Dr. Prashanth is the Assistant Director (Research), Health equity cluster lead & DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance (Intermediate) Fellow in Clinical/Public Health (2017-2022). He is a medical doctor and public health researcher with experience in working in primary health care and community settings in southern Karnataka. He has worked at the intersections of healthcare and health systems with ecological and social systems with a particular focus on health inequities and social determinants of health. He leads the health equity cluster at the Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru where his work critically examines the apparently transformative dimensions of technological solutions to health inequities vis-a-vis addressing fundamental issues of social inequality, exclusion and governance. Through a fellowship from the DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance, he has set up

collaborations to examine health inequities in indigenous communities in multiple remote forested locations in southern, central and northeast India.

**8. Dr. Sudharshini Subramaniam (Email: sudharshini.subramaniam90@gmail.com)**



Dr. Sudharshini Subramaniam serves as Associate Professor of Community Medicine at the Institute of Community Medicine, Madras Medical College, Chennai. She teaches community medicine to undergraduate and postgraduate medical students. She is also a trainer for medical teachers in the Medical Education Technology workshops. She serves as a honorary physician at the Rural Women's Social Education Centre at Chengalpet District where she delivers primary care clinical services. She has evaluated several state and national level programs including the Trauma Accident Emergency Initiative (TAEI), Pulse Polio Immunization and HIV Sentinel Surveillance. She

was a co-investigator in the multi centre vaccine trials of both the COVISHIELD and COVAXIN vaccines against COVID 19 and was also the Nodal Officer incharge of roll-out of COVID vaccination in Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, Chennai. She played a key role in coordinating the COVID-19 admissions in the RGGH, Chennai. She has several important national and international publications to her credit. She has worked on health inequities among Dalit and Adivasi communities in India as well as among persons belonging to the LGBTQIA+ community.

**9. Dr. Rajalakshmi RamPrakash** (Email: rajalaksh@gmail.com)



Dr. Rajalakshmi RamPrakash is an academician, activist and researcher exploring the intersections of gender, health and health systems, ethics, equity and public policy. She holds a doctorate and a master's in social work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences. She is a Post Graduate Diploma in Medical Law and Ethics from National Law School of India University (Bengaluru) and received scholarship for training in Harvard School of Public Health (USA) in Ethical Issues in International Health Research. Her career began as a grassroot health worker in an NGO in Chennai where she organized the community on Sexual, Reproductive and Child Health issues. She then undertook several research studies as Principal Investigator, such as in National Law School of India University and a study on Informed Consent

in Reproductive Health Services as a recipient of Health and Population Innovation Fellowship (MacArthur Foundation). Her editorial in Ind.J Medical Ethics on legal norms violating sexual and reproductive rights was cited by the United Nations. Her doctoral thesis on Gender Analysis of Publicly Funded Health Insurance Schemes has received wide recognition and was showcased as a Box case in UN Commission on Status of Women document for advocating a gender equity lens in Universal Health Coverage schemes.

**10. Dr. Sonal Dayama** (Email: sonaldayama@gmail.com)



Dr. Sonal Dayama is a community health professional working currently at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur. Motivated public health professional with experience of working in the diverse multicultural environment of ten states of India. This includes planning and management of health programs especially maternal and child health as UNICEF consultants in seven northeast states for four years, as State Epidemiologist with Chhattisgarh government, and faculty in Medical college of Gujarat, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh. She is an active member of the State Working Committee on Health, State Planning Commission, Government of Chhattisgarh and State Covid Death Audit Committee.