

2026 Update Course Speaker Bios



Aisha Khatib, MD, CCFP(EM), DTM&H (Course Co-Chair)

Received a CTropMed® Certificate

Dr. Aisha Khatib is an Assistant Professor with the Department of Family & Community Medicine at the University of Toronto. She trained in family and emergency medicine from the University of Toronto and McGill University and completed an Infectious Diseases fellowship in Clinical Tropical Medicine at the University of Toronto. She holds certification in Travel Medicine from the University of Otago in New Zealand, and a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from the Gorgas Course in Peru. She has done global health work in India, Haiti, and Nepal, with certification in global health through the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto and Disaster Response and Humanitarian Relief training through Harvard School of Public Health. She worked as a Travel Doctor in New Zealand for five years before returning to Canada. She is currently the Clinical Director of Travel Medicine at Medcan and staff physician at Immigrant Women's Health Centre in Toronto, Canada. She is a member of CATMAT, the Committee to Advise on Tropical Medicine and Travel, an external advisory body to the Public Health Agency of Canada. Her recent research focused on the safety of air travel during the pandemic, as well as climate change and travel.



German Henostroza, MD (Course Co-Chair)

Dr. German Henostroza is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He serves as President of the ASTMH Clinical Group, Director of the Gorgas Institute for Geographic Medicine and Director of Gorgas Courses in Clinical Tropical Medicine. He has lived and work in Zambia for almost eight years. Primary interests have included understanding the epidemiology and pathology of TB-HIV co-infection through building, studying and evaluating a cohort of patients in Africa and in prison populations. He also has participated in multiple diagnostic and clinical trials of novel TB diagnostics, drugs and vaccines.



Mark Kortepeter, MD, MPH is a physician, scientist, Army colonel (retired), and author. His career has spanned the hospital, research lab, the lecture hall, and the battlefield. He is currently the VP for Research Strategy for Integrum Scientific and Professor of Preventive Medicine at the Uniformed Services University (USU). Prior to these roles, Dr. Kortepeter served as the VP for Research at USU, Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Director of the Special Pathogens Research Network, and Deputy Director of USAMRIID, the Army's

biological weapons defense lab. He also held additional roles, including Biodefense Consultant for the Army Surgeon General, co-chair of NATO's Biomedical Advisory Panel, and he has deployed to Bosnia and Kuwait for the Army and Burundi for the World Health Organization. His areas of scientific interest

include the treatment and containment of exotic diseases, such as Ebola, Marburg, and Lassa fever viruses.

Dr. Kortepeter received his BA from Harvard University, MD from Rutgers Newark, and MPH from Harvard School of Public Health. He has published over 90 journal articles and book chapters.

Dr. Kortepeter's medical thriller memoir, [*Inside the Hot Zone: a Soldier on the Front Lines of Biological Warfare*](#) details his experiences managing national infectious disease crises while at USAMRIID, including the 2001 anthrax attacks, a laboratory Ebola exposure, and a botulism threat to President George W. Bush. His latest novel, [*Minister of Death*](#) is a medical thriller about an epidemic originating in a small town.



Kleber Luz, MD, PhD, Professor, was born in Brazil and completed his medical studies at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte – Brazil, in 1986. He completed his Medical Residency at the Emílio Ribas Institute in São Paulo in 1989. He holds a Master's degree in Pediatrics from the Federal University of São Paulo and a PhD in Infectious Diseases from USP – São Paulo. He is currently an Associate Professor IV at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte and a consultant on arboviruses for PAHO & WHO. Since 1989, he has been directly involved in combating several epidemics in Brazil, such as cholera, visceral leishmaniasis, and, from 1997, dengue fever. In 2014, he identified the first cases of Zika in Brazil, and since 2015 he has been combating the Chikungunya epidemic to this day. He has actively participated in supporting Latin American and Caribbean countries in combating dengue, Zika, and Chikungunya, co-authoring guidelines and producing in-person and online lectures and courses. He has been the principal investigator in a number of vaccinology studies. He has contributed to more than 28 publications indexed in PubMed.



Lessandra Michelin, MD, MSc, PhD, is an infectious disease specialist, vaccinologist, researcher, and educator from Brazil. She earned her medical degree from the Federal University of Health Sciences of Porto Alegre (UFCSPA), completed her residency in Infectious Diseases (UFCSPA), and obtained both her Master's and PhD degrees in Biotechnology (Microbiology) from the University of Caxias do Sul. She has further specialized in vaccinology, hospital epidemiology, and infection prevention and control, and is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow in Public Health Pathology at UFCSPA. Dr. Michelin has extensive experience in vaccinology, travel medicine, antimicrobial stewardship, healthcare-associated infections, and infection control. She currently serves as RSV Vaccine Medical Lead at GSK and is Professor of Infectious Diseases, Pediatrics, and Graduate Studies at the University of Caxias do Sul, as well as Professor of Infectious Diseases at Estácio de Sá-IDOMED, RJ - Brazil.



Salim Parker, MD is a travel medicine and general practitioner. He is the past president and current executive member of the South African Society of Travel Medicine (SASTM). He also served on the executive board and the Liaison Committee of the International Society of Travel Medicine (ISTM) and collaborates with the Global Centre for Mass Gathering Medicine (GCMGM). Publications include topics related to mass gatherings, travel medicine and vaccines, as well as co-authorship of the Hajj Travel chapter in the 2018, 2020, 2024 and the 2026 editions of the CDC Yellow Book on Travelers Health. He is an Honorary Research Associate in the Division of Infectious Diseases and HIV Medicine at the University of Cape Town. accompanied pilgrims on the annual Hajj to Saudi Arabia as a medical officer, researcher, journalist, observer and fellow pilgrim for more than 20 years. Interests include travel related spread of infectious diseases, respiratory infections

at mass gatherings, and preparing travellers with terminal medical conditions to undertake that final desired journey.



Karis Rodrigues, MD, MSc is an infectious diseases physician and Associate Professor of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). She earned her MD and MSc in Infectious and Parasitic Diseases from UFRJ and her PhD in Parasitic Biology from the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz). She is also Full Professor of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases at Universidade Estácio de Sá and serves as Coordinator of CIVES, the UFRJ Center for Travelers' Health Information. In addition, she holds a specialization in Medical Education from the University of São

Paulo (USP). Her main areas of interest include tropical and travel medicine, antimicrobial resistance, and medical education.



Carlos Seas Ramos, MD, FIDSA is a Peruvian physician who graduated from Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, where he completed a residency and fellowship in Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine. He also received clinical research training at the International Centre for Diarrheal Diseases in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He is a Professor of Medicine at Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, a former Chief of the Department of Medicine, Gorgas Diploma Course Director, Adjunct Professor of Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Subdirector of the

Alexander von Humboldt Tropical Medicine Institute. He is a member of the Peruvian Academy of Medicine and several Latin American societies and has served for 12 years on DSMBs of the National Institutes of Health, USA. His research interests include tuberculosis, cholera, shigellosis, hospital-acquired infections, and *S. aureus* bacteremia. He has authored more than 150 peer-reviewed publications and contributed several chapters to textbooks, including Cecil's Medicine, Conn's Current Therapy, and Mandell's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases.



André Siqueira has worked in clinical research for the past 15 years, focusing on acute febrile illnesses such as malaria, dengue and chikungunya. He has designed and conducted several observational and intervention studies for the prevention and treatment of these diseases and was part of the team that described the risk of microcephaly in fetuses of pregnant women infected with Zika. He is also one of the Principal Investigators for Butantan's dengue vaccine clinical trial and founded/coordinated the Chikungunya Clinical and Applied Research Network

(REPLICK).

He is a member of several national and international advisory committees, including CEPI's Scientific Advisory Committee and Brazil's National Malaria and Arbovirus Programmes, involved in drafting the most recent versions of the Clinical Management Guidelines for Malaria, Chikungunya and Dengue for the Ministry of Health.



Anish T. S., MD, MPhil is an Associate Professor of Epidemiology at the School of Public Health, Kerala University of Health Sciences (KUHS), India, with over 16 years of experience in infectious disease epidemiology, outbreak management, and public health leadership.

A recognized expert in high-threat pathogen epidemiology, Dr. Anish has been pivotal in managing viral infectious disease outbreaks, notably serving as the founder nodal officer of the Kerala One Health Centre for Nipah Research and Resilience and as a key epidemiologist on the State Medical Board for Nipah. His field leadership spans outbreak responses for Nipah, COVID-19, and flavivirus infections, alongside pioneering mathematical modeling applications during pandemic mitigation.

Dr. Anish serves as a core committee lead for the World Bank–funded Kerala Health Improvement Programme (KHIP) and is a public health consultant to the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority. Globally, he is a contributor to the WHO Collaborative Open Research Consortium on Paramyxoviridae and collaborates with international research projects on vector-borne co-infections. Dr. Anish is a guest expert for WHO South-East Asian and Western Pacific regional webinars on Nipah encephalitis mitigation and control.

He holds an MD in Community Medicine, an MPhil in Clinical Epidemiology, and a PG Diploma in Health Economics. An active member of ASTMH and President-Elect of the Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSM) State Branch, Dr. Anish has authored over 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications (h-index 26) with articles in high-impact journals including *Nature* and *The Lancet Regional Health*.