

A WORLD FREE FROM RHD

PAVING THE WAY TO ENDING RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE: FROM POLICY TO PEOPLE

11 MAY 2021
15:00 CEST / 08:00 CDT / 21:00 AWST



EVENT PRE-READ FOR SPEAKERS

Link to join on May 11th - 2.30 CEST

<https://estensis.zoom.us/j/93737383730?pwd=NndzUndWRmthNUd5Sk9PcmhaTDVqdz09>

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Paurvi Bhatt, President, Medtronic Foundation



PAURVI BHATT is the Vice President of Medtronic Philanthropy and President of Medtronic Foundation, leading the philanthropic and social impact strategies of Medtronic, PLC.

Paurvi's unique career spans the corporate, nonprofit and government sector. In her past leadership roles, she led outcomes-based initiatives at Levi Strauss and Co., Abbott, USAID, US GAO, and CARE. Her technical training is in health systems and economics – with specific focus on HIV/AIDS, women's health and impact measurement. She is known for delivering scalable and sustainable cross-disciplinary solutions deliver results by partnering across commercial, nonprofit and government stakeholders to improve outcomes in health and social issues impacting health for the underserved.

Paurvi is deeply committed to building the next generation of women leaders focusing on social impact. She is passionately a “working daughter” as a caregiver and serves on several advisory groups and nonprofit boards focusing on leadership, philanthropy, caregiving, and access to healthcare. Her formal Board roles include, The Rosalyn Carter Institute for Caregivers, CaringBridge, and The Nurse Family Partnership. She advises the Council of Foundations, The Conference Board, GlobeMed, and Women in Global Health. Paurvi holds a Master of Public Health in health systems and economics from Yale University and Bachelor Degree in neuroscience from Northwestern University, is PhD (ABD) from Johns Hopkins University.



MODERATOR

Kavita K. Maharaj, Moderator



Kavita started her media career in New York as a TV news producer for NBC's *The Today Show*, *Dateline* and *The Nightly News with Tom Brokaw*. She quickly moved up to on-air roles as a TV news journalist and anchor-woman for *Bloomberg*, *CNBC* and *ITV* for several years based in London. After completing her MBA, Kavita went on to hold various senior executive managerial roles in the corporate world. These included *Director of Global Media Investments* and *Global Corporate Relations* for advertising and communications giant Havas, where she was responsible for advising the C-suite on corporate strategy, commercial activities to attract, develop and retain clients, as well as communications and reputation management issues.

In recent years, Kavita has worked for herself to allow her greater flexibility and freedom to pursue an interesting mix of corporate conference presenting, communications consulting and other business projects.

She continues to host, facilitate and moderate large company and industry events across a broad range of sectors, all over the world. She also regularly presents corporate videos for some of the world's leading brands.

She was the first woman to be nominated for the WORLD LEADERSHIP FORUM Business Broadcast Journalist of the Year Awards (2005). She was also a finalist at the UK's Asian Women of Achievement Awards (2001). Whilst at *Dateline NBC*, she was part of a production team that was nominated for several Emmy and Gracie Awards.

Kavita holds a BSc (Hons) in Economics from The London School of Economics, an MA (*Alumni of Excellence Award*) in Journalism from the University of Miami and an MBA from Imperial College, London.

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PANELISTS

Ms Buli Wainiqolo, Young Person Living with RHD, Advocate, Fiji



Ms. Buli Wainiqolo is a young PLWRHD from Fiji and is passionate about RHD advocacy to create better health outcomes for PLWRHD. She has used various platforms to raise awareness about ARF & RHD in her home country and has used her lived experience with RHD for advocacy purposes in regional & global meetings.

Dr Loise Nyanjau, Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation, Kenya



Dr. Loise Nyanjau is a global health practitioner based in Kenya with over 10 years learning and working experience in clinical care, policy formulation & implementation, project management, health workforce capacity building and research. Her learning exposure has spanned both local and international environments while her work exposure spans from hospital services level to high level strategy negotiations and health diplomacy spheres. She is deeply passionate about building robust and responsive health systems at both micro and macro levels.

Prof. Karen Sliwa, Past President, World Heart Federation



Prof Karen Sliwa is Director of the Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research in Africa, Professor in the Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences University of Cape Town, and Past President of the World Heart Federation (2019-2020). Karen Sliwa is widely recognized as a world expert in cardiovascular disease, with a particular interest in reducing mortality in women with cardiovascular disease in maternity. She has contributed to better understanding on the pathophysiology, treatment options and awareness of peripartum cardiomyopathy (PPCM), a global disease particularly prevalent in African populations. She leads several inter-Africa research projects, which have had a major impact for creating knowledge about CVDs common in Africa, leading to changes in policy. Her considerable experience in setting up simple, cost-effective registries and web-based data entry platforms have had a major impact on planning several innovative research projects and has facilitated the training of physicians from several African countries, including Mozambique, Nigeria, Cameroon, Uganda and Tanzania. Her translational

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research from bed-to-bench-to-bedside population studies have led to a much better understanding of CVDs in pregnant women and subsequently to improved patient care. Professor Sliwa leads several high-profile special interest groups including a dedicated EORP Working Group on PPCM of the Heart Failure Association of European Society of Cardiology. Over her distinguished career she has served in many notable roles, including that of Chair of the South African Heart Failure Association, President of the South African Heart Association (2014-2016), President of the World Heart Federation (2019-2020), and Vice President, Southern Region of the Pan African Society of Cardiology (2016-2021). She holds numerous awards such as the German Cardiac Society Paul Morawitz Award for Exceptional Cardiovascular Research (2013), an Honorary Doctorate University Diderot-Sorbonne, Paris, France (2017), European Society of Cardiology Geoffrey Rose Award for Population Sciences (2019) and the South African Medical Research Council Gold Award (2021). She has authored more than 350 publications, trained more than 30 post graduate students, and her papers are highly cited (72,270 citations; h-index of 84, i10-index 239; accessed Feb 2021).

Prof. Liesl Zühlke, President, Reach, Representing RHD Action Partners



Liesl Zühlke, MBChB DCH FCPaeds Cert Card MPH FESC FACC PhD trained as a Paediatric Cardiologist in Cape Town and Dusseldorf, Germany. She has a MPH in clinical research methods, and her doctorate at the University of Cape Town provided new insights on outcomes of symptomatic and asymptomatic Rheumatic Heart Disease.

Prof Zuhlke is widely regarded as an emerging leader in cardiovascular medicine on the African continent. Her major research interests lie in Rheumatic Heart Disease and congenital heart disease. A paediatric cardiologist in the Dept of Pediatric Cardiology at RXH, she worked as the clinical co-coordinator of the ASAP programme, managing several large scale RHD projects in South Africa and on the African continent. In this capacity, she was instrumental in the development, coordination and management of the largest prospective RHD registry the Rheumatic Heart Disease Registry (the REMEDY study) involving 25 sites, in 12 African countries, Yemen and India and is currently the national leader of the INVICTUS study, which aims to enrol over 30 000 RHD patients.

She has received a number of awards including an academic excellence award from Discovery, NIH Fogarty Fellowship, Wellcome CIDRI and Thrasher awards and the Hamilton Naki Post-doctoral Clinical Scholarship, an award given to clinical scholars of excellence. She is the immediate past president of the pediatric cardiac society of South Africa, President of the South African Heart Association and the chairperson of the Pan African Society of Cardiology Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery Task force. She was one of the organizers of the 6th World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery 2013, the World Congress of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Health 2016 and is on the organising committee for the World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery in 2017. A previous board member of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of South Africa, she is now on the board of the Hatter Institute for Cardiovascular Research and is co-director

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of Rheach (Rheumatic Heart Disease-Evidence, Advocacy, Communication and Hope), the recipient of one of the largest grants from Medtronic Philanthropy for work in Rheumatic heart disease. The initiative will be providing scientific and technical support for Global RHD programmes over the next five years.

Dr Alex Makupe, Director, Clinical Care and Diagnostic Services, Ministry of Health of Zambia



Dr Alex Makupe works as the Director for Clinical Care and Diagnostic Services at the Ministry of Health, Lusaka, Zambia.

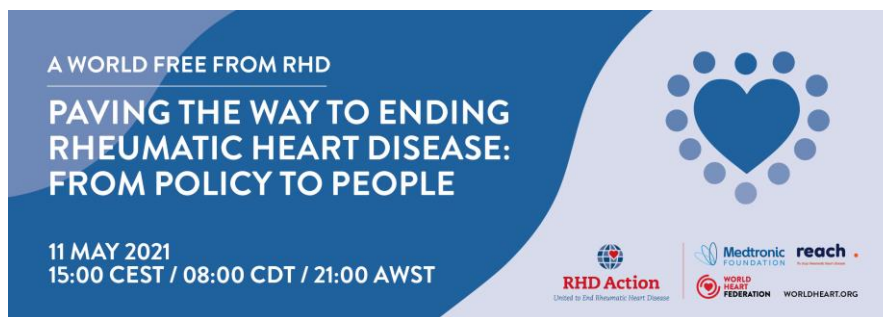
He comes with 23 years of medical practice and is a graduate from Stellenbosh University, South Africa. As a General Surgeon, Dr Makupe has served in Zambia at different levels. He managed the Ndola Teaching Hospital as a Senior Medical Superintendent. He served as Provincial Health Director in the Copperbelt Province, and as the Chief Medical Superintendent at the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia.

WRAP UP & CLOSING

Prof. Fausto Pinto, President, World Heart Federation



Prof Fausto Pinto is the current President of the World Heart Federation and Past-President of European Society of Cardiology. He graduated from Lisbon University Medical School in 1984. He did his Cardiology fellowship at Santa Maria University Hospital – CHLN, E.P.E. (Lisbon, Portugal), and Stanford University Medical School (CA, USA), where he was a Clinical Fellow. He was then Clinical Attending in the Echocardiography laboratory and underwent an Interventional Cardiology Fellowship at the same institution. He is currently the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lisbon (Lisbon, Portugal), and Full Professor of Cardiology. He is also the Head of the Cardiology Department and of the Heart and Vascular Department of Santa Maria University Hospital, CHULN E.P.E.



SUGGESTED QUOTES

“Millions and millions of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable children and young women suffer from RHD every year – this is unacceptable. RHD is easily preventable, and no child should be dying from RHD in the 21st century, it’s a problem that simply should not exist.”

“In resource-rich countries, it is extremely rare for a child to die because of RHD. Yet, many of the 305,000 deaths from RHD per year occur in children and young adults, almost always from resource-poor countries This is shocking!”

“The prevalence of RHD is greater than that of HIV but global health donors have turned their backs and closed their eyes from RHD for far too long. Is it because the voices of the poorest kids in the world are not reaching to their hearts and minds? It’s bad enough that kids are dying because of RHD but is it right that they die because of our ignorance?”

“Rheumatic Heart Disease is the story of health inequities. A tremendous amount of needless pain and suffering can be eliminated by ensuring that global donors invest a little in RHD prevention and control”

“Policy makers at national level are responsible for overseeing the health and education systems critical for the prevention and treatment of RHD. If they are unable to fund these systems, they should seek help and put RHD at the core of their requests to development agencies!”

“Pregnant women with RHD should be able to see a doctor and deliver their baby in a hospital”

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RESSOURCES LINKED TO THE EVENT

RHD ACTION REPORT

2021 – 2022

WORKING TOWARDS HEART HEALTH FOR EVERYONE

Sign our [CALL TO ACTION](#) to end RHD !

487 have signed. Let's get to 500!



Thanks to your support this petition has a chance at winning! We only need 4 more signatures to reach the next goal - can you help?

[Take the next step!](#)



[READ ABOUT OUR LATEST ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE LANCET ON MAY 10th](#)

