



Democratising and Decolonising Food and Nutrition: From Science to Society

17th to 20th December 2024
In-person & Virtual
Science City, Kolkata, India



Summit Chairs, Theme Leaders & Key Speakers

International Summit Co-Chairs / Key Speakers



Professor Pauline Douglas
NNEdPro | Ulster University



Professor Sumantra Ray
NNEdPro

International Summit Theme Leaders / Key Speakers



Dr Ahlam El Shikieri



Andre Laperriere



Celine Tabche



Prof Clare Wall



Claudia Laricchia



Jaroslav Guzanic



Kathy Martyn



Marla Fuchs



Prof Martin Kohlmeier



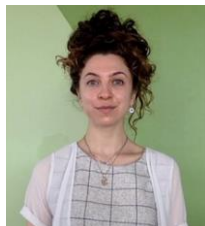
Nimo Muthike



Prof Nitya Rao



Saeeda Ahmed



Dr Sofia Cavalleri



Dr Vidya Mohamed-Ali



Dr Virginie Zoumenou



Dr Yenory Hernández-Garbanzo

Regional Summit Theme Leaders / Key Speakers



Jaydeep Chakraborty



Mitali Palodhi



Paromita Chowdhury



Prachi Pandit



Dr Sabyasachi Ray



Soumyendu Ghosh



Sudeshna Maitra Nag



Prof. Suprakash Pradhan

Key Speakers



Prof Alexandra Johnstone



Prof Ananya Mukherjee



Guillaume Pegon



Dr Jeffrie Quarsie



Jordyn Stafford



Marta Lonnie



Prof Suzanne Piscopo

Bios of International Summit Co-Chairs / Key Speakers

Professor Pauline Douglas

Ulster, Northern Ireland

*NNEdPro Vice-Chair,
Chief Educationist and Operations Director*



BSc Dietetics, PgCHEP, MBA, MIHM, FCREATE, FIANE, FHEA, FBDA, RD

Pauline has over 30 years of clinical and academic experience in dietetics. Her main teaching disciplines in the Nutrition Innovation Centre for Food and Health at Ulster University are in Professional Practice for dietetic students and dietetic practice educators and Nutrition Education of healthcare professionals.

She has been the Key Contact for Ulster University in the European funded “Dietitians Improving the Education and Training Standards (DIETS) project” and was a member of the Exploitation work package.

Pauline is a previous Honorary Chairman of the British Dietetic Association (BDA). She was elected to Fellowship of the BDA for her professional achievements in 2010.

She is a partner with the Health and Care Professions Council, the statutory regulator for Allied Health Professions in the UK.

Pauline works closely with Ray et al across the domains of NNEdPro Global Institute for Food, Nutrition and Health and she is an elected Visiting Scholar/College Research Associate at Wolfson College, University of Cambridge.

She is Visiting Professor of Leadership in Higher Education and Honorary International Co-dean and International course director in leadership and management as conferred by the Lord Rana Foundation Charitable Trust at its constituent colleges.

She is a member of the Executive Committee of the European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians (EFAD). She has led and been an integral part of the European Healthy Hydration Awareness Campaign on behalf of EFAD over the past 8 years.

Professor Sumantra Ray



*Chief Scientist and Executive Director of the
NNEdPro Global Institute for Food, Nutrition and Health*



*Bye-Fellow of Fitzwilliam College and Director of Research ('TIGR2ESS' GCRF Flagship
Project on Food, Nutrition and Education), University of Cambridge*

Professor of Global Nutrition, Health and Disease, Ulster University

Sumantra (Shumone) Ray is a Licensed Medical Doctor as well as a Registered Nutritionist (Public Health), with special interests in Cardiovascular Disease Prevention and Nutrition Education in Global Food and Health Systems.

As Chief Scientist and Executive Director of the NNEdPro Global Institute for Food, Nutrition and Health, most recently Professor Ray has been cross-appointed in Cambridge as a Director of Research at the University of Cambridge and Co-Lead for the Food, Nutrition and Education Work Package for the 'TIGR2ESS' Programme in India (2017-22) led by Cambridge and supported by UK Research and Innovation's Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF).

Professor Ray is a Bye-Fellow of Fitzwilliam College at the University of Cambridge, and, additionally, holds a fractional personal chair appointment as Professor of Global Nutrition, Health and Disease at Ulster University where he served an Advisory Board Member to the high-impact GCRF Latin American SAFEWATER programme (2017-22). In addition, he has a number of honorary/visiting professorial appointments, including Imperial College London in the UK, and internationally. He is also the Founder and Co-Chair of the flagship journal, BMJ Nutrition, Prevention and Health as well as the Founder and Principal Investigator for the multi-award-winning Mobile Teaching Kitchen International Initiative currently operating successfully in India, Mexico, USA and the UK.

Since 2008 Professor Ray and NNEdPro have pioneered efforts in studying the positioning and implementation of medical and health-systems related nutrition education, working across over 65 countries through Regional Networks convened by NNEdPro and its International Academy of Nutrition Educators.

Bios of International Summit Theme Leaders / Key Speakers

Dr Ahlam El Shikieri

*President of the International Affiliate
of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (IAAND)*

*Head of the Scientific Research and Ethics
Committee at the Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences,
Taibah University, Saudi Arabia*



Ahlam Badreldin El Shikieri has completed her PhD in Clinical Nutrition from Queen Margaret University, Scotland, UK, an MBA from Leicester University, UK and a Postgraduate Diploma in Community Nutrition from Queen Margaret University, UK. She is a registered Consultant Clinical Nutritionist, a Certified Public Health Nutritionist, and an Associate Professor currently working in Saudi Arabia as the Head of the Scientific Research and Ethics Committee at the Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences, Taibah University, Saudi Arabia.

She served as an invited speaker at several workshops and conferences in Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Germany and Taiwan. She supervised several research projects for students at the Master's and PhD levels and acted as an external examiner for two postgraduate theses at Durban University, South Africa. Her research interests include the nutritional status of cancer patients, cardiovascular disease risk factors, malnourished hospitalized patients and many other topics related to clinical and public health nutrition.

She teaches various courses related to clinical nutrition and community nutrition at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. These include Nutrition Care Process, Enteral and Parenteral courses, Research Methodology and Community Nutrition. She is a member of several associations and societies, including the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and IAAND (President), Society of Nutrition Education and Behaviour (Member of the Conference committee), British Nutrition Society, World Public Health Nutrition Association, American Society of Nutrition and the International Society for the Study of fatty acids and lipids.

She is a reviewer for many journals, including the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior and has acted as an author for more than 40 published research papers and newsletter articles. She has been a guest lecturer at the University of Cincinnati, USA, the University of East Carolina, USA, and the National Ribat University, Sudan.

Andre Laperrière

Former Exec. Director GODAN



During his career, Mr. Laperrière has led/managed numerous large-scale projects on behalf of Private Corporations and subsequently, within the United Nations and the World Bank.

He has extensive work experience in the Americas, Caribbean, Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

In 2020 Mr Laperriere retired from his post as first Executive Director of the Global Open Data initiative for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN), a global Secretariat conceived by the G8 to stimulate innovation and productivity in global agriculture and nutrition, adaptation to climate change and sustainable development.

Since then, he has joined numerous International Boards in Europe and in the Americas, pursuing economic and social development based on the 32 years of experience across the world. In addition, he speaks regularly to various fora, in particular on nutrition, health, economics, climate and social integration issues.

Prior to GODAN, Mr Laperrière has been Deputy CEO in the Global Environment Facility (GEF) at the World Bank, Director General of the Global Trust Council (GTC), a Sweden-based international organization and held various senior positions in the United Nations Common System.

In this context he played a senior role in the design and the implementation of major reforms in agencies such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and the World Bank.

Among other positions, Mr. Laperrière has been the first Executive Director of the Trust Fund for Victims at the ICC, Director of the Administration and Finance Division in WHO, and Coordinator for all reconstruction and rehabilitation activities under the responsibility of UNICEF in Iraq.

Prior to his career in the UN, Mr. Laperrière was Director in the International Services of Price Waterhouse. In this position, he led numerous development, privatization, mergers and structural reform projects in Europe, Africa, the Americas and Caribbean.

Mr. Laperrière is an expert in international development.

Spécialisations : International Development, Information Systems, Emergency, Policies, negotiation, organizational development, HR, Economics, International Law, sustainable development.

Celine Tabche

*WHO Collaborating Centres |
Imperial College London*



Celine Tabche is a teaching fellow at the WHO Collaborating Centre in the School of Public Health at Imperial College London. She holds a degree in Biology from the American University of Beirut (AUB) and a Master's degree in Eating Disorders and Clinical Nutrition from the University College London (UCL). She is a certified Associate Nutritionist, a Fellow of Higher Education in the UK (FHEA), a member of the prestigious Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH), and a CPD Associate Faculty of Public Health (FPH) member.

At present, Celine is working on a range of Public Health projects in collaboration with the WHO Collaborating Centre at Imperial College. Her key areas of contribution include supporting the development of a competency framework for the emergency workforce and assisting in the establishment of a public health academy in KSA. She also plays a critical role in leading the Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) training at the Ministry of Health in Saudi Arabia.

Celine is an accomplished speaker, having presented at several high-profile conferences on topics related to preventative medicine, public health, and nutrition. She has over three years of experience in clinical nutritional consultation and is well-versed in various aspects of public health. Her affiliation with the Arab Public Health Association (ArPHA) as a Board Secretariat and an international member of NNEdPro underscores her commitment to advancing public health initiatives on a global scale. She also collaborates with the International Association of Medical Colleges (IAOMC), further highlighting her extensive network of contacts and her ability to work collaboratively with other experts in the field of public health.

Prof Clare Wall



NNEdPro | University of Auckland



Clare is the Head of the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics and Associate Dean Curriculum - FMHS. After qualifying as a dietitian in the UK in 1984, she specialized in paediatric dietetics, working in both the UK and Australia. Clare is a NZ Registered Dietitian and is a member of the Council of Deans of Nutrition and Dietetics, Australia and New Zealand. She is a member of the Australia New Zealand Steering Committee for the NNEdPro network. NNEdPro (Need for Nutrition Education and Promotion) is part of a global network to promote nutrition teaching and research in health professions.

Clare's main research focus is the interrelationship between the determinants of nutritional status and health outcomes in early life. Main Responsibilities: Associate Dean Curriculum - Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences Head of Department of Nutrition and Dietetics Science Leadership Team Member - High Value Nutrition- National Science Challenge

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND APPOINTMENTS

- Professor - Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Nutrition, New Zealand

DEGREES

- BSc - University of Wales, Cardiff, United Kingdom
- PhD - Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia

CERTIFICATIONS

- Certificate of Registration and APC - The Dietitians Board of New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand

Claudia Laricchia



Smily Accademy



Claudia Laricchia is an accomplished academic, author, and ecopreneur with over 20 years of experience in international business promotion, education, and climate activism. She is an advisor for the G7 Official Engagement Group on Gender Balance (Women 7) and the President and CoFounder of the Smily Academy, a pioneering initiative focused on fostering sustainable mindsets and youth-driven eco-businesses.

Claudia's career began in business, managing large-scale European projects that promoted various sectors across the globe. Her transition to eco-business was catalysed by her involvement with climate leaders like Barack Obama and Al Gore, inspiring her to embark on a global tour exploring sustainable food technologies and contributing to several influential climate change and sustainability publications.

In addition to her business achievements, Claudia is a passionate educator. She holds teaching positions at the European Institute of Innovation for Sustainability and the Rome Business School, where she focuses on the impact of food technologies on climate change and the intersection of indigenous knowledge and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Claudia is also deeply committed to climate justice and gender balance. She holds leadership roles in several NGOs, including the Indigenous People's Climate Justice Forum, where she is the Chief of Global Strategic Cooperation. Her work in this field has earned her recognition as a leading figure in sustainability and innovation, including being named one of the "Unstoppable Women Changing Italy" by StartupItalia.

With a solid academic background, including a degree in Political Economy from the University of Siena and multiple master's degrees, Claudia is a trusted expert in her field. She continues to contribute to the global discourse on sustainability through her teaching, writing, and active involvement in various international initiatives.

Jaroslav Guzanic



NNEdPro |

Swiss Association for Corporation of Food Education



Jaroslav Guzanic is an Associate Member of the International Academy of Nutrition Educators (IANE), a division of the NNEdPro Global Centre for Nutrition. With extensive experience in hospitality, culinary management, and food sustainability, Jaroslav actively contributes to the development of projects in culinary nutrition and sustainable food practices.

Since October 2020, he has been part of the IANE, where he supports global nutrition education initiatives. He also co-leads the Swiss Regional Network for the NNEdPro Global Centre for Nutrition and Health, collaborating with the Swiss Association for Cooperation on Nutrition Education.

Jaroslav's diverse career includes roles such as Executive Chef at Geier Company AG in Switzerland and advisor for the Good Festival in Lausanne, where he has earned accolades for his contributions to sustainability and culinary innovation. His past positions also include Protocol Officer for Lausanne 2020, Chef de Partie at Wimbledon, and Event Chef at the ATP Tennis Tournament in Basel.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Banking Institute College in Prague and a High School Diploma in Hotel Management from The Slovak Hotel Academy. His certifications include a Certificate of Competence in Applied Human Nutrition from the Cambridge Summer School and various qualifications in hospitality management.

Jaroslav's expertise bridges the worlds of high-level culinary arts and impactful nutrition education, making him a prominent figure in both fields.

Kathy Martyn



NEdPro | *Brighton University*



Dr. Kathy Martyn is a Principal Lecturer in Nutrition at the University of Brighton, where she also holds the role of Disability Liaison Tutor. Her academic and research endeavors are centered around nutrition education, service improvement, and the implementation of innovative strategies. Dr. Martyn is known for her collaborative approach, having co-created and led several research projects aimed at advancing these fields.

Dr. Martyn completed her Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) at the University of Brighton in 2015. Her dissertation, which utilized classic grounded theory, examined how nurse educators facilitate the inclusion of disabled nursing students. She developed the "brokering" theory, which highlights the complex process educators navigate at the interface between higher education and the NHS, balancing personal beliefs and workplace expectations to address the practical challenges of inclusion.

She earned a Master's Degree in Medical Nutrition from the University of Surrey (2000), where her studies covered diverse topics including nutritional screening, care for older adults, and the role of nutrition in managing long-term conditions. Her master's research and coursework also focused on curriculum development and assessment strategies for nutrition education.

Dr. Martyn's foundational education includes a Bachelor's Degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Brighton (1995), where she graduated with a 2:1 classification, and a Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Sussex (1992). Her education in both biological sciences and education provided her with a solid basis for her subsequent specialization in nutrition and disability advocacy.

Marla Fuchs



University of Cambridge



Marla Fuchs is the ESRC Impact Acceleration Account coordinator in the Research Strategy Office at the University of Cambridge. In this role Marla provides a central role supporting impact activities across the University. She helps facilitate impact with external partners and across disciplines.

Marla studied mechanical engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York and went on to complete an MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable development at the University of Cambridge. She has worked in a variety of industries from nuclear fuels to inkjet technology, and later carbon consultancy. She returned to higher education to manage the Low Carbon KEEP programme on behalf of the European Regional Development fund, facilitating carbon reduction by small businesses via knowledge transfer in 2010.

Prof Martin Kohlmeier



Principal Advisor to the GIP

Editor-in-Chief - BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health

Chapel Hill, USA



The expertise of Martin Kohlmeier, MD, PhD, is in laboratory diagnostics, nutritional genetics and the use of computers in nutrition education for healthcare professionals and the general public. His clinical and laboratory experience uniquely help him translate bench research to the bedside and general consumer applications and to bring nutrition education to the health professions.

Dr. Kohlmeier graduated from the school of medicine at Heidelberg University, Germany, in 1976, and earned doctorates in biochemistry from Heidelberg University in 1977 and in clinical biochemistry from the Freie Universität, Berlin, in 1992.

He had postdoctoral training in biochemistry and bioinformatics at the Max-Planck-Institut for Nutrition, Dortmund, Germany, which was focused on mechanistic modeling and the analysis of metabolic responses to nutritional perturbations. A significant portion of his training focused on the molecular analysis and clinical treatment of inherited metabolic diseases. He completed his clinical training in internal medicine and laboratory medicine at Heidelberg University. After positions at Heidelberg University and the Free University in Berlin, he has been on the faculty of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill since 1992.

Dr. Kohlmeier is Director of the Human Research Core and Nutrigenetics Laboratory at the UNC Nutrition Research Institute. He also is Director of Nutrition in Medicine project, which has provided comprehensive online nutrition education to students and healthcare professionals since 1992, currently at more than 150 medical institutions worldwide.

Nimo Muthike



Busara



Wairimu is an Engagement Director at Busara. She comes from a background in agricultural development and has extensive experience in results-driven program management across the Global South, behavioural intervention design and implementation, and working with a diverse range of stakeholders, from international donors and private sector companies, to grassroots associations and smallholder farmers. Wairimu leads Busara's portfolio on behavioural science and agriculture. She is able to ensure high quality and timely project deliverables, whilst navigating the contextual sensitivities and challenges on the ground. At Busara, Wairimu has led rural livelihood and agriculture based projects with partners, such as USAID and Mastercard Foundation focused on intervention design, testing and implementation, as well as learning partnerships. Prior to joining Busara, Wairimu worked at ACRE Africa and Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, where she managed multiple projects, primarily in the field of agriculture. Wairimu holds an MSc and BSc in Food Science and Technology from the University of Nairobi.

There are many different humans, but not so many different ways in which these humans behave. This represents the building block of my interest in the development of behavioral archetypes as practical entry points to understanding, influencing (and potentially leap-frogging) adoption and use of agriculture technology solutions.

Mass customisation is the mecca of influencing adoption of products and services. However, the reality is that agriculture is a few steps behind in supporting mass customisation. My work has focused on understanding and having an informed visibility on the factors influencing and driving maintained adoption of production and resource enhancing technologies by sub-saharan small scale producers. Through various projects and partnerships like DIG-it-AL, Warwick, EatSafe i have had the privilege to immerse myself in identifying channels and mechanisms through which agriculture based products and services have farmer identities and leadership in their design and deployment.

My conversion to be pro-behavior science occurred in my previous position as Head, Business Development of ACRE Africa. Insights from a study funded by 3ie allowed me to engage with behavioral science as a tool in understanding revealed preference to inform the design and deployment of risk management solutions to small scale farmers. My passion for working with small scale producers emerged from working on Kilimo Salama, a 5 year project hosted by Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture and has only deepened since.

Prof Nitya Rao



University of East Anglia



Nitya Rao is a Professor of Gender and Development at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, United Kingdom and Director of the Norwich Institute for Sustainable Development, which brings together disciplines to achieve the shared goal of global food and nutrition security.

She has worked as a researcher and advocate in the field of women's rights, gendered wellbeing, and justice, with a particular focus on food, nutrition, health and livelihood security. She has published extensively on the gendered changes in agrarian relations, migration and livelihoods, especially in contexts of climatic variability and economic precarity. She has consistently engaged with policy and practice, at both the global and local levels. Apart from supporting networks of women farmers in India, she served on the Global Advisory Committee of the United Nations Girls Education Initiative for over a decade.

She has served as a member of the Steering Group of the High-Level Panel of Experts to the Committee on World Food Security for two terms. She is currently Commissioner, EAT-Lancet 2.0 on healthy and sustainable diets, member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub, member of the UKRI International Strategic Advisory Group and External Adviser, People-Centered Food Systems Project at Columbia University. She has supervised and mentored over 30 PhD students and several early career researchers in the areas of her interest.

Saeeda Ahmed

NNEdPro | Sustainable Cities Global



MORE THAN THE SUM OF THE PARTS

Best described as an optimist and solutions person benefit industry, education sector, economy and more importantly people.

Where education sector, labour market or regeneration of an area is failing, I have lead and bought teams of specialists to design, implement and created award winning solutions across sectors >20 years.

Lead by innovation, creativity and simplicity. Underlying ethical and quality principles. Heavily involved in the Social Economy and found synergies with the true Islamic economy and broader Halal ecosystem. I'm developing linkages between the mainstream and faith sectors.

Fortunate to have worked across sectors finding innovative and simple ways to address growth challenges. Given much support on a pro bono basis for > 20 years. Developed extensive networks, strategic allies and skills over this time and use this to support what I am involved in. It has started giving back to me in terms of knowledge, opportunities and experience.

Hold numerous accolades, awards and recognition.

My main areas of interest:

1. Established Education Partnerships UK which provides British qualifications, accreditation and knowledge solutions internationally. Work with government agencies, education partners and industry both in the U.K. and internationally to offer accredited high school to postgraduate qualifications+wider development for industry to create successful economies.
2. Online Ethical and Halal Marketplaces creating substantial entrepreneurship opportunities globally. Provides export opportunities for British+ EU Businesses wanting to export their products and services.
3. Interested in mutually beneficial collaborations or partnerships related to trade, education or islamic ethical economy.

Dr Sofia Cavalleri



RISTOLAB s.r.l



Ethnobotanist researcher.

After a three-year degree in International Studies (University of Trento) and an Erasmus Mundus Master in Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management (MESPOM: Central European University, Aegean University, Lund University), Sofia completed a double Ph.D. in Ethnobotany and Sustainable Food Systems (Chulalongkorn University and Stockholm Environment Institute, Bangkok).

In 2023 Sofia was selected by FAO as one of 16 under-30 members of the World Food Forum's Young Scientist Group, with a mandate to conduct applied research on healthy lifestyles and sustainable food systems. Sofia decided to conduct her interdisciplinary research on Traditional Mediterranean Medicine and on the traditional ecological knowledge of Cilento.

Dr Vidya Mohamed-Ali



University College London



Dr. Vidya Mohamed-Ali is Scientific Advisor at the Anti-Doping Lab Qatar, Deputy Director of the Centre of Metabolism and Inflammation at University College London and a member of the Medical & Scientific Committee of the International Olympic Committee.

She has contributed to over 100 conference proceedings and media output for the wider public (such as the British Nutrition Foundation Task Force publications) and attracted funding for several student stipends. She has obtained grant funding of £1.95 million and published over 90 peer-reviewed papers, four reviews and contributed chapters to three books. Her work has been cited over 6,000 times, with an H-index of 52.

Dr Virginie Zoumenou



University of Maryland Eastern Shore



Dr. Virginie Zoumenou is a seasoned Program Development and Evaluation Specialist with over 20 years of experience in health, nutrition-sensitive, and agriculture-related programs. Her extensive expertise spans both the United States and developing countries, focusing on creating and assessing impactful programs in these areas.

Currently, Dr. Zoumenou serves as a Program Developer and Certified Program Evaluator at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). Her notable projects include evaluating barriers for BIPOC farmers in accessing USDA Agricultural Marketing Services funding, developing the EXCITE vaccination awareness projects, and initiating the Well Connected Communities initiative. She has also developed and implemented several programs aimed at improving food and nutrition education, including the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program and the Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Program.

In addition to her role at UMES, Dr. Zoumenou is the Director of the Center for Obesity Prevention Serving Preschoolers, Siblings, and Caregivers (COP-SPSC), where she has developed innovative projects to address childhood obesity through various engaging methods. Her expertise in grant writing, project evaluation, and program management is complemented by her proficiency in both English and French.

Dr. Zoumenou has held various academic roles, including Full Professor of Dietetics and Nutrition at UMES and previously at Florida International University and University Abobo Adjame in Côte d'Ivoire. Her teaching experience covers a wide range of subjects, including personal and world nutrition, food science, and biochemistry.

Her consultancy work includes evaluating health insurance literacy programs and network partnerships for the Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center and USAID technical assistance roles in Ghana and Nigeria, where she assessed and improved nutrition programs and technologies for local communities.

Dr. Zoumenou earned her Ph.D. in Dietetics and Nutrition from Florida International University, a Doctorate in Biochemistry and Nutrition from National University of Côte d'Ivoire, and a Certificate in Fundamentals of Evaluation from Emory University. She also completed coursework in Agriculture and Extension Program Development at UMES.

Dr Yenory Hernández-Garbanzo

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)



Nutritionist:

- Ph.D. in Food Technology (2011), focused on nutrition education/public health
- BSc-Lic in Human Nutrition (2006)
- Member of the Society of Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB)
- Member of the Latin America Society for Nutrition (SLAN)

Working areas:

I have been actively involved for over 15 years in nutrition-related research, extension, program management, and academic projects in the US, and in more than 20 LMICs. Key areas of work include:

- Development of global guidance, capacity development opportunities, and country support for the preparation of national dietary guidelines, with a food systems perspective
- Translational research and global/regional/country normative materials development aimed at improving child nutrition through coordinated school food and nutrition (SFN), with a special emphasis on school food and nutrition education (SFNE)
- Nutrition education for behavior change, integrated into food security projects/programs
- Facilitation of multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms for nutrition at country level, with a special emphasis on maternal and child nutrition
- Capacity development in nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems programs/projects
- Survey/indicators development, measurement, and evaluation of youth/school-based nutrition education programs
- Strategic and creative design, coordination, and delivery of global, regional, and country multistakeholder events on the areas of FBDGs, SFNE, and Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets

Bios of Regional Summit Theme Leaders / Key Speakers

Jaydeep Chakraborty



CEO of Calcutta Rescue



Born in London and after gaining a BSc and MSc in applied mathematics, Jaydeep started his career as an aerospace engineer followed by automotive engineering and worked for British Aerospace in England and Lear Motors in Germany.

After being inspired by Muhammed Yunus' book, "Banker to the Poor", and attaining an MSc in Finance from Cass Business School in London, he moved to India in 2006 to serve poor communities through microfinance. He worked for Unitus Capital in Bangalore before moving to the city of his roots, Kolkata, where he joined Arohan Financial Services Ltd as VP and headed finance, fundraising and HR.

In 2014, Jaydeep co-founded Wings Learning Centres, a chain of affordable education centres for low-income communities. He joined Calcutta Rescue as CEO in 2017.

Mitali Palodhi



Consultant Nutritionist



Ms. Mitali Palodhi is a seasoned Nutritionist and Dietitian with over 35 years of experience, specializing in Public Health Nutrition. Her career has recently expanded to the interdisciplinary field of One Health, reflecting her deep interest in the factors affecting community nutrition.

Ms. Mitali Palodhi graduated with Distinction in Physiology, Zoology, and Botany from Calcutta University and completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Dietetics from the All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health, where she ranked Second in Order of Merit. She further pursued a Master's in Dietetics and Community Nutrition Management from Vidyasagar University. Ms. Palodhi also holds qualifications in Diabetic Education and Infant & Young Child Feeding Counselling from government institutions.

Her professional career includes a notable role as a Demonstration Officer with the Food & Nutrition Board, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India. Over 34 years, she specialized in Public Health Nutrition, Program Planning, Management, and Food Analysis, managing the Regional Quality Control Laboratory and organizing public health programs across Eastern India. She has also trained government officials and participated in international courses, including a FAO-sponsored program on Food and Nutrition Program Planning and Management.

Ms. Palodhi's current roles include serving as a Governing Body Member at the Child In Need Institute (CINI), Convener for Net ProFaN at the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), and contributing to the Eat Right India Movement. She is an Academic Counsellor at Indira Gandhi National Open University and a Visiting Faculty member at Hiralal Majumder Memorial College for Women. Her past involvement includes serving as a Master Trainer of Nutrition for HIV/AIDS counselors with West Bengal SACS.

Ms. Mitali Palodhi frequently participates in health and nutrition discussions on media platforms and contributes to "Yojana," the government's publication. Additionally, Ms. Palodhi holds leadership roles in several professional bodies, including Vice President of the Indian Dietetic Association, and is affiliated with various organizations dedicated to health promotion and nutrition education.

Paromita Chowdhury



International Development Consultant



Paromita Chowdhury is a programme officer at Oak Foundation, where she manages the grant portfolio of the Joint India Programme. Prior to Oak, she worked with CARE India and Oxfam Great Britain/India on issues of reproductive rights, economic justice, rights to essential services and gender justice.

Paromita has a postgraduate degree in rural management from Xavier Institute of Social Services, Ranchi, a postgraduate diploma in human resources management from Symbiosis, Pune. She is also a Packard Fellow on population and reproductive health

Prachi Pandit



Building Lasting Health Solutions



Prachi Pandit is an accomplished health expert with over 12 years of experience, dedicated to creating lasting health solutions through strategies and products for both individuals and organisations. Her primary focus is on enhancing access to, and reducing the cost of, nutritious food options and micronutrient supplements for underprivileged communities. She holds a postgraduate degree in Medical Biochemistry and is both a certified Nutritionist and a Health Coach. Prachi's nearly two decades of experience bridge the gap between the science of nutrition (the microscopic) and real-world application (the macroscopic). She translates this knowledge into effective programs by designing and implementing them in communities.

Her expertise spans several critical areas, including maternal and child nutrition, lifestyle disorder management, consumer insights, behaviour change communication, and the development of innovative, scalable nutrition programs. Prachi's background encompasses everything from designing rigorous studies to break the cycle of malnutrition across generations, to using behavior change strategies, improved systems, and dietary modifications to achieve this goal. A driving force behind sustainable nutrition solutions, Prachi has spearheaded research projects, implemented these solutions, she has established herself as a thought leader by authoring over 15 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters that explore nutrition, women's health, and effective ways to increase demand for healthy foods.

Prachi is passionate about reducing health inequalities, improving healthcare access, and empowering individuals and organisations to make informed food choices. Her work reflects a deep commitment to these goals, and she has led numerous major projects with significant impact. Notably, she spearheaded a mixed-methods study in Rajasthan that received government endorsement, highlighting her ability to drive meaningful change in public health.

She is currently Senior Consultant to Shiv Nadar Foundation, Leading Project MoolGyan, she fosters student connection to food through a school farm. MoolGyan's blended approach integrates STEAM with agriculture, educating and gently nudging students towards healthy, sustainable choices. Prachi spearheaded "Glow Getter" at urban schools. This food literacy program uses immersive experiences (farming, cooking) and game-based learning to connect students with food, fostering healthy eating habits.

In addition to her project leadership, Prachi co-founded Arbuza Regenerate Pvt. Ltd., an initiative focused on nutrition education and enhancing overall well-being through evidence based science methods. Prachi's core expertise lies in addressing complex nutritional challenges with practical, effective strategies that last. Her extensive experience and innovative approach position her as a leader in creating sustainable health solutions.

Dr Sabyasachi Ray



Chairman, Association of Clinicians of India



Dr Sabyasachi Ray, MBBS (Kol), MRCPI, FRCPI, MACP, FACP (USA), is a Consultant Gastroenterologist at Peerless Hospital and B.K. Roy Research Centre, as well as Remedy Clinic in Lake Town, Kolkata. He has extensive training and experience in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology, acquired in both the UK and India and has been practising for over four decades.

Dr Ray's areas of special interest include dyspepsia with H. Pylori, Gastro-Oesophageal Reflux Disease, and chronic liver diseases such as hepatitis and fatty liver disease. He is currently involved in several ongoing studies in these areas. Throughout his career, Dr. Ray has published over 100 papers in national and international journals and has presented and chaired numerous medical meetings. He is also deeply committed to teaching and educating both undergraduate and postgraduate students in Medicine and Gastroenterology.

Dr Ray serves as the Chairman of the Association of Clinicians of India (a unit of the Indian Fellows and Members of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland [RCPI]; Dr Ray was formerly Regional Advisor to the RCPI since 2005). Additionally, he has been an Examiner and Convener for MRCPI clinical exams since 2006. He is the president of the Remedy Clinic Study Group in Lake Town, Kolkata, and was formerly a visiting professor of medicine/gastroenterology at the College of Medical Sciences in Bharatpur, Nepal. In June 2018, Dr Ray was honoured by Peerless Hospital, Kolkata, for his dedicated service during their Silver Jubilee celebration.

Soumyendu Ghosh

(MSc. Dietetics, CDE, CFN, PGD Diabetes Educator)

*Consultant Dietitian, Diabetes Educator & Lifestyle Counselor,
Director: Cognize Nutrition*



Soumyendu Ghosh is currently leading an online Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) course for Dietetics and Nutrition students and professionals. He practices as a freelance Dietitian and is affiliated with Mindset Clinic and Soulful Steps in Kolkata. Soumyendu is also associated with the NGO S.O.S. Village, providing nutrition education to rural mothers and children. He serves as an Honorary Member of the National Advisory Committee for Community Health and Nutrition Programs under the Community Nutrition Core Group at IAPEN India, where he actively engages in various community nutrition initiatives.

He is a guest lecturer in the Department of Nutrition at Calcutta University and has contributed chapters to various books and authored several articles. Soumyendu was formerly the Dietician Lead for the Eastern Region of India at Abbott Nutrition and worked as a Dietitian at Calcutta Fitness Club. He participated in Pan-India operational research to study the outcomes of diabetes in terms of HbA1c and quality of life, conducted by IDE, New Delhi, and sponsored by HOPE, USA, at Apollo Multispeciality Hospital.

He has worked as a corporate lifestyle counsellor for companies such as IBM, TCS, Vodafone, Reliance, and Jet Airways, and as a nutrition counsellor for over 600 schools with Abbott, Nutrella, and Symo Educare. Soumyendu has been involved in nursing training programmes for various hospitals and has conducted workshops for different universities and colleges. He has served as a coordinator and speaker at a Diabetes Education and Nutrition workshop during a scientific session organised by the RSSDI West Bengal Chapter at S.S.K.M Hospital and the Diabetes Association of India (DAI).

Additionally, he has been a speaker at numerous scientific seminars for doctors and patient education programmes, including onco-nutrition for oncology faculty at Saroj Gupta Cancer Hospital, ICU nutrition for PG doctors at SSKM Hospital, and various diabetes-related topics at Calcutta Medical College. He has also spoken at the All Tripura Diabetic Conference in Agartala, the North-East Diabetic Society in Dibrugarh, Assam, the DRWA Conference, and AMOCEicon, as well as in workshops and seminars organised by different pharmaceutical companies. Soumyendu is a life member of IAPEN, the Indian Dietetic Association, and the Association of Diabetes Educators.

Sudeshna Maitra Nag



Chief Dietitian of Peerless Hospital



Sudeshna Maitra Nag has been working in a hospital setting as Chief Dietitian for the last 18 years. Before this, she worked as a nutritionist at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for seven years. Her areas of specialisation include healthcare, diet consultancy, therapeutic diets, content writing, and nutrition, as well as organising workshops. Sudeshna is passionate about working with patients who have diverse nutritional needs, helping to correct their nutrition status, and supporting them in living healthier lives. She has a strong interest in community work, particularly in serving underprivileged groups, the LGBTQ community, individuals with special needs, and others who require nutritional support.

In 2020, Sudeshna contributed to the post-COVID SMA guidelines and has also contributed to a cookbook published by the NNEdPro Global Centre for Nutrition & Health, Cambridge, UK. She is involved with the Mobile Teaching Kitchen project in Kolkata as a nutrition adviser. Sudeshna is a life member of the Indian Dietetic Association (IDA), currently holds the position of Vice President of the IAPEN Kolkata chapter and is an honorary member of the Bangladesh Food & Nutrition Association (BAFNA). She is also a member of the NNEdPro Global Institute for Food, Nutrition & Health.

Prof Suprakash Pradhan



*Professor at Prabhat Kumar College,
President of e Nurture Academy Welfare Trust*



Suprakash Pradhan is a young, dynamic Nutritionist, Clinical Dietitian, and Diabetic Educator working as a consultant at Nurture Nutrition Solution. He is also a State Aided College Teacher-I in the Department of Nutrition at Prabhat Kumar College, Contai, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal, with over 15 years of teaching experience in Nutrition and Physiology. Suprakash completed his undergraduate degree in Physiology (Honours) at Anda Mohan College, Calcutta in 2005, and his postgraduate degree (M.Sc.) in Dietetics and Community Nutrition Management from Vidyasagar University in 2009. In 2014, he successfully completed his internship in dietetics at Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital, Kolkata, and in 2017, he completed a one-year National Diabetes Educator Programme at Peerless Hospital & B. K. Roy Research Centre under Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Education Academy.

In 2020, Suprakash passed the State Eligibility Test for Assistant Professor in The West Bengal College Service Commission and is currently pursuing a PhD in Food and Nutrition at Mansarovar Global University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. He is a life member of the Indian Dietetic Association (IDA), the Nutrition Society of India (NSI), and Diabetes Awareness and You (DAY). Suprakash has actively participated in and presented papers at national and international seminars and conferences on various nutritional issues and has published numerous research articles in reputable national and international journals. He has authored books on Human Nutrition and Food Science, a Handbook of Human Physiology, and a Handbook of Therapeutic Nutrition for undergraduate students. Additionally, Suprakash is a social worker, motivator, and life coach. In 2020, he founded the Nurture Academy Welfare Trust, where he serves as President.

Bios of Key Speakers

Prof Alexandra (Alex) Johnstone



Rowett Institute, University of Aberdeen



Alex is a member of the Rowett Institute Executive Committee, as Theme Lead for Nutrition, Obesity and Disease. Alex obtained her PhD in 2001, and she is a UK registered Nutritionist with Association for Nutrition.

'Working on safer, fairer, healthy and sustainable food for all'

She currently leads the £1.6M 'FIO Food' research grant, funded from UKRI Transforming Food Systems, which is research on Food Insecurity and Obesity, with emphasis on the retail food sector. Also the £0.5M 'DIO Food' grant on diet and health inequalities.

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/rowett/research/fio-food/index.php>

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/rowett/research/dio-food-1857.php>

These grants aim to :-

- Improve environmentally sustainable and healthier food choices in the UK food system, with focus on policy for the retail food sector
- Provide actionable evidence for retail strategy policy addressing dietary inequalities in two vulnerable groups - people living with obesity and food insecurity.

She manages a research team to successfully lead high calibre research activities, in collaboration with internal and external colleagues. She is actively engaged in organising and delivering teaching/learning excellence and the translation the team's innovative science to a range of stakeholders, to achieving high impact, through sustained knowledge exchange activities, and having real commercial and community benefit.

Dr Ananya Mukherjee



VC of Shiv Nadar University



Dr. Ananya Mukherjee is Vice-Chancellor of Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, recently recognized as an Institution of Eminence. Attracted by the opportunity to lead such an institution, Dr. Mukherjee returned to India after spending more than two decades in two of the largest universities in Canada — the University of British Columbia and York University.

Dr. Mukherjee obtained her Ph.D. from the University of Southern California, USA, and her BA and MA degrees in Economics from Jadavpur University, India. Before joining Shiv Nadar University, Dr. Mukherjee was Provost and Vice-President Academic, University of British Columbia (UBC) Okanagan — a fast-growing campus of a university which ranks amongst the top 40 in the world. She also led UBC's strategy for antiracism and inclusive higher education, and has been involved in several national initiatives for higher education in Canada. Between 2015 and 2018, Dr. Mukherjee was Dean of the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies at York University, Toronto. In this capacity, she led the largest liberal arts faculty in Canada with 23,000 students from 123 countries.

Dr. Mukherjee is an interdisciplinary scholar of Development. Her initial body of work focused on corporate governance and its relation to development in India/South Asia, resulting in two books, several articles in academic journals and the media. Since 2006, Dr. Mukherjee's work has focused more on the theorization of development, beginning from a critical understanding of Amartya Sen's work on human development. This has yielded yet another body of work including two books and many other contributions, both for academia and beyond. At York University, Dr. Mukherjee established the International Secretariat for Human Development (ISHD), an initiative dedicated to research for social change. Under her leadership as the Founding Director, ISHD collaborated with institutions such as the International Labor Organization; the UN Office for Project Services, Rome; the UN Development Program; the UN Research Institute for Social Development, and others.

Dr. Mukherjee was named as one the 15 Most Influential Women in Education by Business World in 2022; amongst Canada's 100 Most Powerful Women in 2021; and one of the five Brilliant Women in Academia by Canadian Immigrant magazine in their tribute to 'Immigrant Women of Inspiration' in 2016.

Guillaume Pégon



Action Contre la Faim (Action Against Hunger)



Guillaume Pégon holds a doctorate in sociology and anthropology and is a clinical psychologist. His research and publications focus on the transformation of mental health practices and policies in the humanitarian field, social insecurity and migration. He has worked for twenty years in the solidarity sectors in France and internationally.

He is currently responsible for the Mental Health Psychosocial Support sector at the headquarters of Action Against Hunger (Paris), a lecturer at the School of Practicing Psychologists (Lyon) and an associate researcher at the Max Weber Center (UMR 5283-Lyon).

Aware of the mental health issues linked to climate change, he explores how global and community mental health constitutes a collective proposal in the face of climate change, in the fight against gender, social and climatic inequalities, and for better recognition of the commons.

Dr Jeffrie Quarsie



*PhD Candidate in Political Science
School of Politics and International Relations
Queens Mary University of London*



Dr Jeffrie Quarsie is a medical doctor, environmental public health specialist and political scientist with a Master from Sciences Po Paris. He is pursuing a PhD in Political Science at Oxford University conducting research on neo-colonial practices in Africa.

In his previous research Dr Quarsie examines the role of “race”/ethnicity in health care. Dr Quarsie has published on ethnicity in medical journals, contributed to the revision of Dutch medical guidelines regarding decolonisation/deracialisation and provides expert advice on decolonising ethnicity and health for the Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy.

Jordyn Stafford



Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services



Jordyn Stafford, based in Inukjuak, QC, CA, is currently a Nunavik Food Security Manager at Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services.

As the Nunavik Food Security Manager, Jordyn works with community partners across the 14 villages of Nunavik to develop and implement Inuit led food security projects. Supporting the traditional food system while bringing about innovative strategies for a stronger regional food system in a changing Arctic climate. Her passion lies at the intersection of food security and the environment.

Marta Lonnie



Rowett Institute, University of Aberdeen



Dr. Marta Lonnie is a distinguished Research Fellow at the Rowett Institute of Nutrition and Health, where she specializes in medicine, medical sciences, and nutrition. Her research primarily addresses dietary inequalities, food insecurity, and sustainable nutrition practices, reflecting her commitment to advancing public health and improving food systems.

Dr. Lonnie's work is notable for its focus on the intersection of economic challenges and nutritional health. Her recent studies investigate how the cost-of-living crisis and food insecurity impact food purchasing behaviors and preparation practices among individuals living with obesity. One of her significant contributions is a comprehensive analysis of the UK food system, where she explores stakeholders' experiences to offer national policy recommendations aimed at reducing dietary inequalities and improving healthcare practices.

In addition to her work on food insecurity, Dr. Lonnie has examined the broader implications of dietary choices and environmental sustainability. Her research includes evaluating the global protein supply requirements and promoting plant-based proteins as a sustainable and healthy dietary component. She has contributed to peer-reviewed journals with articles on topics such as the public health rationale for plant proteins and the health-promoting attributes of plant-based proteins. Her systematic review on plant proteins as functional ingredients highlights her expertise in integrating nutrition science with practical food sector applications.

Dr. Lonnie's scholarly output includes a variety of impactful publications. Her articles and reviews address crucial issues like the relationship between food insecurity and obesity, the role of plant proteins in diet, and strategies to meet the nutritional needs of an ageing population. Her research has been influential in shaping discussions on sustainable nutrition and public health, making significant contributions to both academic knowledge and policy development.

With over 300 citations to her work, Dr. Lonnie's research has had a notable impact in the field of nutrition and health. Her commitment to addressing complex issues at the intersection of diet, economics, and health continues to drive advancements in creating healthier and more equitable food systems.

Prof Suzanne Piscopo



***Department of Health, Physical Education and Consumer Studies,
Faculty of Education, University of Malta; President, Society for
Nutrition Education and Behavior Board of Trustees***

University of Malta, Malta



Suzanne Piscopo is the Senior faculty in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Consumer Studies in the Faculty of Education at the University of Malta (UM) in Malta and Chairperson of the Faculty Doctoral Committee. She is a Professor in Home Economics -- Nutrition, Family and Consumer Studies, mainly training BSc (Hons) Home Economics students, as well as providing initial education to future Primary and Secondary level teachers and early childhood educators. She is also an ad hoc lecturer on nutrition, food security and food culture with other faculties, a Board member of the UM Programme for Mediterranean Foodways and a frequent guest speaker in school and community activities and on the mass media tackling subjects related to food, nutrition, health and consumption.

Suzanne is a Registered Nutritionist, a Registered European Health Promotion Practitioner, a Fellow of the Institute of Food Science and Technology and is Past President of the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior based in the USA. She is currently Academic Coordinator of a national community education project focusing on sustainable living and is also involved in different international projects addressing the Mediterranean Diet and food systems. Suzanne has served on committees designing the Maltese national dietary guidelines, as well as the national school food policy. With her husband Michael she is co-creator of Fonzu I-Fenek (Fonzu the Rabbit) a very popular cartoon character in Malta teaching about healthy eating and healthy, sustainable lifestyles.