

Scientific Programme

Provisional Agenda

08:00 – 08:30

Registration

Opening plenary session

08:30 – 09:30 **Moderator:** Dr Richard Brennan, Regional Emergency Director, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt

Introduction:

EMARIS Conference-an introductory video – Video screening

Welcome Remarks:

- His Excellency Dr Hilal Bin Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health, Sultanate of Oman
- Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari, Regional Director, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt
- Dr Mike Ryan, Executive Director, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, WHO Headquarters, Switzerland
- Dr David E. Wentworth, Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Control of Influenza/Chief, Virology Surveillance and Diagnosis, Influenza Division, CDC, United State of America
- Ms Ann Moen, Representative of the EMARIS Conference Organizing Committee, Public Health Advisor (*former Ass. Director of Pandemic Preparedness, Influenza Division, CDC, United State of America*)
- Infectious Hazard Prevention, Preparedness and Response– Video screening

09:30 – 10:00 **Networking break / Group photo**

Press Conference

(parallel event to EMARIS Conference Session 1)

10:00 – 11:00

- His Excellency Dr Hilal Bin Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health, Sultanate of Oman
- Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari, Regional Director, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt
- Dr Richard Brennan, Regional Emergency Director, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, WHO, Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt
- Dr David E. Wentworth, Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Control of Influenza/Chief, Virology Surveillance and Diagnosis, Influenza Division, CDC, United States of America

Session 1: Reinforcing preparedness, detection, and response to respiratory diseases; from country to region to world (Lesson learn from Covid 19 pandemic)

Moderator: Dr Abdinasir Abubakar, Manager Infectious Hazard Prevention and Preparedness, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt, Acting WHO Representative Lebanon
Presentations 10:00 – 10:10

- The Global COVID-19 Pandemic: How to end the pandemic – and prepare for the next pandemic/global vision

Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, Technical lead for the COVID – 19 response/Head Emerging Diseases and Zoonoses Unit, WHO Headquarters, Switzerland 10:10 – 10:20

- Lessons learned during the COVID-19 and future CDC Global Influenza Branch initiatives

Dr Eduardo Azziz – Baumgartner, Acting Branch Chief – Global Influenza Branch, Influenza Division, CDC, United States of

America 10:20 – 10:30

- Respiratory Infections in the EMR post COVID-19- Challenges and opportunities for better control and prevention

Dr Rana Hajjeh, Director Programme Management, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt 10:30 – 10:40

- Influenza during the COVID-19 pandemic-a global perspective of surveillance, preparedness and response to future influenza pandemic–

Dr Wenqing Zhang, Unit Head, Global Influenza Programme, WHO Headquarters, Switzerland 10:40 – 10:50

- Integrated surveillance of influenza and other respiratory viruses with epidemic and pandemic potential: progress and challenges in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Dr Haleema Alseheri, General Directorate of Infectious Diseases, Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia 11:00 – 11:45 **Panel discussion**

Moderator: Dr Abdinasir Abubakar, Manager Infectious Hazard Prevention and Preparedness, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt, Acting WHO Representative Lebanon **Panelists:**

Dr Wenqing Zhang, Unit Head, Global Influenza Programme, WHO Headquarters, Switzerland

Dr Hanan Al Kindi, Director Central Public Health Laboratories, Sultanate of Oman

Dr David E. Wentworth, Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Control of Influenza/Chief, Virology Surveillance and Diagnosis, Influenza Division, CDC, United States of America

Dr Amjad Ghanem Zaed Ghanem, Chief of Public Health Laboratories, Ministry of Health, Bahrain 70th Anniversary of

GISRS, Decade of Collaboration Success and challenges – Video

*GISRS serves as a critical resource for countries handling non-influenza emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic. How GISRS helped Eastern Mediterranean Region and the world respond to pandemic*11:45 – 13:00

Oral abstract presentations

Moderator: Dr Joshua A. Mott, WHO Technical Advisor, Department of Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention, WHO Headquarters, Switzerland

Thematic area: Epidemiological surveillance Influenza, MERS and ORV, Integrated surveillance, Genomic surveillance, Lessons learnt from COVID-19

- Sudan: Mr Omer Ali

Epidemiology of covid-19 among children and adolescents in Sudan 2020-2022

- Somalia: Ms Sahra Isse Mohamed

Characterization of influenza viruses circulating in Somalia; September 2021 to September 2022

- Afghanistan: Dr Mohammad Akbar Paiman

Strengthening information sharing & management for outbreak response in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region

- Yemen: Dr Ahmed Thabit

An assessment of the current epidemiological and laboratory capacities for influenza-like illnesses and severe acute respiratory infection surveillance, Yemen 2022

- Global: Dr Isabel Bergeri

Pandemic special investigations and studies: key lessons and future directions

Followed by Q&A5 oral Presentations Panel of Judges

Dr Ahmed Mandil, Coordinator, Research & Innovation, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt

Dr Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, Ministry of Health and Human Services, Somalia

Dr Hind Bouguerra, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, Tunisia

Dr Mohammed Badi, Public Health Specialist, Ministry of Health, United Arab of Emirate

Dr Noore Alam, Technical Officer, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt

Dr Kinda Zureick, Epidemiologist, Global Influenza Branch, Influenza Division, CDC, United States of America

Dr Mohammad Nemer Abed Al – Hawarat, Director of the Communicable Diseases Directorate, Ministry of Health, Jordan13:00 – 14:00

Lunch Break

Session 2: Influenza, non influenza respiratory viruses characteristics and preparedness dynamics

Moderator: Dr Salah Al-Awaidy, Sr. Consultant Medical Epidemiologist, Communicable Diseases Adviser to Health Affairs, Ministry of Health, Sultanate of Oman**Presentations**14:00 – 14:10

- WHO support to Member States during the COVID-19 pandemic – Outcome of an independent evaluation

Dr Richard Brennan, Regional Emergency Director, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt14:10 – 14:20

- Surveillance and characterization of human influenza viruses is central to pandemic preparedness

Dr David E. Wentworth, Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Control of Influenza/Chief, Virology Surveillance and Diagnosis, Influenza Division, CDC, United States of America14:20 – 14:30

- Role of Central Public Health Laboratory in promoting integrated respiratory disease surveillance

Dr Ahmed Al Barraq, Director, National Influenza Center and Central Public Health Laboratory, Saudi Arabia14:30 – 14:40

- Global and regional threats for seasonal, avian, and other novel influenza viruses: What needs to be done!

Dr Nicola Lewis, Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza, United Kingdom14:40 – 14:50

- Preparing for future pandemics: CDC strategies and priorities for coronavirus and other respiratory viruses

Dr Aron Hall, Deputy Division Director, Coronaviruses and Other Respiratory Viruses Division, CDC, United States of America14:50 – 15:00

- Investing and sustaining genome surveillance is critical for stronger pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response

Dr Krista Queen, Faculty, GISAID Academy, United States of America15:00 – 15:45**Panel discussion**

Moderator: Dr Eduardo Azziz-Baumgartner, Acting Branch Chief-Global Influenza Branch, Influenza Division, CDC, United States of America**Panelists:**

Dr Amal Barakat, Technical Officer, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt

Dr Hicham Oumzil, Chief Department of Virology, National Institute of Hygiene, Ministry of Health, Morocco

Dr Ahmed Al Barraq, Director, National Influenza Center and Central Public Health Laboratory, Saudi Arabia

Dr David E. Wentworth, Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Control of Influenza/Chief, Virology Surveillance and Diagnosis, Influenza Division, CDC, United States of America
The Virological Surveillance of Influenza and other emerging respiratory pathogens from the Country to the Region, to the World: lessons learned from COVID and what we can do more in EMR
15:45 – 16:00

Networking break

Oral Abstract Presentations

16:00 – 17:30
Thematic areas: Virological surveillance, Influenza, MERS and other emerging respiratory infections, Integrated surveillance, Lessons learnt from COVID-19

- Iran: Dr Jila Yavarian

Genomic surveillance of sars-cov2 strains circulating in Iran during six waves of pandemic

- Pakistan: Mr Abdul Ahad

Confronting covid-19 pandemic – Pakistan's experience with laboratory detection

- United Arab Emirates: Dr Francis Amirtharaj

Influenza surveillance in the United Arab Emirates: 2019 to 2022

- Lebanon: Mrs Zeina Farah

Estimation of the influenza-associated hospitalization rates using sentinel surveillance data, Lebanon, 2015-2020

- Oman: Dr Fatma Alyaquobi

Estimating the direct medical cost of influenza

hospitalization in Oman

Followed by Q&A5 **oral presentations Panel of Judges**

Dr Ahmed Mandil, Coordinator, Research & Innovation, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt

Dr Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, Ministry of Health and Human Services, Somalia

Dr Hind Bouguerra, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, Tunisia

Dr Mohammed Badi, Public Health Specialist, Ministry of Health, United Arab of Emirate

Dr Noore Alam, Technical Officer, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt

Dr Kinda Zureick, Epidemiologist, Global Influenza Branch, Influenza Division, CDC, United States of America

Dr Mohammad Nemer Abed Al – Hawarat, Director of the Communicable Diseases Directorate, Ministry of Health, Jordan19:00 – 21:00

Evening reception

Moderator: Dr Abdinasir Abubakar, Manager Infectious Hazard Prevention and Preparedness, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt, Acting WHO Representative Lebanon

Welcome remarks: Dr Jean Jabbour, WHO Representative, Sultanate of Oman

Followed by Dinner

Session 3: Fragmented health systems in COVID-19: rectifying the misalignment between global health security and universal health coverage

Moderator: Dr Abdul Ghaffar, Formerly Executive Director Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, WHO Headquarters, Switzerland**Presentations:09:00 – 09:15**

- Global Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (HEPR) architecture: WHO's new vision and priorities for epidemic and pandemic control

Dr Richard Brennan, Regional Emergency Director, WHO Health Emergencies Programme, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt 09:15 – 09:30

- Surveillance as a Core Essential Public Health Function: Rebuilding Resilient Health Systems in EMR to advance the Dual Goals of Universal Health Coverage and Health Security (Virtual)

Dr Awad Mataria, Director Universal Health Coverage/Health Systems, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt 09:30 – 09:45

- Strengthening health systems in fragile settings to advance better pandemic preparedness-case of Somalia

Dr Mamunur Malik, WHO Representative, Somalia 09:45 – 10:00

- Mass gatherings and surveillance for emerging infectious diseases

Prof. Ziad Memish, Director of Research and Innovation Center, King Saud Medical City, Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia 10:00 – 10:15

- Sustaining investments in health security made during the COVID-19 pandemic

Ms Ann Moen, Ex Ass. Director of Pandemic Preparedness, Influenza Division, CDC, United States of America 10:15 – 11:00 **Panel discussion**

Moderator: Dr Abdul Ghaffar, Formerly Executive Director Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, WHO Headquarters, Switzerland

How do we leverage the existing health systems and health

*security capacities to be better prepared for future pandemics: Lesson learn from Covid -19 pandemic with health systems lens***Panelists:**

Dr Palitha Mahipala, WHO Representative, Pakistan

Dr Eduardo Azziz – Baumgartner, Acting Branch Chief – Global Influenza Branch, CDC, United States of America

Prof. Ziad Memish, Director of Research and Innovation Center, King Saud Medical City, Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia

Dr Bader Al Rawahi, Director of Communicable Diseases Control, Mistry of Health, Sultanate of Oman
11:00 – 11:30

Networking break

11:30 – 14:00**Moderator:** Dr Heather Burke, Regional Director Middle East and North Africa Regional Office, CDC United States of America

Thematic areas: Disease burden estimation: Influenza, MERS and ORVs, COVID-19, vaccine, human-animal interface, biosafety and security, Respiratory disease epidemic and pandemic preparedness, Influenza, Lessons learnt from COVID-19

- Pakistan: Dr Nazish Badar

Seasonal influenza disease burden estimation using sentinel site data in Pakistani population: 2017- 2019

- Tunisia: Dr Sonia Dhaouadi

The burden of lower respiratory infections in Tunisia, 1990-2019

- Tunisia” Mrs Aicha Boukthir

Knowledge, attitudes and practices of high-risk groups regarding influenza vaccine uptake in Tunisia: a qualitative study

- Qatar: Dr Khalid Elmardi

Qatar covid-19 vaccination success story: what are the key elements?

- Morocco: Prof. Majdouline Obtel

Long term effectiveness of inactivated vaccine BBIBP-CORV against covid-19 associated critical hospitalization in Morocco

- Egypt: Dr Abeer Mohamed

Implementation of biological inventory system in central public health laboratories as a biosecurity measures

- Jordan: Dr. Ehab Abu Basha

Reducing the threat of middle east respiratory syndrome coronavirus and avian influenza in Jordan and strengthening regional disease surveillance capacity

- Region: Mrs Rebecca Badra

Avian influenza in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: a need for improving surveillance at the human-animal interface using one health paradigm

- Region: Dr Mohammad Akbar Paiman

Review: Integrating outbreak preparedness, response and management functions into the routine health system

Followed by Q&A9 **oral presentations Panel of Judges**

Dr Ahmed Mandil, Coordinator, Research & Innovation, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt

Dr Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, Ministry of Health and Human Services, Somalia

Dr Hind Bouguerra, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, Tunisia

Dr Mohammed Badi, Public Health Specialist, Ministry of Health, United Arab of Emirate

Dr Noore Alam, Technical Officer, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt

Dr Kinda Zureick, Epidemiologist, Global Influenza Branch, Influenza Division, CDC, United States of America

Dr Mohammad Nemer Abed Al – Hawarat, Director of the Communicable Diseases Directorate, Ministry of Health, Jordan
14:00 – 15:00

Lunch break

Workshops

15:00 – 17:00

- Burden of Influenza Disease Estimation- Experiences and new tools

Dr Stefano Tempia, Team Lead, Global Influenza Programme, WHO Headquarters, Switzerland

- One Health Approach & Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) surveillance, preparedness and response

Dr Sophie Von Dobschuetz, Technical Lead – MERS – CoV and novel Coronaviruses, WHO Headquarter, Switzerland

- Establishment and expansion of seasonal influenza vaccination in the Region: policy and programmatic considerations and best practices

Dr Joseph Bresee, Director, Respiratory Virus Prevention Programs, Center for Vaccine Equity, Task Force for Global Health

- Infodemic and community listening for events of respiratory viruses caused epidemics/pandemics – learnings from COVID – 19 pandemic and new tools

Dr Supriya Bezbaruah, Team Lead, EPI – WIN, Science and Knowledge Translation, Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and

Prevention, WHO Headquarters, Switzerland

Session 4: Strategies to improve vaccine equity and overcoming hesitancy: lessons learned from COVID-19 Pandemic

Moderator: Dr Seif Al-Abri Salem, Senior Consultant, Infectious Diseases, Royal Hospital, Sultanate of Oman
Presentations 09:00 – 09:10

- Global KAP: Knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAPs) related to influenza vaccination among health care personnel in twelve low- and middle-income countries: a pooled analysis from 2018-2020

Dr Margaret McCarron, Epidemiologist, Vaccine Implementation Team, Global Influenza Branch, CDC, United State of America 09:10 – 09:20

- Pediatric respiratory diseases: progress and challenges

Dr Osama Mere, Life Immunization and Integration Lead, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt 09:20 – 09:30

- Curbing influenza burden through promoting vaccination of high-risk groups

Dr Christopher Chadwick, Technical Officer Influenza Preparedness and Response, WHO Headquarter, Switzerland 09:30 – 09:40

- UAE Experience of COVID-19 vaccination and how to leverage this for future pandemics

Dr Farida Al Hosani, Executive Director Diseases Sector, Abu Dhabi Center of Public Health, United Arab Emirates 09:40 – 09:50

- Economic evaluations for influenza illness and vaccination in low- and middle-income countries. What

have we learned in the last 10 years (2012 – 2021)?

Dr Kinda Zureick, Epidemiologist, Global Influenza Branch, Influenza Division, CDC, United States of America10:00 – 10:45**Panel discussion**

Dr Adham Ismail, WHO Representative, Saudi Arabia

*How we can ensure equitable, affordable, timely, and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to future potential pandemic***Panelists:**

Dr Rana Hajjeh, Director Programme Management , WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt

Dr Joseph Bresee, Director Respiratory Virus Prevention Programs, Center for Vaccine Equity, Task Force for Global Health

Dr Sinan Ghazi Mahdi, Manager, Centers for Disease Control, Ministry of Health, Iraq

Dr Farida Al Hosani, Executive Director Infectious Diseases Sector, Abu Dhabi Center of Public Health, United Arab Emirates10:45 – 11:00

Networking break

Session 5: Operationalizing the One Health approach: risks and collaboration opportunities for Human-Animal Health

Moderator: Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, Technical lead for COVID-19 response/Head of Emerging Diseases and Zoonoses Unit, WHO Headquarters, Switzerland**Presentations**11:00 – 11:10

- Global and regional threat for emerging zoonotic diseases: the role of One Health Approach

Dr Emma Gardner, Veterinary Epidemiology, MERS-CoV coordinator, Food and Agriculture Organization, Italy11:10 – 11:20

- Integrated surveillance at human-animal interface: Available tools to enhance information sharing for better detection & response to emerging respiratory diseases

Dr Ghazi Kayali, Chief Executive Officer Human Link, United Arab Emirates 11:20 – 11:30

- Increase in global reporting of avian outbreaks and human infections, with avian influenza A viruses – 2013–2022

Dr Patrick Dawson, Team Lead, Global Influenza Branch, Influenza Division, CDC, United States of America 11:30 – 11:40

- Progress on human and animal interface: Jordan experience

Dr Ehab Basha, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan 11:40 – 11:50

- Global strategy for prevention and control of MERS: Progress and challenges

Dr Ezzuddin Okmi, WHO Collaborating Center on MERS, Saudi Arabia 12:00 – 13:00 **Panel discussion**

Moderator: Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, Technical lead for COVID-19 response/Head of Emerging Diseases and Zoonoses Unit, WHO Headquarters, Switzerland

One health approach: best strategy to reinforce pandemic preparedness – what countries in the region can do better to minimize the threat and impact of emerging respiratory diseases. **Panelists:**

Dr Sophie Von Dobschuetz, Technical Lead – MERS – CoV and novel Coronaviruses, WHO Headquarter, Switzerland

Dr Emma Gardner, Veterinary Epidemiology, MERS-CoV coordinator, Food and Agriculture Organization, Italy

Dr Belinda Herring, Technical Officer, Health Emergencies Programme, WHO Regional Office for Africa, Republic of Congo
Ms Cassie Jones, Team Lead, Global Respiratory Viruses Branch of the Coronaviruses and Other Respiratory Viruses Division, CDC, United States of America

Dr Ahmed Zouiten, WHO Representative, Iraq 13:00 – 14:00

Poster exhibition

14:00 – 15:00

Lunch break

Session 6: Pandemic Influenza and other respiratory pathogens preparedness: Understanding the evolving challenges and way forward

Moderator: Dr Rana Hajjeh, Director Programme Management, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt
Presentations: 15:00 – 15:10

- Global Pandemic Preparedness: new challenges and opportunities

Dr Sylvie Briand, Director, Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention, WHO Headquarter, Switzerland 15:10 – 15:20

- Mortality monitoring for assessment of impact respiratory epidemics

Dr Lasse Vestergaard, EuroMOMO, Denmark (Virtual) 15:20 – 15:30

- Integrated Pandemic Preparedness Planning for Respiratory Pathogens: a new approach of preparing next pandemic

Dr Gina Samaan, Unit Head, Unit Head, Pandemic Preparedness Global Platforms, WHO Headquarter, Switzerland 15:30 – 15:40

- Pandemic respiratory pathogens preparedness: Lebanon experience related to refugees and displaced populations

Dr Nada Ghosn, Head of the Epidemiological Surveillance Program, Ministry of Public Health, Lebanon16:00 – 17:00**Panel discussion**

Moderator: Dr Rana Hajjeh, Director Programme Management, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt

*Future pandemics are inevitable: what lessons did we learn from COVID to be better prepared?***Panelists:**

Prof. Maria Zambon, Director of Reference Microbiology UK Health Security Agency, UK

Dr Sylvie Briand, Director, Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention, WHO Headquarter, Switzerland

Dr Mohammad Nasr Dadras, Head of the Department of Center for Communicable Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Medical Education, IR Iran

Dr Magid Al Gunaid, Public Health Programs Director, EMPHNET, Jordan17:00 – 17:15

Networking break

Closing session

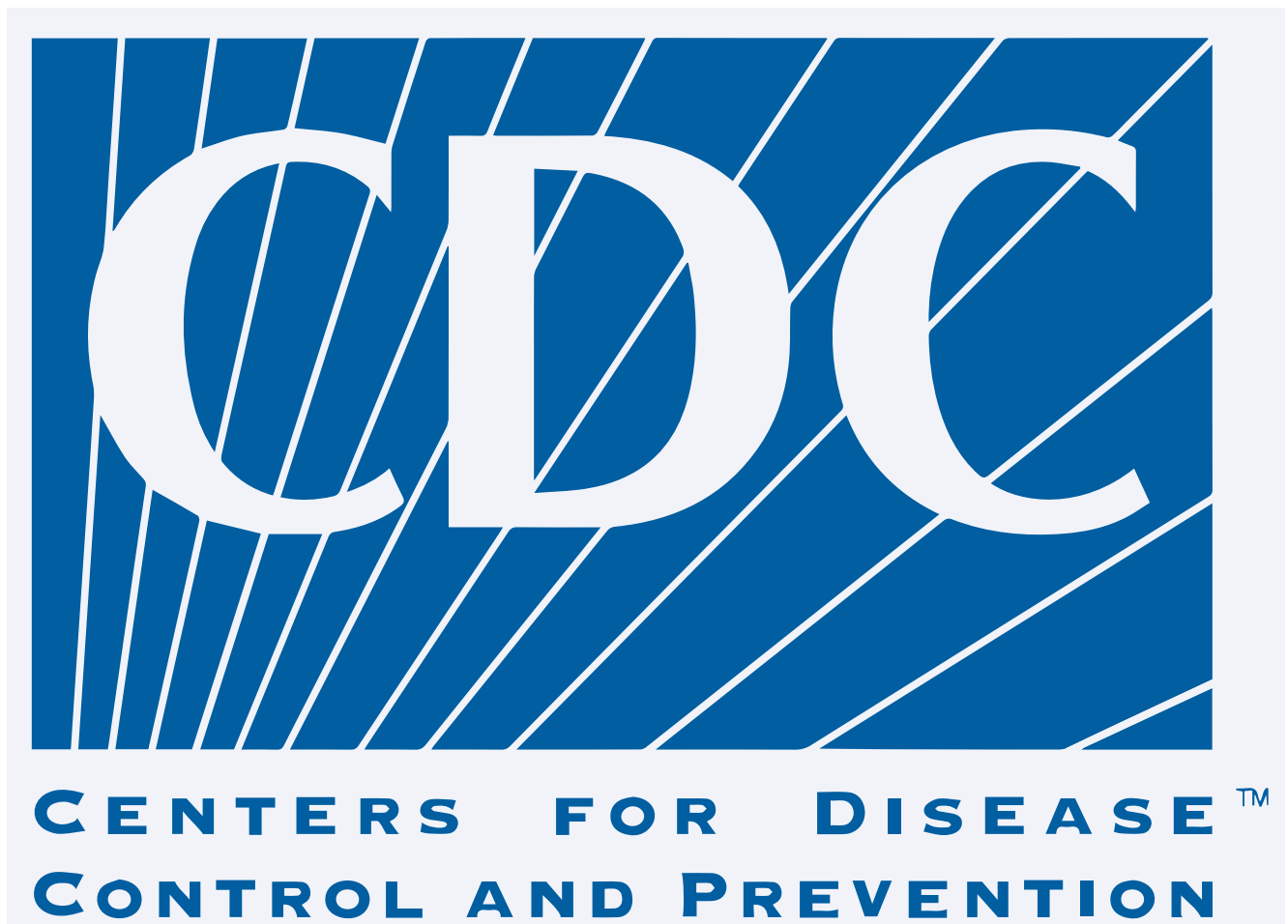
17:15 – 18:00**Moderator:** Dr Wasiq Khan, Team Lead, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt

Award distribution

- Dr Said Harib Al- Lamki, Under Secretary, Ministry of Health, Sultanate of Oman, Oman
- Dr Rana Hajjeh, Director Programme Management, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt
- Dr Sylvie Briand, Director, Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention, WHO Headquarter, Switzerland
- Dr David E. Wentworth, Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Control of Influenza/Chief, Virology Surveillance and Diagnosis,

Influenza Division, CDC, United States of America

Next Steps for EMARIS Network Dr Wasiq Khan, Team Lead, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt
Closing remarks and vote of thanks H.E. Dr Said Harib Al-Lamki, Under Secretary, Ministry of Health, Sultanate of Oman, Oman
Closing remarks and vote of thanks Dr Jean Jabbour, WHO representative, Oman
Closing remarks and vote of thanks Dr Rana Hajjeh, Director Programme Management, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean





PIP@10

CELEBRATING A DECADE
OF IMPLEMENTATION



سلطنة عُمان
وزارة الصحة
Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Health

PIVI

THE TASK
FORCE
FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

PARTNERSHIP FOR INFLUENZA VACCINE INTRODUCTION

