

The 15th Global Microbial Identifier Meeting

8-10 September 2025

Hosted by



**CENTRE FOR
PATHOGEN
GENOMICS**



**The Woodward Conference Centre
Law Building, 10th Floor
106/185 Pelham St, Carlton VIC 3053
Melbourne, Australia**

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**Global
Microbial
Identifier**



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WELCOME

Welcome to the 15th Global Microbial Identifier (GMI15) meeting hosted by The Centre for Pathogen Genomics, University of Melbourne in Australia!

Global Microbial Identifier is an open community of passionate One Health professionals advancing microbial genomic surveillance and promoting microbial data sharing to create common benefits for all.

We are excited to unite international experts and policy makers working in the field of pathogen genomics to discuss solutions and drive change in equitable genomics implementation and data sharing.

The themes to be discussed at this years meeting include Data Platforms, Standards & Infrastructure; Data Sharing: Benefits, Challenges & Platforms; Enabling Tools, Applications & Platforms; Interoperability of Surveillance Ecosystems; and Navigating Policy & Legislative Environments.

GMI15 is held on the lands of the of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. We pay our respects to Wurundjeri Elders past and present. We acknowledge the importance of Indigenous knowledge in the Academy.



A/Prof. Torsten Seemann
GMI15 Co-Convenor
Centre for Pathogen Genomics



Ms. Tuyet Hoang
GMI15 Co-Convenor
Centre for Pathogen Genomics

GETTING TO THE WOODWARD CONFERENCE CENTRE

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

From Flinders Street station, take the number 19 tram (toward Coburg) or 59 tram (toward Airport West) up Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. Get off at stop 9, Haymarket/Elizabeth Street. You will need to walk about 250m down Pelham St to reach your destination. From Spencer Street Station, take any tram up Bourke Street, heading towards Parliament House. Get off at Elizabeth Street and follow the directions as above.

DRIVING

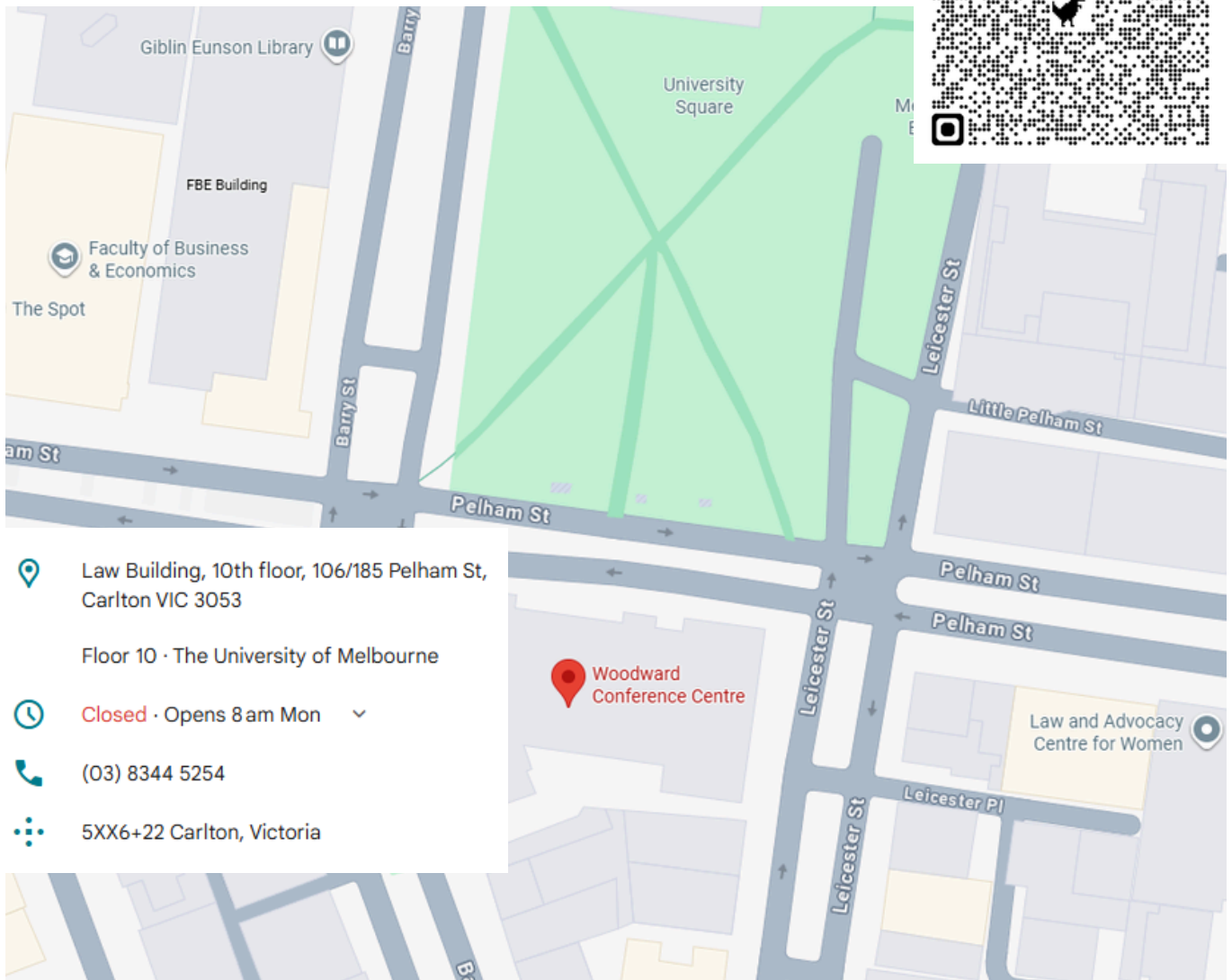
If you are driving, Melbourne University's car park can be entered from 244 Bouverie St or entrance at 206 Berkeley St (just off Grattan Street). This car park is occasionally closed to the public from 9:30am, so ensure you get in early. A flat rate of \$20 per day will be charged upon exit. Exiting the car park from the lifts, you will need to walk across the University Square Park to the conference centre. There are a number of metered car parks on Royal Parade and Grattan Street. Secure Parking is available on Royal Parade.

CYCLING

Local bicycle facilities include bike lanes that run along Rathdowne, Pelham and Queensbury streets. Bicycle parking can be found scattered along these streets, and there is limited bicycle parking directly out in front of the building.



SITE MAP



Enter the law building and take the elevators to the 10th floor.

The Woodward Conference Centre is situated on the 10th floor.

There will be plenty of signs on the day to point you in the right direction.

MEETING PROGRAM

DAY 1

MONDAY, SEP 8

Registration 09:00 - 09:30

Welcome to Country 09:30
Uncle Tony Garvey

Opening Remarks 09:35 - 09:45
Councillor Andrew Rowse
City of Melbourne, Australia

Official Welcome 09:45 - 10:00
A/Prof Torsten Seemann
Centre for Pathogen Genomics, Australia

SESSION 1: DATA PLATFORMS

Session Chair: A/Prof Torsten Seemann

Data Platforms Scene Setting 10:00 - 10:30
Dr. Tim Dallman
International Pathogen Surveillance Network at the World Health Organization, Germany

Country Experiences - SPSP, Switzerland 10:30 - 10:40
Prof. Adrian Egli
Institute of Medical Microbiology at the University of Zurich, Switzerland

Country Experiences - AusTrakka, Australia: Building A Pathogen Surveillance Platform for Australia 10:40 - 10:50
Dr. Clare Sloggett
AusTrakka, Australia

Country Experiences - IRIDA, Canada: How Did You Make It Happen? 10:50 - 11:00
Dr. Gary Van Domselaar
National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg, Canada

MORNING TEA 11:00 - 11:30

Country Experiences - GENPAT, Italy 11:30 - 11:40
Dr. Adriano di Pasquale
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise G. Caporale, Italy

Country Experiences - Sweden 11:40 - 11:50
A/Prof Paula Mölling
Department of Laboratory Medicine, Clinical Microbiology & Faculty of Medicine and Health, Örebro University, Örebro, Sweden

Panel Discussion 11:50 - 12:40
All Session Speakers
Moderator: Dr. Tim Dallman

LUNCH	12:40 - 14:00
Illumina Lunch Session: Microbial Sequencing Made Easy with the MiSeq100	13:00 - 13:45
Gavin Wilkie, Supervisor, Field Applications <i>Illumina, Australia</i>	

SESSION 2: DATA STANDARDS & ACCREDITATION

Session Chair: Professor Benjamin Howden

PHA4GE Data Standards	14:00 - 14:15
Dr. Emma Griffiths <i>Centre for Infectious Disease Genomics and One Health, Simon Fraser University, Canada</i>	
Need for in Silico Controls to Benchmark Pipelines	14:15 - 14:30
Dr. Tim Roloff <i>Institut für Medizinische Mikrobiologie; Universität Zürich, Switzerland</i>	
How Do We Accredit Bioinformatics Pipelines to ISO Standards?	14:30 - 14:45
A/Prof Norelle Sherry <i>Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory, Australia</i>	
Implementation of the PHA4GE Harmonisation Tool at NCID Johannesburg	14:45 - 15:00
Sabelle Jallow <i>National Institute for Communicable Diseases, South Africa</i>	
AMRrules: Expert-Curated Interpretative Standards for AMR Genotypes	15:00 - 15:15
Dr. Jane Hawkey <i>Monash University, Australia</i>	
ISO Whole Genome Sequencing	15:15 - 15:30
Dr. Maria Hoffman <i>U.S. Food and Drug Administration, United States of America</i>	

AFTERNOON TEA **15:30 - 16:00**

The HIC Perspective on Data Platforms and Standards - Challenges and Considerations for Aligning with International Standards (Bioinformatics or Data Platforms Perspective)	16:00 - 16:15
Dr. Julie Haendiges <i>U.S. Food and Drug Administration, United States of America</i>	
ISO in a Box - A Framework to Develop Bioinformatics Services in an ISO 15189 / 17025 World	16:15 - 16:30
Mr. Peter Van Heusden <i>South African National Bioinformatics Institute, South Africa</i>	
Integrating Genomics into Existing Surveillance Systems – Lessons from the Global Rotavirus Surveillance Program	16:30 - 16:45
Dr. Celeste Donato <i>Murdoch Children's Research Institute & Centre for Pathogen Genomics, Australia</i>	
Day 1 Closing	16:45 - 17:00
Ms. Tuyet Hoang <i>Centre for Pathogen Genomics, Australia</i>	

WELCOME DRINKS Sponsored by Illumina **17:00 - 19:00**

DAY 2

TUESDAY, SEP 9

ECR Networking Breakfast Session 1

Mentors: Dr. Masami Takeuchi, Prof. Adrian Egli, Prof. Ben Howden,
Dr. Marc Allard, Dr. Julia Haendiges, Dr. Maria Hoffman

08:00 - 09:00

Day 2 Opening and Housekeeping

Ms. Tuyet Hoang
Centre for Pathogen Genomics, Australia

09:00 - 09:10

SESSION 3: DATA SHARING

Session Chair: Professor Adrian Egli

Plenary: Data Sharing - Not a One Size Fits All Approach

Dr. Francis Chikuse
Africa CDC, Ethiopia

09:10 - 09:30

Exemplar of Data Sharing: Taiwan

Dr. Yu-ping Hong
Taiwan CDC, Taiwan

09:30 - 09:40

Global Typhoid Genomics Consortium: Aggregating Pathogen Genomic Data to Inform Targeted Public Health Action

Dr. Danielle Ingle
Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Melbourne, Australia

09:40 - 09:50

Data sharing for Foodborne Disease Surveillance

Dr. Ridhuan Ali
Institute for Medical Research, Malaysia

09:50 - 10:00

Data Sharing Across Africa PNAP

Dr. Ebenezer Foster-Nyarko
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom

10:00 - 10:10

The Importance of Integrated Public Health Surveillance in a Data Rich Environment

Dr. Courtney Lane
Centre for Pathogen Genomics, Australia

10:10 - 10:20

Panel Discussion

All Session Speakers
Moderator: Dr. Francis Chikuse

10:20 - 11:00

MORNING TEA

11:00 - 11:30

The Future of Accessible Genomics Technologies

Michael Abdo
Illumina

11:30 - 11:50

Workshop: IPSN Bioinformatics Ecosystem

Moderator: Dr. Tim Dallman

11:50 - 13:20**Day 2 Closing**

Ms. Tuyet Hoang

*Centre for Pathogen Genomics, Australia***13:20 - 13:30****Aussie BBQ Lunch****13:30 - 16:00****DAY 3****WEDNESDAY, SEP 10****ECR Networking Breakfast Session 2**Mentors: Dr. Masami Takeuchi, Prof. Adrian Egli, Prof. Ben Howden,
Dr. Marc Allard, Dr. Julia Haendiges, Dr. Maria Hoffman**08:30 - 09:30****Day 3 Opening and Housekeeping**

Ms. Tuyet Hoang

*Centre for Pathogen Genomics, Australia***09:30 - 09:40****SESSION 4: ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE, TOOLS & APPLICATIONS****Session Chair: Dr. Sonia Sia****What Is The Future of Bioinformatics?**

A/Prof Torsten Seemann

*Centre for Pathogen Genomics, Australia***09:40 - 10:00****Building The Centre for Pathogen Genomics Bioinformatics Analysis Platform**

Dr. Wytamma Wirth

*Centre for Pathogen Genomics, Australia***10:00 - 10:15****GISAID**

Dr. Sandy Mak

*A*STAR's Bioinformatics Institute, Singapore***10:15 - 10:30****Development of Kleborate**

Dr. Ebenezer Foster-Nyarko

*London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom***10:30 - 10:45****Inferring Phenotypes from Genome Assemblies – Implications for Geno-Serotyping and Surveillance of *Salmonella* spp.**

Dr. Andreas Stroehlein

*Department of Biological Safety, National Study Centre for Sequencing in Risk Assessment, German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, Germany***10:45 - 11:00****Prediction of AMR from Genomes – Are We There Yet?**

Prof. Adrian Egli

*Institute of Medical Microbiology at the University of Zurich, Switzerland***11:00 - 11:15****MORNING TEA****11:15 - 11:45**

SESSION 5: SURVEILLANCE ECOSYSTEMS AND POLICY ENVIRONMENTS

Session Chair: Lisa Ioannidis

Sustainability of Country-Level Capacity Dr. Sonia Sia <i>Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Reference Laboratory at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Philippines</i>	11:45 - 12:00
Establishing National Governance for Facilitating Data Sharing Across Sectors in Public Health, Clinical Settings and Academia Dr. Patiyan Andersson <i>Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Melbourne, Australia</i>	12:00 - 12:15
Africa CDC Genomics Strategy Dr. Francis Chikuse <i>Africa CDC, Ethiopia</i>	12:15 - 12:30
Foodborne Pathogen Surveillance and Economic Return on Investment Estimates for GenomeTrakr Laboratories. Dr. Marc Allard <i>U.S. Food and Drug Administration, United States of America</i>	12:30 - 12:45
Establishing Sustainable Pathogen Genomics in Indonesia – Where We Are At Now Dr. Ines Atmosukarto <i>Indonesian Ministry of Health, Indonesia</i>	12:45 - 13:00
Monitoring & Evaluation of Genomics Implementation Dr. James Ong <i>Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Melbourne, Australia</i>	13:00 - 13:15

LUNCH

13:15 - 14:15

GMI15 CLOSING

Session Chair: Tuyet Hoang

GMI16 Host Announcement	14:15 - 14:30
Summary from GMI Steering Committee – Where to From Here? Dr. Masami Takeuchi <i>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Italy</i>	14:30 - 14:45
Next Steps & Close of Meeting A/Prof Torsten Seemann <i>Centre for Pathogen Genomics, Australia</i>	14:45 - 15:00

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Prof. Adrian Egli

Institute of Medical Microbiology, University of Zürich, Switzerland

Prof. Adrian Egli is Chair of Medical Microbiology and Director of the Institute of Medical Microbiology at the University of Zurich. His lab unites clinical research, wet-lab, bioinformatics, and digital microbiology to decode host-pathogen interactions from molecules to populations and translate results into diagnostics. He co-founded the Swiss Pathogen Surveillance Platform, which analyzed ~160,000 SARS-CoV-2 genomes and now supports national genomic surveillance. Using genomics and epidemiology, his team maps transmission across priority pathogens (diphtheria, MRSA, carbapenemase-producers, Legionella) and described the new species *Mycobacterium basiliense*; they also track colonization dynamics with metagenomics and rapid adaptive nanopore sequencing to accelerate infection-control decisions. Translationally, he leads SPHN/National Data Stream sepsis programs building data infrastructure and machine-learning biomarkers



Dr. Adriano di Pasquale

Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e Molise, Italy

Adriano Di Pasquale has a PhD in Computer Science. He has a long experience on the design of information systems for the Italian Ministry of Health and international research projects. He is currently the head of the Bioinformatics Unit at IZSAM. He coordinates the development of the bioinformatic platform of the Italian National Reference Centre for WGS of microbial pathogens called GENPAT. He is currently managing the GENPAT platform extensions to Tunisia and Portugal as well as the GENPAT-VETLAB for the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre.



Dr. Andreas Stroehlein

Department of Biological Safety, National Study Centre for Sequencing in Risk Assessment, German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, Germany

Dr. Andreas Stroehlein is a bioinformatician and research scientist specializing in pathogen genomics. At the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, he works on the development of microbial genomics tools and pipelines, and contributes to routine genomic surveillance programmes in food safety. He also collaborates with other international agencies such as the FDA and the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) on projects aiming at the harmonization of genomic data sharing practices and bioinformatic methods. Dr. Stroehlein has previously held positions at the German public health institute (Robert Koch Institute, MSc Bioinformatics) the University of Melbourne (PhD Pathogen Genomics) and the Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory in Melbourne, Australia.





Prof. Ben Howden

Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory, University of Melbourne, Australia

Prof. Ben Howden is the Director of the Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory and the Director of the Centre for Pathogen Genomics at the at the Doherty Institute, University of Melbourne. An infectious diseases physician and microbiologist, he is a world leader in using genomics to understand bacterial pathogens, antimicrobial resistance, and the molecular epidemiology of infectious diseases.



Dr. Celeste Donato

Murdoch Children's Research Institute & Centre for Pathogen Genomics, Australia

Dr Celeste Donato is a senior postdoctoral researcher and virologist based in Melbourne, Australia. She is the Enteric Virus Team Leader within the Enteric Diseases Group at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, which hosts the Australian Rotavirus Surveillance Network, the WHO Collaborating Centre for Child Health and the WHO Rotavirus Regional Reference Laboratory for the Western Pacific region. She is also a senior postdoctoral researcher at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, contributing to the One Health and Candida auris projects within the Australian Pathogen Genomics program.



Dr. Courtney Lane

Centre for Pathogen Genomics, Australia

Courtney Lane is Lead Epidemiologist at the Centre for Pathogen Genomics (CPG) and WHO Collaborating Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). She has specialised expertise on the surveillance of AMR and the implementation of pathogen genomics into public health practice. Courtney is engaged in translational research and state, national and international public health implementation and training in these areas. Courtney is Discipline Co-Lead of Public Health at the Doherty Institute, and Lead for the Centre for Pathogen Genomics Surveillance Special Interest Group. Courtney is a qualified field epidemiologist (MAE 2014) and completed her PhD exploring genomic epidemiology in Australia in 2024 (University of Melbourne).



Dr. Clare Sloggett

AusTrakka, Australia

Dr Clare Sloggett is the lead of AusTrakka platform development at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity. Her career has spanned research, teaching, infrastructure development, and software development. She began her research career with a PhD in computational physics before moving into genomics research at Melbourne Bioinformatics. She played a founding role in Australia's Genomics Virtual Laboratory project, establishing cloud-based Galaxy infrastructure as a core research service in Australia and a part of the international bioinformatics community. She now leads the development team designing, building and maintaining the AusTrakka platform, supporting secure data exchange and pathogen surveillance among public health laboratories in Australia and New Zealand.

Dr. Danielle Ingle

Researcher, Howden Lab, University of Melbourne



Dr Danielle Ingle is an emerging international leader in the field of microbial genomics of enteric bacterial pathogens. Danielle is a National Health and Medical Research Council Emerging Leadership Fellow and is based in Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Melbourne, Australia.

Her research program is currently centred upon high priority bacterial pathogens including serovars of *Salmonella enterica*, pathotypes of *Escherichia coli* and the *Shigella* species. Danielle's research explores the evolutionary dynamics and genomic epidemiology of these pathogens, which her research efforts also informing public health surveillance efforts in Australia and internationally.

Dr. Ebenezer Foster-Nyarko

Holt Lab, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom



I am a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Professor Kathryn Holt's group at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK, where I apply computational genomics to uncover the genetic drivers of antimicrobial resistance and virulence in *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *Escherichia coli*. Beyond my primary research, I serve as Regional Coordinator for PulseNET Africa—a regional node of PulseNET International—and chair the Africa Pathogen Genomics Initiative's Foodborne Diseases Technical Focus Group, guiding continent-wide genomic surveillance efforts. I also co-chair the ECCMID ESGEM AMR Subgroup on *E. coli* and *Shigella*, helping to develop rules for interpreting genotypic AMR in enteric pathogens

Dr. Emma Griffiths

Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC, Canada



Emma Griffiths is a University Research Associate at the Centre for Infectious Disease Genomics and One Health (CIDGOH) in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. Her work focuses on developing and implementing ontologies and data standards for public health, One Health, environmental, and food safety pathogen genomics to help improve data harmonization and integration. She is a member of the Standards Council of Canada and leads the Public Health Alliance for Genomic Epidemiology (PHA4GE) Data Structures Working Group.

Dr. Francis Farai Chikuse

Africa CDC Headquarters, Ethiopia



Dr. Francis Farai Chikuse is a Senior Technical Officer-Public Health Policy at Africa CDC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He leads and coordinate Africa CDC Institute of Pathogen Genomics policy related activities to create enabling mechanisms for pathogen genomics activities and subsequent use for public health decision making. These partnerships aim to enhance the scientific, technological, and effective implementations of the vision and missions of the Africa CDC Institute of Pathogen Genomics and the Africa Pathogen Genomics Initiative. He leads and coordinate the development Genomics Strategy documents in 16 Member States and malaria molecular surveillance in public health institutions in 10 countries. Dr Chikuse has over 23 of years' experience in public health. Previously, he worked with US-CDC as a Public Health Specialist in Namibia and for WHO-Namibia country office as the Regional Coordinator and Senior Consultant in Public Health.

Dr. Gary Van Domselaar

National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg, Canada, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Medical Microbiology at the University of Manitoba, Canada

Dr. Gary Van Domselaar is a Principal Research Scientist and Section Chief of Bioinformatics at the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg, Canada, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Medical Microbiology at the University of Manitoba. His research program focuses on the development of bioinformatics methodologies for genomic epidemiology, metagenomics, and infectious disease surveillance. Dr. Van Domselaar has led or co-led several national and international initiatives, including the Canadian COVID-19 Genomics Network (CanCOGeN), the Integrated Rapid Infectious Disease Analysis (IRIDA) project, and the Canadian Genomics R&D Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance. He serves on multiple scientific advisory committees, including Office of Infectious Diseases, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Public Health Alliance for Genomic Epidemiology (PHA4GE).



Dr. Ines Atmosukarto

Indonesian Ministry of Health, Indonesia

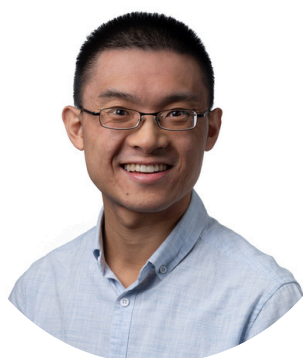
Ines I Atmosukarto (Ph.D) returned to Indonesia after completing her undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Adelaide, Australia. Over the following decade she established a research group at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (then known as LIPI) and forged a natural product drug discovery program at the Research Institute for Biotechnology which led to the establishment of a joint-venture between the institute and Australia-based investors. Ines later relocated to Australia and led the technical program of Lipotek Pty Ltd, a specialised biotech firm rooted in vaccine development and drug delivery, originating from the Australian National University. Ines believes in opportunities for innovation in Low- and Middle-Income Countries and established an ongoing collaboration between Lipotek and PT Bio Farma an Indonesia-based vaccine manufacturer. Since the beginning of 2022, Ines has worked closely with the Indonesian Ministry of Health (MOH) to support their health biotechnology transformation agenda as the architect behind the recently launched MOH national genomic initiative. Ines is a member of the ANU Indonesia Institute Advisory Board, a technical consultant for the Australia Indonesia Health Security Partnership and currently acts as a Technical Advisor to the Indonesian Minister for Health.



Dr. James Ong

Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory, Australia

Dr. James Ong is a Research Officer at the Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory (MDU PHL) and a Research Fellow at the Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, both at the University of Melbourne. In both roles, he works on program evaluations and implementation science for education and public health programs, with more than 10 years' experience in the area. In the MDU PHL, he is working on projects to evaluate the implementation and outcomes of pathogen genomics in public health systems across Australia and the world. In particular, he is investigating factors that promote or hinder the use and outcomes of pathogen genomics among end-users such as clinicians and public health staff.





Dr. Jane Hawkey

Monash University, Australia

Jane is a computational microbiologist, with extensive experience in development of novel methods and software for typing bacterial pathogens. Jane undertook her PhD in bacterial genomics, focusing on the mobile elements that are responsible for disseminating antimicrobial resistance. She is currently a NHMRC Emerging Leadership Fellow. Her current research primarily focuses on hospital-associated antimicrobial resistant pathogens. She develops genomic workflows to help infection prevention and control teams better understand and interrupt the spread of these pathogens. She has an emphasis on tracking plasmid transmission between patients and the hospital environment. Additionally, she leads the bioinformatics development of the AMRRules project, which aims to standardize interpretation of resistance genotypes by creating open-source rulesets that predict phenotypic resistance across diverse pathogens.



Dr. Julie Haendiges

U.S. Food and Drug Administration, United States of America

Dr. Julie Haendiges is a research biologist with the FDA's Division of Food Safety Genomics, where she specializes in sequencing foodborne pathogens and functional genomics. Since joining the FDA in 2018, she has developed scientific collaborations, validated new sequencing methods, and conducted persistence studies of Salmonella in low-moisture foods. With over 20 years in sequencing expertise and has published numerous publications. She serves as the subject matter expert in WGS laboratory techniques for the GenomeTrakr team and has conducted numerous trainings in WGS techniques and data analysis.



Dr. Marc Allard

U.S. Food and Drug Administration, United States of America

Dr. Marc Allard is a distinguished research microbiologist at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Human Foods Program (HFP). With a Ph.D. in Biology, Dr. Allard has established himself as a leading expert in the fields of genomics, bioinformatics, and molecular biology as applied to food safety. His groundbreaking work has significantly advanced the FDA's capabilities in detecting and responding to foodborne pathogens. Dr. Allard is perhaps best known for his pioneering efforts in applying whole genome sequencing (WGS) to food safety, particularly in the development of GenomeTrakr. This innovative program created an international network of laboratories that use WGS to identify and trace the origins of foodborne pathogens, revolutionizing outbreak investigations. Throughout his career, Dr. Allard has focused on improving methods for rapid identification of foodborne pathogens and enhancing the use of genomic data in regulatory activities. His research has not only contributed to academic knowledge but has also had practical applications in protecting public health. As an author of numerous peer-reviewed scientific articles, Dr. Allard has shared his expertise and findings with the broader scientific community, furthering the field of food safety. His work has been recognized with various awards, acknowledging his significant contributions to public health and food safety. Dr. Allard's ongoing research continues to push the boundaries of how genomic technologies can be leveraged to ensure the safety of the global food supply, making him a key figure in the FDA's mission to protect and promote public health.

Dr. Maria Hoffman

U.S. Food and Drug Administration, United States of America

Dr. Maria Hoffmann received her master's degree in food chemistry from the University of Hamburg in 2007 and her Ph.D. from the University of Hamburg in 2012. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at FDA/Center for Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Hoffmann is currently acting Branch Chief for the Genomic Development and Application Branch at the FDA. She works primarily on next-generation sequencing projects to demonstrate how sequencing is important in source tracking of foodborne contamination events. She is the subject matter expert for long-read sequence technology, and she is the lead scientist for the application of functional genomics to better understand the persistence and adaptation of foodborne pathogens such as Salmonella, Escherichia coli, and Listeria in the food supply to help better treat foodborne contaminations. Dr. Hoffmann is a technical advisor for the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) and an active member of the ISO TC 34/SC 9 (Microbiology of food and feed). She has published more than 90 manuscripts and book chapters.

Dr. Masami Takeuchi

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Italy

Dr Masami Takeuchi is a Food Safety Officer at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with a main responsibility to provide various food safety scientific advice to countries and to the Codex Alimentarius Commission, an international food standard setting body. Her recent work is around risk assessment of food derived from emerging technologies, such as biotechnology, cell-based food production, gene editing, precision fermentation and modern indoor farming. She also works on emerging and cross-cutting food safety issues including artificial intelligence (AI) for food safety and the use of whole genome sequencing (WGS) for food safety management. She has a field experience working at the regional office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand for 4 years, thus while she takes up various normative global initiatives on food safety, she also assists countries and regions for their food safety capacity development. She also leads the capacity development initiative to apply a capacity assessment tool for monitoring and analysis of residues of veterinary drugs in foods (FAO RVDF Tool).

Michael Abdo

Illumina, Australia

Championing the use of genomics technologies across Microbiology, Infectious Diseases, Public Health Surveillance and Agrigenomics applications (ONE Health) Michael combines his knowledge of Illumina's innovative technology and customer engagement across Africa, Middle East and the Asia Pacific to highlight opportunities for implementation, utilization and innovation using microarray and next generation sequencing (NGS) technologies. Having read at the University of Western Australia in pathology and molecular biology, with subsequent business studies at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Michael has worked in diagnostic laboratories for both human and animal health and completed post-doctoral training in the field of protein engineering. Prior to joining Illumina, Michael supported the adoption of laboratory automation, becoming acutely aware of the importance of laboratory workflows and quality control, from sample handling to next generation sequencing (NGS) library preparation. With experience in most molecular assays from Southern Blots to Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and NGS, Michael has developed a clear understanding of the application of molecular technology and the utility of the data generated.



A/Prof. Norelle Sherry

Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory, University of Melbourne, Australia

A/Prof Norelle Sherry is a medical microbiologist and infectious diseases physician, and Deputy Director of the MDU Public Health Laboratory. She is the co-lead of the Laboratory and Surveillance Stream of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance at the Doherty Institute, and co-lead of the Doherty Antimicrobial Resistance Theme. She is also a clinician-researcher working in antimicrobial resistance, genomics implementation and public health microbiology.



Dr. Patiyan Andersson

The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, University of Melbourne, Australia

Dr Patiyan Andersson is a genomic epidemiologist and senior research fellow at the Doherty Institute, Melbourne, and a lead in the AusPathoGen program. Drawing on a background in molecular biology, genomics, and epidemiology, he works with translational research and application of pathogen genomics in public health at state, national and regional levels.



A/Prof. Paula Mölling

Department of Laboratory Medicine, Clinical Microbiology at Örebro University Sweden & Associate Professor at the Faculty of Medicine and Health, Örebro University, Örebro, Sweden

Associate professor, Paula Mölling, PhD, has been a molecular biologist at the Department of Laboratory Medicine, Clinical Microbiology, University Hospital Örebro, Sweden, since 2001. From 2018 she is the co-chair and National project manager for Infectious diseases in the Genomic Medicine Sweden (GMS) project, which aim that all patients in Sweden will get the same diagnostic possibilities using Next generation Sequencing (NGS) technologies. During 2025 she also became a member in the Executive Committee in the newly started Study Group for Artificial Intelligence and Digitalisation, ESGAID, within ESCMID Global. Mölling's research focuses on bacterial infections, i.e. *Neisseria meningitidis* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, with current projects examining the genetic characterisation, including NGS, in the investigation of suspected outbreaks and epidemiological surveillance. Additionally, her studies concern the development of metagenomics NGS (mNGS) techniques for optimal diagnosis of sepsis in whole blood, as well as other invasive infections.



Peter van Heusden

South African National Bioinformatics Institute, South Africa

Peter van Heusden is an expert in the use of bioinformatics workflows for analysis of pathogen genome sequences in a public health context and has extensively contributed to building tools and workflows for *M. tuberculosis* genome analysis and bioinformatics training in Africa and beyond.

Dr. Ridhuan Ali

Infectious Disease Research Center at the Institute for Medical Research (IMR)



Dr. Ridhuan Ali is a microbiologist at the Institute for Medical Research (IMR), Ministry of Health Malaysia. He holds Bachelor's degrees in Microbiology from the University of Melbourne and Monash University, and a PhD in Medical Microbiology from Universiti Sains Malaysia. A recipient of the prestigious King's Scholarship, Dr. Ridhuan contributes to Malaysia's national efforts in genomic surveillance, particularly in the implementation of whole-genome sequencing (WGS) for antimicrobial resistance (AMR), emerging pathogens and outbreak investigations. He co-developed a patented multiplex diagnostic kit for the simultaneous detection of leptospirosis, melioidosis, malaria and invasive salmonellosis, now licensed for diagnostic use. Currently, he serves as Deputy Head of the MOH Communicable Disease Research Cluster and actively supports regional capacity building through SEAMEO TROPED and PulseNet Asia Pacific. He is also involved in the SEA DREAM Programme, which aims to transform the regional health research landscape through collaboration, leadership development and innovation.

Dr. Sabelle Jallow

National Institute for Communicable Diseases, South Africa



Dr Sabelle Jallow was the Principal Medical Scientist and the Molecular laboratory manager at the Centre for Healthcare-Associated Infections, Antimicrobial Resistance & Mycoses at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, South Africa, where she led a team of scientists to perform and molecular characterisation, diagnostics and surveillance of antimicrobial-resistant bacterial and fungal pathogens, as well as genomic surveillance for AMR from wastewater. Dr Jallow is joint lecturer at the University of Witwatersrand where she lectures in immunology and vaccinology. Her work bridges cutting-edge molecular diagnostics with public health practice, contributing expert guidance to WHO, Africa CDC, and national health authorities. With a PhD in Molecular Virology and over 25 years of experience in molecular diagnostics, immunology, and microbial resistance, she has held several prestigious research grants, is widely published, and actively involved in international consortia and conference committees advancing vaccines, immunology, antimicrobial resistance and infectious disease genomics in Africa

Dr. Sandy Mak

*A*STAR's Bioinformatics Institute, Singapore*



She began her career at Singapore's Ministry of Health, contributing to laboratory response coordination during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic. Motivated by this experience, she pursued a PhD focused on passive immunotherapy for influenza viruses. At the National Public Health Laboratory in Singapore, Sandy focused on integrating molecular diagnostics, genomic sequencing, and culture-based methods into Singapore's national surveillance and outbreak investigation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she developed early diagnostic tools and played a central role in embedding genomics into epidemiological investigations. Her work supported national public health action and contributed to the World Health Organization's technical guidance on SARS-CoV-2 genomic sequencing. She plays a role in tool development by the GISAID Data Science Centre at BII, ensuring their applicability and accessibility for public health use. She also supports regional capacity-building through collaborations with GISAID, the Asia Pathogen Genomics Initiative, and the NUS Centre for Infectious Disease Emergency Response.



Dr. Sonia Sia

Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Reference Laboratory at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Philippines

Sonia leads the team which implements the national routine AMR surveillance in the Philippines as well as the Enhanced Gonococcal AMR Surveillance Program (EGASP) and the Integrated surveillance of ESBL-producing *E. coli*. Her team has successfully integrated genomics into routine AMR surveillance and are implementing genomics in several AMR-related projects.

Dr. Tim Dallman

International Pathogen Surveillance Network at the World Health Organization, Germany

Dr Tim Dallman is an international expert in pathogen genomics, and bioinformatics. He trained as a bioinformatician at University College London, UK (2003) and completed a PhD on utilizing machine learning techniques to improve remote homology detection for the assignment of proteins into structural and functional families. Since graduating he has worked across the public health space, academia and global health. For over ten years he was the Lead for Bioinformatics of Gastrointestinal Pathogens at the UK Health Security Agency and led the first wave of implementation of whole genome sequencing methodologies into reference microbiology and infectious disease surveillance. He has held a Senior Lectureship position at University of Edinburgh and a Group Leader position at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. In 2023 he joined the World Health Organization as a Senior Technical Advisor supporting the work of the International Pathogen Surveillance Unit and in 2025 he joined the WHO Berlin Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence as a Senior Technical Officer where he leads the genomics data pillar.



Dr. Tim Roloff

Institut für Medizinische Mikrobiologie; Universität Zürich, Switzerland

Dr. Tim Roloff is currently the Co-Head of the Department of Microbial Genomics at the Institut für Medizinische Mikrobiologie, Universität Zürich.



A/Prof. Torsten Seemann

Centre for Pathogen Genomics, Australia

Associate Professor Seemann is a world-renowned Bioinformatician that has developed cutting edge analysis approaches to enhance the use of genomic data for Discovery Science and Public Health. He is the Lead Bioinformatician at the Centre for Pathogen Genomics and the Director of Bioinformatics at Doherty Applied Microbial Genomics. His expertise includes the management of hardware and the design of software analysis infrastructure required to interrogate pathogen genome data to understand pathogen evolution, transmission and drug-resistance. He also led national and international bioinformatic analysis for SARS-CoV-2 during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the development and deployment of Australia's first real-time data-sharing and national genomics surveillance platform, AusTrakka. A/Prof Seemann has been a significant contributor to international genomics standards through the Public Health Agency for Genomics Epidemiology (PHA4GE) and has recently been appointed as Lead Bioinformatics for the US CDC's PulseNet International Asia-Pacific Initiative.





Ms. Tuyet Hoang

Centre for Pathogen Genomics, Australia

Tuyet Hoang is the Governance and Advocacy Lead at the Centre for Pathogen Genomics, based at the Doherty Institute in Melbourne, Australia. She leads strategic policy, governance, and engagement initiatives across national and international programs, including AusTrakka, AusPathoGen and PulseNet Asia Pacific, advancing collaborative pathogen genomics efforts to strengthen public health systems. With a background in law and public health, she advises on national and global policy development, strategic planning, and drives advocacy to support sustainable implementation and accessible capacity building in pathogen genomics.



Dr. Wytamma Wirth

The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, University of Melbourne, Australia

Dr Wytamma Wirth is a technical biologist based at the Peter Doherty Institute, where he works on different aspects of genomic epidemiology, phylodynamics and bioinformatics. Wytamma's role spans from basic research and tool building to the analysis of real-world datasets for public health labs. In his current Essential Open-Source Software for Science funded position he is building the next generation of core microbial bioinformatics tooling.



Dr. Yu-ping Hong

Taiwan Centers for Disease Control (Taiwan CDC)

The Taiwan Centers for Disease Control, under the Ministry of Health and Welfare, is the national public health agency responsible for the prevention and control of communicable diseases in Taiwan. Its core functions include disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, immunization programs, laboratory diagnostics, and antimicrobial resistance monitoring. Dr. Yu-ping Hong is a senior clinical microbiologist at the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Welfare. She received her Ph.D. from the Institute of Genomics and Bioinformatics at National Chung Hsing University. Dr. Hong specializes in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance of foodborne bacterial pathogens and has extensive experience in applying next-generation sequencing (NGS) and bioinformatics for whole-genome analysis. She leads national initiatives to implement WGS-based strategies for pathogen monitoring and outbreak investigation. Dr. Hong is also actively involved in international collaborations, including PulseNet Asia-Pacific, and is dedicated to advancing the application of genomic epidemiology in disease surveillance.

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We would like to thank all those involved in making the GMI15 possible. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the organising committee, speakers, sponsors and volunteers, whose dedication and hard work have been instrumental in bringing this event to life.

We are also grateful to our attendees for their enthusiasm and commitment. Thank you for helping us create a meaningful platform for collaboration, learning, and innovation.

Sincerely,

A/Prof Torsten Seemann and Tuyet Hoang

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With Thanks To

Hasini Walpola
Jessica Gu
Christina Crachi
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Thank you for joining us at GMI15!
8 - 10 September 2025

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