

# Migration Health Research Networking Event (MHRES)

**Research & policy working group on low-skilled  
labour migration and health**

**Anglia Ruskin University & International Organization for Migration**

**Chelmsford, 12–13 May 2016**

**PROCEEDINGS**



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**[www.globalhme.org](http://www.globalhme.org)**

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# Background & Aims of MHRES

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## Background

The field of global health, including its multitude of branches, appears to miss the critical importance of labour migration-health nexus, despite the magnitude of health burden presented by the ever-increasing international labour migration.

Understanding the health of these populations is critical for all stakeholders, including labour-sending/receiving countries, international organizations and global health community. There is an acute need for policies and practical programs to better manage migration as a whole, including labour migration.

The negative impact of labour migration on migrants, their families and labour-sending nations has to be micro- and macro-managed to ensure a safe, dignified and productive labour migration experience. In this regard, it is essential that practitioners, researchers and academics come together to give an evidence-informed voice to the global community of labour migrant workers and their families.

## Aims

- i. To host a networking meeting for academics and practitioners in the field of migration and health to develop a robust agenda on migration health, with a special focus on labour migrant health.
- ii. To convene a cross-disciplinary group representing academic institutions, UN agencies (IOM, ILO) humanitarian organizations, governments, funding agencies and other stakeholder organizations to discuss the establishment of a research and policy working group on labour migration and health.
- iii. To coincide the networking meeting sessions with a global call of action for more research to address labour migrant health issues published in the March 2016 edition of *Journal Lancet Psychiatry*, in order to generate wider interest and attention.
- iv. To develop a publication from the proceedings and to submit a technical paper for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Consultation on Migration and Health, to be held in October, 2016.

# Agenda & Participants

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## Agenda

Time	Agenda item	Speaker(s)/Moderator
9.00-9.30	Arrival & refreshments	
9.30-10.00	Introductions, Aims and scope of workshop	Dr. Chesmal Siriwardhana/Dr. Kolitha Wickramage
10.30-11.00	Overview of migration health trends, with special reference to low-skilled labour migrants	Dr. Davide Mosca
11.00-11.15	Break	
11.15-12.15	Definitions of terms, Conceptual models around low skilled labour migration and health	Dr. Kolitha Wickramage
12.15-1.00	Lunch	
1.00-1.45	Reflections from participants on their work within the migration health domain	Dr. Chesmal Siriwardhana
1.45-2.30	Translating research into policy and IOMs experience in working with member states on advancing agenda on health of migrants	Dr. Davide Mosca/Dr. Kolitha Wickramage/Dr. Chesmal Siriwardhana
2.30-3.00	Break and moving over for Dr. Mosca's lecture	
3.00-4.00	Public lecture	Dr. Davide Mosca
4.00-5.00	Panel discussion	Dr. Chesmal Siriwardhana
7.00	Dinner	
9.00-9.30	Arrival and refreshments	
9.30-12.30	Developing a research agenda around health of migrants	Dr. Chesmal Siriwardhana/ Dr. Kolitha Wickramage
12.30	Lunch and departure	

## Participants

Name	Designation	Institution/Organization
Dr. Chesmal Siriwardhana	Senior Lecturer in Public Health Founder lead – Global Public Health, Migration & Ethics Research Group	Anglia Ruskin University
Ms. Shannon Doherty	Research Assistant Global Public Health, Migration & Ethics Research Group	Anglia Ruskin University
Dr. Pauline Lane	Reader in Mental Health, Faculty of Health, Social Care & Education	Anglia Ruskin University
Ms. Venus Mirzaei	PhD student Global Public Health, Migration & Ethics Research Group	Anglia Ruskin University
Dr. Davide Mosca	Director, Migration Health Division	International Organization for Migration
Dr. Kolitha Wickramage	Technical Advisor, Migration Health Division	International Organization for Migration
Dr. Bayard Roberts	Director, ECOHOST - The Centre for Health and Social Change	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Dr. Charles Hui	Associate Professor, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Consultant	University of Ottawa
Ms. Kazumi Inden*	Secretariat for the Program on Global Health and Human Security	Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE)

\*Participating in personal capacity

## Other network collaborators

Name	Designation	Institution/Organization
Prof. Marc B. Schenker	Professor of Public Health Sciences and Medicine	Migration and Health Research Center, UC Davis
Dr. Melanie Abas	Reader in Global Mental Health	Center for Global Mental Health, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, King's College London
Prof. Elspeth Graham	Co-director and Scottish Co-ordinator ESRC Centre for Population Change	University of St. Andrews
Dr. Sarah Cook	Director, Office of Research Innocenti	UNICEF
Ms. Dee Knipe	PhD student	University of Bristol
Dr. Yasser Moullan	Research Officer	University of Oxford, International Migration Institute
Dr. Adrienne Testa	Lecturer	London school of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

\*Representatives of Lancet Psychiatry and Wellcome Trust were also contacted for involvement

**Geographical representation of the overall network membership and access**



▼ Where network members are based    ▼ Access to research populations and other networks

# Workshop Summary

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## Day one

The day's proceedings began with a joint welcome address by Dr. Chesmal Siriwardhana and Dr. Kolitha Wickramage, as the co-chairs of MHRES. Dr. Siriwardhana introduced the Global Public Health, Migration & Ethics Research Group and its activities briefly and Dr. Wickramage outlined the aims and scope of the MHRES networking meeting.

He emphasized that; "migration is emerging as a critical part of global health. When you look at the sustainable development goals (SDG) there is no migration in health and there is no health in migration. When you look at SDGs there are very specific goals for migration in health. There is a resolution for member state adoption and response has been poor; little effort to get these issues into the mainstream development. Within the UN framework there is a very low effort to get migration health onto the agenda".

Dr. Wickramage outlined a number of contributions that the MHRES group is envisaged to make towards advancing the migration health agenda;

1. To advance a technical briefing paper to the 2nd Global Consultation on Migration Health (to be held in October, 2016, hosted by Government of Sri Lanka, IOM and WHO).
2. To develop a joint research agenda parallel to the technical paper, to be presented at the 2nd Global Consultation.
3. Overall, provide guidance, expertise and technical knowhow for governments, UN agencies and other organizations to build and advance a global research agenda on migration and health.



Dr. Davide Mosca presented an overview of migration health trends, specifically referring to low-skilled labour migrants. Dr. Mosca was emphatic about the urgent need to deal with migration crisis, and especially the provision of health care to varied migrant populations.

Discussing current global concerns, he reiterated the need to change the current toxic narrative on migration and bring out the positive effect of migration on societies and economies of the world. Overlapping of human mobility

and increasing health risks is presenting many challenges, where linking health and development is critical, yet a difficult connection to establish.

According to Dr. Mosca there are three main domains (disease, vulnerability and development) that play a critical role in migration health today, and understanding individual domains as well as their inter-connections and points of convergence can provide a better definition of migration and health. Conditions under which people migrate are determinants creating spaces of vulnerability which can become social determinants, and play a role in disease, vulnerability and development.



Next, Dr. Kolitha Wickramage led a session on Definitions of terms and conceptual models around low skilled labour migration and health, where he presented the group with a detailed background picture on the current migration and development narrative, international policies and legislature, remittance figures and economic perspective.

He pointed out that although research opportunities around low-skilled migration is vast, there is lacuna of research evidence on the topic. MHRES group should consider providing a technical paper on summarizing some of the critical gaps in policy, legal framework and research evidence to create traction with international organizations and governments.



The group debated and discussed how low-skilled migrant workers are seen as a cheap commodity by both labour sending and receiving countries and how the MHRES group should try to shift the narrative to healthy migrants, healthy communities and healthy economies.

There was an open session where individual participants provided a glimpse into their background, organizational background and current interests in migration health, which was followed by the public lecture from Dr. Davide Mosca.

## Day two

The second day of the workshop was an open session discussing ways forward with MHRES input to develop a research agenda around health of migrants. This session was co-chaired by Dr. Siriwardhana and Dr. Wickramage.

under the umbrella of MHADI, and all the MHRES participants would be members of MHADI. An agreement was reached to inform those who were not in attendance about the formation of MHADI (more details provided later in this report).

An action plan was established for MHADI, and a number of research funding schemes were discussed to generate infrastructure and research capacity for the initiative.



The 'Migration Health & Development Initiative (MHADI) was officially established during the second day's deliberations. Future actions of the MHRES group would be carried out



## Public Lecture by Dr. Davide Mosca

### Migration health: advancing the unfinished agenda

As a part of MHRES, a public lecture was delivered by Dr. Davide Mosca, Director, Migration Health Department of the International Organization for Migration on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at the Faculty of Medical Science of Anglia Ruskin University.



Dr. Mosca explored important themes such as the agenda on migration health and development, IOM's role and work of the Migration Health Division, IOM's approach to migration health, innovative tools developed for responding to global health security threat and key insights into the health vulnerabilities of the current migrant crisis in Europe,

The public lecture was attended by students, faculty and other staff members of the university and by external community and media representatives.

It was followed by a panel discussion with MHRES members (Dr. Kolitha Wickramage, Dr. Bayard Roberts and Prof. Charles Hui) moderated by Dr. Chesmal Siriwardhana.



*Excerpts from Dr. Mosca's lecture*

*"We must be prepared and manage migration and human mobility rationally. If we don't face the challenge of the future we will have crisis upon crisis. Migration is not a problem to be solved but a reality to be managed, including in the health sector."*

*"It is vital to ensure migrants have the same access to healthcare as the indigenous population. If migrants stay healthy, they contribute to sustainable economies. Ill health is a liability and leads to poverty and a drain on resources."*

A press release on the lecture can be accessed via:

<http://www.anglia.ac.uk/news/be-prepared-or-face-more-migrant-crises>

# Migration Health & Development Initiative (MHADI)

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The Migrant Health and Development Initiative (MHADI) is an international partnership of academic, policy and operational organisations aiming to improve the health of migrants around the world through research evidence. *MHADI activities will have a special focus on low-skilled migrant workers and their left-behind families.*

MHADI aims to improve the health and wellbeing of migrants and their families through:

- ❖ Building and strengthening the global research evidence on migrant health through research collaborations and networks
- ❖ Providing technical advice, expertise and training to governments, international and national organizations on migrant health.
- ❖ Identification and dissemination of best practices to promote migrant health.
- ❖ Informing and shaping national and international migrant health policy and practice through research.

***VISION: A world in which all migrants and their families can realise their full potential.***

Our international partnership of academic, policy and operational organisations will work with migrants, governments, global health organisations and other stakeholders, building the research evidence on migrant health, to influence policies and laws to transform lives.

Co-chairs:

IOM - Dr. Davide Mosca & Dr. Kolitha Wickramage

ARU/LSHTM – Dr. Chesmal Siriwardhana & Dr. Bayard Roberts

Action plan:

- ✓ Establish a board and admin structure
- ✓ Consider inclusion of migrant groups and/or observers from member states that interact with IOM
- ✓ Create space on globalhme.org website for MHADI
- ✓ Schedule another in-person round table meeting
- ✓ Create 3 background documents on Scope, position/technical and policy orientations of MHADI
- ✓ Develop a technical paper to be submitted for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Consultation on Migration & Health

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