



**Public Webinar:**

## **Access to Medicines for Neglected Tropical Diseases**

18:00-19:30 Paris/Berlin (CET)

Thursday, June 14th, 2022

[Via Zoom](#)

Welcome to this second webinar of the Working Group on Tropical Medicine and Global Health Training of the Federation of European Societies for Tropical Medicine and International Health (FESTMIH).

Globally, an estimated 2.7 billion people are affected by neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). This webinar will focus on access to medicine (A2M) surrounding NTDs. We will explore the current state of A2M for NTDs, including the pharmaceutical sector setup, issues with donation programmes, factors contributing to poor access and affordability of medicines for NTDs, and promising developments in the lab and field for sustainable access. Expert speakers will present interesting cases and their current work in the area.

The webinar will conclude with an open dialogue with the audience, to discuss future avenues for improving A2M for NTDs, through advocacy and new R&D, for example.

This working group was formed in 2021 to advocate for and support cohesion and communication surrounding undergraduate and postgraduate Tropical Medicine and Global Health -related training in the European Region, as well as the development and expansion of programmes offered.

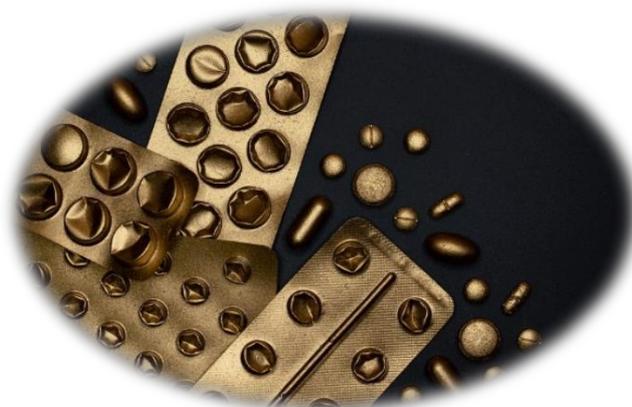
Read more and how to get involved at:

<https://festmih.eu/working-groups/tropical-medicine-and-global-health-training/>

**W:** [festmih.eu](https://festmih.eu) **E:** [rosie@globalhealth.ie](mailto:rosie@globalhealth.ie)

# Agenda

Time	Item	Speakers
18:00-18:05	Welcome and Introduction	Co-Hosts: <b>Sarai Keestra</b> , MD/PhD Candidate, University of Amsterdam <b>Dr Rosemary James</b> , Co-chair, Working Group on Tropical Medicine and Global Health Training, FESTMIH
18:05-18:15	Facts on A2M & NTDs	Mentimeter quiz
18:15-18:30	Research & Development	<b>Dr María-Jesús Pinazo</b> , Head of Chagas Program, Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi)- Latin America
18:30-18:45	Bridging diagnostic gaps to defeat NTDs	<b>Dr Laura Bohorquez</b> , Trial Manager, FIND Diagnostics - Colombia
18:45-19:00	Innovation Policy	<b>Dr Manuel Martin</b> , Infectious Disease Policy Advisor, MSF Access
19:00-19:15	Public-Private Partnerships	<b>Dr Diogo Martins</b> , Snakebite Lead, Wellcome Trust
19:15-19:30	Discussion, including questions from the audience	



## Speaker Biographies

### **Dr María-Jesús Pinazo**- Head of Chagas Program, Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi)- Latin America



María Jesús Pinazo is physician, senior specialist in Internal Medicine, Associate Research Professor and Head of Chagas in DNDi since January 2022. She has been working at the International Health Service of the Hospital Clínic in Barcelona since 2007, being Director of Chagas Initiative at ISGlobal to 2021, Associate Research Professor at ISGlobal and Associate Lecturer at Barcelona University to date. She obtained her PhD in Internal Medicine at the University of Barcelona in 2016 with international mention and Cum Laude rating, being awarded the extraordinary doctorate award in 2017. Her main line of research in International Health is on Chagas Disease, from basic to Public Health research.

Since 2007, she has been working as a healthcare doctor between Barcelona and Bolivia. His main line of work and research are tropical and imported diseases, and among them, Chagas disease. From 2007 to 2021 has been a professor of Master's in International Health at the University of Barcelona and the Graduate Diploma in Immigration, Interculturality and Health of the Autonomous University of Barcelona. In 2010, he co-coordinated the protocol for the detection and diagnosis of Chagas in pregnant women in Latin America and their babies (Department of Health, Generalitat de Catalunya). Since November 2010 to 2021 she has been technical coordinator of the Platform of comprehensive care for patients with Chagas disease in Bolivia, and since 2019 in Paraguay. In December 2010, she also started working as an internal monitor for clinical trial E1224 (in Bolivia), and since June 2017, is the principal investigator of the Fexi 12 clinical trial (in Barcelona), both promoted by DNDi, whose objective in both cases is the search for new medicines to treat Chagas disease. Since March 2011 she is member of the international network: New tools for the diagnosis and evaluation of Chagas disease patient (NHEPACHA), that she coordinates since 2019 to date. She has been the scientific coordinator of the InSPIRES project, financed by the H2020 program and whose main objective is to bring science closer to society through the joint creation of Research questions that directly answer social challenges, integrating Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), open science and open data in their scientific approach in order to open up the scientific process in a more strategic way to civil society and other key stakeholders. Since 2019 to 2021, she has been the coordinator of the Barcelona Recercaixa LivingLab.

Read more about María's work with DNDi at:

<https://www.dndi.org/es/enfermedades/enfermedad-chagas/>

## **Dr Laura Bohorquez - Trial Manager and Business Consultant at FIND**



Laura is passionate about how technology can improve healthcare in Latin America and satisfy the needs of local patients. Her motivation is to bridge the gap between good science and clinical application to contribute to progress in medical sciences.

Laura studied Biology at the National University of Colombia, and specialized in Molecular Bioengineering during her MSc at the Technical University of Dresden (Germany). Subsequently she performed her PhD in Cell Biology at the

University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands). Her research was funded by the European Commission with a Marie-Curie Fellowship, investigating the bacterial cell division as a target for novel antibiotics.

For over 4 years, in her role as a Clinical Research and Business Consultant for a dozen of European and Asian companies and NGOs, Laura has been involved in project management, developing strategic plans, and supervising the initiation and execution of clinical trials and product testing of diagnostic tools in various Latin American countries.

Since 2020, Laura has been Trial Manager and Business Consultant at FIND, the global alliance for diagnostics, within the NTD programme, managing and supervising various projects on Chagas Disease diagnostics in Latin America.

Read more about the NTD programme at FIND:

<https://www.finddx.org/marginalized-populations/>

## **Dr Manuel Martin-*Infectious Disease Policy Advisor***



Manuel Martin is a medical doctor with a passion for global health policy. He worked for the MSF/Doctors Without Borders Access Campaign as Medical Innovation and Access Policy Advisor and now continues his work at the MSF Access Campaign as Infectious Disease Policy Advisor. Previously, he has been engaged in research on medicines prices, transparency, and R&D funding and was a European Coordinator for Universities Allied for Essential Medicines and the European Alliance for Responsible R&D and Affordable Medicines.

Read more about Manuel's work at:

<https://msfaccess.org/>

## **Dr Diogo Martins- Snakebite Lead, Wellcome Trust**



I lead the Snakebite programme, in the interface between research and policy, to deliver maximum impact together with our key partner organisations. Our goal is to transform the way snakebite treatments are researched, developed and delivered, to make them safer, more effective and accessible for all. Prior to joining Wellcome, I worked in the Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health of the World Health Organization (WHO), and in Portugal as a clinician and doctor in Public Health Medicine. In parallel with Wellcome, I am a Doctorate in Public Health (DrPH) candidate and Seminar Leader at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), and the President of the Portuguese Association of Researchers and Students in the UK (PARSUK).

Read more about Diogo's work at:

<https://wellcome.org/what-we-do/our-work/snakebites>