



HSE Seminar on Respiratory Pathogens: past, present and future

Speakers' bio

Julian W Tang, MD Prof PhD

Consultant Virologist, Clinical Microbiology, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Leicester, UK
Honorary Associate Professor, Respiratory Sciences, University of Leicester, Leicester, UK



Julian Tang obtained his Medicine and Zoology degree at Cambridge, before completing his PhD in biological fluid dynamics in Aberdeen. After medicine, he completed his speciality in clinical virology at University College London in 2005. Later the same year, he moved to Hong Kong after the SARS outbreak, as an Assistant Professor, developing a clinical and research interest in respiratory viruses. He moved to Singapore in 2008 as a Consultant/Virologist, just in time for the 2009 A/H1N1 influenza pandemic, where he made ground-breaking research on human exhaled airflows using schlieren imaging for aerosol infection prevention & control. After he spent a couple of years working in Edmonton - where he reported and described the first human case of avian A/H5N1 influenza imported into North America in 2013. He returned to the UK in 2014, where he has been running since a diagnostic virology lab and advising on the clinical management and infection control of viral infections, particularly respiratory viruses, like influenza and SARS-CoV-2. He has been a leading expert for over two decades with more than 15 000 citations to his research.

Alice Simniceanu, MSc

Epidemiologist, Health Emergencies Programme, World Health Organization (WHO)



Alice Simniceanu is an infectious disease epidemiologist at WHO, working on emerging infectious diseases and pandemic preparedness efforts and for the past two years has been supporting the COVID-19 response. Her main expertise is in healthcare epidemiology and infection prevention and control. During her time at WHO she has led and contributed to several WHO publications including technical guidances, trainings, policy briefs, among others. Her current work focuses on investigating the spread of infectious diseases, and the development of prevention and control measures. Before coming to WHO, she worked in a hospital in Canada in infection prevention and control managing outbreaks and preventing the spread of hospital acquired infections.

Romain Guichard, PhD

Head of the Aeraulic Engineering laboratory, Institut National de Recherche et de Sécurité (INRS)



Romain Guichard obtained a PhD in Mechanics and Energy at the University of Lorraine (France) in 2013, where he was working on the dynamics of airborne nanoparticles. After his PhD, he worked for a few years in fluid dynamics and nuclear safety for the French alternative energies and atomic energy commission (CEA) before joining the French research and safety institute (INRS) for the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases. Within the INRS, he worked as a researcher for four years in topics related to industrial ventilation or indoor air quality and then became the head of the Aeraulic Engineering laboratory in 2019.