



# Frontline Worker Safety in the Age of COVID-19

## A Global Perspective

September 14, 2022 - Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup> Webinar

**Conference Welcome & Overview: Kevin T. Kavanagh, MD, MS, Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup>**



**Morning Session Moderator: Associate Professor Matthias Maiwald, Singapore**



**Professor Dale Fisher:** Professor Dale Fisher is an Australian infectious diseases physician who first moved to the National University Hospital, Singapore in March 2003 during the SARS outbreak. He chaired NUH's IPC committee from 2006 until recently. He became the inaugural chair of Singapore's National IPC committee in 2014 and is the Group chief of Medicine at National University Health Systems. At the international level he chaired the steering committee of WHO's Global Outbreak Alert & Response Network (GOARN) from June 2018-2022 and has supported many WHO IPC guideline efforts. Fisher was one of 12 international technical experts who visited China in February 2020 to investigate the COVID-19 outbreak. Other outbreak response contributions include deployments across Asia for national influenza outbreaks and to West Africa in 2014 and 2015 for the Ebola response. He has conducted many IPC trainings in Asia, has authored over 200 peer-reviewed publications and given 150 invited and plenary presentations at international conferences. Many awards for his work in IPC include a national clinical excellence award in 2013, in 2018 the Minister for Health Award and last year Singapore's National Outstanding Clinician Award.



**Professor Imogen Mitchell:** Clinical Director, ACT COVID-19 Response, Executive Director of Research & Academic Partnerships, Canberra Health Services and Australian National University, Intensive Care Specialist, Canberra Hospital. Professor Imogen Mitchell has a background in intensive care and is an internationally recognized health systems expert. Professor Mitchell is playing a key role in the Australian Capital Territory's clinical response to COVID-19. Her current research is focused on improving end-of-life care at a local and national level. She lead the development of an innovative teaching program, COMPASS, which is now used in healthcare organizations around the world to help healthcare professionals recognize signs of patient deterioration. <https://www.anu.edu.au/news/for-journalists/professor-imogen-mitchell>



**Professor Lidia Morawska, PhD, MSc.** Dr. Morawska is a Distinguished Professor in the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, at Queensland University of Technology (QUT); the Director of the International Laboratory for Air Quality and Health (ILAQH) at QUT, which is a WHO Collaborating Centre on Air Quality and Health; a Vice-Chancellor Fellow at the Global Centre for Clean Air Research (GCARE), University of Surrey in the UK, and a Co-Director in Australia for the Australia – China Centre for Air Quality Science and Management (ACC-AQSM); Dr. Morawska was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by Time Magazine in 2021 for “recognizing the importance of aerosol transmission and marshalling the data that would convince the World Health Organization and other authoritative bodies to do the same. <https://research.qut.edu.au/ilagh/people/lidia-morawska/>

**Professor Nele Brusselaers, MD, PhD:** Nele Brusselaers is a Professor in Clinical Epidemiology at Antwerp University in Belgium (Global Health Institute), Associate Professor at the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden (Centre for Translational Microbiome Researcher), and Guest Professor at Ghent University, Belgium. Regarding the pandemic, Nele was the lead-author of the study entitled “Evaluation of science advice during the COVID-19 pandemic in Sweden” published in Humanities and Social Sciences Communications in March 2022, and “Coronavirus pandemic in the Nordic countries: health policy and economy trade-off” published in the Journal of Global Health during spring 2022. She has also been an active member of the Swedish Scientific Forum Covid-19, a group of independent researchers and medical doctors “that disseminates science-based knowledge about the major issues and challenges that the ongoing pandemic have posed to the world and our country”.



[https://www.healthconference.org/healthconference.org-files/2022Conference\\_bios/Brusselaers.htm](https://www.healthconference.org/healthconference.org-files/2022Conference_bios/Brusselaers.htm)



**Afternoon Session Introduction – Past Surgeon General Dr Joycelyn Elders**

**Afternoon Session Moderator – Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, MD, MS, Health Watch USA<sup>sm</sup>**

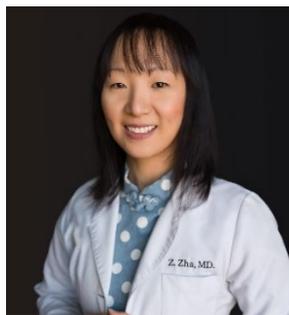


**Ziyad Al-Aly, MD, FASN:** Dr. Al-Aly a physician-scientist; he serves as the Chief of Research and Development Service at the VA Saint Louis Health Care System. He is a clinical epidemiologist with broad interests including pharmacoepidemiology, environmental epidemiology, global health, and most recently short- and long-term effects of COVID-19 on health outcomes.

Dr. Al-Aly is a globally recognized expert on Long Covid. He serves as the co-chair of a US Government-wide committee tasked by the President to develop a National Research Action Plan on Long Covid. His work is published in several major journals including Nature, Nature Medicine, BMJ, JAMA, JAMA-Internal Medicine, Lancet, NEJM, and others. According to Google Scholar, his work has been cited more than 60,000 times. His work is frequently featured in major national and international media outlets including New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, LA Times, NPR, BBC, CNN, the Guardian, Bloomberg, The New Yorker, the Atlantic, Scientific American, Science Magazine, Nature News, and several others.



**Frazier B. Beatty, PhD, MPH, CHES:** Frazier B. Beatty, PhD, MPH, CHES: Dr. Beatty is a public health professional with a diverse background in online educational leadership. Currently, Dr. Beatty is the Program Director for Regis College's Online Master of Public Health Program. He has a combination of over 20 years of educational training and educational management experience. He also has over 20 years of experience conducting research and using best-practice approaches and data to improve student academic programs. Dr. Beatty has worked for state and federal government agencies, including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. His research interests include using Telehealth to address HIV and other infectious diseases. Dr. Beatty has been teaching Public Health online since 2010 and also mentoring PhD students since 2012.



**Mengyi "Zed" Zha, MD:** Zed Zha, MD, is a board certified family physician. She graduated from the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, where she received Gold Humanism Honor Society Award and the John F. Radebaugh Community Service Award. She completed her residency training at the Mayo Clinic - La Crosse Family Medicine Residency, where she was the recipient of the Residency Research Award. Dr. Zha currently practices full-scope primary care with obstetrics and hospital medicine in rural Washington state. She served as her organization's COVID-19 Task Force Physician Lead during the first year of the pandemic. Dr. Zha is an upcoming fellow in the Underserved Dermatology Fellowship in Family Medicine. Dr. Zha's guest Op-Ed on workplace violence against healthcare workers on [MedPage Today](#), and her recent commentary on safety issues in rural medicine on the [Daily Yonder](#) inspired much internet debate on this topic.



**Ambassador Deborah Birx, MD.** Deborah L. Birx, M.D., served the United States, as an Army Colonel and later, running some of the most high-profile and influential programs at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Department of State. Dr. Birx served as the White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator, using complex data integration to drive decision-making, as well as worked closely with state officials across the country to provide state-specific advice and guidance. Dr. Birx is a world renowned medical expert and leader whose long career has focused on clinical and basic immunology, infectious disease, pandemic preparedness, vaccine research, and global health. As the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator from 2014-2021, she oversaw the spending of the \$6 billion annual budget of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease in history, as well as all U.S. Government engagement with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Dr. Birx recently completed her first book entitled *Silent Invasion* published by HarperCollins; is a Bush Institute Senior Fellow and Independent Board Director at Innoviva.



**Jeannie P. Cimiotti, PhD, RN:** Jeannie P. Cimiotti, PhD, RN, FAAN is an Associate Professor, tenured, in the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. She is an internationally recognized health services researcher with expertise in nurse workforce issues and the quality of patient care. Dr. Cimiotti uses an interdisciplinary approach better understand the work-related outcomes of acute care nurses and the patients for whom they provide care. Her research has been cited for its expertise on nurse outcomes such job dissatisfaction and burnout and patient outcomes, specifically healthcare-associated infections and the sequela of infection such as extended lengths of stay, hospital readmissions, and mortality. Her work on healthcare-associated infections has been recognized with widespread press coverage not only in the U.S., but globally including NBC News, the Daily Mail, Modern Healthcare, and National Public Radio (NPR).