



THE  
GRADUATE  
INSTITUTE  
GENEVA

GLOBAL  
HEALTH  
CENTRE

**MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES FOR THE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION  
OF DISEASES: WHY AND HOW TO EXPAND GLOBAL ACCESS**

**BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS**

## AYESHA SITLANI

Associate Vice President, Antibody Strategy, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI)



Ayesha Sitlani, Ph.D. is Associate Vice President of Antibody Strategy at IAVI, a non-profit scientific research organization focused on translating scientific discoveries into global health solutions. For the past 3 years, Ayesha has been driving IAVI's flagship program to launch a set of initiatives, through public-private partnerships, to make **monoclonal antibody treatments and preventives affordable and globally accessible**. IAVI's strategy is to enable the access of mAbs through innovation and investments in product development and optimization, low-cost manufacturing and new policy frameworks and business models. Ayesha is supporting IAVI's pipeline of antibody candidates for COVID-19, HIV, and other infectious diseases that are being advanced in collaboration with development and manufacturing partners in low-, middle-, and high-income countries, with the goal to enable global access. Recently, Ayesha led an effort, commissioned by the Wellcome Trust, to conduct a landscape analyses of the challenges and opportunities to global access to monoclonal antibodies. This work which was compiled through an analysis of access barriers to marketed antibodies and primary interviews with more than 100 stakeholders across 15 countries, led to a recently launched publication, **Expanding Access to Monoclonal Antibody-based Products: A Global Call to Action**. The publication presents recommendations, with the intention to galvanize the global health community, to address the distressing gap in access to existing and future monoclonal antibodies for treatment and prevention of many communicable (including RSV, HIV, Ebola, COVID-19) and non-communicable diseases (cancer, autoimmune), especially for people in low- and middle-income countries. The findings are particularly relevant now, given that research on the use of monoclonal antibodies for prevention and treatment of COVID-19 is proceeding at an urgent pace.

Prior to joining IAVI, Ayesha spent almost 20 years at Merck & Co. Inc, where she gained broad leadership experience in antibody and vaccine research & product development, strategy, integration, business development, operations, and change management. Ayesha has published over 40 peer-reviewed publications and patents that have spanned several therapeutic areas including infectious diseases, oncology, endocrinology and women's health, immunology and cardiovascular research. She is passionate about translating her research and development experience into solutions that enable global access to innovative medicines. Ayesha received her B.A. from Smith College, M.A from Columbia University, and her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the California Institute of Technology. Ayesha trained as a postdoctoral fellow in Biophysical chemistry at Yale University.

## MODERATOR

### SUERIE MOON

Co-Director, Global Health Centre, the Graduate Institute, Geneva



Suerie Moon, MPA, PhD, is Co-Director of the Global Health Centre and Visiting Lecturer at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva. She also teaches and advises doctoral students at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health as adjunct Lecturer on Global Health. Her research and teaching focus on global governance, the political economy of global health (focusing on innovation and access to medicines; outbreak preparedness and response; trade, investment and intellectual property rules; and development assistance for health), the evolution of international regimes, and innovative policies for addressing global problems. She is the author, with Wolfgang Hein, of *Informal Norms in Global Governance: Human Rights, Intellectual Property Rules, and Access to Medicines* (Routledge, 2013). She has conducted research on the policies and politics shaping innovation and access to medicines for twenty years, starting at Médecins Sans Frontières in 1999. She has served on a number of expert advisory bodies, including most recently the Board of Directors of the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative, WHO Fair Pricing Forum Advisory Group, Expert Advisory Group to the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines, Proposal Review Committee of UNITAID, and US National Academies of Medicine Forum on Antimicrobial Threats. Prior to joining the Graduate Institute, she was Study Director of the Harvard-LSHTM Independent Panel on the Global Response to Ebola, and co-founded and led the Forum on Global Governance for Health, a focal point at Harvard University for research, debate and strategic convening on issues at the intersection of global governance and health. She received a BA from Yale, an MPA from Princeton, and PhD from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.