

Olle Hansson and the Olle Hansson Award Recipients

Olle Hansson and 'Inside Ciba Geigy'

Olle Hansson Day May 23: Olle Hansson was an icon of the activist medical profession and wrote a classic in medical investigative exposure. The book was called 'INSIDE CIBA GEIGY' and published in Penang, Malaysia in 1989. It is an amazing piece and we like to share the foreword written by Anwar Fazal, former President of International Organisation of Consumers Union (IOCU), co-founder of Health Action International (HAI) and the instigator for the idea of a People Health Assembly. 'Olle was a very special inspiration to us. His courage, his competence, his commitment were rare in a profession that is more often too comfortable or too implicated to speak out against a powerful industry.' His passing on 23 May 1985 was mourned not by words but by a series of actions that will continue to inspire those working to see a more responsible pharmaceutical industry worldwide May 23 has been designated as Olle Hansson Day and is celebrated as a day of action in India and several other countries.

An Olle Hansson Award is made to a Third World person whose action for rational drug policies demonstrate the fine qualities of Olle, whose words, '*Now is the time for Action*' will be a rallying call for all times.

What INSIDE CIBA GEIGY is about is stated below by four editors.¹

This book is in three parts. The first part is the story of a drug, clioquinol, which ruined many more lives than thalidomide did, but this disaster is much less widely known and its lessons have not yet been learned. The story spans over 20 years, from the early 1960s until now, and is told by Dr. Olle Hansson who became deeply involved in it early on and did more than anyone else to bring it towards a conclusion. The main actors are the patients who were injured, the doctors who prescribed the drug, Ciba-Geigy the Swiss multinational pharmaceutical company which introduced ENTERO-VIOFORM, and the lawyers and Hansson who helped the patients obtain compensation.

It is not only a thrilling story but also raises the question as to whether anything like it could happen again. How exceptional was it? In the second part of the book Dr. Hansson looks at other more recent examples of drug marketing by Ciba-Geigy and other companies to try to answer this question. What is unique here is the wealth of information on the discussion and decision process within Ciba-Geigy. The picture is very less disturbing, but although Hansson himself had much less inside knowledge of other companies, it seems likely that Ciba-Geigy's behaviour was no worse than that of most of its competitors.

Are pharmaceutical companies behaving more responsibly now than in the recent past? How can we tell? Hansson died before he could finish this book, but the last month of his life saw a dramatic development in his long struggle with Ciba-Geigy. The company decided that the top management should meet him personally for discussions and perhaps negotiations.

In the last part of the book Milton Silverman, who interviewed all the chief participants, describes these meetings and the events that followed. 'The fight to get rid of clioquinol increased public awareness of underlying problems in many countries, and in the developing world this encouraged consumers to campaign for more rational use of drugs. Olle Hansson acted as a catalyst and adviser for this movement. For example, as Dr. Mira Shiva of the Voluntary Health Association of India notes: 'The relevance of this fight for right to information, the right to socially just and rational drug use have increasingly made sense to us and many others. If today the drugs issue is increasingly being recognised as a health issue, a consumer issue, it is because we are ourselves convinced about it being so, and can therefore convince others. Olle Hansson facilitated this process. An important characteristic was that he never ignored (my) requests for expert comment, and responded very promptly - even when he was in hospital'. 'Olle Hansson's relationships with the media were another important element in his work. 'He had a way of combining scientific with hard fact and a campaigning zeal that is every reporter's dream. His nose for a story made it easy for him to pick up his way through unnecessary detail and hit

¹ Dag Nilsson, Kongsvinger, Norway; Andrew Herxheimer, London; England Eva Lachkovics, Penang, Malaysia; Mats Nilsson, Malmo, Sweden. 1989

where it hurts'. (Joan Shenton, TV journalist, London).

Oliver Gillie, then medical correspondent of the London Sunday Times adds: 'As a journalist I have met many people obsessed by a cause. Such obsession is essential if an individual is going to make battle with governments or large international corporations. Olle Hansson had a righteous cause, and the stamina to see the battle through'.

Barbro Joberger, of Dagens Nyheter, Stockholm, was struck by Hansson's respect for journalists' professional skill: 'Unlike many doctors he had no contempt for journalists. He knew that journalists had their own code of honour. He understood that it was in his own interest to learn as much as possible about the way the media works, so that he could achieve the best results'. What is important now is that all of us should learn the lessons - doctors and other health professionals, administrators of health services, politicians and the public.

The World Health Organisation now has a major program to encourage the rational use of drugs in all countries, especially the poorest ones. This essential work needs the wholehearted cooperation of the pharmaceutical industry, which has many important contributions to make. If this book helps to improve the ways in which we use medicines. Olle Hansson's hope will have to be realised.

Olle Hansson Award Recipients

The Award recognises the work of an individual from a developing country who best demonstrates the qualities of Olle Hansson in promoting the rational use of drugs.

The Award is named in honour of Dr Olle Hansson, a Swedish paediatric neurologist internationally known for his advocacy for SMON (Subacute myelo-optic neuropathy) victims who were paralysed or blinded after using clioquinol, an anti-diarrhoeal drug. Olle Hansson was a powerful campaigner against unethical promotion and marketing of drugs. In many ways, he represented the conscience of the medical profession.

His influence was felt not only in Sweden and Japan, which have thousands of SMON victims, but also in Europe and developing countries. Olle Hansson will be remembered by all who campaign for the rational use of drugs.

Although he died of cancer on May 23, 1985, at the age of 49, he remains a continuing source of inspiration for public interest workers everywhere. May 23 is commemorated each year as 'Olle Hansson Day'.

The Award was first given in 1987. The award was not given after 2008 until 2021 when it was revived as part of the HAIAP 40 years Anniversary celebrations.

1987: Dr Mira Shiva, India and Dr Alfredo Bengzon, Philippines



Dr Mira Shiva is a founder member and former Chair of Health Action International (Asia Pacific). She obtained her Post-Graduate Degree in Medicine at Christian Medical College Ludhiana, Punjab in 1978, the year of the Alma Ata Declaration on Primary Health Care (PHC), then completed a Community Health and Development Residency. For over four decades she has been engaged with Comprehensive PHC, issues of gender justice, social and health equity. She has been involved with issues of Rational Drug Policy and Rational use of Drugs, Women and Child health, Food and Nutrition security, Food Safety and Biosafety, Environment and Health, Using Law for Public Health. She was involved in relief work and health impact studies after the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

Dr Mira is a Founder Member of Peoples Health Movement - a Steering Committee Member for two terms and currently an Advisory Committee member. Dr Mira Shiva is Coordinator of the Initiative for Health and Equity in Society and Founder Coordinator and Co-Convenor of All India Drug Action Network and was a member of the Health Committee of National Human Rights Commission.

Dr Mira is recipient of the first Dr Olle Hansson award for showing Moral Courage and for contributions Nationally and Globally for Rational Use of Medicines. She was also recipient of the Women Scientists Award in 2006 by Science and Society, Dept of Science and Technology for 'prevention of misuse of Medicines and Medical Technologies'.

1987 Dr Alfredo Bengzon



As the first Secretary of Health under the restored democracy, Dr Bengzon had the difficult task of reorganizing the Department of Health, restoring its soul and spirit and delivering it through a tense transition. His previous training in Business Management gave him the proper tools to execute the crucial role dealt by destiny. In his 5 years of administration, he carried out the transition successfully and carried the DOH to new heights of energy and achievement. With handpicked managers doing meticulous and systematic target-setting, planning, information processing and resource management, the discipline and order resulted in more effective delivery of services.

During his term, “disease detectives” of the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP), that also had a sentinel surveillance system, started to investigate and sort out epidemics and diseases. Full infant immunization coverage soared from a low of 21% to more than 80% in 3 years. Secretary Bengzon also championed the National Drug Policy Program (PNDP). The many programs and projects initiated during Secretary Bengzon’s term included the following, among others: Control Of Acute Respiratory Infections, Control of Hepatitis B, Polio Eradication, National AIDS Prevention and Control Program, Non-Communicable Disease Programs (like the Cardiovascular and Cancer Control Programs), and the Philippine Health Development Project (PHDP).

Secretary Bengzon was designated as the Peace Commissioner tasked with the formulation of the government’s comprehensive peace strategy. He also served as a member of the Philippine negotiating panel on the American bases.

During the second half of his term, he pushed the Generic Law amidst opposition from the medical practitioners and drug manufacturers. Paradoxically, Secretary Bengzon received international recognition for his work in PNDP.

1991 Dr Syed Rizwanuddin Ahmad



As a young medical graduate from Pakistan, already active in the area of access to and use of essential medicines, Rizwan received the Award in 1991. He further trained in pharmacovigilance (PV), pharmacoepidemiology (PE), drug regulatory science and clinical pharmacology and now has more than 30 years’ experience in civil society organizations/non-profit groups, and the public sector.

He consults in regulatory system strengthening; PV; PE; benefit-risk assessment; risk management; vaccine safety; risk communication; access to medicines; generic drugs; poison and drug information; medication errors.

He also specialises in medicines policy; essential medicines; rational use of medicines; antimicrobial resistance; ethical issues in the conduct of trials; and global health.

Areas of interest include active PV and TB, HIV and AIDS, malaria drugs; causality assessment; signal detection, management; training, capacity building in PV and strengthening of FDA-like agencies in resource-limited countries. He has taught at Georgetown University.

He was a reviewer at the FDA and active in education and training of FDA scientists; organised seminars; courses; and was instrumental in the launch of the first Epi for Non-Epi course. He is a recipient of a number of FDA Awards and Commissioner's Special Citation. He is active in the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology (ISPE) and serves in the Education; and Global Development Committees. He was Chair and Vice Chair of the Government and Regulatory Council; edited ISPE’s newsletter; served on the faculty of introduction to pharmacoepidemiology course. In 2006, in recognition of his scientific contributions and service to the society, he was inducted as a Fellow in ISPE. In 2009, he was conferred Fellowship of the American College of Clinical Pharmacology. He has many publications to his credit including many book chapters on pharmacovigilance; and one on the evolution of the FDA drug approval process. In 2014, he conceived the idea for the first Vaccine Safety course which was offered at ICPE Boston 2015 and again in ICPE Dublin 2016.

1992 Professor Tariq Iqbal Bhutta



Professor Tariq Iqbal Bhutta was Principal and Professor of Paediatrics, Nishtar Medical College, Multan, Pakistan and Chairman of the National Immunisation Committee of the country.

Professor Bhutta has been involved with various associations, including the International Paediatric Association (IPA); the Asia Pacific Paediatric Association (APPA), and the Pakistan Paediatric Association (PPA), where he held the post of Secretary and President. Furthermore, he has served the College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan (CPSP) as Councillor and Vice President. He has also been affiliated with the World Health Organization (WHO), serving as an advisor in the field of immunization and drug classification.

It was in 1990 that Dr Bhutta was receiving a number of children in his department with diarrhoea, as is common in most of the paediatric units in the developing world. He noticed that a large number of children had developed paralytic ileus soon after they were given treatment at home or by General Practitioners. This was alarming. There was one common thread: all of them had received Imodium as part of their treatment at home, or by the general practitioner. In many of these infants and children, the paralysis was so severe that it led to respiratory failure and eventually death. Dr Bhutta wrote to the company manufacturing this medicine and said that they should stop making it as it was causing serious complications and death. The company responded that it was not their fault; instead the fault lay with the parents who bought the drug or the health professionals who prescribed it. Needless to say, this response stunned him. So he collected all the data about these unfortunate children and sent it to *the Lancet*, where it was published. The company immediately promised to withdraw the drug.

The issue was discussed in the British Parliament and the PM promised to talk to the Pakistani PM about it. The chairman of the company visited Dr Bhutta and colleagues in Multan and promised to withdraw the drug worldwide.

Almost all countries banned or withdrew Imodium for use in children. A TV network from the UK made a documentary about the child victims in Pakistan, which WHO has been using as a teaching aid for the course on diarrhoeal disease management to be used in nearly 140 countries.

Soon after, an organisation was set up with the help of some like-minded people and Save the Children Fund, UK, to create awareness about medicines and its appropriate use amongst the health professionals and the public. A second objective was to help the drug regulatory authority in its work of promoting rational drug use.

Dr Bhutta also been affiliated with the World Health Organization (WHO), serving as an advisor in the field of immunisation and drug classification. For his outstanding work in the field of child health, he was awarded the Olle Hansson Award in 1992.

1999 Professor Dzulkipli Abdul Razak



Professor Tan Sri Dzulkipli Abdul Razak (Dzul)'s first degree was Bachelor of Pharmacy from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and then he obtained Master in Pharmacology from the University of Strathclyde.

Professor Dzulkipli was the Director of the National Poison Centre, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), when he was the first Malaysian to receive the Olle Hansson award in 1999.

He was the Vice Chancellor of the Science University of Malaysia (USM) in Penang from 2000-2011. He was responsible for enriching the very close relationship between HAIAP and the Poison Centre at that University's Medical Faculty which was one of our very first network partners. The centre was also a WHO Collaborating Centre. He left USM to become the Vice Chancellor of Albukhary International University in Kedah, Malaysia where he developed the concept of 'the humaniversity', before to become a Distinguished Fellow at the Malaysian Islamic University of Science (USIM)'s Faculty of Leadership and Management and Chair of Islamic Leadership in 2014.

Prior to joining USIM, he served as a member of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Expert Advisory Panel on Drug Policy and Management from 1995 to 2010 and the WHO Scientific Committee of Tobacco Product Regulation from 2004 to 2006. He was also President of the International Association of Universities from 2012 to 2016.

He was made an Honorary Doctor of Science by the Universities of Portsmouth and Nottingham and Mykolas Romeris University and an Honorary Doctor of Educational Science by Istanbul Commerce University. He remains active in educating the public about their rights in the medical world in Malaysia.

Dr Oscar Lanza, 2000



Dr Oscar Lanza van den Berg was the recipient of the Olle Hansson Award for 2000. Dr. Oscar Lanza was Professor of Public Health, School of Medicine, University Mayor of San Andres, La Paz, Bolivia. He was also the founder coordinator of Health Action International Latin America (HAI/AIS). Based on his research at community and country levels, he has brought to public attention and scrutiny, unethical drug promotion and the harm caused by irrational and hazardous use of drugs, both in Bolivia and Latin America. He is pioneering work led to the enactment of the Bolivian National Legislation on ethical drug promotion, clear rules for drug prescription and use of essential drugs in their generic names.

Apart from health research and campaigns, Dr. Lanza has for over 18 years lead community health education programs, through daily radio broadcasts, broadcast in four local and native languages, reaching even the most remote areas of Bolivia.

Dr Lanza, is also nationally and internationally well recognised as a leader in consumer protection, and a tireless activist of patient's rights, child nutrition, environmental protection and human rights. He has authored and co-authored several books and publications on various aspects of pharmaceuticals. The monthly AIS Bolivia bulletin on rational use of drugs and Primary Health care had a circulation of 10.000 copies.

He was a founder and coordinator of the Bolivian Consumers' movement (CODEDCO), the coordinator of IBFAN Bolivia and a pioneer of the Bolivian Foundation for Nature and Life protection in Bolivia (FUNAVI).

Dr Kumariah Balasubramaniam 2006



Dr Kumariah Balasubramaniam (Bala), a teacher, author, strategist, guide and mentor and above all a health activist, from Jaffna, Sri Lanka graduated in medicine from the University of Sri Lanka and worked in the public sector for a few years. In the early 1960s he joined the University of Peradeniya, Department of Pharmacology to work under the late Prof Senaka Bibile who introduced the well known Pharmaceutical reforms for Sri Lanka in 1972.

Bala was appointed Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology, University of Sri Lanka in 1975. In 1978 he left Sri Lanka to join the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Geneva as the Senior Pharmaceutical Advisor and worked till 1986. During his career in UNCTAD, he visited several developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America to advise Ministries of Health in developing countries to rationalize their pharmaceutical supply system and have rational national drug policies.

In 1987 he joined Consumers International Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (CIROAP) as the Coordinator for Action for Rational Drugs in Asia (ARDA) which was relocated to Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2002 and renamed Health Action International Asia Pacific (HAIAP).

During his 30 year stint in the field of pharmaceuticals and health Dr Bala has received many honours and awards including the Commonwealth Vice - Chancellors' Fellowship Award 1994/95, Australia. He has published innumerable papers on a variety of topics ranging from rational use of drugs to drug prices, availability and access to medicines, intellectual property rights and access to medicines, poverty and health etc.

His knowledge, expertise, exposure, representation at local and international conferences, networking skills have influenced global pharmaceutical thinking extensively. He was founder of HAI and one of the initiators of global Peoples Health Movement (PHM). He was Coordinator of Health Action International Asia-Pacific from 2001.

Dr Eva Ombaka 2007



Born in Moshi, Tanzania, Dr Eva Ombaka trained as a pharmacist in England where she also obtained her PhD (pharmacy) and her Masters in Public Health. In England she had a chance to experience the profession from hospital practice, academia, and manufacturing. For seventeen years she was involved in issues of pharmaceutical policy development and capacity building for better pharmacy practice. Her main areas of interest are in access to and the promotion of rational use of medicines (RUM).

She has been involved in several RUM and drugs and therapeutic committee (DTC) courses and was the winner of the Olle Hansson award for 2007 for her work in RUM. She has participated in committees addressing different aspects of access and use of medicines in organizations such as WHO, MSH, React and HAI.

She was responsible for essential medicines in the Christian Medical Commission of the World Council of Churches in Geneva before becoming coordinator of Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network based in Kenya. As founder and board member of Sustainable Health Care Foundation, Dr Ombaka actively supported use of available local resources, including personnel, as an effective way of learning, sharing best practices and addressing issues with understanding of local context.

Professor AFB Mabadeje 2008



Professor A.F. Biola Mabadeje is a Clinical Pharmacologist and was Head of Department of Pharmacology at the College of Medicine of the University of Lagos. He is also a Consultant Physician and head of the Dialysis Centre at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital. He was the Chairman of the Nigerian National Formulary and Essential Drugs Review Committee from 1985 until 1994. He was a foundation member and also the Coordinator of the INRUD Nigeria Core Group. He participated in various field studies undertaken by International Network for Rational Use of Drugs (INRUD) leading to several publications:

How to investigate drug use in health facilities; Field tests for rational drug Use in 12 developing countries; Impact of a short course of pharmacotherapy for undergraduate medical students; An international multi-centre study.

Active in drawing attention to adverse drug reactions, Dr Mabadeje has many publications in local and international journals on concepts of essential drugs and their rational use.

The Olle Hansson Award was not presented after 2008 and to mark the 40th anniversary of HAIAP, it was revived. It recognises the work of an individual from a low or middle income country who has contributed the most to:

- Promoting the concepts of essential medicines and their rational use, and access to vaccines
- Increasing the awareness among consumers of the dangers of irrational and hazardous medicinal drugs and unethical marketing.
- Supporting and promoting health for all and addressing the structural and human rights issues relating to health

The Award for 2002 was granted jointly to **Ms Winnie Byanyima** and **Professor Mohammed Raouf Hamed**.

In addition we recognised retrospectively three very significant people who we have lost in preceding years. We recognised **Dr Amit Sengupta** with the Award for 2018, **Mr Martin Khor Kok Peng**, 2019 and **Dr Mohamed Azmi Hassali Ahmed** 2020.

Amit Sengupta 2018



Dr Amit Sengupta (1958-2018) led the struggle for the Right to Health and access to safe affordable good quality medicines from the forefront. Through his public presence and narrative skills he provided guidance for people-centred initiatives to highlight social justice and challenge the hegemony of profit oriented transnational pharmaceutical companies and the inequitable distribution of global wealth.

Amit Sengupta studied medicine at Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC) in Delhi, and graduated in the early 1980s. MAMC is affiliated to the University of Delhi and run by the Delhi government. It is named after the Indian freedom fighter and first education

minister of independent India – Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

After graduating, he was attached to one of the four teaching hospitals linked to MAMC. However, according to colleagues he didn't fit in. Idealism came before himself. Within a week of starting a clinic near Sainik Farms, he is remembered as asking how could he charge the poor for treatment.

Soon after graduation, Amit was working in the Delhi Science Forum and was busy in the science popularisation movement. He was actively engaged with the All India People's Science Network of which he later became national General Secretary. He came to the health movement a little later. A national platform for science organisations in India had started in the late 1960s and that network interested Amit from his student days. The network had expanded by the 1980s and the Bhopal gas tragedy of 1984 created a situation for groups to work together against the abuse of science and technology.

Dr Amit Sengupta had a low-key private practice early in his career but basically gave up what could have been a lucrative career to work for people's health. He was passionate about people's access to health care and essential medicines. During the 1980s he remained in touch with Dr K Balasubramaniam and Dr Mira Shiva who were active in the All India Drug Action Network (AIDAN) and Action for Rational Drugs in Asia (ARDA). The Drug Action Forum (Karnataka) (DAFK), AIDAN, the National Campaign Committee for Drug Policy (NCCDP) and many other organisations filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Supreme Court of India in 1993 praying for a ban on irrational and hazardous drugs. Amit represented the NCCDP and hearings went on for over eight years. The issue of banning hazardous and irrational drugs remains an ongoing issue.

Amit had connected with Dr Bala through the ARDA group, listing his affiliation as the NCCDP throughout the years he was associated with HAIAP. He became associated with the network that became HAIAP before he became involved in the movement that became the People's Health Movement (PHM) in 2000. Each year Amit provided detailed information to support the focal topics of HAIAP's regional consultations.

With the creation of PHM globally and its Indian chapter Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA), Amit became deeply involved with understanding and addressing problems in health care due to globalisation. He coordinated the editorial group of the Global Health Watch, a people-centred initiative that highlighted social justice brought out by PHM, Medact and Zed Books as an alternative to WHO's World Health Report. Five editions of GHW were brought out with active engagement and coordination by Amit - reflecting his coordination and editing skills. Importantly, his work with GHW linked him with HAIAP members in their own countries.

Martin Khor Kok Peng 2019



Martin Khor was a staunch internationalist, an economist who pursued a lifelong struggle for a radical transformation of global economic relations, with knowledge, commitment and critical insight, while taking the side of the countries of the Global South and calling for globally equitable environmental policies and truly sustainable development. He relentlessly pursued the issues of antimicrobial resistance along with trade regimes, especially intellectual property issues, in the pursuit of equitable access to safe, affordable essential medicine and technologies in a strengthened, sustainable public health system providing universal health care.

Martin Khor (1951-2020) was the Third World Network's Chairman and former Director, and then he became Executive Director of the South Centre (March 2009 to June 2018). He had lived with cancer since 2015 and had worked even harder as the inspiring mentor, strategic and action-oriented thinker, indefatigable advocate and wonderful husband, father and grandfather that he was.

Martin leaves a huge void that will be difficult to fill. There is a rich legacy of successful battles and several ongoing ones to be continued by colleagues and associates in global civil society and the trade and justice movement. We cannot even begin to reach out to all of Martin's friends and supporters, young and old, who over the decades have marched with him to reject injustice and inequity among peoples especially of the South, and to defend nature again and again. In his memory let us all continue on the journey that Martin helped to chart. Martin was a wonderful human being and a huge support to all who are working in advocacy to promote equity and fairness in lower- and middle-income countries.

Anwar Fazal: 'We have lost Martin Khor, a rare public intellectual who spent his lifetime in serving the public interest on issues of economics, ecology and equity; his work with the Consumers Association of Penang (CAP) of which he was still Secretary; Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) and the Third World Network (TWN). Most significant too, he served as head of the international South Centre based in Geneva, which promoted and protected the interests of the low income countries against global hegemony by imperial economic and geopolitical powers. Even Tun Mahathir, Prime Minister of Malaysia, invited Martin to brief the Cabinet, a rare thing for civil society activists. Although always appearing with a serious deep-thinking demeanour, he had a warm heart, as reflected in his most recent and last book which was titled *The Secret to Happiness* and dedicated to his granddaughter. Martin took his writing skills to the whole world. Malaysia and international civil society have lost an outstanding writer and activist.'

Mohamed Azmi Ahmad Hassali 2020



Azmi Hassali (1974-2021) is recognised for major contributions to pharmaceutical sciences through research and education in the fields of social pharmacy, pharmacy practice research, pharmacoepidemiology, clinical pharmaco-economics and clinical pharmacy.

His community based research and education incorporated access to and use of appropriate affordable essential medicines and high focus on inappropriate use of antimicrobials to minimise antimicrobial resistance, while making a major contribution to

the education of a new enlightened generation of pharmacists.

Azmi Hassali passed away at a very young age when he was making a major contribution to pharmaceutical sciences. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Pharmacy from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in the year 1998, followed soon after with a Master's Degree in the field of clinical pharmacy from the same university in 2000. For his outstanding performance, he was then selected to receive the Universiti Sains Malaysia Academic Staff Training Fellowship (ASTS) to pursue his PhD studies in the field of social pharmacy in Australia in 2002, consequently earning him a PhD by the Victorian College of Pharmacy at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.

As a researcher, Azmi's main areas of expertise included the fields of social pharmacy, pharmacoepidemiology, pharmacy practice research, clinical pharmaco-economics and clinical pharmacy.

He was very active in the area of rational use of medicines, and promoted the understanding and use of generics. He fought continuously for the separation of prescribing and dispensing in Malaysia and for strengthening the role of pharmacists in medication management, pharmacovigilance and patient safety.

He was an innovative and resourceful educator inspiring his students with his own enthusiasm.

Winnie Byanyima, 2022



The Award recognises her tireless commitment to championing access to basic healthcare and health equity including essential medicines and technologies, especially in the world's most deprived regions throughout her illustrious career in many titles and professional positions; while continuing to address the structural and human rights issues within these spheres.

Deeply committed to basic healthcare as a human right, Winnie Byanyima has tirelessly used the many titles and professional positions of her career to champion access to basic healthcare and health equity especially in the world's lowest income regions.

Ms Byanyima's advocacy for affordable basic healthcare kicked into high gear with her tenure as Executive Director of Oxfam International between 2013 and 2019, when she was also appointed by then-UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to the High-Level Panel for Access to Medicines. This Panel was established in 2015 to address policy incoherence between the justifiable rights of inventors, international human rights law, trade rules and public health in the context of health technologies. She has always been a proponent of creating access to healthcare for all and has continued to address the structural and human rights issues within this sphere. Her concern is evident in Oxfam's response to the findings of the High-Level Panel's Report, which forcefully called for a new intellectual property regime for pharmaceutical products that would be consistent with international human rights law and public health requirements. Oxfam also called for a review of the TRIPS Agreement, a demand that Ms Byanyima has echoed in the recent past when she advocated and, jointly with various states, called for a *People's Vaccine* for COVID19 at the outset of the pandemic, see page 5.

Under her leadership as UNAIDS Executive Director, a new Global AIDS Strategy has been adopted. It focuses on ending the inequalities that drive new HIV infections and keep people away from services. In June 2021, the UN General Assembly adopted a Political Declaration. It recognized 'access to safe, effective, equitable and affordable medicines and commodities for all, without discrimination' as fundamental to the full realization of the right to health.

Her stance on free global distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines to everyone everywhere is based not only on the recognition that access to life-saving medicines is a human right, but also on the realisation that the withholding of vaccines from the low-income countries perpetuates gross inequalities.

Winnie Byanyima's fight for health equity is admirable and should be recognised. Her work in protecting the vulnerable through health promotion and her belief in creating and widely deploying affordable medicines, which she considers a human right's issue, will continue to save millions of lives in Africa and elsewhere. It is hard to think of anyone who, in this century, has achieved more toward – in the spirit of Dr Olle Hansson – 'promoting the concepts of essential medicines and their rational use, and access to vaccines, supporting and promoting health for all and addressing the structural and human rights issues relating to health.'

Also see Winnie Byanyima's Three ways to fight inequality
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Otxnlrsfty0>

Mohammed Raouf Hamed 2022



The award recognises Professor Raouf Hamed's contributions to knowledge related to drug development, and the rational and safe use of medicines.

Understanding the challenges facing the pharmaceutical sector in developing countries, he exposed and confronted global structures and corrupted practices that impede equity and development, and focused on strengthening the broader aspects of policy, research and regulation in a range of countries in the Middle East and Africa.

Prof. Mohammed Raouf Hamed has adopted a futuristic approach while focusing on the diverse aspects of drug development, regulation and policy. He contributed to knowledge related to the rational and safe use of medicines, as well as pointed out the challenges facing the pharmaceutical sector in developing countries. In 1984, he flagged the absence of a drug policy in Egypt and started advocating for the development of one, as well as wider pharmaceutical reform.

As early as 1992, Professor Hamed was among the first to caution against the negative implications of the GATT negotiations on the pharmaceutical sectors in developing countries. Besides mobilising academics locally, he was the main lecturer on TRIPS and medicines at the World Forum on Globalisation and Trade in Beirut, organised before the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation in Doha in 2001. Thanks to this Forum, international civil society organised their efforts to defend access to medicines, leading to the adoption of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. Shortly after, in 1994, Prof. Hamed worked on establishing a strategic research alliance among Egyptian pharmaceutical companies in response to TRIPS.

He pioneered several regulatory and research centres in Egypt, at the National Organisation for Drug Control and Research (NODCAR). He established the Laboratory of Drug Teratogenicity (1972); the Departments of Developmental Pharmacology (1984); and the Centre for Drug Bioavailability (1990) for bioequivalence studies and research, long before these studies existed in pharmacopoeias.

With these centres in place, research-oriented drug regulation developed in Egypt, ensuring the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines circulating in the market. In parallel, his efforts exposed practices that hindered pharmaceutical development in Egypt calling for radical changes. This call was met with resistance by those whose interests were threatened and Prof. Hamed was subject to pressures which aimed at curbing the mandate of NODCAR. Unfortunately, these pressures led to his suspension in 1988, and his dismissal from the membership of the Board of Directors of NODCAR as well as expulsion from his position as Head of the Pharmacology Departments by a ministerial decision in 2008. These decisions were, however, met with strong societal and media condemnation because of Prof. Hamed's commendable contributions to the improvement of drug policies and the advancement of the pharmaceutical industry in Egypt at the time.

In Libya, Prof. Hamed contributed to the development of the curriculum of Faculty of Pharmacy at Al-Fateh (currently Tripoli) University in 1978-1983, and introduced the concept of essential medicines. He also led pioneering researches on capsaicin, the active substance in cayenne pepper which is a principal element of the Libyan cuisine, which led to discoveries about its protective role against the induction of gastric ulcers.

Prof. Hamed supervised 35 Master's and PhD theses awarded in pharmacology, and 165 applied drug research projects. His writings cover a wide range of areas, including books and book chapters, as well as numerous articles and studies in Egyptian and Arab newspapers, magazines and periodicals.

Michael Lim Tan 2023



Michael Lim Tan was born in 1952 and grew up in Metro Manila, Philippines graduating from secondary school in 1969. He majored in Biology at the Ateneo de Manila University, then transferred to the University of San Francisco, taking up the same degree. He achieved a degree in veterinary medicine from the University of the Philippines Diliman in 1977, and from there he pursued a career as a veterinarian, which included a brief teaching stint at the veterinary school of Araneta University (now De La Salle Araneta University), before moving on to human public health and pharmacology, and eventually, medical anthropology.

From 1979 to 1985, he worked with the Alay Kapwa Kilusang Pangkalusugan (AKAP), which used a primary health care approach for tuberculosis prevention and control. His work in health resulted in an interest in anthropology and he received an MA in Anthropology with the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical (A&M) University (1982) and a PhD with the Medical Anthropology Unit of the University of Amsterdam (1996).

He earned a Master of Arts in Anthropology from the Texas A&M University in 1982, and then obtained his PhD in social and political science from the Medical Anthropology Unit of the University of Amsterdam in 1996.

He worked from 1977 to 1981 in community-based health programs in Mindanao and in Luzon, and with a community-based tuberculosis control program. In the early 80s he founded a health NGO, Health Action Information Network (HAIN), among the first HAIAP partners, concentrating on research and information for community-based health programs, government and non-government health agencies, mass media and legislators. HAIN played a major role in pushing for health reforms in the Philippines around providing safe and affordable pharmaceuticals, responding to HIV and AIDS and reproductive health needs. Michael Tan and HAIN have made major contributions to HAIAP resources.

Michael began teaching in the University of the Philippines (UP) in 1985 and in 1997 he became Anthropology Field School Director, then Chair of the Anthropology Department, Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy and, from 2014 to 2020, Chancellor of University of the Philippines Diliman. During his term, he has encouraged faculty, students and staff to engage the world outside, including speaking out on national issues.

In 2012, he was appointed a National Academician and a member of the National Academy of Science and Technology, which is the highest advisory body to the government on science and technology. His appointment as National Academician includes a citation that summarizes his commitments: 'His scholarly work provides the foundation for his social development advocacy and policy development work, which he sustains by ensuring that scientific knowledge is effectively communicated to various stakeholders including policy makers, community development workers, health professionals, and the general public.'

His talks also bring in the personal dimension where academic theories are explained as tools for facing the challenges of daily living across human life cycles, from raising children to caring for the elderly. Dr Michael Tan has published extensively. Focussing on advocacy around peace and justice issues his numerous books and articles engage with indigenous medical beliefs, reproductive and sexual health (particularly HIV and AIDS) pharmaceuticals, and health policy issues.

Claudio Schuftan 2023



Claudio Schuftan grew up in Chile, got his medical degree there, began an academic career in 1970, and left for the USA due to the military coup in early 1974.

He started to travel to Africa in 1975, and worked a year in Cameroon in 1980 helping to prepare their five-year nutrition plan. He then moved to New Orleans, to Tulane University's School of Public Health, and taught in the department of nutrition for ten years, before moving to Nairobi where he was an advisor in the Ministry of Health. Seven years there led to extensive consulting in Africa, often on nutritional issues. In 1995, he moved to Vietnam where he worked for two and a half years in the Ministry of Health as

a senior Primary Health Care advisor.

Claudio Schuftan's expertise is not so much centred around the access to and safety of medicines issues as such, but rather as a part of a wider issue of human rights of which he has been a pioneer. His contribution has been on supporting and promoting health for all and addressing the structural and human rights issues relating to health. For the last 12 years he has been the author of *The Human Rights Reader*, a weekly blog centred on overall human rights issues, but importantly on the right to health and the right to food. (www.claudioschuftan.com).

Claudio was a co-founder of the Peoples Health Movement (PHM) and a member of its steering council until 2018; he now is an active member of its advisory council as well as the moderator of the PHM-exchange, the movement's list server since 2002. Claudio has been representing PHM and the World Public Health Nutrition Association in the Civil Society and Indigenous People Mechanism of the Committee on Food Security in FAO and in the ongoing negotiations for a Binding Treaty on the Human Rights Responsibilities of Trans National Corporations. Claudio has been a valued member of HAIAP for more than 20 years.

Beverley Snell 2025



When Beverley Frances Vibert Snell turned 90 in November 2024 she travelled from Melbourne, Australia to Penang, Malaysia to commemorate the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week with Malaysian students, health officials, medical doctors, pharmacists and civil society activists. She then dived into 2 full days of strategy discussions on strengthening Health Action International Asia Pacific (HAI AP). This was just one spark in her lifetime journey of steadfast commitment to public health with people at its very centre.

Trained as a pharmacist, Beverley has contributed to health systems both in policy and technical capacity building in Somalia, Eritrea, Philippines, India, China (Tibet Autonomous region), Timor Leste, Kiribati, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Australia. From 1981 to 1986 she was essential medicines advisor to the Somali Ministry of Health training personnel and working hands-on at the Refugee Health Unit and the North-west Region Primary health Care Program as well as the country's cholera control and prevention program. She played a key role as a World Health Organization consultant in

supporting Fiji in the implementation of its national medicines policy from 2006 to 2016.

From 1996 to 2012 Beverley held the position of Principal Fellow; Essential Medicines and Community Health at the Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health. In that academic setting she was responsible for participation in design, implementation, and evaluation of international health programs, including National Medicine Policy and Essential Medicines and Vaccines components and Emerging Infectious Disease Response. She developed modules for Australian graduate students, and civil society and government health project staff.

She has been Coordinator of HAI AP since 2019, and is currently handing over the mantle to the next generation.