

Using Artificial Intelligence to Control the Growing Epidemic of Vaccine Hesitancy and Refusal

14 Jan 2021 (Thur) | 17:00 – 18:30 (HKT) |
Online via ZOOM | English

RUNDOWN

16:50	Online Registration Starts
17:00–17:05	Welcoming Remarks by Dr Claudia Xu Chief Commercial Officer, Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation
17:05–17:10	Opening Remarks by Professor Gabriel M. Leung Dean of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong Chief Scientific Officer, Laboratory of Data Discovery for Health
17:10–17:40	Topic: The Growing Epidemic of Vaccine Hesitancy By Professor Heidi J. Larson Professor of Anthropology, Risk and Decision Science, The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Principal Investigator, Laboratory of Data Discovery for Health Abstract: Prof. Larson will share her experience in founding The Vaccine Confidence Project (VCP). The purpose of VCP is to monitor public confidence in immunization programs by building an information surveillance system for early detection of public concerns around vaccines; by applying a diagnostic tool to data collected to determine the risk level of public concerns in terms of their potential to disrupt vaccine programs; and, finally, to provide analysis and guidance for early response and engagement with the public to ensure sustained confidence in vaccines and immunization.
17:40–18:10	Topic: Using AI to monitor and mitigate vaccine misinformation by Professor Joseph T.K. Wu Professor, Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, The University of Hong Kong Lead Scientist, Laboratory of Data Discovery for Health Abstract: Prof. Wu will share his views on using cutting-edge AI to mitigate the spread of vaccine misinformation and vaccine hesitancy. Specifically, he will discuss his strategy on developing bespoke chatbots to actively listen and influence vaccine sentiments at the global scale.
18:10–18:30	Panel Discussion and Q&A Session Topic: Using Artificial Intelligence to Control the Growing Epidemic of Vaccine Hesitancy and Refusal Moderator: Professor Gabriel M. Leung Panelists: Professor Heidi J. Larson and Professor Joseph T.K. Wu

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SPEAKER PROFILE



Prof. Heidi J. Larson

Professor of Anthropology,
Risk and Decision Science
The London School of Hygiene and
Tropical Medicine
&
Principal Investigator
Laboratory of Data Discovery for Health

Prof. Heidi Larson is an anthropologist and Director of The Vaccine Confidence Project (VCP); Professor of Anthropology, Risk and Decision Science, Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM); Clinical Professor, Department of Global Health, University of Washington, Seattle, USA, and Guest Professor at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. Larson previously headed Global Immunisation Communication at UNICEF, chaired GAVI’s Advocacy Task Force, and served on the WHO SAGE Working Group on vaccine hesitancy. The VCP is a WHO Centre of Excellence on addressing Vaccine Hesitancy. She is author of *STUCK: How Vaccine Rumors Start – and Why They Don’t Go Away* (Oxford University Press, 2020).

[Learn more](#)

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SPEAKER PROFILE



Prof. Joseph T.K. Wu

Professor
Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
The University of Hong Kong
&
Lead Scientist
Laboratory of Data Discovery for Health

Prof. Joseph Wu specializes in mathematical and statistical modelling of diseases and their interventions. His research aims are: (i) to develop useful analytics and strategies for disease control and prevention; and (ii) to translate his research findings into public health policy and practice for improving global health. He is a member of the Center for Communicable Diseases Dynamics (CCDD) at the Harvard School of Public Health, an associate editor of the American Journal of Epidemiology, a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health in the UK, and a member of the WHO Advisory Committee on Immunization and Vaccines-related Implementation Research (IVIR-AC). [Learn more.](#)

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MODERATOR PROFILE



Prof. Gabriel M. Leung

Dean of Medicine
The University of Hong Kong
&
Chief Scientific Officer
Laboratory of Data Discovery for Health

Prof. Gabriel Leung is the fortieth Dean of Medicine (2013-), inaugural Helen and Francis Zimmern Professor in Population Health and holds the Chair of Public Health Medicine at The University of Hong Kong (HKU). He was the last Head of Community Medicine (2012-3) at the University as well as Hong Kong's first Under Secretary for Food and Health (2008-11) and fifth Director of the Chief Executive's Office (2011-2) in government. A specialist in public health medicine, Leung's interdisciplinary work revolves around topics that have major population health impact locally, where Hong Kong is a reliable and unique epidemiologic sentinel for mainland China and the Chinese diaspora, or where the SAR is best placed to address the fundamental science at hand globally. [Learn more.](#)