

**Salim Abdulla, MD, PhD**  
**Director**  
**Ifakara Health Institute**

Dr. Salim Abdulla is the Director of the Ifakara Health Institute (IHI). Currently, he is involved in the evaluation of malaria vaccines and new malaria treatments for regulatory licensure at the Bagamoyo branch of the Institute. Previously, he worked on the large-scale evaluation of insecticide-treated bed nets and artemisinin-based combinations for national policy formulation. He was also involved in multi-country evaluation of mortality patterns and malaria transmission in demographic surveillance sites across Africa.

Dr. Abdulla joined IHI in 1996 and is among the key persons behind its development. In 2005, he was instrumental in establishing IHI's Bagamoyo branch. He serves as advisor to various technical committees in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Tanzania. His professional interests include the translation of research results into policy, clinical epidemiology and health research capacity development. He received his medical degree from the University of Dar-es-salaam, a MSc in epidemiology from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a PhD from the Swiss Tropical Institute and University of Basel.

**Joe Cohen, PhD**  
**Vice President of R & D, Vaccines for Emerging Diseases & HIV**  
**GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals**

Dr. Joe Cohen is the co-inventor and one of the original patent holders of RTS,S, the world's only proven malaria vaccine. He is currently the Vice President of R&D for Vaccines for Emerging Diseases and HIV at GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Biologicals, where he manages early development of vaccines against some of the world's toughest diseases, including GSK's TB, HIV and malaria vaccines.

Dr. Cohen left academic research in 1984 to join the vaccines division of GlaxoSmithKline (then SmithKline-RIT). Three years later, Dr. Cohen took over the reins of the company's Malaria Vaccine Program. Scientists at GSK and U.S. Walter Reed Army Institute of Research had been working on a vaccine based on the circumsporozoite protein, but initial efforts had not resulted in a stable, immunogenic and efficacious vaccine.

Cohen and his team thought they could stabilize the vaccine and increase its immunogenicity by fusing the CS protein to a form of the recombinant technology found in GSK's successful Hepatitis B vaccine. When the team added GSK's proprietary Adjuvant Systems, the immune response was even better. Cohen and his colleagues have since spent more than two decades perfecting and building upon this "fundamental insight."

Born and schooled in Cairo, Egypt, Cohen immigrated to France in 1962. After working odd jobs for several years in Paris, he won a fellowship to study agricultural engineering at the University of Nancy, France. Cohen then moved to the United States to study molecular biology at the City University of New York's Brooklyn College, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1979. He completed his post-doctoral studies at New York's Albert Einstein College of Medicine and later taught there before joining GSK Bio. Cohen has published more than 50 articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals and helped to create GSK Bio's new division for Vaccines for Emerging Diseases & HIV. Cohen now lives in Brussels, Belgium.

**Christian Loucq, MD**  
**Director**  
**PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative**

Christian Loucq directs the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI), which seeks to accelerate the development of promising malaria vaccines and ensure their availability and use in developing countries. Christian has more than 30 years of experience in medicine, pharmaceuticals, vaccines and global health.

His professional experience spans the globe: Born and educated in France, he has lived and worked in Algeria, Belgium, Chad, China, India, the Netherlands, Niger, Switzerland, Thailand and the United Kingdom. Christian has managed vaccine businesses in China, India and Thailand and has been involved in most stages of vaccine development. He has worked with large vaccine companies, such as GlaxoSmithKline and Sanofi Pasteur, and biotech companies including Rhein Biotech and Acambis. He has extensive experience partnering with local governments, building public-private partnerships and setting up local private collaborations.

Christian earned his State Doctorate of Human Medicine at the University of Paris X and a Diploma of Public Health and Tropical Medicine from the University of Aix-Marseilles.

**Patricia Njuguna, MBChB**  
**Clinical Pediatrician,**  
**KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme**

Dr. Patricia Njuguna is a clinical trial pediatrician at the KEMRI Wellcome Trust Research Programme at Kilifi, Kenya. She received a medical degree (MBChB) in 1999 and a Masters in Medicine (Pediatrics and Child Health) in 2006, both from the University of Nairobi. As an expert in pediatric health, she has served as an investigator/clinician on several malaria clinical trials, including the Phase 2b trial (MAL 049) of the malaria vaccine RTS,S. Dr. Njuguna is a principal investigator for a Phase III trial of RTS,S, and serves as chair of the RTS,S Clinical Trials Partnership Committee.

**N. Regina Rabinovich, M.D., M.P.H.**  
**Director, Infectious Diseases Development Global Health Program**  
**Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

Dr. Regina Rabinovich is director of the Global Health Program's Infectious Diseases Development team. She oversees the development and implementation of strategies for the prevention, treatment and control of diseases of particular relevance to global health, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), malaria, pneumonia, diarrhea and neglected diseases.

Prior to joining the foundation, Rabinovich served in various positions at the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), focusing on the development and evaluation of vaccines. She participated in the Children's Vaccine Initiative, a global effort to prevent infectious diseases in children in the developing world, and served as liaison to the National Vaccine Program Office, focusing on vaccine safety and vaccine research. As chief of the Clinical and Regulatory Affairs Branch of the Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, she managed the evaluation of candidate vaccines through a network of U.S. clinical research units. During her tenure as branch chief, the units completed large multi-center trials of pertussis and influenza vaccines as well as a number of Phase I trials of platform technologies, such as an edible vaccine and vaccines for malaria and rotavirus.

In 1999, Rabinovich became director of the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative, a project funded by the Gates Foundation to advance efforts to develop promising malaria vaccine candidates. She serves on the boards of several organizations focused on global health and infectious diseases, including the Global Fund for AIDS, TB & Malaria; the NIAID Council; Medicines for Malaria Venture; PATH Vaccine Solutions; and the Institute of One World Health.

Rabinovich received her medical degree from Southern Illinois University and her Masters of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. She joined NIAID's Epidemiology Training Program as a fellow in 1988.