

Women in Global Health AUSTRIA

Membership Profile 2023



WGHI | WOMEN IN
GLOBAL HEALTH
AUSTRIA

Women in Global Health Austria

Introduction

Welcome to the Women in Global Health (WGH) Austria Membership Profile!

We are delighted to showcase the broad experience, expertise, passion, and diversity that exists among women working within the field of health in Austria.

Background

WGH is a global movement with the largest network of women and allies working to challenge power and privilege for gender equity in health. Started in 2015, WGH now has 50 Chapters in 47 countries. The global team and its network of chapters drive change by mobilising a diverse group of emerging women health leaders, by advocating to existing global health leaders to commit to transform their own institutions, and by holding these leaders accountable.

The Austrian Chapter of WGH was founded in 2023 by a multidisciplinary group of women passionate about global health. Hosted by the European Health Forum Gastein, WGH Austria aims to create a community of engaged people across the country jointly aspiring to achieve gender equality in global health leadership, and specifically for women working in the health sector in Austria.

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Gabriela Azevedo Sansoni

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Topics of interest

Child and adolescent health, health policy, global surgery, women in medicine

Gabriela comes from Brazil and is currently a final year medical student at the International Medical School of the University of Milan working on her thesis about new therapy and diagnostic markers for Krabbe disease. She is one of the founding members of the upcoming WGH Italy chapter and passionate about Global Health and its many facets. She spent 2022/2023 in Austria as a MedUni Wien Erasmus student and Neuropediatrics summer fellow at Kinderklinikum AKH. She is building her career in Child & Adolescent Global Health and strengthening her network in Austria - where she has chosen to settle after experiencing life in five different countries.



Benedicta Apuamah

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Topics of interest

Sexual reproductive health, UN SDGs, presentation / public speaking

I have over 5 years of Programme Management experience having worked on Global Fund, CDC projects etc with organisations like Management Sciences for Health, United Nations, and SOS Children's Villages International etc. My experience spans both grassroots communities and the international space as I am the founder of an organisation that focuses on community health projects amongst others in Nigeria. I have a Master's degree in International Health and Social Management with distinction from the Management Center Innsbruck, Austria. I studied with the BanKimoon Scholarship and the One World (AAI Salzburg) Scholarship because of my SDG engagements. Currently, I am working with the UNODC in Vienna as an Innovation Management Intern with the HRMS team.



Britta Blumencron

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Topics of interest

Communication, healthcare, empowerment

My focus and passion is communications in healthcare. I work as an international certified trainer for effective communications for healthcare professionals and as a lecturer at the "Universität für Weiterbildung Krems".



Louise Boyle

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Topics of interest

Economy of well-being, commercial determinants of health, one health non-communicable diseases, global health

I am currently Senior Advisor for the European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG), having worked for the organisation in several different capacities since July 2011. Prior to moving to Austria in December 2010, I was a national policy advisor for different departments in the British Government for seven years, working on topics including violence against women and tackling extremism and radicalisation. I have also worked for or with several national and international NGOs either on secondment or in a voluntary capacity, including GOAL Ireland, Victim Support and The Prince's Trust. I hold a BA (Hons) Degree in Social Sciences from the University of Durham, UK and a MSc degree in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK.



Isabella Brkic

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Topics of interest

Health promotion, health equity, physical and mental well-being, women's health

My name is Isabella Brkic and I have been working as a graduate nurse in the surgical field since 2021. Besides I study Public Health at the Medical University of Vienna. In my daily work, the focus is increasingly on secondary as well as tertiary prevention. During my bachelor studies I gained a lot of experience in different healthcare facilities, gaining an insight into different medical care areas. Alongside my studies and work, I developed a great interest in health promotion, physical activity and mental health. Furthermore, in my work as a nurse in the gynaecological field, women's health has also become an important topic for me.



Doris Burtscher

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Topics of interest

Female sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and MDR-TB, health-seeking behaviour, people who use drugs

Doris Burtscher holds a PhD in Medical Anthropology and started her extensive research and fieldwork experience in 1992 in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia.

Since 2001, she has worked as a medical anthropologist with MSF and has undertaken fieldwork within MSF and other NGOs in Mauritania, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Liberia, Niger, Eswatini, Lebanon, India, Chad, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Haiti, Senegal and Albania.

Doris currently works as a medical anthropology referent in the MSF Vienna Evaluation Unit, Austria, providing technical support to different projects and contexts in the MSF movement.

Since 2005, she has been a lecturer at the Medical University of Vienna/Public Health department and gives lessons on medical anthropology and global health as well as qualitative methodologies in different courses inside and outside MSF.



Caroline Czasch

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Topics of interest

Public health, one health, prevention, pandemic management, women's health

I am a medicine and law graduate and have worked as a health policy advisor to the minister, public health expert and clinical physician. My work and research experience covers the fields of epidemiology and pandemic management during the COVID-19 crisis, women's health, prevention and one health.

I am passionate about the implementation of evidence-based policy recommendations, the political dimension of health and the role of the healthcare system in the climate crisis.



Jessica Diez

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Topics of interest

Health promotion, innovation, capacity building, diversity, education

I am passionate about driving sustainable efforts towards health equity. To translate this objective into reality, I studied Public Health at Lund University and have since worked in different fields including migration, health promotion and technology awareness. I am always intrigued to meet different people and explore innovative solutions in serving disadvantaged communities to develop capacities towards better health and making the world a better place for all.



Gertraud Eckart

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Topics of interest

Public health, health literacy, patient access

Public affairs and market access professional with more than 20 years of experience in the healthcare sector in Europe, Middle East, Africa. Successful track record in development and execution of comprehensive public affairs and access strategies, creating alliances and external relationships with advocacy groups and in creation of corporate public identity.

Current positions & responsibilities:

- Director Oncology Policy Eastern Europe, Middle East, Africa Merck Sharp & Dohme
- Lead of the Oncology Working Group at PhRMA MEA
- Board Member and Finance Director of the Austrian Company Sports Association



Jennifer Eisinger

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Topics of interest

Digital health literacy, strategy and innovation, project management, agile leadership

I am Head of Healthcare Advisory at Repuco Unternehmensberatung. After my studies in economics with special focus on management in healthcare and health promotion, I have been working in the healthcare sector since 2007 and therefore have many years of experience and in-depth knowledge. Numerous additional trainings and certifications optimally complement my portfolio and underline my methodological competence. In 2020, I was awarded Project Manager of the Year by Project Management Austria. I drive new topics forward with empathy and innovation and accompany national and international projects to their successful completion. As a mentor and ambassador in several associations, I appreciate the exchange and enjoy supporting young professionals.



Andrea Fried

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Topics of interest

Health policy, science communication, evidence-based health information, transparency, patient advocacy

At present Andrea Fried is part of the communication team with Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (GÖG) and in charge of compliance issues. Andrea studied commercial sciences at the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration. She has many years of experience as a health journalist and in public relations for patient organisations and the Austrian Social Security. She is passionately engaged with ethical issues, as well patients' interests and advocates for solidary and fair health systems.



Renée Gallo-Daniel

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Topics of interest

Public health, patient-centric healthcare approach, improvement of the healthcare industry, inclusion of ESG / CSR to healthcare industry, prevention and vaccines

Earning a degree in psychology (University of Vienna) & a post-graduate in clinical- and health psychology. Renée started career in the pharmaceutical industry in 1988. She held various positions (Business Leader, Market Access, Government Affairs). Over a period of 3 years she worked as consultant for developing the vaccine fields for Western Balkan countries (Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia, North-Macedonia & Albania). Additional to that she gained experience in public health as consultant and being partner of different public health institutions.

Funding & leading the Austrian Vaccine Manufacturer Association (ÖVIH) since 2011. Elected president of the association. Enabling access to European Vaccine philosophies & strategies and supporting cooperation and alignment across Europe, she has an active role within the European Vaccines Manufacturer Association (Vaccines Europe / VE part of EFPIA). She is Board Member, Member of the Public Affairs Working Group and leads the National Vaccine Industry Coordinator Group (NVIG). Through coordinating NVIG's within EU enabling broad exchange of Vaccine priorities cross Europe.

Her current position at Pfizer is "Director Policy & Public Affairs" and company spokesperson for Pfizer Austria.



Doris Giess

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Topics of interest

Health technology assessment, public health evaluation, mental health, infectious disease control, health promotion

Healthcare professional with a passion for preventing disease and improving lives. After a career break raising our 3 children, I recently completed the MSc in Public Health at LSHTM. Whilst I enjoyed working in clinical medicine, I found my true calling in contributing towards meaningful changes in order to improve health outcomes for society as a whole. I am particularly interested in the multidisciplinary approach of involving health in all policies and evidence-based public health strategies that aim to integrate the perspective of all stakeholders and reconcile the conflicting aspects of biomedical, ethical, sociopolitical and financial aspects to achieve affordable and equitable health outcomes. I currently work as an external research assistant for the Austrian Institute of Health Technology Assessment and look forward to contributing to the public health landscape of Europe and beyond. I am multilingual and have lived in several countries over the past few years, allowing me to understand different healthcare systems and gain valuable intercultural communication skills.



Claudia Habl

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Topics of interest

Metaproject management, health economics, health policy, digital health, health information

The business economist is head of the International Affairs, Policy, Evaluations and Digitization (IPED) department and responsible for business development at Gesundheit Österreich GmbH. She has powers of attorney as LEAR (Legal Authorised Representative) for projects with international relevance as well as for the two subsidiaries GÖ FP and GÖ B and is a member of the Executive Board.

She is Secretary General of the EU-wide drug price database cooperation EURIPID and leads several EU projects such as the Joint Actions in the field of health information and e-health and has participated in several WHO missions.



Petra Haderer

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Topics of interest

Health equity, diversity in healthcare, migrants health, global health

My background working in international humanitarian aid (MSF) for more than 15 years has helped shape my perspective to view healthcare through a global lens.

In my current role as an Intercultural and Diversity Trainer my strong interest is in how health and factors of diversity are connected and interrelate. I wish to contribute to a future of healthcare where everybody has access to the qualitative medical services they need and where all people can achieve optimal health, regardless of their race, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, education level, geography, or any other factor. My work is based on the vision that healthcare can be truly universal.

I have an educational background as a Laboratory Technician, I hold a master's degree in Intercultural Competence and Diversity Management and a certificate as a CTI-Coach.

I teach Culturally Sensitive Medical Care at the University of Applied Sciences in Upper Austria and also work part time at the IZ - Association for diversity, dialogue, and education. In addition, I provide individual coaching and am part of the Women in Global Health Austria Core team.



Melanie Hartl

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Topics of interest

Public health, healthcare technologies (AI, deep tech, start-ups), patient-centricity, women's health

As the Entrepreneurship Lead at EIT Health Austria, Melanie Hartl is the primary liaison for healthcare start-ups in the region. She is passionate about pioneering technologies and healthcare innovations. At EIT Health she is connecting start-ups and entrepreneurs to programmes across all technology readiness levels (TRLs), strategic partners, and the broader start-up ecosystem. Her professional background includes AI & ML, deep tech software, client management, InfoSec and operations across start-ups and major corporations. She holds two Master's Degrees in International Health and Social Management at the MCI Innsbruck and International Business at VSE University of Economics in Prague.



Maria M. Hofmarcher - Holzhacker

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Topics of interest

Economics, public health, public finance, applied scientific research in health care efficiency, comparative analysis of health and social system performance

Maria M. Hofmarcher-Holzhacker, economist, studied Economics at the University of Vienna and Public Health at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, is director of the think tank HealthSystemIntelligence (HS&I) and deputy board member of Austrian Health Academy (AHA). A trained nurse, she gained more than ten years of clinical experience in hospitals in Vienna before and during her studies. She established health economics at the Institute of Advanced Studies, was official at the OECD, at Gesundheit Österreich GmbH, and at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research.

Her long-standing collaborations with the World Bank, the OECD, the WHO, and the European Commission, contributed significantly to the internationalisation of health economics in Austria. Through numerous publications and as author of the standard work "Health Systems in Transition", as a publicist, consultant, and commentator, she is one of the most influential economists in these research fields.



Barbara Huemer

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Topics of interest

Gender medicine, public health, climate change, health equity

I am the Health and Care Spokesperson for the Green Party Vienna. With a professional background in sociology and expertise in public health, I am deeply committed to making the health system more gender-responsive across all levels and domains. As both a feminist and a politician, my primary concern is to ensure that gender equality is promoted in the field of global health.

Hence, I wholeheartedly support the "beyond 50/50" initiative. Advancing gender equality in global health requires the establishment of robust networks and collective efforts to enhance women's health outcomes. Moreover, it is imperative to empower female health workers.



Stefania Ilinca

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Topics of interest

Integrated delivery of care, gender / socio-economic equity in health and access to care, healthy ageing, brain health

Dr. Stefania Ilinca is currently acting as Technical Officer for long-term care with the WHO Regional Office for Europe. She is a Senior Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health and a Salzburg Global fellow.

She has extensive experience working at the interface between policy and research, dividing her time between applied research, policy advice and advocacy efforts. Her work focuses on innovation and service design in health and long-term care systems, and discrimination and inequity in access to health and long-term care, with particular attention to care for people with complex needs and the intersection of inequalities and disadvantage accumulation over the life course.



Margret Jaeger

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Topics of interest

Violence, diversity, health promotion, education.

Austrian medical anthropologist with 10+ years' experience in teaching in health professions' education worldwide. Specialised in qualitative research methods and train-the-trainer programmes for "teaching medical anthropology in health education". Works at the Research Department of the Education Centre of Social Funds Vienna with a focus on care studies and education. Cultural sensitivity in emergency medicine simulation training and diversity competency in healthcare are further interests. She serves as a voluntary interpreter for Portuguese-German in healthcare services.



Dorli Kahr - Gottlieb

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Topics of interest

Health policy, health equity, leadership, Europe

Dorli Kahr-Gottlieb has been in her position as Secretary General of the European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) since 2012. She is responsible for the overall management of the association and the joint development of the association with the team, EHFG Board and Advisory Committee members and national & international partners. Dorli has been passionately involved in the health sector for over 20 years, starting with her engagement in the first Austrian Master of Public Health programme at the Medical University of Graz and her work for the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) where she oversaw the coordination of the European Public Health Conference. Dorli holds a degree in Intercultural Competencies and has been engaged in intercultural trainings and diversity management projects. Dorli is a member of the Sciana Health Leaders Network, an initiator of the European Health Union initiative, and chapter lead of Women in Global Health Austria.



Alexandra Kautzky - Willer

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Topics of interest

Sex and gender aspects of diabetes, obesity and the metabolic syndrome

I am a Professor of Gender Medicine at Medical University of Vienna where I head the Gender Medicine Unit, the university course of gender medicine, and the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism. I have specialised in Internal Medicine (Endocrinology and Metabolism, Geriatrics and Palliative Care). I am board member of numerous medical and scientific associations – amongst others, president of the Austrian Society of Gender-Specific Medicine – editorial board member of various journals and scientific consultant of national and international medical-scientific funds. I have presented my scientific work in more than 300 peer-reviewed publications.



Janina Kehr

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Topics of interest

Global biopolitics, hospital places and spaces, biomedicalisation, pharmaceutical consumption and the environment, healthcare and the economy

I am a professor of Medical Anthropology and Global Health at the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Vienna, and founder of the research group Health Matters. I work at the intersection of Critical Medical Anthropology, Global / Public Health and Feminist Science and Technology Studies, with a wish to understand how health matters in contemporary societies and how health is mattered. This led me to research in different domains such as global infectious diseases, the intertwinement of healthcare and the economy from a street-level and experiential perspective, as well as the multiple relationships between human, more-than-human health and environmental health and well-being.



Anita Kidritsch

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Topics of interest

Participation, interprofessionalism, digitalisation

Senior Researcher at Institute of Health Sciences, St. Poelten University of Applied Sciences. Lecturer for the Bachelor degree programme Physiotherapy and Master's degree programme Digital Healthcare. Physiotherapist with experience in neurology, dance medicine and pelvic health.



Johanna Kostenzer

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Topics of interest

Assisted reproduction, public affairs, public health advocacy, reproductive health, women's health

Social scientist working at the intersection of public health, science and advocacy, focusing on topics of women's reproductive health (e.g. women's perspectives on egg freezing and fertility, maternal and newborn health, infant nutrition and donor human milk (banking)). International work experience in the academic and non-profit sector, e.g. at Erasmus University Rotterdam, and the European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants.

Academic background in international healthcare management and political science, with specialisations in community health and bioethics. Experienced project and team leader, passionate networker and partnership builder across cultures and disciplines.



Lumnije Kqiku

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Topics of interest

Women in leadership in global health, women in science, women and children's health and rights, women's empowerment

Kqiku is an Academic Lecturer for students of General Medicine, Dentistry, and postgraduate studies in the University Dental Clinic, Medical University of Graz as well as Deputy Speaker for Doctoral Studies in the Dentistry section.

She is the first woman from Kosova who, in 2011, entered the most prestigious encyclopedic book in the world "Who's Who in the World", book that publishes the biographies of people who stand out for their achievements and extraordinary careers.

Kqiku has received many research awards and has been invited to many countries where she has held numerous "keynote" lectures and is a member of many local and international associations.

In April 2023 Kqiku was honoured with the "Honorary Personality with gold medal" Award from the City of Graz Austria and "Leadership by Example" Award from the Kosova College of Surgeons 2022.



Melanie Maria Kuhrn

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Topics of interest

Digital health, global health & health equity, health promotion & health literacy, participation

Currently finalising my medical studies at the Medical University Vienna, my pursuits culminated in a digital health thesis, diving deep into algorithms' performance compared to human judgment on blood pressure artifacts. My clinical training encompasses areas like pediatric pulmonology, emergency medicine, trauma surgery, and anesthesia, further enriched by my association with a research group at AKH Wien. Outside of my academic endeavors, I've been involved in community health initiatives, including the Teddy Bear Hospital and the Vampire Cup blood donation campaign. Additionally, my involvement in a petition on free contraception showcases my commitment to health advocacy. At Gesundheit Österreich GmbH, I contribute to International Affairs, Policy, Evaluation, and Digitalization. Drawing from my varied experiences, I am eager to contribute to WGH Austria's mission and the broader objectives of promoting gender equality in global health leadership.



Gerhilt Kusatz

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Topics of interest

Psychosomatic medicine, digital health and communication, proactive healthcare

I am a passionate General Practitioner, specialising in Psychosomatic Medicine and Sexual Medicine. As a University Assistant at the Institute of General Medicine at JKU, my focus extends to digital health and communication. Authenticity, appreciation, and equality are core values that guide my practice. Being a mother of two, I understand the importance of balancing work and family life.

In addition, I am proud to be a co-founder of gsoond GmbH, an organisation dedicated to supporting healthy habits based on individual needs. Our goal is to empower individuals to take control of their well-being by providing personalised guidance and support. Together, let's create a world where everyone receives the respect and equal treatment they deserve, while fostering healthier lifestyles tailored to their unique requirements.



Lisa Lehner

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Topics of interest

Social health, social and health equity, vulnerability, pharmaceutical studies, public health politics

I am a health researcher, social scientist, and public health expert working on social and health inequalities, public health policymaking, and biomedical knowledge production. I particularly focus on issues surrounding addiction, LGBTQIA+ communities, non-insurance and homelessness. My PhD thesis at Cornell University dealt with different meanings and manifestations of “health” in the face of a pharmaceutical cure for Hepatitis C.

Currently, I work as a PostDoc at the University of Vienna on benzodiazepine and antibiotics prescription and use for the WWTF-funded study “Less is More,” as an affiliated postgraduate researcher at the Medical University of Vienna, and as an expert consultant at the NGO AmberMed.



Maria- Christine Mautner

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Topics of interest

Mental and physical health and well-being

Mag. Maria-Christine Mautner is a clinical and health psychologist working in medical research at the Department of Internal Medicine, Endocrinology, Metabolism and Gender Medicine at the Medical University of Vienna in the field of Public Health. Previously, she has been working nationally for various government organisations such as the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Austrian Federal Chancellery, as well as international government organisations in crisis management, emergency relief and pandemic management in Europe and Latin America.



Miriam Moser

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Topics of interest

Digital transformation, health literacy, digital leadership

With decades of expertise in direct healthcare delivery, encompassing both outpatient and inpatient care, I hold a degree in nursing consultation and health management. I'm also a digital transformation consultant, blogger, and keynote speaker. My mission is to enlighten people about the healthcare of the future and emphasise the crucial role of prevention. The future of healthcare hinges on multifaceted collaboration across professions and the empowerment of health literacy. Join me in envisioning a healthier tomorrow where holistic care, advanced digital solutions, and health competence strengthening work hand in hand to shape a brighter, more sustainable healthcare landscape.



Annette Nigsch

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Topics of interest

Animal health, one health, veterinary epidemiology, international networks

Veterinarian, farmer, and mother with Austrian roots. Key expert in animal health, one health, epidemiology and project management with 15 years of experience. Worked on regional, national and international level in public administration, academia and as self-employed consultant in six European countries. Striving for prevention and better control, surveillance and early detection of infectious animal diseases and zoonoses. Contributions in this field include setting up a national early detection system, planning and coordinating surveillance programmes for livestock and wildlife, and capacity building. Ample experience in the lead of international projects and in the translation of research outcomes into animal health policy. If not at work, you will find me on playgrounds or at my viola.



Mireille Ngosso

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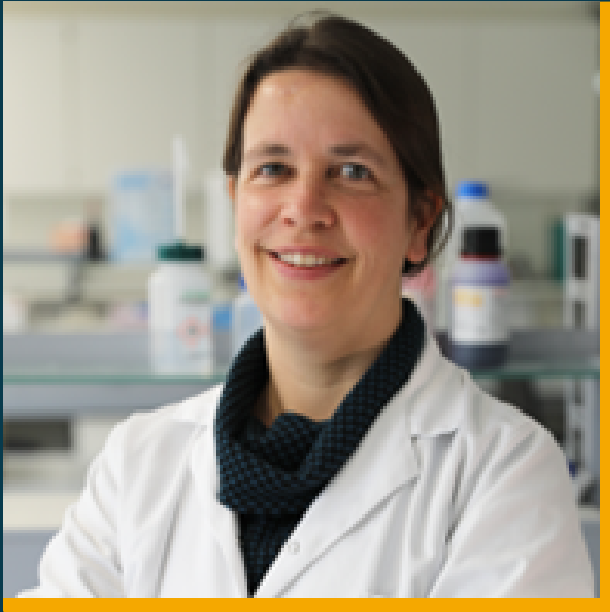
Topics of interest

Health care equity: addressing systemic racism and inequalities within Austrian health care systems; advocating for equal access to quality health care for everybody

Dr.in. Mireille Ngosso is a Vienna-based Medical Doctor and Social Democratic Member of the regional Viennese Council.

Fluent in German, Lingala, French and English, she actively addresses systemic anti-blackness and racism through initiatives like the first Anti-Racist Referendum in Austria. Driven by a passion for social justice, she organised the third-largest protest in Austria's history (BLM) and authored impactful books like "Für alle die hier sind" and "War das jetzt rassistisch?".

With a degree in Human Medicine, she brings expertise as a General Practitioner and has served as a delegate in the Viennese Landtag.



Gertie Janneke Oostingh

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Topics of interest

Immunology, cell biology, citizen science

Immunology and cell biology in biomedicine are my main fields of interest. Trying to find answers to the question why our immune system can act in so many different ways, although the basic system is almost the same in every individual person is what interests me most. By part of an applied university, we look into these questions with an applied approach; developing novel diagnostic tools and new treatment strategies. Passing on our gained knowledge to all people with an interest in science is also of great importance to me. I am part of several initiatives that aim at improving the acceptance of science, for example by giving talks at schools.



Manuela Pausan

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Topics of interest

Healthcare research, public-private partnerships, patient engagement, business development

Manuela Pausan, PhD, is a trained biochemist and microbiome enthusiast. In 2020, she completed her PhD studies on Molecular Medicine at the Medical University in Graz, Austria. After her PhD, she joined Bayer Consumer Health and worked as a Microbiome Scientist and got involved in several external & internal projects, including a pre-competitive collaboration project under the umbrella of Pistoia Alliance. She joined BBMRI-ERIC in September 2022 as Scientific Stakeholder Specialist supporting the further development of the Stakeholder Forum and the Biobanking Development Unit. Her interests are on fostering collaborations between scientists, stakeholders and patients to advance healthcare research.



Mari Pollari

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Topics of interest

Multi-stakeholder collaboration, skills-building, public health, leadership, young professionals

Since spring 2020 I have worked as a Project Manager at the European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) where I coordinate our network of young professionals, Young Forum Gastein. Prior to joining the EHFG, I worked for several years in event management and tourism. My educational background is MSc in European Public Health (Maastricht University) and besides public health, I'm passionate about mentoring, life-long learning, and well-being.



Giulia Presbitero

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Topics of interest

Migration and discrimination, food systems, sustainability, one health, global health

I have a background in international development, having worked on project management with intergovernmental organisations in the fields of migration and access to justice for vulnerable groups, including a focus on sex and gender-based violence. I studied and worked in different countries in Asia and the Middle East, and I volunteered many years with non-governmental organisations in the fields of intercultural education and the sustainability of food systems.

Working as a Programme Coordinator for the European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) introduced me to the fascinating world of public health, which happened to connect the dots of many of my passions. I have since developed a keen interest on a variety of health-related topics, such as One Health and Global Health. I supported the team starting the Austrian Chapter of Women in Global Health and I love being part of this inspiring group of women professionals.



Elisabeth Rappold

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Topics of interest

Health care professions, nursing, health workforce planning, strategical development

My professional socialisation took place in nursing, in addition to experience in hospitals, I acquired expert knowledge at universities (department of nursing sciences at University of Vienna), in international aid at the Austrian Red Cross and last but not least in strategical consulting at the GÖG. I am a member of the Advisory Board for Aging and the Advisory Board for Nursing in the Federal Ministry of Health. I was member honorary officer (president and treasurer) of the European Forum of Nursing and Midwives Organizations and the WHO.



Alexandra Metka Rathkolb

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Topics of interest

Quality of care at all times

Alexandra Metka Rathkolb is a Senior Health Care Consultant as well as Crisis and Emergency Manager and Contingency Planner with Medical University of Vienna International. She has extensive experience in patient care; academic and curriculum development for physiotherapy, human and dental medicine; health systems analysis based on her extensive knowledge in health care and rehabilitation; and hospital, rehabilitation centre, and medical facility planning. Alexandra has managed and supported national and international healthcare projects, on- and off-site, mainly in the Middle East and North Africa and Southeast Asia. Her mission is the provision of state-of-the-art health care to everyone, everywhere, and at all times.

Alexandra's education covers physiotherapy, business administration, and healthcare management, as well as crisis and emergency management and contingency planning.



Karin Reis - Klingspiegl

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Topics of interest

Health promotion, health literacy, new public health

Studied German Literature and European Ethnology in Graz, attended an adult education course at ARGE Erwachsenenbildung Steiermark.

Journalist for the culture department of the Kleine Zeitung and Steirerkrone newspapers.

Employee at Styria vitalis since 1987 in public relations, school, and regional health promotion. Managing Director there since 2006.

1992-2006 at the Institute for Social Medicine and Epidemiology at the Medical University of Graz, involved in studies on school and regional health promotion as well as on caring for relatives; lecturer in the Master's programme on Public Health and the university course on Diabetes Care at the Medical University of Graz.



Bettina T. Resl

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Topics of interest

Global public health, digital transformation in healthcare, use of health data for improving the healthcare system, patient reported outcomes, real world data and evidence

Bettina Resl joined Novartis Austria Leadership on June 15th as Head of Public Affairs. She has been Head of Public Affairs Europe & Eurasia at the French company Sanofi in the consumer healthcare sector since July 2021. She joined Sanofi Austria in May 2017 as Country Head of Public Affairs & Patient Advocacy and also took over corporate communications in April 2020. Resl has more than 20 years of professional experience in public and political institutions, as well as in the pharmaceutical industry and was a partner at Thierry Politics Advisors between 2011 and 2013. From 2014, the 43-year-old worked for the US pharmaceutical company AbbVie in the area of government affairs and market access. From 2008 to 2011 she was Deputy Head of Cabinet for Science and Research Minister Dr. Johannes Hahn and Dr. Beatrix Karl. Previously, she was Deputy Head of cabinet in the Federal Ministry of Health and Women Affairs under Maria Rauch-Kallat (2005 to 2007) and parliamentary advisor at Rauch-Kallat when she was re-elected to parliament in 2007. Bettina also headed the office of the United Nations Association Austria (2002-2005).

The mother of three children is married and studied political science and Slavic studies at the University of Vienna and attended the master's degree in public health at the Medical University of Vienna. She also completed the Political Management course at the Quadriga University of Applied Sciences in Berlin and the 6th Strategical Programme of the Austrian Federal Government. In December 2022 she also completed the Data Science in Health university course at the Goethe Business School in Frankfurt.



Mary Helen Ribeiro Pombo

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Topics of interest

Health leadership, determinants of health, gender equity and women's health, AI and health

Mary Helen is Program Director of health at Salzburg Global and Director of Sciana: the Health Leaders Network. At Salzburg Global, she focuses on enabling innovative collaborations to tackle complex health and wellbeing challenges. Mary Helen brings nearly a decade of experience contributing to global health, international development and gender initiatives in Africa, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and the US. Prior to joining, she led health system strengthening initiatives within various international health sector communities at Imperial College London and the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research.



Regina Roller- Wirnsberger

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Topics of interest

Health care for older people, person-centered and evidence based care for ageing societies

For more than three decades, I have been working in clinical practice with older people and patients. Ever since my graduation from university, the gender gap in care delivery and in training of professionals- as described in literature previously- was obvious for me as a person as well professional. Being involved in the UN activities "UN Women in Global Health" opens the opportunity to lift my personal, scientific and educational experience towards a more public level and learn from experts through mutual exchange and discussions.



Diana Rubin

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Topics of interest

Global development cooperation, donor and funding trends, resource mobilisation and strategic partnership building, SDG interconnectivity, in particular related to global public health and women and girls

International resource mobilisation and donor relations expert with over 20 years of experience in establishing strategic partnerships with and fundraising from donor governments, financial institutions and the private sector.

Developed and implemented tailored fundraising strategies and resource mobilisation initiatives and campaigns with traditional and non-traditional donors, including respective outreach and communications materials for different UN organizations and Programmes including the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Demonstrated milestone fundraising achievements by securing substantive and increased contributions, acquiring several first-time donors and concluding multi-year funding agreements. Currently leading the engagement of a broad coalition of governmental donors for the IAEA "Rays of Hope" flagship initiative on cancer.

External relations, public diplomacy and advocacy expert with international partner and donor networks. Profound experience in leading negotiations/consultations with high-level government representatives, the UN and other multilateral and international institutions, members of parliament, civil society and the private sector, as well as in coordinating senior leadership participation in and organisation of international fundraising galas and events.

Excellent oral and written communications skills in English, French and German (mother-tongue), working knowledge of Spanish. Public-speaking experience with UN/public health/diplomatic community/private sector audiences.



Isabel Santonja

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Topics of interest

Quantitative methods, epidemiology, circadian disruption, chrononutrition, sleep

I hold a degree in Medicine from the Autonomous University of Madrid and a Master in Public Health by the Medical University of Vienna, and have previous work experience in tick-borne encephalitis surveillance, vaccine effectiveness research and data management. Now, I am PhD candidate in Epidemiology at the Medical University of Vienna, exploring the role of meal-timing and sleep in the association of shift work and chronic disease. I am also studying an online Master in Health Data Science at the University of Edinburgh.



Magdalena Sattelberger

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Topics of interest

Improvement and transformation of the healthcare industry, (operational and strategic) project management, business mentoring

Magdalena Sattelberger is Managing Partner and Principal Consultant at SOLVE Consulting Managementberatung GmbH, a boutique consultancy specialising in the health and social sector since 1992. The graduate economist has completed numerous additional trainings in project management, presentation and change management and has been working for more quality and cost-effectiveness in the healthcare sector for the last 20 years. Her in-depth knowledge of the industry, comprehensive methodological abilities and facilitative personality make her a preferred partner of healthcare organizations for the support of change projects. She is also co-founder of "SOLAR PLEXUS – (Female) Creators of the Future of Health".



Andrea E. Schmidt

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Topics of interest

Climate and health, long-term care, socio-ecological transition and policies, gender

Passionate leader working on the links between climate and health with a global mindset. My current focus is on climate resilience of health systems, equity and the socio-ecological transformation in health and long-term care sectors. Working on gender has been a constant throughout my academic career. I thrive while working across scientific disciplines and developing strategies for policy and practice. My academic background is in economics and social sciences (doctoral degree from Vienna University of Economics and Business) and in Public Policy and Human Development (MSc Maastricht University) as well as a degree in humanities. I work with international organisations, in particular WHO Europe on a regular basis, and truly enjoy learning from the experiences of other cultures and countries.



Nathalie Schober- Ladani

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Topics of interest

Global health, health policy and advocacy, patient access, advanced therapies, data and digital health

In my role as Senior Director Head Public Affairs and Regulatory Intelligence at SFL, I provide strategic policy, regulatory intelligence, and access support to interdisciplinary projects for a wide range of products in the life sciences field.

I am also active in the engagement and organisational work of national and international associations. In this context, I am acting as Secretary General of two innovative associations, the multi-stakeholder Rare Disease Action Forum (RDAF) and the inter-sectoral Medtech & Pharma Platform Association (MPP).

I believe that the inclusion of different perspectives is essential to address today's and tomorrow's health challenges. A lack of female representation leads to a lack of perspectives and can impoverish sensible decision making. It is crucial to close the female representation gap in order to be able to create innovative and sustainable solutions for patients.



Anja Schuster

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Topics of interest

Cell biology, wound healing, phytochemistry, biomedical sciences

I am a molecular biologist with the focus on immunology. I am employed by the Salzburg University of Applied Sciences as a Senior Researcher. In my current role I am responsible for scientific projects in the field of phytochemicals in relation to wound healing, antimicrobial activity and oxidative stress. However, I have a broad background ranging from drug development in pharmaceutical industry to clinical research in the field of medical devices.



Yuki Seidler

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Topics of interest

Participatory action research, inclusive digital health technology, social determinants of health, health promotion, health and migration

Born in Japan, lived, worked, and studied in the UK, Australia, Thailand, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Belgium, USA, and Austria. Before turning academic, worked as a humanitarian and development aid worker in various countries including Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and Nepal. Extensive experiences in community health promotion and participatory project planning in resource constraining context. Interdisciplinary background in public health, policy studies, and health sociology. Passionate about participatory action research and migrant well-being in Europe. Loves teaching qualitative methods, as well as meeting and working with people with similar passion and aspiration.



Nela Sljivljak

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Topics of interest

Digital health, research AI technology in medicine, medical decision-making, physician-patient relationship, mental health, embedded technology

I am passionate about a patient-centric healthcare approach and better healthcare provision for everyone. During my career, I have held several positions in the healthcare industry as an executive team member with proven leadership qualities and a track record in international business, market development, strategic planning, and execution. I thrive in multicultural and innovative environments while remaining focused and outcome-oriented.

As for my academic background, I hold a diploma degree in Medical Informatics from the University of Heidelberg (Germany), Master of Business Administration degree from the Loyola University Chicago (USA), and a Master's degree in Psychology from the Johannes-Kepler University in Linz (Austria).



K. Viktoria Stein

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Topics of interest

Community involvement, co-production, integrated care, population health management, learning systems

I am Assistant Professor for Population Health Management at Leiden University Medical Centre in the Netherlands and joint editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Integrated Care. Since 2023, I am also the president of the Austrian Public Health Association, as I have always believed that volunteering and networking are some of the most important activities when you want to change a system and be successful professionally. Over the years, I have worked as a consultant on integrated care policy, design and implementation for international agencies like WHO or the World Bank, with a special focus on co-designing solutions with communities and the workforce.



Lisa Stevens

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Topics of interest

Global cancer control, health policy, national cancer control plans

I joined IAEA (June 2019), to lead the Division of the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy. We support Member States in assessing their comprehensive cancer services (prevention through survivorship). The team also supports development of National Cancer Control Plans and Strategic Funding Documents. My team is responsible for coordinating resource mobilisation for cancer activities, as well as other flagship initiatives (NuTEC Plastics, ZODIAC). Prior to joining IAEA, I spent 24 years at the US National Cancer Institute (including as Deputy Director of the Center for Global Health).



Anna Teufel

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Topics of interest

Patient safety, involvement, engagement, open innovation in science

I am working as a researcher at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Digital Health and Patient Safety and head the office of the Austrian Network for Patient Safety (ANetPAS, Plattform Patient:innensicherheit). By profession, I am a sociologist and I am currently doing a PhD in Public Health at the Medical University of Vienna. In my work, I am mainly involved in projects dedicated to patient safety and patient involvement in health research issues, for example in co-founding the Austrian Patient Council (Österreichischer Patient:innenbeirat).



Michaela Told

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Topics of interest

Global health, migration, gender, development, human rights

I am currently the Director of HI5 Governance, providing advice to international organisations on governance and policy issues, facilitating strategic process in complex, multi-sectoral contexts, and accompanying organisational change processes. I am passionate about the interconnectedness of global health with areas such as climate change, migration, development and human rights, integrating a gender perspective across all work areas. I am also Senior Guest Lecturer at the MCI Innsbruck.

Prior to HI5 Governance, I have worked in academia as Executive Director of the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in different leadership positions at local, regional, and international levels in all continents, mainly through the Austrian and Swiss Red Cross. Earlier in my career, I served as the Secretary General of an international women's peace organisation and worked with the Austrian Foreign Ministry, Division of Development Cooperation (today, Austrian Development Agency). I am Austrian from the Tyrol and currently based in Geneva, Switzerland.



Panagiota Tsikala

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Topics of interest

Patient safety, healthcare quality, leadership, equity

I am a dialysis nurse from Greece. My experience in four European countries gave me the opportunity to have a better idea about the healthcare systems in Europe. At the moment I work in the University Hospital in Vienna and I am writing my Master's Thesis on the Second Victim Phenomenon. The last two years I am a fellow with ISQua (International society for quality and patient safety). I am an active member of different nursing associations in national, European, and international level. One of my visions is to create a safer working environment for healthcare professionals, because the personnel shortages and the workload affects patient safety and healthcare quality. I speak Greek, English, German, and a little Italian. Besides my work and my studies, I am passionate about learning new languages, improving myself, and supporting every new idea for a better future for our children.



Eva Turk

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Topics of interest

Human centred design, person-centred care, digital health, HTA/VBHC, community care

As a health systems researcher, I want to find and implement safe and sustainable healthcare delivery models globally through the co-creation of smart technologies and digital solutions. More than 15 years experience in health systems research, focusing on person centred care, digital health, patient safety, health technology assessment and quality of life. Currently working as senior researcher at the Centre for Digital Health and Social Innovation at the University of Applied Sciences St. Pölten, building a research group in Inclusive Digital Community Care. I am also an associate professor working on task shifting, digital health, ethics in AI and digital health literacy at the University of South-Eastern Norway. I am lecturing at the Medical Faculty at the University in Maribor and am a Public Health Delegate with the Emergency Response Unit at the Norwegian Red Cross.

In addition to WGH Austria Core team, I serve on Board of Directors for HTAi and Women in Global Health Norway.

I hold an MBA in Healthcare Management and a PhD in Health Sciences. Originally from Slovenia, I studied, lived and worked in Austria, Japan, Finland, Spain, Argentina, Syria and Norway.



Ursula Trübswasser

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Topics of interest

Adolescents' and women's dietary behaviours, food systems, participatory methods, policy analysis, qualitative evidence synthesis

Ursula is a public health nutritionist, with 20 years of experience in nutrition, health and agriculture in Europe, Asia and Africa. She holds a Master in Nutrition from the University of Vienna and a PhD from Wageningen University. She has worked with WHO in Europe, Central Asia, and Eastern and Southern Africa on nutrition programmes and policies. Ursula also worked with UNICEF, FAO, the EU, IFPRI, at the Centre for Food Policy at City, University of London and different consulting groups in Ethiopia, Kenya and Fiji on different nutrition programmes and research projects. Her research focuses on food systems and dietary behaviours of children and adolescent, applying participatory, qualitative methods. She currently works as a senior researcher at the St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences.



Dagmar Vorlíček

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Topics of interest

Biosecurity, science, security, international relations

Dagmar Vorlíček is a university assistant at the Department of Sociology, University of Vienna. Dagmar is an interdisciplinary social scientist drawing on sociology, International Relations, and Science and Technology Studies. She specialises in global health and biological security. She conducted research on bioweapons, biotechnologies, biobanks, dual-use research, and global health. Previously, she worked as a Lecturer in Global Insecurities at the University of Sussex and was a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS), Vienna.



Ursula Wagner

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Topics of interest

Health promotion, health equity, cultural competence, global health policy, gender and diversity

I work in the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Vienna and provide technical support to our migration health programmes in South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. This entails both work in humanitarian settings, but also along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. With my background in Medical Anthropology and field experience gathered through research assignments and my previous engagement with Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), I am very interested in making health programmes accessible for persons with different cultural backgrounds, and in building bridges between different communities and medical service providers.



Marion Weigl

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Topics of interest

Migrant health, health equity, participatory health research, prevention, social determinants of health

I am senior health expert and since 2021 the Head of Department of „Health, Society and Equity“, located in the Gesundheit Österreich GmbH (Austrian National Public Health Institute) in Vienna. I have been working on the areas of drug addiction and addiction prevention for quite some time and moved onwards to a wider perspective on health, prevention and health equity resp. inequalities. In that context migrant health is a relevant working area, which needs multi-dimensional and intersectional approaches. Cooperation with practitioners and researchers from various relevant working areas, and also on international level, is important for me in order to be able to think outside the box and to identify promising solutions. The Austrian Early Childhood Interventions Programme was developed on the basis of such a comprehensive approach by our team in 2011 and aims to promote health equity in the long term.



Carolin Wenzinger

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Topics of interest

Mental health, health communications, stress related disorders, telemedicine

Having originated from Germany, I initiated my professional journey in Austria. Pursuing my primary passion and field of interest, I made the decision to undertake studies in psychology at the University of Salzburg. During my time as an intern in an obesity project for juveniles, I swiftly realised that my fascination with health extended far beyond the confines of the psychological realm. Embarking on a new academic pursuit in health management provided me with the platform to further enrich my understanding of public health. As a graduate student specialising in public health at the Medical University of Vienna, I have the privilege of seamlessly integrating my knowledge into my daily professional milieu. Presently, I am engaged as a Health Consultant and Project Leader within the public sector where my endeavours revolve predominantly around patient communication and the dynamic domain of telemedicine.



Marion Wiegele

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Topics of interest

Patient empowerment, shared decision making, ethics in medical care, rehabilitation (follow-up services for patients with post-intensive care syndrome)

Parallel to my professional work as a nurse in an intensive care unit, I started my medical training. After completing my residency in anaesthesia and intensive care medicine at the Medical University of Vienna, I specialised in pediatric anaesthesia and intensive care medicine. The topic of my scientific work is hemostatic alterations in the context of perioperative patient care. The MUV granted me the Venia Docendi in 2023. I was very fortunate to have a particularly dedicated female mentor to support me throughout my professional path. Even today she still mirrors me very well, reflecting and discussing with me. In 2022, I started the postgraduate Master of Public Health programme as I perceive the challenges in daily clinical routine and want to contribute to creating solutions for next generations.



Claudia Wild

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Topics of interest

Health technology assessment, distributional justice, ethics of resource allocation, fair pricing

Claudia Wild is Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Austrian Institute for Health Technology Assessment (AIHTA) GmbH since 2020. Before that, she was Director of the LBI-HTA since its establishment in 2006. From 1989-2006 she worked as a Senior Researcher at the Institute of Technology Assessment at the Austrian Academy of Sciences and developed the research field Health Technology Assessment in Austria. She studied communications & psychology at the University of Vienna and political sciences at the Ohio University in Athens/Ohio/USA and completed her studies by graduating the University of Vienna as Doctor of Philosophy in 1985. In 2009, she habilitated in social medicine (Medical University Graz) on the topic of "resource allocation in health-care systems".



Selam Woldemariam

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Topics of interest

Global health, public health, maternal and child health, migrant health

Selam Woldemariam is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in public health at the Medical University of Vienna. She has experience working with the private sector, international NGOs and higher education institutions. She is an avid reader with a learning mindset. She is particularly interested in gender issues and health inequality. Her research interest includes examining the key aspect of socioeconomic inequality and its impact on health equity among mothers and children.



Ingrid Zechmeister - Koss

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Topics of interest

Health technology assessment/evidence-based-medicine, (mental) health services research, (mental) health economics, gender and health

I have worked at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Health Technology Assessment (since March 2020 Austrian Institute for Health Technology Assessment) from 2006 to 2015 and since 2018. I am the Deputy Head of the institute and lead Health Economics and Health Services research. After a Master in 'Health Studies and Management' at the University of Brighton, I completed my doctorate study at the Vienna University of Economics and Business. Apart from the current research institute, I have worked in other Austrian research institutes (Austrian Academy of Sciences, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research). I also have working experience as biomedical technologist in the field of gynaecology and obstetrics, and as a Health Economist in health care administration (Austrian Social Insurance).



Erika Zelko

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Topics of interest

Family medicine, vulnerable groups, palliative care, digitalisation in medicine

Erika Zelko, born 10.3.1968 in Vienna, worked as a family doctor in Slovenia for 27 years and since October 2021 she is Professor and Head of the Department of General Medicine at the Medical Faculty of the Johannes Kepler University (JKU) in Linz. After graduating from the Medical Faculty of Ljubljana in 2007, she obtained her Master's degree and her PhD in 2015 from the same institution.

She still occasionally lectures at the Faculty of Medicine in Maribor and Ljubljana. In 2017-2019 she completed the EUPCA (European palliative care academie) course for leadership in palliative care. Since 2019, she is the coordinator and manager of the international LAST AID programme in Slovenia. She is an active member of the Slovenian Association for Palliative and Hospice Care, the Association of Family Medicine Physicians, a member of the Slovenian Ministry of Health's advisory body on palliative care and a member of the Legal and Ethical Issues Committee of the Medical Chamber.

In Austria, she is involved in the work of the AKG (Arbeitskreis für Gleichbehandlungsfragen) JKU Linz and the ÖGAM (Österreichische Gesellschaft für Allgemeinmedizin). In her spare time, she enjoys foreign languages, mountaineering, travelling, reading and music.



Claudia Zimmermann

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Topics of interest

Mental health, suicide prevention, epidemiology, violence against women

Claudia works as a Research Assistant at the Medical University of Vienna at the Center for Public Health where she is also pursuing a PhD in Applied Medical Science. Additionally, she freelances as a Lecturer at the University of Graz, where she completed a Master's degree in Sociology, followed by another in Evidence-Based Social Intervention at the University of Oxford. In the past, she has also worked with various English charities in the areas of refugee assistance, HIV prevention and paraplegia. Claudia is particularly interested in bridging initiatives between research and global health issues, with a focus on vulnerable populations.

Women in Global Health Austria

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