



# GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF MEDICAL EXCELLENCE

FUTURE LEADERS SUMMIT 2025

PRATO, ITALY  
22-24 JUNE 2025

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ACADEMIC BIOGRAPHIES



MONASH  
University

# MONASH UNIVERSITY

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## PROFESSOR MICHELLE LEECH AM

Deputy Dean (Medicine Course), Head of School of Medicine  
Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

### **Monash University**

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Recipient of Member of the Order of Australia (AM) 2023, Professor Michelle Leech is Head of the Medical Course Monash University and Deputy Dean at the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences overseeing the delivery of Monash's medical program across the Clayton, Gippsland and Malaysia campuses.

Professor Leech is the President of Medical Deans of Australia and New Zealand and Chair of the Board of the Postgraduate Medical Council of Victoria. She maintains a Rheumatology consultant position and is the Head of the Rheumatoid Arthritis Clinic at Monash Health. Professor Leech received her MBBS (Hons) from Monash University, and after residency training in Internal Medicine at Prince Henry's Hospital, Melbourne, completed her advanced physician training at Monash Health. She undertook a PhD at the Monash University Centre for Inflammatory Diseases, which examined the role of the cytokine MIF in the neuroendocrine regulation of inflammation. Professor Leech's basic research has focussed on cytokine biology, glucocorticoid action and cell cycle proteins in the context of Rheumatoid arthritis pathogenesis. She also has an active research profile in medical and interprofessional education and has over 100 peer-reviewed publications.

Professor Leech has held many teaching roles in Medicine at Monash Health including Director of Physician Training as well as teaching roles at Monash University. She has received a number of teaching awards including the Australian Medical Students Association National Teaching award in 2014. She was also the recipient of Health Workforce Australia funding to develop Health Science Interprofessional Learning (IPL) opportunities across disciplines at Monash University and Monash Health.



## JACKIE CONHEADY

Director, Office of the Dean  
Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

### **Monash University**

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Jackie provides strategic support to the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Monash University. As a principal driver of action on behalf of the Dean, Jackie supports the agenda of the Faculty by overseeing the continual improvement activities, and major initiatives/projects.

As Chief of Staff, Jackie assists the Dean in effective clear two-way communication alignment of goals, and resolution of issues of concern and represents the Dean in some internal and external interactions within the Faculty. Jackie's background is in strategic planning, communications and stakeholder engagement.

# UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA

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**PROFESSOR FABRIZIO DE PONTI**

Full Professor of Pharmacology, Dean's Delegate for GAME

**University of Bologna**

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Fabrizio De Ponti is professor of Pharmacology at the University of Bologna, where he was previously Dean of the School of Medicine (2015-2018). In the past 25 years, he has been a member / chair of several ethics committees in Emilia-Romagna and in Lombardy. Since 2015, he has been part of the European Commission's expert group for the purpose of ethical evaluation of research projects funded by the Commission. Since 2016, he has been a member of the Research and Clinical Trial Secretariat of the Italian Medicines Agency. He has collaborated with the Italian Ministry of Health and with the European Medicines Agency in ad hoc groups on issues related to drug safety.

ACADEMIC BIOGRAPHIES



**PROFESSOR ANTONIO GANGEMI**

Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences

**University of Bologna**

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Prof. Gangemi was recruited by University of Bologna in 2022 as Associate Professor of Surgery after building his career as accomplished academic surgeon, surgical educator, and clinical scientist in the USA where among other accolades, was awarded the 2017 America's Top Surgeons Recognition by the Consumers' Research Council of America.

Prof. Gangemi chairs the Innovative Surgical and Interventional Techniques (ISIT) at the University of Bologna affiliated hospital (IRCCS AOUs of Bologna) and serves as international relations delegate for the Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences and the PhD programme Surgical Sciences and Innovative Technologies. His research and clinical interest focus on robotic surgery and its various applications in the field of general, bariatric and foregut surgery. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Surgery (DABS), fellow of the American College of Surgeons (FACS) and of the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (FASMBS). He has contributed to over one hundred scientific peer-reviewed articles and serves as associate editor of top-ranking journal "Obesity Surgery" (Springer Publ.)

# UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA

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**PROFESSOR GASTONE CASTELLANI**

Professor of Applied Physics/Biophysics

**University of Bologna**

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Professor Castellani is laureated in Biology and Physics and has a PhD in Physics. He is a full Professor at the Bologna University in Applied Physics-Biophysics and is the Director of the Galvani Center for Bioinformatics, Biophysics and Biocomplexity. He holds, from the 2000, the position of Associate Professor (Research) at Brown University, Providence RI USA

where is doing research within the group of Prof Leon N Cooper on machine learning, neural networks and big data analytics of gene expression. He is coauthor of more than 200 publications in international peer-reviewed journals, and, in total more than 200 printed contributions (9000 citations and H index 51). He has been awarded two International prizes: (Chaos and Complexity prize Blois France 1993, Vice President award Brown University 2003) for innovative research in the field of complex biological systems.

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**DR TOMMASO ROCCABIANCA**

PhD Candidate

**University of Bologna**

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PhD Candidate in Public Governance, Management and Policy at the University of Bologna since 2024, Department of Management. Graduated in Economics, Markets and Institutions, he specialized in Health Economics with a Master's Degree in Health Economics, Management and Policy. His studies have been enriched by work and study experiences abroad, thanks to a six-month internship in a Berliner start-up and several collaborations with the University of Hamburg. For the realization of the Master's Thesis, he collaborated with the IRCCS Policlinico di Sant'Orsola on a project related to comparative Cost Analyses of Robotic Surgery. Currently, he conducts research on the role of Robotic Surgery in Public Health, thanks to a PhD financed by the PNRR and co-financed by the IRCCS. In particular, his research focuses on the economic and clinical implications associated with the implementation of the Robotic Approach to Surgery.

# THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

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PROFESSOR ALICE KONG

Professor

**The Chinese University of Hong Kong**

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Dr. Kong is Professor in the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Honorary Consultant at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Hong Kong. Dr. Kong graduated from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and completed her training in General Medicine and Endocrinology at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hong Kong. She had her overseas training as postdoctoral fellow under the mentorship of Dr. Robert Henry at the Division of Endocrinology, Department of Medicine at University of California, San Diego, United States between 1998 and 1999. She became a Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine in 2000, with accreditation in Advanced Internal Medicine, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism. She is also a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Glasgow, Edinburgh and London. She is the chairperson of Specialty Board in Advanced Internal Medicine, Hong Kong College of Physicians between 2017 and 2021.

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DR WAI TAT WONG

MBBS (HK), FRCP (Edin), FCICM, FHKAM (Medicine), LLM (Medical Ethics and Law)

Clinical Professional Consultant (Associate Professor of Practice), Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, Research Fellow (by courtesy) Centre for Bioethics and Honorary Associate Consultant, Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, Prince of Wales Hospital

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As the recipient of the University Education Award and Faculty Teaching Award in 2024, I teach undergraduates in acute medicine, anaesthesia, communication skills, professionalism, and clinical ethics. As part of the BASIC collaboration, I contribute as an author, coordinator, and instructor for the Basic Assessment and Support of Intensive Care (BASIC) course. My research spans medical education, clinical ethics, ICU end-of-life care, mechanical ventilation, and infectious diseases. Additionally, I serve as vice-chairperson of the Hong Kong Society of Critical Care Medicine (HKSCCM) and chairperson of the Asian Pacific Bioethics Education Network (APBEN).

# KOREA UNIVERSITY

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**PROFESSOR YOUNG MEE LEE, MD, PHD, MSED.**

Professor, Medical Education, Department of Medical Education

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Young-Mee Lee is a leader in the TEI (Transnational Educational Initiatives) project for the GAME network since 2019.

She completed her medical training and earned her undergraduate, master's, and PhD degrees at Korea University College of Medicine.

She also trained as a family medicine specialist at Korea University Medical Center and obtained a master's in medical education from the University of Southern California in 1999. Currently, as the head of the Department of Medical Education at Korea University College of Medicine, she oversees CQI, curriculum development, standardized patient programs, clinical performance evaluation, and faculty development. Her global training includes experiences at USC, the University of Washington, the University of Michigan, and Dalhousie University.

Her recent research interests are professionalism, medical AI education, and global health profession education. Since 2022, she has led a government-funded project to develop a Medical AI curriculum and secured funding for an International Health Cooperation Project to provide a master's program for healthcare professionals in nine countries.



**DR. DAWON PARK**

Endocrine Surgery Clinical Assistant Professor

Division of Breast and Endocrine Surgery, Department of Surgery, Korea University Hospital

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Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA. USA

Mailman School of Public Health (Epidemiology) Columbia University, New York, NY. USA

M.D and Master in Medical Science School of Medicine, Korea University, Seoul, Korea

Ph.D in Medical Science Graduate school of Korea University, Seoul, Korea (Director : Prof. Hoon Yub Kim)

# LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT (LMU) MUNICH

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MS WENCKE VONDERHAGEN

Head of International Networks

Faculty of Medicine

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Wencke Vonderhagen holds academic degrees in Sinology and International Management from universities in Bremen, Germany, and Beijing, China. Early in her career, she gained research-oriented experience through internships at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation in Beijing and the ifo Institute for Economic Research in Munich.

Following her graduation in 1998, she worked in international business environments with assignments in the US, China, and Europe, where she developed expertise in project management—particularly in ERP system implementation and change management. In 2006, she transitioned to the higher education sector, taking on a strategic role at ETH Zurich as Project Manager for a comprehensive campus development initiative (2006–2009). This marked the beginning of her focus on managing complex projects in academic institutions.

Since 2012, Wencke Vonderhagen has been with Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) Munich. At the International Office, she led the development of LMU's China Strategy and successfully secured DAAD funding to establish and manage the LMU-China Academic Network (LMU-ChAN), which she directed until 2018. Since January 2019, she has been part of LMU's Medical Faculty, where she coordinates and expands the faculty's international academic networks. In addition, since 2023, she has been responsible for coordinating the International Board of the LMU Medical Faculty and LMU University Hospital.

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# NAGOYA UNIVERSITY

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DR ALEJANDRA MONTERO

Professor, Graduate School of Medicine

**Nagoya University**

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Received her MD from La Salle University, Faculty of Medicine in Mexico in 2001. She has a specialty in Healthcare Organization Administration, graduating with honors.

During her professional practice, she dedicated more than 15 years to medical malpractice adjudication for public health services nationwide under the professional liability insurance policy, analyzing and coordinating more than 12,000 claims alongside her legal team. She was a volunteer paramedic for the Mexican Red Cross for more than 18 years, and lately as a Collaborator to the Mexican Red Cross for the State of Mexico delegation.

Her interests focus on raising awareness among medical students about the importance of resuming and revaluing doctor-patient communication to prevent medical conflict and improve the quality of medical care based on tolerance, respect, collaboration, and multiculturalism as the foundations of medical practice.

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DR ITZEL BUSTOS VILLALOBOS

Associate Professor MD, PhD Office of International affairs

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Graduated from Universidad La Salle, Faculty of Medicine, specialized in the field of pediatrics in Mexico. She completed her PhD at Nagoya University in pediatric oncology and completed her postdoctoral training at UC Davis, USA at the department of dermatology. She is currently working at Nagoya University as Associate Professor in the department of International Affairs as well as in the Cancer Immune Therapy Research Center.

Skilled in cancer Immunotherapy & Cancer Research. She is also focused on international medical education at Nagoya university and delivers education to medical undergraduates. In addition to this, she also implemented the joint on-line clinical cases discussion between the universities of GAME-consortium.

# UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

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**DR BAKULA PATEL**

Director of Clinical Communication Skills. Clinical Associate Professor in Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

**University of Nottingham**

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School of Medicine and a Portfolio General Practitioner (Family Physician) working in the Emergency Department in a large UK hospital – Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham. Bakula has worked in medical education for about 20 years at the University of Nottingham as well as in the primary care community setting and always had a passion for educating doctors and healthcare professionals of tomorrow. Her ambition is to ensure that teaching about compassionate clinical communication and consultation skills is fully integrated in the medical curriculum at the University of Nottingham. Bakula is also involved in training urgent care practitioners, nurses and pharmacists. She is a coach and mentor for GPs locally and nationally for the Royal College of GPs (RCGP), Honorary Secretary for the Vale of Trent Faculty RCGP, on the fellowship committee for the RCGP and a member of the UK Council for Clinical Communication (UKCCC). Bakula graduated from Leicester Medical School and is a Fellow of the RCGP (FRCGP) and Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA).

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**DR MO ELRIEDY**

Director of Simulation, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences

**University of Nottingham**

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Anaesthetic Consultant at University Hospitals of Derby and Burton and serves as the Director of Simulation at the University of Nottingham Medical School. He trained in the West Midlands region and completed a fellowship in Obstetrics and Perioperative Medicine in the Northwest. With more than 10 years of experience in simulation-based education, Mohamed holds accreditation from the Association for Simulated Practice in Healthcare (ASPiH) and has been the simulation tutor at Queen's Simulation Centre, part of the University Hospitals of Derby and Burton. In his professional role, Mohamed is passionately dedicated to advancing medical education and embedding human factors/ergonomics within healthcare practices. He holds several national educational roles, including membership in the national Management of Medical Obstetric Emergencies and Trauma (mMOET) working group and serving as the Quality Assurance Lead in the Medical Training Initiative (MTI) Leadership Group at the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA).

Mohamed is a leader in integrating technology into simulation education, focusing on innovative methods to enhance interprofessional learning and develop critical non-technical skills among healthcare professionals. His collaborative efforts with NHS England have led to groundbreaking projects that incorporate extended reality into both patient care and educational frameworks.

# LUND UNIVERSITY

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## PROFESSOR DAVID GISSELSSON NORD

Vice Dean

**Lund University**

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David Gisselsson Nord is a clinician-researcher focused on understanding how cancer cells develop resilience against current ontological treatments. He has identified one of the most common mechanisms by which cancer cells alter their genome through repeated breakage of chromosomes with eroded telomeres.

Dr. Gisselsson Nord has also established a series of methods for measuring genetic instability of cancer cells that allow better prediction of prognosis and treatment response. Today he divides his time between clinical work as a pediatric pathologist and research on childhood cancer. He combines high-resolution genomics on clinical samples with mathematical modeling and methods from species evolution. Using this approach, his team produces detailed maps of how clones replace each other over space and time, with the main purpose to trace the ancestry of metastatic relapse. Dr. Gisselsson Nord and his team recently identified four fundamental evolutionary trajectories by which cancer cells compete with each other and evolve towards a higher degree of malignancy. He has received the Fernström Prize to Promising Young Investigators and a recent SIOP Award for Translational and Basic research from the International Society of Pediatric Oncology

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## DR ALBERTO RINALDI

Postdoctoral Researcher

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Alberto Rinaldi holds a PhD in international law from Sciences Po, Paris (2019). He is currently a postdoctoral researcher in the Raoul Wallenberg Visiting Chair Project on the Future of Human Rights (2020-2025) at Lund University. Alberto has extensive experience in human rights and humanitarian law. His work focuses on emerging disruptive technologies (EDTs) in the context of global conflicts and evolving security challenges, particularly in the fields of neuroscience, biotechnology, and AI.