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Franco-Indian Campus in Life Sciences for Health

Workshop on “Global Health”

8–9 December 2025, Paris

Workshop Program

Day 1: Monday 8 December 2025

Venue: ENS-PSL, 45 rue d'Ulm, 75005 Paris (meeting room: Salle des Actes)

8h30–8h50: Welcome and Registration

8h50-9h: Introduction

9h–9h20: Opening remarks

- **Frédéric Worms**, Director of ENS-PSL
- **H.E. Sanjeev Singla**, Ambassador of India to France
- **Thierry Damerval**, France's Special Envoy for Science, Technology & Innovation

9h20–9h45: Keynote speech

Marie Gaille (CNRS/ENS-PSL): "Adaptation: an appropriate approach to addressing the health effects of climate change?"

9h45–12h30: Session 1 - Global Health and Climate Change

Session coordinators: **Kévin Jean** (ENS-PSL), **Joy Monteiro** (IISER Pune), **Giovanna Fancello** (Sorbonne Université)

- **Giovanna Fancello** (Sorbonne Université, Institut Pierre Louis de Santé Publique): "Urban Heat and Vulnerable Populations in France: Impacts on Hospitalisation, Mortality and Medication Use"
- **Ayushi Sharma** (ENS-PSL): "Health co-benefits of improved air quality under various trajectories toward net-zero emission by 2050 in France",
- **Dimitri Lavillette** (ENS de Lyon): "Characterization of African Neglected Arboviruses with Urban Transmission Potential"
- **Fabrice Vavre** (University of Lyon 1): "SHAPE-Med@Lyon: Setting up a transdisciplinary and transectoral One Health ecosystem in Lyon"

Coffee break

- **Saurabh Tewari** (IIT Delhi): "Making the Invisible Visible"
- **Farhana Ibrahim**, (IIT Delhi) "Climate adaptation and mental health - a case study from the Thar desert"
- **Samuel Abiven** (ENS-PSL): "Integrative Approaches to Ecosystem Functioning in Agro-ecosystems and its consequences on rural south Indian communities - presentation of the Indo French Cell for Water Science, Bengaluru"
- **Bejoy Thomas** (IISER Pune): "Wastewater, livelihoods, and health: exploring the linkages".

12h30–14h: Lunch

14h–16h45: Session 2 - Access to Care

Session coordinators: **Françoise Guillo** (Sorbonne Université), **Angelie Multani** (IIT Delhi), **Mariappan Muthiah** (Tata Institute of Social Sciences)

- **P. Vigneswara Ilavarasan** (IIT Delhi): “Enabling Healthcare Access in Rural India: The Role of Health-Tech Startups”,
- **Jayan Jose Thomas** (IIT Delhi): “Health, Jobs, and Justice for the Young: An Agenda for India and the World”,
- **Mariappan Muthiah** (TISS): “Access to Maternal Healthcare: India's progress and opportunities”
- **Catherine Laffineur** (Université Côte d’Azur): “IVF Success: A Global Approach”

Coffee break

- **Sandeep Kumar** (IIT Delhi): “Making AI Inclusive: Generalization and Equity in Neuroscience”,
- **Thomas Maillet Mezeray** (ENS PSL): “The Price to Access Care: One Health’s Economics”,
- **Dulce Ferraz** (Université Lyon 2): “Promoting Access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to Improve HIV Prevention among Cisgender Female Sex Workers in France and Brazil”,

Parallel session 14h-16h: Administrative topics and issues – for the Franco-Indian Campus admin team (*ENS-PSL, salle 1 – Pôle Ressources Lettres + remote connection*)

16h45-17h: Day 1 wrap-up

--- End of meeting---

17h30-18h45: FIC coordination meeting (Operational Committee members only)

(meeting room 2307, Tour Zamansky, Campus Pierre et Marie Curie, place Jussieu, 75005 Paris + remote connection)

19h: Networking event

Venue : TIPI, Campus Pierre et Marie Curie, place Jussieu, 75005 Paris

19h–19h10: Welcoming remarks

- **Guillaume Fiquet**, Vice-President International relations, territorial and economic partnerships, Sorbonne Université
- **Juan-Fernando Ramirez**, Director, Alliance Sorbonne University Global Health Institute
- **Audelin Chappuis**, Sous-Directeur for Higher Education and Research, French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs

Poster session (PhDs)

Day 2: Tuesday 9 December 2025

Venue : Institut du Cerveau - site de la Pitié Salpêtrière, Hôpital Pitié, 47 Bd de l'Hôpital, 75013 Paris

Morning: Auditorium of Institut du Cerveau, Afternoon: meeting room 4 and rooms 1-2

9h-9h15: Welcome and Introduction to Day 2

- **Brian Lau**, Scientific Director, Institut du Cerveau

9h15-9h45: Keynote speech

- **Catherine Tourette-Turgis**, Founder of l'Université des Patients

9h45 -12h30: Session 3 - Nutrition, Mental Health and Lifestyles

Session coordinators: **Kiran Padmanabhan** (ENS de Lyon), **Alexandre Escargueil** (Sorbonne Université), **Divya Dwivedi** (IIT Delhi)

- **Eleonore Bayen** (Sorbonne Université): "Paving the way to Dementia-Inclusive Societies thanks to brain health"
- **Kamlesh Singh** (IIT Delhi): "Positive Psychology and Mental Health: Integrating Cultural Wisdom with Scientific Practice"
- **Nicolas Bogliotti** (ENS Paris-Saclay): "Photocaged amino-acids and peptides for the control of biological interactions"

Coffee break

- **Kalyan Chakraborty** (Ashoka University): "Changes and continuity in traditional foodways and indigenous nutrition through archaeological lenses from India and Canada"
- **Liane Schmidt** (Paris Brain Institute): "Investigation of optimism biases in value-based, dietary decision-making"
- **Filipe De Vadder** (ENS de Lyon): "Modeling malnutrition in juvenile mice: sex matters"
- **Krishnan Venktaraman** (VIT Vellore): "The Role of Vitamin B12 in Health: Fortifying Functional Foods to Mitigate Cardiovascular Disease Risk".

12h30-14h: Lunch

14h-15h30: 3 Parallel sessions (outcomes and next steps)

- Session 1: Global Health and Climate Change
- Session 2: Access to Care
- Session 3: Nutrition, Mental Health and Lifestyles

15h30-16h30: Final wrap-up and Conclusions

--- End of meeting---

17h: Visit of the Chapelle Saint Louis de la Salpêtrière

CV and abstracts presentation

Keynote speakers: Adaptation: an appropriate approach to addressing the health effects of climate change?

Marie Gaille
CNRS senior researcher
Department of Philosophy
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Marie Gaille is a CNRS senior researcher in philosophy, affiliated at *La république des savoirs*, and an associate professor in the Philosophy Dpt of the école normale supérieure.

Her research focuses on the conceptual and clinical issues related to health, health and the environment, as well as on the ethical issues of medical decisions regarding the thresholds of life. She often works with interdisciplinary approaches.

<https://philosophie.ens.fr/Marie-Gaille.html>
<https://republique-des-savoirs.fr/membres/marie-gaille/>

Catherine Tourette-Turgis
Professor Emerita
Sorbonne University

Catherine Tourette-Turgis, PhD, is Professor Emerita at Sorbonne University's Faculty of Health and Holder of the Chair "Competencies and Vulnerabilities." She founded and leads the University of Patients – Sorbonne University, the first academic institution worldwide to award university degrees to patients—an innovation now adapted in Brazil, Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, and Australia.

With over 20 years of international involvement in the global HIV/AIDS response, including a decade living in the United States from 1996 to 2006. During that decade, she was invited as a visiting scientist to teach at UC Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz and also collaborates with the CDC and conducted research at CAPS in San Francisco. Her research has focused on HIV counseling protocols therapeutic education to improve adherence to HIV medications, psychosocial support, and strengthening health systems in countries with limited healthcare resources. She co-authored a randomized clinical trial (*HIV Clinical Trials*, 2003) demonstrating the effectiveness of counseling in improving therapeutic adherence. She has also designed and implemented therapeutic education programs in nine African countries.

Since 2017, she has expanded her work into oncology, focusing on cancer recovery, return-to-work trajectories, and the epistemological recognition of experiential knowledge in care pathways. She conceived and created a competency assessment center specifically for individuals

who has experienced cancer. She develops training programs in both national and international companies in cancer and work.

She is currently an awardee and scientific partner in two Horizon Europe projects focused on advancing patient engagement in clinical trials and on using artificial intelligence for risk prediction, care pathways and health decision-making. These projects contribute to transforming research ecosystems and strengthening participatory health governance in Europe.

She is the author of over 150 peer-reviewed publications and around fifteen books and professional guides, she contributes regularly to public health policy development at national and international levels. Her work aligns with ASU-GHI's priorities in global health, health governance, vulnerabilities and inequalities, and participatory and patient-engaged research.



Participant CVs & Abstracts and Session Names

[Session 1 “Global Health and Climate Change”](#)

[Session 2 “Access to Care”](#)

[Session 3: “Nutrition, Mental Health and Lifestyles”](#)

Session 1 “Global Health and Climate Change”

Session coordinators:

Kévin Jean, ENS PSL

Joy Monteiro, IISER Pune

Giovanna Fancello, Sorbonne University

Conference Talks

- 1- Urban Heat and Vulnerable Populations in France: Impacts on Hospitalisation, Mortality and Medication Use, **Giovanna Fancello, Institut Pierre Louis de Santé Publique, Sorbonne University**
- 2- Health co-benefits of improved air quality under various trajectories toward net-zero emission by 2050 in France and India, **Ayushi Sharma, ENS PSL**
- 3- Characterization of African Neglected Arboviruses with Urban Transmission Potential, **Dimitri Lavillette, ENS de Lyon**
- 4- SHAPE-Med@Lyon: Setting up a transdisciplinary and transectoral One Health ecosystem in Lyon **Fabrice Vavre, University of Lyon 1**
- 5- Making the Invisible Visible, **Saurabh Tewari, IIT Delhi**
- 6- Climate adaptation and mental health - a case study from the Thar desert, **Farhana Ibrahim, IIT Delhi**
- 7- Integrative Approaches to Ecosystem Functioning in Agro-ecosystems and its consequences on rural south indian communities - presentation of the Indo French Cell for Water Science, Bangalore, **Samuel Abiven, ENS PSL**
- 8- Wasterwater reuse and livelihoods: exploring the linkages, **Bejoy Thomas, IISER Pune**

Session 1 Coordinators' Presentations

Kévin Jean

Epidemiologist and junior professor in Health and Global Change

IBENS, ENS PSL

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Kévin Jean is an epidemiologist and junior professor in Health and Global Change at IBENS (Institut de Biologie de l'Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris). In his research activities, he articulates epidemiological and mathematical modeling tools to evaluate prevention strategies, and especially to document the health co-benefits of climate change adaptation and mitigation policies. In particular, his works focuses on quantifying the public health implications of net zero emission scenarios through expected changes in various health determinants (air quality, diet, physical activity). His work has also focused on the prevention of infectious diseases and occupational diseases.

Joy Monteiro

Climate Scientist

IISER Pune

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Joy works as a climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Pune, India. His research focuses on the meteorology of extreme heat in South Asia and the associated health impacts on human physiology.

Giovanna Fancello

Junior Professor

Institute Pierre Louis d'épidémiologie et santé publique (IPLeSP)

Sorbonne University

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<https://www.iplesp.fr/equipes/nemesis>



Giovanna Fancello earned a PhD in Urban Planning from the University of Sassari in 2014. After a post-doc in Urban Planning in Italy, she continued her career in Paris, focusing on decision support for public policies and health geography at the Lamsade CNRS and Géocité CNRS laboratories in Paris. Since 2020, she has been working as a researcher at the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research, on the IPLESP (Institut Pierre Louis épidémiologie et santé publique), leading several projects dedicated to the effects of climate change, mobility and living environments on the health of vulnerable populations on a global health perspective. She is currently a junior professor at Sorbonne University.

1- Title: Urban Heat and Vulnerable Populations in France: Impacts on Hospitalisation, Mortality and Medication Use

Giovanna Fancello

Junior Professor

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Abstract: Climate change is driving global warming, with more frequent and intense heat waves impacting human health, particularly among vulnerable populations. While global average warming is about 1.3 °C, Europe experiences around 2 °C, and Mediterranean countries up to 3 °C. These spatial variations contribute to significant environmental and social inequalities in heat-related health outcomes. Urban heat islands and higher urban air pollution amplify these effects, increasing risks of heat stress, stroke, multi-organ dysfunction, and worsening chronic, neurological, cognitive, and mental conditions. Vulnerable populations are affected both directly by environmental exposures and indirectly through changes in daily behaviours. This presentation highlights my ongoing projects in France assessing heat-related morbidity and mortality in elderly people, patients with Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Lewy body dementia, and multiple sclerosis. Findings will inform personalized patient guidance, targeted interventions, and public health and urban planning policies.

2- Health co-benefits of improved air quality under various trajectories toward net-zero emission by 2050 in France and India



Ayushi Sharma completed her PhD in Environmental Engineering from Taiwan in 2024 and is currently a Postdoctoral Researcher at PARSEC (Paris Research on Health, Environment and Climate), hosted at the Institute of Biology of the École Normale Supérieure (IBENS), Université PSL, with support from Inserm and ENS-PSL. Her doctoral research examined the intersection of climate change and health, focusing on temperature-related impacts on mortality and infectious diseases. She now investigates the health co-benefits of improved air quality under trajectories toward net-zero emissions by 2050 in France, using advanced modeling to quantify reductions in premature mortality and gains in life expectancy.

Abstract: Achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 is a critical global objective to mitigate both climate change and air pollution. Since greenhouse gases and pollutants share sources, emission reductions deliver both climate stability and immediate health gains. In France, the ADEME Transition(s)2050 scenarios delineate alternative pathways toward carbon neutrality, and our study quantifies their health co-benefits. Model projections indicate substantial declines in PM_{2.5} concentrations, translating into significant reductions in premature mortality (~41,000 deaths) by 2050 in France. Comparative evidence from India based on literature suggests even greater benefits, with millions of deaths avoided and large life expectancy improvements. These findings demonstrate that diverse mitigation pathways, whether emphasizing behavioral sufficiency or technological innovation, converge on comparable health outcomes, suggesting the necessity of integrated, multi-sectoral policies that simultaneously advance climate and public health objectives.

3- Title: Characterization of African Neglected Arboviruses with Urban Transmission Potential

Dimitri Lavillette

PhD, Dr. habil

Director of International Center for Infectious Diseases Research (CIRI)

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Dimitri LAVILLETTE received his PhD in Molecular Virology in 2000 in Lyon (France). After his post doc in the laboratory of David Kabat (HIV-1, retroviruses and receptors; Portland, Oregon, U.S.A.), he secured a tenure staff scientist position at the National Center of Scientific Research in France (CNRS, 2003). He worked as a visiting Scientist in Mayo Clinic (Pr Vile, Rochester, Minnesota, USA) and Oxford University (Pr Zitzmann, Glycobiology institute, UK). He took a Professor position at the Pasteur Institute Shanghai – Chinese academy of Sciences (IPS-CAS, China) to lead the “Interspecies transmission of arboviruses and antivirals” unit (2014-2022), then he was appointed as Chief Scientific Officer in Pasteur Institute Korea (2022-2024). Since April 2025, he is the director of the International Center for Infectious Diseases Research (CIRI, Lyon, France; <https://ciri.ens-lyon.fr/>).

Having worked on the entry process and development of antivirals against major virus threats (HIV, HCV), he decided recently to develop works on emerging and re-emerging viruses. His global project explores: i) the role of key viral and host determinants for human spillover, ii) the development of preventive and therapeutic strategies, iii) the characterization of neglected viruses in the context of a preparedness program.

Abstract: To prevent scientists and public health officials from being caught off guard, a preparedness strategy is essential to characterize previously unrecognized arboviruses with urbanization potential. Based on field studies conducted by Institut Pasteur Dakar and on genomic sequence data, we have developed molecular tools to better characterize under-studied arboviruses that are recurrently isolated from mosquitoes and rodents living in close proximity to humans.

As a proof of concept for our preparedness program, the Babanki alphavirus (BBKV), first isolated in 1969 from the mosquito *Mansonia africana* in Cameroon, was analyzed and compared to historical Sindbis virus strains. Differences in tropism and pathogenesis were observed. The vector competence of mosquito species from various geographical locations in Europe and French overseas territories was assessed at Institut Pasteur Paris, indicating that BBKV has the potential to expand its geographic range.

Other “neglected” alphaviruses are currently under study, providing critical insights that will help anticipate and guide responses to unexpected outbreaks.

4- Title: SHAPE-Med@Lyon: Setting up a transdisciplinary and transectoral One Health ecosystem in Lyon

Fabrice Vavre,
CNRS research director in evolutionary biology
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Fabrice Vavre is a CNRS research director in evolutionary biology and the director of the LBBE, a laboratory working at the interface of ecology, evolution, health, and methodological developments in mathematics, statistics, and informatics. His research focuses on species interactions, particularly between insects and symbiotic bacteria, in order to understand the factors that drive these interactions towards cooperation or conflict. He is also heavily involved in developing integrated 'One Health' approaches, both by coordinating the academic projects SHAPE-Med@Lyon and InfectioTron led by the University of Lyon 1 and by participating in the 'One Health' axis of the Ville de Lyon's local health

contract.

Abstract: While the urgency to develop One Health approaches is reaching consciousness, there are still obstacles to its implementation. In this talk, I will present the SHAPE-Med@Lyon project, coordinated by the University of Lyon 1, which aims to develop a transdisciplinary community enabling a systemic approach to health and well-being by linking 5P medicine and 'One Health' approaches. I will also discuss how SHAPE-Med@Lyon's emergence has greatly facilitated interactions with local authorities and the development of cross-sectoral cooperation.

5- Making the Invisible Visible

Saurabh Tewari

DeSH Lab, Department of Design

IIT Delhi

Prof. Maarten Van Acker

Research Group for Urban Development

University of Antwerp

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Saurabh Tewari, PhD, is a faculty member in the Department of Design at IIT Delhi, where he works across design studies, communication design, and architecture. He studied architecture at SSAA Gurgaon and communication design at IDC, IIT Bombay, in 2010. After a stint in professional practice, he completed his PhD in Design at IIT Kanpur in 2021. He has been teaching and learning from students for more than fifteen years. His interests bring together questions of craft, sustainability, cities, and visual culture, and he enjoys working with colleagues from across diverse disciplines.

Saurabh has shared his work at conferences and workshops and has contributed to several collaborative projects in India and abroad. He recently hosted ICDHS14—the most prestigious conference on Cultures of Design, Design History, and Studies—in New Delhi in October 2025. He has received several grants and awards, most recently the Global Minds Research Scholar award from the University of Antwerp and a grant from the IITD-TU Delft collaboration on integrating Big Data and Thick Data. He is currently involved in writing and editorial projects focused on sustainability and design education.

See more at www.stewari.in and www.deshlab.in

Abstract: This research investigates the Bhalswa landfill settlement in Delhi—where a mountain of waste becomes a landmark of invisibility—to examine urban health through human, environmental, and systemic lenses. Residents face chronic exposure to air and groundwater contamination, respiratory illness, toxic gases, and mental distress, conditions exacerbated by the deliberate absence of basic services. Through participatory design and ethnographic engagement, the study reframes urban design not as a formal exercise but as the *politics of visibility, infrastructure, and survival*. It foregrounds how residents configure improvised infrastructures—such as water sourcing, ventilation, and communal waste sorting—constituting a practice of everyday resistance.

Drawing on frameworks of “urban design as a tool of exclusion and resistance,” it repositions design as an act of care, revealing how communities transform infrastructural voids into survival ecologies. Comparative insights from European contexts help challenge North-centric urban resilience models. By centring lived experience and situated knowledge—such as livestock systems and child-centred aesthetics of health—the research develops a Southern epistemology of resilience. This offers actionable pathways for equitable health futures in the margins of India’s expanding cities.

6- Climate adaptation and mental health - a case study from the Thar desert

Farhana Ibrahim

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

IIT Delhi

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Farhana Ibrahim is Professor of sociology and anthropology at IIT Delhi. Her research interests include the study of borders, policing, migration and ethnographic perspectives on the state. Her first book, 'Settlers, Saints, and Sovereigns: An Ethnography of State Formation in Western India' (Routledge 2009) is based on ethnographic research among Muslim pastoral communities in Gujarat along the Kutch - Sindh border. Her second book, *From Family to Police Force: Security and Belonging on a South Asian Border* (Cornell University Press, 2021) is an ethnography of policing, civil-military relations, kinship and surveillance on a south Asian borderland. She has also edited (with Tanuja Kothiyal) *South Asian Borderlands: Mobility, History, Affect* (Cambridge University Press, 2021) and has edited *Studies in Religion and the Everyday*, published by Oxford University Press, 2024. Currently she is conducting research on the Thar Desert, looking at questions of climate, adaptation and human-animal relationships.

Abstract: This paper draws on ethnographic research conducted among pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in the Thar—the great desert region that stretches across western India and Pakistan. Traditionally a dry, arid region, communities (both human and animal) were adapted to the desert climate. In recent years, state interventions, e.g., the Indira Gandhi Canal Project, established to provide irrigation to this region, has altered the climate ecosystem due to year-round availability of water for cultivation. Furthermore, global climate change has impacted the region, which now receives much greater amounts of rainfall than ever before. This paper explores climate related adaptation at the community level to explore the impact of these large-scale changes on the health and resilience of local communities. The paper draws on literature in medical anthropology to argue that psychic worlds are intimately linked to the social and seeks to further an understanding of mental health conditions that afflict populations rather than individuals, in incremental everyday ways, rather than only after cataclysmic events such as floods or earthquakes.

Title 7: Integrative Approaches to Ecosystem Functioning in Agro-ecosystems and its consequences on rural south indian communities - presentation of the Indo French Cell for Water Science, Bangalore

Samuel Abiven

Research professor

Department of Geosciences

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Samuel Abiven is a research professor at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, department of geosciences, specializing in biogeochemical cycles, particularly carbon and nitrogen in terrestrial ecosystems. He is also the unit director at the CERECP Ecotron Île de France ecological station. His research interests include plant-soil interactions, pyrogenic carbon, and carbon persistence in terrestrial and aquatic environments.

Abstract: This presentation aims at giving an overview of the work done at the Indo-french cell for water science, a international research group focussing on environmental issues, based in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The Indo-French Cell for Water Science in Bangalore conducts collaborative research on environmental science, focussing on agro and natural ecosystems. It fosters scientific exchange between Indian and French researchers, focusing on water quality, agricultural practices, pollution control, and more fundamental questions on ecosystem functioning. This presentation will give an overview of our activities and the links with global health.

Title 8: Wasterwater reuse and livelihoods: exploring the linkages

Bejoy Thomas

Associate Professor in Humanities and Social Sciences

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Dr. Bejoy Thomas is Associate Professor in Humanities and Social Sciences at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Pune (IISER Pune), India. He is trained in economics and development studies, and has two decades of experience in research and outreach on environment and development. He holds a PhD from Tilburg University, The Netherlands and was previously Fellow at ATREE Bengaluru, India. He has also been Visiting Fellow at the Water Institute, University of Waterloo, Canada and the Liu Institute for Global Issues, The University of British Columbia, Canada. He looks at water management in an integrated manner taking a river basin perspective, in collaboration

with engineers and environmental scientists. His research spans across different scales, national, regional, and local, with fieldwork in different parts of India, including Cauvery and Krishna basins, Kuttanad/Vembanad wetlands and peri-urban areas of Bengaluru. He has been an elected executive committee member of Indian Society for Ecological Economics, member in the Government of Karnataka committee to develop an action plan to meet the UN SDG – 2, and a contributing author to the Working Group II report of IPCC AR6.

Abstract: There is a general agreement that effective water management needs interdisciplinary approaches and integrated thinking. However, policy discourses around river sustainability and water management in India are primarily centred around sectors and users. I take the specific case of wastewater reuse, its potential, and risks, to illustrate this. Drawing upon cases from across India, and specifically from field research conducted in villages downstream of Bangalore city, I show how river health, water treatment infrastructure, livelihoods, and human well-being (including health) are interlinked. With climate change adding another layer to the existing stressors, planning future policy pathways is extremely complex. I conclude by arguing that this involves keeping normative principles viz., equity, fairness, and sustainability, as the basis of water policies and practice.



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Session 2 “Access to Care”

Session coordinators:

Françoise Guillo, Sorbonne University

Angelie Multani, IIT Delhi

Mariappan Muthiah, TISS

Conference Talks

- 1- Enabling Healthcare Access in Rural India: The Role of Health-Tech Startups, **Vigneswara Ilavarasan, IITD**
- 2- Health, Jobs, and Justice for the Young: An Agenda for India and the World, **Jayan Jose Thomas, IITD**
- 3- Access to Maternal Healthcare: India's progress and opportunities, **Mariappan Muthiah, TISS**
- 4- IVF Success: A Global Approach, Catherine **Laffineur Université Côte d'Azur**
- 5- Making AI Inclusive: Generalization and Equity in Neuroscience, **Sandeep Kumar, IITD**
- 6- The Price to Access Care: One Health's Economics, **Thomas Maillet Mezeray, ENS PSL**
- 7- Promoting Access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to Improve HIV Prevention among Cisgender Female Sex Workers in France and Brazil, **Dulce Ferraz, Lyon 2**

Session 2 Coordinators' Presentations

Françoise Guillo

Medical Director, Students health department

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Currently, Dr Françoise GUILLO-BENAROUS serves as the Medical Director for the Students Health Department at Sorbonne University in Paris, where she is also the Deputy Director at the ASU GHI, Sorbonne University Global Health Institute. Her career spans work in healthcare, clinical research, and education across France, the US, and China, focusing on care and public health missions. Notably, she previously developed and taught Global Health courses at New York University Shanghai, establishing a Global Health Track there. Her current professional focus centers on addressing the health and critical life choices of college students through a global health perspective.

Angelie Multani

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Angelie Multani teaches literature at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. She has studied at St. Xavier's College, Bombay and at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her PhD was on the politics of performance and production of English language plays in Delhi and Bombay in the 1990s. She has published extensively on the work of Mahesh Dattani, one of India's foremost playwrights, and also on modern Indian theatre. Her current research interests range from contemporary fiction and fantasy literature to questions of marginality in literature.

Professor Mariappan Muthiah
Professor and Dean of the School of Health Systems Studies
Dean of Students' Affairs
Project Director of Saksham
Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)
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Professor Mariappan Muthiah is currently serving as Professor and Dean of the School of Health Systems Studies, Dean of Students' Affairs, and Project Director of Saksham (a TB and HIV monitoring and training Project) at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). He has demonstrated substantial international engagement in healthcare management, education, and policy. He designed and implemented an Executive Postgraduate Diploma in Hospital Administration for directors of medical and administrative services in India and Afghanistan, as well as a Postgraduate Diploma in Healthcare Quality Management, providing advanced training to meet the country's unique needs, particularly all Healthcare Quality Management professionals.

1- Title: Enabling Healthcare Access in Rural India: The Role of Health-Tech Startups

P. Vigneswara Ilavarasan (PhD - IIT Kanpur)

Abdulaziz Alsagar Chair Professor at the Dept. of Management Studies,

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P. Vigneswara Ilavarasan (PhD - IIT Kanpur) is Abdulaziz Alsagar Chair Professor at the Dept. of Management Studies, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. He researches and teaches about the interaction of digital technologies, society and business. Prof Ilavarasan is one of the top 2% cited scholars in the world in 2022, 2023 and 2024 as per the Elsevier & Stanford study. He has been a Visiting Research Fellow at the United Nations University (Macau), Curtin University (Perth), the University of Queensland (Brisbane) and University of Huddersfield (UK). He is a recipient of the Outstanding Young Faculty Fellowship Award at IIT Delhi, and Prof. M.N. Srinivas Memorial Prize of the Indian Sociological Society. He is also a Senior

Research Fellow at LIRNEasia, a leading regional ICT policy and regulation think tank. He has received large research grants from Dept of Science & Technology (Govt of India), ICSSR (India), IDRC (Canada), Oxford Analytica (UK), IPTS (European Commission), CIPPEC (Argentina), Ford Foundation, PwC India and others. His research has appeared in all the leading international journals and conferences of repute. Further details are at:<https://web.iitd.ac.in/~vignes/>

Abstract: India's rural healthcare system continues to be inadequate due to uneven demand and supply. Despite the available disposable income among the rural population, access to quality healthcare remains limited. Public healthcare infrastructure is inadequate, and rural markets are generally perceived as economically unviable by traditional private healthcare providers. The inequitable rural healthcare needs solutions.

The gap is seemingly addressed by health-technology startups—entrepreneurial ventures that leverage scalable digital platforms to deliver innovative healthcare solutions. Supported by venture capital and other forms of external funding, they offer a diverse range of services, including telemedicine consultations, diagnostic and pathology services, digital health record management, insurance facilitation, and remote access to specialized care from tertiary hospitals.

Through technology-driven and scalable service models, these startups have the potential to significantly transform rural healthcare delivery in India. A review of the landscape infers that health-tech startups are enabling the same. The paper draws on secondary data and presents findings from two primary empirical studies conducted by the author. It also identifies the critical success factors that underpin the growth and effectiveness of health-tech startups operating in rural India. The paper also lists research questions for future research.

2- Title: Health, Jobs, and Justice for the Young: An Agenda for India and the World

Jayan Jose Thomas

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Jayan Jose Thomas is a Professor of Economics at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, where he has been employed since 2010. Jayan had also served as a Member of the State Planning Board, Government of Kerala during 2016-2021. Through his research, Jayan has tried to address development problems, particularly those related to labour and industrialization, from a macroeconomic perspective. Indian economy, issues in international development, and macroeconomic theory have been among his core research and teaching interests over the years. His previous academic positions include a four-year-long stint with the National University of Singapore. Jayan's research papers have appeared in reputed journals including *World Development*, *Development and Change*, and *Economic and Political Weekly*.

Jayan contributes regularly to media outlets, particularly the *Hindu*, and his research has been cited widely, including in the international media.

Abstract: India, which accounts for a fifth of the world's young population (15-to-29-year-olds), faces enormous challenges in creating jobs and ensuring health and climate justice for all. The proposed talk will draw from my long-standing research about India's labour market, which is partly based on an analysis of the country's official employment statistics. My colleagues and I have also carried out a two-year-long field study on migrant workers who travel long distances across India in search of employment in low-wage sectors. Our findings show that India risks losing its demographic window of opportunity due to the low rate of job creation in the country as well due to the existing structural inequalities along the lines of gender, caste and class. The vulnerability of the migrant workers arises from impoverishment in rural areas, a crisis in agriculture worsened by frequent floods, droughts and other climate risks, and inadequate social security protection for workers and their families. Despite working for long hours in unhealthy conditions, India's informal workers receive low wages, live in tiny cramped spaces, and they have poor access to food, drinking water, education, and health. We argue that increasing public expenditures on health, education and other social sectors will be crucial for ensuring social justice, boosting aggregate demand, and realizing the demographic dividend in India. The case of medical education provides an illustration. India has only 0.7 doctors per 1000 population, while the corresponding figure is 2.4 for China, 3.6 for the US and 8.4 for Cuba. At the same time, only around 2% of the close to two million candidates who write the national test for admission to undergraduate programmes in medicine manage to secure a seat in a government college in India (in 2022). With greater public spending, India can at once meet the rising demand for medical education and improve the supply of medical professionals, which is critical for assuring health for millions.

3- Title: Access to Maternal Healthcare: India's progress and opportunities

Professor Mariappan Muthiah

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Professor Mariappan Muthiah is currently serving as Professor and Dean of the School of Health Systems Studies, Dean of Students' Affairs, and Project Director of Saksham (a TB and HIV monitoring and training Project) at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). He has demonstrated substantial international engagement in healthcare management, education, and policy. He designed and implemented an Executive Postgraduate Diploma in Hospital Administration for directors of medical and administrative services in India and Afghanistan, as well as a Postgraduate Diploma in Healthcare Quality Management, providing advanced training to meet the country's unique needs, particularly all Healthcare Quality Management professionals. His cross-cultural expertise includes consultancy, research, and capacity-building programs in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh. Professor Mariappan participated in faculty exchange programs at the London School of Economics (TISS-LSC collaboration, 2010) and served as a Visiting Fellow at the Health Systems Management Centre, University of Birmingham (2014). He was the founding Dean of the School of Management and a significant contributor to the development of The Apollo University, Andhra Pradesh (2022- 2024). These experiences enabled him to integrate comparative global perspectives into healthcare policy development, reflecting his commitment to advancing healthcare standards, developing healthcare leadership, and fostering international collaboration across South Asia and beyond.

Abstract: Access to maternal care brings a number of barriers that bring challenges to pregnant women during pregnancy and childbirth. The Indian public health system has been addressing these issues through appropriate methods. As a result, over the past three decades, the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has decreased significantly. According to the World Bank, the MMR has fallen from around 374 deaths per 100000 live births in 2000 to 113 in 2016. According to the SRS report, 88 per 100,000 live births were recorded in 2020-22. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has an estimate to achieve 80 per 100,000 live births. This suggests that there are substantial opportunities for providing safe and secure healthcare and maternal healthcare support in India. This paper addresses the challenges and opportunities for delivering the best maternal care and ensuring access to it for every woman in India.

4- Title: IVF Success: A Global Approach

Catherine Laffineur, PhD in Economics

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Catherine Laffineur is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Côte d'Azur and an affiliate researcher at the CNRS-GREDEG. She holds a PhD from Paris-Dauphine University. She has been a research fellow at emlyon business school and at the University of California San Diego. Her research interests include organizational resilience, firms' organizational choices, and the consequences of firms' internationalization strategies on the labor market. Her research has been published in the Journal of Business Venturing, Industrial Relations, Small Business Economics, and the Review of World Economics. She recently joined the Chaire Prévention et Accès aux Soins at the University of Côte d'Azur, which promotes a global approach to health issues, including socioeconomic determinants and access to healthcare.

Abstract: In this paper, we propose a new methodological approach offering a more comprehensive and robust identification of the factors influencing IVF success. To do so, we build a unique dataset of nearly 3,000 patients undergoing embryo transfer. This dataset combines detailed patients' medical records with their exposure to air pollutants as well as socio-economic information. We then implement a control-function approach designed to address both endogeneity and heteroskedasticity issues in order to more precisely evaluate each factor's effect. Our results provide two main takeaways. First, common econometric methods used in the literature bias the estimated influence of key IVF success factors (age and duration of clinical management). Second, we highlight the importance of employing a global perspective, as medical, socio-economic, and air-pollutant factors all matter. Location-based factors therefore appear crucial to better understanding IVF success.

5- Title: Making AI Inclusive: Generalization and Equity in Neuroscience

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Dr. Sandeep Kumar is an Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Yardi School of Artificial Intelligence at IIT Delhi, and leads the Machine Intelligence Signals and Networks (MISN) Lab. His research focuses on Graph Machine Learning, with emphasis on scalable graph coarsening, graph neural networks, and structure learning for large and dynamic networks. His work advances core algorithmic foundations while solving challenges in public health, neuroscience, finance, communication systems, and national security, supported through major government and industry collaborations. He is the Lead Investigator of Adi Vaani, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, developing multilingual AI technologies for low-resource tribal and regional languages to drive digital inclusion and cultural preservation. His broader vision centers on responsible and accessible AI that empowers underserved communities and strengthens societal resilience. A dedicated educator and mentor, Dr. Kumar teaches core courses in Machine Learning and Optimization, and contributes actively to national AI capacity building through interdisciplinary collaborations, policy advisory efforts, and skill-development initiatives. His work exemplifies how theoretical excellence and societal relevance can jointly shape an inclusive and equitable digital future

Abstract: Artificial intelligence holds substantial promise for advancing global health, yet existing models often fail to generalize across diverse populations, which risks perpetuating or widening health inequities. This talk presents recent research on developing AI systems that are both generalizable and equitable, with a focus on neurological analysis using functional MRI data. Graph-based methods are introduced to address distributional shifts, incorporate social determinants of health, and evaluate fairness using metrics that extend beyond standard accuracy measures. The framework enhances subgroup generalization on real-world datasets that capture variability in age, education, and gender. In addition, a self-supervised learning strategy is discussed that leverages abundant unlabeled data while explicitly promoting equitable performance across subpopulations. These contributions are particularly relevant for global health ecosystems characterized by resource constraints and demographic diversity. The talk advocates equitable generalization as a foundational requirement for responsible and globally impactful health AI.

6- Title: The Price to Access Care: One Health's Economics

Thomas Maillet Mezeray,

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A graduate in philosophy from the École Normale Supérieure, Thomas Maillet-Mezeray turned his research towards health following a period at the French National Consultative Ethics Committee for Life Sciences and Health (CCNE) and at the National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM). In September 2024, he began a PhD in social sciences at the École Normale Supérieure under the supervision of Emmanuel Didier and Frédéric Keck, focusing on how the One Health approach has been constructed by one of its founding figures, veterinarian and professor of epidemiology Jakob Zinsstag. Positioned at the crossroads of science and technology studies and medical anthropology, his research has led him to carry out fieldwork in Switzerland (January–February 2025) and Mongolia (March 2025) in

order to better understand the strategies implemented by certain public health actors to promote the One Health approach within the field of global health.

Abstract: Gradually establishing itself within the field of global health over the past twenty years, One Health is defined as an “integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems” (OHHLEP). Social sciences have engaged with this new paradigm in public health, exploring the types of ontologies and epistemologies involved, the reconfiguration of human-animal relations, and the socio-political transformations of epidemiological surveillance systems. However, no research has addressed the economic analyses advanced by One Health proponents. This talk will present the econometric and accounting originality of One Health, based on an analysis of the scientific literature as well as interviews and observations conducted within the One Health unit led by veterinarian and epidemiologist Jakob Zinsstag at the Swiss TPH in Basel, Switzerland. We will demonstrate that one of the contributions of One Health is to construct the profitability of health interventions not by innovating technically to make them more cost-effective, but by linking costs and benefits that had previously not been brought into relation.

7- Title: Promoting Access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) to Improve HIV Prevention among Cisgender Female Sex Workers in France and Brazil

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Dulce Ferraz is a social psychologist with a Ph.D. in Public Health. She currently holds a tenure-track position (Junior Professor) at the Institut de Psychologie – Université Lumière Lyon 2 and is a member of the RESHAPE (RESearch for HeAlthcare PERformance) research unit (Inserm U1290). She is also an Associate Professor at Fiocruz in Brasília, Brazil, and serves as Executive Editor for the journal Global Public Health.

Her research focuses on the psychosocial dimensions of health, with particular attention to infectious diseases (HIV, COVID-19, and emerging diseases). Conducted primarily through scientific collaborations between Brazil and France, her work explores participatory and community-based

approaches, emphasizing the value of local knowledge in the design and implementation of public health policies, as well as the psychosocial processes to empower communities improve their collective health. In her latest research she aims to expand the benefits of this community-based, psychosocial approaches to health by integrating the with One Health approaches, broadening the understanding of health.

Abstract: Daily oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a highly effective HIV prevention method. Despite its availability through the public health systems in both Brazil and France, PrEP adoption remains limited among cisgender female sex workers (CFSW)—a group facing a disproportionately high risk of HIV infection. To improve PrEP access among CFSW, we developed a community-based, interventional research project structured in two phases. In the first phase, we established a network of experts, including CFSW, healthcare providers, policymakers, and researchers, to co-develop an intervention aimed at facilitating PrEP access for CFSW in three cities: Lyon (France), São Paulo, and Salvador (Brazil). This stage involved (1) mapping existing interventions targeting PrEP and sex workers through both a scoping review and local assessments in each city; (2) organizing consultations with community leaders, healthcare workers, and HIV policymakers to identify ongoing initiatives, key challenges, and opportunities for innovation; and (3) collaboratively designing an intervention model to be tested. The second phase, scheduled to begin in 2026, will consist of a demonstration study to test this co-developed intervention, which includes three core components: peer navigation; community empowerment activities; and linkage to PrEP services. The intervention will be implemented at three community-based healthcare facilities: AHF (São Paulo), PrEPPara (Salvador), and Le Griffon (Lyon). A combination of quantitative and qualitative methods will be used to evaluate the intervention's effectiveness in improving PrEP access and engagement.

Session 3 “Nutrition, Mental Health, Lifestyles”

Keynote speaker:

Catherine Tourette-Turgis

Session coordinators:

Alexandre Escargueil, Sorbonne University

Kiran Padmanabhan, ENS de Lyon

Divya Dwivedi, IIT Delhi

Conference Talks

- 1- Paving the way to Dementia-Inclusive Societies thanks to brain health, **Eleonore Bayen, Sorbonne Université**
- 2- Positive Psychology and Mental Health: Integrating Cultural Wisdom with Scientific Practice, **Kamlesh Singh, IIT Delhi**
- 3- Photocaged amino-acids and peptides for the control of biological interactions, **Nicolas Bogliotti, ENS Paris-Saclay**
- 4- Changes and continuity in traditional foodways and indigenous nutrition through archaeological lenses from India and Canada, **Kalyan Chakraborty, Ashoka University**
- 5- Investigation of optimism biases in value-based, dietary decision-making, **Liane Schmidt, Paris Brain Institute**
- 6- Modeling malnutrition in juvenile mice: sex matters, **Filipe De Vadder, ENS de Lyon**
- 7- The Role of Vitamin B12 in Health: Fortifying Functional Foods to Mitigate Cardiovascular Disease Risk, **Krishnan Venktaraman, VIT Vellore**

Session 3 Coordinators' Presentations

Alexandre Escargueil

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Alexandre Escargueil holds a PhD in molecular and cellular biology. During his career, he carried out his research activities in France, England and Brazil. In 2008, he joined Sorbonne University (SU) and became full professor in Cancer Biology and Genetics in 2014. His work is focused on the interplay between cancer biology and therapeutics. Since 2012, he is member of the Strategic Guidance Council of the “Institut Universitaire de Cancérologie” (APHP-Sorbonne University) and became its education director in 2021. In 2015, he created the bachelor in Innovate Public Health Sciences and co-founded in 2020 the Biomedical Humanities Initiative. In 2023, he was nominated scientific co-Coordinator of the “Global approach to Health” program run at SU and in 2025, he joined the newly created Alliance Sorbonne University Global Health Institute as a member of its executive committee. Finally, since 2022, he is co-coordinating the French-Indian “Integrated Health” program gathering together SU and IIT Delhi.

Kiran Padmanabhan

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Kiran Padmanabhan is a Research Director at INSERM and a Group Leader at the Institute for Functional Genomics, Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon. Research in his group focuses on understanding the molecular basis for establishment of mammalian circadian rhythms and the consequences of circadian disruption on tissue aging and acceleration of pathophysiological states. The team actively collaborates with physicists who model chromatin dynamics and physicist-engineers who develop cutting-edge computational microscopy tools. They also work closely with clinician-scientists who investigate the etiology of cancers of the lung and liver and are exploring mechanisms by which circadian disruption exacerbates malignancy in the clinical setting.

Divya Dwivedi
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Divya Dwivedi is Professor of Philosophy and Literature at the Dept. of Humanities & Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. She is a member of the Steering Committee for the IITD-Sorbonne IntegratedHealth Campus, and represents IIT Delhi in the CHARM consortium for Health Humanities (Ghent University). She is the co-author of *Gandhi and Philosophy: On Theological Anti-Politics* (Bloomsbury Academic, London: 2019) and *Indian Philosophy, Indian Revolution: On Caste and Politics* (Hurst UK, Oxford University Press USA, Westland India: 2024). She is the editor of *The Virality of Evil: Philosophy in the Time of a Pandemic* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2022); and co-editor of *Jean-Luc Nancy, Anastasis de la pensée* (Edition Hermann, Rue de la Sorbonne, Paris:

2023), *Narratology and Ideology: Negotiating Context, Form and Theory in Postcolonial Texts* (Ohio State UP, 2018), and *Public Sphere from outside the West* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2015). Dwivedi has been elected member of the Executive Council, *International Society for the Study of Narrative (ISSN)* since 2022, and is also an Advisory Board member of the *Institute of Global Value Inquiry Berlin (IGVI)*, Global Advisory Board member of *The Cartography of the Political Novel in Europe (CAPONEU)*, Editorial Board member of *Humanities Arts and Society (HAS)* project and journal by UNESCO, invited member of UNESCO Women Philosopher's Network.

1- Title: Paving the way to Dementia-Inclusive Societies thanks to brain health

Eléonore Bayen

Professor of Medicine and director of the academic Physical & Rehab

Medecine Dept

Sorbonne University



Eléonore Bayen is Professor of Medicine and director of the academic Physical & Rehab. Medicine Dept at Sorbonne Université. She is the Head Director of the clinical Neuro-Rehab. Dept of Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital in Paris (specialized in Traumatic Brain Injury & severe acquired brain lesions). Eleonore holds a medical degree in Neurology (2008, UPMC, Paris), a PhD in Economics (2015, Université Paris-Dauphine) and a post-doctoral certification in Public Health (2017, UC San Francisco). She has published over 80 scientific articles in international journals as well as contribution to books and journals for the general public: her research focuses on traumatic brain injury, digital health technology to compensate disability, and analysis of chronic multimorbidity on administrative health & medico-economics data with the use of AI. At Sorbonne Université, Eléonore is Executive Board Member of the Global Health Institute (ASU-GHI) and serving on the organization's team of the SOUND initiative (an academic transformative project addressing scientific and societal challenges).

Abstract: In 2021, 57 millions people had dementia worldwide, over 60% of whom live in low-and-middle-income countries. In 2019, dementia cost economies globally 1.3 trillion US\$ among which over 50% of these costs are attributable to family caregivers. Projections show that 152 million people will be living with dementia by 2050. Dementia result from a variety of diseases and injuries, Alzheimer's disease accounting for more than 60%-70% of the cases (WHO). While there is no cure for dementia, research projects that up to 45% of dementia cases may be preventable by targeting modifiable risk factors (Lancet 2022). Yet, there is currently a low awareness among citizens of all ages about the link between lifestyles and dementia risk.

During her Fulbright fellowship in the US, Eleonore Bayen was selected to become an Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health and graduated from the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI, based at UC San Francisco & Trinity College Dublin), a life-long community of 300+ international leaders based in +65 countries that advance fairer, healthier and more inclusive societies worldwide. The GBHI takes an equity-based approach to improve brain health and to reduce the scale and impact of dementia worldwide, meaning outstanding scientific research & clinical collaborations, and also most importantly, supporting effective policy changes, advocacy & developing evidenced-based interventions in transdisciplinary domains (ie, improving brain health thanks to art, education, digital technology, etc). Eleonore will show how transferring research expertise in the domain of brain health thanks to implementation science is possible (e.g. the non-profit www.mybrainrobbie.org program she created with GBHI to raise awareness on modifiable factors associated with dementia risk), and how many other tools can be leveraged to create Dementia-Inclusive Societies and communities.

2- Title: Positive Psychology and Mental Health: Integrating Cultural Wisdom with Scientific Practice

Kamlesh Singh

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Dr. Kamlesh Singh's areas of interest include Positive Psychology, Psychometrics, and Psychological Interventions. In 2019, she received the prestigious Shane J. Lopez Award for Professional Contributions in Positive Psychology from the Section on Positive Psychology, American Psychological Association, recognizing her outstanding work in the field. She serves as a member of the Council of Advisors for the International Positive Psychology Association (IPPA). She has also co-founded the "National Positive Psychology Association" (NPPA; <http://nppassociation.org/>) with several leading experts in the discipline. Further details about her publications and academic activities are available on her webpage (<http://web.iitd.ac.in/~singhk/>).

Abstract: Positive Psychology (PP) offers a vital dimension to mental health - one that prioritizes human strengths, meaning, and wellbeing alongside clinical care. PP-based interventions have shown promise in addressing not just distress, but the broader pursuit of a good life. Drawing from fieldwork in India, this presentation explores how culturally rooted wellbeing-enhancing practices have been meaningfully integrated with established PP frameworks. Interventions emerging from socio-cultural as well as religious and spiritual practices reflect a growing synthesis of cultural nuance and scientific strategy. Positive technologies, including Indian digital initiatives involving mental health apps, serious games, conversational agents, and interactive platforms, further support this mission by making interventions accessible, engaging, and personalized. These approaches demonstrate how Positive Psychology can offer context-sensitive tools to support mental health within broader global health efforts. The talk argues for PP as a foundational pillar of sustainable, inclusive wellbeing.

3- Title: Photocaged amino-acids and peptides for the control of biological interactions

Nicolas Bogliotti

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Nicolas Bogliotti was born in Cannes (France) in 1980. He studied chemistry at Université Nice Sophia Antipolis, then at Université Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris), where he obtained a PhD in 2006 working in the field of Ru-catalyzed asymmetric ketone reduction and total synthesis of a natural product. After postdoctoral stays at ETH Zürich (Switzerland), studying the gelation properties of oligonucleotide analogues, and at Institut Curie (Paris, France) preparing gold nanorods–protein conjugates for cancer imaging and therapy, he was appointed assistant professor at ENS Cachan (presently ENS Paris-Saclay) in 2010. He obtained his “Habilitation à diriger des recherches” in 2018 and since then is developing research topics involving the design, synthesis and study of photosensitive molecular species whose properties and reactivity can be controlled upon light irradiation.

Abstract: Photoresponsive peptides have been the subject of intense research efforts due to their ability to modulate biological functions and self-assembly of artificial materials. Among them, “photocaged” peptides containing protecting groups that can be removed upon light irradiation, have received special interest in the context of activation of the biological processes.

This talk will present some recent aspects of our work towards photocaged amino-acids and peptides and will provide some perspectives of applications of light-controlled tools in a variety of domains.

4- Title: Changes and continuity in traditional foodways and indigenous nutrition through archaeological lenses from India and Canada

Kalyan Chakraborty

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Archaeological Scientist specializing in biomolecular archaeology, with expertise in lipid biomarkers, stable isotope, and protein analyses applied to the reconstruction of ancient diets, environmental change, and human-animal interactions in South Asia and North America. Focuses on sustainable, community-engaged archaeological science through collaborations with Indigenous and international partners.

Abstract: Traditional foods that are culturally defined and historically established play a significant role in the health and well-being of communities. Across the world, there is now an increased interest in returning to traditional diets, and the India's *millet drive* (***Shree Anna***), a national initiative by the Indian Government to revive millet's status as a staple food is an example of such an approach. Similarly, in Canada, recent efforts to revitalize traditional foodways have led to improvements in community health and well-being. The **"Healthy Roots"** initiative of Southern Ontario, rooted in the Six Nations community, sought to reconnect people with the knowledge of their ancestors through access to traditional foods, cultural activities, and a renewed sense of interconnectedness. It not only improved participants' health but also strengthened their Indigenous identity and connection to their ancestors. However, a critical question remains: how do we reconstruct Indigenous foodways in regions that have been extensively impacted by climate change, invasions, European colonization, population expansion, and the Industrial Revolution? Historical accounts and Indigenous knowledge can provide valuable insights into reconstructing Indigenous diets, but these sources are often fragmented and lack empirical grounding. In this presentation, I will highlight some of my work that uses biogeochemical techniques on archaeological remains to reconstruct continuity and change in traditional foodways in both India and Canada, and how these findings define Indigenous foodways and align with historical literature and Indigenous knowledge systems.

5- Title: Investigation of optimism biases in value-based, dietary decision-making

Liane Schmidt
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Dr. Liane Schmidt is a cognitive neuroscientist with expertise on decision making biases in humans. In her research she investigates the neural and cognitive processes that translate higher order beliefs about oneself, the future and others into choices, learning and the subjective perception of bodily states. Tackling this question from a cognitive neuroscience perspective is important to better understand how to foster behavioral change and maintain mental health. To this aim she combines behavioral testing with mathematical modelling of observed behavior and functional magnetic resonance imaging in healthy participants and patients with psychiatric or neurological disease.

Abstract: Humans often underestimate their risk of facing adverse future life events and tend to give more weight to favorable information when updating these beliefs, a phenomenon known as optimism bias (Weinstein, 1980). Optimism biases in risk estimations can hinder behavioral change and effective risk communication. This is particularly relevant in the context of food behavior, where unhealthy eating habits are linked to an increased risk of all-cause mortality and carry a substantial economic burden surpassing that of smoking and physical inactivity. Despite these risks, unhealthy eating behavior is rising globally. Here, we aim to test the hypothesis that dieting-related optimism biases food valuation, and this effect might differ with culture and socioeconomic status. We will present pilot results for a proof of concept obtained from a large cohort of participants recruited in India (n=109) and France (n=41). The findings from these results provide preliminary evidence that optimism in the updating of beliefs about eating-related health hazards moderate how much participants consider the healthiness of food during dietary decision-making.

6- Title: Modeling malnutrition in juvenile mice: sex matters

Filipe De Vadder

Integrative physiology of host-microbes' interactions

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Filipe obtained his PhD under the direction of Gilles Mithieux in Lyon in 2014. He studied how the peripheral nervous system around the intestine detects microbiota-derived nutrients, driving food intake and energy homeostasis. He then did a postdoc in Fredrik Bäckhed's lab in Gothenburg, where he studied how the gut microbiota induced maturation of the enteric nervous system through regulation of the secretion of serotonin. Since 2019, he has been working in François Leulier's lab in Lyon. Since obtaining a CNRS position in 2020, he has been exploring how protein energy malnutrition in early life impact mouse physiology. He defended his HDR in 2023 and he has directed two PhD theses.

Abstract: Protein energy malnutrition is a burden that currently affects millions of children worldwide. Consequences of malnutrition include stunting (low height-for-age) and immune and metabolic deficiencies. Modeling malnutrition in mice is a crucial step to understand the mechanisms driving the deleterious effects. Historically, physiology has mainly been studied on male animals, thus depriving from information related to sex-associated differences. Here, we have found that malnutrition differentially affects male and female mice, leading to metabolic trade-offs that may be rooted in evolutionary history.

7- Title: The Role of Vitamin B12 in Health: Fortifying Functional Foods to Mitigate Cardiovascular Disease Risk

Krishnan Venktaraman

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Research interest include- Lipid and Lipoproteins in metabolism, cellular signalling and its relevance in diabetes, CVD, obesity, auto-immune diseases and infectious diseases. (ii) Therapeutic protein production; (iii) Diagnostics (iv) Food and nutrition (v) Natural products research. Directed 12 Ph.Ds; 4 postdocs; currently directing 6 Ph.Ds; and a few master students.

Abstract: Lifestyle diseases, including type-2 diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular conditions, are becoming increasingly common worldwide. This trend is particularly evident in developing countries like India, where there are rapid demographic changes, urbanization, easy access to high-calorie foods, and sedentary lifestyles contribute to a swift epidemiological transition, heightening the risk of these diseases and their complications.

Vitamin B12, or Cobalamin, is a vital water-soluble micronutrient essential for DNA synthesis, red blood cell production, stamina, brain function, and cardiovascular health. It is predominantly found in animal-based foods such as meat and dairy products, and it is scarce in vegetarian and vegan diets. A deficiency in Vitamin B12, coupled with its limited availability due to certain medical conditions, can increase the risk of cardiovascular diseases.

This presentation will explore the significance of Vitamin B12 for cardiovascular health and discuss strategies to enhance its intake in vegetarian diets, ensuring adequate levels of this crucial vitamin for overall well-being.