



# Friends of MSF: Sustainability and Climate Change Conference

**25<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**Harris Lecture Theatre, Guy's Campus, King's College London, Great Maze Pond, London**

## Speakers List

### **Dr Amiera Sawas, BSc, MSc, PhD**

Senior Research and Policy Specialist  
ActionAid, London, United Kingdom

Dr Amiera Sawas is a researcher and communications professional with a focus on international development issues related to climate change, access to infrastructure, gender, and vulnerability. She is an expert in the NGO, international development and political sectors. Previously, Dr Sawas developed a conceptual framework and stakeholder ecosystem for a multi-year, multi-scale research programme on the linkages between climate change transitions, peace-building, and conflict.

### **Dr Emmanouil Athanasiou, MSc, PhD**

Advocacy Manager and Humanitarian Affairs Officer  
Medecins Sans Frontieres, France

Dr Emmanouil Athanasiou is a humanitarian affairs officer with an interest in advocacy, humanitarian affairs, public policies, and institutional relations. In his role with Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), he has been involved in the coordination of national, European and international advocacy campaigns. Before this, Dr Athanasiou dedicated his time to utilising his legal expertise as a consultant for human rights, IHL, humanitarian assistance, and international relations advocacy work. Dr Athanasiou has been responsible for many different geographies (Asia, Africa, and Europe) as well as different offices involving the death penalty, human rights defenders, women's rights, child protection, anti-terrorism, migration, and torture.

### **Professor Ilan Kellman, BSc, MSc, PhD**

Professor of Disasters and Health  
University College London, London, United Kingdom

Professor Ilan Kellman is a Professor of Disasters and Health at University College London, United Kingdom, and a Professor at the University of Agder, Norway. His overall research interest is linking disasters and health, including the integration of climate change into disaster research and health research. This covers three main areas: (i) disaster diplomacy and health diplomacy <http://www.disasterdiplomacy.org>; (ii) island sustainability involving safe and healthy communities in isolated locations <http://www.islandvulnerability.org>; and (iii) risk education for health and disasters <http://www.riskred.org>.

**Dr Lynne Jones, OBE, FRCPsych, PhD**

Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist  
Harvard University, USA

Dr Lynne Jones is a consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist, humanitarian relief worker, social anthropologist, and researcher. She is a writer with twenty years' experience in designing, setting up and running community-based mental health and psychosocial services for adults and children in low resource settings. These include conflict, post-conflict and disaster settings in Latin America, the Balkans, East and West Africa, the Middle East, and South East Asia. Dr Jones is also an experienced trainer of social workers, teachers, medical, paramedical, and volunteer staff. She is an experienced researcher with a PhD in the Social Sciences and a published writer of four non-fiction books and numerous articles, both mainstream and academic. In 2001, Dr Jones was awarded an OBE for services to child psychology and mental health in conflict-affected areas of Central Europe.

**Dr Mohammad Farwana, MBBS**

Foundation Doctor and Graduate Research Fellow  
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, United Kingdom

Dr Farwana is a King's College London graduate and a junior doctor working in London, currently in his F3 year. His YouTube channel (That Medic) is his platform in which he shares his experiences travelling as a medical student and now as a junior doctor.

Dr Farwana will be speaking in a small-group session about his medical elective in Khayelitsha, South Africa, and his work in an emergency medicine team. Shootings, stabbings, and violent crime are much more common in Khayelitsha, where resources are much more scarce. In this session, Dr Farwana will cover what it is like to work in an environment that is so different from the UK and whether he would or would not consider working in that environment again.

**Dr Robert Verrecchia, MBChB, BSc, MSc**

Board of Directors, Medecins Sans Frontieres  
Public Health Registrar at University College London, London, United Kingdom

Dr Robert Verrecchia is a public health registrar and medical doctor who sits on the board of directors for Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF). After graduating from Medicine in 2010, Dr Verrecchia went on to attain a distinction in a Diploma of Tropical Medicine and more recently has attained a Masters in Tropical Medicine. Dr Verrecchia started his medical career in South Africa and the Central African Republic while working for MSF. After returning to England, Dr Verrecchia leveraged his global experiences as a public health registrar for University College London and Public Health England.