

Speaker Biographical Information

Prof. Dr. Eric Sijbrands, MD, PhD

Eric Sijbrands is a Professor of Internal Medicine at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. He is the Head of the Division of Pharmacology, Vascular and Metabolic Diseases and the Head of the Erasmus Cardiovascular Genetics Department.

Prof. Sijbrands obtained his medical degree in 1990 and his PhD thesis focused on gene-gene and gene-environment interaction in patients with genetic hyperlipidemia. He was one of the founding members of the nationwide molecular diagnostics program for familial hypercholesterolemia, the first large-scale population-based genetic diagnostic screening program in the world. Prof. Sijbrands currently supervises a research group working in the field of genetic epidemiology of cardiovascular disease, cardiomyopathies, endothelomics, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, and diabetes mellitus.

Prof. Dr. Nicole Probst-Hensch, MPH, PhD

Nicole Probst-Hensch is the Head of the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at the Swiss Tropical and Public Health (Swiss TPH) Institute and a Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at the Medical Faculty, University of Basel, Switzerland.

Prof. Probst-Hensch holds doctorates in pharmaceutical sciences (ETH Zürich/University of Basel) and in epidemiology (UCLA, Los Angeles, California). Her first appointment was as an Assistant Professor at USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center in Los Angeles. While she was an Associate Professor at the Medical Faculty, University of Zürich, Switzerland, she established and was the first director of the National Institute of Cancer Epidemiology and Registration. She leads the Unit of Chronic Disease Epidemiology at Swiss TPH and she is responsible for a group working on genetic epidemiology of non-communicable diseases.

Prof. Dr. Pierre Chappuis, MD

Pierre Chappuis is a medical oncologist, Associate Professor in the Division of Oncology and in the Division of Genetic Medicine at the University Hospitals in Geneva (HUG), Switzerland. He is the head of the Oncogenetics and Cancer Prevention Unit, of the Molecular Tumor Board and of the Breast Center in his institution. Prof. Chappuis is responsible for the oncogenetics program at the HUG, focusing both on germline and somatic genetic alterations. He has authored several scientific publications in oncogenetics including the Swiss guidelines for counselling and testing for genetic predisposition to breast and ovarian cancer.

Valeria Viassolo, MD

Valeria Viassolo is an oncogeneticist at the University Hospital in Geneva (HUG), Switzerland since 2012. In 2003, Dr. Viassolo received her medical degree at the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery from the University of Genoa in Italy. During her studies she specialized in medical genetics and wrote her thesis on hereditary breast and ovarian cancer. She is member of the Network for Cancer Predisposition Testing and Counselling of the Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK) and focuses her activities in clinical practice and in clinical and translational research on genetic predispositions of cancer.

Prof. Dr. med. Dr. phil Karl Heinimann, MD, PhD

Karl Heinimann is a Professor of Medical Genetics at the University Hospital in Basel (USB) and the Department of Biomedicine at the University of Basel, Switzerland.

Prof. Heinimann has more than 15 years of experience in genetic counselling and testing of patients and families with genetic predisposition to Lynch syndrome. His main research interests lie in the characterization of the genetic basis of hereditary cancer and the understanding of the molecular

alterations occurring in these tumors. He is the Head of a center that offer genetic counseling and evaluation for genetic predisposition to Lynch syndrome.

Heather L. Hampel, MS, LGC

Heather Hampel is a Professor and Associate Director of the Division of Human Genetics at Ohio State University, USA, and a member of the Molecular Biology and Cancer Genetics Program at the OSUCCC – James, where she also serves as Associate Director for Biospecimen research.

Heather Hampel's research focuses on screening for Lynch syndrome in colorectal and endometrial cancer patients. She also is investigating the prevalence of hereditary cancer syndromes among unselected colorectal and endometrial cancer patients. She has an interest in improving cascade testing among at-risk relatives of patients diagnosed with hereditary cancer conditions. Heather Hampel has co-authored many articles in well-respected publications, including New England Journal of Medicine, JAMA Oncology, Cancer, Familial Cancer, Genetics in Medicine and Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Dr. Zanfina Ademi, MPH, PhD

Zanfina Ademi is Associate Professor of Health Economics at the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University in Australia.

Prof. Ademi conducted her PhD and post-doctoral fellowship at Monash University and the University of Melbourne, Australia. Prof. Ademi worked at the University of Basel, Switzerland as a senior scientist from 2014 to 2018, where she led projects addressing policy-relevant activities in the health economic domain, in cooperation with the Swiss Medical Board. Prof. Ademi returned to the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine in early 2018 as associate professor in Health Economics, where she is working on the assessment and economic evaluation of healthcare services, genomic technologies and precision medicine.

Prof. Dr. Simon Wieser, PhD

Simon Wieser is Professor for Health Economics at the Zurich University of Applied Sciences and Director of the Winterthur Institute of Health Economics in Switzerland, where he is the Head of Health Economic Research.

Prof. Wieser holds a Master degree in economics from the University La Sapienza in Rome and a PhD in economics from the University of Zurich. He previously worked as a researcher and lecturer at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH). His main research interests are in health economics, healthcare spending, health economic evaluations, health technology assessment, development of prospective payment systems, health economics of nutrition, and international price differentiation.

Prof. Dr. Victoria Champion, PhD, RN, FAAN

Victoria Champion is a Distinguished Professor of Nursing at the School of Nursing, Indiana University, USA, the Edward and Sarah Stam Cullipher Endowed Chair, and the Associate Director of Population Science at the Indiana University Simon Cancer Center.

Prof. Champion is recognized internationally as an expert in behavioral oncology research and is an accomplished senior mentor with significant leadership in cancer. Her program of research has provided a significant knowledge base from which to develop interventions that encourage primary and secondary cancer prevention activities, thus leading to the discovery of cancer at earlier and more curable stages. Her NIH funded research spans 33 years, in which in which studies are focused on decreasing cancer morbidity and mortality through screening and cancer survivorship.

PD Dr. Christian Kurzeder, MD, PhD

Christian Kurzeder is the leader of the Breast Center, Chief Physician of Senology and Deputy Chief Physician of Gynaecologic Oncology at the University Hospital in Basel, Switzerland.

Dr. Kurzeder is a member of the PHB Oncology Cluster, which has the goal to create a multidisciplinary center for translational cancer research in Personalized Health and Medicine. Dr. Kurzeder has authored more than 70 publications and he has focused on the clinical management of ovarian cancer.

Dr. Maria Caiata-Zufferey, PhD

Maria Caiata-Zufferey is Professor in Qualitative Research at the Social and Health Sciences, Department of Business Economics, Health and Social Care (DEASS) of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI), where she is also head of the Health Research Unit since 2015.

Prof. Caiata-Zufferey holds a PhD in social sciences from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. As a qualitative researcher, she is interested in understanding the experience of individuals and groups being studied. She has conducted research on patient self-management of chronic diseases and health risks. She is particularly interested in how women manage the uncertainty related to their genetic predisposition to breast and ovarian cancer, and in the role of patient-provider communication.

Prof. Dr. Laurel L. Northouse, PhD, RN, FAAN

Laurel Northouse is Professor Emerita at the School of Nursing at the University of Michigan, USA.

Prof. Northouse has conducted numerous studies to examine the effect of cancer on the family, and to identify patients and their family caregivers at higher risk of developing psychosocial distress following a cancer diagnosis. Over the past 20 years, she conducted numerous multisite randomized clinical trials to examine the efficacy and effectiveness of FOCUS, a family-based program of care for cancer patients and their family caregivers.

Prof. Dr. Maria C. Katapodi, PhD, RN, FAAN

Maria Katapodi is a Professor of Nursing Science at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Basel, Switzerland and an Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Michigan, School of Nursing, USA. She completed her Bachelors in Nursing at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece, and her Master's and PhD in Nursing at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF), San Francisco USA. She assumed her academic career at the University of Michigan, School of Nursing, USA before moving to the University of Basel in 2014.

Prof. Katapodi is interested in cancer prevention and control through public health and family-based interventions to improve awareness of hereditary cancer risk, use of cancer genetic services, and family communication. She leads the Swiss Cancer Predisposition Genetic Screening Consortium, a multidisciplinary initiative aiming to enhance translation of genetic and genomic discoveries into public health and clinical interventions.