



HEALTH DATA COLLABORATIVE

HDC Knowledge Café

Strengthening epidemiological data analyses globally – the experience from the *GRAPH Network*

Virtual Zoom Webinar

Date: Tuesday 7th June, 2022

Time: 16:00-17:00 CET (Geneva)

Background

The research group, the *Global Research and Analyses for Public Health (GRAPH) Network* is a multidisciplinary team of over 100 collaborators from 30+ countries whose overarching goal is to support epidemiological surveillance and analysis in resource-constrained settings around the world, thereby improving global capacity to respond to current and future disease threats.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the team was engaged in a WHO-funded effort to track the progression of COVID-19 in Africa and provide actionable insights to support the pandemic response in partner countries.

Based on experience supporting pandemic response, the GRAPH network discovered three crucial gaps in the ability of countries to process and analyze data for public health surveillance:(1) an under-utilization of programmatic tools for data cleaning, analysis, and reporting, (2) a shortage of personnel trained in programmatic data science, and (3) the dependence on external sources for epidemiological data analyses.

In response to these identified gaps, the network is developing the open-source training and data platforms that we will present on June 7th. They will also present their vision how this initiative could be scaled-up by working closely with countries and other partners.

For more details see the attached flyer.

Presenters

Professor Olivia Keiser, Epidemiologist

Olivia is an Associate Professor of Epidemiology at the Institute of Global Health, University of Geneva and the Director of the GRAPH Network. Dr. Keiser is also the Head of the Infectious Diseases and Mathematical Modelling Division where her group takes an interdisciplinary research approach by combining mathematical modelling (including cost-effectiveness analyses), analyses of cohort data, data-and text mining, systematic reviews, and qualitative research techniques. Predominant areas of focus include HIV, tuberculosis, and COVID-19; however, the



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group is expanding their work to other infectious diseases and is interested in studying the interaction between communicable and non-communicable diseases.

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Professor Flávio Codeço Coelho, Biologist

PhD (1999) in Quantitative Biology from The University of Texas at Arlington. MSC (1995) in Biomedical Engineering from The Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Associate Professor of Mathematical Epidemiology since 2010, at the School of Applied Mathematics at Fundação Getulio Vargas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Since 2021, Flávio coordinates the development of the EpigraphHub platform, an open-source tool for the integration and analysis of epidemiological data, at Olivia Keiser's research group at the

University of Geneva.

He has more than 15 years of experience in infectious disease Epidemiology, with a particular interest in Mosquito-borne diseases. He coordinates since 2014, the Infodengue platform, an Early-warning system for arboviral diseases in Brasil, that provides real-time epidemiological analyses to more than 5.3 thousand Brazilian municipalities. He is a specialist in large-scale, mathematical, statistical and computational analysis of public health data.

Contact: fcoelho@gmail.com

Kene Nwosu is an epidemiologist and data scientist from Nigeria who currently works in the division of Infectious Diseases and Mathematical Modelling at the Institute of Global Health. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Vassar College (New York) and a Master of Science in Global Health from the University of Geneva. As a former teacher and passionate data analyst, he is leading the online training platform of the GRAPH Network. In addition, he works on a project investigating the cascade of HIV care among key populations in Nigeria.
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