

Ethics review committee: Member biographies

At Marie Stopes International we are committed to improving the quality and quantity of our research, based on principles of medical and research ethics, in order both to improve services and share findings with the broader medical, scientific and NGO communities. The Ethics Review Committee independently reviews our research proposals, promoting implementation of ethically sound research across the organisation.

MSI Ethics Review Committee – Chair

A/Professor Leslie Cannold

(PhD Education, M. Bioethics, M. Arts, BA Psychology)

Leslie is a born and bred New Yorker whose been living and working in Melbourne Australia for the last thirty years. A veteran community of the Victorian Board of the Nurses and Midwifery Board of Australia and its notification and immediate action committees, she also uses her medical ethics background to good effect as a community member on the Victorian Mental Health Tribunal which safeguards the human rights of people being considered for compulsory treatment. She is a trained mediator, and mentors fiction and non-fiction writers through the Australian Society of Authors. Prior to that, Leslie was a research fellow at the Centre for Philosophy and Public Ethics at the University of Melbourne.

Leslie was the founding President of Reproductive Choice Australia and Pro-choice Victoria, grass roots activist groups that contributed to the successful effort to remove the effective ban on RU486 and decriminalise abortion in Victoria, and is the author of two non-fiction books on women's reproductive decision-making, as well as the historical novel *The Book of Rachael*.

Leslie's positive contributions to public life have been acknowledged through awards for Australian Humanist of the Year, an EVA award for gender-sensitive reporting and multiple notices as one of Australia's most influential public intellectuals and women. Leslie became the Chair of the MSI Ethics in Research Committee in 2016. She is currently working on her second novel about love, trust and betrayal set in contemporary times.



MSI Ethics Review Committee – Liaisons

Vice President and Director for MSI's Technical Services Department
Helen Blackholly (MSc, PhD)

Helen's role encompasses the development of partnership best practice and channel success models, and Helen leads the development of social marketing, client contact centre strategy, medical abortion core packages, global supply chain, and health financing to assist country programmes in leveraging domestic financing opportunities.

Helen brings more than 20 years of hands-on commercial experience, working in leadership roles across a range of retail and consumer goods manufacturing companies including Revlon UK, Colgate Palmolive, and Reckitt Benckiser. She has a MSc in Biological Anthropology from University College London and a PhD in Food Policy from the University of Bradford.



MSI Ethics Review Committee – Liaisons



Kathryn Church (Ph.D)

Director of Evidence to Action (Interim)

Coordinates a global team of 12 analysts, researchers, and systems experts. She also provides leadership to a wider global evidence network who work across MSI's 37 country programmes, and is jointly accountable for the running of MSI's ethics committee. The Evidence team at MSI is responsible for producing actionable insights, data analytics and operational research to support the work of Marie Stopes programmes. She has worked as a researcher and programme implementer in the sexual and reproductive health sector for the past 18 years. Previously she was an Assistant Professor in Sexual and Reproductive Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and has also worked in WHO's Department of Reproductive Health and Research. She has lived and worked in the UK, Switzerland, Swaziland, El Salvador and South Africa. She is a multi-disciplinary health services researcher, and uses both qualitative and quantitative methodologies to assess quality of care and client/patient demand for and use of reproductive health services.



Joan Summers (MA)

Director of Safeguarding and Protection

Joan Summers has over 35 year's experience as a senior manager in the field of international development, with extensive experience building coalitions with the UN, donors, NGOs and the private sector to build innovative responses to development challenges within in policy and programming. Having been with MSI since 2010 as both a Regional Director for South Asia, and International Programme Support Director; Joan's skills in institutional strengthening, capacity building and human resource development now see her heading up the Global Safeguarding and Protection Team. MSI's Safeguarding Framework works to promotes the safety and welfare of all MSI's clients, team members and stakeholders. Through the implementation of policies, procedures, training and appropriate reporting and investigation mechanisms, MSI ensures the protection of clients, team members and stakeholders from all forms of harm, including exploitation, abuse and harassment.

MSI Ethics Review Committee – Liaisons



Gemma Blakie (BA)

Ethics and Safeguarding Officer

Supporting both the Evidence to Action team and the Ethics Review Committee she works closely with the ERC Chair to ensure efficient operations of the committee. Whilst coordinating feedback between the ERC and MSI, she also facilitates capacity building on ethical approaches to research throughout MSI's Global Evidence Network. Gemma also supports the Safeguarding Programme; ensuring protective measures are in place to safeguard the clients, stakeholders and organizational reputation of MSI. Gemma comes from a background within HR and studied Sociology at the University of Birmingham, where she wrote a dissertation exploring how the male gaze polices female sexuality within higher education institutions and the consequential implications on wider society.

MSI Ethics Review Committee – Members



DEPUTY CHAIR

Dr. Clare Tanton (MSc, PhD)

Clare is an epidemiologist in the Tropical Epidemiology Group at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine with over 15 years' experience in the design, development, management, analysis and dissemination of large surveys and trials in the field of Sexual and Reproductive Health. She has worked both in the UK, as a core member of the British National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles, and within East and Southern Africa on a large sexual behaviour survey and an HIV prevention trial. She is currently working on a pilot trial of a Menstrual Hygiene management intervention in secondary schools in Uganda.



Dr. Emilomo Ogbe (M.D., M.A)

Dr. Emilomo Ogbe is a medical doctor and researcher with experience in Bioethics and sexual and Reproductive Health programme management, policy analysis and research in West and East Africa and South East Asia. She is a researcher at the University of Gent, where her research is focused on the influence of social networks on health decision making and utilisation of GBV services by refugees. The research combines qualitative and quantitative research methods. Prior to this, she worked as a consultant with the Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organisation, Geneva and as a Project coordinator for an EU FP7 project focused on postpartum maternal and infant health across 4 sub-Saharan African countries at the International Centre for Reproductive Health, University of Ghent, Belgium. She has co-coordinated and evaluated other sexual and reproductive health projects in Kenya, Nigeria, Philippines and the United Kingdom. focused on vulnerable groups She has also served on the working groups of different community engagement and ethics projects, based in sub-Saharan Africa, and is currently part of the EU Disaster Bioethics Working group.

MSI Ethics Review Committee – Members



Karen Newman (BA)

Karen is an international advocacy, policy, evaluation, governance and development professional with more than 25 years' experience managing health and human rights projects and programmes across the globe. A previous Co-Chair of the World Health Organization Gender & Rights Advisory Panel, and founder-member of the FP2020 Rights and Empowerment Working Group, Karen has written and published widely, and has taken leading media, policy and advocacy roles, including working with different governance committees to advance policies on a range of controversial issues, and negotiating at key international and UN conferences related to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Recent published work has included the creation, with a small group of colleagues, of a conceptual framework for voluntary, rights-based family planning programmes. Her technical skills combine sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV/AIDS, gender and human rights, with the emerging understanding of the links between population dynamics and sustainable development.



Dr. Fabian Cataldo (MA, MRes, Ph.D.)

Fabian is a social anthropologist specialised in questions related to health systems and access to treatment and care in middle and low-income countries. Over the past 15 years he has lived and undertaken extensive fieldwork in Brazil, Belgium, Tunisia, Zambia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi. He received his PhD in Anthropology from Goldsmiths, University of London, supported by The Wellcome Trust Biomedical Ethics Programme. He served as a Visiting Researcher at the Institute of Development Studies (UK) as well as at the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), and he is Honorary Research Associate at University College London. He is currently working with Dignitas International, a medical NGO based in the South-East of Malawi, and is the principal investigator of a number of inter-disciplinary studies, including research on access to HIV treatment, Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV services for adolescents and most at risk populations, expert patients interventions, PMTCT community trials, and health systems strengthening in resource constrained settings.

MSI Ethics Review Committee – Members



Eric Somé (MD, MPh, MSc)

Eric N Some is a senior research scientist at Burkina Faso National Health Research Institute since 2012. He is the founding member of the GReAS (Research and philanthropic actions group) since 2006 and the “Clinique Du Bon Sauveur” Research Medical Centre. He is also a part time lecturer of research methodology and biostatistics at the University of Ouagadougou. He received his training at the University of Ouagadougou medical school (MD), the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar in Senegal (MPh), the University Victor Segalen 2 of Bordeaux, France (MSc). He got also a bachelor degree in sociology with a major in health anthropology and is about to conclude a PhD training at the University of Bergen (Norway). For more than 10 years he has been working in for-not-profit private clinics as a general practitioner, a clinical specialist for HIV infected people and a clinical trial investigator. His general topic is on maternal, neonatal and child health. His research interests include also sickle cell disease prevention and early detection. He is also interested in assessing the actual impact of family planning and contraception on families' wealth. Eric joined the ERC on 2nd of January 2018.



Gillian Elam (BSc, MSc)

Gillian has worked in the management and application of social research for twenty years, and specialised in the design and application of qualitative methodology for nearly fifteen years, with a special interest in sexual health and behaviour. She is currently working as a Qualitative Research Consultant; recent projects include: evaluation of sexual health services for young people; investigation into approaches to HIV testing; development of HIV surveillance tools; supervision of a PhD study to develop sexual health interventions for young black Caribbean men; and a study exploring the role of healthcare workers in pandemic infection control. She provides courses in qualitative methods, including research ethics, and was previously a member of UK National Health Service Riverside Research Ethics Committee.

MSI Ethics Review Committee – Members



Korrie de Koning (MSc, Med)

With a background working for KIT, DFID and the Dutch Ministry in Asia and Africa, Korrie is a specialist in sexual and reproductive health and rights, health systems, and gender. Her expertise covers a range of areas such as qualitative, participatory and mixed research approaches. Korrie joined the committee on 1st of February 2016.



Sally Griffin (BSc, MSc)

Sally Griffin has over 20 years of experience working on reproductive and sexual health programmes in Southern Africa, particularly Mozambique and Angola. Her expertise includes family planning, safe abortion, and adolescent health, and she has worked on many qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods research projects in these and other areas. She has an MSc in Reproductive and Sexual Health Research from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. She is currently the Director of the International Centre for Reproductive Health Mozambique (ICRH-M), a research organization working to strengthen evidence-based implementation of reproductive and sexual health programmes in Mozambique. Sally joined the ERC on 2nd of January 2018.

MSI Ethics Review Committee – Members



Estelle Sidze (BSc, MSc, PhD)

Estelle is a maternal health specialist with special focus on coverage and equity analyses, financing strategies to achieve universal access to quality maternity care, and maternal mental health. She has led several multi-country studies, providing technical guidance at different stages including proposal development, data collection and analysis, and knowledge translation. She has several years of experience of research leadership and policy engagement experience acquired at APHRC, one of the Africa's foremost regional research centers addressing population, health and education issues. She has published several peer-reviewed papers and opinion pieces, and serves as reviewer and guest editor for various peer-reviewed journals including BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth, Maternal and Child Health Journal, Bulletin of the World Health Organization, BMC Public Health, BMJ Global Health, Sage, and African Journal of Reproductive Health. She believes African lives can be transformed through excellent work and leadership by African researchers. Estelle holds a PhD in Demography from the University of Montreal, Canada. Estelle joined the ERC on 2nd of January 2018.



Dr. Muktar Gadanya (MBBS, MSc, DLSHTM, MWACP, FMCPH)

Dr. Muktar A. Gadanya, is a Senior Lecturer/ Public Health Physician at the Bayero University/Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano, Nigeria. Muktar teaches Reproductive Health courses to undergraduate and postgraduate medical students at the University, and has supervised many dissertations in the same by resident doctors at the Teaching Hospital. He has the medical degree (MBBS) of Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria; MSc in Reproductive and Sexual Health Research from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Membership of West African College of Physician (Community Health); and Final Fellowship of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria (Public Health). He was the National Principal Investigator for four National researches, leading their ethics components and training team members on ethics. Muktar's researches are mostly on Family Planning situation analysis (prior to developing Costed Implementation Plans for Family Planning) and utilized mixed methods, including secondary data analysis. He has experience designing and analysing mixed methods researches across several settings. Muktar joined the ERC on 2nd of January 2018.