

EXPERTS ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A resource for journalists to find stories and sources.

In January, Asian countries started grappling with the pandemic. At that time, we prepared a list of experts from research institutions who volunteered to share their knowledge with journalists. Now, as Europe is battling the virus, we would like to share this resource with you. We hope these experts can help with your day to day reporting on different aspects of the pandemic from public health, virology, economic impacts, travel and spread of information.

We will be continually updating this list [Focus On: Coronavirus](#) on our website. Journalists are welcome to contact researchers directly, or reply to this email. Daily research press releases are also available in our [Newsroom](#).

Asia Research News supports the international scientific community by increasing awareness of research and innovation.

VIROLOGY & PUBLIC HEALTH

Professor Hitoshi Oshitani

Department of Virology

[Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine](#)

Email: oshitanih@med.tohoku.ac.jp

Areas of expertise prepared to comment on: Virology, Epidemiology, Infectious Disease Control

Languages comfortable speaking: Japanese, English

Selected recent media:

[Virologist: Tokyo Olympics probably couldn't be held now](#) - AP, Feb. 19, 2020

[Coronavirus infections keep mounting after cruise ship fiasco in Japan](#) - Science, Feb. 25, 2020

[Experts warn Japanese growing complacent of coronavirus risk](#) - Reuters, March 24, 2020

Professor Gregory Gray

Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme

[Duke-NUS Medical School](#)

Email: gregory.gray@duke-nus.edu.sg

Areas of expertise prepared to comment on: Viral respiratory diseases, zoonotic diseases, occupational infectious disease, influenza viruses, adenoviruses, enteroviruses, coronaviruses, and evaluations of new infectious disease diagnostics

Language comfortable speaking: English

Selected recent media:

[Will warm weather stop the spread of the coronavirus?](#) - CBS News, March 5, 2020

[A dog has a 'low-level' coronavirus infection](#) - Washington Post, March 5, 2020

[How China's "Bat Woman" Hunted Down Viruses from SARS to the New Coronavirus](#) - Scientific American, March 11, 2020

Professor Dirk U. Pfeiffer

Director of the Centre for Applied One Health Research and Policy Advice (OHRP)

Department of Infectious Diseases and Public Health

[City University of Hong Kong](#)

Email: dirk.pfeiffer@cityu.edu.hk

Areas of expertise prepared to comment on: Professor Pfeiffer has expertise in One Health approaches, with a specific focus on epidemiological aspects of animal disease control and prevention, including zoonotic diseases such as avian influenza and bovine tuberculosis and animal diseases such as African swine fever.

He is the Chow Tak Fung Chair Professor of One Health.

Language comfortable speaking: English

Selected recent media:

[Hong Kong has contained coronavirus so far -- but at a significant cost](#) - NPR, March, 1, 2020

[Asia braces for second wave of infections from overseas](#) - The Telegraph, March 21, 2020

Assistant Professor Danielle Anderson

Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme

[Duke-NUS Medical School](#)

Email: danielle.anderson@duke-nus.edu.sg

Areas of expertise prepared to comment on: Virus/host relationship of a diverse group of medically important viruses that includes

Measles virus, Mumps virus and Nipah virus. Use of novel diagnostic platforms for the identification of new infectious viruses and other clinically relevant emerging infectious diseases, such as MERS and Zika virus.

Language comfortable speaking: English

Selected recent media:

[Scientist speaks out about coronavirus origin: exclusive](#) - NBC Nightly News, Feb. 27, 2020

[Singapore claims first use of antibody test to track coronavirus infections](#) - Science, Feb. 27, 2020

[Going cold on hotpot: Virus-hit China curbs communal eating](#) - Al Jazeera, March 5, 2020

Professor David Hui

Department of Medicine and Therapeutics

[The Chinese University of Hong Kong](#)

Email: dschui@cuhk.edu.hk

Areas of expertise prepared to comment on: Respiratory medicine

Languages comfortable speaking: English, Cantonese

Selected recent media:

[Hong Kong's coronavirus response leads to sharp drop in flu cases](#) - Financial Times, March 5, 2020

[What We Can Learn From Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong About Handling Coronavirus](#) - Time, March 13, 2020

Professor Wang Linfa

Programme Director
Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme
[Duke-NUS Medical School](#)
Email: linfa.wang@duke-nus.edu.sg

Areas of expertise prepared to comment on: He is an international leader in the field of emerging zoonotic viruses and virus-host interaction, specialising in bat-borne viruses. He is a member of the WHO SARS Scientific Research Advisory Committee, and played a key role in identification of bats as the natural host of SARS-like viruses.

He has recently been invited to come on board WHO International Health Regulations Committee regarding the new coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan.

Languages comfortable speaking: English, Mandarin

Selected recent media:

[Coronavirus in China Spreads by Human-To-Human Transmission](#) - NPR, Jan. 21, 2020
[Coronavirus spreads faster than SARS. Says Professor Wang](#) - Bloomberg, Jan. 31, 2020
[Tracking the Coronavirus: How Crowded Asia Cities Tackled an Epidemic](#) - New York Times, March 17, 2020

Tetsuo Kase, Ph.D.

Department of Public Health
[Osaka City University Graduate School of Medicine](#)
Email: kasetetsuo143@msic.med.osaka-cu.ac.jp

Research areas he can comment on: My field is an epidemiology of infectious disease, especially respiratory and eruptive viral infections (such as influenza and measles), and zoonoses. Another is evaluation of vaccine effectiveness/efficacy of influenza and so on.

Language: Japanese. If English, emails only.

(added March 24, 2020)

Professor Eui-Cheol Shin, M.D.

Graduate School of Medical Science and Engineering
[Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology \(KAIST\)](#)
Email: euicheols@kaist.ac.kr

Areas of expertise prepared to comment on: Virology, Immunology

Languages comfortable speaking: English and Korean

My [Laboratory of Immunology and Infectious Diseases](#) studies T cell immune responses in viral diseases and immunologic diseases. In order to understand T cell immune responses comprehensively, my lab studies not only anti-viral immune responses but also immunopathologic mechanisms in host damage.

In addition, my lab tries to develop T cell vaccines and apply them in viral diseases.

(added March 27, 2020)

Professor Su Hyung Park

Graduate School of Medical Science and Engineering
[Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology \(KAIST\)](#)
Email: park3@kaist.ac.kr

Areas of expertise prepared to comment on: Immunology, Infectious Disease, Vaccine

Languages comfortable speaking: English and Korean

My [Lab of Translational Immunology & Vaccinology](#) studies: Protective T cell immunity against intractable disease; Detailed immunological mechanisms involved in pathogenesis and prognosis of infectious and immunologic disease; and Novel immunological biomarkers for prognosis of infectious and immunologic disease.

To this end, we are conducting sophisticated techniques in translational immunology using patients' clinical samples. In parallel, based on multidisciplinary studies in translational and basic immunology, we focus on the development of novel T cell-based preventive and therapeutic vaccines to intractable infectious diseases.

(added March 27, 2020)

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Janhavi Dave

International Coordinator
[HomeNet South Asia](#)
Email: janhavi.hnsa@gmail.com

Areas of expertise prepared to comment on: Economic Empowerment, Informal Economy Women Workers, Home-Based Workers, South Asia, Membership-Based Organisations of Poor

Languages comfortable speaking: English, Hindi

HomeNet South Asia (HNSA) is conducting research of women home-based workers in garment supply chains. While coronavirus has impacted the entire world, women home-based workers are particularly vulnerable and have been significantly affected. HNSA is a network of 60 home-based workers' organisations, representing 800,000 home-based workers across South Asia. As the International Coordinator of HNSA,

I can speak on the impact of coronavirus on the poor women home-based workers in South Asia.

(added March 27, 2020)

Navsharan Singh

Governance and Justice Program, Asia Regional Office, India
International Development Research Centre
Email: nsingh@idrc.ca

Areas of expertise prepared to comment on: informal sector workers, vulnerable groups, women, internally displaced people and refugees

Languages comfortable speaking: English, Hindi

I have researched and published extensively on informal sector workers, especially women workers and I understand the their precarity of work and lives. I have also been working on the vulnerability of Internally Displaced People and those affected by mass sectarian violence. COVID-19 impacts these groups very significantly and in very specific ways.

(added March 27, 2020)

Edgard Rodriguez

[International Development Research Centre \(IDRC\) - Canada](#)

Email: erodriguez@idrc.ca

Areas of expertise prepared to comment on: Social science research; think tanks; decentralization; labour markets; Myanmar

Languages comfortable speaking: English

I lead an initiative that supports policy research in Myanmar through dozen projects that work with universities and think tanks. The current COVID-19 crisis is an example of emergency policy response that will have a profound long-term effect on developing societies in Asia, especially on transitional economies such as Myanmar's.

(added March 30, 2020)

Professor Terence Chong

Department of Economics

[The Chinese University of Hong Kong](#)

Email: chong2064@cuhk.edu.hk

Areas of expertise prepared to comment on: Economic impact on China and the rest of the world

Languages comfortable speaking: English, Cantonese, Putonghua

Selected recent media:

[Coronavirus threatens to fuel discontent in Hong Kong](#) - Los Angeles Times, Feb. 28, 2020

[Hong Kong jobless rate expected to hit nine-year high](#) - Yahoo! News, March 15, 2020

Professor Maggie Hu

School of Hotel and Tourism Management and Department of Finance

[The Chinese University of Hong Kong](#)

Email: maggiehu@cuhk.edu.hk

Areas of expertise prepared to comment on: Real Estate Economics and Finance, Banking and Finance

Languages comfortable speaking: English, Putonghua

Selected recent media:

[Can Paris maintain its charm on Chinese property buyers in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic?](#) - South China Morning Post, March 17, 2020

Professor Kalok Chan

Department of Finance

[The Chinese University of Hong Kong](#)

Email: kalokchan@cuhk.edu.hk

Areas of expertise prepared to comment on: Hong Kong and China financial markets

Languages comfortable speaking: English, Cantonese

Mr. Simon Lee

School of Accountancy

[The Chinese University of Hong Kong](#)

Email: splee@baf.cuhk.edu.hk

Areas of expertise prepared to comment on: Economic, Real Estate or Housing, Tourism, Investment, Hong Kong and China Stock Markets

Languages comfortable speaking: English, Cantonese, Putonghua

TOURISM & TRAVEL**Professor Lisa Wan**

School of Hotel and Tourism Management and Department of Marketing

[The Chinese University of Hong Kong](#)

Email: lisawan@baf.cuhk.edu.hk

Areas of expertise prepared to comment on: Tourism, Consumer Behaviours

Languages comfortable speaking: English, Cantonese, Putonghua

Selected recent media:

[Flow of Chinese tourists becomes a worrying trickle for Asia](#) - AP, Feb. 7, 2020

[Coronavirus is devastating Chinese tourism](#) - The Atlantic, Feb. 19, 2020

Dr. Andrew Yuen

Department of Decision Sciences and Managerial Economics

[The Chinese University of Hong Kong](#)

Email: andrewyuen@baf.msmail.cuhk.edu.hk

Areas of expertise prepared to comment on: Economics, Transport and air transport

Languages comfortable speaking: English, Cantonese, Putonghua

Professor Waiman Cheung

Department of Decision Sciences and Managerial Economics

[The Chinese University of Hong Kong](#)

Email: wcheung@cuhk.edu.hk

Areas of expertise prepared to comment on: Transport, Logistics, Innovation and Technology

Languages comfortable speaking: English, Cantonese, Putonghua

SPREAD OF INFORMATION**Dr. Allan Au**

School of Journalism and Communication

[The Chinese University of Hong Kong](#)

Email: aualun@cuhk.edu.hk

Areas of expertise prepared to comment on: Spread of accurate and inaccurate information
Languages comfortable speaking: English, Cantonese, Putonghua

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