

Understanding Long Covid

Virtual Panel Discussion · 24 January 2023
15:00 – 16:00 CET

SPEAKER PROFILES

[in order of appearance]



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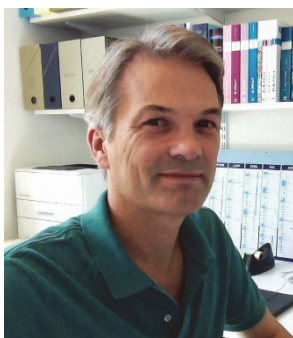
PROFESSOR AKIKO IWASAKI, PhD

Sterling Professor of Immunobiology and Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, Yale University, New Haven, CT, United States

Akiko Iwasaki, PhD, is a Sterling Professor of Immunobiology and Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology at Yale University, and an Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. She received her PhD from the University of Toronto in Canada and her postdoctoral training from the National Institutes of Health.

Her research focuses on the mechanisms of immune defense against viruses at the mucosal surfaces, and the development of mucosal vaccine strategies. She is the co-Lead Investigator of the Yale COVID-19 Recovery Study, which aims to determine the changes in the immune response of people with long COVID after vaccination. Dr Iwasaki also leads multiple other studies to interrogate the pathobiology of long COVID, both in patients, and through developing animal models of long COVID.

Dr Iwasaki was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2018, to the National Academy of Medicine in 2019, to the European Molecular Biology Organization in 2021, and to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2021.



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PROFESSOR MARC LECUIT, MD, PhD

Director of the Biology of Infection Unit, Institut Pasteur, Inserm, Paris, France

Marc Lecuit, MD, PhD, is a microbiologist and an infectious diseases physician. He is the Director of the Biology of Infection Unit at Institut Pasteur and Inserm (U1117), the Head of the National Reference Centre and WHO Collaborating Centre Listeria and the Chair of the Department of Cell Biology and Infection. He is a Professor at Institut Universitaire de France, Université Paris Cité and Deputy Head of the Department of Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine at the Necker-Enfants Malades University Hospital.

His research focuses on the mechanisms by which microbes induce infections. He uses as a model microorganism *Listeria monocytogenes*, a foodborne bacterial pathogen that leads to systemic, central nervous system and maternal-fetal infections. He also studies emerging pathogens such as chikungunya, Zika and SARS-CoV2 viruses.

Dr Lecuit was elected to the European Molecular Biology Organization in 2017, and to the Academia Europaea in 2019.



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PROFESSOR DR CARMEN SCHEIBENBOGEN

*Acting Director of the Institute of Medical Immunology, Charité
Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany*

Carmen Scheibenbogen is an Internal Medicine physician and hematologist, ME/CFS doctor and Professor for Immunology and Acting Director of the Institute of Medical Immunology at the Charité Universitätsmedizin in Berlin, Germany. Her research focuses on chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), post covid syndrome, immune monitoring, immunodeficiencies, immunotherapy, and tumor vaccines. In 2021, she co-founded the Post COVID Network of Charité. She chairs the two collaborative research projects “IMMME – immune mechanisms of ME/CFS” and “NCSK – National Clinical Study group for a clinical trial platform for Post-Covid Syndrome and ME/CFS”, both funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.



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PROFESSOR MICHAEL EDELSTEIN, MD

*Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, Azrieli Faculty of
Medicine, Bar-Ilan University, Safed, Israel*

Professor Michael Edelstein is a UK-trained Public Health physician specializing in infectious disease and vaccine epidemiology. He joined the Bar-Ilan University Azrieli Faculty of Medicine, based in Safed, as associate professor, in August 2020. His major research interests focus on the equitable delivery of public health programs, harnessing digital tools (and data in particular) to improve public health, applied principally, but not exclusively, to immunization programs.

Prior to joining Bar-Ilan University, Professor Edelstein was responsible for improving vaccine coverage data and optimizing the quality and use of data to improve the national immunization program across the life-course and to reduce inequalities at PHE, England’s national public health agency. He was also a member of England’s national COVID-19 surveillance team. As an honorary associate professor of Public Health at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, his research focused on barriers and enablers to reducing health inequalities in vaccine programs. He was the president of the infectious diseases section of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) between 2018 and 2021.

Professor Edelstein is also deputy editor of the journal *Epidemiology and Infection*, and a fellow of the UK Faculty of Public Health. He serves on the national immunization advisory committee to the Israeli Ministry of Health, and has served on expert groups for the World Health Organization and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. He has over 65 peer-reviewed publications.



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KAI KUPFERSCHMIDT • Moderator

Science Journalist

Kai Kupferschmidt is a science journalist based in Berlin. He studied molecular biomedicine and afterwards attended the Berlin Journalism School. As a contributing correspondent for "Science Magazine" he has been reporting on infectious diseases since 2011. During the pandemic he also launched a German language podcast on infectious diseases and global health called "Pandemia" with his colleagues Laura Salm-Reifferscheidt and Nicolas Semak. He has written two books, one on infectious diseases and one on the science of the color blue. He has received numerous awards for his work, including the Media Prize of the German Aids Foundation and the NIHCM Trade Journalism Award.

[as of 23 January 2023]