



FPH Public Health Spaces

Anti-racism in Public Health Training

Thursday 5 June 2025, 16:00 - 17:00

Speaker biographies

Dr Samia Latif
Chair, FPH Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Samia currently works as a Consultant in Global Health Protection and Consultant in Communicable Disease Control at the UK Health Security Agency. She also chairs this organisation's Race Equality Staff Network.

Besides being Chair of the [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee](#), Samia is a General Board Member of the Faculty and a member of the FPH [Global Health Committee](#) and various FPH special interest groups.

Samia is a GMC appraiser, an educational supervisor and an accredited mentor. Her areas of interest are health protection, culturally intelligent leadership, global public health, lifestyle medicine and public mental health. She is a keen advocate for gender and race equality and has led numerous national conversations on anti-racism, inclusive leadership, and equitable access to health services.



Fiona Simmons-Jones
Vice-Chair, FPH Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Fiona is the Vice-Chair of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee and also provides support to the Faculty's work on reasonable adjustments for exams. Fiona joined the NHS in 2013 and has a background in commissioning and health informatics prior to working in public health. Currently, she is a Consultant in Healthcare Public Health in Specialised Commissioning for the NHS England North West Region.

Fiona is also an educational supervisor, and a Course Tutor PGCert in Medical Education at the University of Cambridge, with academic interests in EDI and supporting healthcare professionals with disabilities and additional needs. Through her continuing work, she brings an understanding of research, strategy, policy and best practice in EDI, and engagement with wider expertise and learning.



Fiona's personal interest in work around EDI originally stemmed from lived experience as she lives with an acute long-term complex mental health condition, which has driven her to try to understand and improve the experiences of healthcare professionals who suffer stigma, marginalisation and inequity, including those with disabilities and additional needs. She strongly believes in the importance

of visible role models and a fair, diverse and representative healthcare workforce in order for us to collectively best look after the interests of our patients and population.

Denise Blair
Public Health Specialty Registrar

Denise is a biomedical scientist by background with a career spanning sexual health, HIV, and public health. With over a decade of experience working in local government, she is now a Public Health Specialty Registrar focused on tackling health inequalities at system level.

Denise has seen how individuals can be marginalised by systems based on their identity or circumstances and how creating inclusive environments can enable people to feel valued, heard, and able to thrive. As Vice Chair of the Faculty's [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Special Interest Group](#), Denise is committed to amplifying diverse voices, breaking down barriers that limit opportunity, and driving meaningful, lasting change to improve equity, diversity and inclusion.



Dr Rachel Fardon
Public Health Specialty Registrar

Rachel is a Public Health Registrar based in Greater Manchester. Originally from London, she moved to Manchester and Preston for medical school, securing a specialty training post in 2021. Across her training programme, she has explored public health in a variety of settings and worked on the FPH's Fair Training Culture programme, particularly around differential attainment in examinations.

Rachel also has an interest in education and is currently writing her dissertation for an MSc in Medical Education. Her own EDI journey began in medical school. Growing up in an area as diverse as South London, she was struck by how many voices were missing from the spaces she was in. Through volunteering with colleagues from different backgrounds, she learnt about the myriad of structural and systematic inequalities embedded across medical and later public health career pathways. She considers EDI work to be fundamental in building trust with communities and effectively tackle health inequalities.



Dr Catherine Mbema
FPH Board Member for London

Catherine is a medically qualified public health professional, who trained in medicine at Imperial College London and subsequently trained in public health across a number of local authorities in South East London (including Bromley, Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham). She was appointed Director of Public Health for Lewisham in 2020.

Dr Mbema was born in London to parents of West African heritage and has lived in a number of London boroughs in the city to date. She is passionate about seeing improvements in public health for those living in the city and now particularly in Lewisham. In her time as Director of Public Health she has ambitions to contribute to a reduction in health inequalities by working with communities alongside statutory partners. As part of this ambition, she co-leads the Public Health Tackling Racism and Inequality programme on behalf of the Association of Directors of Public Health London (ADPHL) alongside Dr Sandra Husbands, Director of Public Health for City and Hackney.



Professor Alison McCallum
Visiting (Honorary) Professor, University of Edinburgh

Professor Alison McCallum is an experienced public health doctor who joined the Centre for Population Health Sciences, Usher Institute, University of Edinburgh in November 2020 as Visiting (Honorary) Professor of Public Health. Her research focuses on health equity, the commercial determinants of health – particularly trade and public health – vaccine equity, inclusion health and amenable morbidity and mortality.

She co-leads the on-line MPH Global Health Challenges module on Leadership and Management in Public Health. She is currently the Usher Institute link with the Association of Schools of Public Health for the WHO European Region, ASPHER member of the World Federation of Public Health Association Non-Governmental Organisations for Equity initiative, International Association of Public Health Institutes' Social and Public Health Inequalities Committee, and chairs the Vaccination subgroup of the ASPHER Public Health Emergencies Task Force. She is a co-chair of the FPH [Europe Special Interest Group](#) and a member of the Faculty's [Global Health Committee](#). She is a research member of the NHS Scotland Public Benefits and Privacy Panel and National Records of Scotland Central Register Stakeholder Group.



Over the last 25 years, she has been a Director of Public Health in Scotland and England, worked at national level in Finland, taught and trained students and professionals in public health, and undertaken collaborative research with colleagues in universities in several countries across and beyond Europe.

Dr Hadjer Nacer
Public Health Specialist

Hadjer is a public health specialist with a career spanning local authorities, provider organisations, academia, and policy think tanks. She has worked across the public health system at local, regional, national, and global levels, with a particular focus on health equity, migrant health, and the wider determinants of health.

Her work is grounded in meaningful engagement with communities and a commitment to addressing the root causes of poor health. She is a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health, an Associate Editor at BMJ Open Quality, and a Trustee of Creative Health Camden.

