18TH WORLD CONGRESS ON PUBLIC HEALTH 2026 September 6-9 CAPE TOWN

HEALTH WITHOUT BORDERS : Equity, Inclusion, and Sustainability

WORLD LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE — WCPH 2026, Cape Town

Sunday 6 September | 16:30 | Roof Terrace Room

Strengthening Vaccine Confidence: A Global Public Health Imperative

Vaccine hesitancy is one of the most consequential threats to public health today. Despite safe, effective vaccines against a growing range of preventable diseases, uptake remains dangerously uneven across regions, income groups and communities. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated misinformation and eroded institutional trust at scale. Rebuilding confidence demands evidence-based communication, sustained community engagement and genuine political commitment-from global bodies down to local health authorities.

This World Leadership Dialogue convenes leaders from different regions to examine what works, what fails and what must change. The session will interrogate how cultural, political and health-system contexts shape hesitancy, which communication strategies have succeeded, and which have backfired, and what policy levers governments can activate to protect immunisation coverage.

Chair

Prof. Michael Moore — Chair, WFPHA International Immunization Policy Taskforce

Speakers

Prof. Raman Bedi – WFPHA President

H.M. Dominique Kondji Kondji — Founder, Cameroon Public Health Association; President, Traditional Leadership Council (Littoral Region), Cameroon

Dr. Diane Thomson — Director, Thistle Public Affairs, Scotland

Prof. Katie Atwell – Professor of political science and public policy at the University of Western Australia (UWA)

Prof. Heidi Larson (video)- Founder/Director of The Vaccine Confidence Project, a WHO Centre of Excellence