

GHSA Legal Preparedness Action Package

Promoting legal preparedness as a critical capacity for global health security

Yonsei University Visit: “Legal Mapping as a Tool for Legal Preparedness: Lessons from Korea

Speaker Bios

Ana S. Ayala, J.D., LL.M.



Ana Ayala is a senior global health officer in the Office of Pandemics and Emerging Threats, Office of Global Affairs (OGA) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Ayala supports the implementation of U.S. global health security policies at the intersection of the domestic and international and the strengthening of international partnerships, working to coordinate across the U.S. Government and with international partners. She manages the U.S. National Focal Point Program under the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) and serves as the Executive Secretariat of the North American Plan for Animal and Pandemic Influenza (NAPAPI). She led coordination efforts across the U.S. Government to develop the country’s national action plan based on the 2016 U.S. Joint External Evaluation (JEE) and strengthen IHR (2005) domestic implementation.

Throughout her career, Ayala worked on multiple projects and authored various publications aimed at promoting legal preparedness to manage public health emergencies and furthering global health security. She has trained and participated in technical exchanges with legal, medical, and public health professionals from around the world on the IHR (2005) and the JEE. She led the legal component of the World Health Organization’s IHR (2005) implementation course for government officials and managed research teams in analyzing public health laws from around the world.

Ayala has appeared as subject-matter expert on global health security for 30+ national and international media outlets, including The New York Times, BBC, Telemundo, Politico, Scientific American, and The Christian Science Monitor. She has published in both public health and law journals in the U.S. and abroad.

Ayala holds a Master of Laws in Global Health Law from Georgetown University; a law degree from American University, Washington College of Law; and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology and International Studies from the University of Chicago.

So Yoon Kim, M.D., M.Sc., Ph.D.

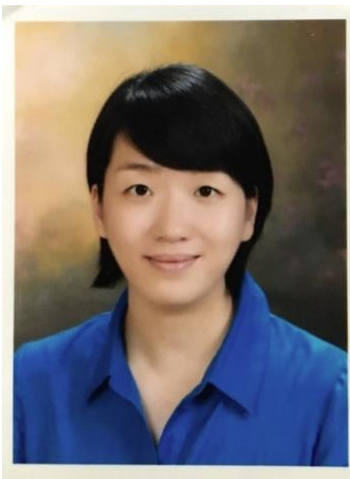


So Yoon Kim is the director of International Health at Yonsei University's Graduate School of Public Health and a professor in the Department of Medical Humanities and Social Sciences at Yonsei University's College of Medicine.

Her research areas include medical law, medical ethics, advanced biotechnology and clinical ethics, medical dispute, patient safety, global health, elderly health, and mental health. Most currently she is leading several research projects in Digital Nanomedicine and Use of Biometrics Data of Patients: Ethical, Legal, Social Implication with Korea Research Foundation, and Development of Ethics Guidelines and Education Program for the Use of Artificial Intelligent in Healthcare Research with KCDC. Dr. Kim pursued medical doctor in 1996 and M.Sc. and Ph.D. in public health in the following years. After few years as an instructor of Preventive Medicine at Yonsei University College of Medicine, in 2000 she worked as a team leader (Medical Deputy Director) of Organ Sharing Management Team, Korean Network for Organ Sharing (KONOS), National Medical Center, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Since 2001, she has devoted herself as a government officer (senior deputy director) for more than seven years in the Division of Health Insurance Benefits, Division of Health Industry Promotion, Division of Innovative Health Service TF, and lastly in the Division of Health Information PL (Established Mid-Long Term National Strategy for Bio Technology) at Ministry of Health and Welfare, Republic of Korea.

Sookhyun Lee, Ph.D.



Sookhyun Lee is a researcher at Yonsei University's Asian Institute for Bioethics and Health Law.

Lee completed the Ph.D. course in medical laws and ethics in 2023. She graduated with a master's course in the politics department at Sheffield University in the UK in 2010. After that, she implemented a project to improve the mental health of the service providers for North Korean migrants in South Korea at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and worked as a researcher at the Unification and Peace Institute at Seoul National University.

Lee has worked as the project manager of the Global Network for Peace and Sustainable Progress (GNPSP), a WHO GSPN member, from 2014 to the present. She is managing projects in peace-building, economic development, and health improvement for the Korean Peninsula (especially for North Korea), African countries and all around the world. She delivered a lecture on the economic development in North Korea at MIT and Cambridge University.

At the same time, she is working for the Asian Institute for Bioethics and Health Law at Yonsei University, WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Law and Bioethics as a researcher to write GHSA White Paper between 2014 and 2018 (the first phase) and develop the contents and coordinate on the Immunization Action Package in the GHSA 2nd phase. She has a strong network at the government level (Ministry of Unification and Ministry of Health and Welfare) with other NGOs, academia, and private organizations in other countries.

Preethi Raja, J.D., M.PH.



Preethi Raja is a public health analyst at the Center for Global Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Her work at CDC primarily focuses on supporting current public health law initiatives and collaborating with multilateral organizations and international partners to review how the role of law plays a tool in facilitating public health outcomes.

In addition, Raja is involved with the Global Health Security Agenda's Legal Preparedness Action Package and helps lead legal mapping efforts to better understand publicly available legal instruments and identify the presence or absence of key elements of public health emergency legal preparedness. Her background is in public health policy and international law, and previous research efforts have focused on racial equity, health justice, immigration, and carceral reform.

She earned a juris doctor with a concentration in International and Comparative Law at Saint Louis University's School of Law and a Master of Public Health from Saint Louis University's College of Public Health and Social Justice. She received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Health from the University of Georgia.