

## **INVITED SPEAKERS**

### **Strengthening poisoning reporting system in Malaysia: Working together for a safer nation**



**Dr. Gillian Jackson** (BSc (Hons), Dip. Med. Tox., PhD) completed her PhD in Neuropharmacology at the University of Bristol in 2004. In 2007, she joined the UK National Poisons Information Service (NPIS), Edinburgh Unit, NHS Lothian, as Assistant Manager, and since 2011, she has served as the Manager of the unit. Dr. Jackson plays a pivotal role in the creation, development, and distribution of TOXBASE, the NICE-mandated and Department of Health-recommended initial source of poisons information for the UK. Her professional interests include promoting the role of TOXBASE and the UK NPIS in public health and improving poisons information provision in low- and middle-income countries.

### **Building Poison Centres**

The NIHR RIGHT4 initiative stands as a transformative project, tackling the often-overlooked crisis of acute poisoning in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). In regions where thousands of preventable deaths occur annually due to insufficient clinical care and scarce resources, this initiative's vision is clear: to transform the clinical management of acute poisoning, enhance the capacity of Poison Information Centres (PICs) and foster a global focus on research in this critical area.

Central to this mission is the building of PICs within LMICs. These centres are the backbone of poisoning prevention, diagnosis, and treatment, offering vital support to clinicians who may lack the specialized toxicology expertise needed to manage such cases effectively. By prioritizing the strengthening of PICs, the NIHR RIGHT4 initiative seeks to reshape the landscape of poison management across these regions.

A key component of this endeavour is the implementation of standardized practices for establishing and operating PICs. Integral to this is the provision of TOXBASE, an online and app-based poison management database that offers guidance on handling over 21,000 poisons. This essential resource is provided free of charge to PICs in LMICs, ensuring that even the most resource-constrained centres have access to the critical information required for managing poisoning cases.

Moreover, the initiative places a strong emphasis on capacity building through mentorship and training programs. Collaborations with prominent clinical toxicology associations, such as the Asia Pacific Association of Medical Toxicology (APAMT) and the Middle East and North Africa Toxicology Association (MENATOX), play a significant role in teaching PIC procedures at annual congresses. Scholarships are offered to participants from underrepresented countries and groups, nurturing a new generation of toxicology experts in LMICs.

The NIHR RIGHT4 initiative is particularly attuned to the unique challenges faced by African nations, where the existence of PICs is often limited or non-existent. The initiative is exploring and developing models for delivering effective poison information and care that can be adapted and scaled continent-wide.

Ultimately, the NIHR RIGHT4 initiative aspires to empower PICs across all LMICs, equipping them to respond effectively to poisoning emergencies and significantly reduce the number of preventable deaths. Through an integrated approach that combines research, resource provision, training, and international collaboration, this initiative is set to make a profound and lasting impact on global public health.