

## Panel discussion speakers for Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September

### Dr Jonathan Cohen

Dr Jonathan Cohen is Head of Service for Paediatric Infectious Diseases at the Evelina London Children's Hospital at St Thomas' where he has worked as a Consultant since 2021. Prior to this, he was Clinical Director for Children and Adolescent services at University College London Hospitals. He has an MSc (Distinction) in Clinical Paediatrics and a PhD from UCL for his research into vaccines against pneumonia. His research has been funded by the Medical Research Council and the Academy of Medical Sciences. In 2015, he received a Top Teacher Award from UCL Medical School. He established and chairs the British Association for Paediatric Tuberculosis, and has lectured on topics in childhood infection around the world.

### Dr Ben Kasstan

Dr Ben Kasstan is a medical anthropologist at the University of Bristol and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He has researched vaccine engagement among Haredi Jewish families in London, New York and Jerusalem, especially around the childhood vaccination programme but also COVID-19.

### Dr Joseph Spitzer

Dr Joseph Spitzer is a full-time GP in Stamford Hill, north-east London where he started a new single-handed practice in 1985. The practice has grown considerably since then. Approximately 85% of his patients are drawn from the local Charedi community. The surgery has the distinction of having the youngest practice profile of any practice in the UK. 51% of the patients are under 18 years old and 35% are under 10. He was for many years an honorary senior clinical lecturer in general practice and primary care, at Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London, with a special interest in teaching general practice to undergraduate medical students. His teaching - all practice based - concentrated on preparing final year students for their final exams.

Dr Spitzer is a mohel and medical officer of the Initiation Society. He has a research interest in sore throats in general practice and is a Past President of the Section of General Practice with Primary Care at the Royal Society of Medicine. He is the author of "*A Guide to the Orthodox Jewish Way of Life for Healthcare Professionals*" and "*Caring for Jewish Patients*", reflecting his interest in trans-cultural medicine.

### Dr Leonora Weil

Dr Leonora Weil is a Public Health Consultant at the UK Health Security Agency, London and is Co-Director and founder of the NHS London COVID Legacy and Equity Partnership with a focus on closing the equity gap in routine immunisations, screening and access to good health. She is currently leading a multi-stakeholder pan London Task Force for UKHSA and the NHS to increase rates of uptake for all Childhood vaccinations. She is also leading on engagement activities with communities in London to increase uptake of the polio vaccine including the Jewish community. She established and is co-chair of the London Jewish Health Partnership bringing health professionals across the capital together with the Jewish community.

During the COVID Pandemic she led on COVID-19 Response, Prevention and Control leading on COVID-19 vaccination response for Public Health England, London. Nationally, she has held senior roles leading on Public Health strategy and policy in NHS England, Public Health England and the Department of Health. She builds on local experience working as a doctor at Barnet, Chase Farm and the Royal Free Hospitals, and as a Public Health Doctor for North West London Health Protection team. She has also worked for local government, including leading on immunisation approaches with the Orthodox Jewish Community in Hackney Council. Leonora has an honorary Clinical Lectureship at University College London and has delivered numerous talks and webinars and published in books,

peer reviewed journals, magazines and newspapers on the subject of vaccinations, young people and community engagement