



## Ubuntu 2024 Workshop

### Title:

**Countering the impact of Geographic Narcissism on the rural health workforce and rural health services: leveraging rural voice, innovations, people, and power**

### Facilitators:

#### **In Person Facilitators**



- Malin Fors, psychologist, and psychoanalyst residing in Hammerfest, Norway. A/Professor at UiT, Arctic University of Norway, Adjunct A/Professor at the University of Technology Sydney, Australia. Her sentinel 2018 paper on “geographical narcissism” has had numerous citations globally.



- Riitta Partanen, Associate Professor, Director, Rural Clinical School, The University of Queensland; Australian Rural GP for 28 years. PhD Candidate, Topic: Geographical Narcissism: Experiences (of it) during medical education training and its role in ruling in or ruling out rural medical practice.



- Bruce Chater OAM, Chair, Rural Wonca (Wonca Working Party on Rural Practice) Mayne Professor and Head Rural and Remote Medicine at The University of Queensland. Founding convener of the Rural Doctors Associations of Queensland and Australia. Rural Doctor in the small rural town of Theodore, Qld, Australia for 43 years.



- Mercy Wanjala, is a Family Physician and Health Systems lecturer from Kenya with a rich background in clinical care, administration, and leadership. Executive Coordinator of the Africa Forum for Primary Health Care. Recipient of the WONCA Young Family Doctors Rising Star Award.

**Virtual Facilitators** *(will register as online participants)*



- Theadora Swift Koller is Senior Technical Lead/Unit Head, Health Equity/GRE, for WHO Headquarters and has led/is leading multiple activities on rural health, including WHO work on rural proofing for health and national assessments of barriers to health services experienced by rural and remote populations.



- Janice C. (Jan) Probst, PhD Distinguished Professor Emerita, University of South Carolina. Former director of a federally-funded rural health research center; 30 year career in rural health research examining health disparities experienced by rural populations.

## Synopsis

Despite policies and strategies promoting and encouraging rural health careers in many countries, there continues to be a geographical maldistribution of healthcare workforce globally. Geographical narcissism (GN) is a largely under-recognised factor contributing to the ongoing rural healthcare workforce shortages and subsequent inequitable access to healthcare.

Participants will initially hear from several speakers about how GN is contributing to the ongoing rural healthcare workforce shortages across the globe, and possible strategies to minimise and counter its impact based on evidence and experience.

Participants will break out into groups to discuss the components of GN during health education and training to develop new or enhance current strategies to minimise the negative impact of GN on the rural communities and increase their health workforce.

## Learning Outcomes

At the end of the workshop participants will be able to:

1. Understand how and where geographical narcissism occurs across the health education and training continuum and its impact on rural medical practice intent.
2. Contribute to the solutions needed to address GN during health education and training and in health systems policies and resource allocation.
3. Go away with strategies that they can advocate for or implement in their institutions, communities to minimise the contribution of GN on rural medical workforce shortages and improve wellness in their communities.

## Workshop Outline

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
5 minutes	Welcome comments Ubuntu 2024 Moderator
5 minutes	Welcome remarks by A/Prof Riitta Partanen
45 minutes	5- 10 minute Presentations from all presenters Mallin Fors, Mercy Wanjala and Bruce Chater in person Jan Probst and Theadora Swift Koller virtually
35 minutes	Break out groups facilitated by the presenters in person– each Group will be tasked with a different issue around GN to solve. If an online option for attendees is available, the two virtual presenters could facilitate online working groups.
20 minutes	Summary from Break-Out Groups
5 minutes	Wrap-Up & next steps by A/Prof Riitta Partanen
5 minutes	Closing comments Ubuntu 2024 Moderator