

GARD FORUM 2026 PROGRAM

Innovate for Impact

March 26 - 27 | VIRTUAL



Global
Alliance for
Rapid
Diagnostics

Save Lives. Sustain Health.



**Dr. Evangelyn
Alocilja**
FOUNDER OF GARD



**Dr. Kevin
Guskiewicz**
MSU PRESIDENT
OPENING REMARKS



**Dr. Laura
McIntyre**
MSU PROVOST
OPENING - INNOVATION
CHALLENGE



**Dr. Bradley
Marks**
BAE CHAIR
AWARDS
PRESENTATION

MORE INFORMATION

→ www.gardforum.com

GARD FORUM 2026

Schedule

DAY 1

Thursday, March 26



President Kevin M. Guskiewicz

8:30-9:00AM EDT

Opening remarks by the president of Michigan State University



Innovation Challenge

9:00-11:00 AM EDT

Opening Message: **Dr. Laura Lee McIntyre**, MSU PROVOST.

Coordinators: **Luna Lu & Leticia L. Cherchiglia**



WISER – Session

11:00-12:00 PM EDT

Amazing stories of Women in Science and Engineering who are succeeding against all odds.

Speakers: **Dr. Mary Muchiri, Dr. Giovanna Zupičić, Dr. Divina Amalin, Dr. Gladys Njoroge, Dr. Peace Musonge, Dr. Megha Agrawal, Dr. Miriam Kyule**

Coordinator: **Dr. Ruth Sulaimon**

Break – 12:00-1:00 PM

Short Courses

1:00-2:00 PM – Developing an Innovation & Entrepreneurial Mindset

2:00-3:00 PM – Professional Branding, Taglines, & Elevator Pitch

3:00-4:30 PM – Mentoring (Train-the-Trainer)

Speaker: **Dr. Evangelyn Alocilja**



GARD FORUM 2026

Schedule

DAY 2

Friday, March 27

Aquaculture Session

8:30-9:30 AM EDT

Moderators: **Dr. Ivana Giovanna Zupićić & Dr Geraldine Dayrit**

Speakers: **Dr Andrew P. Desboi, Dr Le Thanh Dien, Dr Geraldine Dayrit, & Dr. Ivona Mladineo**



AI-based Tools Short Course

9:45 - 10:45 AM EDT

Speakers: **Dr. Beatrice Portelli & Dr. Ivana Giovanna Zupićić**



Virtual Exchange Event

11:00 AM-12:15 PM EDT

- Opening Message Speaker: **Dr. Kang Xia** (Assoc. Dir. MSU AgBioResearch), Moderator: **Dr. Evangelyn Alocilja**
- Virtual Exchange (VE) Student Presentations

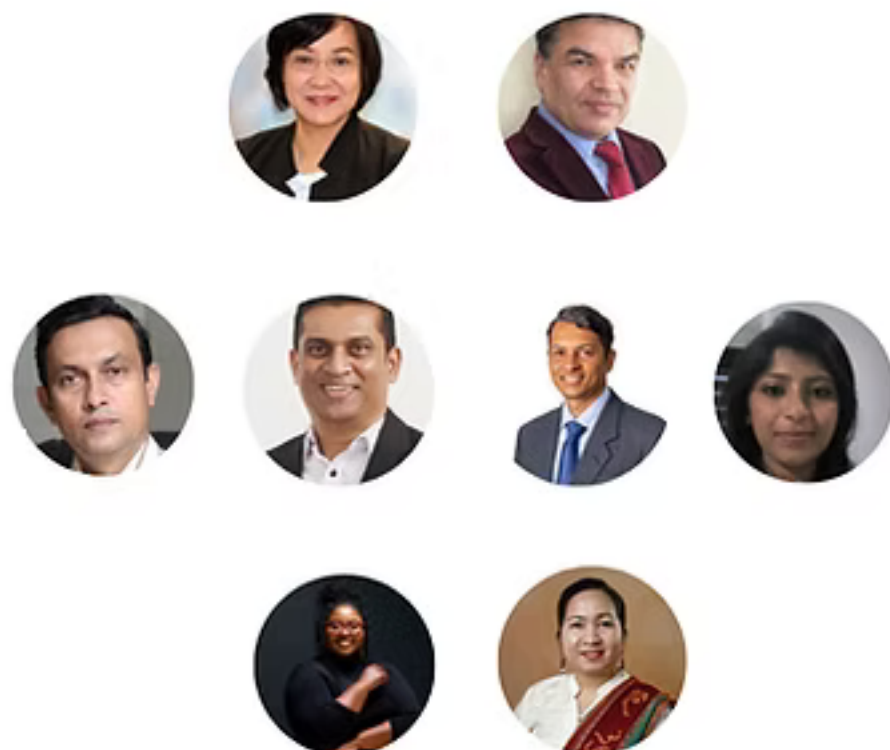


Break – 12:15-1:00 PM

Parallel Sessions

1:00 - 2:00 PM EDT

- One Health – A Systems Thinking Approach
Moderator: **Dr. Qing Xia**
Speaker: **Dr. Ramjee Ghimire**
- Technology transfer policy techniques
Moderator: **Prof. Sudath Rohan Munasinghe**
Speakers: **Dr. Shanta Rajapaksha Yapa, Mr. Heminda Jayaweera, & Mrs. Amali Hettige**
- AMR in Namibia & the Philippines
Speakers: **Dr. Mwangala Nalisa & Dr. Kathyleen Nogrado**



GARD FORUM 2026

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DAY 2

Friday, March 27

Parallel Sessions

1:00 - 2:00 PM EDT



- Innovation Initiatives in Higher Institutions – South Asia
Speaker: **Dr. Bim Prasad Shrestha**
- Strategies for Controlling TB
Speakers: **Dr. Ruth Sulaimon & Guru Prasann Satsangi**

Parallel Short Courses

2:15-3:15 PM EDT



- Design Thinking
Speaker: **Dr. Zeeshan Saifi**
- Techniques for a Successful Community-based Research Engagement
Speaker: **Azrin Jamison**

Short Course

2:15-4:15 PM EDT



- Next Gen Data & AI for Ag Innovators
Speaker: **Dr. Jane Payumo**

Awards Presentation & Closing Ceremony

4:30-5:00 PM EDT



Closing Remarks: **Dr. Bradley Marks**



Scan to access all session
Zoom links in one place!