



Seventh-day  
Adventist® Church  
TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION



**19**  
**JANUARY**  
14H - 17H30 (GMT)

# COVID SYMPOSIUM 2022

VACCINES, FREEDOM AND LOVING OUR NEIGHBOUR

## THE SPEAKERS



**Dr. Ganoune Diop**  
PARL Dir, GC



**Attorney Jennifer Woods**  
PARL Assoc. Dir, GC



**Dr. Peter Landless**  
Health Dir, GC



**Dr. Carlos Casiano**  
Prof. Microbiology  
Loma Linda University

YOU'RE  
**WELCOME**

**30 minute presentations from each speaker.**  
**80 minute Q&A session.**

Please send your questions in advance to  
[estickland@ted.adventist.org](mailto:estickland@ted.adventist.org) by 14 January '22



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**Dr. Ganoune Diop**  
PARL Dir, GC

**Presentation Synopsis:**

The overwhelming majority of doctors have been vaccinated. Nevertheless, there are members of the church who object to the Covid vaccine, to mRNA and to the church encouraging members to take the vaccines. Is the COVID-19 vaccine stance a religious liberty issue, a personal philosophical choice for fear of negative outcomes, or a deep misunderstanding of the scope of religious freedom itself?

This presentation will address the various objections to the Covid vaccines, deconstruct myths about the vaccines in order to provide a rational basis for understanding the nature and scope of religious freedom.

**Bio:**

Ganoune Diop, PhD. is the director of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) department for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He is the Secretary General of the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA).

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**Attorney Jennifer Woods**

PARL Assoc. Dir, GC

**Presentation Synopsis:**

The history of vaccinations, mandates, and exemptions; the Seventh-day Adventist position based on our official statements; and considerations we should make as Christians in deciding on whether to vaccinate.

**Bio:**

Jennifer Gray Woods is the director of government affairs and associate director of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) department for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Prior to joining PARL, Jennifer was an associate General Counsel in the Office of General Counsel for the GC. She holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School and a Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University.

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**Dr. Peter Landless**  
Health Dir, GC

**Presentation Synopsis:**

The COVID-19 pandemic is the most significant public health crisis the world has faced in the past 120 years. The Seventh-day Adventist Church believes in the importance of the Adventist health message to ensure our wholistic health and well-being, and to maintain optimal immunity. In addition to the general public health measures, the Church encourages immunization in consultation with one's healthcare provider as a public health measure to mitigate the effects of the present pandemic.

**Bio:**

Peter Landless is a medical doctor who trained in South Africa, the country of his birth. During his first term of mission service, he completed a specialty in Family Medicine. In this same period, he was ordained as a minister of the gospel. He subsequently specialized in internal medicine and then cardiology. Since 2001 he has served the global Seventh-day Adventist Church as an associate director of the department of Health Ministries. From October 2013, he was elected to serve as the director of the Health Ministries department. He is an adjunct Professor of Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and adjunct associate Professor at the Loma Linda Schools of Medicine and Public Health.

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**Dr. Carlos Casiano**

Prof. Microbiology Loma Linda University

**Presentation Synopsis:**

Dr. Casiano will provide an overview of the current scientific and medical understanding of the COVID-19 pandemic, with emphasis on the biology of the SARS-Cov-2 virus, its interactions with the immune system, the factors that contribute to the origin of new variants and severe disease, and the long-term health effects of Covid infection. In addition, he will discuss the development, composition, effectiveness, and limitations of the current Covid vaccines, and how they impact the immune system to prevent severe disease. The presentation will also briefly summarize the current scientific/medical literature on alternative treatments for COVID-19.

**Bio:**

Dr. Carlos A. Casiano is Professor of Microbiology, Molecular Genetics, and Medicine at Loma Linda University School of Medicine. He completed his undergraduate education in biology at the University of Puerto Rico before receiving his Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of California at Davis. Prior to joining LLU in 1997, Dr. Casiano completed postdoctoral training on autoimmunity and cancer at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California. Over the past 24 years he has led at LLU School of Medicine a biomedical research programme focused on the interplay between autoimmunity and cancer, with emphasis on cancer associated autoantibodies, chemotherapy resistance, and health disparities.

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