



NIC MARRAKECH RETREAT

9 - 11 NOVEMBER

2024

**Healthcare, Geopolitics,
and the Disruptors –
An African Perspective**

Programme Booklet



NIC MARRAKECH RETREAT 2024

9 - 11 NOVEMBER

**Healthcare, Geopolitics,
and the Disruptors –
An African Perspective**

Contents

Retreat Programme

Saturday, 9 November 2024	2
Sunday, 10 November 2024	7
Monday, 11 November 2024	11

Speakers' and Moderators' Biographies	13
--	-----------

Acknowledgements	39
-------------------------	-----------

General Information	39
----------------------------	-----------

Retreat Programme

Saturday, 9 November 2024

Time	Retreat Agenda
10:30am – 10:35am	<p>Welcome Remarks by Mr Khalil BINEBINE <i>Moroccan Host</i></p> <p>Opening Remarks by Mr Kishore MAHBUBANI <i>Chairman, NUS Medicine International Council (NIC), Singapore</i></p>
10:35am – 11:00am	<p>Update by Professor CHONG Yap Seng on “Changing Direction of Medicine and Health in Asia” <i>Dean, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS Medicine), Singapore</i></p>
11:00am – 12:30pm	<p>Conversation with The Honourable Macky SALL <i>Fourth President of the Republic of Senegal</i></p> <p>Africa’s Role in a Changing World: Challenges and Opportunities</p> <p>The Honourable Macky Sall will share his perspective on Africa’s growing influence within a rapidly shifting global landscape. He will address the continent’s key challenges – from economic development and security to climate resilience – and the unique opportunities Africa holds in today’s multipolar world. Drawing on his leadership experience, President Sall will discuss how African nations can leverage regional integration, natural resources, and multilateral partnerships to foster sustainable growth and strengthen Africa’s position on the world stage.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Kishore MAHBUBANI <i>NIC Chairman</i></p>
12:30pm – 2:00pm	<p>Lunch</p>

Time	Retreat Agenda
2:00pm – 3:30pm	<p>Conversation with The Honourable Armen SARKISSIAN</p> <p><i>Fourth President of the Republic of Armenia</i></p> <p>Navigating Shifting Power Dynamics: Small States in a Complex Geopolitical Landscape</p> <p>The Honourable Armen Sarkissian will be having a conversation with NIC members about key global issues, including the Ukraine conflict, analysing its profound geopolitical implications for Eurasia, the shifts in global alliances, and the broader security concerns it triggers for the region. He will also explore the role of small states amidst the shifting alliances of major powers such as the Russia, the European Union (EU), and China, given his view that small states possess unique strengths, like agility and adaptability, that allow them to navigate complex geopolitical landscapes. Dr Sarkissian will share his analysis of how the political leadership changeover in the United States (US) is likely to reshape the global political landscape, and offer insights into how smaller nations can exert influence in the evolving global order.</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Finian TAN</p> <p><i>Founder and Chairman, Vickers Venture Partners, Singapore</i></p>
3:30pm – 4:00pm	Tea Break
4:00pm – 4:30pm	NIC Members' Meeting <i>(all guests are welcomed)</i>



Time	Retreat Agenda
4:30pm – 5:30pm	<p>Lebanon and the Region's Geopolitics</p> <p>Seventy-six years ago, the Middle East's geopolitical landscape has been in a state of flux. The regions everchanging alliances, wars, and proxy conflicts, profoundly impacted Lebanon. Lebanon's own challenges intensified with the 17 October 2019 protests demanding political reform, which fizzled in the face of entrenched power structures. The horrific 4 August 2020 catastrophe of the Beirut port explosion only deepened Lebanon's economic and political crisis adding a humanitarian catastrophe. Now, with the 7 October 2023 escalation in Gaza spilling over into Lebanon, regional tensions have heightened, pulling Lebanon into the fray as its fragile state grapples with internal instability and external pressures.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Honourable Wasseem KABBARA, <i>President and Founder, People to People Aid Corp, Morocco, Lebanon, and United States of America (USA)</i> <li>• H.E. Tracy CHAMOUN, <i>Author, Lebanon</i> (Hybrid participation) <p>Moderator: Dr Raja KAMAL <i>Senior Director, NUS Medicine International Council (NIC), Singapore, USA</i></p>

Time	Retreat Agenda
5:30pm – 6:30pm	<p>Conversation with Ambassador Frank LAVIN (Ret.)</p> <p><i>Visiting Fellow, Hoover Institution; Former US ambassador to Singapore and Under Secretary for International Trade at the US Department of Commerce, USA</i></p> <p>(Hybrid participation)</p> <p>Decoding the US Election: Global Impact and Policy Shifts</p> <p>The US elections receive perhaps more news coverage than any election in the world, so we quickly learn what happened. However, the significance of what happened can be more elusive. What does the change of presidency mean for US foreign policy, US relations with China, trade policy, the war in Ukraine, and other serious international issues? Frank Lavin will offer an overview of changes we can expect in the United States based on what took place Tuesday.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Ted SOUDER <i>Founder, Wiggs Holding, USA</i></p>



Time	Retreat Agenda
6:30pm – 7:00pm	<p>Addressing the Challenges of Chronic Disease, Obesity, and Beyond with Non-Thermal Laser Technology</p> <p>by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Simon RAMSHAW <i>Managing Director, Erchonia Lasers, United Kingdom</i> <li>• Dr Rita RAKUS <i>Physician, Dr Rita Rakus Clinic, United Kingdom</i> <p>As a human race, we are living longer, but these extra years often come with the burden of chronic disease and compromised quality of life. In this presentation, we explore how non-thermal laser technology can transform this experience, offering not only a means for healthy fat loss on patients of all shapes and sizes, but also a way to enhance cellular health, reduce pain, decrease inflammation, and accelerate healing.</p> <p>Non-thermal lasers uniquely work by delivering energy directly to the mitochondria – the cell’s powerhouse – triggering biological processes that support healing and optimise body function. This innovative approach provides a safe, natural method to empower our bodies, enhancing their capacity to manage chronic conditions and enjoy a more active, fulfilling life.</p> <p>Join us to discover how non-thermal laser technology is redefining wellness and helping us address chronic disease at its core, paving the way for healthier, more vibrant years ahead.</p>
7:00pm - 8:30pm	Welcome Dinner and Cultural Performance



Sunday, 10 November 2024

Time	Retreat Agenda
9:30am – 10:30am	Conversation with Mr Mohamed Amine SABIBI <i>Director General, Marrakech Invest, The Regional Investment Center of the Marrakech Safi Region, Morocco</i> Moderator: Mr Aram GRIGORIAN <i>Entrepreneur, Switzerland</i>
10:30am – 11:00am	Tea Break
11:00am – 12:00pm	Moroccan Politics, Economy, and Innovation by Mr Tarik BOUDIAR <i>Supply Chain Institute Head of Logistics; Head of Startgate, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic, Morocco</i>
12:00pm – 2:00pm	Lunch

Time	Retreat Agenda
2:00pm – 3:00pm	<p>Digital Longevity Medicine by Professor Dean HO <i>Provost’s Chair Professor; Director of The Institute for Digital Medicine (WisDM) at NUS Medicine; Director of The N.1 Institute for Health (N.1); and Head of the Department of Biomedical Engineering at NUS, Singapore</i></p> <p>In October of 2024, a first-in-kind human trial protocol – with Professor Dean Ho as the test subject – was approved. This N-of-1 protocol harnesses a combination of fasting, fitness, and food to optimise metabolic health, monitored using an array of digital health platforms. Built from an unprecedented dataset, this study will culminate in a digital twin of Professor Ho to hyper-personalise his cardiometabolic health protocol. Learnings from this study will formulate data collection frameworks to power population-scale digital twin construction as well as regimens that do not require sustained digital monitoring to impact even larger populations. Professor Ho will share his digital health journey as well as how the unique team at the Institute for Digital Medicine (WisDM) at NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine blends Artificial Intelligence (AI), engineering, medicine, behavioural economics, and reimbursement towards practice-changing innovation with life-saving outcomes.</p>



Time	Retreat Agenda
3:00pm – 4:00pm	<p>Trump (Again) – Implications for Renewable Energy by Mr John REDFERN <i>Chief Executive Officer, Eavor Technologies, Canada</i></p> <p>Eavor is a Next-Gen Geothermal Technology Developer that is a VVP portfolio company. Eavor’s mission is to facilitate both the energy transition and deliver the possibility of energy independence to all nations. Up to now, despite being green and baseload, geothermal had not made much of an impact. Spurred on by the Biden-administration’s Inflation Reduction Act and the success of Eavor and other geothermal start-ups, there has been a growing consensus that this was to be the geothermal decade. Despite the incoming Trump-administration’s stated intention to dismantle all its predecessor’s legislative successes, Eavor remains confident that it will be well positioned, despite these headwinds, to scale geothermal as one of the key pillars of our future energy mix – whether as an alternative to natural gas in the “short-term” or fission/fusion in the long-term.</p>
4:00pm – 4:30pm	<p>Tea Break</p>
4:30pm – 5:30pm	<p>Conversation with Mr Kishore MAHBUBANI <i>Chairman, NUS Medicine International Council (NIC), Singapore</i></p> <p>What should we expect from Donald Trump?</p> <p>Many people assume that the choice of American Presidents changes the course of human history. In some ways, they do. In some ways, they don’t. This discussion will try to do a realistic analysis of what American Presidents can and cannot do.</p>



Time	Retreat Agenda
5:30pm – 6:30pm	<p>HyperVIEW™ - A Revolutionary Approach to the Detection and Treatment of Disease</p> <p>by Dr Chris BARTY</p> <p><i>Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer of Lumitron Technologies, USA</i></p> <p>For over 120 years, x-ray systems that are used for industrial and clinical imaging have been based on Roentgen tubes which produce a broad spectrum of light emitted into a wide cone angle. Lumitron Technologies is pioneering a fundamentally different, compact, laser-based technology that produces narrow beams of mono-energetic x-rays. These systems, marketed under the trade name HyperVIEW™, are based on the collision of very high energy electron (VHEE) beams with short duration laser pulses and are capable of imaging at up to 1000x higher spatial resolution, imaging at up to 100x lower dose, and imaging specific elements or isotopes within a complex object. In addition, the underlying VHEE beams of HyperVIEW™ systems have sufficient charge and sufficient energy to treat cancer anywhere in a human body in both FLASH and stereotactic modalities. These modalities can dramatically decrease the damage to healthy tissue during radiotherapy. Because HyperVIEW™'s electron and x-ray beams travel along identical paths, it is possible for these systems to not only provide precision images of diseased tissue but also to enable precision, image-guided radiotherapy of them as well.</p> <p>Moderator: Professor Dean HO</p> <p><i>Provost's Chair Professor; Director of The Institute for Digital Medicine (WisDM) at NUS Medicine, Singapore</i></p>



Time	Retreat Agenda
6:30pm – 7:30pm	<p>Panel Discussion on “Investing in Innovation: Global Tech Trends Shaping the Future”</p> <p>Join us for an insightful talk where Dr Finian Tan and Dr Khalil Binebine of Vickers Venture Partners, a leading venture capital firm, share personal perspectives on the global investment landscape and emerging technology trends shaping the future. From AI and healthcare breakthroughs to the rise of sustainable innovations, this session will explore the key shifts driving growth across industries. Drawing on real-world experience in venture capital, they will offer unique insights into the broader implications of investing in technology — how it’s not only transforming markets, but also redefining economies, societies, and the way we live and work.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Finian TAN, <i>Founder and Chairman, Vickers Venture Partners, Singapore</i> • Dr Khalil BINEBINE, <i>Senior Consultant, Vickers Venture Partners, Morocco</i> <p>Moderator: Ms Melisa LEE <i>Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Ploutos Strategic and Arete XL, Singapore</i></p>
7:30pm – 9:00pm	Dinner and Cultural Show
9:00pm	End of Retreat Programme



Monday, 11 November 2024

Time	Retreat Agenda
	<p>Free and Easy</p> <p>Please feel free to go for your own tour or you are welcome to come back to the Dar lalla Mina house to enjoy the following facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manicurist• Gym• Pool facilities• Cinema
7:00pm – 9:00pm	Vickers Venture Networking Dinner <i>(optional)</i>
9:00pm	Transport to Return to Hotels <i>(for those who chose to stay for dinner)</i>



Speakers' and Moderators' Biographies

Mr Kishore MAHBUBANI

Chairman, NUS Medicine International Council (NIC), Singapore



Mr Kishore Mahbubani has dedicated five decades of his life to public service, for which he was conferred the Public Administration Medal (Gold) by the Singapore Government in 1998. In his 33 years as a Singapore diplomat, Mr Mahbubani took on many challenging assignments, serving for example in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in 1973-1974 during the Cambodian Civil War. He also served two stints as Singapore's Ambassador to the United Nations (1984-1989 and 1998-2004) and held the position of Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1994 to 1998.

Mr Mahbubani had an equally illustrious career in academia. He was appointed the Founding Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in August 2004. Despite his heavy administrative duties, Mr Mahbubani proved to be a prolific author and has published ten books. His ninth book, *The Asian 21st Century*, is an open access volume which has been downloaded over 3.5 million times. His latest book, a memoir titled *Living the Asian Century*, was published in August 2024.

Mr Mahbubani has been listed among the world's top 100 public intellectuals by Foreign Policy and Prospect magazines and among the Top 50 individuals who would shape the debate on the future of capitalism by the *Financial Times*. He was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in October 2019. More information can be found on <http://www.mahbubani.net>.

Professor CHONG Yap Seng

Lien Ying Chow Professor in Medicine and Dean, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore



Professor Chong Yap Seng is the Dean of the National University of Singapore Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine), Singapore's first institute of higher learning and one of the leading medical schools in Asia. Since Professor Chong assumed the role of Dean in 2019, NUS Medicine has risen to rank 16th on the 2024 Times Higher Education World University rankings and 18th on the 2024 Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings for Medicine.

In his role as Deputy Chief Executive (Education and Research) of the National University Health System (NUHS), Professor Chong will be furthering NUHS' academic mission and augmenting the Academic Health System through his oversight of the academic and research development at all NUHS institutions.

As the former Executive Director (2015-2021) and now the Chief Clinical Officer at the Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), Professor Chong oversees clinical programmes that seek to promote health and human capacity in Singapore and the world. These programmes include the Growing Up in Singapore Towards healthy Outcomes (GUSTO) and the Singapore Preconception Study of long-Term maternal and child Outcomes (S-PRESTO) longitudinal studies that examine how conditions in pregnancy and early childhood influence the health and development of women and children.

In addition to his special research interest in the developmental origins of health and disease, Professor Chong has co-authored more than 500 research publications in top journals including *The Lancet*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* and the *British Medical Journal (BMJ)*. He received the National Outstanding Clinician Scientist Award from Singapore's Ministry of Health in 2017 for his research efforts in early human development and nutrition, and was conferred the Public Administration Medal (Silver) at the 2022 Singapore National Day Awards.

For the past few years, his energies have been on helping develop national strategies to advance child and maternal health and well-being, promoting healthy living for families, and improving health resources equity in Singapore.

Professor Chong continues to care for mothers and babies in his role as a Senior Consultant in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the National University Hospital (NUH) under the NUHS and, till today, still looks forward to welcoming newborn babies into the world.

The Honourable Macky SALL

Fourth President of the Republic of Senegal



Born on 11 December 1961, His Excellency (H.E.) Macky Sall, 4th President Sall of Senegal (2012-2024), is a geological engineer and geophysicist graduated from Institut national des sciences de la Terre (national Institute of Earth sciences, Dakar, Senegal). He was also trained at the Ecole nationale supérieure du pétrole et des moteurs (Higher national school of petroleum and engine) and at the Institut français du pétrole (French Institute of petroleum), both in France.

NATIONAL POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CAREER

President Sall was first elected with 65.80% of the votes in Senegal's Presidential Election Run-off in March 2012, and re-elected for a second and last term in March 2019 with 58,27 of the votes.

Before his election as President, H.E. Sall held the following positions:

- April 2000 – May 2001: Special Adviser on Energy and Mines to the President of the Republic
- December 2000 – July 2001: Managing Director of Senegal's Petroleum Company, PETROSEN
- May 2001 – November 2002: Minister of Mines, Energy and Water
- November 2002 – August 2003: Senior Minister, Minister of Mines, Energy and Water
- October – November 2002: Minister of Mining, Energy, Water, Equipment and Transports
- August 2003 – April 2004: Senior Minister, Minister of the Interior and Local Communities, Spokesperson of the Government
- 21 April 2004 – 19 June 2007: Prime Minister of the Republic of Senegal

Elected as Speaker of Parliament (National Assembly) on 20 June, he held that position until 9 November 2008, when he then resigned from his positions as Member of Parliament and Mayor of Fatick.

On 1 December 2008, he created his own political party Alliance pour la République-APR (Alliance for the Republic) with which he regained his position as Mayor of Fatick following 22 March 2009 local elections.

President Sall was designated as the new Chair of the Supervisory Board of the Global Center on Adaptation in September 2024.

AFRICAN AND INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

President Sall has been elected in January 2013 by the African Union Summit as Chairperson of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC), the leading body of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); the African strategy for economic development and international partnership.

He has also been Chairperson of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Head of State and Government Authority, May 2015 – June 2016.

From February 2022 to February 2023, he was Chairperson of African Union.

President Sall is currently Special Envoy of the Paris Pact for the People and the Planet following the Paris Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in June 2023.

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

Among various distinctions, President Sall has been awarded these titles:

Dr Honoris Causa Abomey Calvy University, (Benin); Dr Honoris Causa Swiss UMEF University Geneva, (Switzerland); Dr Honoris Causa, Pukyong University of Busan, (Republic of Korea); Dr Honoris Causa Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers, (CNAM) (France); Honorary member, Académie Française des Science d'Outre Mer (France).

The Honourable Armen SARKISSIAN

Fourth President of the Republic of Armenia



The Honourable Armen Sarkissian was President of the Republic of Armenia from 2018 to 2022. From 1996 to 1997, he served as Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia. In 1992, he was appointed as Ambassador of Armenia to the United Kingdom and served as Senior Ambassador to Europe, Ambassador to the European Union (EU), Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Vatican, and the Head of Mission to NATO.

From 2000 to 2013, Dr Sarkissian served as Special Advisor of the President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); Chairman of the Global Council on Energy Security-WEF; Chairman and Founder of the EURASIA Centre at Cambridge University; Board member, Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; and others.

He also worked as a Senior Advisor to the Chairmen, Chief Executive Officers of BP, Alcatel Lucent, Telefonica, Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, and other multinational corporations.

Dr Sarkissian is a well-known philanthropist and influential leader, with vast business and civic networks in major capitals around the world and leadership positions in international organisations, such as the East West Institute, Euro-Atlantic Security Initiative, Global Leadership Foundation, the World Economic Forum, and others.

Dr Sarkissian has over 25 years of experience in science and technology, global diplomacy, and international business. He is co-creator of the Tetris Gold-Wordtris video-game (world N1 in early 1990's). Author of Quantum Politics and a bestselling book, *Small States Club*, 2023. He is actively promoting necessity of S20 organisation.

Dr Finian TAN

Founder and Chairman, Vickers Venture Partners, Singapore



Dr Finian Tan is the Founder and Chairman of Vickers Venture Partners which was established in 2005. Dr Tan is known for his strategic foresight and passion for deeptech innovation and he has had decades of experience in finance and investments.

Prior to founding Vickers, Dr Tan was Managing Director and Head of the Credit Suisse First Boston (CSFB) group of banks in Singapore and Malaysia. And before that, he was a Founding Partner and Managing Director at Draper Fisher Jurvetson ePlanet (DFJ ePlanet), where he spearheaded the investment in Baidu in 2000, securing a 25% stake and two board seats. Under his leadership, Baidu grew from a small startup to a successful Nasdaq IPO. Earlier in his career, Dr Tan was Deputy Secretary of Trade and Industry for the Singapore Government where he oversaw the creation of the billion-dollar TIF fund and was subsequently appointed as chairman of the fund. Dr Tan also worked at Goldman Sachs, J. Aron & Co. (Singapore) Pte., overseeing the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr Tan received his Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Philosophy in Engineering from Cambridge University. He received his BSc in Engineering from the University of Glasgow.

The Honourable Wasseem KABBARA

President and Founder, People to People Aid Corp, Morocco, Lebanon, and United States of America



Mr Wasseem Kabbara has held several executive and management positions with American and international firms. Presently, he is senior advisor to notable private equity and real estate funds such as Triton Partners and Arzan Capital in addition to volunteering for www.peopletopeopleaid.org, a United States (US) not for profit private foundation, that he founded to undertake extensive humanitarian work in the Republic of Lebanon and the Kingdom of Morocco. Under his auspices, People to People Aid

Corp has delivered more than \$158 million in humanitarian aid focusing on healthcare in both Lebanon and Morocco.

For the past 14 years, he was the Managing Partner of MOR Consult, a Casablanca based investment banking, funds advisory, asset management and strategic consultancy firm. Previously, he was Advisor to the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Optimum Holdings, a real estate project management and investment company and CEO of Next USA, Inc. a subsidiary of Next plc, the leading United Kingdom retailer; he remains Chairman of the advisory board of Saleh Hospitality Group, a hotel and hospitality asset management firm based in Boston, Massachusetts.

In 2007, Mr Kabbara, as the Advisor to BMCE Capital a subsidiary of Bank of Africa, has conceived and detailed the strategy of Maghreb Siyaha Fund (\$250 million), the first Moroccan real estate and hospitality investment fund. He continues to advise an elite list of international clients and local funds on their real estate and investments in tourism in the USA, North Africa and the Middle East. Mr Kabbara is a graduate of the College of Management at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

In 1998, he accomplished his two years tenure as a member of the Dean's Council at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

In 2013, Mr Kabbara was decorated with the Golden Cross of Merit by the President of the Republic of Poland for his outstanding global humanitarian activities. He was also the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in the Kingdom of Morocco during the period 2015 to 2020.

H.E. Tracy CHAMOUN

Author, Lebanon



Her Excellency (H.E.) Tracy Chamoun is the granddaughter of the former president of Lebanon, Camille Chamoun (1952-1958), and the daughter of Dany Chamoun, the former president of The National Liberal Party, who was assassinated in 1990 along with his wife and her two younger brothers.

H.E. Chamoun has written three books, including one novel and two historical narratives about the Lebanese civil war events (1975-1990) and their consequences.

These were published in four languages: English, French, Arabic, and Italian.

She has toured extensively and spoken worldwide at conferences advocating better governance for Lebanon and equal opportunity in Lebanese politics.

In 2013 and in 2014, she was a candidate for the parliamentary elections, but both elections were cancelled due to the security situation.

In 2017, she was appointed as the Ambassador of Lebanon to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, where she served for three years before resigning from her post in protest after the massive explosion at the Port of Beirut, that claimed the lives of more than 220 victims and damaged over 200,000 homes.

H.E. Chamoun holds a degree in communication and sociology from The University of London, Goldsmith's College.

In 1992, her book *Au Nom du Père* was awarded "Le Prix Vérité" in France.

Dr Raja KAMAL

**Senior Director, NUS Medicine International Council (NIC),
Singapore, United States of America**



Dr Raja Kamal (PhD) is a Senior Director at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine at the National University of Singapore. Prior to that, Dr Kamal was the Senior Vice President at the Buck Institute for Aging Research. Previously, Dr Kamal was the Senior Associate Dean at the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. Prior to that position, Dr Kamal was Director of New Initiatives and International Development at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. During his sixteen years at Harvard, Dr Kamal successfully internationalised the activities of the Kennedy School and negotiated dozens of programs with governments and leading private sector organisations in the United States of America (USA) and around the world.

An economist by training, Dr Kamal was an adjunct professor of economics and international business at Boston University and previously at Wheelock College. He holds advanced graduate degrees in economics, mass communication, and administrative sciences and is a frequent contributor to newspapers in the USA and abroad. He contributed editorials on global affairs to the *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *The Providence Journal*, *The Scotsman*, *The Union Leader*, *Times of Japan*, *Middle East Times*, *The Daily Star*, and *San Diego Union Tribune* among many others. His work was published in Arabic, Chinese, German, French, Russian, and Spanish newspapers.

Ambassador Frank LAVIN (Ret.)

Visiting Fellow, Hoover Institution; Former US ambassador to Singapore and Under Secretary for International Trade at the US Department of Commerce, United States of America



Ambassador Frank Lavin is a Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution where he works on Asia policy and trade issues. He writes a monthly column for *Forbes Magazine*.

Ambassador Lavin was Chairman of the NUS Medicine International Council (NIC) from 2016 – 2021 and is now an Honorary Member of the NIC.

Ambassador Lavin served as Under Secretary for International Trade at the United States (US) Department of Commerce in the Bush (43) Administration. In that capacity, Ambassador Lavin served as lead trade negotiator for both China and India and was responsible for commercial policy, export promotion, and trade negotiations across the globe. Ambassador Lavin was previously US Ambassador to Singapore, where he helped negotiate the US-Singapore Free Trade Agreement.

In the private sector, Ambassador Lavin served in senior finance and management positions in Hong Kong and Singapore with Edelman, Bank of America, and Citibank.

Ambassador Lavin also served in the Bush (41) and Reagan Administrations, working in the Department of Commerce, Department of State, National Security Council, and White House.

Ambassador Lavin earned a Bachelor of Science from the School of Foreign Service and a Master of Science in Chinese Language and History (both Georgetown); a Master of Arts in International Relations and International Economics from the School of Advanced International Studies (Johns Hopkins); and a Master in Business Administration in Finance from Wharton (Pennsylvania).

He has been published in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, and elsewhere.

Ambassador Lavin is the author of *The Smart Business Guide to China E-Commerce* (Penguin), co-author of *Export Now* (Wiley) on market entry strategies, and author of *Home Front to Battlefield* (Ohio University Press), a World War II history book.

Ambassador Lavin serves as a Trustee of The Asia Foundation and as a Director of the Asia Society of Northern California. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Advanced MedTech Holdings, a medical technologies company. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and on the Advisory Board of the European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE), a Brussels think-tank. Ambassador Lavin served as a Lieutenant Commander in the US Naval Reserves.

Mr Ted SOUDER

Founder, Wiggs Holding, United States of America



Mr Ted Souder is a globally recognised authority on modern business transformation with a proven track record of driving innovation and growth at scale. As one of Google’s earliest employees, he spent over two decades leading high-performing sales, customer success, and operations teams across the United States, Southern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. In these diverse leadership roles, Mr Souder’s teams generated billions in revenue, partnering with some of the world’s largest brands to accelerate their digital capabilities in search, mobile, video, cloud, and Artificial Intelligence (AI). He also founded the Google CFO Forum, facilitating strategic dialogue between Google and the financial leadership of its most prominent customers.

Mr Souder’s extensive governance experience includes serving as a board director at 1871, a leading global tech hub, where he chairs the Nominating and Governance Committee. He also serves on the board of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, a prominent geopolitical think tank. His previous board service includes the Economic Club of Chicago, the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce (Vice-Chair), Portico by Exclusive Resorts, and a business development company impacted by the 2008 financial crisis.

Mr Souder is a part-owner of the Monthly Barometer, a geopolitical advisory platform, an advisor to HTAT Journeys, a conservation- focused safari operator, and a professor teaching AI strategy on the Section online learning platform. His role as a professor not only informs but also inspires the next generation of leaders. He is also a sought-after advisor to founders and early-stage startups.

With a deep understanding of AI and leadership, Mr Souder has guided organizations toward sustainable futures. His expertise in building AI-first organisations equips them to navigate an increasingly complex and rapidly evolving global landscape. Mr Souder’s strategic acumen and extensive experience with innovation are complemented by his unwavering sense of urgency, a quality that motivates all those around him.

Mr Simon RAMSHAW

Managing Director, Erchonia Lasers, United Kingdom



Mr Simon Ramshaw is a seasoned executive and the Managing Director of Erchonia Lasers Ltd, the European, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) division of Erchonia Corp, a global leader in non-invasive laser technologies. With over two decades of experience in the healthcare and medical device sectors, Mr Ramshaw has developed deep expertise in laser technology, particularly in fat reduction technologies, pain management, inflammation reduction, and performance enhancement.

Known for his ability to think outside the box and approach challenges holistically, Mr Ramshaw combines innovative thinking with a deep understanding of medical technologies to craft solutions that address both patient needs and broader business objectives. His holistic approach allows him to foresee market trends and identify unique opportunities for growth in emerging sectors like non-thermal laser treatments.

Mr Ramshaw has been instrumental in introducing ground breaking non-thermal lasers that reduce fat, promote cellular healing and mitochondrial efficacy, backed by rigorous FDA-approved clinical research.

Under his leadership, Erchonia Lasers Ltd has expanded its footprint across the EMEA region, pioneering advanced medical technology in new markets. Mr Ramshaw's forward-thinking mindset and ability to look beyond traditional frameworks have been key to driving the success of the company.

Dr Rita RAKUS

Physician, Dr Rita Rakus Clinic, United Kingdom



Over 20 years Dr Rita Rakus has built an extensive international client base and celebrity following who turn to her to make them look and stay at their best. As a renowned authority in her field, Dr Rakus is seen regularly on our screens and in the pages of magazines. She has appeared in *Under the Knife* (ITV), *Plastic Fantastic* (BBC), *Lunch-Hour Facelift* (C4), *Celebrity Fat Club* (ITV) and *10 Years Younger* (C4). She is regularly mentioned in articles in *Tatler*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Elle*, *Grazia* and *Hello* as well as in the *Mail on*

Sunday, *The Times*, *Sunday Times*, *New York Times*, *London Evening Standard*, and *The Observer*.

Dr Rakus, together with her fellow clinicians, has won numerous awards including the title “The London Lip Queen”. As an acknowledged authority for many years in non-surgical aesthetic and cosmetic treatments, Dr Rakus has been presented with many awards including, to name a few, Inscription on the Royal Society of Medicine Wall of Honour, Fellowship of the British College of Aesthetic Medicine in recognition of her work in establishing the British Association of Cosmetic Doctors and setting standards within the industry, the BTL Aesthetics Award for Outstanding Contribution to Aesthetic Medicine, Restylane Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010, RealSelf Top Doctor Badge in 2017, and Outstanding Career and Lifetime Achievement Award at the Safety in Beauty Awards 2019.

Dr Rakus has been a member of the Global Thinkers Forum and the Buck Advisory Council (BAC) of the Buck Institute for Research on Aging.

Dr Rakus also has now been dubbed the machine queen as she has the widest selection of cutting-edge technology in London.

Mr Mohamed Amine SABIBI

Director General, Marrakech Invest, The Regional Investment Center of the Marrakech Safi Region, Morocco



Mr Mohamed Amine Sabibi is currently the Directeur Général PI (Director General) of Marrakech Invest, the Regional Investment Centre of the Marrakech-Safi Region in Morocco (from October 2022) and the Directeur du Pôle Impulsion Économique et Offre Territoriale (Director of the Economic Impulse and Territorial) (since July 2020). In both roles, his work is focussed on policy advocacy.

Before joining Marrakech Invest, Mr Sabibi was a Senior Analyst at the West Africa Rating Agency from April 2017 to July 2020. He was a Senior Consultant at Fidaroc Grant Thornton from November 2015 to April 2017. Grant Thornton, whose network ranks 5th worldwide, was started in 1931 in Casablanca and in 1924 in Chicago, as an audit, consulting, and tax firm. Mr Sabibi also worked as a Policy Analyst at The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD-OCDE) from November 2014 to June 2015. He was a Consultant at Sémaphore Conseil from January to July 2013 and a Corporate Finance Analyst at Devoteam from January to November 2012. He served as a Research Assistant at the Institute of Economic Analysis and Prospective Studies in Ifrane, Morocco between June to September 2007.

He was educated at the Université Paris Dauphine – PSL with a Master en Finance Islamique (Master in Islamic Finance), 2013 to 2014, where he was also the Président de l’Ethics and Islamic Finance Association (President of the Ethics and Islamic Finance Association). From 2013 to 2014, he was educated at the Paris Sorbonne Cité (Paris Sorbonne City), graduating with a Master en Sciences Politiques, Sciences politiques et gouvernement (Master in Political Science, Political Science and Government). He obtained a Master in International Business, Économie internationale (Master in International Business, International Economics) at the Grenoble Ecole de Management (Grenoble School of Management) between 2010 to 2012. From 2006 to 2010, he received his Bachelor of Business Administration - BBA, Finance et services de gestion financière (Finance and Financial Management Services), and graduated from the Groupe ISCAE with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Finance and Financial Management Services in 2018.

(Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mohamed-amine-sabibi-61ab89b9/>)

Mr Aram GRIGORIAN

Entrepreneur, Switzerland



Mr Aram Grigorian is an internationally experienced entrepreneur, investment banker, executive and investor.

Among his notable transactions, in 2010 – 2014 he led the merger of the leading Russian independent investment bank, Troika Dialog, with Sberbank, the country’s largest financial institution, and the follow-on integration across all business lines.

In addition, in 2007 – 2013 he had also run a \$1.5 billion real estate private equity fund. He also led various proprietary cross-border projects and transactions (a notable one being the 2012 – 2014 takeover by Renault-Nissan of AvtoVAZ, the largest car manufacturer in Russia).

Mr Grigorian began his investment banking career in the mid-1990s with Salomon Brothers, then continued at Goldman Sachs. He has worked in London, Frankfurt and Moscow. Currently he is based in Switzerland. Mr Grigorian holds a mechanical/electrical engineering degree from Armenia and business/economics degrees from Germany and the UK. He had internships at Allianz Insurance in Munich, Germany and General Motors in Rüsselsheim, Germany.

Mr Tarik BOUDIAR

**Supply Chain Institute Head of Logistics; Head of Startgate
University Mohammed VI Polytechnic, Morocco**



With extensive experience in multinational and national companies, Mr Tarik Boudiar has held strategic roles in maritime planning, industrial supply chain, sales, business development, and partnerships. His career features significant periods at Morocco's OCP Group, one of the largest phosphate and fertiliser companies in the world, University Mohammed VI Polytechnic (UM6P), and PHOVA Technology, where he demonstrated a knack for navigating diverse markets and fostering key partnerships.

Mr Boudiar has led STARTGATE, the University Mohammed VI Polytechnic start-up campus, dedicated to building a thriving ecosystem for start-ups. His expertise in business development and strategic partnerships makes him an invaluable asset, guiding STARTGATE's strategic direction with clear vision and effective strategies.

Today, Mr Boudiar is in the African Academy for Industrial Training as Head of Logistics & Supply Chain, where his aim is to build training programs that will support the various structures in raising their logistical capabilities and prepare themselves for the future of the supply chain.

Mr Boudiar's educational journey spans prestigious institutions across several countries. He holds a bachelor's degree in international relations from France, a European bachelor's in international relations from the UK, and an MBA in International Business from Tampa, Florida. He also completed an Executive Master's in Environmental Mining and Circular Economy from UM6P and possesses executive education certificates from HEC Paris, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard. Additionally, he is yellow belt certified in lean management and has participated in the Leader Coach Program.

Professor Dean HO

Provost's Chair Professor; Director of The Institute for Digital Medicine (WisDM) at NUS Medicine; Director of The N.1 Institute for Health (N.1); and Head of the Department of Biomedical Engineering at NUS, Singapore



Professor Dean Ho is currently Provost's Chair Professor, Director of The Institute for Digital Medicine (WisDM) at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine); Director of The N.1 Institute for Health (N.1), and Head of the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the National University of Singapore (NUS).

In 2024, Professor Ho and team launched a first-in-kind trial – with Professor Ho as the test subject – to optimise his performance and biomarkers with digital technologies. This study has been featured on television and digital media programming, and major global meetings. Professor Ho and team also manage a portfolio of over 10 prospective, interventional human oncology clinical trials with life-saving outcomes. A serial entrepreneur, he has advised health or human performance teams, nutrition and wearable firms, and venture funds on digital medicine deployment.

Professor Ho is an elected Fellow of the United States National Academy of Inventors (NAI), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), and the Royal Society of Chemistry. Professor Ho is Co-Chair of the World Health Organization (WHO) Working Group for the regulation of AI for Health.

Professor Ho is an author of the best-selling book, *Medicine Without Meds*, a blueprint for accelerating practice-changing innovation to patients and caregivers. All author proceeds from the book benefit the WisDM Patient Impact Fund at NUS.

In popular and international media, Professor Ho has appeared on the *National Geographic* Channel Program “Known Universe,” and *Channel News Asia’s* “The Hidden Layer: Healthcare Trailblazers”. His discoveries have been featured on *CNN*, *The Economist*, *Straits Times*, *National Geographic*, *Forbes*, *Washington Post*, *NPR*, and other international news outlets.

Professor Ho is a recipient of the Tech Heroes from Crisis Pathfinder Award from the Singapore Computer Society, NSF CAREER Award, Wallace H Coulter Foundation Translational Research Award, and V Foundation for Cancer Research Scholar Award, among others. He has also served as the President of the Board of Directors of the Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening (SLAS), a leading global drug development organisation.

Mr John REDFERN

Chief Executive Officer, Eavor Technologies, Canada



Mr John Redfern is a serial entrepreneur in the data analytics, oil service, and energy tech verticals. Most recently, Mr Redfern co-founded Eavor, the world's leading Advanced Geothermal Solution (AGS) that continues to gain recognition for its transformative technology to provide always-on power that can deliver energy autonomy to the world.

Mr Redfern spent his early career in executive roles at multiple international oil companies and oil service companies including as a Director at Hess in London, President of Accumap in Calgary and President of IHS Energy in Denver. Prior to Eavor, Mr Redfern spent 13 years in China cofounding a series of start-ups, the most recent of which was LocalGravity, a leading retail data analytics platform in China.

Mr Redfern holds a degree in Engineering Physics from Queen's University in Kingston, Law degrees from McGill University in Montreal, and an MBA degree from INSEAD in France.

Dr Chris BARTY

**Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer, Lumitron Technologies,
United States of America**



Dr CPJ (Chris) Barty is a Co-Founder of Lumitron Technologies and its Chief Technology Officer (CTO). Dr Barty' academic background includes PhD and MS degrees in applied physics from Stanford University and BS degrees, each with honours, in chemistry, physics, and chemical engineering from North Carolina State University. For his many contributions to ultrafast and intense laser technology and to x-ray and gamma-ray source development and applications, Dr Barty has been elected a fellow of several prestigious professional societies including: the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the American Physical Society (APS), the Optical Society of America (OSA), the Society for Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers (SPIE), and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

In 2016, Dr Barty was selected as the recipient of the Harold E Edgerton Award of the SPIE for his work on ultrafast lasers and laser-based x-ray and gamma-ray science and in 2018 he was selected as the recipient of the RW Wood Prize of the Optical Society of America for his pioneering contributions to laser technology and applications. He is currently the Chairman of the International Committee on Ultrahigh Intensity Lasers and is a Distinguished Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Surgery and the Beckman Laser Institute and Medical Clinic at the University of California, Irvine. He has published more than 200 manuscripts, given more than 200 invited lectures, and holds 20 patents spanning topics in lasers, optics, materials science, nuclear science, medicine, chemistry, engineering, and physics.

Prior to establishing Lumitron's operations in Irvine, California in 2017, Dr Barty spent 17 years at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) where he invented the core technologies upon which Lumitron's x-ray systems are based. At LLNL, he also initiated and/or managed of more than \$270 million of advanced, laser-related research and development (R&D) activities, created the \$50million per annum Photon Science and Applications Program and was the CTO of the \$500 million per annum National Ignition Facility and Photon Science Directorate which maintains the world's largest laser - the \$3.2 billion National Ignition Facility.

Dr Khalil BINEBINE

Senior Consultant, Vickers Venture Partners, Morocco



Dr Elkhalil (Khalil) Binebine joined Vickers in 2005 and was an executive member of the Investment Committee till 2018. He has remained as senior consultant to Vickers to help source deals and investments from his global network of individuals and institutions. Before joining Vickers, Dr Binebine represented investment funds including Carlyle, Central Partners, and Castle Harbor. Prior to entering the world of finance, Dr Binebine was a practicing MD in New York and served as the personal physician of Malcolm Forbes, who was instrumental in assisting him in developing his contacts and gaining experience as an investor.

Dr Binebine graduated from the University of Bordeaux and earned an MD from La Sorbonne. He is a member of the Arab Banking Association of North America. He is fluent in Arabic, English, French, German, Spanish, Hebrew, and Portuguese.

Ms Melisa LEE

Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Ploutos Strategic and Arete XL, Singapore

Ms Melisa Lee has over 30 years' experience in the finance industry specialising in Financial Engineering.

She is currently the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of two financial businesses:

- **Ploutos Strategic** focuses on wealthy Asian business families in a unique niche:
 1. providing strategic financial solutions for the family businesses; and
 2. facilitating strategic partnerships with innovative startups for disruptive technology solutions that can transform their family businesses.
- **Arete XL** is an exclusive invitation-only online platform connecting global family offices with disruptive early stage technologies for venture capital investment opportunities.



Prior to founding Ploutos Strategic, she spent almost a quarter century in banking and held senior regional roles in major investment banks such as Credit Suisse First Boston (CSFB) / Credit Suisse Financial Products (CPFP), UBS, Morgan Stanley etc, based in several key financial centres (London, Tokyo, Hong Kong, and Singapore).

Melisa read Mathematics at Cambridge and was a Cambridge Commonwealth Trust scholar.

Acknowledgements

The NUS Medicine International Council (NIC) wishes to thank all speakers, moderators, and discussants for taking part in the NIC Marrakech Retreat 2024. The Council is also grateful to the many individuals who assisted in the planning and implementation of the conference.

General Information

DISCLAIMERS

House Rule: NUS Medicine International Council (NIC) events take place under the Chatham House Rule. However, photographs, images, and videos may be taken during the event and may be used on our social media, marketing and communications platforms under the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and the National University of Singapore (NUS) umbrella. You shall be deemed to have consented to our collection, use, and disclosure of the photographs, images and videos to third parties. You accept the abovementioned conditions by attending the event.

Insurance and Liability: The organising committee cannot accept liability for personal injury, loss or damage to the belongings of meeting participants, either during or as a result of the meeting.

All information provided in the programme is accurate at the time of printing and is subject to changes. The NIC will not be responsible for any changes in the programme due to external unforeseen circumstances and reserves the right to cancel, postpone, relocate or change any of the sessions.



NUS

National University
of Singapore

International Council
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine

