OPENING

During this session, the co-chairs will interact during a conversational opening in which they will contextualize the need for COVID-19 prevention by explaining where we are today globally. They will also outline the day in broad strokes and introduce the scientific committee. They will explain how the sessions and abstract sessions will run.

UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS OF SARS-COV-2 TO INFORM NEW PREVENTION AND TREATMENT STRATEGIES

This session will provide an overview of the basic virology, origins and immune response to SARS-CoV-2. In particular, it will explore other animal coronaviruses and their relationship to SARS-CoV-2 and any similarities and differences between them. It will include up-to-date info on the vaccine responses and how the virology, origin and immunology all are relevant to prevention.

COVID-19 AND THE POLICY RESPONSE

Developing the right mix of policy responses to COVID-19 has presented numerous challenges as policy can act as both an enabler and inhibitor to good public health, depending on its scope, targeting, timing, content, implementation and other factors. This session will explore how policy decisions have worked to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, as well as to exacerbate it. Particular attention will be paid to the challenges faced by populations who are already marginalized, and further marginalized by COVID-19, as well as issues of finance and access.

NONPHARMACEUTICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THE PREVENTION OF COVID-19

This session will focus on nonpharmaceutical considerations in prevention, namely modes of transmission and how this relates to personal protective equipment, including face masks. Neutraceutical interventions, such as vitamin D, have been shown to have protective effects epidemiologically. This session will explore how strong the evidence is and, finally, will explore the role of modelling to guide responses and predict outcomes.

ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VACCINATION TO PREVENT COVID-19 INFECTION AND DISEASE

This session will update on progress in active vaccines against COVID-19, monoclonal antibodies to prevent infection and mitigate disease, and novel ways of testing candidate vaccines, including human challenge studies.

WHAT’S NEXT FOR THE COVID-19 RESPONSE?

In conversation with a world-renowned epidemic expert and the COVID-19: Prevention Conference committee chairs, this session will provide expert analysis of the latest prevention science. They will discuss how advances in COVID-19 prevention presented throughout the day provide a road map towards limiting the impact that COVID-19 has had on people’s lives across the world. Drawing on their experiences from the HIV epidemic, this expert panel will outline what lies ahead for the response to COVID-19 and how the global community can be better prepared scientifically, socially and behaviourally.