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Medicine



Bridging the Divide: Non-communicable and Infectious Diseases in a Changing Global Health Landscape

Speakers and Moderators

Dr. Jarbas Barbosa, Director, Pan American Health Organization

Dr. Jarbas Barbosa da Silva Jr., a national of Brazil, was elected Director of the Pan American Health Organization by Member States during the 30th Pan American Sanitary Conference on September 28 2022. Dr. Barbosa began his five-year term on February 1, 2023.

From July 2017 until he was appointed Director, he served as PAHO Assistant Director, leading five technical departments and PAHO's Revolving Fund – a special program to increase equitable access to vaccines in the Region. In this position, Dr. Barbosa da Silva Jr. led the Organization's efforts to support Member States in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and reducing the impact on priority public health programs. He also served as a key PAHO spokesperson during the pandemic.



Dr. Barbosa da Silva Jr. obtained his medical degree from the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE) in Recife, Brazil. He specializes in public health and epidemiology at the National School of Public Health, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ) in Rio de Janeiro. He holds a master's degree in medical sciences and a PhD in public health from the University of Campinas-UNICAMP in São Paulo, Brazil.

He began his professional career in 1982, working for the State Department of Health in Pernambuco, where he was later appointed Program Coordinator for Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS. From 1993 to 1995, Dr. Barbosa da Silva Jr. served as Secretary of Health of the Municipality of Olinda in Pernambuco, Brazil. From 1995 to 1996, he was the Secretary of Health of Pernambuco State.

In 1997, he was appointed Director of the National Center for Epidemiology (CENEPI) in Brasilia within the Ministry of Health, a position he held until 2003. This year, he was appointed Vice-Minister for Health Surveillance and, in 2006, became Deputy Minister of Health. He modernized and strengthened the National Surveillance System in these positions, enhancing the detection and response capacity to outbreaks and public health emergencies. Dr. Barbosa da Silva Jr. also introduced innovations such as the surveillance of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) risk factors and environmental risks for health.

Dr. Barbosa da Silva Jr. joined PAHO in 2007 as the Area Manager for Health Surveillance and Disease Management. He was responsible for coordinating regional activities related to surveillance, prevention, and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, veterinary public health, and health analysis and statistics. He served in this capacity until his return to Brazil in April 2010.

In 2011, Dr. Barbosa was appointed for the second time as Vice-Minister for Health Surveillance, and in 2015, he served as Secretary of Science, Technology, and Strategic Supplies for the Brazilian Ministry of Health. From July 2015 to July 2018, Dr. Barbosa served as President of the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (ANVISA), where he modernized the regulation of medicines and health products and strengthened cooperation and integration with other regional and global regulatory mechanisms. Under his leadership, ANVISA became the first agency in Latin America to be accepted as a member of the International Council for Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH).

Dr. Barbosa da Silva Jr. participated as a member of the Brazilian delegation in meetings of the PAHO and WHO Governing Bodies. He was President of PAHO's Executive Committee from 2013 to 2014 and Vice-Chair of WHO's Executive Board from 2014 to 2015. Dr. Barbosa was also a senior member of several international committees and working groups, such as the United Nations Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (IACG UN) and the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework Advisory Group (PIP Framework AD), where he served as a member and chair in 2016.

Dr. Barbosa da Silva Jr. has received numerous awards and recognitions and is a Doctor Honoris Causa from the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ) and the UFPE. He is an honorary member of the Brazilian National Academy of Medicine and an International Member of the American National Academy of Medicine. He has published numerous articles on global health, health systems management, disease surveillance, and digital transformation and has spoken in over 250 lectures, conferences, and seminars.

Dr. Kevin De Cock, former Director, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Center for Global Health and CDC program in Kenya; Mérieux Foundation USA Board member

Kevin De Cock was born in Belgium and graduated in medicine from the University of Bristol, United Kingdom, in 1974. He specialized in internal medicine and then undertook further training in infectious and tropical diseases and hepatology. He joined the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer in 1986. He has held faculty positions at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, the University of Southern California, and the University of London where he was Professor of Medicine and International Health. He was founding Director of CDC's Projet RETRO-CI in Cote d'Ivoire, CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention – Surveillance and Epidemiology, and CDC's Center for Global Health. He served as Director of the World Health Organization's Department of HIV/AIDS; Director of CDC programs in Kenya; and CDC Ebola Response Team Lead in Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. He has received various awards including CDC's William C. Watson Jr. Medal of Excellence; the Chalmers Medal, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; Commandeur de l'Ordre de la Santé Publique (Commander of the Order of Public Health), Côte d'Ivoire; the CDC and ATSDR honor Award for International Health; and the CDC Mackel Award. He has over 380 publications, chapters, and articles, and is fluent in English, French, and Dutch. Since retirement from CDC end-2020, he has worked as an independent consultant (UNAIDS, FHI 360) and has taught at the University of Oxford, UK, and the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium.



Dr. Daniel Fitzgerald, B.H. Kean Professor in Tropical Medicine, Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College

Dr. Fitzgerald is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame (1986, BA, Philosophy) and the Yale School of Medicine (1992, MD). He received clinical training in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases at the Massachusetts General Hospital. He joined Weill Cornell Medicine in 1998 as a research fellow based in Port au Prince, Haiti where he spent six years providing patient care, teaching, and conducting research before returning to New York in 2004. He joined the Weill Cornell faculty and was promoted to Professor of Medicine in 2016.



His research focuses on HIV and tuberculosis (TB) in resource poor settings. His HIV research initially focused upon treatment and prophylaxis of opportunistic infections and then transitioned to studies of antiretroviral therapy (ART). His tuberculosis research includes clinical trials to optimize treatment of active TB, with a focus on people with HIV. The translation of research findings to patient care and the training of international physician scientists is an essential part of his research activity.

Dr. Fitzgerald became the Director of the Weill Cornell Center for Global Health in 2017. The Center has 19 faculty members who conduct research, service, and training to improve health care in lower income countries. Faculty have expertise in infectious diseases, women's health, cardiovascular disease, and oncology. The Center stands upon the pillars of decades-long international partnerships in Brazil (1964), Haiti (1979), Tanzania (2003) and India (2009). Dr Fitzgerald has been the recipient of multiple awards including the Bibliowicz Award for excellence in training women scientists in 2016 and election to the American Society of Clinical Investigation in 2015 and the American Association of Physicians in 2018.

Dr. Tom Frieden, Founder and CEO, Resolve to Save Lives

Dr. Frieden is the founder and CEO of Resolve to Save Lives, a global health organization that accelerates action against the world's deadliest health threats. Resolve to Save Lives has worked with governments and other partners in more than 60 countries to save millions of lives. Dr. Tom Frieden previously served as director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and New York City Health Commissioner, where he led efforts that increased life expectancy by 3 years and helped end major health crises including the largest US outbreak of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, the 2014 West Africa Ebola epidemic, and responses to H1N1, Zika, and other threats. He also helped start Mayor Michael Bloomberg's global health philanthropy, particularly the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use. A member of the National Academy of Medicine, his work has appeared in medical journals including The New England Journal of Medicine, JAMA, and The Lancet as well as media outlets including the New York Times, Washington Post, and The Wall Street Journal.



His forthcoming book, *The Formula for Better Health: How to Save Millions of Lives—Including Your Own*, will be released on September 30, 2025 (MIT Press). It distills four decades of public health leadership into a clear, actionable framework to prevent unnecessary deaths. The book bridges the gap between what we know and what we do, showing how to save lives at scale. Proceeds from the book will go to projects Resolve to Save Lives supports in the fight for health progress around the world.

Andrew Jack, *Global Education Editor, Financial Times*

Andrew Jack is global education editor for the Financial Times, writing on educational issues around the world and editorial lead for the free FT schools programme. He was previously head of curated content, deputy editor of the big read section, pharmaceuticals correspondent, and a foreign correspondent in France and Russia.

He oversees the free FT Schools Digest and the Business School Insider newsletters. He is the author of *Inside Putin's Russia* and *The French Exception*.



Ulrika Årehed Kågström, *President, Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)*

Ulrika Årehed Kågström is President of UICC, Secretary-General of the Swedish Cancer Society, board member of the Nordic Cancer Union and member of the Swedish Government's Life Science Advisory Group.

Her background is in finance, crisis management and leading large and complex organisations in times of change. Ulrika is highly regarded for her extensive experience in strategic leadership and successful advocacy work. She is known to be a team player who listens and greatly values transparency.

Under Ulrika's leadership, the Swedish Cancer Society has become the number 1 fundraising organisation in the country with a revenue that increased by more than 50 percent since Ulrika took office in 2016.

Ulrika is also an active leader in the Nordic Cancer Union. Fully committed to the global fight against cancer, Ulrika pays special attention to the numerous equity gaps in the access to early detection, treatment and care.

Ulrika has served as a UICC Board member since 2018. She has served as treasurer, chairman and member of the Knowledge, Advocacy and Policy Committee, chairman and member of the Finance Committee, member of the Strategy Review task force, member of the ATOM Coalition task force, member of the Governance committee, member of the task force on Antimicrobial Resistance, member of the Advisory Board of the Solidarity Fund for Ukraine and member of the Congress and Summit Committee.



Prior to joining the Swedish Cancer Society in 2016, Ulrika was Secretary General of the Swedish Red Cross.

She has extensive experience in governance as chair and member of boards such as the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, Magtoys Inc, the Folke Bernadotte Academy: Swedish agency for peace, security and development, and the Swedish Food Agency.

Ulrika has an extensive commitment to culture, partly through assignments at the National Theater and as chair of the Swedish Arts Council and previously as chair of the Royal Dramatic Theater.

Dr. Margaret McNairy, Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine and Center of Global Health, Weill Cornell Medicine

Dr. McNairy is an internationally recognized physician scientist with over 20 years' experience as a front-line doctor and public health researcher in HIV and cardiovascular disease in low-income countries. She is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell in the Center for Global Health and Chief of Hospital Medicine, General Internal Medicine at Weill Cornell- New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. She directs the Weill Cornell Global Health Research Fellowship. She graduated from the University of North Carolina as a Morehead Scholar and received her medical doctorate from Harvard Medical School, with training at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

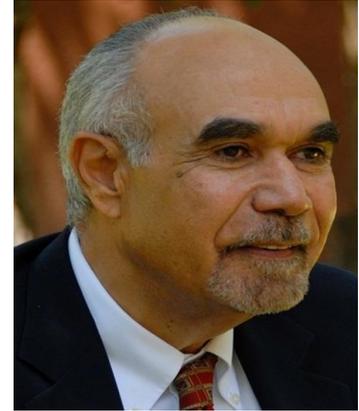


During her medical training, she received a Fulbright Scholarship to study health economics and policy at the London School of Economics and the London School of Tropical Medicine.

Her research focuses on understanding modifiable poverty-related drivers of HIV and cardiovascular disease and applying this data to design targeted interventions for prevention and treatment in the US and globally. Her work includes epidemiologic cohort studies, clinical trials, and implementation science. She has been funded by the NIH (NIAID, NHLBI, NICHD), CDC, Gates Foundation, and numerous other foundations. She has received awards for her leadership and mentorship track-record, with a focus on women physician scientists. She lives in New York City with her husband and three children ages 6, 9 and 12.

Dr. Jean-William Pape, Howard and Carol Holtzmann Professor of Clinical Medicine, Center for Global Health, Division of Infectious Diseases, Weill Cornell Medical College, NY USA, and Director, Les Centres GHESKIO, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Dr. Pape graduated from Columbia (BS, 1971) and Cornell (MD, 1975) universities. In 1980, after training in internal medicine and infectious diseases, he joined the Cornell Faculty and set-up the Cornell program in Haiti where he developed an effective care model for infants with diarrhea.



Expansion of the model nationwide resulted in a 50% decrease in national infantile mortality. Dr. Pape is also credited with the recognition and 1st comprehensive description of AIDS in the developing world. In 1982, he established GHESKIO (Haitian Study Group on Kaposi Sarcoma and Opportunistic Infections) as one of the 1st AIDS centers in the world. With the introduction of life saving antiretroviral therapy, AIDS dropped from being the 1st cause of mortality for over 3 decades to the 7th cause of death in Haiti. As cardiovascular diseases (CVD) became the most important cause of national mortality, GHESKIO opened in 2016 the largest CVD center in collaboration with Weill Cornell and the Haitian College of Cardiology. Four decades later, GHESKIO continues as one of the largest AIDS /TB treatment, training and research centers in the Americas, providing free care with 300,000 patients visits annually.

Dr. Pape is a member of many boards including: Doctoral College of Haiti, UNAIDS Expert Panel, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Technical Group on HIV/AIDS/STIs, Institut des Sciences, des Technologies et des Etudes Avancées d’Haïti (ISTEAH), Ministry of Health Scientific Committee on Covid-19 Pandemic, PEPFAR, Fondation Mérieux, WHO Science Council.

Dr. Pape received many awards including the Légion d’Honneur (France, 2002), member of the National Academy of Medicine (USA, 2003); Carlos Slim Health Research, Institut de France’s Christophe Mérieux, Gates Global Health, Clinton Global Citizen (2010), WHO Stop TB Partnership Kochon Award. In 2014, he obtained Haiti’s highest honor, “Honneur et Mérite, Grade Commandeur”. In 2018, Dr Pape received a Life Achievement Award by Marquis Who’s Who in America and was the first recipient of the new Joan and Sanford Weill Cornell Exemplary award. In 2020, Dr. Pape was nominated Co-President of the Presidential Commission to lead the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in Haiti. In 2022 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Prof. Helen Rees, Executive Director, Wits RHI

GCOB, OBE, Officier de l'Ordre national du Mérite

D.Sc.(hc), LLD (hc), MRCGP, MA and MB BChir (CANTAB), DRCOG, DCH, FAAS, ASSAF

Professor Helen Rees is the Executive Director of Wits RHI at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and the Co-Director of the Wits African Leadership in Vaccinology Expertise. Helen is internationally recognised as an award-winning global health practitioner who has dedicated her professional career to improving public health in Africa. Helen has served on and chaired many national and global scientific committees and boards. Currently Helen chairs the WHO AFRO



Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group and the WHO's IHR Emergency Committee on Polio. Helen is a member of WHO's Scientific and Technical Advisory Group on Infectious Hazards and a member of the South African National Advisory Group on Immunisation. Helen co-chairs South Africa's Mpox Incident Management Team overseeing SA's mpox response. Helen has recently been appointed as co-chair of the newly established WHO Poxvirus Collaborating Centre under the recently released prioritized pathogen family report by the WHO R&D Blueprint. Helen chairs the MedAccess Board, a global not-for-profit organisation that uses innovative funding mechanisms to support access to neglected therapeutics and diagnostics required in Low Middle-Income Countries.

Helen has won many international and national awards for her contribution to global health and to science, including being made an Officer of the British Empire (OBE) in 2001 by Queen Elizabeth II. In 2016 she was awarded the South African National Order of the Baobab for her contribution to medicine and to medical research. In 2022 Helen was made an Officer of the French National Order of Merit by President Macron for her contribution to global health and to the COVID-19 response, and she also received the Platinum South African National Batho Pele Award for excellence in contribution to the South African COVID-19 response. In 2022 she was named a 'standout voice' in African public health by Harvard Public Health. In May 2025 Helen received the prestigious Dr. Lee Jong Wook Memorial Prize for Public Health from the World Health Organization, one of the highest global honours in the field of public health. This award recognises her exceptional contributions to global health, particularly in vaccine research, outbreak response, and health equity. In addition to this accolade, Helen has been elected as a Fellow of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), joining a distinguished network of scholars committed to advancing science and innovation across the African continent.

Dr. Robert Sebbag, *Doctor of Medicine, Department of Infectious Diseases, Pitié Salpêtrière Hospital; Vice President, Mérieux Foundation*

Robert Sebbag is a Medical Doctor specializing in Infectious Diseases, affiliated with the Paris hospital system. He is the founder and currently President of the non-governmental organization, ACF (Action Against Hunger). He is also Vice President of the Mérieux Foundation, for which he has led several missions in Lebanon, Bangladesh, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Dr. Sebbag has taught public health courses within the Paris hospital system, focusing on tropical parasitic diseases. In addition to his activities within the Paris hospital system, he has been active within the French Red Cross, where he was Director of Operations for three years and participated in numerous health missions in the Southern Hemisphere.

Earlier in his career, he held senior positions in the pharmaceutical industry, in the field of vaccines, focused on access to medicines. He also worked as a physician in Bolivia and Vietnam.

Stewart Simonson, *Senior Advisor at Global Health Strategies; Mérieux Foundation USA Board member*

Stewart Simonson is a Senior Advisor at Global Health Strategies and a Non-Resident Senior Adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). He previously served as Assistant Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), where he led the WHO Office at the United Nations and the WHO-US Liaison Office. He also held a senior leadership role at WHO headquarters in Geneva as Assistant Director-General for the General Management Group.



Prior to his work with WHO, Simonson was engaged in global health and development in Haiti, serving as a technical advisor and administrator at Hôpital Sacré-Coeur in Milot, a 225-bed hospital in northern Haiti. He also acted as legal counsel and corporate secretary for The CRUDEM Foundation, the hospital's U.S.-based sponsor.

Earlier in his career, Simonson was appointed as the first Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In this role, he was instrumental in building the U.S. public health emergency infrastructure following the September 11 attacks. He coordinated federal, state, and local efforts in bioterrorism preparedness and was an early advocate for pandemic preparedness, leading the U.S. response to avian influenza (H5N1) and helping establish global influenza surveillance and vaccine production capacity.

Dr. Su Wang, Senior Advisor for Global Health, Hepatitis B Foundation

Su Wang, MD, MPH, FACP is the Medical Director of Viral Hepatitis Programs and the Center for Asian Health at the Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center, part of the RWJBarnabas Health System in New Jersey, USA.

Dr. Wang is a practicing internist and has been primary investigator for a number of viral hepatitis screening and linkage-to-care grants sponsored by the US CDC and other funders. She has led primary care-based hepatitis B and C programs, screening and linkage initiatives and community based research.

She has served on a number of WHO guidelines development groups and is on the Global Validation Advisory Group for triple elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B. She did a combined Medicine-Pediatrics residency at Georgetown University Hospital then an Epidemic Intelligence Service fellowship at the CDC.

Dr. Wang is also living with hepatitis B and was Past President of the World Hepatitis Alliance, an NGO committed to viral hepatitis elimination by harnessing the power of people living with hepatitis. She is currently Senior Advisor for Global Health for the Hepatitis B Foundation.

