

COVID-19 in Africa: The Role of African Science Academies

Virtual Event on June 8, 2021

Speaker Biographies



Tom Frieden, MD, MPH, is a physician trained in internal medicine, infectious diseases, public health, and epidemiology. He is former director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and former commissioner of the New York City Health Department. Dr. Frieden is currently President and CEO of Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative of the global health organization Vital Strategies.

Dr. Frieden began his public health career in New York City identifying then leading the effort that stopped the largest outbreak of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis to occur in the US. He was then assigned to India, on loan from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where he helped scale up a program for effective tuberculosis diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring. Asked to return to New York City to become Mayor Mike Bloomberg's Health Commissioner, he directed efforts to reduce smoking and other leading causes of death that increased life expectancy by 3 years. As Director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Frieden oversaw the work that helped end the 2014 West Africa Ebola epidemic. He now leads Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative of the global health organization Vital Strategies that partners with countries to prevent 100 million deaths and to make the world safer from epidemics. During the Covid pandemic, Dr. Frieden has overseen an expansion of Resolve to Save Lives activities including policy and program innovations in the United States, counsel and support to multilateral institutions, and support for rapid response, health care worker safety, and data-driven decision-making in more than 20 countries. Dr. Frieden is also Senior Fellow for Global Health at the Council on Foreign Relations.



Phyllis Kalele is the head of the African Collaboration sub-programme at the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). She leads academy activities in the continent with the aim of advocating for the use of evidence-based science in policy making and increasing the visibility of African scientists. As the principal contact person at ASSAf for Africa, she is also responsible for building and strengthening existing academy partnerships in and for Africa and directing support for the establishment of new national senior and young academies of science. From January 2019 to December 2020, she was the coordinator for the Africa Region Focal Point of Gender in Science Innovation Technology and Engineering (GenderInSITE), a global, multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder initiative to promote the role of women in SITE. She holds a BSc. degree in Botany and Zoology, MSc. degree in Environmental Sciences and has successfully completed a doctorate in Science and Technology Studies.



Keith Klugman, MD, PhD, director of the Pneumonia program, leads the foundation's work to reduce deaths from pneumonia, neonatal sepsis, and meningitis in children.

Dr. Klugman is a past president of the International Society of Infectious Diseases and a past chair of the International Board of the American Society for Microbiology. In 2015, he was elected to membership of the National Academy of Medicine in the United States. He has chaired or served on numerous expert committees for the World Health Organization (WHO), the Wellcome Trust, and

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He is the Emeritus William H. Foege chair of Global Health at the Hubert Department of Global Health, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. In addition, he serves as an honorary professor in the Respiratory and Meningeal Pathogens Research Unit at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.

As an M.D. and Ph.D. specializing in infectious diseases and microbiology, Dr. Klugman has made major contributions in the field of pneumococcal research, including antimicrobial resistance. His work demonstrating pneumococcal conjugate vaccine efficacy in the developing world has led to interventions that have saved millions of lives, especially in Africa. He has published more than 600 scientific papers which have been cited more than 30,000 times to date.



Betty Nannyonga, PhD specializes in Applied Mathematics in Epidemics, Ecology, Social sciences and Health Economics. She is also interested in Gender Equality Activities in Basics Sciences, Application of Mathematics to real life situations, and the Psychology of Mathematics Education (PME). Dr. Nannyonga is actively involved in mentoring; strengthening and supporting the success and retention of women in basic sciences by enlightening science students on how gender construction influences their identity and sense of achievement



Marcia McNutt, PhD, is a geophysicist and president of the National Academy of Sciences. From 2013 to 2016, she served as editor-in-chief of the Science family of journals. Prior to joining Science, she was director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) from 2009 to 2013. During her tenure, the USGS responded to a number of major disasters, including earthquakes in Haiti, Chile, and Japan, and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Dr. McNutt led a team of government scientists and engineers at BP headquarters in Houston who helped contain the oil and cap the well. She directed the flow rate technical group that estimated the rate of oil

discharge during the spill's active phase. For her contributions, she was awarded the U.S. Coast Guard's Meritorious Service Medal.

Before joining the USGS, Dr. McNutt served as president and chief executive officer of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI), in Moss Landing, California. During her time at MBARI, the institution became a leader in developing biological and chemical sensors for remote ocean deployment, installed the first deep-sea cabled observatory in U.S. waters, and advanced the integration of artificial intelligence into autonomous underwater vehicles for complex undersea missions.

Dr. McNutt began her academic career at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where she was the E.A. Griswold Professor of Geophysics and directed the Joint Program in Oceanography/Applied Ocean Science & Engineering, jointly offered by MIT and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Her

research area is the dynamics of the upper mantle and lithosphere on geologic time scales, work that has taken her to distant continents and oceans for field observations. She is a veteran of more than a dozen deep-sea expeditions, on most of which she was chief or co-chief scientist.

Dr. McNutt received a BA in physics from Colorado College and her PhD in Earth sciences at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Her honors include membership in the American Philosophical Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She holds honorary doctoral degrees from the Colorado College, the University of Minnesota, Monmouth University, and the Colorado School of Mines. In 1988, she was awarded the American Geophysical Union's Macelwane Medal for research accomplishments by a young scientist, and she received the Maurice Ewing Medal in 2007 for her contributions to deep-sea exploration.

Dr. McNutt served as president of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) from 2000 to 2002. She was chair of the Board of Governors for Joint Oceanographic Institutions, responsible for operating the International Ocean Discovery Program's vessel JOIDES Resolution and associated research programs. She is a fellow of AGU, the Geological Society of America, and American Association for the Advancement of Science, and International Association of Geodesy.



Damen Haile Mariam, MD, MPH, PhD, is a Professor of Public Health and Health Economics at the School of Public Health, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. Professor Damen is registered as a Consultant Community Health Specialist with the Federal Ministry of Health (serving as member and consultant within various national and international professional committees). In addition, he is a fellow of the *Ethiopian Academy of Sciences*.

He is currently serving as Dean of the School of Public Health, Addis Ababa University (since 2019); and Regional Editor (Africa) for the *South Eastern European Journal of Public Health* (since 2014).

He has also served as: President of the *Ethiopian Public Health Association* (2001-2005); Member of the Executive Board of the *World Federation of Public Health Associations* (2003-2006); and Editor-In-Chief of the *Ethiopian Journal of Health Development* (2009 - 2016).



Akinyinka O. Omigbodun, FAS, FNAMEd, MBBS, MD, FWAS, FMCOG, FROCOG is a Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Professor of Reproductive Health Sciences at the Pan African University Life & Earth Sciences Institute (PAULESI) and Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria. He has been Provost of the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, foundation Chairman of the Board of Management of the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA), Past President of the West African College of Surgeons (WACS) and former Chairman of the Regional Council for Health Professionals' Education

(RCHPE) in the ECOWAS Region. A Fellow of both the Nigerian Academy of Science and the Nigerian Academy of Medicine, he was Editor-in-Chief of the Proceedings of the Nigerian Academy of Science from 2016 to 2019. He has been actively involved in research into the societal response to COVID-19 in Africa and how to reduce mortality in COVID-19 patients on the continent.