

Meeting 4 Panelist Bios

Panel A: Funders' motivations and mechanisms to evaluate diverse researchers' contributions

Dr. Frances Downey is the Head of [R&I Culture at UK Research and Innovation](#). Prior to this she led the [Royal Society research culture programme Changing Expectations](#). She is an experienced policy maker and strategic thinker, having worked in roles across UK government, the National Academies and the third sector. As well as thinking practically about interventions that can improve culture, she also has a passion for supporting others to discuss and put forward their own ideas in this space. To facilitate this she co-founded [MetisTalk, a place to share, discuss and challenge ideas around research culture](#).

Matthias Egger is a Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Bern and Bristol, visiting professor at the University of Cape Town and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London. Since 2017 he has been chairing the Research Council of the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), where he became interested in research on research and evidence-based research funding. His main interests focus on infectious diseases in Switzerland and Southern Africa, HIV-associated cancers and health services research. Other topics include methods in epidemiology and biostatistics, clinical databases and pragmatic intervention studies. He was a member of the WHO expert group that evaluated the effectiveness of vaccines during the Ebola epidemic in West Africa and chaired the Swiss COVID-19 Science Taskforce. Current research projects include the large-scale HIV Cancer Match Study in South Africa, the International Epidemiologic Databases to Evaluate AIDS (IeDEA) and studies on COVID-19. He is a professor of epidemiology and public health at the University of Bern in Switzerland, as well as professor of clinical epidemiology at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom. He heads the Institute of Social & Preventive Medicine (ISPM) at University of Bern. He is a member of the Swiss National Science Foundation's governing council and has served on several WHO, NIH, Wellcome Trust and UK Medical Research Council guidelines or review panels. He is a member of the CONSORT (Consolidated Standards of Reporting of Trials) working group and the convenor of STROBE (Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology). His research is concerned both with substantive and methodological issues in clinical epidemiology and global health, with a focus on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, and cancer. Overarching interests include the interface between biology and epidemiology, inequities in health and 'big' research questions that are best addressed in large collaborative studies. Methods include meta-analysis, and particularly meta-analysis of individual patient data, clinical trials and analyses of large cohort studies. Professor Egger is the PI or co-PI of several large research projects, including the NIH funded International epidemiological Databases to Evaluate AIDS (IeDEA), the Wellcome Trust funded Ebola vaccine trial in Guinea, the Swiss HIV Cohort Study and the Swiss National Cohort.

Anna Hatch* is the Program Director for San Francisco Declaration on Researcher Assessment (DORA).

Neil Thakur is the Chief Mission Officer of the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Association. He brings more than two decades of experience as a public health expert to the fight against ALS. He has led The ALS Association's mission programs – research, care services, and advocacy – since 2018.

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Prior to joining the Association, Neil served in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of the Director, where he supported NIH governance and helped make NIH research more open and less burdensome. He managed the world's largest policy to make biomedical research papers publicly accessible and co-chaired the White House taskforce that led to the requirement that all federal science agencies adopt similar policies. He also spent a year on detail to the US Senate Special Committee on Aging, raising awareness about quality issues in long-term health care, particularly around Alzheimer's care and pharmaceuticals.

Prior to his time at NIH, Neil worked with health systems in many capacities. He was Assistant Director of Health Services Research and Development at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), leading an evaluation service for the VA health system and represented the VA research service in setting clinical performance measures. In his post-doctoral-fellowship, he studied the interactions between jails, Medicaid and behavioral health care, and how changes in health financing impacted people's utilization of these systems. During graduate school, he worked throughout the Connecticut behavioral health system, helping to implement managed care and health information systems, and raise tens of millions of dollars in competitive grants.

Neil won many awards for his government service, including several NIH Director's Awards, and the Secretary for Health and Human Services' award for Meritorious Service, the second highest award that the Secretary can bestow. He holds a Ph.D. in Health Policy from Yale University School of Public Health and completed a NIMH postdoctoral fellowship in mental health services research at the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He lives in Maryland with his wife Jen.

Panel B: Valuing and evaluating diverse researchers' contributions in research institutions

Dr. Meredith Niles is an Associate Professor in the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences and the Food Systems Program at the University of Vermont. Her interdisciplinary research in food systems, health and environment examines how to achieve sustainable food security. Dr. Niles is also a recognized leader in open science and research evaluation, studying university review, promotion and tenure policies and faculty perceptions and behaviors related to these topics. She served on the board of directors for the Public Library of Science (PLOS) from 2014 to 2022. Dr. Niles has received numerous awards, including the Next Generation Leadership Award from the Right to Research Coalition in 2014 and most recently was named by the National Academy of Medicine as an Emerging Leader in Health and Medicine Scholar for 2022-2025.

Marcus Munafò is a Professor of Biological Psychology and Medical Research Council Investigator at the University of Bristol, where he was recently appointed Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research Culture. In 2019 he co-founded the UK Reproducibility Network (www.ukrn.org), which now comprises 60 local networks of grassroots researchers and 25 institutional members, as well as an external stakeholder group comprising over 30 funders, publishers, learned societies and other sectoral organisations.

Tobin "Toby" Smith* is Vice President for Science Policy and Global Affairs for the Association of American Universities (AAU). He oversees matters related to science and innovation policy, broader impacts of science, and AAU's international activities. He shares responsibility for matters concerning research costs and other regulatory and compliance issues, including

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facilities and administrative costs, export controls, scientific openness and security, public access to research results, and technology transfer. He also staffs the AAU Senior Research Officers (SRO) constituent group.

Toby previously worked as a federal relations representative for the University of Michigan and for MIT. He began his career on Capitol Hill as a legislative assistant to Congressman Bob Traxler (D-MI).

Toby serves on the Advisory Board of the International Network for Advancing and Evaluating the Societal Impact of Science (AESIS); is a member of the Council of Experts for the NSF sponsored Center for Advancing Research Impact in Society (ARIS); and is co-chair of Engaging Scientists in Engineers in Policy (ESEP), an ad hoc alliance of organizations focused on helping scientists and engineers to effectively engage in the policy making process at all levels of government.

Toby writes and speaks widely on issues of science policy. He is the co-author of a 2008 book on national science policy titled, *Beyond Sputnik – U.S. Science Policy in the 21st Century*. He is active in AAAS where he is honorific fellow and officer of the Societal Impacts of Science and Engineering section (Section X). He also serves as a member of the AAAS Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy (COSEPP).

Toby holds a Master's degree in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University, and a Bachelor's degree in General Studies (BGS) from the University of Michigan.

Greg Tananbaum is the Director of the Open Research Funders Group (ORFG), a partnership of leading philanthropies committed to the open sharing of research outputs. Collectively, the ORFG members hold assets in excess of \$250 billion, with total annual giving in the \$12 billion range. Members' interests span the entirety of the disciplinary spectrum, including life sciences, physical sciences, social sciences, and the humanities. Additionally, Greg serves as the Secretariat for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Roundtable on Aligning Incentives for Open Science. He has 25+ years' experience in open science and scholarly communications. Greg has advised on projects for the American Heart Association; the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative; Microsoft Research; the American Institute of Physics; and the University of California, among other prominent organizations. Greg previously served as President of The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress), as well as Director of Product Marketing for EndNote. He holds a Master's Degree from the London School of Economics and a B.A. from Yale University.

** Please note that biosketches not provided from the panelists themselves were located from the internet.*