

Forum on Microbial Threats

Committee

Kent E. Kester

Chair

Kent E. Kester, M.D. (Chair), is Executive Director of Vaccine R&D at the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). During a 24-year career in the US Army, he worked extensively in clinical vaccine development and led multiple research platforms at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, the U.S. Department of Defense's largest and most diverse biomedical research laboratory with a major emphasis on emerging infectious diseases, an institution he later led as its Commander. His final military assignment was as the Associate Dean for Clinical Research in the School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS). During his military service, Dr. Kester was appointed as the lead policy advisor to the U.S. Army Surgeon General in both Infectious Diseases and in Medical Research & Development. More recently, he served as the head of translational medicine and biomarkers at Sanofi Pasteur. Dr. Kester holds an undergraduate degree from Bucknell University and an M.D. from Jefferson Medical College, completing his internship and residency in internal medicine at the University of Maryland and a research fellowship in infectious diseases at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Currently a member of the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Research & Development Service Merit Review Board, the National Academy Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats, and the CEPI Scientific Advisory Committee, he previously chaired the Steering Committee of the NIAID/USUHS Infectious Disease Clinical Research Program, and has served as a member of the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB), the FDA Vaccines & Related Biologics Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC), the NIAID Advisory Council, and the CDC Office of Infectious Diseases Board of Scientific Counselors. He is the Vice Chair of the National Academy of Medicine Forum on Microbial Threats. Board-certified in both internal medicine and infectious diseases, Dr. Kester holds faculty appointments at USUHS and the University of Maryland; and is a fellow of the American College of Physicians, the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, the Infectious Disease Society of America, and the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. He is a member of the clinical faculty at the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore and the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Cristina Cassetti

Vice Chair

Cristina Cassetti, Ph.D. (Vice Chair), is the Deputy Director of the Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (DMID) at the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), a component of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Cassetti has a Ph.D. in virology from the University of Rome, Italy. She conducted research on poxviruses replication at the NIH, influenza virus biology at Rutgers University and HPV vaccine development at the Vaccine Discovery Department at Wyeth (now Pfizer). In 2003, she became a Program Officer at NIAID where she was responsible for the management and direction of extramural research programs on several emerging viral diseases of global health importance including influenza and dengue. In 2016, she was appointed to coordinate the Zika research response in extramural NIAID and to manage translational research in the Virology Branch. In 2017 she was appointed as Chief of the Virology Branch in DMID. In 2019, she became the Deputy Director of DMID where she shares responsibilities with the director for the overall scientific direction, administration and management of the largest extramural Division at NIAID.

Keith P. Klugman

Vice Chair

Keith Klugman, M.D., Ph.D. (Vice Chair), is the Director of the Pneumonia, Meningitis, Neonatal Sepsis, Antimicrobial Resistance and Surveillance and Epidemic Preparedness and Response Programs at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Seattle WA. 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.

Professor 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 Keith was elected to membership of the US National Academy of Medicine. 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 currently serves as an editor or member of the editorial advisory board of the journals Clinical Infectious Diseases, Emerging Infectious Diseases and MBio. In 2024, Professor Klugman received the prestigious Sabin Gold medal for vaccine research.

Professor Klugman has made his 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 continue to save millions of lives especially in Africa and in Asia. He has published more than 650 scientific papers which have been cited more than 44,000 times to date. During the covid pandemic he has kept the staff of the Gates Foundation up to date of developments with weekly or biweekly one hour zoom calls open to all the staff. His current position allows him the opportunity to contribute to the mission of the Gates Foundation to reduce deaths from pneumonia (including covid), neonatal sepsis and meningitis in children, thus allowing them the chance to lead healthy and productive lives.

Sylvain Aldighieri

Member

Dr. Sylvain Aldighieri is a French National, he earned an MD from the University of Marseille, and he is qualified in Tropical Medicine from the University of Paris and has followed postgraduate studies in Epidemiology and Tropical Microbiology at the Institut Pasteur Paris. For about 30 years he was posted in various locations, in Africa, South America, Central America and the Caribbean, as a Medical Officer for the French Government and for the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO). During the past several years he has been reassigned to various other duties due to outbreaks such as Cholera in Haiti, Chikungunya and Zika in the Americas and Yellow Fever in Brazil. From January 2020 through May 2023, he served as the PAHO Incident Manager for COVID-19. Dr Aldighieri is the Director of the Communicable Diseases Prevention, Control and Elimination department at PAHO in Washington DC.

Kevin Anderson

Member

Kevin Anderson, Ph.D., most recently served as a senior program manager in the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's) Science and Technology Directorate, providing oversight and requirements for biodetection and biodiagnostics systems development for government-wide customers and stakeholders. Since joining DHS in 2003, Dr. Anderson has provided leadership for science program development, laboratory design, and strategic planning; served as a subject matter expert and advisor to the Bioterrorism Risk Assessment and Biological Threat Characterization programs; and has participated in interagency working groups and assessments which provide guidance to medical countermeasure development, a key component of the nation's biodefense strategy. Prior to joining DHS, Dr. Anderson was a principal investigator at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, leading research focused on understanding basic mechanisms of viral diseases causing hemorrhagic fever and development of medical countermeasures. He received postdoctoral training in molecular virology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, performing basic research on human respiratory syncytial viruses, and earned Ph.D. and B.S. degrees in microbiology from Montana State University and the University of Maryland, College Park, respectively.

Dan H. Barouch

Member

Dan Barouch, M.D., Ph.D., received his Ph.D in immunology from Oxford University and his M.D. from Harvard Medical School. He is currently the William Bosworth Castle Professor of Medicine and Professor of Immunology at Harvard Medical School, Director of the Center for Virology and Vaccine Research at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, a member of the Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT, and Harvard, and part of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Collaboration for AIDS Vaccine Discovery. His laboratory focuses on studying the immunology and pathogenesis of viral infections and developing novel vaccine and treatment strategies. His group has led the development of vaccine candidates for multiple pathogens of global significance, including HIV, Zika virus, tuberculosis, and most recently SARS-CoV-2. His recent work contributed to the development of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine and the evaluation of multiple COVID-19 vaccines and monoclonal antibody therapeutics. He was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2020.

Nahid Bhadelia

Member

Nahid Bhadelia, M.D., M.P.H., is a board-certified infectious diseases physician, an Associate Professor of Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine, and the Founding Director of Boston University's Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases Policy and Research. She previously served as the Senior Policy Advisor for Global COVID-19 Response and the policy lead for Project Next Gen on the White House COVID-19 Response Team. She was also the Testing Coordinator on the White House Mpox Response Team in 2022. Dr. Bhadelia's research focuses on health system and clinical response to emerging infectious diseases, diagnostic positioning, infection control policy development, and healthcare worker training.

Between 2011-2021, Dr. Bhadelia served as the medical director of the Special Pathogens Unit (SPU) at Boston Medical Center for nearly a decade, a medical unit designed to care for patients with highly communicable diseases, and a state designated Ebola Treatment Center. She was also an associate director for BU's maximum containment research program, the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratories. She served as the clinical lead and advisor for a Department of Defense funded viral hemorrhagic fever clinical research unit in Uganda, entitled Joint Mobile Emerging Disease Intervention Clinical Capability (JMEDICC) program between 2017 and 2022. She is a co-director of Fogarty funded, BU-University of Liberia Emerging and Epidemic Viruses Research training program. She is also part of the World Health Organization's Technical Advisory Group on Universal Health and Preparedness Review (UHPR). She has provided direct patient care, and been part of outbreak response and medical countermeasures research during multiple Ebola virus disease outbreaks in West and East Africa.

Dr. Bhadelia has served on state, national, and interagency groups focused on biodefense priority setting, development of clinical care guidelines, and medical countermeasures research. She has served as a subject matter expert to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Defense (DoD), and World Bank.

Rick A. Bright

Member

Rick Bright, Ph.D., is an international subject matter expert in biodefense, emergency preparedness and response, pharmaceutical innovation, vaccine, drug and diagnostic development. He is currently an advisor to numerous public and private organizations, an Executive Board Member for the NY Academy of Science's International Science Reserve, on the Board of Directors of FIND Dx, a member of the Science and Technical Advisory Board of the 100 Day Mission, a Sr. Fellow at the Foreign Policy Association, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Prior, Dr. Bright served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services where he directed public-private partnerships that led to the FDA approval of over 60 new vaccines, drugs, and diagnostics for public health and national security threats. Dr. Bright has extensive experience in the biotechnology industry where he held senior leadership and executive management roles. He has also held senior scientific leadership positions in non-governmental organizations where he championed innovative vaccine development and expanded vaccine manufacturing capacity to multiple developing countries. He also spent a decade in vaccine, therapeutics, and diagnostics development at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For this work, Dr. Bright received the Charles C. Shepard Science Award for Scientific Excellence.

Dr. Bright received a Ph.D. in Immunology and Molecular Pathogenesis from Emory University and a B.S. magna cum laude with honors in Biology and Physical Sciences from Auburn University at Montgomery.

Ambika Bumb

Member

Ambika Bumb, Ph.D., formerly served as Deputy Executive Director of the Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense which is working to institute long-lasting programs and policies to protect from biothreats such as pandemics. She has also served as President Biden's Deputy Executive Director of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology; Health, Science, and Technology Advisor for Secretary of State's Crisis Management and Strategy; Board Member for the International Biomedical Research Alliance; Strategic Advisor to the Energy Sciences Area of Berkeley Lab; and CEO of the biotech Bikanta. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Bumb and her team at the Department of State were awarded the Distinguished Honor Award for exceptionally outstanding service of marked international significance. The Senate unanimously passed the bipartisan Resolution 567 commending their efforts in bringing home more than 100,000 citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic, the largest repatriation effort in U.S. history. She received the NIH's Orloff Technical Advance Award for her work on a "platform" technology with implications that will broadly advance medicine on multiple fronts. Her research has led to 16 patents, the spinout of the biotech Bikanta, and was named one of 40 under 40 influential Bay Area business leaders. She graduated from Georgia Tech with a B.Sc. in Biomedical Engineering, obtained her doctorate from the University of Oxford while on the Marshall Scholarship, and completed fellowships at the National Cancer Institute and National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

Andrew Clements

Member

Andrew Clements, Ph.D., is a Senior Scientific Advisor for the Emerging Threats Division in the U.S. Agency for International Development's Bureau for Global Health. He received his Ph.D. in Anaerobic Microbiology from Virginia Tech and completed his post-doctoral training in biochemistry at the National Institutes of Health. Between 1997 and 2005, he served as an infectious disease advisor at USAID focusing on the development, management, and monitoring of international programs to address malaria, tuberculosis, antimicrobial resistance, and infectious disease surveillance. Since 2005, he has managed a number of projects (PREDICT, PREVENT) and partnerships with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and the World Health Organization that support prevention, detection, and response to emerging zoonotic threats in developing countries. He also analyzes trends for emerging zoonotic threats and has participated in USAID's responses to new diseases, including H5N1 and H7N9 avian influenza, H1N1 pandemic influenza, MERS-CoV, and Ebola.

Wondwossen A. Gebreyes

Member

Wondwossen Gebreyes, D.V.M., Ph.D., is a Hazel C. Youngberg Distinguished tenured and active Full Professor and Executive Director of the Global One Health initiative (GOHi) at The Ohio State University. Dr. Gebreyes has been a leader in molecular epidemiology of infectious zoonotic diseases. He led several programs funded through the NIH, CDC, USAID, Gates Foundation, CDC Foundation, RESOLVE to Save Lives among others. Besides research, he led global capacity building efforts teaching molecular epidemiology in more than 10 countries and also establishing genomic and genotyping laboratory capacities. Dr. Gebreyes serves in national and international Advisory capacities for various governments and entities including Brazil CAPES, Ethiopian Ministry of Science and Higher Education as well as review panels for Austria, Poland, and Qatar among others. Dr. Gebreyes leads global outreach efforts addressing issues at the interface of Humans, animals, plants and the environment (ICOPHAI). Dr. Gebreyes is a recipient of the APLU Michael P. Malone International Leadership Award; NIH Gold Medallion; Universitas 21 Best Internationalization Model; NC State University Distinguished Alumni award; Andrew Heiskell Award (honorable mention) by the Institute of International Education (IIE). Dr. Gebreyes is a member of the National Academy of Medicine; also inducted as inaugural member of the National Academy of International Education.

Gigi K. Gronvall

Member

Gigi Gronvall, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a Senior Scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. She is an immunologist by training. Her work focuses on minimizing the technical and social risks of the life sciences while advancing biosecurity, biosafety, ethics, and the bioeconomy. In addition to the Forum on Microbial Threats, she served on advisory committees to the DoD, State Department, and NIH, and is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

She leads work on improving indoor air quality to reduce pathogen transmission, and was a public health advisor to the Baltimore City Public School system for diagnostic testing during the acute days of the COVID-19 pandemic. She has written about the contested origin of SARS-CoV-2 and the implications for national and international security. She is the author of *Synthetic Biology: Safety, Security, and Promise* (2016) and *Preparing for Bioterrorism: The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation's Leadership in Biosecurity* (2012). Her forthcoming book, *Our Biological Future* will be published in 2026 by Johns Hopkins University Press.

Honorata (Kuki) L. Hansen

Member

Albert I. Ko

Member

Albert Icksang Ko, M.D., is the Raj and Indra Nooyi Professor of Public Health at the Yale School of Public Health and Collaborating Researcher at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Brazilian Ministry of Health. He served as Chair of the Department of Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases at Yale (2010-2021) after being stationed with the Brazilian Ministry of Health in Brazil for 15 years. His research centers on the health problems that have emerged due to rapid urbanization and social inequity. Dr. Ko coordinates an urban health program, which focuses on delineating the role of marginalization, urban ecology, and climate on infectious diseases in urban informal settlements and implementing community-driven interventions. He and his team have mobilized public health and research responses to multiple epidemics, which include meningitis, leptospirosis, dengue and Zika virus infection and associated birth defects. He is a member of the WHO R&D Blueprint Working Group and Taskforce for Zika Virus and the NASEM Forum of Microbial Threats. During the pandemic, he was the co-chair of Reopen Connecticut Advisory Group which developed the state's COVID-19 response plan and served as advisor to Governor Lamont, in addition to providing support to the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation for its pandemic response in Brazil.

Linda S. Lloyd

Member

Linda Lloyd, Dr.P.H., M.P.H., is a social scientist specializing in the design and evaluation of behavioural and community-centered health programs that reflect local socio-ecological contexts. She has worked with PAHO and WHO for over twenty-five years to strengthen ministry of health capacity in behavior change and risk communication for the prevention and control of vector-borne diseases through technical assistance, workshops, and training courses. Dr. Lloyd is a member of the Lancet Commission on Aedes-transmitted Viral Diseases (2019 to date) and the PAHO/WHO External Evaluation Group of New Technologies for Aedes spp. Control (2017 to date). She served on the PAHO/WHO Regional Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Program Review Group (2008 to 2015), WHO-TDR Research Reference Group on Dengue and Other Viral Diseases of Major Public Health Importance (2009 to 2011), and the TDR/WHO Scientific Working Group on Dengue (2001, 2006).

Dr. Lloyd is Adjunct Faculty at SDSU School of Public Health. She taught Global Health (PH780) from 2015 to 2020 and continues as a guest lecturer. She was the Director of the Center for Research at San Diego Hospice, where she was responsible for oversight of psychosocial research and clinical trials to improve patient care.

Syra Madad

Member

Syra Madad, D.H.Sc., M.Sc., is an internationally recognized public health leader and epidemiologist in infectious disease and special pathogens preparedness and response. She serves as the Senior Director of the System-wide Special Pathogens Program at NYC Health + Hospitals and Health and Co-Principal Investigator at the Institute for Diseases and Disaster Management. Her work focuses on all 5 phases of emergency management: prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery related to infectious disease outbreaks with an emphasis on healthcare and public health biopreparedness. Dr. Madad earned her doctoral degree in health science with a concentration in global health studies from Nova Southeastern University in 2014, Master of Science in Biotechnology with a concentration in Biodefense and Biosecurity and holds numerous professional certifications, including Advanced Emergency Planning Certification, All Hazard Response (CBRNE) Training for Laboratory Personnel, Infection Control and Prevention Certification, Biosafety Level III Training, and Identification of the Primary Select Agents of Bioterrorism Training.

Dr. Madad built NYC Health + Hospitals system special pathogens program from the ground up as the system's inaugural director, maintaining readiness at the nation's largest municipal healthcare delivery system for all communicable infectious disease threats through ongoing training, education, drills, developing protocols, and processes and more. She's responded to multiple infectious disease outbreaks as an infectious disease epidemiologist including Ebola, measles, MPox and Zika. In addition, Dr. Madad is a fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs where she regularly publishes on the latest public health guidance, epidemiological concepts and scientific literature to help the public understand complex topics using infographics and simplified science communication. She's also Core Faculty in the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC) and affiliate faculty at the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases Policy & Research at Boston University. She serves as a member of the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB). Dr. Madad is prominently featured in the Netflix docuseries, *Pandemic: How to Prevent an Outbreak*, and the Discovery Channel documentary, *The Vaccine: Conquering COVID*

Sumiko Mekaru

Member

Sumiko Mekaru, D.V.M, Ph.D., is Founder and Principal of Epivoyant LLC and an Instructor of Public Health and Community Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine. She previously served as the lead epidemiologist for the modeling and analytics workstream for the Department of Defense COVID Task Force and the Vice President of Client Delivery for Epidemico, an informatics company that provided early insights on disease outbreaks, drug safety, and supply chain vulnerabilities. As a veterinarian and epidemiologist, Dr. Mekaru brings both clinical experience and deep training in analytic methods to innovating new techniques for infectious disease surveillance, modeling, and prediction. At Boston Children's Hospital, she helped create, maintain, and revise health surveillance tools such as Flu Near You/Outbreaks Near Me, Vaccine Finder, and the award-winning healthmap.org. She has coauthored dozens of peer-reviewed manuscripts on disease outbreaks and surveillance, and data analysis methods. Dr. Mekaru received her DVM from the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. After practicing at a small animal hospital, she received a Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine from UC Davis and a PhD in epidemiology from Boston University.

Melissa Nolan

Member

Melissa Nolan, Ph.D., M.P.H., is an Associate Professor at the University of South Carolina's Arnold School of Public Health. She serves as Director of the USC Institute for Infectious Disease Translational Research and as Deputy Director of the Southeastern Center of Excellence for Vector-borne Diseases. Dr. Nolan has established expertise in infectious disease epidemiology with an emphasis on health disparities and diagnostics. She is a productive public health researcher having garnered more than \$15 million in grant funding, 100 peer-reviewed publications, and 91 scientific presentations. Dr. Nolan has established domestic and international field sites, where her implementation science work focuses on designing field-deployable diagnostics with real-world efficacy.

Umair A. Shah

Member

Umair A. Shah, M.D., M.P.H., is the Chief Medical Officer of Phamily. Dr. Shah was most recently the Secretary of Health for the state of Washington from 2020-2025. The first physician of South Asian descent to serve in this role. His appointment came at a difficult time amid the severe winter wave of COVID-19 and only a few days after arrival of vaccines into the state. In assuming this leadership position at the Washington State Department of Health, Dr. Shah made the transition from fighting the pandemic on the front lines of response in Texas as Executive Director and Local Health Authority for Harris County Public Health (HCPH) – serving the nation’s 3rd largest county with nearly five million people.

Dr. Shah earned his BA (philosophy) from Vanderbilt University; his MD from the University of Toledo Health Science Center; and completed an Internal Medicine Residency, Primary Care/General Medicine Fellowship, & MPH (management), at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. He also completed a global health policy internship at World Health Organization headquarters in Switzerland. Upon completing training, Dr. Shah began a distinguished twenty-year career as an emergency department physician at Houston’s Michael DeBakey VA Medical Center.

Following his passion, he started his formal public health journey in 2003 as Chief Medical Officer at Galveston County’s Health District before joining HCPH to oversee its clinical health system and infectious disease portfolio. Under his leadership, the agency won numerous national awards including Local Health Department of the Year from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), representing the nation’s 3,000 local health departments.

Dr. Shah has held several leadership positions with respected entities like the Association for State and Territorial Health Officials; National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention; American Public Health Association (APHA); Trust for America’s Health; Network for Public Health Law; Texas Medical Association; and served as president of NACCHO (and its Texas affiliate). He has testified before the U.S. Congress, the state legislatures of both Texas and Washington, and responded to a multitude of large-scale emergencies both domestically and globally.

For his work, he has received numerous awards including the distinguished Milton and Ruth Roemer Prize for creativity in public health; APHA’s Public Service Award for Outstanding Service in Emergency Health; and the NACDS Foundation’s Excellence in Patient Care Award. One of his more lighthearted recognitions was being named ‘Ten Real Houstonians We’ll Need the Most in the Zombie Apocalypse’.

Over his career, Dr. Shah has been a clinician, innovator, educator, and leader in health. He has been a champion for underserved communities, at the intersection of health and healthcare, while charting a fresh course in health by centering on the cornerstone values of equity, innovation, and engagement.

Jonathan M. Sleeman

Member

Dr. Jonathan Sleeman is an internationally recognized leader in wildlife and ecosystem health with more than 30 years of experience working at the intersection of animal, human, and environmental health. He currently serves as an Associate Professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota, and Adjunct Professor at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Mahidol University. Previous roles include One Health and Wildlife Specialist for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and Director of the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center, where he oversaw national programs addressing wildlife disease surveillance, research, and response, focused on understanding, preventing, and mitigating wildlife diseases that have implications for biodiversity conservation, livestock health, and public health.

A veterinarian and board-certified specialist in zoological medicine, Dr. Sleeman has extensive expertise in emerging infectious diseases, zoonoses, and One Health. His career has included clinical practice, academic research, and senior leadership roles in government, where he has advanced the integration of science into One Health policy.

Dr. Sleeman has published widely in peer-reviewed journals and contributed to book chapters on wildlife health, zoonotic diseases, and One Health. He is frequently called upon to serve as an advisor to national and international bodies, including FAO, the World Organisation for Animal Health, and the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

He holds a Master's Degree and Veterinary Degree from the University of Cambridge, and is a Diplomate of the American College of Zoological Medicine.

Anthony So

Member

Anthony D. So, MD, MPA is Distinguished Professor of the Practice and Director, Innovation+Design Enabling Access (IDEA) Initiative at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He served as one of the Co-Conveners of the UN Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance that delivered recommendations to the UN Secretary General in 2019. He was a co-lead author of the UN Environment Program's global spotlight report on the environmental dimensions of AMR in 2023.

Professor So has served as Co-Chair of a technical working group for the 2021 WHO Fair Pricing Forum; a member of the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Accelerating Rare Disease Research and Orphan Product Development; and presently on the WHO Technical Advisory Group on Market Access for Vaccines. He has also contributed to the Chatham House Working Group on New Business Models for Antibiotics and the Antibiotic Working Group of the U.S. President's Council of Advisors in Science and Technology. He received his MD from the University of Michigan, his MPA from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs, and completed his residency in internal medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and his fellowship in the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program at UCSF/Stanford.

Christopher Braden

Ex Officio Member

Christopher Braden, M.D., is Deputy Director of National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Between 2010 and 2016, he was the Director of the Division of Foodborne, Waterborne and Environmental Diseases. Previously, he served and the Associate Director for Science in the Division of Parasitic Diseases, and chief of outbreak response and surveillance in the Division of Foodborne, Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases. From 1993 to 2000, he was an EIS officer then medical epidemiologist in the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination. During his tenure, Dr. Braden has held incident management leadership positions on multiple CDC responses to national and international outbreaks, including several nation-wide foodborne outbreak investigations, SARS, anthrax attacks in 2001, Ebola outbreaks in Western African and Congo, and the COVID-19 pandemic. His major areas of interest include molecular epidemiology of infectious diseases, infectious diseases surveillance and outbreak investigation and national programs in food safety. In addition to his duties at CDC, Dr. Braden maintained clinical infectious diseases activity by continuing work as an attending physician at the Tuft's University New England Medical Center until 2000, at the Fulton County TB clinic until 2005, and then as a Kaiser Permanente consulting physician until 2016. Dr. Braden received his Bachelor of Science from Cornell University, and his MD at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency in internal medicine then fellowship in infectious diseases at Tufts New England Medical Center in Boston, MA. He is Board Certified in infectious diseases. He joined CDC as an EIS Officer in 1993 and served as a commissioned officer in the US Public Health Service for over 20 years. He is a member of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the American Epidemiological Society and an associate editor for the Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) Journal.

Tracey Dutcher

Ex Officio Member

Tracey Dutcher, MS, DVM is the Deputy Assistant Director for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Health Security (OHS). In this role, she provides leadership and critical interagency and interdisciplinary experience, knowledge and technical insight to guide formation of OHS' Health, Food, and Agriculture Resilience Directorate and its emergent focus on One Health as an essential component of national security. Prior to this assignment, Tracey developed and implemented a \$300M program for COVID-19 pandemic response that firmly established USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) as a critical One Health partner, and also led national biodefense strategy planning efforts for the Agency. These roles built on Tracey's previous experience and expertise in developing transdisciplinary approaches to solve complex problems within and across agency boundaries at state and federal agencies and with academia and industry to increase efficiency and effectiveness of policy development, mission operations, and business continuity to strengthen food and health security.

Dr. Dutcher is a certified Integral Coach®, an alumnus of the CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service, a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, and a Distinguished Fellow with the National Academies of Practice.

Greg Frank

Ex Officio Member

Gregory Frank, Ph.D., is Director of Global Public Policy with Merck, where he leads Merck's global antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and pandemic preparedness policy. Previously Dr. Frank served as Senior Director, Infectious Disease Policy at the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO), where he led several infectious diseases policy issues, including AMR and vaccine regulatory policy. Prior to BIO, Dr. Frank led science and diagnostics policy as Program Officer for Science and Research Policy at the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA).

Dr. Frank serves on the Leadership Council of the National Institute of Antimicrobial Resistant Research and Education (NIAMREE), the expert advisory committee for the Partnership to Fight Infectious Diseases and serves on the Sepsis Alliance Innovation Collaborative. He is a Board member on the AMR Industry Alliance. Previously, Dr. Frank has served on the U.S. Presidential Advisory Committee on Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB) and joined expert advisory committees of the Access to Medicines Foundation AMR Benchmark, the Global AMR R&D Hub, and the Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy Antimicrobial Incentives & Payment Reform Project.

Dr. Frank received his doctorate in immunology at the University of Pittsburgh and pursued his postdoctoral training at the Laboratory of Viral Diseases at the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases.

Penny M. Heaton

Ex Officio Member

Penny Heaton, M.D., is the Chief Medical Officer of Johnson & Johnson, where she leads efforts to address global health challenges, focusing on Medical Safety, Epidemiology, and Bioethics in alignment with the company's Credo. She also heads the Communicable Diseases unit within J&J's Innovative Medicine R&D, advancing the late-stage ExPEC vaccine program, supporting HIV products, and tackling infectious diseases that affect low-income countries. With over 20 years of experience in infectious diseases and vaccine development, Penny previously served as CEO of the Bill & Melinda Gates Medical Research Institute (Gates MRI), leading the development of investigational products for TB, malaria, and other diseases. She also worked as Director of Vaccine Development at the Gates Foundation, addressing diseases like HIV and polio. She began her career at the CDC, working on diarrheal disease surveillance and outbreak investigations, which sparked her passion for infectious diseases. Penny is a graduate of the University of Louisville School of Medicine, board-certified in Pediatrics, and a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Anirban Mahapatra

Ex Officio Member

Anirban (Ani) Mahapatra, Ph.D., is Chief Science and Global Strategy Officer at the American Society for Microbiology. He directs ASM's scientific programs and international strategy across health, applied and environmental microbiology, and basic science, and leads global research convenings that connect scientific communities. Over a two-decade career, he has developed more than twenty peer-reviewed journals across infectious diseases, synthetic biology, materials science, and nanotechnology, including ACS Synthetic Biology, which received the PROSE Award. Earlier in his research career, he elucidated the genetic encoding of pyrrolysine, the 22nd genetically encoded amino acid. He is the author of two books, *When the Drugs Don't Work: The Hidden Pandemic that Could End Modern Medicine* (Juggernaut Books, 2024) and *COVID-19: Separating Fact from Fiction* (Penguin Random House, 2021) and has written a science column for Hindustan Times, a national newspaper in India, since 2021. He holds a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University.

Victoria McGovern

Ex Officio Member

Victoria McGovern, Ph.D., is a Chief Strategy Officer and the Gertrude Elion Endowed Program Officer at the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. She is the Director and Chief Strategist for the Fund's investments in Infectious Diseases, as well as in Population Sciences, Quantitative Thinking, and workforce development. She joined BWF in 1997. For more than 25 years she has been involved in science policy efforts related to strengthening the scientific workforce, an interest she continues at the Fund.

She is a past chair of Sigma Xi's Committee on Public Understanding of Science, was one of the original writers for Science's Next Wave (now Science Careers), and is currently one of the contributors to the Graduate Career Consortium's Carpe Careers column at Inside Higher Education. She serves on the National Postdoctoral Association's advisory board, the Committee on Postdoctoral and Graduate Education of the American Society for Microbiology, and the Early Career Scientist Steering Committee of the Genetics Society of America.

She earned bachelor's degrees in Biology and English Literature at Washington University in St. Louis and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Biochemistry at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, followed by an NSF-funded postdoctoral fellowship in marine biotechnology at the Cameron Applied Research Center in Charlotte. She was one of the first Hull Leadership Fellows of the Southeastern Council of Foundations, and is a fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and of the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

P. David Rogers

Ex Officio Member

P. David Rogers, Pharm.D., Ph.D., is currently Member and Chair of the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital where he holds the St. Jude Endowed Chair in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Previously, he was Professor of Clinical Pharmacy and Translational Science at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) College of Pharmacy. There he held the First Tennessee Endowed Chair of Excellence in Clinical Pharmacy, served at various times as Vice Chair of the Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Translational Science, Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Research, and Director of the UTHSC Center of Excellence for Pediatric Experimental Therapeutics. He received his Pharm.D. from the University of Tennessee, and M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi. He completed residency in pharmacy practice at the Regional Medical Center, Memphis, and residency and clinical fellowship in infectious diseases pharmacy practice at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. For over 25 years his research program has focused on improving antifungal pharmacotherapy through the study of how pathogenic fungi respond and develop resistance to antifungal agents. He has served on the Board of Trustees for the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Research Institute and Foundation, and the Board of Directors for the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists. He is a recipient of both the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Russell R. Miller Award and Therapeutic Frontiers Lecture Award. He is an elected Fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy and the American Academy of Microbiology and an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine.

Terrie E. Taylor

Ex Officio Member

Terrie Taylor, D.O., is a clinical investigator who lived and worked in Malawi, studying the pathogenesis of severe pediatric malaria, from 1986 until 2025. The Blantyre Malaria Project, established by Dr. Taylor and Malcolm Molyneux, has carried out outstanding research and patient care in the area of pediatric malaria, specifically cerebral malaria. She is now a Senior Advisor to the Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Michigan State University, and President of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene --- and is still traveling to Malawi.

Matthew Zahn

Ex Officio Member

Matthew Zahn, M.D. has worked in local public health in large diverse communities for over 20 years and has overseen the public health response to emerging infectious diseases such as measles, COVID, Mpox, and novel influenza viruses. He currently works as a pediatric infectious disease physician at the Children's Hospital of Orange County, and is an Associate Clinical Professor for the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine. He has served as chair of the Infectious Disease Society of America's Public Health Committee, liaison from the National Association of County and City Health Officials to the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, and President of the California Association of Communicable Disease Controllers. He currently serves on the American Academy of Pediatrics' Committee of Infectious Diseases.