

2023 NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH FORUM

STRAIGHT TALK:



SEPTEMBER 19-20

BIOGRAPHIES



Sally Allain, MBA, MSc

Head, JLABS @ Washington, DC, Johnson & Johnson Innovation

As Head of JLABS @ Washington, DC, Sally sets the strategic direction and oversees all operational activities for JLABS in the greater Washington metro region. In this role, Sally is responsible for the process of evaluating and selecting a strong portfolio of innovators, and building strategic partnerships with corporate, academic, government and industry organizations that aim to strengthen the region's life sciences innovation network.

Sally joined JLABS after serving as Senior Director, Strategy & Operations on the Global External Innovation team at Johnson & Johnson, where she supported portfolio management and strategic business development efforts across the organization. Prior, Sally was with Janssen R&D, Immunology, where she managed a team in research operations and alliance management for the early discovery to early development portfolio. Sally understands well the needs of healthcare entrepreneurs, having launched her research career at a San-Diego based biotech startup and then working internationally for a UK-based governmental economic development agency creating early-stage biotech and academic collaborative programs aimed at accelerating the development of products to address the needs of patients and consumers.

Sally received her MBA from the University of California Berkeley, Haas School of Business; a Master of Science Degree in Microbiology / Immunology from Virginia Tech; and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Virginia Tech. She sits on the Boards of BioHealth Innovation and Mindshare, two organizations supporting emerging companies in the DMV region, and she is an Executive Fellow at The Economic Club of Washington, DC.



Annaliesa Anderson

Senior Vice President and Head of Vaccine Research and Development, Pfizer

Annaliesa Anderson, PhD, FAAM, is the Senior Vice President and Head of Vaccine Research and Development at Pfizer Inc, and a member of the Pfizer Research & Development leadership team. With over 30 years of pharmaceutical research experience, Dr. Anderson leads a fully integrated, global vaccine research and development organization, with responsibilities ranging from discovery to registration and post-marketing commitments. She manages a clinical vaccines portfolio that includes vaccines to prevent or treat diseases of significant unmet medical need. These include vaccine programs directed at the prevention of diseases due to Streptococcus pneumoniae, Neisseria meningitidis, Clostridioides difficile, Escherichia coli, Respiratory Syncytial Virus, SARS-CoV-2, and Influenza, among many others. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she led the efforts to develop what became the first authorized oral COVID-19 antiviral treatment, PAXLOVID®.

Dr. Anderson earned her doctorate in biological sciences at the University of Warwick, England, in collaboration with AstraZeneca, in the field of microbial ecology. She completed two post-doctoral fellowships funded by the UK natural environmental council and the Royal Society, with sabbaticals at CromaXome Corporation and Kaiserslautern University. Prior to joining Pfizer, she worked at Merck Research Laboratories in Rahway, NJ, where she founded Merck's prokaryotic bio-combinational engineering laboratory.

Dr. Anderson has over 120 publications and an extensive patent portfolio in the areas of vaccine and anti-infective research and development. She is a member of the International Society for Vaccines, the Microbiology Society, the American Society for Microbiology, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, and an elected fellow to the American Academy of Microbiology. In addition, she serves on the Microbiology and Infectious Disease Steering Committee at the New York Academy of Sciences, as well as the American Society for Microbiology Service Awards Selection Committee.



John Balbus, MD, MPH

Acting Director, Office of Climate Change and Health Equity, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Dr. Balbus is the Acting Director of the HHS Office of Climate Change and Health Equity. A physician and public health professional with over 25 years of experience working on the health implications of climate change, Dr. Balbus has served as HHS Principal to the U.S. Global Change Research Program since he joined the federal government in 2009. He also helped create and co-chair that organization's working group on Climate Change and Human Health. Before coming over to the new Office, Dr. Balbus served as Senior Advisor for Public Health to the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

Prior to joining NIEHS, Dr. Balbus was the Chief Health Scientist at the Environmental Defense Fund and an Associate Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health at the George Washington School of Public Health and Health Services. He received his MPH degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, his MD degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and his undergraduate degree in Biochemistry from Harvard University. He was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2021.



Charles Barber, DTL

Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, National Science Foundation

Dr. Charles Barber was appointed to the Senior Executive Service (SES) and assumed the duties as Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, National Science Foundation in January 2023. In this role, he serves as the NSF's senior advisor responsible for providing vision, strategic leadership and management for ongoing agency programs and new initiatives related to diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility, or DEIA, in the NSF workplace and the STEM enterprise. Prior to his appointment as Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Dr. Barber served as Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Programs, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs and was a primary author on the Navy's Task Force One Navy report that led to the Operational Navy's DE&I Implementation Strategy. Dr. Barber is a TEDx speaker and served as the feature speaker on DEI at the 2022 DAU TEDx conference.

Dr. Barber has led a broad range of diversity efforts, development of culture intelligence capabilities, strategy, organizational leadership, critical data analysis and business transformation initiatives that have provided world class human resource and transformational leadership support to a dynamic range of public and private sector clients to include military service members, civilians and their families. With more than two decades of experience in HR, Diversity & Inclusion, Business Transformation and Cultural Intelligence, Dr. Barber is a staunch advocate for efficiency, transformation and process improvement. He spearheaded development of the Army's Soldier Record Brief (SRB) while supporting the Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army (IPPS-A) during one of the largest Army HR Transformation efforts in the modern era. At the Defense Logistics Agency, he led the development of a culture intelligence framework that integrated transformational leadership principles within the DLA enterprise. As Director of Business Transformation for the Department of Defense Vetting Directorate, he was a key contributor to the US government's security clearance and background investigation process improvement effort. He also previously served as the Chief Human Capital Officer for the District of Columbia Courts.

Dr. Barber holds a doctorate degree in Transformational Leadership from Bakke Graduate University, and other degrees in Organizational Leadership and Business Management from Columbia Southern University and Excelsior College. He is a certified Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt and a previous guest lecturer at Harvard Kennedy School's Senior Executive Fellows Program for Political Science and Government. Dr. Barber is a U.S. Army veteran with deployments to Kosovo and Iraq.



Georges Benjamin, MD*

Executive Director, American Public Health Association

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FNAPA, FACEP (E), Hon FRSPH is known as one of the nation's most influential physician leaders because he speaks passionately and eloquently about the health issues having the most impact on our nation today. From his firsthand experience as a physician, he knows what happens when preventive care is not available and when the healthy choice is not the easy choice. As executive director of APHA since 2002, he is leading the Association's push to make America the healthiest nation in one generation.

He came APHA from his position as secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Benjamin became secretary of health in Maryland in April 1999, following four years as its deputy secretary for public health services. As secretary, Benjamin oversaw the expansion and improvement of the state's Medicaid program.

Benjamin, of Gaithersburg, Md., is a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology and the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He is board-certified in internal medicine, a Master of the American College of Physicians, a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, a fellow emeritus of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and an honorary fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health.

An established administrator, author and orator, Benjamin started his medical career in 1981 in Tacoma, Wash., where he managed a 72,000-patient visit ambulatory care service as chief of the Acute Illness Clinic at the Madigan Army Medical Center and was an attending physician within the Department of Emergency Medicine. A few years later, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he served as chief of emergency medicine at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. After leaving the Army, he chaired the Department of Community Health and Ambulatory Care at the District of Columbia General Hospital. He was promoted to acting commissioner for public health for the District of Columbia and later directed one of the busiest ambulance services in the nation as interim director of the Emergency Ambulance Bureau of the District of Columbia Fire Department.

At APHA, Benjamin also serves as publisher of the nonprofit's monthly publication, *The Nation's Health*, the association's official newspaper, and the *American Journal of Public Health*, the profession's premier scientific publication. He is the author of more than 100 scientific articles and book chapters. His recent book *The Quest for Health Reform: A Satirical History* is an exposé of the nearly 100-year quest to ensure quality affordable health coverage for all through the use of political cartoons.



Dietmar Berger, MD, PhD

Chief Medical Officer, Global Head of Development, Sanofi

Dietmar Berger is Chief Medical Officer and Head of Global Development at Sanofi. Formerly, he was Senior Vice President of Global Product Development, Clinical Science Hematology/Oncology at Genentech/Roche, and Head of Research and Development at Atara, focusing on development of T cell immunotherapies. Prior to that, he held positions of increasing responsibility at Bayer and at Amgen.

Dr. Berger completed his medical training in Freiburg (Germany), Basel (Switzerland), and Chicago (United States) and holds an MD and PhD from the Albert-Ludwigs University School of Medicine. He has more than 25 years of experience in research and development, including as Head of the Oncology Clinical Research Center at the University Medical Hospital, Freiburg, Germany. Dr. Berger has led academic research groups focusing on preclinical drug development, tumor models, angiogenesis, and immunotherapy in Germany, and at The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA, USA. He received the Cancer Award of the German Cancer Society for his research on angiogenesis and has authored more than 50 scientific publications and five books.



Marie A. Bernard, MD

Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity, National Institutes of Health

Marie A. Bernard, MD, is the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity (COSWD). As the COSWD, she leads NIH thought regarding the science of scientific workforce diversity, assuring that the full range of talent is accessed to promote scientific creativity and innovation. Dr. Bernard co-led the development of the Fiscal Years 2023 – 2027 NIH-wide Strategic Plan for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) and is working on its implementation. She is also a Co-chair of the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director Working Group on Diversity, the NIH Steering Committee Working Group on DEIA, and the NIH UNITE initiative to identify and address any structural racism that may exist within NIH and throughout the biomedical and behavioral workforce.

Prior to being selected as the COSWD in 2021, she was deputy director of the National Institute on Aging (NIA), where she led a broad range of activities, including cochairing two Department of Health and Human Services Healthy People 2020/2030 objectives – 1) Older Adults, and 2) Dementias, including Alzheimer's disease. Until October 2008, she was the endowed professor and founding Chair of the Donald W. Reynolds

Department of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and Associate Chief of Staff for Geriatrics and Extended Care at the Oklahoma City Veterans Affairs Medical Center. She has held numerous national leadership roles and received accolades for her national leadership in geriatrics research, teaching, and clinical practice. She has lectured and published widely in her area of research, nutrition and function in older adults, with particular focus on underrepresented populations.

Dr. Bernard earned her AB from Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, and her MD from University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. She trained in internal medicine at Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia, where she served as chief resident. She received additional training through the Association of American Medical Colleges Health Services Research Institute, the Geriatric Education Center of Pennsylvania, and the Wharton School Executive Development Program.



Diana Bianchi, MD

Director, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health

Diana W. Bianchi is the Director of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), overseeing an annual budget of approximately \$1.7 billion supporting NICHD's mission to lead research and training to understand human development, improve reproductive health, enhance the lives of children and adolescents, and optimize abilities for all. Dr. Bianchi is also head of the Prenatal Genomics and Therapy Section for the Medical Genetics Branch at the National Human Genome Research Institute. Dr. Bianchi received her M.D. from Stanford University School of Medicine and her postgraduate training in Pediatrics, Medical Genetics and Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Dr. Bianchi's research focuses on prenatal genomics with the goal of advancing noninvasive prenatal DNA screening and diagnosis to develop new therapies for genetic disorders that can be administered prenatally. She is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and a past president of the Perinatal Research Society and the International Society for Prenatal Diagnosis. Dr. Bianchi has received multiple awards, including the American Academy of Pediatrics' Neonatal Landmark Award (2015), the Society for Pediatric Research's Maureen Andrew Award for Mentorship (2016), and the March of Dimes' Colonel Harland Sanders Award for lifetime achievement in Medical Genetics (2017). In 2020, she received the Society for Women's Health Research's Health Public Service Visionary Award. Dr. Bianchi was a finalist for the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals in 2022 and honored as a Forbes 50 over 50 awardee.



Barbara Bierer, MD

Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School and the Brigham and Women's Hospital

Barbara E. Bierer, M.D., a hematologist-oncologist, is Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and the Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH). Dr. Bierer co-founded and leads the Multi-Regional Clinical Trials Center of BWH and Harvard (MRCT Center, www.mrctcenter.org), a collaborative effort to improve standards for the planning and conduct of international clinical trials. In addition, she is the Director of the Regulatory Foundations, Ethics, and the Law program at the Harvard Catalyst, the Harvard Clinical and Translational Science Award, working across the academic spectrum to enable the clinical trial enterprise from study planning through recruitment to data acquisition and dissemination. She is the Director and PI of SMART IRB (www.SMARTIRB.org), a national effort to align single-site IRB review of multi-site trials. She serves as Faculty in the Center for Bioethics, Harvard Medical School, and as Affiliate Faculty in the Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics at Harvard Law School. From 2003 – 2014, Dr. Bierer served as Senior Vice-President, Research at the Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH). During her tenure, Dr. Bierer founded and served as Executive Sponsor of the Brigham Research Institute and the Brigham Innovation Hub (iHub), a focus for entrepreneurship and innovation in healthcare. She has authored approximately 300 publications. Dr. Bierer received a B.S. from Yale University and an M.D. from Harvard Medical School.



William Brangham

Correspondent and Producer, PBS NewsHour

William Brangham is a correspondent and producer for PBS NewsHour in Washington, D.C. He joined the flagship PBS program in 2015, after spending two years with PBS NewsHour Weekend in New York City.

In his first three years, Brangham has done a range of award-winning reporting across the United States and internationally, covering everything from the severity of America's opioid crisis, the integration of women into combat roles in the U.S. Marine Corps, to a profile of Ina Garten, the "Barefoot Contessa."

Brangham was part of the NewsHour team awarded with a Peabody in 2023 for its coverage of the gun violence epidemic in America. His reporting on the Syrian refugee crisis in 2015 was among the work cited when the NewsHour won a Peabody Award that year. The next year, he reported a six-part series on the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, which won a series of major awards including an Emmy and the National Academies of Sciences Communication Award. In 2018, Brangham worked on an investigative series about sexual assault and retaliation in the U.S. Forest Service. The day after that series aired, the head of the Forest Service suddenly stepped down.

When he is not out reporting in the field, Brangham is a regular interviewer on the NewsHour, and he has occasionally anchored the weekday and Weekend broadcasts.

During his career, Brangham has also worked on video projects for The New York Times, ABC News, National Geographic and Frontline. Prior to joining the NewsHour, he was a producer and correspondent for Need to Know on PBS, and before that, for Bill Moyers Journal. Brangham worked on several Moyers' documentary series in the 1990s, and was a producer on the critically acclaimed Now with Bill Moyers in the early 2000s.

In 2014, he was an adjunct professor at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism.

Brangham lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife and three children.



Nancy Brown*

Chief Executive Officer, American Heart Association

Nancy Brown is Chief Executive Officer of the American Heart Association (AHA), a 97-year-old organization guided by an unwavering mission: To be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives.

Under Nancy's leadership as CEO since 2008, the AHA has become a global authority on cardiovascular and brain health as well as overall health and well-being. Forging powerful partnerships – together with 40 million volunteers, supporters and staff – Nancy champions equitable health for all and is committed to innovation at the intersection of science, technology and public health on behalf of patients everywhere.

Key initiatives include:

- Responding to COVID-19 through rapid research, advocacy, education, and resources for patients, health care workers, and consumers.
- Transforming research to accelerate scientific discoveries on critical health topics and drive innovation.
- Ensuring longer, healthier lives for all patients by elevating heart and stroke quality improvement programs, registries, and resuscitation science.
- Advocating for policies and legislation that support healthy communities and access to affordable, equitable care through AHA's expansive You're The Cure grassroots network and Voices for Healthy Kids.
- Addressing health disparities through the AHA Social Impact Fund, Bernard J. Tyson Impact Fund and BrightTorch Ventures.
- Empowering women's health through the Go Red for Women® movement and Research Goes Red.
- Improving the health and well-being of the nation's workforce through the AHA CEO Roundtable.
- Nancy is a leader with the World Economic Forum (WEF), where she serves as a member and immediate past co-chairman of the Health & Healthcare Governors Community; Founding Partner and Global Advisory Board member for the WEF Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution; Executive Board member of the Global Coalition for Value in Healthcare; and member of the Board of Advisors for the Social Determinants of Health Platform.



Robert Califf, MD

Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Food and Drug Administration

Dr. Robert M. Califf was confirmed earlier this year as the 25th Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

As Commissioner, Dr. Califf oversees the full breadth of the FDA portfolio and execution of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and other applicable laws. This includes assuring the safety, effectiveness, and security of human and veterinary drugs, vaccines and other biological products for human use, and medical devices; the safety and security of our nation's food supply, cosmetics, dietary supplements, products that give off electronic radiation; and the regulation of tobacco products.

Dr. Califf has had a long and distinguished career as a physician, researcher, and leader in the fields of science and medicine. He is a nationally recognized expert in cardiovascular medicine, health outcomes research, health care quality, and clinical research, and a leader in the growing field of translational research, which is key to ensuring that advances in science translate into medical care.

This is Dr. Califf's second stint as Commissioner. He also served in 2016 as the 22nd Commissioner. Before assuming the position at that time, he served as the FDA's Deputy Commissioner for Medical Products and Tobacco.

Prior to rejoining the FDA in 2022, Dr. Califf was head of medical strategy and Senior Adviser at Alphabet Inc., contributing to strategy and policy for its health subsidiaries Verily Life Sciences and Google Health. He joined Alphabet in 2019, after serving as a Professor of Medicine and Vice Chancellor for Clinical and Translational Research at Duke University. He also served as Director of the Duke Translational Medicine Institute and was the Founding Director of the Duke Clinical Research Institute.

Dr. Califf is a graduate of Duke University School of Medicine. He completed a residency in internal medicine at the University of California, San Francisco and a fellowship in cardiology at Duke.



Mike Coburn

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Research!America

Mike Coburn is Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Research!America. Throughout his more than 30 years serving the nonprofit sector, his focus on optimizing organizational performance through strong governance, sound financial management, innovative program development, and passionate advocacy has blazed a track record of success with prominent mission-based organizations. He previously served as Chief Operating Officer of The Arc of the United States, President and CEO of the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance, and in management and leadership roles with a number of national nonprofit organizations.



Nakela L. Cook, MD, MPH

Executive Director, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

Nakela L. Cook, MD, MPH, is Executive Director at the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). She is a cardiologist and health services researcher with a distinguished career leading key scientific initiatives engaging patients, clinicians, and other health care stakeholders at one of the nation's largest public health research funders.

Cook leads PCORI's research, dissemination and implementation, and engagement work as the organization enters its second decade of service to the nation. She also provides strategic and day-to-day oversight of ongoing programs as well as new initiatives designed to create a health care system that is more efficient, effective, and patient centered.

Prior to her current role, Cook served as Senior Scientific Officer and Chief of Staff at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), the third largest institute of the National Institutes of Health, with a staff of 1,000 and an annual budget of over \$3 billion.

There she spearheaded the development and implementation of NHLBI's strategic plan and initiatives in precision medicine, data science, sickle cell disease, and women's health with meaningful engagement of stakeholder groups.

Preceding her position as Chief of Staff, Cook was a Clinical Medical Officer in NHLBI's Division of Cardiovascular Sciences and an attending cardiologist at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C.

She has a Bachelor of Science degree in materials science and engineering from the University of Alabama at Birmingham; earned her medical degree and Master of Public Health in health care policy and management from Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Public Health, respectively; and completed her clinical training at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Cook is also an alumna of the Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy.

Throughout her career, Cook has worked to enhance diversity and equity in research and care delivery and been a leader in efforts to reduce disparities in health access and outcomes. She has received numerous awards for her excellence in clinical teaching and mentorship as well as her leadership of complex scientific initiatives and programs.



Deborah Deas, MD, MPH*

Dean, School of Medicine; Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, University of California, Riverside

Deborah Deas, MD, MPH is the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, the Mark and Pam Rubin Dean of the School of Medicine, and Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California, Riverside (UCR).

Under her leadership, the UC Riverside School of Medicine has seen tremendous growth in its medical education, biomedical sciences, and clinical enterprise programs. Dr. Deas would be the first to tell you that these achievements, and more, are a result of a dedicated team of professionals working with a variety of partners to help the School of Medicine fulfill its mission to improve the availability of healthcare for the people across the underserved Inland Southern California communities.

Since arriving in 2016, Dr. Deas has led efforts to increase the class size of UCR School of Medicine's medical and biomedical sciences programs, expand clinical affiliations, develop and expand the UCR Health clinical enterprise, and increase National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding as well as private giving. Working in partnership with University of California leadership and state legislators, Dr. Deas helped to secure state funding for a new medical education building on the UCR campus which is slated to open in 2023. Additionally, Dr. Deas has overseen the buildout of lab space in the School of Medicine Research Building and, in 2021, the opening of the new Clinical Skills and Simulation Suite, a 10,000 square foot medical education facility that allows students to receive hands-on training in a safe simulation environment.

In March 2021, the School of Medicine was recognized by U.S. News and World Report's 2022 Best Grad School Rankings as No. 6 in the nation diversity, with 34% of our 299 medical students and 32% of our biomedical sciences students coming from underrepresented minority communities. Impressed by this commitment to student diversity, the California Wellness Foundation awarded a four-year grant to the school to help expand the efforts of training URM students to be physicians.

Originally from Adams Run, South Carolina, Dr. Deas earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the College of Charleston in 1978 and her Master of Public Health degree from the University of South Carolina in 1979.



Eleanor Dehoney, MPH
Senior Vice President of Policy and Advocacy,
Research!America

Ellie Dehoney is the Senior Vice President of Policy and Advocacy at the nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy alliance, Research!America. Previously, she served as Legislative Director for Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH), and as Health Legislative Assistant and Legislative Director for Brown in the House of Representatives. Ellie's background also includes serving as a Health Legislative Assistant for former Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), as a Special Assistant in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) within the Department of Health and Human Services, and in nonprofit and private sector roles focused on health care financing and delivery.

Ellie currently serves on the Advisory Board of the George Mason University College of Health and Human Services, the AcademyHealth Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy, and the Nominating Committee of the National Health Council.

Ellie received a bachelor's degree in Economics and English from the College of William & Mary and a master's degree in Public Health from UNC Chapel Hill.



Shobha Dhadda, PhD
Chief Clinical Science & Operations Officer, Clinical Evidence Generation, Deep Human Biology Learning, Eisai Inc.

Shobha Dhadda, Ph.D., Chief Clinical Science & Operations Officer, Clinical Evidence Generation, Deep Human, Biology Learning, Eisai Inc. With more than 25 years in the pharmaceutical industry, Shobha currently leads multiple functions: Biostatistics, Statistical programming, Data Science, Data Management, Project Management, Clinical Operations, outsourcing, Medical Writing, Clinical Data systems and data operations for AD and Brain Health at Eisai Inc.

Shobha is at the forefront in innovative clinical trial designs, digital transformations, risk-based monitoring and implementation of decentralized clinical trial approaches that can revolutionize pharmaceutical research. Dr. Dhadda started her career in 1995 as a senior statistician in a pharma company. She focused her career in the design, conduct and analysis of clinical trials, with more than 25 years of experience working in pharmaceutical Industry covering a variety of therapeutic areas including Alzheimer's. She has led the design of several innovative Bayesian adaptive design trials, group sequential design trials and platform trails. She joined Eisai as head of statistics and soon also became the head of clinical development operations, which includes end to end functions involved in running a clinical trial, i.e., medical writing, data management, clinical operations, project management, Biostats, statistical programming, Data Science, outsourcing etc.

Her group is responsible for study design, data management, trial conduct, and data analyses of global multi-center clinical trials and observational studies. She has led digital transformation and de-centralized approaches in clinical trials at Eisai. One of her key focuses is centralized and adaptive statistical risk-based monitoring approach to ensure quality clinical trial data. Her group is involved in building AI/Machine learning algorithms to predict disease diagnosis and disease progression trajectory, with use for screening and patient selection in clinical trials.

She has been work-package co-leader on statistical methodology engine room for EPAD (European Prevention of Alzheimer's Dementia Consortium) to create longitudinal disease models and adaptive design platform trial. She is a governance member from Eisai on DIAN-TU platform trial with Wash U and with Alzheimer's Clinical Trials Consortium (ACTC) on clinical trial for prevention of Alzheimer's disease.



Gary L. Disbrow, PhD

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response; Director, Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Dr. Gary Disbrow is the Director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), a component of the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. BARDA invests in the innovation, advanced research and development, acquisition, and manufacturing of medical countermeasures – vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostic tools needed to combat health security threats. BARDA has established hundreds of public-private sector partnerships. As of August 2023, BARDA now has a portfolio of 83 products that have earned FDA regulatory approval, licensure, or clearance.

Dr. Disbrow joined BARDA in January of 2007 and has held a variety of positions related to the advanced development and procurement of medical countermeasures against an array of threats to national security and public health. Prior to becoming the BARDA Director, Dr. Disbrow served as acting BARDA Director, Deputy Assistant Secretary of ASPR, and Medical Countermeasures Program Director.



Arthur C. Evans Jr., PhD*

Chief Executive Officer, American Psychological Association

Arthur C. Evans Jr., PhD, is CEO of the American Psychological Association, the leading scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States.

Before joining APA in March 2017, Dr. Evans spent 12 years as Commissioner of Philadelphia's \$1.5 billion Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services. In that post, he emphasized a data-driven, population health approach, which improved outcomes for diverse people with complex needs. This increased the system's efficiency, saving more than \$110 million over the course of his tenure that was reinvested to improve and expand services. The system in Philadelphia has become a national and international model, particularly for governments desiring to improve health equity.

Prior to Philadelphia, Dr. Evans was Deputy Commissioner for the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, where he led major strategic initiatives that included increasing the use of evidence-based practices, addressing health care disparities, implementing a recovery-oriented policy framework, conducting research, and improving community engagement.

Dr. Evans has held faculty appointments at the Yale University School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the Drexel School of Public Health. Dr. Evans holds a doctorate in clinical/community psychology from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in experimental psychology from Florida Atlantic University, where he was inducted into the university's Alumni Hall of Fame.



Tala Fakhouri, PhD, MPH

Associate Director for Policy Analysis, Office of Medical Policy and Initiatives, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Tala H. Fakhouri PhD MPH is the Associate Director for Policy Analysis in the Office of Medical Policy Initiatives (OMPI), Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Dr. Fakhouri manages a team tasked with developing, coordinating, and implementing medical policy with a focus on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in drug development. These efforts include overseeing an AI policy group, as well as engaging external stakeholders and advancing the development of regulatory science around the use of AI in drug development. Recently, she led the development and publication of a Discussion Paper; titled: “Using Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in the Development of Drug and Biological Products”. She also contributes to the development of medical policy related to real-world evidence (RWE) and the use of digital health technologies for medical product development. In 2023, Dr. Fakhouri was selected by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to serve on the Federal Committee for Statistical Methodology (FCSM) for her expertise in statistical methods.

Prior to joining FDA, Dr. Fakhouri served as a Senior Health Scientist and Chief Statistician for the CDC's flagship population survey, the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). The NHANES program, which is conducted by the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), is recognized as the premier source of nationally representative data on the health of the nation. In her role at NHANES, Dr. Fakhouri advised and provided guidance on all epidemiologic, statistical,

and methodological issues related to NHANES within CDC and with external stakeholders, with special emphasis on issues related to selection bias, data linkage, and data quality. She was also responsible for designing strategies to increase survey cooperation rates including changes to recruitment protocol and procedures, changes to survey sampling and design, and developing targeted outreach materials to increase survey representativeness. In addition, Dr. Fakhouri served on the NCHS Disclosure Review Board, the Cancer Moonshot Data Science Workgroup, and co-led the FCSM Nonresponse Bias Subcommittee, which was tasked with identifying gaps in issues related to survey nonresponse and selection bias, and with providing recommendations to OMB on Federal survey standards and guidelines.

Prior to joining NHANES, she served as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with the CDC, and deputy lead for health surveys at ICF-Macro International.

Dr. Fakhouri earned a Ph.D. in Oncological Sciences from The Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah, an MPH in Epidemiologic and Biostatistical Methods from the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, and a postdoctoral fellowship in molecular biology and genetics from Harvard University, and holds a BSc Medical Technology from the Jordan University of Science and Technology



Diane Flayhart, MBA
Director of Global Public Health, Antimicrobial Resistance Initiatives, Becton Dickinson

Diane Flayhart is a Director of Global Public Health at Becton Dickinson (BD) which includes leading the company's Antimicrobial Resistance initiatives. Diane leads efforts for the Antimicrobial Resistance Fighter Coalition, a global organization that aspires to change behaviors across the globe that will maintain the effectiveness of antibiotics for future generations. The Coalition seeks to substantially increase awareness of drug-resistant infections and encourage action across a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, health agency officials, professional societies, clinicians, patients, and family members. The Coalition is mobilized by BD. Diane has been with BD since 2007, serving in roles of increased responsibility focused on Marketing and Commercial Excellence. She started her career at Johns Hopkins Medical Institution working as a medical technologist in the Microbiology Laboratory. Diane completed her master's degree in Business Administration at The Johns Hopkins University.



Dylan George, PhD
Director, Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics,
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dylan George, PhD, is the director for the Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics (CFA) at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CFA is building world class data and analytics capabilities to guide interventions in public health emergencies and pandemics.

Before joining CDC, Dr. George was a vice president at Ginkgo Bioworks, where he helped develop improved real-time infectious disease monitoring capabilities and analytics for pandemic response. Before Ginkgo, Dr. George was a vice president at In-Q-Tel (IQT), where he vetted life science, healthcare deals, and developed science and technical strategy to strengthen capacity within the United States to counter biological threats from infectious disease.

Recently, Dr. George served on the Biden-Harris transition team working on national security policy for the COVID-19 response, and on the agency review team for the Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. George served Dr. John Holdren, assistant to the president for science and technology and director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), as senior policy advisor for biological threat defense. Among other responsibilities at OSTP, Dr. George provided technical expertise and interagency coordination supporting the response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. During 2013–2014, Dr. George worked in the Department of Health and Human Services within the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, where he led a team that developed analytical approaches to assess risks from emerging infectious diseases and other mass casualty events. During 2009–2013, Dr. George worked within the Department of Defense on anticipating and assessing infectious disease risks that would affect mission readiness and force health protection. Dr. George worked at the National Science Foundation within the divisions of Biological Infrastructure and Environmental Biology. While at the National Science Foundation, Dr. George also supported the National Ecological Observatory Network and the Ecology of Infectious Diseases program.

Dr. George received his PhD from Colorado State University and focused on quantitative analytical approaches for considering how clinically severe pathogens (e.g., *Yersinia pestis*, rabies) persist within wildlife populations.



Maya Goldman

Health Reporter and Co-Author of the Axios Vitals Newsletter, Axios

Maya Goldman is a health reporter and co-author of the Axios Vitals newsletter. She covers health policy and the way it influences health care delivery. Maya previously reported for Modern Healthcare and Inside Health Policy and graduated with a degree in anthropology from the University of Michigan.



Joshua A. Gordon, MD, PhD

Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, National Institutes of Health

Dr. Gordon has served as Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) since 2016. Dr. Gordon earned his MD and PhD from the University of California, San Francisco, and completed a Psychiatry residency at Columbia University, where he served on the faculty from 2004 until he left to join NIMH.

Dr. Gordon's research employs an integrative systems approach towards understanding the neurobiology underlying working memory and its disruption by genes of relevance to schizophrenia, demonstrating the role of neural dynamics in neural communication and describing how genetic variance confers risk for disease by altering these dynamics.

Dr. Gordon is a member of the National Academy of Medicine. His work has been recognized by the Rising Star Award from the International Mental Health Research Organization, the A.E. Bennett Award from the Society of Biological Psychiatry, and the Daniel H. Efron Research Award from the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology.



Tim Haynes, MS
Senior Director of Communications,
Research!America

Tim Haynes is Senior Director of Communications at Research!America where he oversees the organization's public affairs, including media engagement, publications, surveys, the website, and social media channels. For more than two decades as a public affairs professional, Tim has established a track record of engaging complex subjects, translating between disciplines, and making ideas accessible. Prior to joining Research!America, he led research and communications for Sabre Labs, the innovation thinktank of a Fortune 1000 technology company, and travelled globally to speak on the impact of emerging technologies (e.g. blockchain, artificial intelligence, augmented reality). Prior to this, he worked at non-profits focused on children's hospitals and children's health policy; taught at several public universities; and was a feature writer and correspondent for The Boston Globe. He holds a master's degree in science writing from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Karin Hoelzer, DVM, PhD
Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs, National
Organization for Rare Disorders

Dr. Karin Hoelzer directs Policy and Regulatory Affairs for the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD®). In this role, Karin provides strategic direction to advance NORDs federal policy and regulatory priorities. She works closely with key rare disease partners across the pharmaceutical and biological space to ensure the policy landscape supports innovative approaches and new treatments to help rare disease patients, and adequately incorporates patient preferences and perspectives in therapy development. Her role also involves extensive legislative and communication engagements to advance rare disease policy priorities.

Dr. Hoelzer is a health policy, risk analysis, and biomedical research expert, with extensive intellectual property and regulatory expertise across most FDA-regulated products. Most recently, she worked at Maximus, Inc. where she established and led a new health data analytics division to provide more timely data and better insights to government clients in support of the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to working at Maximus, Inc., Dr. Hoelzer served as Senior Officer for Health Programs at The Pew Charitable Trusts where she led policy and regulatory efforts to improve the federal oversight of a variety of FDA-regulated products. Dr. Hoelzer joined Pew from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), where she served as Risk Analyst. In this role, she assessed and quantified the expected impact of changes to FDA policy and regulatory practice.

Prior to joining FDA in 2010, Dr. Hoelzer worked as Biomedical Researcher for Cornell University. She received a PhD in comparative biomedical sciences from Cornell University and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover (Germany). Since 2014, she is also a registered patent agent with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and remains active in the biomedical research space. This includes serving as Editor in Chief for a major peer-reviewed international biomedical research journal and as the Executive Director for the professional association representing veterinarians in D.C.



Christina Hull, PhD
Professor, Biomolecular Chemistry and Medical
Microbiology & Immunology, University of Wisconsin -
Madison

Dr. Christina M. Hull is a Professor of Biomolecular Chemistry and Medical Microbiology & Immunology in the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Dr. Hull researches how fungal pathogens from the environment cause life-threatening diseases. Specifically, her laboratory group is discovering the fundamental properties and behaviors of spores that make them infectious to humans. Dr. Hull and her team are using those discoveries to identify antifungal compounds for development into new drugs to prevent and treat fatal fungal diseases.



Matt Kazan, MPP
Managing Director, Avalere

Matt Kazan advises health plans, life sciences clients, and patient organizations as they navigate the policy landscape, focusing on Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage, and implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act.

In recent projects, Matt helped life sciences companies understand and prepare for the IRA's impacts on their products by organizing internal workshops with cross-functional teams to help clients align on IRA

response strategies and providing data analytics to support those strategies. Matt has also helped manufacturers plan CMS engagement strategies so they can influence the IRA's implementation. During congressional debate over the IRA, Matt also supported clients seeking to engage members of Congress by providing data, legislative text, and supporting materials to help clients deliver persuasive policy arguments to key members. Matt also provides leadership for Avalere's Policy Edge subscription product, which surveys health policy legislative and regulatory experts to assist clients in anticipating future policy activity.

Before joining Avalere, Matt spent more than a decade on staff for the US Senate Committee on Finance under Senators Max Baucus (D-MT) and Ron Wyden (D-OR). As Senior Health Policy Adviser, Matt served as the lead adviser on major Medicare issues, including Medicare Part D, Medicare Advantage, drug reimbursement across all Medicare, chronic disease, dual-eligible beneficiaries, post-acute care, the Medicare Shared Savings Program, and Medicare and Medicaid program integrity. Matt was involved in crafting and negotiating the Affordable Care Act, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and the Medicare Access and Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2015. Matt holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Denver —where he also currently serves as an associate Professor of Public Policy —and a Master of Public Policy from The George Washington University.



Patrick J. Kennedy

Founder, The Kennedy Forum; Congressman, (D-RI-1)

1995-2011

During his time in Congress, Patrick J. Kennedy co-authored the landmark Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (Federal Parity Law), which requires insurers to cover treatment for mental health and substance use disorders no more restrictively than treatment for illnesses of the body, such as diabetes and cancer. In 2013, he founded The Kennedy Forum, a nonprofit that unites advocates, business leaders, and government agencies to advance evidence-based practices, policies, and programming in mental health and addiction. In 2015, Kennedy co-authored the New York Times Bestseller, “A Common Struggle: A Personal Journey Through the Past and Future of Mental Illness and Addiction,” which details a bold plan for the future of mental health care in America. In 2017, he was appointed to the President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis.

Kennedy is also the founder of DontDenyMe.org, an educational campaign

that empowers consumers and providers to understand parity rights and connects them to essential appeals guidance and resources; co-founder of One Mind, an organization that pushes for greater global investment in brain research; co-founder of Psych Hub, the most comprehensive online learning platform on mental health, substance use, and suicide prevention topics in the world; co-chair of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention's Mental Health & Suicide Prevention National Response to COVID-19 (National Response); and Co-chair of the Bipartisan Policy Center's Behavioral Health Integration Task Force.



Jakub Kostal, PhD

Associate Professor of Chemistry, MS Program Advisor in Chemistry, Co-Director of the MS Environmental and Green Chemistry Program

Jakub Kostal is an Associate Professor of Chemistry at the George Washington University, where his group develops computational methods for the design of safer and efficacious chemicals. At GWU, Dr. Kostal directs the MS Program in Environmental and Green Chemistry, which trains chemists in predictive toxicology, safer chemical and process design. Dr. Kostal is the recipient of the NSF CAREER and the PhRMA Foundation Research Awards, and has advised The White House OSTP and the Biden administration on sustainable chemical design as well as the American Chemical Society on the progress toward the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal of "Zero Hunger". Dr. Kostal is also the co-founder and principal at ToxFix (www.toxfix.com), which has served the pharmaceutical and personal care industries for 10 years in reducing animal testing using the CADRE suite of predictive tools. He holds PhD from Yale University (PhD '12) in Theoretical and Biophysical Chemistry and a BA in Chemistry from Middlebury College (BA '06).



Jenny Luray, MPA
Senior Vice President of Strategy and Public Engagement, Research!America

Jenny has championed a range of significant policy issues across the medical and public health ecosystems while in leadership positions in government, industry, and the nonprofit sector. Prior to joining Research!America, she served as Chief of Staff to former Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Legislative Director to former Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY), and Deputy Assistant to the President in the Clinton White House. Jenny directed U.S. policy and government affairs for two global life science companies, BD and Abbott, and she led the Susan G. Komen Advocacy Alliance as its President. Jenny is a member of the Brown University School of Public Health's Advisory Council and an appointee to D.C. Mayor Bowser's Commission on Women.



Ross McKinney, Jr., MD
Chief Scientific Officer, Association of American Medical Colleges

In his role as chief scientific officer, Ross McKinney Jr., MD leads an array of AAMC programs that support all aspects of medical research and training. He also represents the AAMC nationally on issues related to research and science policy, administration, and workforce development, and education and training.

Dr. McKinney joined the AAMC in 2016 after serving as a member of the Duke faculty since 1985. During his time at Duke, he was Director of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Vice Dean for research at Duke University School of Medicine, and Director of the Trent Center for Bioethics, Humanities, and History of Medicine. Among his career highlights, Dr. McKinney was first author of the key Phase I and II studies on Zidovudine (AZT) use in children, and he conducted research on the natural history, prevention, and treatment of pediatric HIV disease.

Dr. McKinney received his bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College in 1975. He earned his medical degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry and completed his internship and residency in Pediatrics, and fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Diseases, at Duke University Medical Center.



Gwen L. Nichols, MD
Executive Vice President, Chief Medical Officer, The
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

As LLS's Chief Medical Officer, Gwen Nichols, MD, plays a critical role in advancing cures through a unique combination of clinical, academic and pharmaceutical experience. She oversees LLS's scientific research portfolio, education, patient services, policy and advocacy initiatives. Most recently, Dr. Nichols was Oncology Site Head of the Roche Translational Clinical Research Center. Prior to joining Roche in 2007, Dr. Nichols was at Columbia University for more than ten years, where she served as the Director of the Hematologic Malignancies Program. While at Columbia University, Dr. Nichols maintained an active clinical practice and received the prestigious honors of "Physician of the Year" from Columbia University and the "Humanism in Medicine Award" from the American Association of Medical Colleges.



Pamela Norris, PhD
Vice Provost for Research, Professor of Mechanical and
Aerospace Engineering, The George Washington
University

Dr. Pamela Norris is the Vice Provost for Research at George Washington University and the Frederick Tracy Morse Professor Emerita of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at University of Virginia, where she previously served as Executive Associate Dean for Research and Executive Dean in the School of Engineering. She is recognized globally as a leading expert in nanoscale heat transfer, especially interfacial thermal transport with a focus on thermal management across a range of length scales. She holds patents for innovative thermal management techniques for jet-blast deflectors as well as for applications of aerogels in areas ranging from biological warfare detection to lab-on-a-chip to thermal insulation.

Dr. Norris is well-known for her mentoring skills and for her dedication to increasing diversity in the STEM disciplines. In 2016 she was honored with the Society of Women Engineers Distinguished Engineering Educator Award "for enduring, positive influence on students' lives as a gifted teacher, mentor, and role model; and for promoting greater diversity in STEM higher education." In 2021 she was elected as honorary member of American Society of Mechanical Engineers for "international leadership in nano, micro, and macroscale thermal science and engineering research; for tireless efforts to advance diversity in STEM fields; and for demonstrating engineering excellence as an outstanding mentor for students and faculty." She currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief of Nanoscale and Microscale Thermophysical Engineering. Dr. Norris received her PhD from Georgia Institute of Technology and was a postdoctoral scholar at University of California, Berkeley.



John Olwal

Head of Tech-Ethics and Data Privacy, Takeda

John leads the Tech Ethics and DP team within Global Ethics and Compliance. The team enables data privacy by design, responsible & ethical innovation along Takeda's value chain.

John has over 20 years of experience in technology, digital, data privacy, and information security & risk management while working with multi-national companies in Tech, banking, fintech, and consulting industry.

He is an accomplished data, digital, ethics risk, and compliance leader who is passionate about how information technology ethically empowers humanity in a sustainable manner.



Sethuraman Panchanathan, PhD

Director, United States National Science Foundation

The Honorable Sethuraman Panchanathan is a computer scientist and engineer and the 15th Director of the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF). Panchanathan was nominated to this position by the President of the United States in 2019, and subsequently, unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate on June 18, 2020. NSF is a \$9.5 billion independent federal agency and the only government agency charged with advancing all fields of scientific discovery, technological innovation, and STEM education.

Panchanathan is a leader in science, engineering, and education with more than three decades of experience. He has a distinguished career in both higher education and government, where he has designed and built knowledge enterprises, which advance research innovation, strategic partnerships, entrepreneurship, global development, and economic growth.

As director, Panchanathan maintains leadership roles on several key interagency councils and committees, including as Co-chair of the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship and is a member of the White House CHIPS Implementation Steering Council and the White House Gender Policy Council. He is also Chair of the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee and co-vice chair of the Council for Inclusive Innovation. Co-chair of the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship and is a member of the White House CHIPS Implementation Steering Council and the White House Gender Policy Council. He is also chair of the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee and Co-vice Chair of the Council for Inclusive Innovation.

Prior to joining NSF, Panchanathan was appointed by the President to serve on the National Science Board where he was a Chair of the Committee on Strategy and a member of the External Engagement and National Science and Engineering Policy committees. Additionally, he was Chair of the Council on Research of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and Co-chair of the Extreme Innovation Taskforce of the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils.

Arizona's governor appointed Panchanathan as Senior Adviser for Science and Technology in 2018. He was the Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE Multimedia Magazine and Editor and Associate Editor of several international journals. Panchanathan's scientific contributions have advanced the areas of human-centered multimedia computing, haptic user interfaces and ubiquitous computing technologies for enhancing the quality of life for individuals with different abilities; machine learning for multimedia applications; and media processor designs.

Panchanathan is a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, where he also served as Vice President for Strategic Initiatives. He is also a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Canadian Academy of Engineering, the Association for Computing Machinery, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the Society of Optical Engineering.

Panchanathan is married to Sarada "Soumya" Panchanathan, an academic pediatrician and informatician, who has taught medical students, pediatric residents and informatics fellows. They have two adult children, Amritha and Roshan.



Sudip Parikh, PhD*

Chief Executive Officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science; Executive Publisher, Science Family of Journals

Sudip Parikh is the CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and Executive Publisher of the Science family of journals in January 2020. Parikh has spent over two decades at the intersection of science, policy, and business as a Senate staffer, life science business leader, and in the policy community. He was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship while earning his PhD in macromolecular structure and chemistry from the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California and earned his Bachelor of Science in Applied Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Russ Paulsen, MA

Chief Operating Officer, UsAgainstAlzheimer's

Russ Paulsen is known nationally as a nonprofit executive and innovator. Teams under his leadership have rejuvenated organizations, helped rebuild and heal communities across the nation, brought cutting-edge technology to public health and human services, and saved lives. He's also a part-time caregiver.

Russ joined UsAgainstAlzheimer's as chief operating officer in 2019. Revenue and staff have steadily increased, enabling the organization to take on projects like a consumer-focused web platform that has brought 500,000 people information tailored to their specific Alzheimer's journey. UsAgainstAlzheimer's received its first-ever funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for outreach in Black and Latino communities; assembled a 100-organization coalition to set a national Alzheimer's risk-reduction goal; and published rigorous research on what matters to people living with Alzheimer's and those who love them.

Prior to joining UsAgainstAlzheimer's, Russ was a senior executive at the American Red Cross. Among other accomplishments, he led the team there who created a campaign to reduce deaths from home fires; it has saved more than 1700 lives since its launch and made 1.1 million high-risk homes safer through smoke alarms and fire escape plans. More than 1.7 million kids have learned about fire safety through classroom presentations and an award-winning videogame.



Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, MD

Director, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, National Institute of Health

Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, MD is Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He oversees NIMHD's annual budget to advance the science of minority health and health disparities research. NIMHD conducts and supports research programs to advance knowledge and understanding of health disparities, identify mechanisms to improve minority health and reduce health disparities, and develop effective interventions to reduce health disparities in community and clinical settings.

NIMHD is the lead organization at NIH for planning, reviewing, coordinating, and evaluating minority health and health disparities research activities. NIMHD also promotes diversity in the biomedical workforce, supports research capacity at less-resourced institutions training underrepresented students and serving populations with health

disparities, supports inclusive participation in all clinical research, and promotes information dissemination through regular electronic communications, public education outreach, and scientific presentations.

Since joining NIMHD in September 2015, Dr. Pérez-Stable has been cultivating the Institute's position on the cutting edge of the science of minority health and health disparities. Through this effort, the Institute has produced a collection of resources that guide and facilitate the conduct of research to promote health equity. These include the NIH Minority Health and Health Disparities Strategic Plan 2021-2025; the NIMHD Research Framework; the PhenX Social Determinants of Health Assessments Collection, a research toolkit; a collection of 30 science visioning Strategies to Promote the Advancement of Health Disparities Science; special journal supplements Structural Racism and Discrimination: Impact on Minority Health and Health Disparities and Addressing Health Disparities through the Utilization of Health Information Technology; and The Science of Health Disparities Research textbook, among other resources.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Pérez-Stable has positioned NIMHD at the forefront of the research response to COVID-19 health disparities by co-chairing three major new NIH-wide research programs and collaborating with other NIH institutes and centers. The two most prominent NIH-wide programs that have been established to promote health equity by reducing COVID-19 associated morbidity and mortality disparities experienced by underserved and vulnerable communities are the Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities and the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics for Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) initiatives.

Prior to becoming NIMHD Director, Dr. Pérez-Stable was a Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine, at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Dr. Pérez-Stable's research interests have centered on improving the health of individuals from racial and ethnic minority communities through effective prevention interventions, understanding underlying causes of health disparities, and advancing patient-centered care for underserved populations.

Recognized as a leader in Latino health care and disparities research, Dr. Pérez-Stable spent 32 years leading research on smoking cessation and tobacco control in Latino populations in the United States and Latin America, addressing clinical and prevention issues in cancer control research, supporting early career scientists in research on minority aging in clinical and community settings, and addressing research questions in clinical conditions such as hypertension, asthma, diabetes and dementia.

Dr. Pérez-Stable was elected to the National Academy of Medicine (formerly the Institute of Medicine) of the National Academy of Science in 2001 and the American Society of Clinical Investigation in 1996.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry in 1974 and an MD in 1978 from the University of Miami. He then completed his primary care internal medicine residency and a research fellowship in general internal medicine at UCSF before joining the faculty as an assistant professor in 1983.



Arati Prabhakar, PhD

Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

Arati Prabhakar, Ph.D., is Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and Assistant to the President for Science and Technology. In this capacity, Prabhakar is the President's Chief Advisor for Science and Technology, a member of the President's Cabinet, and co-chair of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST).

An engineer and applied physicist with broad management and leadership experience, Prabhakar has led two different federal R&D agencies and worked with startups, large companies, universities, government labs, and nonprofits across a wide variety of sectors to create new solutions for critical challenges. She served as director of DARPA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, from 2012 to 2017. In 1993, she was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), becoming the first woman to lead the agency. Between these federal leadership roles, Prabhakar spent 15 years in Silicon Valley as a company executive and as a venture capitalist. In 2019, she founded Actuate, a nonprofit organization to develop new approaches to innovation for society's essential challenges.

Prabhakar's family immigrated from India to the United States when she was three years old, moving first to Chicago and then Lubbock, Texas, where she went on to earn an electrical engineering degree from Texas Tech University. She also earned an M.S. in electrical engineering and a Ph.D. in applied physics from the California Institute of Technology. She started her career in the legislative branch as a Congressional Fellow at the Office of Technology Assessment.

She is a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and a member of the National Academy of Engineering, and was a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University.



Derek K. Rapp, MBA*

Managing Director, RiverVest Venture Partners

Derek Rapp is a Managing Director at RiverVest Venture Partners, a life sciences venture capital firm that invests in early-stage biopharmaceutical and medical device companies. He joined RiverVest in 2019. Previously, he served as President & CEO of JDRF International from 2014-2019. From 2011-2014, Derek was Head of Mergers and Acquisitions for Monsanto Company. He joined Monsanto after the company acquired Divergence, Inc., a venture-backed biotech startup that for which he was CEO from 2001-2011. In his career, Derek has focused on corporate strategy, business development, finance, and general management.

Derek has also been an active volunteer with numerous leadership roles in different organizations, including JDRF for which he was Research Chair and Vice Chair prior to becoming the organization's CEO. He joined the Board of Directors of Research!America in 2018, currently serving as its Chair of Resource Development and as a member of its executive committee.

Derek holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brown University with concentrations in Economics and German and a Master in Business Administration from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

Derek is married to Emily Rapp, and they have three adult children (Helen, Turner, and William). Derek and Emily reside in Saint Louis, Missouri.



E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA*

Dean Emeritus and Former University Executive Vice President; Endowed Professor and Director, Center for Advanced Research Training and Innovation (CARTI); Co-Director, Center for Birth Defects Research, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Dr. Reece is the former Executive Vice President at the University of Maryland, and Dean Emeritus of the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM). He is currently the Endowed Professor and Director of the Center for Advanced Research Training and Innovation (CARTI), and Senior Scientist in the Center for Birth Defects Research. He is also a professor in the departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Biochemistry & Molecular Biology. He is a member of the prestigious National Academy of Medicine (NAM), where he now serves as a Visiting Scholar-in-Residence and leads the NAM committee on the State of US Biomedical Research Enterprise.

He and his senior investigator colleague lead an NIH multimillion-dollar research laboratory group studying the bio-molecular mechanisms of diabetes-induced birth defects. They have identified and patented key molecular mechanistic intermediates. In addition, signaling pathways, oxidative and ER stress, epigenetics and premature aging are determined to be key contributors to the etiology. He and his colleagues have also developed the technique of embryofetoscopy for early prenatal diagnosis and eventually for curative fetal therapy.

Originally from Jamaica, West Indies, Dr. Reece completed a Bachelor of Science degree with honors (Magna Cum Laude) from Long Island University; a M.D. degree from New York University School of Medicine; a Ph.D. degree in biochemistry from the University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica; and an MBA degree from the Fox School of Business & Management of Temple University. He completed an internship and residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Columbia University Medical Center, and a postdoctoral fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Yale University School of Medicine.

He remained on the full-time faculty at Yale for almost 10 years, and was promoted through the academic ranks. He served as the Director of the Yale Diabetes-in-Pregnancy Study Unit. Subsequently, he was recruited by Temple University to be the Abraham Roth Professor and Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences. Between 2001 and 2006, he was Vice Chancellor of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and dean of the College of Medicine.

In 2006, he was recruited by the University of Maryland to serve in the aforementioned positions. In 2010, he served as Acting President of the University of Maryland Baltimore.

He serves or has served on many academic, governmental and civic organizations, boards and committees: Elected Vice Chair and Chair of the US Council of Deans of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC); The Lasker Foundation Board; FDA Advisory Committee; the NAM Council; the NIH Council; Research!America Board; Clinical Research Forum Board (Chair, Top 10 Awards Program); the Secretary of Health & Human Services Committee on Infant Mortality; The March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation; the Massachusetts General Hospital Scientific Advisory Committee; Loma Linda University Board; Washington Adventist University Board (Chair, Honors College Advisory Board); the Board (Chair) of the Nelly Berman Classical Music Institute; the Agnes Irwin School for Girls Board; the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra Board, and many others.

Dr. Reece is married to Sharon Reece, MA, JD, LLM, Law Professor at the University of Maryland School of Law. They have three daughters: Kelie (PhD), Brynne (DDS), and Sharon-Andrea (JD)



David M. Reese, MD*
Executive Vice President, Research and Development,
Amgen

Dr. David M. Reese is Executive Vice President, Research and Development at Amgen. In this role, Dr. Reese oversees Discovery Research, Global Development, Global Regulatory Affairs and Safety, as well as Global Medical. Dr. Reese joined Amgen in 2005 and has served in various leadership roles within the Research and Development organization. This includes most recently serving as Senior Vice President of Translational Sciences and Oncology where he oversaw the translation of Amgen's medicines from the lab into the clinic and the overall oncology strategy.

Prior to joining Amgen, Dr. Reese was Director of Clinical Research for the Breast Cancer International Research Group (BCIRG) and a Co-founder, President and Chief Medical Officer of Translational Oncology Research International (TORI), a nonprofit academic clinical research organization. Dr. Reese is a graduate of Harvard College and the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. He completed training in Internal Medicine and Hematology/Oncology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Medicine, and subsequently served on the faculty at UCLA and the University of California, San Francisco.

International (TORI), a nonprofit academic clinical research organization. Dr. Reese is a graduate of Harvard College and the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. He completed training in Internal Medicine and Hematology/Oncology at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Medicine, and subsequently served on the faculty at UCLA and the University of California, San Francisco.



Monk Yun Rou

Ordained Taoist Monk (China), Author, Daoist Teacher, Tai Chi Master, Speaker

Daoist Monk Yun Rou (formerly Arthur Rosenfeld) received his academic education at Yale, Cornell, and the University of California and was ordained a Daoist monk at the Chun Yang (Pure Yang) Taoist Temple in Guangzhou, China. Blending literature, biology, and medicine with an orthodox Daoist education, his writings and teachings propagate Daoist ideas and focus on personal cultivation, environmental conservation, and political and social justice. From 2010 – 2013, he hosted the hit (60MM households) national public television show Longevity Tai Chi. Yun Rou’s work has appeared in Vogue, Vanity Fair, Parade, Newsweek, The Wall Street Journal, WebMD, Fox Business News, and numerous other websites and newspapers, and his over 20 books have won many critical awards. He began his formal martial arts training in 1980, was named 2011 Tai Chi Master of The Year at the World Congress on Qigong and Traditional Chinese Medicine, and opened and closed the 2014 International Tai Chi Symposium in Louisville, Kentucky, representing the USA. In 2016, the American Heart Association profiled Yun Rou as an inspirational resource. Monk Yun Rou teaches in Arizona, South Florida, and around the world.



Randy Rutta, MA

Chief Executive Officer, National Health Council

Randall “Randy” Rutta is a Senior Health Care Executive dedicated to policy-to-practice solutions that interpret, influence, and improve federal and state health care policies to enhance public and private sector health care innovation, outcomes, and efficiency.

Rutta joined the National Health Council (NHC) in February 2021 as the organization’s Chief Executive Officer. As CEO, Rutta leads the NHC, as it enters its second century, with the goal of affecting change across the entire health system and promote increased access to affordable, high-value, sustainable health care. The NHC brings diverse organizations together to forge consensus and drive patient-centered health policy, and Rutta inspires the NHC staff to implement a Board-driven strategic plan and public policy and advocacy efforts.

Prior to joining the NHC, Rutta was the President & CEO of the American Autoimmune Related Disease Association (AARDA), a national organization dedicated to addressing the problem of autoimmunity, the major cause of more than 100 serious chronic diseases. AARDA initiated and hosts the 40-member National Coalition of Autoimmune Patient Groups and is a

longtime member of the NHC. Prior to his role as President & CEO, he served as AARDA's Federal Policy Consultant since March 2018.

Rutta served as Principal at ConnectHealth, LLC, a Washington, D.C.-based consulting services company that he established in 2017 to provide strategic insight and support in achieving objectives across the health care eco-system.

In 2017, Rutta transitioned from the position of President and CEO at Easterseals, a global nonprofit organization dedicated to the health, well-being, and success of people with disabilities, veterans, seniors, and families.

For most of his 36 years at Easterseals, he was located in Washington, D.C., at the organization's Office of Public Affairs, overseeing federal and state legislative and regulatory activities, federal grant development, and international knowledge exchange. His career experience has been in acute care, health care quality assurance, and health policy development and implementation.

Rutta currently chairs the Board of the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease (PFCD), a national coalition of nearly 100 patient, provider, and community organizations, business and labor groups, and health policy experts committed to raising awareness of chronic disease in America and globally. He has been involved with PFCD as a partner organization leader and Board member since 2007. He also is a Vice President and Secretary of American Eagle Lifecare Corporation and has been a member of its Board of Directors since 2008.

Rutta holds a Master of Arts in Politics, focusing on international health policy, from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.



Maria Ryan, DDS, PhD

**Executive Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer,
Colgate-Palmolive Company**

Maria Emanuel Ryan, DDS, PhD is Executive Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer at the Colgate-Palmolive Company where she provides oversight and leadership to Dental and Dermal Clinical organizations, Knowledge Management and Scientific Communications teams. Dr. Ryan previously served as Professor and Chair of the Department of Oral Biology and Pathology at Stony Brook University where she was actively

involved in teaching, clinical practice of periodontology and research. She is the Past President of the American Association for Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR) and has served on many academic and foundation boards. Dr. Ryan has received numerous awards including NIH National Research Service Awards and a Physician Scientist Award. She received an achievement award from the American Dental Association and was the first recipient of the Victress Health Award to recognize her educational and research efforts in the area of women's health. Dr. Ryan is a nationally and internationally known speaker and author who has appeared on multiple media outlets to discuss the importance of oral health to overall health and wellbeing as well as the role of the dental professional in the provision of optimal overall health care.



Frank Sesno

Professor and Director of Strategic Initiatives, The George Washington University

Frank Sesno serves as a Professor and Director of Strategic Initiatives at the George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs. He served the School of Media and Public Affairs for 11 years as its Director. Sesno is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and creator and founding director of Planet Forward, a multi-media storytelling platform that celebrates compelling narratives in sustainability and science. In that role, he hosts Planet Forward's annual environmental storytelling summit as well as a number of salons dealing with sustainability and climate change.

Sesno teaches classes on environmental reporting and The Art of the Interview. His book, Ask More: The Power of Questions to Open Doors, Uncover Solutions, and Spark Change, examines outcome-driven inquiry and demonstrates how purposeful questioning and active listening can lead to deeper understanding, creativity, empathy, and discovery.

Sesno's diverse career spans four decades in journalism, including 21 years at CNN, where he served as White House correspondent, anchor, Sunday talk show host, and Washington Bureau Chief. Before joining CNN, Sesno worked as a radio correspondent for the Associated Press at the White House and in London. He has won several prestigious journalistic awards, including an Emmy, several cable ACE awards, and an Overseas Press Club Award.

An experienced and curious questioner, Sesno incorporates persistence, warmth, and wit. He has interviewed five U.S. presidents and engaged with some of the world's leading figures in politics, business, science, and

culture including Bill Gates, Hillary Clinton, Colin Powell, Walter Cronkite, Benjamin Netanyahu, and Stacey Abrams. He has moderated a wide range of conversations and worked with many influential organizations including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Kavli Foundation, The White House Historical Association, and the Hospice Foundation of America.

Sesno serves on the Board of Directors of the Global Council for Science and the Environment and is a member of the Poynter Institute's National Advisory Board. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and serves as an emeritus trustee of his alma mater, Middlebury College from which he holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in American History. He holds three honorary degrees in recognition of his work in journalism and civil discourse.



Cyrus Shahpar, MD, MBA, MPH
Director for Interagency Pandemic and Biological Threats Intelligence, Office of Pandemic Preparedness and Response Policy (OPPR), White House

Dr. Cyrus Shahpar is currently the Director for Interagency Pandemic and Biological Threats Intelligence in the new White House Office of Pandemic Preparedness and Response Policy (OPPR). From January 2021 to August 2023, he served as COVID-19 Data Director on the White House COVID-19 Response Team. Prior to this he spent over a decade working in global health, serving as Vice President, Epidemic Intelligence at Resolve to Save Lives, and Team Lead for the Global Rapid Response Team at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). At CDC he served as a Commander in the US Public Health Service and worked with humanitarian organizations including UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, and WFP in large health emergencies in the Americas, Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Dr. Shahpar is a physician with advanced training in emergency medicine, public health, epidemiology and biostatistics, information technology and business administration. He completed residency / chief residency in Emergency Medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital and is a graduate of the Epidemic Intelligence Service at CDC.



Jamelle Simmons, PhD
Dr. Louis Sullivan Science Policy Fellow,
Research!America

Jamelle Simmons is the Dr. Louis Sullivan Science Policy Fellow at Research!America. He received his Bachelor of Science from East Carolina University, Master of Science in Engineering from Cal Poly (San Luis Obispo), and PhD from Virginia Tech, all in general and biomedical engineering. His interests include broadening participation in STEM, student development, and student retention.



Lawrence A. Tabak, DDS, PhD
Acting Director, National Institutes of Health

Lawrence A. Tabak, D.D.S., PhD is performing the duties of the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), officially taking office on December 20, 2021. Dr. Tabak has served as the Principal Deputy Director and the Deputy Ethics Counselor of NIH since August 2010. He previously served as the Acting Principal Deputy Director of NIH (2009), and prior to that as Director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research from 2000-2010. Prior to joining NIH, Dr. Tabak was the Senior Associate Dean for Research and Professor of Dentistry and Biochemistry & Biophysics in the School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Rochester in New York. A former NIH MERIT recipient, Dr. Tabak's major research focus has been on the structure, biosynthesis, and function of glycoproteins. He continues work in this area, maintaining an active research laboratory within the NIH intramural program in addition to his administrative duties. Dr. Tabak is an elected member the National Academy of Medicine (formerly IOM) of the National Academies. He received his undergraduate degree from City College of New York, his Doctor of Dental Surgery from Columbia University, and a PhD from the University of Buffalo.



Reed V. Tuckson, MD, FACP

Managing Director, Tuckson Health Connections

Reed V. Tuckson, MD, FACP, is Managing Director of Tuckson Health Connections, LLC, a vehicle to advance initiatives that support optimal health and wellbeing.

Currently, Dr. Tuckson's focus is on advancing his work as a co-founder of the Black Coalition Against COVID, a multi-stakeholder and interdisciplinary effort working to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic in Washington, D.C. and nationally by coordinating the four historically Black medical schools, the NMA, the Cobb Institute of the NMA, the National Black Nurses Association, the National Urban League, and BlackDoctor.org.

Previously, he enjoyed a long tenure as Executive Vice President and Chief of Medical Affairs for UnitedHealth Group, a Fortune 20 Health and wellbeing company.

A recognized leader in his field, Dr. Tuckson is honored to have been appointed to leadership roles at the National Institutes of Health; National Academy of Medicine; numerous Federal Advisory Committees; and corporate, nonprofit and academic boards. He served as President of the Charles R Drew University of Medicine and Science; the Senior Vice President for Professional Standards of the AMA; the SVP for the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation; and the Commissioner of public health for Washington, D.C.



Robert Otto Valdez, PhD, MHSA

Director, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Robert Otto Valdez, PhD, M.H.S.A., was appointed Director of AHRQ in February 2022. He was previously the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Professor Emeritus of Family & Community Medicine and Economics at the University of New Mexico (UNM). He received his PhD from the Pardee RAND Graduate School for Public Policy Studies, specializing in studies of health care financing and quality of medical care. At the University of Michigan School of Public Health, he was awarded a master's degree in Health Policy & Administration. At Harvard University, Dr. Valdez studied in the Department of History and Science specializing in Latin American history and Biochemistry.

In 2008, Dr. Valdez was the Founding Executive Director of the RWJF Center for Health Policy at UNM. He previously served as founding Dean at the Drexel University School of Public Health. From 1985 through 1999, he was Professor of Health Services at the UCLA School of Public Health and

directed the health services doctoral studies program, the MBA/MPH program in collaboration with the UCLA Anderson School of Business, and he served as associate director of the Chicano Studies Research Center.

Dr. Valdez started his career as the lead child health researcher for the historic RAND Health Insurance Experiment. Internationally recognized as an expert in health services research, the U.S. health care system, and health policy analysis, he has led numerous global health care initiatives with the Pan American Health Organization and the University of California.

His health promotion and disease prevention work with Univision Communications Corporation, “Salud es Vida: ¡Enterate!” was recognized with journalism’s prestigious Peabody Award.

From 1993 through 1997, Dr. Valdez served at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (Public Health Service) and simultaneously as Director of Interagency Health Policy (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services).

Prior to joining DHHS in 1993, he served as a Special Senior Adviser to the White House on health care reform. In 1998, he served as Special Senior Adviser to the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. His public service includes serving as Chairman of the New Mexico Community Foundation, Chairman of the American Hospital Association Foster G McGaw Prize Committee, and Chairman of the Public Health Institute, one of the nation’s largest nonprofit public health agencies serving communities across California and internationally.

Claire Wardle, PhD

Co-founder and Co-director of the Information Futures Lab; Professor of the Practice, Brown University

Claire Wardle is co-founder and co-director of the Information Futures Lab, and Professor of the Practice at the Brown School of Public Health. She is considered a leader in the field of misinformation, verification and user generated content, co-authoring the foundational report, Information Disorder: An interdisciplinary Framework for Research and Policy for the Council of Europe. In 2015, Claire co-founded the nonprofit First Draft, a pioneer in innovation, research and practice in the field of misinformation. Over the past decade she has developed an organization-wide training program for the BBC on eyewitness media, verification and misinformation, led social media policy at UNHCR, been a Fellow at the Shorenstein Center for Media, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard’s Kennedy School, and been the Research Director at the Tow Center for



Digital Journalism at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. She holds a PhD in Communication from the University of Pennsylvania.

Renee Wegrzyn, PhD

Director, Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health

Dr. Renee Wegrzyn serves as the first director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H), appointed on October 11, 2022, by President Joseph R. Biden. Previously, Wegrzyn served as a vice president of business development at Ginkgo Bioworks and head of innovation at Concentric by Ginkgo where she focused on applying the tools of synthetic biology to outpace infectious diseases.

Wegrzyn comes to ARPA-H with experience working for over a decade at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), five of those years as a program manager with a \$250 million portfolio, and as a technical adviser to the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA). At DARPA, Wegrzyn leveraged the tools of synthetic biology and gene editing to enhance biosecurity, support the domestic bioeconomy, and thwart biothreats. Wegrzyn received the Superior Public Service Medal for her work and contributions at DARPA.

Before joining DARPA, she led teams in private industry across a range of specialties including biosecurity and gene therapies. Wegrzyn served on the Scientific Advisory Board for the National Academies Standing Committee on Biotechnology Capabilities and National Security Needs, among other Boards in government and the private sector.

She holds doctoral and bachelor's degrees in applied biology from the Georgia Institute of Technology, was a fellow in the Center for Health Security Emerging Leaders in Biosecurity Initiative and completed her postdoctoral training as an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow in Heidelberg, Germany.





Mary Woolley, MA*

President and Chief Executive Officer, Research!America

Mary Woolley is the President of Research!America, an alliance that advocates for science, discovery, and innovation to achieve better health for all.

Woolley is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and served two terms on its Governing Council. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She has served on the National Academy of Sciences Board on Higher Education and the Workforce, having previously served on its Board on Life Sciences. She is a founding member of the Board of Associates of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research and served two terms on the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine Council. She has served on the School of Public Health Visiting Committee of the Harvard College Board of Overseers and on the Council for Johns Hopkins Nursing.

She holds honorary doctoral degrees from Wayne State University and the Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED). In her early career she was the Project Director for the San Francisco site of the then-largest ever NIH-funded clinical trial, the Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial and served as CEO of the Medical Research Institute of San Francisco. She served as President of the Association of Independent Research Institutes, as a Reviewer for the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation, and as a Consultant to several research organizations. Woolley has a 35-year publication history on science advocacy and research related topics, and is a sought-after speaker, often interviewed by science, news, and policy journalists.



Keith Yamamoto, PhD*

Vice Chancellor for Science Policy and Strategy, Director of Precision Medicine, and Professor Emeritus of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology, University of California, San Francisco

Dr. Keith R. Yamamoto is Vice Chancellor for Science Policy and Strategy, Director of Precision Medicine, and Professor Emeritus of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology at UCSF. Following his PhD from Princeton University, Yamamoto joined the UCSF faculty in 1976. His research focused on signaling and transcriptional regulation by nuclear receptors, applying mechanistic and systems approaches to pure molecules, cells and whole organisms. He has led or served on many national committees focused on public and scientific policy, public understanding and support of biological research, science education and training the biomedical workforce, research funding, peer review, open science, justice and equity in developing applications of science and technology innovations, and DEI and anti-racism.

He is President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Chair of the Coalition for the Life Sciences, Co-chair of the NASEM Roundtable on Aligning Incentives for Open Science and of the Science and Technology Action Committee, Vice Chair of the California Initiative to Advance Precision Medicine Advisory Council.

He sits on the Boards of Directors of the Public Library of Science and Rapid Science, the Governing Board of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, the Board of Counselors for the Radiation Effects Research Foundation, the Advisory Board for Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the Council of EBRC, and the Scientific Advisory Board of Mate Bioservices. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Medicine, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, American Academy of Microbiology, and is a fellow of AAAS.



Elias Zerhouni, MD*

Professor Emeritus Radiology and Biomedical Engineering, Johns Hopkins University; Former Director, National Institutes of Health, 2002-2008

Elias Zerhouni, MD, Professor Emeritus Radiology and Biomedical Engineering, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, USA.

Dr. Zerhouni is currently Vice Chairman and President of OPKO Health. He was the President, Global Research & Development, and a member of the Executive Committee for Sanofi from January 2011 to July 2018.

Dr. Zerhouni's academic career was spent at the Johns Hopkins University and Hospital where he was Professor of Radiology and Biomedical Engineering and Senior Adviser for Johns Hopkins Medicine. He served as Chair of the Russell H. Morgan Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences, Vice Dean for Research and Executive Vice Dean of the School of Medicine from 1996 to 2002 before his appointment as Director of the National Institutes of Health from 2002 to 2008. In that position he oversaw the NIH's 27 Institutes and Centers with more than 18,000 employees and a budget of \$29.5 billion (2008).

In November 2009, President Obama appointed Dr. Zerhouni as one of the first presidential U.S. science envoys.

Dr. Zerhouni also served as Senior Fellow to the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation from 2009 to 2010 and Senior Adviser to the CEO of Sanofi.

Dr. Zerhouni has founded or co-founded five start-up companies, authored more than 200 publications and holds several patents. He has assumed positions on several Boards, including most recently, the Board of the Lasker Foundation, Research!America and the NIH Foundation. He is also a member of the U.S. National Academy of Medicine and the U.S. National Academy of Engineering. He received the prestigious Legion of Honor medal from the French National Order in 2008, and was elected in 2010 as a member of the French Academy of Medicine and appointed as Chair of Innovation at the College de France in 2011.

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