

## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

### **The Honorable Melanne Verveer**

The Honorable Melanne Verveer was sworn in as Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues on June 12, 2009. In this newly established position, Ambassador Verveer coordinates foreign policy issues and activities relating to the political, economic, and social advancement of women around the world. She mobilizes concrete support for women's rights and political and economic empowerment through initiatives and programs designed to increase women's and girls' access to education and health care, to combat violence against women and girls in all its forms, and to ensure that women's rights are fully integrated with human rights in the development of U.S. foreign policy.

Prior to her confirmation, Ambassador Verveer served as Chair and Co-CEO of Vital Voices Global Partnership, an international nonprofit she co-founded to expand women's roles in generating economic opportunity, promoting political participation, and safeguarding human rights. Prior to her work with Vital Voices, she served as Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady in the Clinton Administration and was chief assistant to then-First Lady Hillary Clinton in all her wide-ranging international activities to advance women's rights and further social development, democracy, and peace-building initiatives. She also led the effort to establish the President's Interagency Council on Women. Prior to her time in the White House, Ambassador Verveer served in a number of leadership roles in public policy organizations and as legislative staff. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Women's Foreign Policy Group, and numerous other organizations.

Ambassador Verveer received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Georgetown University.

### **His Excellency Sayed Mohammed Amin Fatimie, M.D.**

Dr. Sayed Mohammed Amin Fatimie is the Minister of Public Health for Afghanistan, a position to which he was appointed by His Excellency President Hamid Karzai. As Minister of Public Health, Dr. Fatimie strives to work effectively with communities and development partners to improve the health and nutritional status of the people of Afghanistan, with a greater focus on women and children and underserved areas of the country.

Dr. Fatimie started his career as a general medical practitioner in Badakhshan Province. From 1978 to 1981, he served as Deputy Director General of the Department of Health Education and was a professor at Kabul Medical College. After the invasion by the former Soviet Union, Dr. Fatimie migrated to Pakistan, where he worked on different key posts. From 1982 to 1987, he was the Founder and Chief of the Training Programme of the International Committee of the Red Cross. From 1987 to 1989, Dr. Fatimie served as Founder and Director of the Training and Education Department for the Alliance Health Committee. He also was a member of the Advisory and Executive Board in the Ministry of Public Health for the Afghan Interim Government, as well as the Director General of the Institute of Public Health. Dr. Fatimie returned to Afghanistan and worked as Deputy Minister of Public Health for Afghanistan from 1991 to 1992, and then as Minister of Public Health from 1993 to 1995.

Dr. Fatimie also has worked with numerous international organizations. He was a temporary advisor to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the WHO's Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean. He served as a member of the WHO Executive Board and the Board of the Maternity Hospital for Afghan Refugees, among others.

Dr. Fatimie received his medical degree from the Ningarhar Medical Facility. He also has received a Certificate in Systemic Training Design from the United States Agency for International Development, and Certificates in Health Care in Developing Countries and Health Policy in Developing Countries from Boston University.

## **The Honorable Paula J. Dobriansky, Ph.D.**

The Honorable Paula J. Dobriansky is a Senior International Affairs and Trade Advisor at Baker & Hostetler LLP and a Senior Fellow at Harvard University John F. Kennedy's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.

Ambassador Dobriansky served as Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs from 2001 to 2009. In that capacity, she was responsible for a broad range of foreign policy issues, including democracy, human rights, labor, refugee and humanitarian relief matters, and environmental/science issues. In February 2007, she was appointed the President's Special Envoy on Northern Ireland.

Ambassador Dobriansky received the Secretary of State's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Medal, for her work on global issues and the peace process in Northern Ireland. Her other government appointments include Associate Director for Policy and Programs at the United States Information Agency, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, Deputy Head of the U.S. Delegation to the 1990 Copenhagen Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), Advisor to the U.S. Delegation to the 1985 U.N. Decade for Women Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, and Director of European and Soviet Affairs at the National Security Council, the White House. From 1997 to 2001, she served as Senior Vice President and Director of the Washington Office of the Council on Foreign Relations and was the Council's first George F. Kennan's Fellow for Russian and Eurasian Studies.

Ambassador Dobriansky received her bachelor's degree *summa cum laude* in international politics from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, and her master's and doctorate degrees in Soviet political/military affairs from Harvard University.

## **Pashtoon Azfar**

Pashtoon Azfar is President of the Afghan Midwives Association (AMA), Afghanistan's first confederation of midwives. She is an internationally renowned nurse midwife and educator who has provided more than 35 years of safe, high-quality health care for mothers and infants. The AMA, with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), boasts more than 1,100 members who deliver life-saving services to women and families across Afghanistan.

Ms. Azfar trained as a master trainer with Jhpiego. In her capacity as a midwifery technical advisor for Jhpiego, she has provided technical assistance to midwifery education program grantees to ensure performance and quality improvements in midwifery education, with a focus on maternal and newborn health, and maintenance of educational standards. She also has collaborated with Jhpiego to provide critical start-up support in the creation of the AMA and has provided guidance and advice to the Afghan Ministry of Public Health regarding the establishment and function of its Department of Nursing and Midwifery.

Through the MSH/REACH Program, Ms. Azfar collaborated with the Institute of Health Sciences, international agencies, and nongovernmental organizations to help them understand competency-based education and the steps necessary to implement competency-based systems. She also has managed mother and child health activities, carried out needs assessments for Save the Children in Pakistan, and conducted workshops on midwifery and nursing clinical skills at Rabia-e-Balkh Hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Ms. Azfar attended Nurse-Midwifery School in Kabul, Afghanistan and the Institute of Social Sciences.

## **Harshad Sanghvi, M.D.**

Harshad Sanghvi is the Medical Director and Vice President of Technical Leadership and Innovation at Jhpiego, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University, where he has served in several capacities, including Maternal and Neonatal Health Advisor, Medical Director of the Nairobi, Kenya Office, Director of the East and Southern Africa Office, Senior Medical Advisor, and Director of the Continuing Education Program. Currently, he provides overall technical, strategic, and clinical guidance, and ensures the medical soundness of program approaches, leadership, and direction concerning Jhpiego's current and future initiatives.

Prior to joining Jhpiego, Dr. Sanghvi worked as a practicing obstetrician and gynecologist at Kenyatta National Hospital. During his tenure at the hospital, he practiced in high-risk obstetrics, gynecological surgery, infertility, and family planning; ran weekly colposcopy clinics, and participated in the Flying Doctors Specialist Outreach Program to bring operative services to remote areas of East Africa. Dr. Sanghvi also worked with his alma mater, the University of Nairobi in Kenya, serving as Director of the Family Health International Development Program and Senior Lecturer in Obstetrics/Gynecology. He then became the Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, where he coordinated the teaching of medical students and postgraduates, organized and conducted refresher courses, and taught new skills to medical officers, gynecologists, and midwives in the program of continuing medical education; developed annual maternal health courses, and established the young adults clinic and colposcopy services. Dr. Sanghvi also served as the Director of the Nairobi Clinical Epidemiology Unit.

Dr. Sanghvi received his medical and master's degrees from the University of Nairobi in Kenya. He also was a Rockefeller Fellow in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania.

## **Mary Ellen Stanton**

Mary Ellen Stanton is Senior Maternal Health Advisor to the United States Agency for International Development, Bureau for Global Health, where she guides the Bureau's maternal health portfolio, including research and implementation of country programs.

Ms. Stanton is a certified nurse midwife with decades of experience in clinical nursing and midwifery, nurse-midwifery education, international maternal child health and family planning, and international development. She has worked in the Americas, Asia, and Africa and has experience in needs and resource assessment, policy development, program and project design, training, association development, education program accreditation, and evaluation. She has taught midwifery at the University of Illinois, Oregon Health Sciences University, and Yale University. She is a Fellow of the American College of Nurse Midwives and received a Distinguished Alumni Award for Health Policy from Columbia University School of Nursing, as well as the USAID Michael K. White award for support to maternal health worldwide.

Ms. Stanton received a bachelor's of arts degree from Oberlin College, a bachelor's of science degree from Columbia University, and a master's degree from the University of Illinois.