

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.

Koki Agarwal, MD, MPH, DrPH

Dr. Koki Agarwal is the Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development's Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP), led by Jhpiego, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University. The global program focuses on reducing maternal, neonatal and child mortality, and accelerating progress toward achieving Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5.

Dr. Agarwal has over 25 years of service delivery experience in reproductive health and maternal and newborn health and more than 16 years leading, managing, and implementing large-scale, USAID-funded global health projects in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. She previously served as Director of the ACCESS Program, a \$75 million program funded by USAID to save the lives of mothers and newborns in developing countries. Dr. Agarwal also managed the USAID-funded Health Services Support Project (HSSP) in Afghanistan. Before joining Jhpiego, she worked for The Futures Group International, where she served as Director of the Center for International Health, one of the Centers of Excellence established by Futures in 2002. Dr. Agarwal also served concurrently as Deputy Director of the USAID-funded POLICY Project, where she guided all reproductive health and maternal health activities of the POLICY Project in over 35 countries while also serving as the chair of the Project's maternal health activities.

Dr. Agarwal received her bachelor's degrees in medicine and surgery from the University of Delhi in India. She also received her master's degree in public health from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and her doctoral degree in public health from the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh.

Nasratullah Ansari, MD

Dr. Nasratullah Ansari is the Technical Director of the Jhpiego ACCESS Health Services Support Project. In his current position, Dr. Ansari is responsible for integrating the various technical components of the project and overseeing technical assistance to the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) grantees and other beneficiaries. The project's accomplishments to date include the initiation and expansion of postpartum family planning and prevention of postpartum hemorrhage, development of a quality assurance approach for the BPHS, and the establishment of an in-service training program that has benefited over 1,560 health professionals in Afghanistan.

With over 13 years of clinical, training, programmatic, and managerial experience, Dr. Ansari has held technical leadership positions in multiple health programs serving vulnerable and underserved populations in Afghanistan. His association with Jhpiego dates back to 2003 as part of the Rural Expansion of Afghanistan's Community-based Healthcare (REACH) and UNICEF-sponsored development of emergency obstetric care clinical and training skills capacity building in Mazar-I-Sharif. Prior to his affiliation with Jhpiego, Dr. Ansari was an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Balkh University, Northern Afghanistan. He helped establish a midwifery school at the Mazar Institute of Health Sciences in 2004.

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 her bachelor's of arts degree from Oberlin College, bachelor's of science degree from Columbia University, and master's degree from the University of Illinois.