

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

The Honorable Deborah Birx, MD

Deborah L. Birx, MD is Ambassador-at-Large and Coordinator of the United States government activities to combat HIV/AIDS globally. Ambassador Birx is a world-renowned medical expert and leader in the field of HIV/AIDS whose three decade-long career has focused on HIV/AIDS immunology, vaccine research, and global health. As the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Ambassador Birx oversees the implementation of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease in history, as well as all U.S. government engagement with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

In 1985, Ambassador Birx began her career with the Department of Defense (DoD) as a military trained clinician in immunology, focusing on HIV/AIDS vaccine research. From 1985-1989 she served as an Assistant Chief of the Hospital Immunology Service at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Through her professionalism and leadership in the field, she progressed to serve as the Director of the U.S. Military HIV Research Program (USMHRP) at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research from 1996-2005. Ambassador Birx helped lead one of the most influential HIV vaccine trials in history (known as RV 144, or the Thai trial), which provided the first supporting evidence of any vaccine's potential effectiveness in preventing HIV infection. During this time, she also rose to the rank of Colonel, bringing together the Navy, Army, and Air Force in a new model of cooperation – increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the U.S. military's HIV/AIDS efforts through inter- and intra-agency collaboration. Then known as Colonel Birx, she was awarded two prestigious U.S. Meritorious Service Medals and the Legion of Merit Award.

From 2005-2014, Ambassador Birx served as the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Global HIV/AIDS (DGHA) in the CDC Center for Global Health. As DGHA Director, she led the implementation of CDC's PEPFAR programs around the world and managed an annual budget of more than \$1.5 billion. Ambassador Birx was responsible for all of the agency's global HIV/AIDS activities, including providing oversight to more than 400 staff at headquarters, over 1,500 staff in the field, and more than 45 country and regional offices in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Recognized for her distinguished and dedicated commitment to building local capacity and strengthening quality laboratory health services and systems in Africa, in 2011, Ambassador Birx received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the African Society for Laboratory Medicine. In 2014, CDC honored her leadership in advancing the agency's HIV/AIDS response with the highly prestigious William C. Watson, Jr. Medal of Excellence.

Ambassador Birx received her medical degree from the Hershey School of Medicine, Pennsylvania State University. She trained in internal medicine and basic and clinical immunology at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the National Institutes of Health. Ambassador Birx is board certified in internal medicine, allergy and immunology, and diagnostic and clinical laboratory immunology. She has published over 220 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals, authored nearly a dozen chapters in scientific publications, as well as developed and patented vaccines.

Jemima Kamano, MD

Dr. Jemima Kamano is the Associate Program Manager for chronic disease management at AMPATH, a position she has held since 2011.

Previously, Dr. Kamano worked for two years as the Chief Medical Officer at AMPATH and oversaw the set-up of a large number of rural clinics. She has seen remarkable improvement in care delivery at the primary care level and in integrated chronic care centers in Western Kenya, but often can be frustrated by inconsistent drug supplies and the challenge of dealing with a population with multiple socio-economic challenges. Dr. Kamano also is a lecturer in the Department of Medicine of Moi University School of Medicine and spends about half of her time teaching and caring for patients on the hospital wards. She is involved in multiple implementation research projects in the field of chronic diseases in resource-constrained settings.

Dr. Kamano attended Nairobi University School of Medicine for her medical degree and master's training. She is married to a surgeon working at the same hospital and together they have a five-year old son.

Jennifer Kates, PhD

Dr. Jennifer Kates is Vice President and Director of Global Health and HIV Policy at the Kaiser Family Foundation. She oversees the Foundation's policy analysis and research focused on the U.S. government's role in global health and on the global and domestic HIV epidemics. Widely regarded as an expert in the field, she regularly publishes and presents on global health and HIV policy issues and is particularly known for her work analyzing donor government investments in global health; assessing and mapping the U.S. government's global health architecture, programs, and funding; and tracking and analyzing major U.S. HIV programs and financing, and key trends in the HIV epidemic, an area she has been working in for 25 years. Prior to joining the Foundation in 1998, Dr. Kates was a Senior Associate with The Lewin Group, a health care consulting firm, where she focused on HIV policy, strategic planning/health systems analysis, and health care for vulnerable populations. Prior to that, she directed the Office of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns at Princeton University.

Dr. Kates serves on numerous federal and private sector advisory committees on global health and HIV issues. Currently, she is a member of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Health Resources and Services Administration Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention and Treatment (CHACHSPT) and is an Alternate Board Member of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. She recently served on the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) congressionally mandated evaluation of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and on two IOM study committees commissioned by the White House to inform the implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

Dr. Kates received her PhD in Health Policy from George Washington University, where she also is a lecturer. She holds a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College, master's degree in Public Affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and master's degree in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts.