

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Norman E. Sharpless, MD



Norman E. “Ned” Sharpless, MD, became Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs on April 5, 2019. Previously, Dr. Sharpless was appointed as the 15th director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) on October 17, 2017. Prior to his NCI appointment, Dr. Sharpless served as the director of the University of North Carolina (UNC) Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, a position he held since January 2014.

Dr. Sharpless was a Morehead Scholar at UNC–Chapel Hill and received his undergraduate degree in mathematics. He went on to pursue his medical degree from the UNC School of Medicine, graduating with honors and distinction in 1993. He then completed his internal medicine residency at the Massachusetts General Hospital and a hematology/oncology fellowship at Dana-Farber/Partners Cancer Care, both of Harvard Medical School in Boston.

After two years on the faculty at Harvard Medical School, he joined the faculty of the UNC School of Medicine in the Departments of Medicine and Genetics in 2002. He became the Wellcome Professor of Cancer Research at UNC in 2012.

Kaveeta Vasisht, MD, PharmD



Dr. Kaveeta Vasisht is currently the acting Associate Commissioner and Deputy Director of the Office of Women’s Health (OWH), in the Office of the Commissioner of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). She began her career at the FDA in the Division of Metabolism and Endocrine Products, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), where she served as the clinical expert on multidisciplinary teams in the review and evaluation of scientific data to assess the safety, efficacy, and approvability of therapeutic products. Subsequently, she joined CDER’s Office of Medical Policy where she served as the Deputy Director of the Division of Clinical Trial Quality. In her current role, Dr. Vasisht works to protect and advance the health of

women through science, policy, research, and outreach that incorporates an understanding of sex differences to facilitate FDA regulatory decision making.

Dr. Vasisht is board-certified in both internal medicine and adult endocrinology and holds a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She completed her internal medicine internship and residency, as well as fellowship training, at the University of Chicago Hospitals, where she also served on the faculty. She obtained her medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.