

THE STATE OF THE GLOBAL HEALTH WORKFORCE



SPEAKER BIOS

KEYNOTE

Tom Frieden, MD, MPH, CEO, Resolve to Save Lives

Tom Frieden, MD, MPH, is the founder and CEO of Resolve to Save Lives, a global health organization that accelerates action against the world's deadliest health threats. Resolve to Save Lives has worked with governments and other partners in more than 60 countries to save millions of lives. Dr. Tom Frieden previously served as director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and New York City Health Commissioner, where he led efforts that helped end major health crises including the largest US outbreak of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, the 2014 West Africa Ebola epidemic, and responses to H1N1, Zika, and other threats. He also helped start Mayor Michael Bloomberg's global health philanthropy, particularly the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use. A member of the National Academy of Medicine, his work has appeared in medical journals including *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *JAMA*, and *The Lancet* as well as media outlets including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

His forthcoming book, *The Formula for Better Health: How to Save Millions of Lives—Including Your Own*, will be released on September 30, 2025 (MIT Press). It distills four decades of public health leadership into a clear, actionable framework to prevent unnecessary deaths. The book bridges the gap between what we know and what we do, showing how to save lives at scale. Proceeds from the book will go to projects Resolve to Save Lives supports in the fight for health progress around the world.

OPENING REMARKS

Chris Kramer, MD, FACC, President of the American College of Cardiology (ACC)

ACC President **Christopher M. Kramer, MD, FACC**, received his medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine, and completed his residency and chief residency in internal medicine, and fellowship in cardiology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. His first faculty appointment was at Allegheny General Hospital, then MCP/Hahnemann University School of Medicine, where he directed the cardiology fellowship.

He then moved to the University of Virginia School of Medicine, where in 2019 he was named the George A. Beller/Lantheus Medical Imaging Distinguished Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine, Chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, and Medical Director of the Heart and Vascular Science Line.

Dr. Kramer's principal research interest has been the application of cardiovascular magnetic resonance (CMR) to the cardiovascular system in translational and clinical studies.

Prior to serving as ACC President, Dr. Kramer served as President of the Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance (SCMR), ACC Treasurer, Chair of ACC's Imaging Council, and Chair of the Clinical and Integrative Cardiovascular Sciences NIH study section. Dr. Kramer previously was associate editor at JACC and Executive Editor of JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging. He serves on the editorial boards of Circulation, Circulation: Cardiovascular Imaging and Vascular Medicine. Dr. Kramer is also a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation, Association of University Cardiologists and American Association of Physicians. He received the Gold Medal from the Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance in 2015 and was named a Distinguished Mentor by the ACC in 2021.

PANEL ONE

Moderator:

Jennifer Bae, Executive Director of Global Innovation, ACC

Jennifer Bae is the Executive Director of Global Innovation for the ACC. She oversees the global programmatic work and innovation investment portfolio. Her prior work experience includes global health capacity building for the State Department, CDC and academic organizations; US hospital and health system consulting for the Advisory Board Company; and work with public payors. She holds MHA and BS degrees from the University of Michigan and has language skills in Spanish, Bahasa and Mandarin.

Lobna Salem, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Viatris

Lobna Salem, MD, is the Regional Chief Medical Officer for Developed Markets (North America, Europe, Japan, Australia and New Zealand), Viatris. She is a senior executive at Viatris with more than 25 years of experience in bio pharmaceutical industry working across different cultures with experience spanning across global, region, and country experience. In addition, Lobna has held different cross-functional roles in medical affairs, clinical development, regulatory interactions and commercial functions. During her tenure as development lead, Lobna medically led multiple business development activities as well as joint venture in multiple countries globally. Under her leadership, Lobna together with her medical team has set the strategy and framework for NCD in Viatris and works very closely with other stakeholders both internally in Viatris and externally to decrease its burden. The NCD framework she developed links closely to the UN sustainable development goals and she works seamlessly across the different organization and with multiple governments for innovative strategies to decrease the diseases that contribute to its highest burden. Lobna represents Viatris in different forums including the UN to describe Viatris efforts in the NCD space. Lobna has received multiple awards in recognition for her and her team's efforts in improving patient outcome as well as recognized for driving innovation across Research and Development in Viatris. Lobna is a hematologist by training; she received her Medical degree from Cairo University and has an MBA from Edinburgh business school UK and MSc from Hibernia Ireland.

Alison Cox, Policy & Advocacy Director, NCD Alliance

Having begun her career with environmental campaigning organizations including Greenpeace International, **Alison Cox** went on to lead strategy development and direct advocacy for global public health alliances: for the Framework Convention Alliance, bringing the civil society to voice to the WHO treaty on tobacco control, and in the early years of the NCD Alliance (2011-12) leading on Rio+20 advocacy to ensure NCDs were recognised in what became the SDGs, and on developing our first strategy. As Prevention Director at Cancer Research UK (2013-21), she led successful national campaigns for restrictions on tobacco and junk food marketing, and built an international programme to support tobacco control advocacy in LMICs. Last year as Policy & Research Director for the Global Climate & Health Alliance, she coordinated the delivery to the global climate summit, COP26, of the Healthy Climate Prescription from organisations representing 46 million health professionals worldwide.

Dr. Taskeen Kahn, WISH Foundation

Dr. Khan is a seasoned global health expert with a medical background in community health and postgraduate qualifications in health economics and public health. Her early work in South Africa and with the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa ([WHO AFRO](#)) shaped her commitment to delivering equitable, context-sensitive health solutions. She later joined [WHO](#) Headquarters in Geneva, where she served as Technical Officer for the Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Management portfolio.

At WHO HQ, Dr. Khan led the development of key global normative guidance, including the first-ever [WHO Global Hypertension Report](#), the [WHO Guideline for the Pharmacological Treatment of Hypertension](#), and the first [global framework for the management of acute coronary syndrome and stroke](#). Under her leadership, WHO's hypertension control programs were implemented in over 30 countries, working in close partnership with national health authorities, professional associations, implementation partners, donors, and global health actors such as [Resolve to Save Lives](#), the [World Heart Federation](#) and the [World Stroke Organization](#).

Following her WHO tenure, she contributed to the Africa-Europe Foundation, facilitating high-level policy exchange on climate change, digital health, and multilateral affairs.

Her expertise spans health security, climate-resilient health systems, and cross-sectoral policy design. Known for her ability to bridge research and implementation, Dr. Khan champions solutions that align scientific evidence, community priorities, and the strategic use of health diplomacy – a vision that supports WISH's strategic mission of positioning health as a cornerstone of global diplomacy.

At WISH, Dr. Khan will lead the organization's research, content, and policy development agenda, focusing on translating evidence into actionable policies and advancing resilient, equitable health systems worldwide.

PANEL TWO

Laura Gryder, Community Health Worker, Hobbs, NM

Laura Gryder, CCHW, is a committed advocate for patient-centered care and health equity with over a decade of experience in rural health. Since 2017, she has served as a Certified Community Health Worker and, beginning in 2018, as an Oncology Navigator at Nor-Lea Hospital District, where she played a pivotal role in launching the Breast and Lung Navigation Programs to expand access to screenings, diagnostics, and treatment for underserved patients.

In 2024, Laura embraced advanced training and helped launch engaging community workshops as part of a groundbreaking rural cardiovascular health initiative. This work is transforming how remote communities approach prevention and care for heart disease – bringing vital education, resources, and support directly to those who need it most.

Recognized as both a leader and a bridge-builder in rural health, Laura is known for uniting patients, providers, and community partners to create innovative programs that expand access, improve outcomes, and enhance quality of life. Her blend of compassion, expertise, and action continues to drive meaningful change across the communities she serves.

Dr. Lennie Kyomuhangi Bazira, Director of Policy, [Community Health Impact Coalition \(CHIC\)](#)

Dr. Lennie Kyomuhangi Bazira is Director of Policy at the Community Health Impact Coalition, where she leads national level advocacy to professionalize community health workers as skilled, salaried, supervised, and supplied members of national health systems. A Health Economist and Global Health Leader with over 20 years of experience, she has served in senior roles at Amref Health Africa, Mastercard Foundation, and Jhpiego, driving health workforce strengthening and policy reform across Africa and globally. At Amref, she guided groundbreaking studies on the role of CHWs in hypertension and diabetes care. Dr. Bazira holds an MPH in Health Economics, a postgraduate diploma in Human Resources Management, and a degree in Dental Surgery. A WomenLift Health Global Fellow and honoree in Marquis Who's Who in America, she is dedicated to advancing equitable, quality healthcare for all including those who provide it.

Carmen Rosa Vilela Vargas, Community Health Impact Coalition Community Health Worker, Peru

Carmen Vilela Vargas has served as a Community Health Worker (CHW) since 1997 and is President of the Lima-Callao Health Promoter Network that spans 29 districts of the Peruvian capital. Carmen has played a central role in the formation of a national CHW association and has been a key contributor to professional CHW policy discussions. Her advocacy reflects a deep commitment to championing the rights, recognition, and impact of over 30,000 CHWs across the country. Carmen is currently a CHW Organizer Fellow at Community Health Impact Coalition.