

## SPEAKER BIOS

### Tom Frieden, MD, MPH @DrFriedenCDC

Tom Frieden, MD, MPH, became Director of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in June 2009. Dr. Frieden has worked to control health threats from infectious diseases, respond to emergencies, and battle the leading causes of suffering and death in our nation and around the world.

As the director of our nation's health protection agency, he is leading CDC to address the following challenging health priorities:



1. **Improving health security at home and around the world** – by preparing for, detecting, rapidly responding to, and preventing health threats 24/7 to save lives and safeguard communities. These include global disease threats, antimicrobial resistance, foodborne illness, and healthcare-acquired infections.
2. **Reducing the leading causes of death and illness** – by focusing on reducing disease that sap the quality of life and longevity of Americans, including tobacco, uncontrolled blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, physical inactivity, motor vehicle safety, prescription drug overdoses, and HIV/AIDS.
3. **Strengthening public health and healthcare collaboration** – by aligning, coordinating, and integrating public health and healthcare to improve health outcomes.

Dr. Frieden has intensified the agency's 24/7 work to save lives and protect people, including:

- Establishing more effective responses to outbreaks and other health threats at state, local, and global levels, including the global effort to eradicate polio forever.
- Preventing infections from food and in healthcare facilities with new programs and guidance.
- Helping Americans to quit smoking, reducing childhood obesity, prevent diabetes, and saving teens and others lives from car crashes through focused programs.
- Extending life-saving treatment, disease prevention, and infection control in more than 50 countries to save lives globally and protect Americans from health threats outside our borders.
- As a CDC EIS officer disease detective from 1990-1992, Dr. Frieden conducted many epidemiologic investigations, including outbreaks of measles, typhoid, cryptosporidium, and multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

#### Career Highlights

- From 1992-1996, as a CDC assignee, he led New York City's program that rapidly controlled tuberculosis, including reducing cases of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis by 80 percent.
- While working in India for five years as a CDC assignee to the World Health Organization, he assisted with national tuberculosis control efforts. The program in India has treated more than 10 million patients and has saved more than three million lives.
- As Commissioner of the New York City Health Department from 2002-2009, he directed the city's effort that reduced the number of smokers by 350,000, and reduced teen smoking by half.
- Immediately upon his appointment as CDC Director in 2009, Dr. Frieden led the nation's response to the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus pandemic.
- Dr. Frieden launched the first-ever national paid anti-tobacco media campaign, CDC's Tips from Former Smokers, which likely helped more than 100,000 smokers quit permanently, saving money, and preventing smoking-related disease.
- He also prioritized CDC's efforts to reduce infections in healthcare settings, cutting some life-threatening infections by a third or more.
- Dr. Frieden created CDC's *Vital Signs*, a monthly clear language publication, pointing out today's most critical health problems, and guiding the public health community and clinical providers to actionable solutions.

A physician with training in internal medicine, infectious diseases, public health, and epidemiology, Dr. Frieden is especially known for his expertise in tuberculosis control. Dr. Frieden worked for CDC from 1990 until 2002. He began his career at CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer at the New York City Health Department.

Dr. Frieden speaks Spanish and graduated from Oberlin College. He received both his medical degree and master's of public health degree from Columbia University and completed infectious disease training at Yale University. He has received many awards and honors and has published more than 200 scientific articles.

## **Kathleen M. Neuzil, MD, MPH**

Kathleen M. Neuzil, MD, MPH is a Professor of Medicine and Director of the Center for Vaccine Development at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and Deputy Director, Institute for Global Health, at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Dr. Neuzil has proficiency in vaccine-preventable disease epidemiology and the design and conduct of vaccine clinical trials, as well as expertise in vaccine research and development, partnerships with developing country vaccine manufacturers and knowledge and experience with World Health Organization vaccine pre-qualification. Throughout her career, she has conducted translational research on a variety of vaccine-preventable diseases, with a particular focus on influenza and rotavirus, as well as critical cross-cutting issues such as maternal immunization and optimizing vaccine use and overcoming barriers to sustainable vaccine uptake.



Prior to joining the University of Maryland in July, 2015, Dr. Neuzil held academic positions at the University of Washington in Seattle and at Vanderbilt University. She also spent a decade at PATH, a global health non-profit organization, where she directed a multidisciplinary team based in the U.S. and overseas, with funding from private foundations and the U.S. government. At PATH, she led a portfolio of activities to develop and advance vaccines and vaccination strategies to facilitate optimal use of vaccines in low-resource countries.

Her research capabilities are complimented by over 15 years of involvement in domestic and international vaccine policy, including membership on CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and past and current advisory positions on a number of World Health Organization committees, including the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts rotavirus vaccine working group, the WHO steering committee on diarrheal disease research, and the Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety working group on the safety of vaccines in pregnancy. She is the past chair of IDSA's Pandemic Influenza Task Force, and she currently chairs the Scientific Steering Committee for the CDC-sponsored Ebola vaccine trial in Sierra Leone.

Dr. Neuzil received her BS in zoology from the University of Maryland, her MD from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and her MPH from Vanderbilt University. She received her training in internal medicine and infectious diseases at Vanderbilt University.

## **William Schaffner, MD**

William Schaffner, MD, is medical director of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. He is also Professor of Preventive Medicine and Infectious Diseases at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, TN. Dr. Schaffner also serves as a hospital epidemiologist at Vanderbilt University Hospital.

Dr. Schaffner is a member of numerous professional societies, including the Infectious Diseases Society of America, Society of Healthcare Epidemiology of America, and the American Public Health Association.



Dr. Schaffner is active in the field of infectious disease research and has authored or co-authored more than 400 published studies, reviews, and book chapters on infectious diseases. He currently serves on the editorial board of a number of scientific journals, including *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, *Vaccine*, and CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*.

Dr. Schaffner's work has focused on all aspects of infectious diseases, including epidemiology, infection control, and immunization. In 2009, he received the James D. Bruce Award from the American College of Physicians for "distinguished contributions to preventive medicine." Dr. Schaffner has worked extensively on the effective use of vaccines in both pediatric and adult populations. He is a strong proponent of collaboration between academic medical centers and public health institutions.

## Wendy Sue Swanson, MD, MBE

@SeattleMamaDoc

[www.seattlemamadoc.org](http://www.seattlemamadoc.org)

[www.Facebook.com/SeattleMamaDoc](http://www.Facebook.com/SeattleMamaDoc)

Dr. Wendy Sue Swanson, is Pediatrician, Executive Director of Digital Health at Seattle Children's Hospital and author of the [Seattle Mama Doc Blog](#). Dr. Swanson is working to revolutionize health communications by using social and digital media to bridge the gap between parents and doctors. As the first pediatrician to blog exclusively for a leading children's hospital, she works diligently to offer patients and parents relevant, practical and timely health information in accessible, online formats. Dr. Swanson speaks in the U.S. and internationally on physician use of social media, digital health and innovation in advocacy and public health.



Dr. Swanson founded Digital Health at Seattle Children's in 2013, leading a team in innovation by testing and creating new digital tools to leverage the wisdom of patients, families and providers. [Virtual Handshake](#), launched in 2014, giving patient families information about the doctors and care team they'll meet during visits, as well as education and tips to help before, during and after their appointment or hospital stay. Her team has also created digital peer-to-peer education, alongside pharmacist and hepatologist expertise, for liver transplant patients and their families in and out of the hospital to support understanding in necessary medications and care after transplantation.

She is an executive committee member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Communications and Media. She is on the Board of Advisors for *Parents* magazine and is a platinum fellow on the board for the Mayo Clinic Center for Social Media. She is a weekly medical contributor with NBC affiliate [KING 5 News](#) in Seattle and is a practicing pediatrician with The Everett Clinic. Dr. Swanson is an advocate on the topic of vaccines and she was named a [CDC Childhood Immunization Champion](#) in 2012. She was named to [TIME Magazine's Best Twitter Feeds of 2013](#). Her first book, *Mama Doc Medicine: Finding Calm and Confidence in Parenting, Child Health, and Work-Life Balance* was published by the American Academy of Pediatrics in March, 2014 and is a [Gold Award Recipient](#) of the Mom's Choice Awards.

Dr. Swanson graduated with Honors in Psychology from Kenyon College. She earned an MD and MBE (Master's in Bioethics) at the University of Pennsylvania School Of Medicine and completed her residency at Seattle Children's Hospital.