Speaker Bios

Tom Frieden, MD, MPH

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 these 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 health care-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 health care collaboration** - by aligning, coordinating, and integrating public health and health care 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 health care 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 the global effort to eradicate polio forever.
- 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.

**Paul A. Offit, MD**

Paul A. Offit, MD is Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Director of the Vaccine Education Center at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. In addition, Dr. Offit is the Maurice R. Hilleman Professor of Vaccinology and a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. He has received awards from numerous organizations, including the National Institutes of Health, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Association of Medical Colleges and the Infectious Disease Society of America.

Dr. Offit has authored six medical narratives and has published more than 150 papers in medical and scientific journals in the areas of rotavirus-specific immune responses and vaccine safety. He is also the co-inventor of the rotavirus vaccine, RotaTeq, recommended for universal use in infants by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For this achievement, Dr. Offit received awards from the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases and was honored by Bill and Melinda Gates during the launch of their Foundation’s Living Proof Project for global health.

Dr. Offit was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He was also a member of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to the CDC. He is a founding advisory board member of the Autism Science Foundation and the Foundation for Vaccine Research.

**Laura E. Riley, MD**

Laura E. Riley, MD is the Director of Labor and Delivery at Massachusetts General Hospital and Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Biology at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Riley received her AB from Harvard University and MD from the University of Pittsburgh. She completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Magee Women's Hospital and subspecialty training in maternal-fetal medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital and infectious disease at Boston University Medical Center.

As the Director of Labor and Delivery at Massachusetts General Hospital, her research interests include maternal immunization and obstetric infections. In addition to scholarly articles, she is the author of “You & Your Baby: Pregnancy” and “You & Your Baby: Healthy Eating during Pregnancy.”

She is a member of CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice and is President-elect of the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine.

**William Schaffner, MD**

William Schaffner, MD, is past-president of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. He is also Professor of Preventive Medicine in the Department of Health Policy and Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, TN. Additionally, he 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 the 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.

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