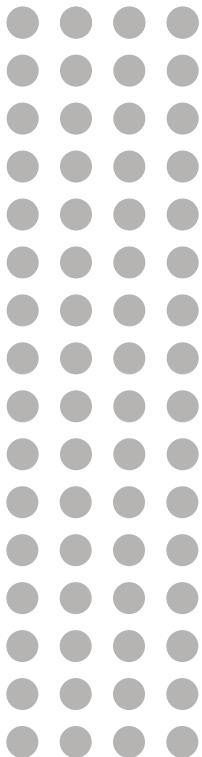


# FACEBOOK



## The MHTF Buzz Meeting Facebook



### **Kaosar Afsana**

Dr. Kaosar Afsana has been working at BRAC in Bangladesh for 19 years, currently, as the Associate Director Health. She is an MD with MPH in International Health from Harvard University and PhD in Public Health from Edith Cowan University, Australia. Currently, she is leading significant projects of BRAC on maternal, neonatal and child health and nutrition and m-Health in urban slums and rural districts of Bangladesh. Dr. Afsana authored two books, 'Disciplining birth: Power, knowledge and child birth practices in Bangladesh' and 'Discoursing birthing care: Experiences from BRAC, Bangladesh' and published articles in peer reviewed journals and books. She has been awarded with many prestigious awards including the Woman of Distinction Award 2011 by the NGO Committee of the Women Status, New York for her contribution to maternal health and women's empowerment, Presidents' Prize for the best thesis on Asian topic by Asian Studies Association of Australia and the 2003 University Research Medal and the Faculty Research Medal for the best PhD thesis. Dr. Afsana is also an adjunct faculty at James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Bangladesh. She represents many international and national organizations including the Partnership for Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health, Maternal Health Task Force, Women's Trial for PPH, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the global White Ribbon Alliance (WRA) and WRA, Bangladesh and many other organizations.



### **Suneth Agampodi**

A young Community Physician and a lecturer in Community Medicine in Rajarata University of Sri Lanka with a strong background in applied epidemiology, teaching and training epidemiological methods and multi-disciplinary public health project delivery. Exceptional ability in research design and scientific communication with more than 20 publications in international, peer reviewed journals within a period of 6 years of public health work. He strives to serve most deserving communities and improve lives of people by applying evidence based interventions.

Dr. Agampodi graduated as a Medical Doctor in 2001 from University of Peradeniya, completed his Master's and Doctoral training in Community Medicine from Post Graduate Institute of Medicine, University of Colombo and obtained his Masters of Public Health from Massey University, New Zealand.

His public health career commenced as a primary healthcare physician oriented in improving community health and then as a community physician responsible for a population of 160,000 delivering the total public health package. Currently he is the Principal Investigator of "Maternal Morbidity Project" funded by Engender Health in Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, the course co-coordinator of the public health component of graduate programme in "Masters in Development Practice" in University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and a visiting assistant professor in Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, University of California, San Diego, USA.

Dr. Agampodi participated as a speaker in large number of public health conferences worldwide and his papers have been awarded as best papers in several conferences. He received several young researcher scholarships and training scholarships based on his excellent research background.



### **Koki Agarwal**

Dr. Koki Agarwal is a proven global leader with 25 years of service delivery experience in reproductive health, family planning and maternal health. For the last 16 years she has led large-scale USAID-funded global health projects in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. Dr. Agarwal is trained as a physician and a public health specialist and has applied her expertise in advocating for policy reform, exploring operational policy barriers and addressing quality of care issues.

Dr. Agarwal is currently the director of the global USAID award for the Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program, MCHIP, led by Jhpiego. Previously, Dr. Agarwal served as the director of ACCESS, a global USAID award for maternal and newborn health. Before moving to Jhpiego, Dr. Agarwal managed the Center for International Health with Futures and also served concurrently as Deputy Director of the USAID funded POLICY Project.



### **Sara Al-Lamki**

Sara Al-Lamki's parents fled Zanzibar during the revolution in which Sara's grandfather was killed and they became refugees in Ireland and Egypt for years before returning to their ancestral Oman. These family experiences informed her social consciousness and led to her study of maternal health. After educating students in Ghana about HIV/AIDS and reproductive health, she became focused on reducing maternal mortality rates in the Arab world by training midwives in rural areas to perform the duties of nurses in city clinics. Her pilot, which focuses on tackling preterm rupture of the amniotic membrane, is simple enough to be replicated throughout the region and is the beginning of a broader strategy to approach other causes of maternal mortality. During her placement with Ashoka Indonesia Fellow Luh Putu Upadisari, Sara has interviewed Indonesian women to examine their economic background, access to information, and knowledge about maternal and reproductive health.



### **Laura C. Altobelli**

Dr. Laura C. Altobelli is a public health practitioner specialized in global maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH), researching, applying, teaching, and advocating innovative strategies for MNCH and reduction of chronic child malnutrition. A U.S. citizen, she has lived and worked overseas for 27 years.

Since 2002, Dr. Altobelli is Peru Country Director for the non-profit organization, Future Generations, supporting government health policy through developing and testing models for sustainable community-based MNCH programs linked to health system strengthening and collaborative local governance, using innovative methodologies for community participation and community-empowered development.

With support from EngenderHealth Maternal Health Task Force, she is now finalizing a cluster-randomized controlled trial to test a new method for teaching and empowering Women Leaders as health promoters in high Andean rural communities.

Previously, Dr. Altobelli worked on MNCH programs throughout Latin America and in Somalia for World Bank, USAID, UNICEF, IADB, DFID, CARE, ADRA, Tufts University, Population Council, AED, URC, ISTI, Westinghouse, JHPIEGO, and Peace Corps.

Public health training is from The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in international health (MPH) and maternal-child health (DrPH), with post-doctoral fellowship research training.

Member of American Public Health Association (APHA) International Health Section since 1978, Governing Council member ('08-'11), and lead author of APHA Policy Resolution proposal: "A Call to Action to Reduce Global Maternal, Neonatal and Child Morbidity and Mortality".

Principal Professor in Public Health, Cayetano Heredia University, Peru, and Adjunct Professor of the Future Generations Graduate Program in Applied Conservation and Community Change. ([www.future.edu](http://www.future.edu) and [www.future.org](http://www.future.org))



### **Zubaida Bai**

Zubaida Bai was once one of the "silent victims" with whom she now works: a woman who, as a result of unsanitary birthing conditions and practices, contracted an infection that caused her to suffer for years. Zubaida used her passion and experience in the social development sector to found AYZH, a social enterprise aimed at bringing technology solutions to rural women. After being chosen as a TED India Fellow in 2009, obtaining her MBA, and spending five months in the field investigating birthing hygiene and education, Zubaida invented an improved version of the clean birth kit. The kit features attractive packaging to help women understand how and why to use it, and can be produced and distributed by local women. During Zubaida's Young Champions placement, she worked with Ashoka U.S. Fellow Rebecca Onie and her organization Health Leads. Together they analyzed the Screening and Referral System of Health Leads and developed a customized screening and referral tool which is tailor-made for each of the organization's seven locations. Zubaida is now collaborating with other Young Champions to promote and sell her sleek clean birth kits around the world—hoping to generate profit for the maternal health field.



### **Patsy Bailey**

Patsy Bailey has been a senior technical advisor with the Averting Maternal Death & Disability Program since its inception in 1999. She is also a scientist at FHI 360 and adjunct associate professor at the University of North Carolina's School of Public Health, where she earned her Doctorat (Maternal & Child Health) in 1991. Patsy has played a key role in building the research systems and processes of the Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care Needs Assessments, a component of which has been the revision and global dissemination of the emergency obstetric care indicators for monitoring services. Her interest in quality improvement has led to capacity-building in different techniques, such as audit to assess clinical treatment of complications, management issues, and most recently referral. Her collaborations with the World Health Organization and other UN agencies focus on individual and multi-country analyses for health system strengthening, using data for action, and assisting governments to sequence interventions to improve maternal and newborn health outcomes.



### **Pamela W. Barnes**

Pamela W. Barnes is President and Chief Executive Officer of EngenderHealth, a leading global reproductive health organization with more than 65 years of experience in improving the quality of family planning, maternal health, and HIV/AIDS services. Ms. Barnes currently oversees programs in 27 countries across Africa and Asia. Previously, she was President and Chief Executive Officer at the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, where she led the expansion of the organization's portfolio and budget from \$45 million to \$150 million, among other achievements.

Ms. Barnes also worked in investment management and corporate finance for GTE and RCA for more than two decades and served in leadership positions at Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic in New York and the International Trachoma Initiative. Ms. Barnes holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from Marymount College and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Fordham University.



### **Karen Beattie**

Karen Beattie is the Director of Fistula Care, a global cooperative agreement supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development and managed by EngenderHealth. She manages the project and provides strategic direction to strengthen the capacity of centers to provide quality fistula repair and care; to enhance community and facility understanding of fistula prevention, utilization of emergency obstetric services, and reintegration; to gather, analyze, and use data to improve services, and to strengthen the environment for fistula prevention, repair, and reintegration services.

Prior to serving as Project Director for Fistula Care, Karen served as Technical Director for the ACQUIRE Project, providing strategic and technical direction to the project's three results teams focused on increasing access to services, improving provider performance, and strengthening the environment for family planning/reproductive health services.

A medical anthropologist and international reproductive health and family planning specialist, Karen has more than 30 years of experience as a program director, manager, innovator, and technical advisor. She has been with EngenderHealth since 1993. Her many achievements with the agency include new research findings on sterilization services, clinical and social studies, and operations research on post-abortion pain management, adolescent reproductive health, obstetric fistula and cervical cancer. She also has developed innovative quality improvement approaches to reproductive health services.

Prior to joining EngenderHealth, Karen worked with the Population Council, the International Women's Health Coalition, and the International Planned Parenthood Federation. She has field experience in more than 10 countries worldwide. Karen has a M.A. in Anthropology from Hunter College of the City University of New York.



### **Wuleta Betemariam**

With over 18 years of experience in providing strategic leadership for public health programs globally, Ms. Wuleta Betemariam is currently the Project Director the Last Ten Kilometers Project, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, with additional funding from UNICEF, and implemented by JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc. The Last Ten Kilometer's Project which is implemented in four of the most populous regions in Ethiopia works closely with the Government and local civil society organizations to improve the interaction between household, communities and the Health Extension Program, for sustainable improvement of maternal, newborn, and child health outcomes at scale. Prior to her current position, Ms Betemariam served as the Deputy Director of EngenderHealth's Program Division in New York, where she provided strategic direction and oversight of country and global programs. Before joining EngenderHealth in New York, Ms Betemariam established EngenderHealth's presence in Ethiopia as well as a program in Sudan and was the country director for the two countries. Ms. Betemariam also has seven years experience as a senior technical advisor for USAID's Population, Health and Nutrition Office, with focus in Ethiopia. Particular technical skills include maternal health, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, community health services, quality improvement, supportive supervision, gender, and resource management. Ms. Betemariam holds Masters Degrees in Public Health and Public Policy from the University of Michigan.



## Zulfiqar A. Bhutta

Dr Zulfiqar A. Bhutta is the Noordin Noormahomed Sheriif Endowed Professor and Founding Chair of the Division of Women and Child Health, Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan. He also holds adjunct professorships at several leading Universities and departments globally including the Schools of Public Health at Johns Hopkins, Harvard, Boston and Tufts Universities as well as the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. He was designated a Distinguished National Professor of the Government of Pakistan in 2007. He is also the Chairman of the National Research Ethics Committee of the Government of Pakistan.

Professor Bhutta was educated at the University of Peshawar (MBBS) and obtained his PhD from the Karolinska Institute, Sweden. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (Edinburgh), the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (London), American Academy of Pediatrics and the Pakistan Academy of Sciences. He has been associated with the Aga Khan University since 1986 and heads a large research team working on issues of maternal, newborn and child survival and nutrition globally and regionally. Dr Bhutta has served as a member of the Global Advisory Committee for Health Research for the World Health Organization, the Board of Child & Health and Nutrition Initiative of Global Forum for Health Research, and the steering committees of the International Zinc and Vitamin A Nutrition Consultative Groups. He is an executive committee member of the International Paediatric Association and on the Board of the Global Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH). He is a Foundation Council member of the Global Forum for Health Research, a council member for the International Society for Infectious diseases (ISID) and serves on the governing council for the World Alliance for Patient Safety Research. Dr Bhutta is currently the Chair of the Health Sciences Group of the Biotechnology Commission of Pakistan, a member of the WHO Strategic Advisory Committee for Vaccines (SAGE), the Quantitative Vaccine Research (QUIVER) group of WHO, the Advisory Committee for Health Research of WHO EMRO, and its apex Regional Consultative Committee. He is the immediate past-President of the Commonwealth Association of Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition (CAPGAN) and the Federation of Asia-Oceania Perinatal Societies (FAOPS) and a leading voice for integrated maternal, newborn and child health globally.

Dr Bhutta is on several international editorial advisory boards including the Lancet, BMJ, PLoS Medicine, PLoS ONE and the Cochrane ARI group. He has published four books, 55 book chapters, and over 380 indexed publications to date. He has been a leading member of recent major Lancet series on Child Survival (2003), Newborn Survival (2005), Undernutrition (2008), Primary Care (2008) and the recent series on Stillbirths (2011). He has won several awards, including the Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Medal of Excellence) by the President of Pakistan for contributions towards education and research (2000), the President of Pakistan Gold Medal for contributions to Child Health in Pakistan (2004) and the Outstanding Paediatrician of Asia award by the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association (2006). He is also the first recipient of the Aga Khan University Distinguished Faculty Award for Research (2005). Dr Bhutta was awarded the inaugural Global Child Health award (2009) by the Program for Global Pediatric Research for outstanding contributions to Global Child Health and Research.

Dr Bhutta's research interests include newborn and child survival, maternal and child undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. He leads a large research group based in Pakistan with a special interest in research synthesis, scaling up evidence based interventions in community settings and health systems research and has also extensive experience of newborn, child health and nutrition interventions in Southeast Asia and Central Asian republics.



### **Sarah Blake**

Sarah Blake is a consultant for Global Health Visions, where she focuses on family health projects. In her prior work as an independent consultant, Sarah contributed to numerous organizations' work to improve maternal and reproductive health around the world. Her recent projects include media tracking and analysis for the Communications Consortium Media Center and co-authoring the report *How Universal is Access to Reproductive Health* for UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund. Sarah has also worked as a Knowledge Management Intern for the Maternal Health Task Force. She holds a Masters of Science in Gender, Development and Globalization from the London School of Economics.



### **Ann K. Blanc**

Ann K. Blanc, PhD is the Director of the Maternal Health Task Force (MHTF) at EngenderHealth. Dr. Blanc previously spent more than three years at The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, where she was a program officer in the Population and Reproductive Health Program. Prior to the Foundation, she was a Senior Evaluation Analyst for Macro International, Inc., on the USAID-funded MEASURE/Evaluation Project. There, she collaborated with developing country colleagues to design and implement household- and facilities-based surveys and conducted methodological research and statistical analyses. Earlier, Dr. Blanc served for more than a decade overseeing the implementation of demographic research in developing countries under the Demographic and Health Surveys Program. She is widely published in the area of reproductive health, serves on the Board of the Population Association of America and the editorial board of *Studies in Family Planning*. Dr. Blanc received her doctorate degree in sociology and demography from Princeton University.



### **Jennifer Blum**

Jennifer Blum is a Senior Program Associate at Gynuity Health Projects. At Gynuity she works on projects addressing the prevention and treatment of PPH, management of miscarriage and safe abortion. Ms. Blum received a B.A. in French Literature and Political Science at the University of California, San Diego and is a graduate of the School of Public Health at the University of California, Los Angeles. Before joining Gynuity, she was a Staff Program Associate at the Population Council. Ms. Blum was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Guinea, West Africa.



### **Mayra Buvinic**

Mayra Buvinic, a Chilean citizen and internationally recognized expert on gender and development and social development, recently retired from her position as Director for Gender and Development at the World Bank. Before joining the Bank in 2005, she worked at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) where she headed the Social Development Division and advised the IDB on violence prevention (1996-2005). Prior to that, she was founding member and President of the International Center for Research on Women in Washington, D.C. (1978-1996). She has written extensively on gender and development and gender and poverty issues; violence reduction and violence prevention; and social development and social inclusion, the latter with a particular focus on Latin America and the Caribbean. She has a PhD in Social Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



### **María Laura Casalegno**

María Laura believes that the ability of every woman to access an early gynecologic and obstetric consultation can reduce the risk factors that may affect the normal evolution of pregnancy. She plans to address the lack of access to maternal health care in remote areas of Argentina by creating a system of mobile health clinics that are coordinated by health agents to provide early pregnancy screenings. During her Young Champions placement, Laura worked on the Obstetric First Responder Project with Ashoka Mexico Fellow Dr. Haywood Hall. This project provides training workshops to midwives, doulas, health workers, and communities in rural areas to teach them how to detect early signs and symptoms of obstetric emergencies.



### **Andres de Francisco**

ANDRES DE FRANCISCO, Medical Doctor (Colombia) with a PhD in Public Health (London) has extensive experience in the interface of transferring evidence to Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health policies. Has worked in Colombia, West Africa and Bangladesh in the design, implementation, and evaluation of health and population interventions and in dissemination of findings to policy makers.

Since 2008 he is at the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), institution which brings together over 400 member institutions to work on knowledge management, advocacy and accountability for RMNCH. PMNCH is hosted by WHO and he is currently the Deputy to the Director.

Past positions include Deputy Executive Director at the Global Forum for Health Research (Geneva, 9 years), an international foundation advocating for research on health priorities of developing countries; Project Director of the MATLAB MCH-FP/ Reproductive Health Programme at the ICDDR,B: Centre for Health & Population Research, where he managed a remote health demonstration project for 500,000 population and related Government knowledge transfer for policy making; Senior Scientific Officer at the Medical Research Council, Gambia, West Africa, undertaking community based impact evaluation of MNCH interventions; Director of the Hospital in Miraflores, Amazonas, with a vast public outreach.



### **France Donnay**

France Donnay, MD, FACOG, FRCOG, MPH received her medical degree from the University of Liege in Belgium in 1974, and completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Brussels in 1981. She received her Masters in Public Health from the University of Nancy, France in 1991.

From 1981-1994, Dr. Donnay practiced in public and private hospitals in Brussels, and worked as a consultant for reproductive and maternal health for WHO, The World Bank, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). From 1985-1994, she was a maternal health consultant to Doctors without Borders and Doctors of the World and worked in Armenia, Cambodia, Chad and Guinea-Conakry. Over the last 30 years she has visited 60 + countries in all regions of the world. As Invited Professor at the Paris based International Center for Children and the Institute for Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, she taught courses on international safe motherhood programs.

In 1994 Dr. Donnay joined the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and contributed to safe motherhood policies and programs. In 1999 she transferred to UNFPA where in 2000 she was appointed Chief of the Reproductive Health Branch at the Technical Support Division in UNFPA Headquarters, a position she held until 2005. From 2005 to 2008 she led the UNFPA office in Pakistan and worked on maternal health policies and programs with the Government of Pakistan, UN partners and other agencies.

In April 2008 she joined the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She manages a Maternal Health portfolio of about 20 grants, contributes to advocacy and policy briefings, and represents the foundation at global conferences. She is a member of the Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health team based in Integrated Health Solutions Development. In 2009 she was made Fellow honoris causa at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Also, she has written more than 50 articles and reports on maternal health.



### **Gary Forster**

Gary is the CEO of Transaid, an international development charity that seeks to reduce poverty and improve quality of life through providing better access to basic services such as health, education and economic opportunities in Africa and the developing world. Gary joined Transaid in 2006 and previously worked in logistics at Procter and Gamble. He spent three years in Zambia and Nigeria before returning to the UK to take on the role of Head of Programmes in 2009. In this role Gary helped build Transaid's portfolio to include projects in Nigeria, Madagascar and Uganda. Gary has presented Transaid's work to a range of international stakeholders including the UN, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the World Health Organization. Gary was appointed as CEO on 1st April 2011.

Gary has worked as a technical consultant on a number of MNCH programmes including two in Nigeria, where he has helped establish a variety of emergency referral schemes. Gary has presented to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development regarding the issue of maternal referral, and was present at the "Improving Transportation and Referral for Maternal Health" conference hosted by the Woodrow Wilson Centre's Global Health Initiative in May 2010. Gary was also present at the "Rethinking Referral" conference held in Tarrytown, New York, in November 2010.



### **Beth Fredrick**

Beth Fredrick is helping to lead Advance Family Planning, a multi-partner, multi-country advocacy initiative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She worked previously with the International Women's Health Coalition as their Executive Vice President and with the Guttmacher Institute, as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Beth was a Bell Fellow with the Harvard University Center for Population and Development Studies and an adjunct faculty member with the New York University Wagner School of Public Service. She chairs the Board of Ibis Reproductive Health and is also a Board member with EMpower, a nonprofit organization supporting programs in emerging markets.



### **Lynn P. Freedman**

Lynn P. Freedman is Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. She currently directs the Mailman School's Averting Maternal Death and Disability (AMDD) Program, a global program of research, policy analysis, and technical support that, since 1999, has worked with UN agencies, NGOs, and governments in more than 50 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to reduce maternal mortality. Before joining the faculty at Columbia University in 1990, Prof. Freedman worked as a practicing attorney in New York City. Prof. Freedman has published widely on issues of maternal mortality and on health and human rights, with a particular focus on gender and women's health. She also serves on the advisory boards of maternal health projects and human rights projects with programs in Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. She received a law degree (JD) from Harvard University, a Masters of Public Health (MPH) from Columbia University, and a bachelor's degree (BA) from Yale University.



### **Aparajita Gogoi**

Dr. Aparajita Gogoi is the Executive Director of CEDPA India. CEDPA works to improve the lives of girls, women and young people by empowering them with skills to build better lives.

She is passionate about women's health issues and has been an advocate for safe motherhood and believes that surviving childbirth is a fundamental right of every woman. She works with networks and other advocates to affect change within society by mobilizing action and people. She has worked with civil society representatives, media and elected representative in sensitizing them on the issue of women's health and rights in India. She has also been involved in advocacy in Bangladesh, Indonesia and the Philippines. She has over 17 years of extensive experience in program management, with expertise in designing and implementing programs, advocacy campaigns, and defining approaches and strategies for policy issues in population.

She holds a PhD (International Politics), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, and a Post graduate diploma in Journalism.

She is also the National Coordinator of the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood/India (WRAI) and a former elected member of the board of the Global WRA.

She has been accorded recognition for her work in various forums- some recent recognitions are as follows:

- 2010: At the "Women: Inspiration and Enterprise" Symposium hosted in NYC in September by Sarah Brown, Donna Karen and Arian Huffington, Dr. Aparajita Gogoi was given the WIE Humanitarian Award for her good work on behalf of humanity that help make our world a better place.
- 2011: On 8th March 2011, Guardian, UK, marked International Women's Day by selecting 100 of world's most inspiring women, and Aparajita Gogoi was named as one of these 100 women.



### **Wendy J Graham**

Wendy J Graham is currently Professor of Obstetric Epidemiology at the University of Aberdeen. She has specialist interests in the reduction and the measurement of maternal mortality, and has undertaken collaborative research in many developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Since 2002, Wendy has been the Lead Scientist for Immpect, an international research group focused on strengthening the evidence-base to reduce maternal mortality ([www.immpact-international.org](http://www.immpact-international.org)). Two focus areas of her current work are improving & measuring the quality of obstetric services, & strengthening the translation of research evidence into policy & practice. She serves on expert panels and committees for several global partnerships and initiatives and also holds a seconded position with the UK Department for International Development as an evidence advisor.



### **Michael G. Gravett**

Dr. Gravett is Professor and Vice Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Washington School of Medicine and Director of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, where he specializes in prematurity prevention, perinatal infectious diseases, and maternal/fetal immunology. Dr. Gravett received his medical degree at UCLA and completed post-graduate training in Obstetrics & Gynecology, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and Infectious Diseases/Immunology at the University of Washington. He has received numerous national and international awards for his research on causes and prevention of preterm birth. He was a member of the Institute of Medicine Committee on Prematurity and Past President for the Infectious Diseases Society for Obstetrics and Gynecology. He currently also serves as the Scientific Director for the Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirths.



### **Mengistu Hailemariam**

I am a graduate of Medicine from Jimma University with specialization and proven experience in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology especially in reproductive health, maternal, newborn and child health care, PMTCT, and performing emergency and major elective Gynecologic / Obstetric Operative interventions. I have attended and given various international and national trainings in the area of Gynecology/Obstetrics in general, and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and PMTCT in particular. I have been actively involved as a coordinator in the youth & adolescent reproductive health, and maternal health project carried out by AMREF-Ethiopia (an international NGO) in Afar national regional state. I am now working as a senior maternal, newborn and child health advisor in the federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia.

### **Judith F. Helzner**

Judith F. Helzner is the Director of the Population & Reproductive Health area in the MacArthur Foundation's International Programs.

Ms. Helzner joined the Foundation in July 2002, and serves as a strategic advisor to staff members in the Mexico, Nigeria and India offices on grant making related to population issues. She is also responsible for grants made to international organizations in the population field.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Ms. Helzner was with the International Planned Parenthood Federation, Western Hemisphere Region, where she first served as Director of Program Coordination starting in 1987 and was later named Director of Sexual and Reproductive Health, a position she held from 1997 to 2002. Ms. Helzner has also worked with the International

Women's Health Coalition (1985-1987), with Private Agencies Collaborating Together (1982-1984), and with Pathfinder Fund in Boston (1977-1982). She has been a consultant to several organizations, including the World Health Organization and USAID, where she Co-chaired its Interagency Gender Working Group Subcommittee on Men & Reproductive Health.

Ms. Helzner has published articles and book reviews in journals such as *Studies in Family Planning* and *International Family Planning Perspectives*. She graduated from Tufts University with a bachelor's degree in French and received master's degrees in both Demography and International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania.



### **Fauzia Akhter Huda**

She has a long track record of work experience with different tiers of the Bangladesh Government's health system. Since her joining in ICDDR,B, she has substantially contributed to different studies on maternal health. Her research focuses primarily on the capacity development in the reproductive health sector particularly addressing safe motherhood and more generally on the underlying social determinants of health. She worked on implementation of a new 'safe menstrual regulation care (SMRC)' model to monitor menstrual regulation and abortion-related services and to track and measure progress in reducing unintended pregnancy and unsafe abortion. Based on the study findings, a new indicator is proposed to introduce in the national MIS format of the health system to measure the impact of post-abortion contraception. Recommendations from that study are highly appreciated by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare of Bangladesh.

She is working closely with the Maternal Health Task Force through Knowledge Translation in Maternal Health: Culture and Capacity for Change with the aim to create spaces for productive dialogue between researchers and non-researchers and to facilitate evidence-based planning for evidence-based change in maternal health in Bangladesh. As a part of this she launches a course for researchers at ICDDR,B to empower them with knowledge translation skills sets and the institution as a whole to maintain sustainable focus on knowledge translation.

She had been awarded as a foreign site scholar for the Fogarty International Clinical Research Scholars Program in Bangladesh for the year 2009-2010.



### **Marge Koblinsky**

Dr. Marge Koblinsky has pursued her interest in ensuring safe quality accessible care for women and their newborns while in the employ of many different organizations: Director of MotherCare for 12 years, of NGO Network for Health for 2 years, with IMMPACT for 2 years and now with the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) as Director of the Public Health Sciences Division. Her specialty is maternal health and mortality about which she has written and lectured extensively. She has also organized and provided technical leadership for projects in over 25 countries, led international and technical meetings, and nurtured collaborative relations with other interested agencies, research institutions and individuals. For such activities she was honored with the World Health Day Award of the American Association of World Health in 1998. She returned to Washington DC in 2008 to join John Snow, Inc. as its Senior Women's Health Advisor, with special focus on Ethiopia and Nepal. Part of her time is also spent with MCHIP on the maternal health team, with the World Bank in Indonesia and with JHSPH on Afghanistan.



### **Sandra Krause**

Sandra Krause has worked as the Reproductive Health Program Director at the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children since 1999. She is a registered nurse with a master's degree in Public Health Administration. She has been active in the public health arena for over 20 years, 16 of which have been devoted to international health, working in conflict-affected settings including Thailand, Haiti, Colombia, Croatia and numerous countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Ms Krause has conducted needs assessments in many emergencies, including in Chad, Indonesia, Thailand, Colombia and Zambia, and advocated the findings to donors, government and United Nations representatives, staff of humanitarian agencies and refugee communities. Ms Krause has also established health programs for refugees and internally displaced persons in many countries, including Malawi, Somalia and Sudan. She was a country director in Malawi. She established the health unit and worked as the International Health Advisor for six years at the headquarters of a leading humanitarian response agency.



### **Ana Langer**

Ana Langer, MD, leads the Dean's Special Initiative on Women and Health at the Harvard School of Public Health and is a Professor in its Department of Global Health and Population (for more information on the program, visit <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/hphr/spring-2010/spr10womenhealth.html>). Dr. Langer is a physician specialized in pediatrics and neonatology, as well as a reproductive health expert, public health researcher, and advocate for women's reproductive health and rights.

Before joining HSPH, she was the President and CEO of EngenderHealth, an international not-for-profit organization (2005-2010). From 1994-2005, Ana Langer served as the Population Council's Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). In 2003 and 2004, Dr. Langer served in the dual role of Acting Director of the Population Council's global Reproductive Health Program. From 1988-1993, she was the chair of the Department of Research in Women and Children's Health (National Institute of Public Health, Mexico).



### **Samantha Lattof**

In December 2010, Samantha Radcliffe Lattof joined the Women and Health Initiative at Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) as project manager for the Maternal Health Task Force. She previously worked in Ghana with Columbia University and Ghana Health Service on a health system strengthening project that aimed to reduce maternal and child mortality. The year before, she collaborated with law students and lawyers from Harvard Law School and the University of Ghana on revisions to Ghana's National Health Insurance Scheme. In 2009, Ms. Lattof worked in Ghana for Dr. Allan Hill (HSPH) on the Women's Health Study of Accra, for which she conducted a pilot study on the use of verbal autopsies to improve cause of death ascertainment.

Prior to her work in Ghana, Ms. Lattof worked for Washington University School of Medicine as a pediatric neurology research assistant. She has also supported the programming team at Africa Regional Services in Paris and monitored two of the United Nations Treaty Bodies (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and Convention on the Rights of the Child) while with International Service for Human Rights in Geneva.

Ms. Lattof completed her MSc at HSPH in Global Health and Population (with an interdisciplinary concentration in Women, Gender and Health) and her BA at Washington University in St. Louis, where she majored in Anthropology, International Studies, and Women & Gender Studies.



### **Nejla W. Liias**

In 2008, Nejla W. Liias founded Global Health Visions (GHV). Global Health Visions provides strategic guidance on the formulation and implementation of global health and development initiatives that aim to improve the lives and livelihoods of women and children around the world. GHV works in a variety of development areas, including maternal, newborn, and child health, reproductive health and family planning, infectious diseases, vaccines, tobacco control, gender equity and women's empowerment, adolescent girls, public-private partnerships, and donor cultivation.

Global Health Visions partners with and serves NGOs, governments, foundations, development agencies and the private sector. GHV offers expertise to partners in areas related to advocacy and program strategy development, research and policy analysis, resource mobilization strategy, proposal formulation, internal and external messaging, project management, and capacity building.

Prior to starting Global Health Visions, Nejla was an independent consultant for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in its Global Health Policy and Advocacy division. Before her work in global health and development, Nejla spent five years as a public finance professional at Morgan Stanley and JPMorgan. After her time on Wall Street, she attended the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute where she received her Masters in Public Policy with a concentration in International Policy and Development.



### **Chris Lindahl**

Christopher earned a Master of Public Administration from the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University in May 2010. During graduate school, he was an intern with the International Refugee Rights Initiative in New York and Kampala, Uganda and the International Center for Transitional Justice in New York and consulted with the World Bank's External and UN Relations Office. Prior to NYU, Christopher taught high school in the Bronx, NY and worked as a legal assistant in Manhattan. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Boston College in history and secondary education.



### **Sita Magnuson**

Sita is a process designer and graphic facilitator based in Western Massachusetts. She is the co-owner of dpict, llc, and the Vice President (US) of The Value Web – non-profit association, based in Switzerland, focused on multi-sector/multi-stakeholder collaboration in transformational projects for a more sustainable, equitable world. She works with a variety of organizations (across sectors and industries) to co-design and deliver collaborative working sessions with a focus on individual and group learning, designing for multiple intelligences and integrating both reflective and action oriented practices. She has been scribing for the past 11 years, and is part of an ever expanding network of practitioners of the MGTaylor processes, tools and methodologies, and is always looking to learn from and build new meaning with those willing to play and explore our collective future - with a specialized interest in the how. For more, please see [thevaluweb.org](http://thevaluweb.org) and [dpict.info](http://dpict.info).



### **Eleanor McNab**

Eleanor has several years experience working in the HIV/AIDS and development sectors, both in the UK and in South Africa. She holds a BA in Social and Cultural Studies from the University of Nottingham, UK and a Masters in Development from the University of Cape Town, South Africa. Eleanor is currently a Programme Support Manager at mothers2mothers (m2m), an international NGO focusing on the provision of PMTCT education and support in Africa in order to improve maternal and infant health outcomes. m2m is an EngenderHealth grantee, and has been piloting the use of cell phone technology to improve client retention in PMTCT.



### **Raji Mohanam**

Raji started her career at the Population Council where she was a Program Coordinator for six years. Subsequently, she served as an Account Manager at both Embryon and Adis International. In 2006, she became the Business Development Director for MedTex with responsibility for identifying potential donors and supporters for large-scale eLearning programs for physicians, medical/nursing students, and patients. Most recently, Raji was the Director of Academic Institution Grants at WebMD and Medscape where she established alliances with public and private institutions to create more effective, higher-quality educational interventions. Raji received a Master of Arts degree in International Development from University of Dayton in Ohio and her Bachelors of Arts degree from Baldwin Wallace College.



### **Poonam Muttreja**

Ms Poonam Muttreja is the Executive Director of Population Foundation of India. She has years of rich experience in the socio-development sector. She has done her Masters in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and Bachelors degree in Psychology from the University of Delhi. Prior to joining PFI, she was working with the McArthur Foundation as Country Director. Ms Muttreja has also worked with UNDP as Advisor to the Country Representative, and Visiting Professor in Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana and New Hampshire College, Amherst. She is the Founder Director of the Ashoka Foundation, Dastkar, and SRUTI (Society for Rural, Urban and Tribal Initiatives). Ms Muttreja is associated with several national and international organizations in the capacity of a member of board and advisory council.



### **Josh Nesbit**

Josh Nesbit is the CEO of Medic Mobile, an nonprofit company using low-cost, mobile technology to create connected, coordinated health systems that save more lives. As an international health and bioethics student at Stanford, his qualitative research focused on access to pediatric HIV/AIDS treatment. Josh has implemented text message networks in Malawi, Uganda, and Cameroon, advising ICT development projects in more than 15 countries. After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, he helped coordinate the 4636 project, an SMS-based emergency response system. He is a PopTech Social Innovation Fellow, Echoing Green Fellow, Rainer Arnhold Fellow, Strauss Scholar, and Haas Public Service Fellow. Recently, Josh was named by Devex as one of 40 Under 40 Leaders in International Development and received the Truman Award for Innovation from the Society for International Development. Medic Mobile's innovation team is supported by the Maternal Health Task Force.



## Janna Oberdorf

Janna Oberdorf, as the Director of Communications and Outreach, leads the communications strategy at Women Deliver, a global advocacy organization bringing together voices from around the world to call for greater investment in the health and well-being of girls and women and for action against maternal deaths. Janna works across all Women Deliver projects, from organizing the Women Deliver global conferences to building Women Deliver's online and social media presence. Additionally, she leads the Deliver for Youth outreach, a project within Women Deliver focused on engaging and empowering young advocates for maternal health. Prior to Women Deliver, Janna was a writer and editor at Parents magazine, crafting articles on maternal and child health. She has also freelanced as a journalist for numerous national publications including Ladies' Home Journal, Fit Pregnancy, and Babble.com. She has her BA from New York University, where she majored in Journalism and Mass Communications and Politics.



## Nick Pearson

Nick Pearson is the Managing Director of Jacaranda Health. He has worked at the intersection of business and global health in East Africa, Vietnam, and India. Prior to founding Jacaranda, he worked in Kenya for the Acumen Fund providing management support to businesses serving the urban poor. Nick has a strong understanding of the urban market and the importance of bringing together a strong team of staff and advisors with backgrounds in clinical care, public health, systems engineering, and marketing. Nick has an MBA from Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley, is married to an obstetrician, and spent most of his childhood overseas as the child of a state department officer.



## Tambosi Phiri

Tambosi Phiri, Project Manager, MaiMwana project Mchinji, Malawi, a Registered Nurse Midwife with Bsc Nursing Education and Administration obtained at MEDUNSA Pretoria South Africa and Msc International Child health with Maternal & Child Health pathway obtained at University College London. UK.

I have vast experience in maternal and child health, having worked as a Trainer in a family planning programme, Community Nursing Tutor, Cervical Cancer Screening and Early Treatment Programme Supervisor and, currently, MaiMwana Project Manger which is a maternal and child health programme promoting the health of mothers and children under five. Several initiatives are being done at community level to enable healthier mothers and babies. As a Project Manager, I have been involved in resource mobilization, coordination and collaboration with donors and partners.

Our interventions have been used by community maternal death teams to help in identifying maternal deaths, and strategy development with community participatory initiatives in liaison with the District Health Services. We have also strived to provide volunteer counseling services for mothers in PMTCT, birth preparedness and infant care practices promoting Exclusive Breastfeeding, and also used womens' groups in order to identify maternal and child health problems, strategy development and implementation at community level through participatory mechanisms.

I am motivated by the improvement of maternal and child health outcomes, and have closely followed the progress of all the interventions in order to help teams to identify gaps which require additional resource mobilization as appropriate. I will continue to strive to work towards attainment of MDGs 4 & 5.



### **Emily Puckart**

Emily began working in international development as a US Peace Corps Volunteer in Romania. Over a period of two years she worked on sexual and reproductive health programs with women and girls, and served as the President of the Gender and Development Committee of Romania. After the Peace Corps, she worked for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Washington D.C., where she focused on programs aimed at increasing women's political participation around the world. Most recently she spent time in India conducting an assessment of an adolescent girls' health and nutrition program in Maharashtra, India. She holds a Masters in Public Administration from New York University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Virginia.



### **Kate Ramsey**

Kate Ramsey joined the Averting Maternal Death and Disability Program at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health in 2009 and is based at the Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. She is developing a collaborative partnership with IHI and is an investigator on several health system intervention and implementation studies to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity. She is also Co-Principal Investigator for the Connect Project, a study investigating approaches to implement the continuum of care for maternal, newborn and child health – including community-based care and strengthened emergency referral systems. She received her MPH from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health in 2003 and a BA in International Studies from American University in 1996. Previously, she worked for UNFPA as the global coordinator of the Campaign to End Fistula providing technical support in the design and implementation of maternal health programmes in 45 countries in Africa and Asia. She has also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Jordan and an AmeriCorps Volunteer in rural United States.



### **Hannah Schreiner**

Hannah is a recent graduate from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics. During her time there, she worked in a nonprofit student-run cooperative print shop, where she managed the website and designed printed materials for students, professors, people from the local community, and other businesses. After graduating, she moved to Brooklyn and continued to create custom design work for local businesses and organizations. She is excited to work with a team dedicated to women's health.



### **Paola M. Sesia**

Dr. Paola M. Sesia holds a MPH from the University of California, Berkeley (where she also studied her BA in History) and a PhD in sociocultural anthropology from the University of Arizona, Tucson. She is a medical anthropologist and works as a professor-researcher at the Center for Research and Advanced Studies in Social Anthropology (CIESAS, for its Spanish acronyms) in Mexico since 1990. Her areas of expertise include social, cultural and public health problems in Mexico and Latin America around maternal health, reproductive health and child health; food security and nutrition; social policy and public health policy; gender and social equity and inequities; and children's rights; focusing specifically on indigenous regions and populations and/or on other social groups in situation of vulnerability or social disadvantage.

She has participated or directly coordinated several research projects with financial support from the InterAmerican Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the CONACyT (the Mexican equivalent to the National Science Foundation), the National Institute for Social Policy in Mexico, UNICEF, and now EngenderHealth. Dr. Sesia has directed over fifteen theses and dissertations at the graduate and undergraduate level and she has taught several graduate courses in CIESAS.



### **Theresa Shaver**

Theresa Shaver is a nurse-midwife and has over 20 years of experience in international health program management and implementation, focused primarily on maternal and reproductive health. She is currently the Director of the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood (WRA) Global Secretariat. As Director, Ms. Shaver serves as the spokesperson for the WRA, provides technical assistance in community mobilization, capacity building, advocacy and maternal health to WRA National Secretariats and members. She also leads all fundraising efforts and is responsible for WRA administrative and financial management. She has provided technical assistance and worked throughout Cambodia, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Malawi, Tanzania, Tajikistan, Vietnam, and Zambia.



### **Jeremy Shiffman**

Jeremy Shiffman is Associate Professor of Public Administration and Policy at American University. A political scientist by training, he researches the politics of health policy and administration in poor countries. He has a particular interest in health agenda-setting: why some issues receive priority while others are neglected. Among other topics, he has investigated maternal survival, newborn survival, family planning, donor funding for health and health systems reform. His research has been funded by the Gates, MacArthur and Rockefeller Foundations, among other organizations. His work has appeared in multiple journals, including *The Lancet*, *The American Journal of Public Health*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *The British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* and *The Bulletin of the World Health Organization*. Previously he was on the faculty of the Maxwell School of Syracuse University, where he received four teaching awards. Prior to working in academia he served as an executive with the international public relations firm Burson-Marsteller, and as a social worker, working with Vietnamese boat people. He received a BA summa cum laude from Yale University in philosophy, an MA from Johns Hopkins University in international relations, and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in political science.



### **Faisal Siraj**

A medical professional in Pakistan, Faisal is changing the maternal health field in his country by tapping into a poorly-utilized resource: medical interns. He believes the chronic shortage of health workers in rural Pakistan could be lessened significantly if the tasks of medical interns were shifted from assisting workers in major hospitals to working directly with rural women in village-based centers. Faisal intends to work with policymakers in the newly created Public Health Department to develop a curriculum that integrates this opportunity as a mandatory component of the medical internship. Faisal has a history of establishing social ventures in both clinical and community settings in Pakistan and Kashmir and is an impassioned speaker about health systems reform. For his Young Champions placement, he worked with Ashoka Nigeria Fellow Lucy Attah Auwalu to map the skills of Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA) associations.



### **Stephanie Smith**

Stephanie Smith is Assistant Professor of Public Administration at the University of New Mexico. She earned her Ph.D. in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University in 2009, where her interest in the politics of health policy and administration in developing countries helped to shape her research agenda. She has studied maternal and newborn health policy at the global level and in India, Nepal and Bolivia since 2005, resulting in publications in *The Lancet* and *Social Science & Medicine*. She teaches courses on global health policy, comparative public administration and organizational theory in the Master of Public Administration program at the University of New Mexico. Prior to joining academia, she served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Vladivostok, Russia, and worked in the nonprofit sector in San Francisco.



### **Kate Somers**

Kate Somers is a Project Manager at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation providing support for the development of strategies for Ethiopia and Uttar Pradesh, India. Kate works closely with the maternal, neonatal and child health team on a variety of grants and initiatives. Prior to her current position, Kate worked in Program Development for IntraHealth International for five years. Kate served as a Project Officer for HIV/AIDS prevention programs at the CDC and worked overseas as a health educator in South America and the Eastern Caribbean. Kate has a MPH in health policy as well as her JD.



### **Cynthia Stanton**

Dr. Cindy Stanton received her MPH from the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and her PhD from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH). She is currently an Associate Professor at JHSPH in the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health. Her work has focused on survey and census-based measurement and model-based estimation of maternal and perinatal mortality and health in developing countries. More recently, her work has combined population and health facility-based data. Current efforts include: assessing the safety of expanding oxytocin coverage for the prevention of postpartum hemorrhage; evaluating the prognostic capacities of classification systems for obstetric fistula, assessing changes in quality of life for women following surgical repair for fistula, establishing guidelines for the routine reporting of indication for caesarean section in low and high use areas, and documenting facility-based practices regarding induction and augmentation of labor.



### **Mary Ellen Stanton**

Mary Ellen Stanton is Senior Maternal Health Advisor to United States Agency for International Development (USAID) where she guides the Global Health Bureau's maternal health portfolio, including research and implementation of country programs. She has decades of experience in clinical nursing and midwifery, nurse-midwifery education, international maternal newborn health, and international development. She has attended births in Ivory Coast and taught midwives in Swaziland and South India. Her work as an independent consultant, then as Director of ACNM's Special Projects Section in the early 1990s, and since with USAID has taken her to dozens of countries around the globe to carry out assessments and to design and evaluate maternal newborn health programs. She collaborates with national governments, bilateral donors, UN agencies, other departments and agencies of the US government, academic institutions, professional associations, and NGOs. She serves as the USAID Washington-based coordinator for the Afghanistan Health Program for the Bureau for Global Health, manages USAID's obstetric fistula program, and is helping to initiate a U. S. Government-Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) program to improve maternal and

newborn health in high burden countries of the OIC. Ms. Stanton received her B.A. from Oberlin College, B.S. from Columbia University, and M.S.N. from the University of Illinois. She is a Certified Nurse-Midwife and Fellow of the American College of Nurse Midwives. She has received a Distinguished Alumni Award for Health Policy from Columbia University School of Nursing and the USAID Michael K. White award for support to maternal health worldwide.



### **Ann M. Starrs**

Ann Starrs is co-founder and president (since 2008) of Family Care International, a non-governmental organization dedicated to making pregnancy and childbirth safer in the developing world. Since FCI's founding in 1987, Ann's experience has included organizational and strategic development; on-the-ground program design and capacity-building, in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Asia; and global advocacy and policy-making on reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health.

Ann launched and managed FCI's first field programs in Africa, working with ministry of health representatives and non-governmental partners in eastern, southern, and western Africa. She later managed FCI's role as coordinator of the Safe Motherhood Inter-Agency Group, helping its transition and merge into the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH). She served as co-chair of the PMNCH Board from 2005 to 2011, playing a crucial formative role in the establishment and growth of the Partnership. Under her guidance, FCI continues to serve as co-lead partner for advocacy within the PMNCH workplan.

Ann is widely recognized as a leading advocate and technical expert on maternal health. She is a member of steering committees and advisory boards for a broad range of international maternal and reproductive health initiatives, and has authored or co-authored numerous technical papers and commentaries on global health policy issues.

Before joining FCI, Ann worked with the International Planned Parenthood Federation and Carnegie Corporation of New York. She is trained in development economics and demography, with a Masters degree from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and a certificate in Demography from Princeton's Office of Population Research, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.



### **Catharine Taylor**

Catharine Taylor directs PATH's activities in maternal health, child health, and nutrition. Ms. Taylor has 25 years of experience in international and domestic sexual and reproductive health, with a focus on maternal/newborn health and programming for youth. Before joining PATH in 2008, she worked as the lead specialist for maternal health and as the program manager for the multisectoral program for HIV/AIDS in South Africa with HLSP. Previous to that, she served as an expert in civil society organizations for a large European Union-funded reproductive health program in Turkey, the Asia regional advisor for Plan International, and the technical training advisor for the Nepal Safe Motherhood Project, in addition to undertaking numerous program evaluation and strategic planning assignments.

Over the course of her career, Ms. Taylor has specialized in designing and implementing capacity-building approaches for nongovernmental organizations, human resources development, and health facilities and systems strengthening. She practiced and taught nursing and midwifery for more than a decade before moving into international health work, and she recently served 4 years on the board of the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood.

Ms. Taylor is a nursing-midwife and holds an advanced diploma in midwifery from the Sheffield Polytechnic and Jessop Hospital for Women. She also holds an MS in economics from the Sir David Owen Population Centre at the University of Wales and has completed a graduate certificate program in global change and social innovation from Case Western Reserve University, Weatherhead School of Management.



### **Kate Teela**

Kate Teela is an Associate Program Officer for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's maternal, neonatal, and child health strategy. Kate supports management of maternal health grants, as well as the team's efforts in NE Nigeria. Prior to joining the foundation, Kate managed a cross-border obstetric program for Burmese internally displaced people along the Burmese borders with Thailand and China. Kate has a BA in Japanese language/literature from Carleton College, and a MHS in international health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is a trained birth doula.



### **Tim Thomas**

Tim began his career at The Population Council in New York where he was the Special Assistant to the President, charged with cultivating and maintaining institutional relationships with government overseas development assistance agencies, as well as foundations, NGOs, multilateral institutions and UN agencies. He also served as the primary point of contact with the U.S. Government, managing the Council's multi-million dollar co-operative agreement with the U.S. Agency for International Development. In 2001, Tim joined the London-based communications agency InterScience as a senior consultant where he worked with a range of clients on their sexual and reproductive health programs. In 2005, Tim was appointed Executive Director of the Staying Alive Foundation at MTV Networks International based in New York. As a global grant-making and advocacy organization, the Foundation encouraged and enabled young people who are involved in HIV and AIDS awareness, education and prevention campaigns especially in developing countries. When MTV changed its philanthropic directions in late 2007, Tim returned to private consulting. He serves on the board of Artists Striving to End Poverty and is on the board of advisors of The Condom Project. He has traveled extensively in Africa, South Asia and Europe. He graduated with honors from the Interlochen Arts Academy; he holds a Bachelors of Arts degree from Iowa State University and a Masters of Fine Arts degree from New York University.



### **John W. Townsend**

John W. Townsend, Ph.D. is the vice president and director of the Population Council's Reproductive Health program. He is responsible for overseeing the Council's contraceptive product development as well as the design and implementation of strategies to promote better reproductive health and family planning programs worldwide, especially among disadvantaged populations in developing countries, through research and policy innovations.

Townsend has worked for the Population Council for 25 years. He holds a doctorate in social psychology with supporting studies in public affairs and educational psychology from the University of Minnesota. During his tenure with the Council, he has served as director of the Frontiers in Reproductive Health program; director of operations research programs in Asia and the Near East (1993–98); regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean in Mexico (1990–93); director of operations research programs in Latin America and the Caribbean (1985–90); and country director for Colombia (1984). Before joining the Council, Townsend served for eight years as a social scientist with the Institute of Nutrition for Central America and Panama, in Guatemala.

Townsend is a frequent presenter in professional meetings, with extensive publications and studies conducted on development, population, family planning, and reproductive health. He has worked and traveled extensively in more than 35 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, and in 2006 he received USAID's Marjorie Horn Operations Research Award for excellence in conducting and utilizing research.



### **Marieke van Dijk**

Marieke van Dijk is a consultant for the Population Council Mexico Office, where she was a regional associate until May 2011. She conducts research on several reproductive health issues in the Latin-American region, including maternal health, abortion, contraception, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. Prior to joining the Population Council in 2007, Marieke served as a consultant to various reproductive health and general public health NGOs and institutions – including, Netherlands Leprosy Relief, the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in Amsterdam, and the Population Council. Marieke is a medical anthropologist and public health physician by training. She is a graduate of the Groningen University and the University of Amsterdam.



### **Beena Varghese**

Dr. Beena Varghese is currently working as Head, Research Development and Additional professor at the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and has 14 years of postdoctoral experience in Public Health. Her areas of expertise include design of research methods for health systems analyses, cost and cost-effectiveness analysis; economic impact of interventions; and health financing issues. She has technical expertise and interest in maternal and child health, immunization, and HIV. Her current research projects (as Principal investigator) at PHFI include: 1) Developing a road map for improving quality of institutional births in India. 2) Assessment of the child and maternal health interventions under the Norway India Partnership Initiatives; 3) Development of investment cases in maternal and child health across 5 states in India in collaboration with University of Melbourne; 4) Costing of maternal and child health initiatives for PATH. She has extensive experience in working with both local and international health NGOs, governments, and UN agencies. Her work on health financing, analysis of cost effectiveness of HIV counseling and testing, and allocation of HIV prevention resources has been widely published at various international conferences.

She is on the independent review committee for GAVI, Geneva. Dr. Varghese, an Indian national, has a PhD in Health Economics. She was a post-doctoral fellow and then a Senior Fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta. Prior to her joining PHFI, she worked as the head of health economics team at ICDDR, Dhaka in Bangladesh.



### **Carolyn Gibb Vogel**

Carolyn Gibb Vogel, MPH, joined Population Action International in 1997 and has served as the Chief Operating Officer since 2009. She is responsible for bringing together PAI's programmatic and operational work, organizational effectiveness, strategic and annual planning, and facilitates all aspects of coordinated work across programs. Prior to this, she served as PAI's Vice President for Programs and Acting Director of the Research Department where her work focused on reproductive health supplies, population and the environment, and donor financing innovations. She served as the project manager for the Supply Initiative from 2004-2007, including directing the Initiative's Brussels Office. She is active in the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition, the Maternal Health Taskforce, and founded an ongoing peer network group of senior operations executives of international organizations. She has published reports, policy briefs and Op-Eds for PAI and regularly

serves as a facilitator or panelist at key professional conferences and workshops. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and holds a masters degree in public health from Columbia University. Prior to joining PAI, she worked at John Snow, Incorporated in program management and evaluation of USAID-funded family planning programs, working with projects in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Turkey, Russia, and Jordan, among other countries. She also attended the University of Dakar in Senegal and served as a Peace Corps Nutrition Volunteer in Niger.



### **Peris Wakesho**

Peris recognizes that talking about early motherhood, accessing antenatal and post-natal care, and adjusting after a maternal morbidity can be very difficult for adolescents. She is addressing this challenge by starting “Swahiba Clubs”—psychological support groups that provide privacy and a safe space for adolescent mothers and fathers to address their sexuality, relationships, health needs, and motherhood with other adolescent parents. During her Young Champions placement working with Ashoka Nigeria Fellow Dorothy Aken’ova, Peris was inspired by Niger State’s joint day care and school system where adolescent mothers go to a separate school with other mothers to complete their education. As she returns home to Kenya, Peris will introduce this system to government leaders and civil society organizations to prevent pregnant adolescents from dropping out of school while increasing their access to reproductive health services and support networks to address maternal morbidity. In addition to serving as the Executive Director for Asilia Africa, an international non-governmental organization working to improve access to reproductive health services for vulnerable and marginalized women, Peris has worked for the National Organization of Peer Educators (NOPE), HOPE Worldwide Kenya (HWWK) and the World Information Resources for Education and Development (WIRED) International.



### **Charlotte Warren**

Charlotte Warren is based in Nairobi and is one of the Population Council’s lead social scientists, with extensive experience in research, policy, and program development in maternal and neonatal health, reproductive health, family planning, and primary health care. She is a nurse by training with expertise in pediatrics.

Warren has worked in ten African countries building the skills of policymakers and program managers to address critical public health issues. She was a key contributor to the development of the African Road Map for Accelerating the Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality, and has supported Swaziland, Lesotho, and Kenya in developing country-specific plans. She co-developed the community midwifery approach in Kenya as an additional strategy to increase skilled attendance at birth. Warren’s other key areas of research in the sub-Saharan Africa region include developing a comprehensive package of postnatal care, assessing the benefits of integrated HIV and sexual and reproductive health services, and evaluating voucher and accreditation interventions for reproductive health.



### **Mary Nell Wegner**

Mary Nell Wegner did her undergraduate work in cultural anthropology (BA, Yale) and graduate work in international education (EdM, Harvard) and public health (MPH, UCLA). She has spent the last 20 years working in international public health with a focus on gender, reproductive health, and maternity care. She has worked directly for donors (the Rockefeller Foundation, UNFPA, and the EMpower Foundation) as well as community-based and nonprofit organizations at both the local and global levels (Jubilee Refugee Camp, The White Mountain Apache Tribal Health Authority, The Women's Dignity Project, Planned Parenthood of CT, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, The Margaret Sanger Center, and EngenderHealth). She has worked with teams to help strengthen reproductive health programming in a variety of contexts in Colombia, Ethiopia, India, Ghana, Hong Kong, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and the US. She has a special interest in work with adolescents. In the last ten years, Mary Nell has written and spoken on maternal health in low resource settings, including issues of quality of care in labor and delivery, obstetric fistula prevention and treatment, mens' roles in family planning, and reproductive health choices.



### **Nancy White**

Founder of Full Circle Associates, Nancy helps organizations connect through online and offline strategies. She is internationally recognized as an online interaction designer, facilitator and coach for distributed learning, teams and online communities. Nancy blogs at <http://www.fullcirc.com/>, teaches, presents and writes on online facilitation and interaction, social architecture and social media. She is co-author with Etienne Wenger and John Smith of "Digital Habitats: stewarding technology for communities."



### **Meg Wirth**

Meg Wirth is the founder of Maternova and a S.E.VEN fellow. Maternova is a web-based marketplace researching and distributing simple tools that save the lives of mothers and newborns (<http://maternova.net>). Meg is also an active blogger in the Maternal Newborn and Child Health space (MNCH). She has worked on women's health throughout her career in areas as diverse as starting a home visiting program for teen mothers in Appalachia to monitoring and evaluating a major Safe Motherhood initiative--funded by USAID and implemented by John Snow International's Mothercare project-- in Jakarta and South Kalimantan, Indonesia. Meg has also worked as a member of the Rockefeller Foundation's Health Equity team and co-edited a major volume called Challenging Inequities in Health: From Ethics to Action. She was a co-author of the UN Millennium Project's final report on child and maternal health. An innovator at heart, over the last several years she co-developed the strategy for the first global health social venture capital fund with a focus on women's health in low-income countries. She has a BA from Harvard University and an MPA in international development from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School.