



Polio Eradication and Current Transitions in Global Health

Organised by the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute, Tankesmien Agenda, and Centre for Global Health at the University of Oslo

Biographies of Speakers

12 September 2019
Litteraturhuset
Oslo, Norway

| 9:00 – 9:10 | **OPENING REMARKS**

STEPHEN MATLIN

Senior Fellow, Global Health Centre, the Graduate Institute



Professor Stephen Matlin is a Senior Fellow in the Global Health Centre (GHC) at the Graduate Institute, Geneva, where since 2015 he has been co-principal investigator of a project on the role of European actors in polio eradication, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College London. He began his career in academia and was a Professor of Biological Chemistry (City University, London and Warwick University), researching in areas including medicinal chemistry and collaborating with the WHO Special Programmes in human reproduction and tropical diseases.

He subsequently served as Director of health and education in the Commonwealth Secretariat, London, as Chief Education Adviser at the Department for International Development and as the Executive Director of the Global Forum for Health Research, Geneva. He was a co-founder and co-chair of Global Health Europe. His work in global health has included priority setting, tracking resources for health research, promotion of research for health and studies of the political and governance dimensions of polio eradication. He recently co-edited, with Prof. Ilona Kickbusch (GHC), a volume of case studies on global health diplomacy.

SIGRUN AASLAND

Policy Director, Agenda



Sigrun Aasland is the Policy Director at Agenda, the center-left think tank in Norway. At Agenda she coordinates all policy work, and also works on budgeting and funding. Before joining Agenda, Sigrun served as the director at Damvad Analytics, a consultancy based in Oslo. Previously, she has worked at Norfund, Pöyry Management Consulting and the World Bank in Washington D.C. She has also worked for Norway's Socialist Left Party. Sigrun holds a master's degree in economics from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and a BA in political science at the University of Bergen.

| 9:10 – 9:55 | **PANEL DISCUSSION**

AKSEL JAKOBSEN

State Secretary of International Development, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Mr Aksel Jakobsen is the State Secretary for development as of January 2019. He has previously worked as an advisor to GAVI and to the Christian Democrats Parliamentary Group's secretariat with responsibility for the Foreign and Defense Committee, immigration and integration. Mr Jakobsen is a trained lawyer.

JAY WENGER

Director, Polio Eradication, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation



Dr Jay Wenger leads the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s polio eradication efforts. He represents the foundation both internally and externally, and facilitates the shaping and execution of the polio eradication strategy. Before joining the foundation, he served as the Associate Director for Science in the Division of Preparedness and Emerging Infections at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and focused on surveillance, prevention, and control programmes for invasive bacterial diseases. Dr Wenger was formerly detailed to the World Health Organization (WHO) for five years as Project Manager for the National Polio Surveillance Project in collaboration with the Government of India. Prior to working in India, he coordinated the introduction of new vaccines and

developed a regional network of WHO medical officers as the medical officer and coordinator for the Accelerated Vaccine Introduction Priority Project with the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) at the WHO. Dr Wenger received his medical degree from Temple University in Philadelphia and training in epidemiology at the CDC.

SONA BARI

Manager, External Relations, Polio Eradication Programme, the World Health Organization



Ms Sona Bari coordinates the external relations for polio eradication at the World Health Organization, where she has worked for 15 years. She manages the public health information responsibilities for the programme and works with Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners to manage public perception and secure the necessary funding for its operations. Her work bridges community engagement during the height of outbreaks in India, to global media and donor relations. Ms Bari started her career in international journalism covering humanitarian disasters and human rights for print news wires such as United Press International. Wishing to move from reporting a situation to preventing or resolving it, she then joined a series of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations in human rights, including Grassroots International and the International Labour Organization (ILO). She now specialises in external relations for public health, advocating for a balance of transparent, science-based communications and public relations.

SIGRUN MØGEDAL

Special Adviser, Norwegian Institute of Public Health



Dr Sigrun Møgedal is a Special Adviser in the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. Her broad areas of engagement have been in the HIV/AIDS response, human resources for health, health and development policy, strategy and delivery, global partnerships and governance, with the Norwegian Government and with non-governmental organizations, including 12 years of service in Nepal. She was a member of the GPEI Independent Monitoring Board 2011-2016. Dr Møgedal has held positions as Board Member of Save the Children International, the Global Fund (GFATM), GAVI, UNITAID and as Board Member/Board Chair of the Global Health Workforce Alliance, the Medicines Patent Pool and the Robert Carr Civil Society Network Fund. She is a former State Secretary for International Development in the Government of Norway and served as the Norwegian Ambassador for Aids and Global Health Initiatives before retirement in 2011, based in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

| 9:55 – 10:20 | **Q&A WITH AUDIENCE**

| 10:20 – 10:30 | **CLOSING REMARKS**

