

Bios of presenters

Larry Brilliant

Larry Brilliant is an M.D., M.P.H. board-certified in preventive medicine and public health, and a former associate professor of Epidemiology and International Health Planning at the University of Michigan. After studying religion in a Himalayan monastery, he joined WHO in 1973 as a medical officer and helped manage the WHO smallpox eradication program in South Asia. He was a staff member of the WHO Global Commission to Certify Smallpox Eradicated and served as the last WHO medical officer to visit Iran in search of hidden smallpox.

More recently, Larry was a “first responder” for the Centers for Disease Control’s (CDC) smallpox bioterrorism response effort, volunteered in Sri Lanka for tsunami relief, worked in India with the WHO polio eradication program, and established Pandefense, an interdisciplinary consultancy to prepare for possible pandemic influenza.

The author of two books and dozens of articles on infectious diseases, blindness, and international health policy, Larry has worked at city, county, state, federal, and international levels. He is a founder and longtime director of the Seva Foundation, which has raised nearly \$100 million to fund sustainable global health projects in India, Nepal, Tibet, China, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Tanzania, Mexico, and Guatemala. Over the past 25 years, Seva-funded or -managed eye health projects have given back sight to more than 2 million blind through free or very low cost sight-restoring eye operations.

Larry also has a technology side as a patent holder, co-founder of the legendary online service The Well, and CEO of two public technology corporations. He was recently CEO of an IBM/Intel/AT&T joint venture.

Larry is on the dean’s advisory board of the Berkeley School of Public Health, on the boards of the Seva Foundation and Wavy Gravy’s Camp Winnarainbow, and on the advisory boards of the Grateful Dead–created Rex Foundation and the Presidio World College MBA Program in sustainable business. He is a GBN network member and is on the advisory board of Future in Review (FiRe).

Larry has received many awards from WHO and the Government of India for his work in smallpox eradication. More recently, he received an honorary doctorate of science from Knox College, the 2004 “International Public Health Hero” award from University of California (Berkeley) School of Public Health, the 2005 Peacemaker Prize from the Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution at Wayne State University in Detroit, and the 2006 Ted Prize, which awards him “a wish to change the world.”

Peter Carpenter

Peter F. Carpenter is a multidisciplinary high technology crisis manager. He has an AB (Chemistry) from Harvard, an MBA (Research and Development Management) from the University of Chicago and did post graduate work in Organizational Behavior at the Stanford Business School. He has been a Smokejumper with the U.S. Forest Service and served in the U.S. Air Force with assignments that included the Air Force Weapons Laboratory, 5th Force Reconnaissance Company (USMC), the Advanced Research Projects Agency and the White House. He also worked in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and was the Deputy Executive Director of the U.S. Price Commission (which hired 600 people and wrote the regulations to control the U.S. economy in 16 days). He then served as the Executive Director of the Stanford University Medical Center and subsequently held a number of management and project leadership positions at the ALZA Corporation (an innovative pharmaceutical product development company) including Executive Vice President.

Since 1990 he has devoted his time to pro bono public service and sits on a number of non-profit Boards including Annual Reviews, the United States International University-Kenya, and the Population Resource Center. He is an elected public official serving as a Director of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District (which sponsors one of the 28 national Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces). He has recently been named to head up a Disaster Preparedness Project for Joint Venture Silicon Valley. He is a USAF Master Parachutist, USMC Parachutist and a Private Pilot.

Sherry Cooper

Executive Vice-President, BMO Financial Group, Chief Economist, BMO Nesbitt Burns and Global Economic Strategist, Harris Bank

Sherry Cooper is global economic strategist and executive vice-president of the BMO Financial Group. Sherry is in constant demand as a speaker and writer because of her ability to simplify and de-mystify the murky waters of economics and finance. *The Globe and Mail* calls Sherry "Canada's megawatt celebrity economist." She leads a top-ranked economics team and has been repeatedly cited among the most influential women in Canada. In addition, Sherry has been named the top GDP forecaster in the United States for 2002 by Bloomberg News.

Dr. Cooper has an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from the University of Pittsburgh. She was an economist at the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, D.C. and served as special assistant to Chairman Paul Volcker. Following five years at the Fed, she joined the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) as director of financial economics. Since 1983, she has been chief economist of BMO Nesbitt Burns, a leading Canadian investment dealer, and in 2000 was appointed to her current role at the Harris Bank and BMO Financial Group.

Sherry gives more than two hundred speeches each year, is a monthly co-anchor on CNN's Street Sweep, and makes regular appearances on CNBC's Wake-up Call, and Bloomberg News. She writes a bi-weekly column for the *National Post*, and is often quoted in the print media including the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, *Business Week* and *Investors Business Daily*. Dr. Cooper is also the author of two best-selling books: *The Cooper Files*, published in 1999 and *Ride the Wave*, published in 2001.

Susan M. Lett, M.D., M.P.H

Dr. Lett began her professional career in nursing before becoming a physician. She is a graduate of the Medical College of Virginia, completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Boston City Hospital and received her master's degree in public health from Harvard University. She board certified in both Internal Medicine and Preventive Medicine and an honorary fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She is also an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Dr. Lett worked refugee camps established by the United Nations on the Thai-Cambodian in 1982-83 (with the International Rescue Committee) and in 1985-86 (with the American Refugee Committee). In 1990, she served as a consultant to the Joiner Foundation in Vietnam. She has been with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for 18 years, where she is currently the Medical Director of the Immunization Program.

Dr. Lett is active in a number of a number of professional societies, national advisory groups, and state and local coalitions. She is an immunization consultant for the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and has served on several other national bodies developing immunization policy and pandemic influenza guidelines. She is a former member of the National Vaccine Advisory Committee, and is currently on the influenza and pertussis working groups of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice's (ACIP).

At the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, her primary responsibilities are vaccine preventable disease surveillance and control and immunization policy development. Additional responsibilities include syndromic surveillance, smallpox and bioterrorism preparedness, and development of Massachusetts Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan.

She has presented and published numerous articles on vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases.