

Key areas: *Tropical Diseases | Vaccines | Immunization Solutions | Natural Disaster Response & Relief*

Family practice physician with training in clinical tropical medicine and applied epidemiology. Dedicated 20+ year career to increasing equity in access to health care and new interventions through innovation, targeted research, and partnership. Helped establish and build the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation priority program in Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), including as Initiative Lead for Guinea worm eradication and multiple parasitic diseases. Through the London Declaration on NTDs in 2012, founded Uniting to Combat NTDs, a new innovative partnership to support achieving the WHO 2020 targets for ten neglected diseases. Initiated B&MGF's work on maternal immunization and represented the foundation's infectious diseases team when the foundation first explored moving into delivery. At PATH, served as Scientific Director of Immunization Solutions and as Director of PATH's Japanese encephalitis (JE) project. In JE accelerated control in endemic countries, improved vaccine and diagnostic tests for JE and facilitated countries' integration of the JE vaccine into immunization programs, most notably India. Supported the start-up of Gavi and the Vaccine Fund as part of a small team dedicated to ensuring access to vaccines in the developing world. Worked to introduce new vaccines through the field activities and supporting country level decision-making, including HPV, yellow fever, and rotavirus. As an Epidemic Intelligence Officer at CDC, helped inform and design natural disaster relief responses including health, sanitation, and food security.

Professional Experience

Bridges to Development

(2018 – present)

Founder and Managing Partner

Founder and Managing Partner of Bridges to Development (US), a non-profit, founded in 2018 and based in Europe and the US. Bridges works in health and education to build a stronger and more resilient future. Applying knowledge of the three partners with over 25 years of experience with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Gavi, and The Global Fund.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA

(2007 – 2018)

Initiative Lead Oncho, LF, GW, and London Declaration, Neglected Tropical Disease Team (2016-2018)

Refined the foundation strategy on the 10 diseases included in the London Declaration on NTDs with attention to 7 diseases (LF, oncho, STH, schisto, VL, HAT, and Guinea worm). Helped establish NTDs as a foundation priority for 2017 in celebration of the 5th anniversary of the London Declaration and the Uniting to Combat NTD partnership.

Initiative Lead PC NTDs, GW and London Declaration, Neglected Infectious Diseases Team (2012 to 2016)

Took responsibility for all activities following the London Declaration and ensuring that B&MFG met their commitment and supported the development of the new partnership across the diverse set of partners. Created a supportive and collaborative approach to operational research and modeling focused on the PC diseases (LF, oncho, schisto, STH, and trachoma) by establishing the Coalition for Operational Research on NTDs (COR-NTD) as flexible model for investing in research to address key operational and program barriers. This successful mechanism has been adopted by USAID and DFID as their means to support key research.

Senior Program Officer, Neglected and Other Infectious Diseases (2009 to Jan 2012)

A founding member of a new team defining a strategy and approach to a diverse set of pathogens including NTDs, dengue, HPV, and maternal immunization. Coordinated the first strategy for NTDs and "other" infectious diseases. Wrote the London Declaration on NTDs, leveraging financial and drug donations focused on supporting countries to achieve the WHO NTD roadmap goals for 10 NTDs. At the launch, successfully secured commitments from 9 pharma companies, and \$845 million in funding.

Senior Technical Officer for Epidemiology and Surveillance, Infectious Diseases (2007- 2009)

Joined the foundation to help define the strategy at a time of growth with the new investment from Warren Buffet. Worked across the Infectious Diseases team and took responsibility for work in the neglected diseases and for cross foundation initiatives from the ID team like the newly forming Delivery team representing efforts in malaria, enteric

diseases, pneumonia, and “other” infectious diseases.

Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), Seattle, WA (2000 – 2007)

Scientific Director, Immunization Solutions (IMM) (2006 – 2007)

Provided scientific oversight to the portfolio of projects and had overall responsibility for the scientific and technical rigor in the design and implementation of proposals and projects with regards to new vaccines and introduction. Participated in the design, monitoring and evaluation of clinical research and clinical trials, developed staff capacity, and represented IMM to donors, representatives of government agencies, and others on scientific and technical matters and was the designated manager of high profile or especially complex projects.

Director, Japanese encephalitis (JE) Project (2003 to 2007)

Directed a multinational team responsible for control of clinical JE through vaccination. Managed JE projects and development of overall program strategy and design, which included: hiring of staff; negotiations with industry and public-sector partners; design of field activities, such as model programs, vaccine trials, disease-burden studies, field-program monitoring and evaluation; design of field-trial protocols and analysis of epidemiological studies; and management of JE field activities. Represented the project and coordinated activities between partners, ministries of health, nongovernmental organizations, and universities.

Interim Director, Rotavirus Vaccine Project (2003)

Created the initial work plan and primary author of the awarded grant. Responsible for the staffing of the team and the management of partner relationships including the WHO, CDC, and industry partners. Coordinated activities with partners and other groups in the area of rotavirus including a partnership around field trials in the developing world, surveillance networks and collaboration with vaccine manufacturers.

Program Officer (2000 to 2003)

Program Officer for Japanese encephalitis, human papilloma virus, rotavirus, and yellow fever. Responsible for management of specific field projects in support of Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). Managed and coordinated review and evaluation of funded activities by collaborating partners. Reviewed annual work plans and progress reports. Conducted site visits. Coordinated activities between partners, ministries of health, nongovernmental organizations, and universities. Provided technical evaluations.

United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (1998 – 2000)

Epidemic Intelligence Officer, Lieutenant Commander

Provided technical assistance and support in post natural disaster settings evaluating health systems and needs with a cross sector approach including water and sanitation, and food security. The focus was to establish an appropriate emergency response in context of the underlying situation and establish surveillance and evaluation systems that would allow successful transition from emergency response to development aid.

Tallahassee Memorial Regional Medical Center, Tallahassee, Florida (1995 – 1998)

Family Practice Resident

Performed patient care in obstetrics, gynecology, medicine, pediatrics, community medicine, radiology, ophthalmology, surgery, orthopedics, and intensive care unit patient management. Helped establish an international health track at the residency in El Salvador, Dominican Republic, and Columbia.

International Rescue Committee, Kibumba Camp Goma, Zaire 1994

Medical Director

Provided emergency care via establishment of an outreach team for the first response to the humanitarian crisis within the Kibumba Camp Goma, Zaire. Provided care daily to more than 100 patients a day during a Cholera and Shigella outbreak to camp of more than 200,000 refugees. Assessed daily the needs of the camp and ways to meet those needs. Collected data for United Nations High Committee on Refugees and CDC to help direct the response.

Karawa Hospital, Karawa, Democratic Republic of Congo 1994

Physician

Provided care in pediatrics, medicine, surgery, nutrition, tropical medicine, obstetrics, and community medicine.

Education

D.T.M.H., Gorgas Memorial Insitute, Cayatano Heredia, Lima, Peru, 1996

M.D., University of South Florida, College of Medicine, Tampa, Florida, 1994

B.A., Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, 1990