

# Biographies

## Christopher P. Austin

Christopher Austin, M.D., is director of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Austin leads the Center's work to improve the translation of observations in the laboratory, clinic and community into interventions that reach and benefit patients—from diagnostics and therapeutics to medical procedures and behavioral changes. Under his direction, NCATS researchers and collaborators are developing new technologies, resources and collaborative research models; demonstrating their usefulness; and disseminating the data, analysis and methodologies for use by the worldwide research community.



## Rena M. Conti

Rena Conti is the Associate Research Director of Biopharma & Public Policy for the Boston University Institute for Health System Innovation & Policy. She is also an Associate Professor at the Boston University Questrom School of Business. From 2006 through June 2018, Professor Conti was an Associate Professor of Health Economics and Policy at the University of Chicago Medical School and the Harris School of Public Policy. Dr. Conti is a health economist. Her research focuses on the organization, financing and regulation of medical care. She has written extensively on the pricing, demand and supply of prescription

drugs.

## Maha Farhat

Maha Farhat holds an MD from the McGill University Faculty of Medicine and a MSc in biostatistics from the Harvard Chan School of Public Health. She is also a practicing physician at the Massachusetts General Hospital Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine.

Farhat's research focuses on the development and application of methods for associating genotype and phenotype in infectious disease pathogens, with a strong emphasis on translation to better diagnostics and surveillance in resource-poor settings. To date, Farhat's work has focused on the pathogen *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and spans the spectrum from computational analysis to field studies. She is PI and Co-Investigator on several large projects funded by NIH including the NIAID and the BD2K initiative.



## Stephanie Friedhoff

A German-American journalist and content strategist with 25+ years of experience in international media and higher education, Stefanie Friedhoff currently serves as Director of Content and Strategy and Senior Editor at HGHI. She is an expert at creating innovative approaches to engage audiences in critical conversations about global health. Friedhoff has worked as a foreign correspondent, feature writer, editor and photographer on three continents. Her stories have been published in TIME, The Boston Globe, Geo, Sueddeutsche Zeitung, Frankfurter Allgemeine, and many other publications. A 2001 Nieman Foundation for Journalism Fellow, she is also a senior advisor to the Trust for Trauma Journalism and a board member at RiffReporter.



## **Alina Grenier-Arellano**

Alina Grenier-Arellano works with Open Source Pharma Foundation (OSPF) supporting multiple projects concentrating on communications, events, and operations. Specialized in cultivating innovative community structures, she dedicates herself to initiatives of collaborative creation and motivating collective agency and resilience. She has published research of open source communities and their power to create marketable innovations. She is co-founder of Alegoria, the social board game sparking conversations to provide safety and social connectedness as a method to regulate the nervous system.

## **Matthew D. Hall**

Matthew Hall is Branch Chief (Acting) and Group Lead at NIH's National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). His team is involved in the development and optimization of both biochemical and cell-based assays for automated small molecule high-throughput screening in collaboration with NIH intramural and extramural partners, including several NCI Chemical Biology Consortium (CBC) programs. Research programs include identifying therapeutic avenues for rare and drug-resistant cancers, adjuvant strategies for platinum-based chemotherapies, developing assays for understanding blood plasma drug metabolism, developing assays for in vivo and ex vivo small molecule target engagement, understanding the role of glutathione peroxidase in cancer, and the role of drug-blood-brain-barrier interactions that limit CNS penetration.





## **Mahrokh Irani**

A Research Associate and Project Manager at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Harvard Global Health Institute, Mahrokh Irani works on Health System Reforms and Quality of Care in India. She also manages a variety of other projects at HGHI. Prior to joining the Institute, Irani was a practicing Oral Surgeon and Oral Public Health Researcher in Mumbai. She primarily worked with marginalized populations and underprivileged patients suffering from systemic diseases like HIV, Tuberculosis, and Oral cancer. She conducted research on identifying health seeking behaviors in minority groups, women and children; as well implemented quality improvement processes for oral health

services at public hospitals. Irani holds a Bachelor's in Dental Surgery from Nair Hospital Dental College and a Master's in Public Health from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

## **Ashish K. Jha**

Ashish Jha is a K.T. Li Professor of Global Health at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and the Director of the Harvard Global Health Institute. He is a practicing General Internist and also Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

His research endeavors focus on improving the quality and costs of healthcare systems with a specialized focus on the impact of policies. He has published over two hundred various papers in prestigious journals and heads a personal blog which focuses on using statistical data research to improve health quality. Dr. Jha is a member of the Institute of Medicine at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.







## Ingrid T. Katz

Ingrid Katz serves as an Associate Physician in the Department of Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital and is a research scientist at the Center for Global Health at Massachusetts General Hospital. Her research over the past decade has focused on the social determinants of health-seeking behavior among people living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa, with the goal of developing sustainable, socio-behavioral interventions aimed at improving care for the most under-served.

She is trained in Infectious Diseases and received her MD from the University of California at San Francisco and trained in Internal Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and in Infectious Diseases at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. She completed a fellowship in Global Women's Health at Brigham and Women's Hospital and has been on staff there since 2009. She has been consistently funded as a Principal Investigator through the National Institutes of Health since 2012 and has served as an Editorial Fellow and a National Correspondent for the New England Journal of Medicine.

## Natalie Kopp

Natalie Kopp is Experienced Associate Director of Development with a demonstrated history of working in the higher education industry. She is currently at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Harvard Global Health Institute, where she manages a diverse portfolio of major and principal-level prospects and donors across Asia and Turkey, as well as some domestic prospects. She works closely with a team of basic scientists and other faculty members to communicate the School's unique ability to tackle public health issues from genetics to policy implementation for a wide audience.



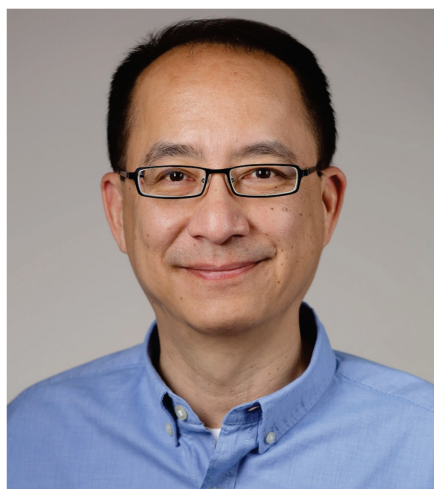


## Anil Koul

Anil Koul is Vice President and Head, Global Public Health and Infectious Disease Drug Discovery, Johnson & Johnson; helped discover MDR TB drug bedaquiline. Ex-Director of CSIR-IMTECH, India's premier biotech laboratory. Functioned at rank of Additional Secretary to Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. One of his major scientific career contribution is his role in discovery and development of Bedaquiline - the first drug to be approved in last 45 years for drug-resistant tuberculosis. Till date, Bedaquiline has been approved for use in 61 countries across the world.

## Donald C. Lo

Donald Lo is Director of the Therapeutic Development Branch of NCATS' Division of Preclinical Innovation, where he is responsible for planning and directing a broad and comprehensive program in preclinical development, including lead optimization, drug metabolism, toxicology, pharmacology, formulation development, process chemistry, natural history studies and biomarker development. These activities encompass small molecule, biologic, and gene- and cell-therapy approaches, and include the Therapeutics for Rare and Neglected Diseases (TRND) and Bridging Interventional Development Gaps (BrIDGs) programs. A priority will be guiding future progress, growth and expansion in these research areas. Lo joined NCATS in 2018, following a 25-year career in academia, biotech, and disease research- and patient care-focused nonprofit enterprises.



In 2009, Lo co-founded HD Reach, a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing quality health care, education and social assistance to all patients and families affected by Huntington's disease across urban and rural areas of North Carolina. In addition, for the last decade, he has served as a lead scientific advisor for the nonprofit Accelerate Brain Cancer Cure, which takes a venture philanthropic approach toward catalyzing translational advances in brain cancer. Lo has served on a wide range of review boards in the U.S. and internationally. He also has received numerous awards, including a Sloan Research Fellowship, a Klingenstein Fellowship Award in Neuroscience and a McKnight Scholar Award.



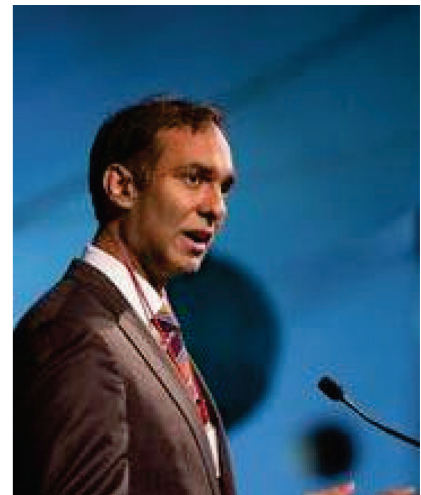
## Matthew Mendelsohn

Matthew Mendelsohn is a Canadian public policy expert and public sector executive. He served as Canada's first Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet (Results and Delivery) in the Privy Council Office of Canada from 2016 to 2020. In that capacity, he led the Prime Minister's Results & Delivery Unit and the Government of Canada's Impact and Innovation Unit. He was the founding director of the Mowat Centre, a Canadian public policy think tank at the University of Toronto. He also served as a deputy minister in the Ontario Public Service, a political science professor at Queen's University, and a senior advisor with the

government of Canada. He served on a number of not-for-profit volunteer boards and was the founding Board Chair for the Council of the Great Lakes Region. Prior to joining the Privy Council Office, he was a frequent public speaker and commentator in print and broadcast media. He began as a Visiting Professor at Ryerson University in Toronto in March 2020.

## Jaykumar Menon

Jaykumar Menon is an international human rights lawyer, scholar, and social entrepreneur. He is currently a Senior Fellow at the Harvard Global Health Institute, a Visiting Scientist at the Harvard School of Public Health, and a Research Fellow at the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, which is based at McGill University. His research, teachings and practice focus on innovative approaches to realizing basic human rights for a billion or more people. He is a founder and the chair of the Open Source Pharma Foundation, which aims to generate affordable new cures in areas of great health need and to create a new open source innovation model for drug discovery, and which is currently in Phase 2B clinical trials for a new adjunct therapy for tuberculosis. He is also a founder of The India Nutrition Initiative, which is developing salt double-fortified with iron and iodine ("DFS"), to help address the world's most widespread form of malnutrition, iron deficiency, which afflicts 2 billion people, disproportionately women and children. DFS has been included in over 1 billion meals to date. Through his creative and strategic approach, he hopes to bring about large-scale social change in the communities he works with.





## Sam Michael

Sam Michael is Chief of the information technology resources branch in the Division of Pre-clinical Innovation at NIH's NCATS. He and his team create, operate, maintain and develop improvements to a suite of automated high-throughput robotic screening systems. These systems operate on a scale equal to or greater than those at the largest pharmaceutical companies. In addition, they have made possible the development of hundreds of chemical probes that investigators worldwide use to validate new drug targets and chemical leads for development of new drugs for dozens of currently untreatable diseases.

## Bernard Munos

Bernard Munos is one of the most influential people in biopharma today. He is a Senior Fellow at FasterCures, a center of the Milken Institute, and the founder of the InnoThink Center for Research in Biomedical Innovation, a consultancy that helps biomedical research organizations become better innovators. He is also co-founder of the Open Source Pharma Foundation. Previously, he served as an advisor for corporate strategy at Eli Lilly, where he focused on disruptive innovation and the radical redesign of R&D. Several of Munos' research papers — published in *Nature* and *Science* — have helped stimulate a broad rethinking of the pharmaceutical business model by industry, investors, policymakers, regulators and patient advocates. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine's Drug Forum; a member of the Advisory Board of Science Translational Medicine; a non-executive Director of Glenmark Pharmaceuticals; a Board member or Advisor to a dozen other companies or publicly-financed research organizations; and a former member of the Advisory Council of the National Institutes of Health's National Center for Translational Sciences (NCATS).







## Ruth Reader

Ruth Reader is a journalist at Fast Company magazine. She covers technology companies focused on the future of healthcare and how the changing landscape affects patients.

## Gurusingham S. Sittampalam

Gurusingham Sitta Sittampalam is a senior advisor to the NCATS director. In this position, he works closely with the director and senior administrators in identifying and implementing public-private partnerships with academia, government and industry, nationally and internationally. Sittampalam joined NCATS in 2011 as project manager for the Therapeutics for Rare and Neglected Diseases program. Previously, he spent four years as professor of pharmacology, toxicology and therapeutics at the University of Kansas Medical Center, investigating tumor tissue engineering technologies for drug discovery. During this period Sittampalam also served as the deputy director of the Institute for Advancing Medical Innovation, focusing on moving basic biomedical research into therapeutic development for commercialization. He was the president and a director at the Society for Biomolecular Screening (currently the Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening) from 1997 to 2000. His professional experience also includes 23 years in the discovery and development of biotherapeutics and small molecule drugs at Eli Lilly and Company. Sittampalam has served on scientific review panels at NIH and other organizations, evaluating grant applications for drug discovery and stem cell research.



Sittampalam received his Ph.D. in chemistry and his postdoctoral training in immunoanalytical chemistry at the University of Arizona. He has authored approximately 45 peer-reviewed publications; conducted over 300 scientific seminars, short courses in biochemical pharmacology, assay development for high-throughput screening and lead optimization; and has chaired technical sessions in scientific conferences nationally and internationally. He also has been presented the NCATS Director's Award several times.

## Michael Stebbins

Michael Stebbins is an American geneticist currently the President of Science Advisors, a science and health consulting firm he founded in 2018 to provide science, technology, and public policy guidance to private companies, philanthropies, and non-profit organizations. Previous to which he was the former Vice President of Science and Technology at the Laura and John Arnold Foundation. Previously he served as Assistant Director for Biotechnology, at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. At the White House, Stebbins was responsible for developing and driving initiatives in life sciences research, including the Administration's efforts focused on improving veterans' mental health, combating antibiotic resistance, increasing access to federally funded scientific research results, restoring pollinator health, and reforming the regulatory system for biotechnology products.



## Vijay Vaitheeswaran



Vijay Vaitheeswaran is US Business Editor at The Economist and Innovation Book Author. An award-winning senior correspondent, he opened the magazine's Shanghai bureau in 2012 and served as China business editor & bureau chief until mid 2017. He also serves as chairman of *The Economist* Innovation Summit, a provocative series of global conferences on innovation. From 2007 to 2011 his portfolio encompassed innovation, global health, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology.

His latest book, published by Harper Collins, is "Need, Speed and Greed: How the New Rules of Innovation Can Transform Businesses, Propel Nations to Greatness, and Tame the World's Most Wicked Problems". Amazon named it a Book of the Month

and Kirkus Reviews called it "the perfect primer for the postindustrial age." In reviewing the book, the Financial Times declared that "Vaitheeswaran is a writer to whom it is worth paying attention." It has been translated into Chinese and several other languages. His second book, "ZOOM: The Global Race to Fuel the Car of the Future," co-authored with Iain Carson, was named a Book of the Year by the Financial Times.

Vaitheeswaran is a life member at the Council on Foreign Relations. He is an advisor on sustainability and innovation to the World Economic Forum at Davos, and his commentaries have appeared on NPR and the *BBC*, in the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times. He has addressed groups ranging from the US National Governors' Association and the UN General Assembly to the Technology, Entertainment & Design (TED), Aspen Ideas and AAAS conferences.

## Rajeev Venkayya

Rajeev Venkayya is a physician trained in pulmonary & critical care medicine who has had a chance to contribute to US Government policy, global health, and now the development of important new vaccines to address some of the world's most pressing global health threats as the President of the Global Vaccine Business Unit at Takeda Pharmaceuticals. Takeda's development pipeline includes vaccine candidates for dengue, norovirus, Zika (funded by the U.S. government), and Sabin-strain inactivated polio vaccine (funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation).



## Robert Young

Robert Young is a serial entrepreneur who is best known for co-founding Red Hat Inc. Young focuses his philanthropic efforts on access to information and advancement of knowledge. In 1999, he co-founded The Center for the Public Domain. Young has supported the Creative Commons, Public Knowledge.org, the Dictionary of Old English, Loran Scholarship Foundation, ibiblio.org, and the NCSU eGames, among others.