

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Leslie Mancuso, PhD, RN, FAAN

Dr. Leslie Mancuso is the President and CEO of Jhpiego, an international non-profit health organization that is affiliated with Johns Hopkins University. For 40 years and in 155 countries, Jhpiego has worked with front-line health workers to design and implement low-cost, innovative solutions to prevent the needless death of women and their families. Dr. Mancuso's vision is rooted in her belief that Jhpiego must develop sustainability -- the capacity of countries to create a well-prepared network of health care professionals and a strong health system that they can build upon to care for themselves.

Dr. Mancuso, a nurse by training, is a recognized international business leader with a track record of success in bringing accountability and navigating changes in the international nonprofit world. Dr. Mancuso has over 25 years of experience in developing public/private partnerships with organizations such as ExxonMobil, Laerdal Medical, GE Foundation, USAID, Chevron, Merck, GlaxoSmithKline and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Dr. Mancuso received her undergraduate degree in nursing from Southern Connecticut University, a master's degree in nursing from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, a doctoral degree in Education/Organizational Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania, and an Executive Leadership Certificate from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Denise Byrd

Denise Byrd was the Jhpiego Afghanistan Country Director and Chief of Party of the USAID-funded Health Services Support Project (HSSP), a project that provided technical assistance and implementation support to NGOs implementing the basic package of health services (BPHS) in 21 provinces in Afghanistan from July 2006 through October 2012. Working in collaboration with the Afghan Ministry of Public Health, HSSP aimed to improve the quality of services provided by NGOs; increase the number and performance of health workers, especially midwives; increase demand for health services; and integrate gender into the BPHS. Ms. Byrd managed a \$62 million portfolio and led a team of more than 100 full-time professional and support staff, as well as a wide range of professional consultants and specialists, in a very challenging and high profile environment.

Prior to joining Jhpiego in 2008, Ms. Byrd served in Afghanistan for two years as the HSSP NGO Capacity Building Manager for Futures Group, a partner on HSSP. She has worked in international development for the past 16 years and in public health for the past 10 years. Ms. Byrd has served in a variety of capacities on maternal and child health, reproductive health, and family planning projects in Afghanistan, England, Hungary, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Uzbekistan.

Ms. Byrd earned her master's degree in development management from the London School of Economics, and a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in business from Arizona State University.

Tod Preston

Tod Preston has served as the United States Global Leadership Coalition's (USGLC) Director of Government Relations since September 2009. Mr. Preston has twenty years of government relations and public policy experience in Washington, spanning Capitol Hill, the Executive Branch, and the international development community.

Prior to joining the USGLC, Mr. Preston served as Vice President for U.S. Government Relations at Population Action International (PAI), and as a congressional liaison and speechwriter at the Department of Commerce. He worked on Capitol Hill for seven years as a legislative aide and legislative director in the House of Representatives, including four years for Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY).

Mr. Preston graduated *summa cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in government from Connecticut College.