



Crisis in preparedness: laboratories & frontline readiness in the time of Ebola

Speaker Biographies

Dr. Montserrat Arroyo K, Deputy Director General for International Standards Setting and Implementation, WOA

Montserrat Arroyo K is the Deputy Director General for International Standards Setting and Implementation at the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). She brings over 20 years of experience at the interface of animal health, international trade, and global policy.



A veterinarian by training, she graduated from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and holds a Master's degree in Preventive Veterinary Medicine from the University of California, Davis.

Montserrat began her career in Mexico's National Service of Health, Safety and Agri-Food Quality (SENASICA), working on the prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases, including within the Mexico–United States Foot-and-Mouth Disease Commission. She later held senior leadership positions, including Director of Imports and Exports, where she led international sanitary negotiations and contributed to the establishment of trade frameworks and cooperation agreements. She also served as Director of PRONABIVE, Mexico's national veterinary biologics producer.

Within WOA, she has held several strategic roles over the past decade, including Subregional Representative for Central America and the Caribbean, and Head of the World Animal Health Information and Regional Activities Departments. In her current position, she leads global work on international standards, animal health surveillance, and data, supporting Members in strengthening animal health systems, facilitating safe trade, and managing risks related to animal diseases.

Dr. Jarbas Barbosa, Director, PAHO

Dr. Jarbas Barbosa da Silva Jr., a national of Brazil, was elected Director of the Pan American Health Organization by Member States during the 30th Pan American Sanitary Conference on September 28, 2022. Dr. Barbosa began his five-year term on February 1, 2023.

From July 2017 until he was appointed Director, he served as PAHO Assistant Director, leading five technical departments and PAHO's Revolving Fund – a special program to increase equitable access to vaccines in the Region. In this position, Dr. Barbosa da Silva Jr. led the Organization's efforts to support Member States in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and reducing the impact on priority public health programs. He also served as a key PAHO spokesperson during the pandemic.



Dr. Barbosa da Silva Jr. obtained his medical degree from the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE) in Recife, Brazil. He specializes in public health and epidemiology at the National School of Public Health, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ) in Rio de Janeiro. He holds a master's degree in medical sciences and a PhD in public health from the University of Campinas-UNICAMP in São Paulo, Brazil.

He began his professional career in 1982, working for the State Department of Health in Pernambuco, where he was later appointed Program Coordinator for Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS. From 1993 to 1995, Dr. Barbosa da Silva Jr. served as Secretary of Health of the Municipality of Olinda in Pernambuco, Brazil. From 1995 to 1996, he was the Secretary of Health of Pernambuco State.

In 1997, he was appointed Director of the National Center for Epidemiology (CENEPI) in Brasilia within the Ministry of Health, a position he held until 2003. This year, he was appointed Vice-Minister for Health Surveillance and, in 2006, became Deputy Minister of Health. He modernized and strengthened the National Surveillance System in these positions, enhancing the detection and response capacity to outbreaks and public health emergencies. Dr. Barbosa da Silva Jr. also introduced innovations such as the surveillance of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) risk factors and environmental risks for health.

Dr. Barbosa da Silva Jr. joined PAHO in 2007 as the Area Manager for Health Surveillance and Disease Management. He was responsible for coordinating regional activities related to surveillance, prevention, and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases,

veterinary public health, and health analysis and statistics. He served in this capacity until his return to Brazil in April 2010.

In 2011, Dr. Barbosa was appointed for the second time as Vice-Minister for Health Surveillance, and in 2015, he served as Secretary of Science, Technology, and Strategic Supplies for the Brazilian Ministry of Health. From July 2015 to July 2018, Dr. Barbosa served as President of the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (ANVISA), where he modernized the regulation of medicines and health products and strengthened cooperation and integration with other regional and global regulatory mechanisms. Under his leadership, ANVISA became the first agency in Latin America to be accepted as a member of the International Council for Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH).

Dr. Barbosa da Silva Jr. participated as a member of the Brazilian delegation in meetings of the PAHO and WHO Governing Bodies. He was President of PAHO's Executive Committee from 2013 to 2014 and Vice-Chair of WHO's Executive Board from 2014 to 2015. Dr. Barbosa was also a senior member of several international committees and working groups, such as the United Nations Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (IACG UN) and the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework Advisory Group (PIP Framework AD), where he served as a member and chair in 2016.

Dr. Barbosa da Silva Jr. has received numerous awards and recognitions and is a Doctor Honoris Causa from the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ) and the UFPE. He is an honorary member of the Brazilian National Academy of Medicine and an International Member of the American National Academy of Medicine. He has published numerous articles on global health, health systems management, disease surveillance, and digital transformation and has spoken in over 250 lectures, conferences, and seminars.

Dr. Kevin De Cock, former Director, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Center for Global Health and CDC program in Kenya; Mérieux Foundation USA Board member

Kevin De Cock was born in Belgium and graduated in medicine from the University of Bristol, United Kingdom, in 1974. He specialized in internal medicine and then undertook further training in infectious and tropical diseases and hepatology. He joined the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officer in 1986. He has held faculty positions at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, the University of Southern California, and the University of London





where he was Professor of Medicine and International Health. He was founding Director of CDC's Projet RETRO-CI in Cote d'Ivoire, CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention – Surveillance and Epidemiology, and CDC's Center for Global Health. He served as Director of the World Health Organization's Department of HIV/AIDS; Director of CDC programs in Kenya; and CDC Ebola Response Team Lead in Liberia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. He has received various awards including CDC's William C. Watson Jr. Medal of Excellence; the Chalmers Medal, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; Commandeur de l'Ordre de la Santé Publique (Commander of the Order of Public Health), Côte d'Ivoire; the CDC and ATSDR honor Award for International Health; and the CDC Mackel Award. He has over 380 publications, chapters, and articles, and is fluent in English, French, and Dutch. Since retirement from CDC end-2020, he has worked as an independent consultant (UNAIDS, FHI 360) and has taught at the University of Oxford, UK, and the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium.

Dr. Daniel Fitzgerald, B.H. Kean Professor in Tropical Medicine, Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College

Dr. Fitzgerald is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame (1986, BA, Philosophy) and the Yale School of Medicine (1992, MD). He received clinical training in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases at the Massachusetts General Hospital. He joined Weill Cornell Medicine in 1998 as a research fellow based in Port au Prince, Haiti where he spent six years providing patient care, teaching, and conducting research before returning to New York in 2004. He joined the Weill Cornell faculty and was promoted to Professor of Medicine in 2016.



His research focuses on HIV and tuberculosis (TB) in resource poor settings. His HIV research initially focused upon treatment and prophylaxis of opportunistic infections and then transitioned to studies of antiretroviral therapy (ART). His tuberculosis research includes clinical trials to optimize treatment of active TB, with a focus on people with HIV. The translation of research findings to patient care and the training of international physician scientists is an essential part of his research activity.

Dr. Fitzgerald became the Director of the Weill Cornell Center for Global Health in 2017. The Center has 19 faculty members who conduct research, service, and training to improve health care in lower income countries. Faculty have expertise in infectious diseases, women's health,



cardiovascular disease, and oncology. The Center stands upon the pillars of decades-long international partnerships in Brazil (1964), Haiti (1979), Tanzania (2003) and India (2009). Dr Fitzgerald has been the recipient of multiple awards including the Bibliowicz Award for excellence in training women scientists in 2016 and election to the American Society of Clinical Investigation in 2015 and the American Association of Physicians in 2018.

Mikaël Garnier-Lavalley, Deputy Executive Head, Pandemic Fund Secretariat

Mikaël joins the Pandemic Fund from the French Ministry of Health, where he served as lead G20/G7 negotiator and as senior advisor on global health to the Director of European and International Affairs. In this capacity, he participated in multilateral discussions on the lessons learned from the global response to the pandemic and the future of global health architecture and financing. Previously, he served as Counsellor for Health and Welfare at the French Embassy in the United States (2016-2021) and held several positions in the French government: Deputy Chief of Staff to the French Minister of Urbanism, Youth and Sport, Director of Youth, Non-Formal Education and Associative Life and Intergovernmental Leader for Youth for the French Government, and Senior Advisor to the French Minister of Sport, Youth, Non-Formal Education and Civil Society from 2012 to 2016.



He started his career in non-profit youth organizations, advocating for broader citizen participation in policy making, children's and youth rights, and innovative public policies.

He is a graduate of the University of Rennes (Law) and the University of Paris Panthéon-Assas (Public Law and Communication).

Dr. Laura Goodman, Assistant Professor, Department of Public and Ecosystem Health and Baker Institute for Animal Health Section Chief, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Cornell Public Health Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, New York

Dr. Laura Goodman is a molecular epidemiologist whose career sits at the interface of research and diagnostics. Her laboratory at the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine studies how microbes adapt to new hosts and environments, focusing on acute febrile illness, tick-borne





disease, and antimicrobial resistance. She has authored more than 90 peer-reviewed publications.

Much of Dr. Goodman's work is aimed at putting advanced laboratory methods into the hands of the laboratories that need them. Before joining the faculty, she led molecular research and development for the New York State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. In that role she led a 13-laboratory consortium across the United States and Canada to stand up and validate bacterial whole genome sequencing in veterinary labs, a study selected by Microbial Genomics for its curated collection on implementing genomics in clinical and public health microbiology. She has since continued to work with US federal agencies and new labs around the world who seek to implement and expand use of this method.

Her laboratory is a competitively renewed FDA regional pathogen sequencing reference center for genomic surveillance and has served as a CDC One Health antimicrobial resistance center. Dr. Goodman is a technical advisor to the FDA on diagnostic test evaluation, focusing on multi-laboratory validation and proficiency trials. She helped design the interlaboratory comparison exercises that allowed veterinary diagnostic laboratories to support SARS-CoV-2 testing during the pandemic, and now works with FDA and USDA on proficiency testing for highly pathogenic H5N1 influenza in the food supply. She has received three FDA Honor Awards for this work, presented to the US Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria, and recently completed a term on the World Health Organization diagnostic technical advisory group for eradication of Guinea worm, contributing to the 2024 WHO target product profile for animal diagnostics.

With support from the US Army, Dr. Goodman developed a hybridization-capture sequencing approach for minimally equipped facilities that detects all known tick-borne pathogens worldwide, and demonstrated that it can also capture previously unknown viruses, including a novel flavivirus in the invasive Asian longhorned tick. Her earlier nanoscale PCR panels for tick-borne and respiratory pathogens earned the inaugural Innovation Award from the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians. She received the 2023 Zoetis Award for Veterinary Research Excellence and regularly serves on grant review panels for the Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Goodman earned her PhD in Comparative Biomedical Sciences from Cornell University and her BS in Microbiology and Global Change from the University of Michigan. She is a faculty fellow in the Cornell Feline, Canine, and Wildlife Health Centers and the Atkinson Center for Sustainability. As section chief of Infectious Disease Epidemiology for the Cornell MPH program, she trains the next generation of laboratory and field epidemiologists in a One Health framework. <https://www.vet.cornell.edu/about-us/people/laura-goodman-phd>



Dr. Robert A. Harrington, Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean, Weill Cornell Medicine, Provost for Medical Affairs, Cornell University

Dr. Robert A. Harrington is a cardiologist and serves as the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine and Provost for Medical Affairs of Cornell University. His research areas of focus include evaluating antithrombotic therapies to treat acute ischemic heart disease and to minimize the acute complications of percutaneous coronary procedures and trying to better understand and improve upon the methodology of clinical research, including the use of technologies to facilitate the conduct of clinical trials.



Dr. Harrington was the Arthur L. Bloomfield Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine at Stanford University for more than 10 years. He previously served as the Richard Stack Distinguished Professor and the Director of the Duke Clinical Research Institute at Duke University, where he completed his fellowship in general and interventional cardiology.

A native of Somerville, Massachusetts, and a first-generation college graduate, Dr. Harrington graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in English from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. He went on to earn his medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston and served as chief resident during his residency in internal medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester.

Passionate about sharing information about health and medicine, Dr. Harrington has written more than 760 peer-reviewed manuscripts, reviews, book chapters, and editorials. He served as senior editor for the 13th and 14th editions of *Hurst's The Heart* — one of the leading textbooks of cardiovascular medicine. He hosts a podcast for practitioners called "[The Bob Harrington Show](#)" and actively engages on other social media.

A previous American Heart Association (AHA) president, Dr. Harrington remains a member of AHA's Board of Directors. He is also an elected member of the Association of American Physicians, the Association of University Cardiologists, and the National Academy of Medicine / Institute of Medicine. In addition, he has served as a chair and member of the US Food and Drug Administration Cardiovascular and Renal Drugs Advisory Committee.

Among his numerous awards and recognition for extraordinary contributions to the field of cardiology, Dr. Harrington was named a Master of the American College of Cardiology in 2016, was awarded the AHA's Clinical Research Prize in 2017, the AHA Council on Clinical Cardiology (CLCD) Distinguished Achievement Award in 2022 and both the 2024 AHA Gold Award and 2024 Chairman's Award. In 2022, he was awarded the Stokes Medal, and in 2023, Honorary



Fellowship in the Irish Cardiac Society. The Cardiovascular Research Foundation recognized him with the 2024 TCT (Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics) Career Achievement Award.

Dr. Dorothée Lintner, Managing Director, Mérieux Foundation

Dorothée Lintner is the Managing Director of the Mérieux Foundation, an independent family foundation dedicated to fighting infectious diseases and reinforcing local public health capacities in developing countries. Appointed to the role in October 2025, Lintner leads the organization's global efforts to protect vulnerable populations, spearheading priority field programs in infectious diagnostics, epidemic response, and mother-and-child health initiatives. Her leadership is defined by a commitment to local capacity building and bridging global health networks.



She is a graduate of the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, where she completed her advanced studies, passed the competitive Agrégation in Modern Literature, and earned a Doctorate (PhD) in French Language and Literature. Following her studies, she spent the early years of her professional path in higher education, working as a teacher-researcher and teaching fellow at institutions including the Sorbonne University and Sciences Po.

In 2011, Lintner transitioned her expertise to the private sector by joining the multinational energy corporation Engie. Over a ten-year tenure with the group, she held corporate management roles focusing on human resources and professional growth, notably serving as the director of learning, training, and pedagogy at the internal Engie University. She pivoted to the international humanitarian sector in 2022 when she was named the CEO of the Bioforce Institute. At Bioforce, a leading international NGO and capacity-building hub, she orchestrated global programs designed to empower and qualify local aid workers operating across crisis-affected zones.



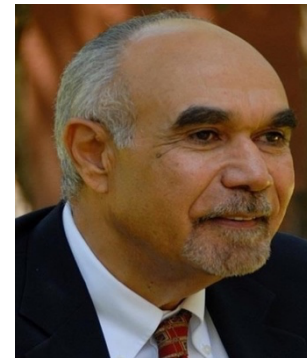
Lucy Maryogo-Robinson, Managing Director, Global Health Program, APHL

Lucy Maryogo-Robinson is Managing Director of the Global Health Program at the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL), based in the United States. She serves as principal investigator for five global health-focused APHL Cooperative Agreements with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), managing APHL's President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and Global Health Security (GHS) activities supporting laboratory system strengthening across Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Asia. Her work encompasses laboratory assessments, national laboratory strategic planning, training and education program development, laboratory network strengthening, and laboratory twinning initiatives. With more than two decades of experience in global public health, she has worked extensively with ministries of health, national public health institutes, donors, and international partners to advance laboratory capacity, disease surveillance, and health security. She serves on the Board of Directors of the African Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM), where she currently serves as Partnerships Chair. Lucy holds a Master of Public Health from the George Washington University in Washington, DC.



Dr. Jean-William Pape, Howard and Carol Holtzmann Professor of Clinical Medicine, Center for Global Health, Division of Infectious Diseases, Weill Cornell Medical College, NY USA, and Director, Les Centres GHESKIO, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Dr. Pape graduated from Columbia (BS, 1971) and Cornell (MD, 1975) universities. In 1980, after training in internal medicine and infectious diseases, he joined the Cornell Faculty and set-up the Cornell program in Haiti where he developed an effective care model for infants with diarrhea.



Expansion of the model nationwide resulted in a 50% decrease in national infantile mortality. Dr. Pape is also credited with the recognition and 1st comprehensive description of AIDS in the developing world. In 1982, he established GHESKIO (Haitian Study Group on Kaposi Sarcoma and Opportunistic Infections) as one of the 1st AIDS centers in the world. With the introduction of life saving antiretroviral therapy, AIDS dropped from being the 1st cause of mortality for over 3 decades to the 7th cause of death in Haiti. As cardiovascular diseases (CVD) became the most

important cause of national mortality, GHESKIO opened in 2016 the largest CVD center in collaboration with Weill Cornell and the Haitian College of Cardiology. Four decades later, GHESKIO continues as one of the largest AIDS /TB treatment, training and research centers in the Americas, providing free care with 300,000 patients visits annually.

Dr. Pape is a member of many boards including: Doctoral College of Haiti, UNAIDS Expert Panel, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Technical Group on HIV/AIDS/STIs, Institut des Sciences, des Technologies et des Etudes Avancées d'Haïti (ISTEAH), Ministry of Health Scientific Committee on Covid-19 Pandemic, PEPFAR, Fondation Mérieux, WHO Science Council.

Dr. Pape received many awards including the Légion d'Honneur (France, 2002), member of the National Academy of Medicine (USA, 2003); Carlos Slim Health Research, Institut de France's Christophe Mérieux, Gates Global Health, Clinton Global Citizen (2010), WHO Stop TB Partnership Kochon Award. In 2014, he obtained Haiti's highest honor, "Honneur et Mérite, Grade Commandeur". In 2018, Dr Pape received a Life Achievement Award by Marquis Who's Who in America and was the first recipient of the new Joan and Sanford Weill Cornell Exemplary award. In 2020, Dr. Pape was nominated Co-President of the Presidential Commission to lead the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in Haiti. In 2022 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

***Dr. Tajudeen Raji, Acting Deputy Director General, Africa CDC,
Chatham House Fellow***

Tajudeen Raji MD, MPH, FWACP is a Medical Doctor with postgraduate qualifications in Paediatrics and Public Health. He is a Fellow of the West African College of Physicians and Fellow of the Chatham House Royal Institute of International Affairs, London, UK. He has years of senior level experience in Emergency Preparedness and Response, Health Workforce Development, Public Health Research, Health System Strengthening, Health Diplomacy, Primary Health Care, and National Public Health Institutes.



He is currently the Acting Deputy Director General of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), African Union (AU), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he coordinates all programmes and provide support to operations as well.

Tajudeen is a member, Global Strategic Leadership Group, Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET). He is also a Member of the Scientific Council for the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors study



(GBD), Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington, Seattle, USA.
A Faculty Volunteer Member, University of Nebraska Medical Centre, Omaha, NE 68198-4350, USA.

Tajudeen has several publications in peer reviewed journals and numerous presentations at international conferences and seminars.

Dr. Samia Saad, Senior Advisor to the CEO and Strategic Lead for G7/G20 engagement and for Climate and Health, CEPI

Samia is Senior Advisor to the CEO and Strategic Lead for G7/G20 engagement and for Climate and Health at the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). Previously Samia was Executive Director of Resource Mobilisation & Investor Relations responsible for the strategic engagement with sovereign governments, philanthropic foundations, multi-lateral development banks and a wide range of other stakeholders to ensure CEPI's sustainability. Prior to taking on her roles at CEPI, Samia was the Gates Foundation representative on the CEPI Investor Council and observer/alternate to the Board.



During the previous seven years, Samia developed and led the Gates Foundation's first Global Health R&D and Epidemic Preparedness Policy, Advocacy and Communications strategy. Prior to that, Samia spent many years as a technical advisor to EU donor governments and multi-lateral health agencies, defining science and research priorities and conducting policy analysis for better access to medicines and vaccines in low-income countries. Samia has also worked as a medicines policy analyst at the WHO in Geneva and Cairo and as Strategy Manager at the UK BioIndustry Association (BIA) where she led initiatives that focused on securing an enabling research policy and financing environment in the EU, fostering global bioscience partnerships and developing research & innovation strategies.

Samia holds a BSc. (Honours) in Biochemistry from Imperial College, London and an MSc. in International Health Policy & Health Economics from the London School of Economics & Political Science and spent several years as biomedical researcher, completing doctoral studies at King's College London and post doctoral studies at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Robert Sebbag, *Doctor of Medicine, Department of Infectious Diseases, Pitié Salpêtrière Hospital; Vice President, Mérieux Foundation*

Robert Sebbag is a Medical Doctor specializing in Infectious Diseases, affiliated with the Paris hospital system. He is the founder and currently President of the non-governmental organization, ACF (Action Against Hunger). He is also Vice President of the Mérieux Foundation, for which he has led several missions in Lebanon, Bangladesh, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Dr. Sebbag has taught public health courses within the Paris hospital system, focusing on tropical parasitic diseases. In addition to his activities within the Paris hospital system, he has been active within the French Red Cross, where he was Director of Operations for three years and participated in numerous health missions in the Southern Hemisphere.

Earlier in his career, he held senior positions in the pharmaceutical industry, in the field of vaccines, focused on access to medicines. He also worked as a physician in Bolivia and Vietnam.

Stewart Simonson, *Senior Advisor at Global Health Strategies; Mérieux Foundation USA Board member*

Stewart Simonson is a Senior Advisor at Global Health Strategies and a Non-Resident Senior Adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). He previously served as Assistant Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), where he led the WHO Office at the United Nations and the WHO-US Liaison Office. He also held a senior leadership role at WHO headquarters in Geneva as Assistant Director-General for the General Management Group.



Prior to his work with WHO, Simonson was engaged in global health and development in Haiti, serving as a technical advisor and administrator at Hôpital Sacré-Coeur in Milot, a 225-bed hospital in northern Haiti. He also acted as legal counsel and corporate secretary for The CRUDEM Foundation, the hospital's U.S.-based sponsor.



Earlier in his career, Simonson was appointed as the first Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In this role, he was instrumental in building the U.S. public health emergency infrastructure following the September 11 attacks. He coordinated federal, state, and local efforts in bioterrorism preparedness and was an early advocate for pandemic preparedness, leading the U.S. response to avian influenza (H5N1) and helping establish global influenza surveillance and vaccine production capacity.

Dr. Ciro Ugarte, Director, Department of Health Emergencies, Pan American Health Organization, World Health Organization

Dr. Ciro Ugarte is a medical doctor with post graduate studies on Public Health and Emergency Medicine.

Dr. Ugarte served as Deputy Director General at the National Institute of Occupational Health and Director General of the Office of National Defense of the Ministry of Health of Peru (1988-1999).



During the same period he was the President of the Peruvian Society of Emergency Medicine, Official Representative of Peru to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Member of the National Committee of the Peruvian Red Cross (CRP), consultant for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), and member of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team (UNDAC).

He coordinated the UN Inter-Agency Disaster Team in Honduras (1998-1999). He joined PAHO/WHO in 2000 and served as Sub-regional Advisor for South America, Regional Advisor on Emergency Preparedness. Since 2013, he serves as Director of the PAHO Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief Program, renamed as Department of Health Emergencies.

Dr. Ugarte has extensive experience in Disaster Risk Reduction, Emergency Preparedness, and Response. He has coordinated the implementation of public health and health care interventions at international level in case of disasters, epidemics, pandemics. Since early 2020, in his role of PAHO/WHO Regional Emergency Director, he supervises PAHO's response to COVID-19 in the Americas.