

pandemic response catalyst conversations:

Pandemic Preparedness

Speaker Bios



Rear Admiral Susan J. Blumenthal, M.D., M.P.A. (ret.) provided distinguished service for more than two decades as a leading national U.S. government health expert and spokesperson in the Administrations of four U.S. Presidents. She was the country's first Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health, U.S. Assistant Surgeon General and Senior Global Health Advisor in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), a White House Health Advisor, and the Chief of the Behavioral Medicine and Basic Prevention Research Branch Chief at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Blumenthal is an internationally recognized medical leader who has been a major force in bringing important public health issues including women's health, mental health, and global health including pandemic preparedness to increased scientific and public attention. She was involved in the Federal response to the anthrax attacks against our nation and the H1N1 influenza outbreak. As the first ever Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health, Dr. Blumenthal developed innovative national initiatives and coordinated a multi-billion dollar budget of research, services, education programs and activities across HHS. Her accomplishments include exposing the inequities in women's health and then developing a comprehensive national strategy on sex differences in health and disease that dramatically increased public and scientific attention to these issues. She is a pioneer in apply technology to health creating the first government website and the "Missiles to Mammograms initiative to advance breast cancer detection. Dr. Blumenthal has also been at the forefront of national efforts to achieve effectiveness, efficiency and equity in the US health care system, to emphasize the power of disease, suicide and violence prevention, to reduce health disparities, and to advance multi-sector "health in all policies" solutions. An international leader in advancing global health, Admiral Blumenthal has been a major force in responding to infectious disease threats including HIV/AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic, the chronic disease pandemic, to bioterrorism and COVID-19. In collaboration with the MIT Media Lab, she co-founded the [Beat the Virus campaign](#) to educate about proven public health practices to decrease viral transmission. She has also directed a Middle East health initiative.

Dr. Blumenthal currently serves as a Clinical Professor at Tufts and Georgetown University Schools of Medicine, as a Visiting Professor at the MIT Media Lab, as a member of the Visiting Committee of the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, and as Director of the Health Innovations Lab at New America. Admiral Blumenthal is the recipient of many awards, medals and honorary doctorates. She was named the Health Leader of the Year by the Commissioned Officers Association, as a Rock Star of Science by the Geoffrey Beene Foundation, and decorated with the Distinguished Service Medal of the U.S. Public Health Service, its highest honor, "for distinguished and pioneering leadership, groundbreaking contributions and dedicated public service that has improved the health of women, our Nation, and the world."



Amesh Adalja, M.D., FIDSA, is a Senior Scholar at the Johns Hopkins University Center for Health Security. His work is focused on emerging infectious disease, pandemic preparedness, and biosecurity. Dr. Adalja has served on US government panels tasked with developing guidelines for the treatment of plague, botulism, and anthrax in mass casualty settings and for the system of care for infectious disease emergencies. He also served as an external advisor to the New York City Health and Hospital Emergency Management Highly Infectious Disease training program and on a Federal Emergency Management Agency working group on nuclear disaster recovery. He is a spokesperson for the Infectious Diseases Society of America; he previously served on their public health and diagnostics committees and their precision medicine working group. Dr. Adalja is a member of the American College of Emergency Physicians Pennsylvania Chapter's EMS & Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness Committee as well as the Allegheny County Medical Reserve Corps. He was formerly a member of the National Quality Forum's Infectious Disease Standing Committee and the US Department of Health and Human Services' National Disaster Medical System, with which he was deployed to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake; he was also selected for their mobile acute care strike team. Dr. Adalja's expertise is frequently sought by international and national media. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Adalja served on the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) coronavirus advisory group and as a consultant to various businesses, schools, and organizations as well as an informal advisor to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Dr. Adalja is an Associate Editor of the journal *Health Security*. He was a coeditor of the volume *Global Catastrophic Biological Risks* and a contributing author for the *Handbook of Bioterrorism and Disaster Medicine*, the *Emergency Medicine CorePendum*, *Clinical Microbiology Made Ridiculously Simple*, UpToDate's section on biological terrorism, and a North Atlantic Treaty Organization volume on bioterrorism. He has also published in such journals as the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *JAMA*, the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, and the *Annals of Emergency Medicine*.



Chris Ross, M.B.A., is Interim CEO of Life Science and Head of Integrated Supply Chain Operations (ISCO) for MilliporeSigma, the \$7.6 billion Life Science business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. Ross also serves as the United States Country Speaker for the US-based businesses of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.

As Interim CEO, Ross is responsible for leading the strategic direction of the business and its more than 22,000 employees. MilliporeSigma collaborates with the global scientific community to solve the industry's toughest problems by providing scientists with lab materials, technologies and services to make research and biotech production simpler, faster and safer.

As Head of ISCO, Ross is responsible for the global manufacturing site network, supply chain planning activities and distribution center network. The ISCO organization of more than 11,000 employees drives MilliporeSigma's manufacturing strategy, capital investments, operational excellence and supply chain management processes to improve cost, quality and delivery of products for MilliporeSigma customers.

Ross began his career with the organization in May 2008 as the Head of Bioprocess Single-Use Operations in Danvers, Massachusetts and Anderson, California. He later worked as Managing Director of Cork, Ireland and Consett, UK Operations and then Senior Vice President of the Separations Technology Cluster, both roles based in Cork, Ireland. From 2012 to 2015, Ross was Senior Vice President and Head of Global Operations for EMD Millipore, where he

managed all aspects of supply chain and manufacturing across three Technology Clusters.

Ross received a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Washington in Seattle and a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Ross currently serves as a board member of the New England Council.



Pardis Sabeti, M.D., D.Phil., is a Professor at Harvard University, the Harvard School of Public Health, the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator. Her computational genomic lab has contributed to widely varying fields — including human evolutionary biology, viral sequencing, information theory, rural disease surveillance and education efforts in West Africa. They aim to create comprehensive approaches for detecting, containing, and treating deadly infectious diseases, including Lassa virus, Ebola virus, Zika virus, and Babesiosis microtia. She has invested in capacity building and education throughout, enabling the first diagnosis of Ebola in Sierra Leone and Nigeria, training over seventy African scientists through summer-long educational programs, and establishing genome centers in West Africa. Dr. Sabeti completed her undergraduate degree at MIT, her graduate work at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, and her medical degree summa cum laude from Harvard Medical School as a Soros Fellow. Sabeti’s awards and honors include World Economic Forum (WEF) Young Global Leader, National Geographic Emerging Explorer, the National Academy of Sciences Richard Lounsbery Award, Smithsonian American Ingenuity Award for Natural Science, TIME magazine “Person of the Year” as one of the Ebola fighters, TIME’s 100 Most Influential. She is also the host of ‘Against All Odds’ included as part of AP stats classes nationwide, a co-creator of the educational program Operation Outbreak, and is the lead singer and co-songwriter of the rock band Thousand Days.



Patrick Schneider, Ph.D., is Head of Strategy, Business Development and Innovation for the Research Solutions Business Unit, and Chair of the Life Science Innovation Board as well as Chair of the Connected Lab and Gene Editing and Novel Modalities Promise Ventures at MilliporeSigma.

His teams develop a wide range of research reagents, specialty chemicals, analytical instruments and kits for protein detection and biomarker discovery, as well as disposable devices and kits for sample preparation and processing, while also helping the Business Unit develop its strategy. As Chairman of the Innovation Board and Promise Ventures, he leads the review of important scientific trends, oversees the performance of innovation across Life Science, and ensures cross-business collaboration.

Over 20 years of leadership experience with MilliporeSigma, he has held various leadership roles in R&D, business development, management of research reagents portfolio and new business initiatives. Prior to MilliporeSigma, Patrick was the Vice President of R&D and Business Development for Research Reagents at Serologicals. Past appointments include Chief Scientific Officer at Chemicon International and Vice President of Genome Biosciences.



David Sun Kong, Ph.D., is a synthetic biologist, community organizer, musician, and photographer based in Lexington, MA. He is the director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab's new [Community Biotechnology Initiative](#). Their mission: empowering communities through biotechnology. David conducted his graduate studies at MIT's Media Lab, receiving a master's degree for developing technology for printing nanostructures with energetic beams and a Ph.D. for demonstrating the first gene synthesis in a microfluidic ("lab-on-a-chip") system. He was recognized as an emerging leader in synthetic biology as a "LEAP" fellow, served as a guest faculty member at the Marine Biology Lab in Woods Hole, MA, and is co-founder and managing faculty of "[How To Grow \(Almost\) Anything](#)," an international course on synthetic biology. He founded and chaired new Microfluidic and Hardware Tracks for the [International Genetically Engineered Machines Competition \(iGEM\)](#) and is the official iGEM DJ. He was technical staff in the Bioengineering Systems & Technologies group at MIT's Lincoln Laboratory and a founding member of the synthetic biology team.