Mission Impossible: Retooling for a Changing Environment

SPEAKER BIOS

John Barnes joined Funders Concerned About AIDS (FCAA) as Executive Director in November 2009. For nearly 30 years, John Barnes has held positions of increasing responsibility in government, non-profit and corporate settings. He has established new programs and managed federally funded programs within state government, founded and directed a range of non-profit organizations and associations, and managed philanthropic programs of a Fortune 100 company. John began his career working for the State of Delaware on child welfare issues. He went on to develop and implement a state-wide HIV/AIDS case management program for the Division of Public Health, where he also managed the first federal funds for HIV related services. It was in this position that John served as the Founding Board Chair of the Delaware HIV CARE Consortium, a state-wide planning body focused on HIV care and prevention. Most recently, as Deputy Executive Director of Food & Friends in Washington, DC, John was responsible for leading a team of development professionals in raising the organization’s $8 million annual budget – as well as overseeing communications and program functions, including the recruitment, training and retention of 12,000+ volunteers annually and the preparation and delivery of 1 million meals per year to thousands of clients over the 5,500-mile DC metro region. As Manager of Contributions at Altria Group, Inc., John was responsible for the company’s philanthropic programming in the areas of Hunger and Domestic Violence prevention, awarding grants nation-wide totaling over $12 million annually. John served on the Board of Directors of FCAA from 2005-2009. John also serves on the Board of Trustees of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

Heather D. Boonstra is the Director of Public Policy in the Guttmacher Institute’s Washington, DC office. Ms. Boonstra oversees the Institute’s advocacy efforts to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights, which are designed to bring evidence to bear on policy and program development in the United States and globally. Ms. Boonstra is also the Editor-in-Chief of the Institute’s policy journal, the Guttmacher Policy Review. She currently serves on the Alumni Association Board of the Yale Divinity School. Ms. Boonstra joined Guttmacher in 1999 as a Senior Public Policy Associate, after working for the Reproductive Health Technologies Project and as a consultant with the Center for International Health and Information, Save the Children, and the Pacific Institute for Women’s Health. Ms. Boonstra graduated summa cum laude from the University of Oregon and holds an M.A. in religion from Yale University, where she studied medical ethics.

Chris Collins is the President of Friends of the Global Fight. Chris leads Friends’ efforts to educate and engage U.S. decision makers on the lifesaving work of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and its effort to end these three epidemics. Previously, as Chief of the Community Mobilization Division at UNAIDS, Chris helped make the case for investment in civil society as an essential part of the AIDS response. As Vice President and Director of Public Policy at amfAR Chris defended global AIDS funding and worked to advance domestic HIV policy and global key populations programming. Chris also helped drive the creation of the first comprehensive U.S. National HIV/AIDS Strategy; helped develop and managed the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC) Missing the Target series of reports on global HIV treatment scale up; and co-founded and served as Executive Director at AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention. As appropriations staff to Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) in the 1990s, Chris designed the first legislation to provide incentives for development and delivery of vaccines against HIV, TB and malaria. He holds a master’s degree in public policy from Harvard University.
Julia Greenberg has been working in public health grant-making, advocacy and community development for over a decade and is currently the Director of Global Financing and Support to the Field in the Open Society Foundations’ Public Health Program. In this role, she serves as a member of the Board constituency of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and as a Board member of Funders Concerned About AIDS. As a founding partner in The Fremont Center (2008-2015), she advised a diverse group of clients, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, the Ford Foundation, and the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition, on the development of program, advocacy, and fundraising strategies. As the Director of the Grants Department at American Jewish World Service (AJWS), she developed a program that provided grants and technical assistance to 350 community organizations across Africa, Asia and Latin America working at the intersection of development, public health and human rights. In that role she guided the development of policies that positioned AJWS as a leading grantmaker in the areas of sexual health and rights (with a focus on LGBT and sex worker rights) and natural resource rights. As the Associate Director of AIDS-Free World, she led a successful campaign leading to the establishment of a new international agency for women (UN Women) and spearheaded advocacy and strategic litigation efforts to combat the homophobia and discriminatory laws fueling the epidemic in Jamaica. She has extensive experience in grant-making, advocacy strategy development and organizational development processes. Julia also serves on the Board of Directors of Funders Concerned About AIDS.

Regan Hofmann is the Policy Officer in UNAIDS U.S. Liaison Office in Washington, D.C., where she liaises with the White House and Congress to encourage support for the domestic and global response to AIDS with the ultimate goal of ending the epidemic. Together with scientists, researchers, civil society, faith leaders, implementers, advocates, academics, members of the media and people living with HIV, she works to achieve UNAIDS goals, which include expanded access to life-saving HIV prevention and treatment and the health, dignity, and human rights of all people living with, or at risk for, HIV, made possible by reductions in HIV-related stigma and discrimination. Ms. Hofmann is an award-winning journalist who was formerly the editor-in-chief of POZ magazine and poz.com, the leading media brand focused on HIV/AIDS in the United States. Previously she was an ambassador for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation and the co-chair of God’s Love We Deliver’s Leadership Council. She served as a U.S. delegate at the United Nations General Assembly’s Special Session on HIV/AIDS under both President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama and has traveled internationally on behalf of the U.S. Department of State to speak about reducing HIV/AIDS stigma. In 2009, the U.S. Secretary of Health appointed Ms. Hofmann to the CDC/HRSA Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention and Treatment. She is currently a trustee of the Foundation for AIDs Research (amfAR). An openly HIV-positive woman whose memoir—I Have Something to Tell You—was published in 2009 by Simon and Schuster, Ms. Hofmann has given testimony at Congressional briefings and at the White House. Internationally, she has spoken at conferences, government and educational institutions, and AIDS fundraisers. Building on her background in network news, advertising and publishing, Ms. Hofmann works to help increase the visibility of the HIV pandemic. She has appeared on CNN, The Doctors, C-SPAN, NBC, The Oprah Winfrey Show, and ABC’s Good Morning America, and in various print media such as Glamour, The New York Times, Marie Claire, New York Magazine and Vogue. She has participated in several national HIV/AIDS awareness and advertising campaigns and in numerous documentaries on HIV/AIDS. Ms. Hofmann has a B.A. from Trinity College in Connecticut.

Michael T. Isbell has been actively engaged in the AIDS fight for more than 30 years. As an attorney in private practice in 1986, he brought a federal lawsuit against the Reagan administration, challenging the mandatory HIV testing of the U.S. Job Corps and leading to the federal government’s decision to end its exclusion of people living with HIV in the vocational job training program. As director of the AIDS Litigation Project at Lambda Legal, Isbell focused primarily on health care access issues, participating in litigation challenging exclusionary insurance policies and expanding the access of people living with HIV to federal entitlement programs. At Gay Men’s Health Crisis, then the nation’s largest community-based AIDS organization, Isbell oversaw the organization’s advocacy program and played a role in preservation of New York City’s HIV-specific service agency, preservation
and expansion of New York State’s AIDS Drug Assistance Program, and reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act. Since 1999, Isbell has worked as an independent consultant in the related fields of HIV and health advocacy, communications, organizational development and strategic counsel. He is a former member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS during the Clinton administration and a current member of the UNAIDS Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee. He is a native of Alabama and a resident of New York City for the last 31 years, and received his law degree in 1985 from Harvard University.

Mark Lagon is the Chief Policy Officer at Friends of the Global Fight. Mark plays a leadership role in developing and advancing Friends’ policy and advocacy work to support U.S. investment in global health, particularly through the Global Fund. A respected scholar and former ambassador, Mark has recently served as a Centennial Fellow and Distinguished Senior Scholar in the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He has served under former Secretaries of State Condoleezza Rice and Colin Powell (leading efforts against human trafficking, and for international organizations’ reform) and also with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Republican Policy Committee. Previously, as President of Freedom House, Mark led the non-profit organization in its work to defend human rights and promote democratic change. From 2010 to 2014, he was Global Politics and Security Chair at Georgetown University’s Master of Science in Foreign Service Program, and served simultaneously as Adjunct Senior Fellow for Human Rights at the Council on Foreign Relations. Earlier, he worked as Executive Director and CEO of Polaris. Among his numerous studies of global governance and partnerships is the book Human Dignity and the Future of Global Institutions. Mark earned his Ph.D. from Georgetown University and his A.B. from Harvard College, both in Government.

Ann Lefert is Senior Director, Prevention/Care Program and Policy at the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD). NASTAD represents the nation’s chief state health agency staff who have programmatic responsibility for administering HIV/AIDS healthcare, prevention, education, and supportive service programs funded by state and federal governments. Ann has been with NASTAD since 2002 and has extensive experience with state health department Ryan White Programs including AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs). She directs NASTAD’s current HRSA/HAB cooperative agreement focused on providing technical assistance to ADAPs and leads NASTAD’s efforts related to the Ryan White Program and its integration with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and policy impact on state health departments. She also is responsible for policy development and advocacy on appropriations and legislation related to HIV/AIDS care and treatment. Ann is an active participant of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership, the HIV Health Care Access Work Group, the ADAP Coalition and co-chairs the Ryan White Work Group. Ann received her Bachelor’s degree from St. Olaf College in Minnesota and her Master’s degree in Public Policy from Georgetown University.

Gregorio Millett is Vice President and Director, Public Policy, at amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research. He is a well-published and nationally recognized epidemiologist/researcher with significant experience working at the highest levels of federal HIV policy development at both the White House and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). From 2009 to 2011, Greg served as a detailee in the White House Office of National AIDS Policy as a Senior Policy Advisor. In this role, he coordinated the Office’s policy and research activities, including HIV prevention policy and the federal-level inter-agency process to develop the National AIDS Strategy, and is one of three principal writers of President Obama’s National HIV/AIDS Strategy. Greg served on the organizing committee for the Washington, DC, Conference, and was the federal lead in organizing the U.S. government and White House activities around the 2012 International AIDS Conference. He also worked on a diverse array of policy issues during his tenure at the White House, including the elimination of the HIV entry ban that prohibited HIV-positive persons from travelling to or seeking residency in the United States; the temporary suspension of
the ban prohibiting federal funding for domestic or global needle exchange programs; and the reallocation of HIV prevention resources by CDC to adopt a new funding formula for state and local health departments that better aligns funding with current disease burden. Prior to joining amfAR in May 2014, Greg served as the HHS/CDC Liaison to the White House Office of National AIDS Policy. He has been credited with changing the underlying assumptions among researchers of observed HIV infection disparities among black men who have sex with men (MSM) and is widely recognized as one of the first researchers to show no protective effect associated with male circumcision for MSM. Highlighting these accomplishments, Greg was honored with a scientific profile in the prestigious medical journal *The Lancet* in 2012 and he published two well-cited studies in The Lancet that same year. He has published over 40 peer-reviewed research papers in leading, health policy and public health journals such as *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *AIDS*, *American Psychology*, and *Health Affairs*. Greg also co-authored a health policy paper with Dr. Anthony Fauci, former Surgeon General of the United States Dr. Regina Benjamin, CDC Director Dr. Thomas Frieden and the Assistant Secretary of Health Dr. Howard Koh. His research has been covered in major media outlets such as *Time* magazine, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. Greg currently serves on the Board of Directors of Funders Concerned About AIDS.

**Louise van Deth** is Executive director of *Aidsfonds*. Before that she was director of Stichting Natuur en Milieu for five years and assistant director of the Centraal Bureau Fondsenwerving for seven years. She started her career as an investment banker with Pierson, Heldring & Pierson. After that she made a deliberate switch to the NGO sector. She has served on the board of a variety of charitable organisations. During the past 15 years, she has acted as treasurer of Mama Cash, and until 2008, was chair of the climate project HIER, a coalition of 40 beneficiaries of the Dutch Postcode Lottery. Currently, Louise is on the Board of Directors of Funders Concerned About AIDS. She received an MBA from Tuck School of Business and a Master’s in English language and literature from the University of Amsterdam.

**Mitchell Warren** has been the Executive Director of *AVAC* since 2004. He was previously the Senior Director for Vaccine Preparedness at the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and also spent four years as Vice President and Director of International Affairs for The Female Health Company (FHC), the manufacturer of the female condom, where he directed efforts to design and implement reproductive health programs that integrate the female condom, and he led global advocacy efforts for expanded commitment to female-initiated prevention methods. Mitchell also spent six years at Population Services International (PSI) designing and implementing social marketing, communications and health promotion activities in Africa, Asia and Europe, including five years running PSI’s project in South Africa. Mitchell is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); the board of directors of the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise; the Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH); the Scientific Programme Committee for the 2016 International AIDS Conference; and Maloto. Mitchell has degrees in English and History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and studied health policy at the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health.