

A Town Hall Forum with Ambassador Deborah L. Birx

**Monday, June 23, 2014
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

BIOGRAPHIES

Deborah L. Birx, M.D.

Ambassador-at-Large & Coordinator of the United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally

Deborah L. Birx, M.D. is Ambassador-at-Large and Coordinator of the United States Government activities to combat HIV/AIDS globally. Ambassador Birx is a world renowned medical expert and leader in the field of HIV/AIDS whose three decade-long career has focused on HIV/AIDS immunology, vaccine research, and global health. As the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Ambassador Birx oversees the implementation of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease in history, as well as all U.S. Government engagement with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

In 1985, Ambassador Birx began her career with the Department of Defense (DoD) as a military trained clinician in immunology, focusing on HIV/AIDS vaccine research. From 1985-1989 she served as an Assistant Chief of the Hospital Immunology Service at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Through her professionalism and leadership in the field, she progressed to serve as the Director of the U.S. Military HIV Research Program (USMHRP) at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research from 1996-2005. Ambassador Birx helped lead one of the most influential HIV vaccine trials in history (known as RV 144 or the Thai trial), which provided the first supporting evidence of any vaccine's potential effectiveness in preventing HIV infection. During this time, she also rose to the rank of Colonel, bringing together the Navy, Army, and Air Force in a new model of cooperation - increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the U.S. Military's HIV/AIDS efforts through inter- and intra-agency collaboration. Then known as Colonel Birx, she was awarded two prestigious U.S. Meritorious Service Medals and the Legion of Merit Award for her groundbreaking research, leadership and management skills during her tenure at the DoD.

From 2005-2014, Ambassador Birx served successfully as the Director of CDC's Division of Global HIV/AIDS (DGHA) in the CDC Center for Global Health, where she utilized her leadership qualities, superior technical skills, and infectious passion to achieve tremendous public health impact. As DGHA Director, she led the implementation of CDC's PEPFAR programs around the world and managed an annual budget of more than \$1.5 billion. Ambassador Birx was responsible for all of the agency's global HIV/AIDS activities, including providing oversight to more than 400 staff at headquarters, over 1,500 staff in the field, and more than 45 country and regional offices in Africa, Asia, Caribbean, and Latin America. Recognized for her distinguished and dedicated commitment to building local capacity and strengthening quality laboratory health services and systems in Africa, in 2011, Ambassador Birx received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the African Society for Laboratory Medicine. In 2014, CDC honored her leadership in advancing the agency's HIV/AIDS response with the highly prestigious William C. Watson, Jr. Medal of Excellence.

Ambassador Birx has published over 220 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals, authored nearly a dozen chapters in scientific publications, as well as developed and patented vaccines. She received her medical degree from the Hershey School of Medicine, Pennsylvania State University, and beginning in 1980 she trained in internal medicine and basic and clinical immunology at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the National Institutes of Health. Ambassador Birx is board certified in internal medicine, allergy and immunology, and diagnostic and clinical laboratory immunology.

Jen Kates**Vice President and Director of Global Health & HIV Policy, Kaiser Family Foundation**

Dr. Jen Kates is Vice President and Director of Global Health & HIV Policy at the Kaiser Family Foundation. She oversees the Foundation's policy analysis and research focused on the U.S. government's role in global health and on the global and domestic HIV epidemics. Widely regarded as an expert in the field, she regularly publishes and presents on global health and HIV policy issues and is particularly known for her work analyzing donor government investments in global health; assessing and mapping the U.S. government's global health architecture, programs, and funding; and tracking and analyzing major U.S. HIV programs and financing, and key trends in the HIV epidemic, an area she has been working in for twenty-five years. Prior to joining the Foundation in 1998, Dr. Kates was a Senior Associate with The Lewin Group, a health care consulting firm, where she focused on HIV policy, strategic planning/health systems analysis, and health care for vulnerable populations. Prior to that, she directed the Office of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns at Princeton University.

Dr. Kates serves on numerous federal and private sector advisory committees on global health and HIV issues. Currently, she is a member of the CDC/HRSA Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STD Prevention and Treatment (CHACHSPT) and is an Alternate Board Member of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. She recently served on the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Congressionally-mandated evaluation of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and on two IOM study committees commissioned by the White House to inform the implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

Dr. Kates received her Ph.D. in Health Policy from George Washington University, where she is also a lecturer. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College, a Master's degree in Public Affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts.