

# GLOBAL VACCINATION SUMMIT



European  
Commission



World Health  
Organization

## PANEL MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES ROUNDTABLE 1

*“ In Vaccines we trust: Stepping up action to increase vaccine confidence ”*

### PANEL MEMBERS

- ▶ **MAGGIE DE BLOCK**, Minister of Social Affairs and Public Health, and Asylum and Migration, Belgium
- ▶ **PROFESSOR LAETITIA RISPEL**, President, World Federation of Public Health Associations
- ▶ **VICE ADMIRAL JEROME ADAMS**, Surgeon General of the United States
- ▶ **DR. KATHERINE O'BRIEN**, Director, Immunization, vaccines and biologicals, World Health Organization
- ▶ **DR. HEIDI J. LARSON**, Director of The Vaccine Confidence Project
- ▶ **MAUD SACQUET**, Public Policy Manager, Mozilla
- ▶ **JASON HIRSCH**, Public Policy Manager, Facebook



#### **MAGGIE DE BLOCK**

**Minister of Social Affairs and Public Health, and Asylum and Migration, Belgium**

Mrs Maggie De Block is the Belgian Minister of Social Affairs and Public Health, and Asylum and Migration. In 1988, Mrs De Block graduated as a Doctor of Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics and started working as a general practitioner.

She has been a continuous member of Belgium's Federal Parliament since 1999. From 2011 till 2014, she was the State Secretary of Asylum, Migration, Social Integration and Poverty Reduction.

In 2014, she became the Minister of Social Affairs and Public Health. Putting the patient first and exercising an evidence-based approach are crucial to Mrs De Block's vision and policy with regards to public health.

Belgium has a high level of vaccination coverage and is a world leader in the field of research, development and production of vaccines.



#### **PROFESSOR LAETITIA RISPEL**

**President, World Federation of Public Health Associations, DST/NRF SARCHI Research Chair on the Health Workforce, School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa**

Professor Laetitia Rispel holds a South African Department of Science and Technology/ National Research Foundation Research Chair, entitled Research on the Health Workforce for Equity and Quality and is Professor of Public Health at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Professor Rispel has extensive and wide-ranging experience of research, teaching, and health leadership in different settings. She has won several national and international awards. Professor Rispel is the current president of the World Federation of Public Health Associations, the first woman from Africa, and the third in the 50-year history of the organisation to achieve this honour.



## **VICE ADMIRAL JEROME ADAMS**

### **Surgeon General of the United States**

**Vice Admiral Jerome M. Adams, MD, MPH**, is the 20th Surgeon General of the United States. Dr. Adams has bachelor's degrees in biochemistry and psychology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, a master of public health degree from the University of California at Berkeley, and a medical degree from Indiana University School of Medicine, and is a board-certified anesthesiologist. Prior to being selected for his current position, he served as the Indiana State Health Commissioner from 2014 to 2017 where he presided over Indiana's efforts to deal with the state's unprecedented HIV outbreak, caused by the sharing of needles among people who inject drugs.

Dr. Adams' motto as Surgeon General is "better health through better partnerships." As Surgeon General, he is committed to maintaining strong relationships with the public health community and forging new partnerships with non-traditional partners.

As Surgeon General, VADM Adams oversees the operations of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, which has approximately 6,500 uniformed health officers who serve to promote, protect and advance the health and safety of our nation.



## **KATHERINE O'BRIEN**

### **Director of WHO's Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals.**

Kate O'Brien is a recognized international expert in the areas of pneumococcal epidemiology, pneumococcal vaccine trials and impact studies, and surveillance for pneumococcal disease. She is also known as an expert in infectious diseases (including pneumonia and diarrheal diseases) in American Indian populations. She is a pediatric infectious disease physician, epidemiologist, and the director of the Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals Department at the World Health Organization (WHO), a role she took on in January 2019. In this role, she is responsible for leading the overall work and strategy of the Department to advance the vision of reducing the health, social and economic burden of vaccine preventable diseases. The Director works across all levels of WHO (country, region and headquarters) in collaboration with partners to deliver country impact.

Dr. O'Brien trained as a pediatric infectious disease physician, epidemiologist and vaccinologist. She earned her BSc in chemistry from University of Toronto (Canada), her MD from McGill University (Canada), and her MPH from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (US) before completing her training at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as an Epidemic Intelligence Officer, in the Respiratory Diseases Branch.



## **HEIDI J. LARSON**

### **Professor of Anthropology, Risk and Decision Science and Director of The Vaccine Confidence Project**

**Heidi J. Larson, PhD**, is Professor of Anthropology, Risk and Decision Science and Director of The Vaccine Confidence Project at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical. She is also Director of European Initiatives, Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington (Seattle).

Dr. Larson's research focuses on the analysis of social and political factors that can affect uptake of health interventions and influence policies and risk and rumour management in health programmes.

Professor Larson previously headed UNICEF's Immunization programme and chaired the GAVI Advocacy Task Force. She served on the FDA Medical Countermeasure (MCM) Emergency Communication Expert Working Group, and is Principle Investigator of the EU/IMI funded (EBODAC) project on the deployment, acceptance and compliance of an Ebola vaccine trials in Africa.



## **MAUD SACQUET**

### **Public Policy Manager, Mozilla**

**Maud Sacquet** is EU Public Policy Manager at Mozilla. Originally from France, she is based in Brussels and covers a range of tech-policy issues including disinformation, copyright, artificial intelligence and competition.

Prior to joining Mozilla, Ms Sacquet was a senior policy manager at the Computer and Communications Industry Association (CCIA), a tech-policy trade association where she covered EU policy issues such as content regulation and the limited liability regime of Internet platforms. Prior to that, she was a

Legal Counsel at Yahoo in Paris.

Ms Sacquet holds a Master degree in Business law from the Institute of Political Studies of Paris ("Sciences Po Paris") and a Master degree in European Business Law from the University Robert Schuman of Strasbourg. She also holds a LLM degree in Regulation and Technology from King's College London.



**JASON HIRSCH,**  
**Public Policy Manager, Facebook**

**Jason Hirsch** joined Facebook's Public Policy team in October 2018, where he focuses on development of policies to help guide Facebook's approach to content distribution and moderation. Within that role, Mr. Hirsch heads up Facebook's Health Integrity Policy efforts, including leading the development of Facebook's multi-faceted approach to combatting misinformation about vaccinations. From 2007 until joining Facebook, Mr. Hirsch worked at the international law firm of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr. In private practice, Mr. Hirsch principally litigated at the United States Supreme Court and provided public policy guidance to clients. He focused on issues of constitutional law, public health, and voting rights, particularly issues at the intersection of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and public health, and he regularly represented many of the largest U.S.-based public health organizations during his time at the law firm.