

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Advancing Life-Saving R&D Innovations for People Living with Chagas Disease – The Silent Killer

Discussion and Reception

Thursday, November 14, 2013, 6:30-7:30 PM

PAHO Headquarters, Washington DC

Peter Hotez, MD, PhD is the Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, where he is also President of the Sabin Vaccine Institute and Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development. Dr. Hotez has pioneered the development of vaccines to combat neglected tropical diseases, including a human hookworm vaccine in clinical trials. He is also a leading global health advocate helping to create a rapid impact package for NTDs now reaching more than 250 million people in developing countries, and for the concept of 'vaccine diplomacy'. Dr. Hotez was elected to memberships in the Institute of Medicine of the US National Academies and to the Association of American Physicians. He is past president of ASTMH and serves on the NIH Council of Councils and the advisory committee of WHO-TDR, the Special Programme on Tropical Disease Research. In 2012 he received the Abraham Horwitz Award in Inter-American Public Health Leadership from PAHO. Dr. Hotez earned his MD and PhD degrees from the Rockefeller University-Weil Cornell Medical College in New York; completed residency training at Massachusetts General Hospital; and was a postdoctoral fellow at Yale University School of Medicine. He served as Distinguished Research Professor and Chair of the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Tropical Medicine at George Washington University before relocating to Baylor College of Medicine in 2011.

Isabela Ribeiro, MD, is the Head of the Chagas Clinical Program for the Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative* (DNDi). Dr. Isabela Ribeiro joined DNDi as a Senior Project Manager in March 2007, after working as a consultant on DNDi projects since 2005. In her role, she focuses on the initiative's drug development for Chagas disease and malaria. Dr. Ribeiro has over 12 years of drug development experience with a focus on neglected diseases, most recently serving as a consultant to the UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (WHO-TDR). With WHO-TDR, Dr. Ribeiro contributed to several projects involving the management of large community-based clinical studies in endemic countries. A member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the PDTIS, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, since 2005, Dr. Ribeiro completed a postdoctoral fellowship in infectious diseases and an internal medicine residency at Ohio State University and worked as clinical research fellow based at the Communicable Disease Unit of St. George's Hospital, London, after earning her MD from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

Jenny Sanchez is President of LASOCHA (Latin American Society of Chagas Disease), a patients' association for people living with Chagas disease in Northern Virginia, which is in the Washington DC metro area. She works in the Microbiology department of INOVA Fairfax Central Laboratory in Northern Virginia. As a microbiologist, Jenny has worked with the Red Cross in Bolivia as a supervisor of the tuberculosis (TB) laboratory, which became a reference laboratory for multidrug-resistant (MDR)-TB. She also helped establish a network of TB labs in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Jenny holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry and Pharmacy.

Rachel Marcus, MD, is Medical Director of LASOCHA (Latin American Society of Chagas Disease), a patients' association for people living with Chagas disease in Northern Virginia, which is in the Washington DC metro area. She is also a staff cardiologist at Washington Hospital Center in Washington,

DC. Dr. Marcus received her MD from Stanford University School of Medicine (Stanford, CA), undertook residency training at Brigham and Women's Hospital (Boston, MA), and completed a cardiology fellowship at Stanford. She worked in a private practice in Washington, DC before joining forces with Jenny Sanchez in 2012 to form LASOCHA.

Sonia Tarragona is the General Director of Mundo Sano Foundation. She is also President of the Health Economics Association of Argentina and Director of Postgraduate studies in Pharmacopolitics; head of the Center of Advanced Studies in Pharmacopolitics of Isalud University, Buenos Aires; Head Professor of Health Economics in the Masters degree program in Public Health of the School of Medicine of La Plata National University, Buenos Aires; and head professor of Pharmacopolitics Masters degree program at Isalud University. Dr. Tarragona has published three books, several book chapters, and various scientific articles on health economics, pharmacoconomics, intellectual property rights, and pharmacopolitics. She graduated in Economics from the School of Economics, La Plata National University, where she received a Masters Degree in Public Finances and a Masters degree in Health Economics.

Luis Gerardo Castellanos, MD, PhD, MPH is Senior Advisor and Chief of the Neglected, Tropical and Vector-borne Diseases Unit at PAHO headquarters in Washington DC. He joined PAHO in 1997 as a consultant for Disease Prevention and Control, serving in Honduras, Brazil, Mexico, and the Mexico-United States Border Office, based in El Paso, TX. During his career, Dr. Castellanos has assisted many countries in the Americas, both in routine training and research activities, as well as, technical support in the investigation, prevention and control of outbreaks, emergencies and natural disasters. Dr. Castellanos completed the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Training Program in Field Epidemiology, with particular focus on Outbreak Investigation, Prevention and Control. Dr. Castellanos received his PhD in Epidemiology from the School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina; MPH from the University of Puerto Rico; and MD from the University of San Carlos of Guatemala.

Estrella Lasry, MD, MS is the Tropical Medicine Advisor for the French section of Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), based in New York since 2011. She has worked for MSF since 2009, previously in the field as a physician and medical referent in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, and Zambia, and continues to cover outbreaks of infectious diseases, including seasonal malaria and hemorrhagic fevers such as Marburg, Ebola, and Crimean-Congo. Dr. Lasry received her MD from the University of Barcelona in Spain, with training as a family and emergency physician, and a MS in Tropical Medicine from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the UK.