

WGHA Fireside Chat: Equitable Access to Health

Speaker Biographies

Tuesday, August 31, 2021 | 3:00 – 4:30 pm PT
Zoom Virtual Event



[Dr. Ahmed Ali](#), *Founder & Executive Director, Somali Health Board; Clinical Instructor, University of Washington Global Health Department*

Dr. Ahmed Ali is one of the founders and the current executive director of the Somali Health Board (SHB), a nonprofit organization that works to address health disparities within the Somali/East African community. Along with the SHB team, Dr. Ali is also a recipient of the [2016 Molina Healthcare's Community Champions Award](#).

A pharmacist by profession. Dr. Ali is an active member within the Somali community, with an emphasis on immigrant/refugee health issues both locally and abroad. He is also a [clinical instructor](#) at the University of Washington Department of Global Health, and serves on diverse boards, including the King County Immigrant/Refugee Task Force, city of Seattle's Sweetened Beverages Community Advisory Board, as well as the Fred Hutchinson Health Disparities Community Advisory Board.



[Mariam Zameer](#), *Senior Manager and Team Lead, Health Systems, VillageReach*

Mariam Zameer focuses on improving equitable access to health care and health financing at [VillageReach](#). She is a strong advocate for improving equity and primary health care, specifically regarding when and where people access them. Her work also explores partnering with private health providers, to focus on the urban poor, remote rural areas, migrants, and people living in security compromised areas.

Mariam led the development of the Equity Framework to ensure health products are accessible, available, and potent at the point of delivery. She is an expert in designing vaccine supply chains and vaccine distribution to consider risk and equity, besides from cost, using modeling and optimization for actionable recommendations for governments. Mariam also works closely with the diversity and inclusion group at VillageReach, and decolonizing global development is of particular interest to her.



Maurizio Vecchione (Moderator), *President & CEO, Washington Global Health Alliance (WGHA); Chief Innovation Officer, Terasaki Institute for Biomedical Innovation*

Maurizio Vecchione is the president and CEO of the Washington Global Health Alliance (WGHA), guiding the alliance to achieve greater collective impact and leading all operations, programs, and partnerships. He is moved by a vision that access to effective and quality healthcare is a human right and critical to equity and progress around the world.

Maurizio has spent the last 30 years at the forefront of global and public health, focusing on innovation to improve the lives of the world's most vulnerable people. From 2014 until 2020, he was the executive vice president for Global Good and Research at Intellectual Ventures (IV) where he oversaw collaboration with Bill Gates to invent and deploy technology to address some of humanity's most daunting challenges. He simultaneously led the research programs of the Intellectual Ventures Laboratory and Institute for Disease Modeling.