



Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D., Elected Commonwealth Fund Chair

NEW YORK, Dec. 20, 2023 — Margaret A. (Peggy) Hamburg, M.D., former commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), has been elected chair of the Commonwealth Fund, a private foundation working to create an equitable, high-performing health system. Hamburg currently co-leads the InterAcademy Partnership, an international consortium of national academies of science, medicine, and engineering. She has been a member of the Fund's board of directors since 2015.



Before joining the FDA, Hamburg was founding vice president and senior scientist at the Nuclear Threat Initiative, a foundation dedicated to reducing nuclear, chemical, and biological threats. Her previous government positions include assistant secretary for planning and evaluation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, health commissioner for New York City, and assistant director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health.

Hamburg's tenure as chair begins immediately. She succeeds Michael V. Drake, M.D., president of the University of California, who has served as chair since 2019.

"I am proud and delighted to turn the gavel over to Dr. Hamburg," said Drake. "Peggy's distinguished career in public service and broad experience in both domestic and international health care and health policy will be invaluable assets to the Commonwealth Fund."

Hamburg also recently served as chair of the Commonwealth Fund's Commission on a National Public Health System, serves as vice chair of the President's Intelligence Advisory Board, and sits on the Foreign Affairs Advisory Board to the Secretary of State. Previously, she was also the foreign secretary for the U.S. National Academy of Medicine and the president/chair of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

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The Commonwealth Fund is a private, nonprofit foundation supporting independent research on health policy reform and a high-performance health system.

“We are extremely fortunate that a leader with Dr. Hamburg’s accomplishments has agreed to lead our board. A compassionate expert with experience, she is the leader we need as the Commonwealth Fund moves into the future and continues its mission of achieving high-quality, equitable, affordable health care for all,” said Commonwealth Fund President Joseph R. Betancourt, M.D.

Hamburg earned her B.A. from Harvard College and her M.D. from Harvard Medical School, and she completed her medical residency at Weill Cornell Medical Center. She is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American College of Physicians, and is an elected member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the National Academy of Medicine, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the U.K. Academy of Medical Sciences.

“The Fund was one of the first foundations established by a woman, Anna Harkness, and I am especially honored and gratified to be the first woman to serve as its chair,” said Hamburg. “My life’s work has been at the intersection of science, medicine, public health, and policy, and it has prepared me well to step into this role in this moment in our health care system’s evolution.”

Hamburg sits on numerous boards in addition to the Commonwealth Fund’s, including the Nature Conservancy, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Lasker Foundation, the Broad Institute, the Nuclear Threat Initiative, the Council on Foreign Relations, Resolve to Save Lives, and Alnylam Pharmaceuticals. She is also a member of the Harvard University Global Advisory Council, the Global Health Scientific Advisory Committee for the Gates Foundation, and the Harvard Medical School Board of Fellows, and formerly served on the boards of both Gavi and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations. She is the recipient of multiple honorary degrees and numerous awards.