



November 10, 2020

# President-elect Biden announces Covid-19 task force

President-elect Joe Biden's transition team on Nov. 9 announced the creation of the Transition Covid-19 Advisory Board, a group of 12 individuals who will advise the incoming administration on the global pandemic. The board will be headed by three co-chairs: Dr. David Kessler, Dr. Vivek Murthy and Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith.

## Co-chairs of the Transition Covid-19 Advisory Board



Dr. David Kessler



Dr. Vivek Murthy



Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith

Sources: FOR TEXT: FDA; U.S. Surgeon General; Biden transition team website; CNN; the San Jose Mercury News; University of California San Francisco; Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; New York University; University of Minnesota; University of Pennsylvania; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; Levitt Center; Ariadne Labs; the Leigh Bureau; personal websites of Atul Gawande and Vivek Murthy; LinkedIn pages, Vivek Murthy, Marcella Nunez-Smith and Loyce Pace. FOR IMAGES: Hassan Mailk photography; Amherst College; Department of Health and Human Services; Yale University; Carnegie Corporation of New York; University of Pennsylvania; Harvard University; Celine Gounder; Princeton University; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; University of Minnesota; UNANCA; and the University of California San Francisco



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## Co-chairs of the Transition Covid-19 Advisory Board



Dr. David Kessler

**CURRENT ROLE:** Professor of pediatrics and epidemiology and biostatistics, University of California San Francisco

**PRIOR GOV'T EXPERIENCE:** FDA commissioner, Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, 1990-1997. Kessler's FDA tenure saw the agency unsuccessfully attempt to regulate cigarettes. While at the FDA, Kessler also oversaw implementation of the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act. From 1981-1984, he consulted for the U.S. Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

**OTHER WORK, EDUCATION:** Former dean of Yale School of Medicine; former dean of UCSF School of Medicine; medical director of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine; law lecturer, Columbia University; MD, Harvard Medical School; law degree, University of Chicago.



Dr. Vivek Murthy

Current board member of organizations including the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee and NCAA.

19th surgeon general of the U.S., 2014-2017; vice admiral, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. Key issues during his tenure as surgeon general included addressing the opioid epidemic, e-cigarette use, and research on addiction.

Co-founded and served as president of Doctors for America, an organization dedicated to affordable health care access, in 2008; co-founded VISIONS, an organization for HIV/AIDS education in the U.S. and India, and Swasthya, a community health partnership in India; MD, Yale School of Medicine; MBA, Yale School of Management.



Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith

Associate professor of internal medicine, public health, and management, Yale University; associate dean for health equity research, Yale School of Medicine; co-director, Community Based Participatory Research, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program.

Nunez-Smith does not have prior government experience.

Nunez-Smith's tenure at Yale has included serving as an associate professor for the Yale School of Medicine in general internal medicine and for the Yale School of Public Health in epidemiology and public health; and serving as principle investigator for several research initiatives. She has an MHS from Yale University and an MD from Jefferson Medical College.



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## Members of the Transition Covid-19 Advisory Board



Dr. Luciana Borio

Borio is currently a vice president at In-Q-Tel, a venture capital firm focused on IT, and a senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations. Her previous government experience includes her tenure as director for medical and biodefense preparedness at the National Security Council from 2017 to 2019, acting chief scientist of the FDA and assistant commissioner for counterterrorism policy at the FDA. Her work in the federal government included responding to the Ebola epidemic.



Dr. Rick Bright

Bright has previously served in the government as director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority and deputy assistant secretary for preparedness and response at the Department of Health and Human Services. Bright resigned from the NIH in 2020 after blowing the whistle on the Trump administration's response to the coronavirus pandemic; he said the administration did not heed early warnings about the pandemic and ignored concerns raised about hydroxychloroquine.



Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel

Emanuel is currently vice provost for Global Initiatives at the University of Pennsylvania, where he also chairs the Department of Medical Ethics and Health Policy. He is also the chair of the Department of Bioethics at The Clinical Center of the NIH. He is an alum of the Obama Administration, having served as special advisor for health policy to the OMB director. He also advised the Obama administration on the Affordable Care Act. He is the brother of former White House chief of staff and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.



Dr. Atul Gawande

Gawande currently holds professorships at Brigham and Women's Hospital; Harvard Medical School; and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He served as an adviser in the Department of Health and Human Services in the Clinton administration. He is also the founder and chair of Ariadne Labs, a joint venture focused on health systems innovation between Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and the chair of Lifebox, a nonprofit to make surgery safer worldwide, and Haven, a health care venture.



Dr. Eric Goosby

Goosby is the director of Global Health Delivery and Diplomacy at the UCSF Institute for Global Health Sciences and is the UN Special Envoy on Tuberculosis. During the Obama administration, Goosby oversaw implementation of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and was appointed Ambassador-At-Large. During the Clinton administration, he served as the interim director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy.



Dr. Celine Gounder

Gounder is a clinical assistant professor at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine and also works at Bellevue Hospital Center. In 2016, she was elected a fellow at the Infectious Diseases Society of America. She previously served as assistant commissioner and director of the Bureau of Tuberculosis Control at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Gounder worked in Guinea as a volunteer aid worker during the Ebola epidemic, and has studied TB and HIV in South Africa, Lesotho, Malawi, Ethiopia and Brazil.





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Dr. Julie Morita

Morita is executive vice president of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She previously worked in the Chicago Department of Public Health, including as medical director, chief medical officer and commissioner. She has served on the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and also served as an epidemic intelligence service officer at the CDC.



Dr. Michael Osterholm

Osterholm is the director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, where he also serves as a professor of public health. He is also a member of the National Academy of Medicine and the Council on Foreign Relations. He served as a special advisor to the HHS Secretary from 2001 to 2005, and worked in the Minnesota Department of Health from 1975 to 1999, including as state epidemiologist. From 2007 to 2014, he was the principal investigator and director of the Minnesota Center of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance.



Loyce Pace

Pace is the executive director and president of Global Health Council. Pace holds an MPH from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She has previously worked with Physicians for Human Rights, the American Cancer Society and Catholic Relief Services.



Dr. Robert Rodriguez

Rodriguez is a professor of emergency medicine at the UCSF School of Medicine. His recent research includes the effects of the pandemic on frontline providers' mental health. He is also on the scientific advisory panel of the Andrew Levitt Center for Social Emergency Medicine, which conducts research on the social determinants of health.