

Luis Andres de Francisco Serpa, MD, PhD

defrancisco.andres.MD@gmail.com

As a Medical Doctor, Public Health Specialist, and policy shaper, Dr. de Francisco brings over 40 years of experience in leveraging context-based messages and policy interactions, grounded in public health research and evidence, to scale up health-related interventions. Shapes persuasive policy arguments for disparate partners to work together. He has expertise in the dynamics of global health architecture.

Dr. de Francisco has served in senior leadership positions, leveraging policy based on research evidence in various esteemed roles. He was Department Director at the Pan-American Health Organization in Washington, DC, and Deputy Director at PMNCH (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health) in Geneva. As Deputy Director at the Global Forum for Health Research, he coined, shaped, and acted on the '10/90 gap' in health research financing inequities. He also served as Project Director at ICDDR,B (Centre for Health and Population Research) in Bangladesh, working closely with communities in Matlab and high-level government officials in Bangladesh and India. Additionally, he was a Senior Scientist managing the UK Medical Research Council's Basse field station in The Gambia, West Africa. In Colombia's remote Amazon Basin he reshaped policy for public health in a remote and complex catchment area.

Dr. de Francisco is currently a member of the National Academy of Medicine of Colombia. He has served as an Associate Professor at Johns Hopkins University and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He is also the co-founder and President of AERAS Development Group in Geneva (www.aerasdevelopment.com), an organization dedicated to promoting human capital in health, education, and cultural heritage both in Switzerland and internationally. Additionally, he has authored or co-authored over 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications

Nationalities: Swiss, Colombian

Languages Proficient: English, Spanish, French, German.

Date of Birth: 30 April 1959

Education: **University of London**

-PhD in Medicine (1991-1994)

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK

- M.Sc. Clinical Tropical Medicine (1985-86)

- M.Sc. Public Health (1986-87)

The Royal College of Physicians, London-

-Health Sciences Diploma (1986)

Rosary University, Bogota Colombia (1978 - 1983)

-Medical Doctor and Surgeon (MD).

COMPETENCIES

President - ÆRAS Development Group (2024 - present)

- Leadership: Steering research and investment in health, education, and cultural heritage.
 - Collaboration: Building networks with multidisciplinary partners.
-

Director - Dept Family Health Promotion & Life Course, PAHO/WHO (2016 – 2023)

- Strategic Planning: Leading initiatives for improving vaccination coverage.
 - Policy Advocacy: Engaging with Member States for policy development and uptake.
-

Executive Director (a.i.) / DExD - Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (2009 - 2016)

- Resource Management: Aligning strategies with global development goals.
 - Stakeholder Engagement: Building networks to support national health strategies.
-

Deputy Executive Director - Global Forum for Health Research (1999 - 2008)

- Analytical Skills: Addressing funding gaps in health research and promoting research priorities.
 - Innovation: Advancing initiatives for neglected health conditions.
-

Project Director - MCH-FP Project, ICDDR,B, Bangladesh (1990-1999)

- Project Leadership: Overseeing health interventions and impact assessment.
 - Government Relations: Collaborating with Min of Health on public health strategies.
-

Senior Scientific Officer, UK Medical Research Council, The Gambia (1988-1990)

- Research Management: established pioneering demographic data system in the field.
 - Impact Assessment: Evaluating vaccination schedules and bed nets for malaria.
-

Hospital Director, Ministry of Health, Amazonas Basin, Colombia (1983-1984)

- Political diplomacy: Reshaped decentralized health-care policy in a complex environment.
- Vision: developed and implemented a system to track malaria resistance to antimalarials.

Selected Publications (of ~100)

- The 10/90 Report on Health Research 2001-2002. *Global Forum for Health Research*, 2015 Pages 18/24 WHO. A de Francisco, *Editor, Chair of Drafting Committee on Resource Flows*.
- Maternal mortality linked to COVID-19 in Latin America: Multi-country database of 447 deaths. Fabian Maza-Arnedo, Andres de Francisco, et al. *Lancet Regional Health – Americas*; 2022; 12: 100269.
- Drug development for neglected diseases. A. de Francisco. *Lancet*, 2002. Vol 360, 5 Oct:1102.
- Equity throughout the life course and the evolving role of the PAHO. Butrón B, de Francisco A et al. *Rev Panam Salud Publica*. 2023; 47:e12. <https://doi.org/10.26633/RPSP.2023.12>
- Acute toxicity of vitamin A given with vaccines in infancy. *Lancet*, 1993. Vol 342, ii:526-7.
- Toward Healthy Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean: leaving no one behind? *Rev Panam Salud Publica* 45, 2021. www.paho.org/journal
- Brain drain and health professionals: Scientists can promote research relevant to their countries after emigrating. A. de Francisco. *British Medical Journal*, 2002. Jul 27;325(7357):219.
- Ethics of HIV Trials. (Correspondence, 39 signatories). *The Lancet*, 1997, Col. 350:1546.
- Advancing social and economic development by investing in women's and children's health: a new Global Investment Framework. *The Lancet*. 2013 Nov 18. pii: S0140-6736(13)62231-X.
- Health Partnerships Review: Focusing collaborative efforts on research and innovation for the health of the poor. *Global Forum for Health Research*, May 2008. ISBN 978- 2-940401-05-5.
- Investing in health for Africa: the case for strengthening systems for better health outcomes. *Harmonization for Health in Africa*, 2010.

Geneva, Jan 2025