

## **OPENING SESSION & KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**OPENING SESSION BY HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS MAHA CHAKRI  
SIRINDHORN <BR> KEYNOTE SPEECHES**

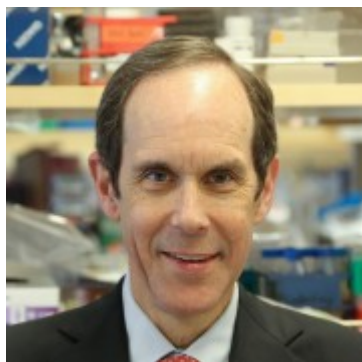


## | BACKGROUND

**Opening Session by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn**  
**Keynote Address**

## | OBJECTIVES





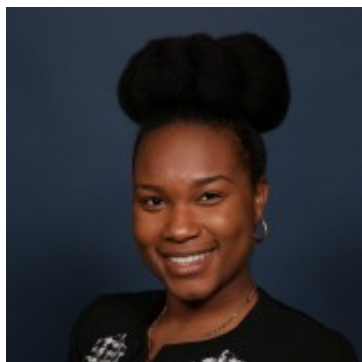
Keynote Speaker

## Brian Druker

*Director, Knight Cancer Institute*

Oregon Health & Science University  
United States of America

Brian Druker, MD, is the director of the Knight Cancer Institute, associate dean for oncology of the OHSU School of Medicine, JELD-WEN Chair of Leukemia Research and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. His research is focused on translating the knowledge of the molecular pathogenesis of cancer into specific therapies and investigating the optimal use of these molecularly targeted agents. He performed preclinical studies that led to the development of imatinib (Gleevec) for chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) and then spearheaded the highly successful clinical trials of imatinib, which led to FDA approval of the drug in record time. This work changed the life expectancy of patients with CML from an average of 3 to 5 years to a 95% five-year survival, and has resulted in a paradigm-shift in cancer treatment from non-specific chemotherapy to highly targeted therapeutic agents. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, the National Academy of Sciences and, among numerous awards, is the recipient of the 2009 Lasker-DeBaakey Clinical Medical Research Award.



## Keynote Speaker

### Leah Dodds

*Research Associate*

University of Miami  
United States of America

Ms. Leah Dodds was born and raised in the Commonwealth of Dominica – a low middle income country (LMIC) in the Caribbean known for its unique natural beauty. In 2014, Leah was awarded the GCE A-Level Island Scholarship which allowed her to pursue undergraduate studies at the University of Miami. In 2018, Ms. Dodds graduated from the University of Miami, Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Nutrition, and a minor in Health Sector Management and Policy. She was also the recipient of The David G. Anderson Prize for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology amongst her graduating peers. During her time at the University of Miami, Leah dedicated her energy towards health advocacy and disease prevention. Leah studied hereditary breast and ovarian cancer syndrome and was recognized by the American Association for Cancer Research as a 2017-2018 Thomas J Bardos Undergraduate Scholar for her work in cancer research. As part of her research project, Leah was involved in the distribution of genetic test results in LMICs in the Caribbean, particularly her native country - Dominica, where she engaged with the Dominica Cancer Society. Ms. Dodds also attended the Clinton Global Initiative Conference, where she engaged in conversations with the Prime Minister of Dominica, Hon. Roosevelt Skerit, to discuss mechanisms to foster education and awareness of the HPV vaccine. In 2017, Leah travelled to Nicaragua and Ghana as a medical volunteer where she facilitated mobile clinics and conducted education workshops on personal hygiene and diet. While raising awareness and providing care, she had the opportunity to do home visits, to understand the nature of the diseases presented. This year, Leah served as a Site Leader for a Community Health project at 180 Degree Farm in Sharpsburg, Georgia. She aided in the cultivation of naturally grown vegetables and fruits, grass-fed meat and pasture-raised eggs and was also fortunate to speak to high school students about the benefits of an organic diet and the contributions of the farm to the lives of cancer patients. Leah also attended the African Caribbean Cancer Consortium (AC3) biannual conference where she took part in community outreach to foster cancer literacy and the empowerment of patients through knowledge. Currently, Ms. Dodds volunteers with the Student National Medical Association at the Miller School of Medicine in Miami. In partnership with Urgent Cuts Barbershop in Overtown-Miami, Ms. Dodds helps to provide free monthly hypertension screenings and preventive education for cardiovascular disease to men waiting to get their hair cut. Leah is currently employed as a Research Associate at the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center and is interested in specializing as an OB/GYN which stems from her understanding that both native and international communities require the funding prioritization and availability of professionals in women's health. In the future, Ms. Dodds will remain engaged in NCD prevention and develop skills as a physician scientist to prepare her for a career that influences health policy and administrative decision making within medical delivery.



## Keynote Speaker

### Thomas R. Frieden

*President and CEO*

Resolve to Save Lives, an Initiative of Vital Strategies  
United States of America

A physician trained in internal medicine, infectious diseases, public health, and epidemiology, Dr. Tom Frieden is considered to be one of the world's leading public health experts. He began his public health career in New York City as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer of the US Centers for Disease Control, confronting the largest outbreak of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis to occur in the United States. From 1992-1996, he led New York City's tuberculosis control program that reduced multidrug-resistant cases by 80 percent. Dr. Frieden was then assigned to India, on loan from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where he helped scale up a program for effective tuberculosis diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring. The tuberculosis control program that he helped to build has saved more than three million lives to date. Asked to return to New York City to become Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Health Commissioner, Dr. Frieden directed efforts that led to a rapid increase in life expectancy. As New York City Health Commissioner from 2002-2009, he helped reduce smoking, eliminate artificial trans fat from restaurants, eliminate colon cancer screening disparities, and initiate the country's largest community-based electronic health records project. During his time as Commissioner, life expectancy in New York City increased by three years, a faster increase than in the United States as a whole. As Director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 2009 to 2017, Dr. Frieden oversaw the work that helped end the 2014 West Africa Ebola epidemic. Because of his leadership at CDC, Americans are safer from antibiotic resistance, foodborne and healthcare-associated infections, heart attacks, strokes, cancer, and exposure to dangerous pathogens. Dr. Frieden also established and strengthened training programs that have diversified the public health workforce and strengthened the skills of thousands of public health experts in the United States and around the world. Dr. Frieden now leads Resolve to Save Lives, a \$225 million, 5-year initiative housed at the global health non-profit organization Vital Strategies which aims to partner with countries to save millions of lives from cardiovascular disease and make the world safer from epidemics. In just the first year, Resolve to Save Lives made rapid progress, including a global call to eliminate artificial trans fat, a toxic chemical estimated to cause more than 500,000 deaths a year, increasing the number of people treated for hypertension, and accelerating work to reduce the risk of epidemics. In each of his positions, he has transformed the organizations he has led, creating global models of increased employee morale, engaged communities, rigorous accountability, and impact. In addition, he has written more than 250 scientific articles, publishing cutting-edge, widely cited research on a broad range of topics. Dr. Frieden received his medical and public health degrees from Columbia University, and completed his infectious diseases training at Yale University. Follow Dr. Frieden on Twitter (@DrFrieden).

