

THE PANELLISTS



Rachel Burden, is an award-winning broadcaster with the BBC, covering news, sport, business and entertainment. She has also covered the Paris and Manchester terror attacks, the US Presidential election and major sporting events. She recently traveled to Afghanistan where she was embedded with British troops. Rachel is a passionate advocate for women in the workplace and homeless youth.



Dr Laurence Sperling Sperling, M.D., FACC, FAHA, FACP, FASPC is the Founder and has been the Director of The Heart Disease Prevention Center at Emory since 1997. He is currently the Katz Professor in Preventive Cardiology at the Emory University School of Medicine, and Professor of Global Health in the Rollins School of Public Health. Dr. Sperling is the current Executive Director of Million Hearts for the Division of Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. He served as the President of the American Society for Preventive Cardiology from 2014-2016, served on the writing committee of 2018 the ACC/ AHA Guideline on the Management on Blood Cholesterol, and serves as Chair of the World Heart Federation writing group on the Roadmap for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention among People Living with Diabetes.



Dr Bianca Hemmingsen, MD is the Medical Officer in the World Health Organization working with diabetes in the Department of Non-Communicable Diseases based in Geneva, Switzerland. She took up the post in November 2020. Dr Hemmingsen has previously worked as endocrinologist at Copenhagen University Hospital, Denmark and been a part of the editorial team of the Cochrane Metabolic and Endocrine Disorder Group, Düsseldorf, Germany. Dr Hemmingsen has participated in several research projects focusing on cardiovascular disease in people with intermediate hyperglycaemia and diabetes.



Mark Riley-Pitt Mark's specialist clinical risk management knowledge centres around medical facilities including: Acute Hospitals, Mental Health and Community health including in Primary Care.

Mark has advised various Government bodies such as the Dept of Health and Ministry of Justice, by sitting on specially convened panels and industry sector groups to advise on clinical risk and indemnity, within the UK healthcare environment and similar healthcare economies across Europe.

Mark has worked closely with the healthcare regulators assisting these bodies in reviewing and assessing clinical risk, within all aspects of Healthcare, including public, private, not for profit and charitable sectors.

Mark is a managing director of Price Forbes Healthcare and read Law at University of Cambridge, where he gained an MA. Mark also served as an officer in the British Army.



Alfred Voss joined Mended Hearts in August 2016. He is the Past-President of the Southwest Georgia Chapter #165. He is also a Mended Hearts Accredited Visitor, Certified Patient Advocate, member of the Patient Advocacy Network, and Assistant Regional Director for the Southern Region.

On a national level, Voss serves Mended Hearts as the Business and Operations Director, Corporate Secretary, and Treasurer. He is a member of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Administrative Board, By-Laws Committee, and Awards Committee. He is the advisor to the Elections Committee and Nominations Committee.

Voss is a member of the Disease Experience Expert Panel (Denmark), the Partnership to Advance Cardiovascular Health (USA), the European Patients' Academy on Therapeutic Innovation (Switzerland), and the Australian Centre for Heart Health (Australia).

Voss was named "Mended Heart of the Year" in 2019, an annual award presented to a volunteer member for outstanding service in support of the Mended Hearts mission on a national or regional basis.

Voss received his education from the University of Alabama. Prior to retiring six years ago, he was a partner with an international accounting firm in Chicago.