



Feery Orator - Walter A. Orenstein, MD



Walter A. Orenstein, MD, is Deputy Director for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in the Delivery Team of the Global Health Program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation since October 2008. Between March 2004 and September 2008, Dr. Orenstein was a Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics in the Emory University School of Medicine. He was also Director of the Emory Program for Vaccine Policy and Development and Associate Director of the Emory Vaccine Center. Dr. Orenstein is the former Director of the National Immunization Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In 2004, Dr. Orenstein retired from his 26-year career at CDC where he led the National Immunization Program, a \$1.6 billion effort with more than 450 staff, dedicated to reducing vaccine preventable disease burdens around the world including elimination of some of the greatest causes of childhood mortality and disability. During Dr. Orenstein's tenure at the National Immunization Program, he led successful efforts to combat and markedly reduce the occurrence of once common childhood diseases, including measles, rubella, mumps, meningitis from *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib), varicella, and invasive pneumococcal disease. The Immunization Program also has made major contributions: protecting adults from vaccine-preventable diseases through eliminating barriers to vaccination and developing new vaccine strategies, expanding vaccine safety efforts, improving risk communication, and promoting the use of immunization registries.

Dr. Orenstein received his bachelor's degree at The City College of New York and his medical degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1972. He completed an internship and a residency in pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco, followed by a fellowship in infectious diseases at the University of Southern California Medical School and a residency in preventive medicine at the CDC.

Dr. Orenstein has served as an Assistant Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service and as the CDC liaison member to the National Vaccine Advisory Committee for more than 14 years. Major policies adopted during Dr. Orenstein's tenure at CDC include recommendations for: 1) a second dose of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine for all children, 2) universal vaccination of children against *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, hepatitis B, varicella, and invasive pneumococcal disease, and 3) annual vaccination of all 50-64 year old adults and 6-23 month old children against influenza. Dr. Orenstein led the efforts to implement the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) an innovative entitlement program that today overcomes financial barriers to vaccine access for approximately 40% of the nation's children and allows an advisory committee of experts, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), to see its recommendations financed automatically without having to go through the traditional appropriations process.

Along with Stanley Plotkin, and Paul Offit, Dr. Orenstein co-edited *Vaccines*, 5th edition, a 1725 page volume with more than 160 contributors that is the leading textbook in the field. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society. He has served on the Council of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society, chaired its publications committee, and is a former Secretary/Treasurer. He received an honorary doctor of science from Wake Forest University in May of 2006. Dr. Orenstein was also elected into membership in the Institute of Medicine (IOM) in that year.

Invited Speaker