



SPEAKER BIOS

Richard Besser, MD

Dr. Besser is medical director of the *Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work* campaign. He also serves as acting chief of the Meningitis and Special Pathogens Branch in the National Center for Infectious Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Dr. Besser received his bachelor of arts degree in economics from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts and his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He completed a residency and chief residency in Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. He trained in epidemiology as part of the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service. Before joining the respiratory diseases branch, Dr. Besser was director of the combined internal medicine and pediatrics residency programs at the University of California, San Diego.

Dr. Besser has authored and/or coauthored more than 50 research papers and book chapters. During the 2001 anthrax attack he worked as CDC liaison to the FBI in Florida and on the investigative team in Washington, DC.

Peter J. Pitts

Mr. Pitts is the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's associate commissioner for External Relations. An author and expert in strategic communications and marketing, he most recently served as a managing partner of Wired World, a firm specializing in solving marketing problems, generating strategic ideas, and stimulating growth. Mr. Pitts is the senior communications adviser to FDA Commissioner Mark B. McClellan and provides executive-level policy and program direction for FDA's interactions, information exchanges, and liaison activities with the agency's stakeholders and other external audiences. He supervises FDA's Office of Public Affairs, Office of the Ombudsman, Office of Special Health Issues, Office of Executive Secretariat, and Advisory Committee Oversight and Management Staff.

Mr. Pitts' previous posts include vice president of Marketing and Communications at Hudson Institute, director of marketing for the *Washington Times* and *Insight Magazine*, director of marketing at the *New York Post*, creative services director at *McCall's* magazine, assistant creative director at *Reader's Digest*, and marketing manager for Cable Health Network. His most recent book, *Become Strategic or Die*, is a study of successful leadership based on strategic vision and ethical practice.

A graduate of McGill University, in 1998 Mr. Pitts was selected one of Indianapolis' 40 Under 40 by the Indianapolis Business Journal.

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Michael Fleming, MD

Dr. Fleming, a family physician in Shreveport, La., is president-elect of the American Academy of Family Physicians' (AAFP). AAFP's governing body, the Congress of Delegates, elected him to this position during the organization's October 2002 annual meeting. Previously, Dr. Fleming served for three years as speaker of the Congress of Delegates. AAFP represents more than 94,300 physicians and medical students nationwide.

In the private practice of family medicine, Dr. Fleming is managing senior partner for The Family Doctors in Shreveport, a group practice of ten family physicians. He also is assistant clinical professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the Louisiana State University Health Science Center and in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Tulane University Medical School.

Active on numerous committees for AAFP, Dr. Fleming addresses issues in the areas of health education, finance and insurance, governance, and member participation. He previously served as AAFP's vice speaker and is a former chair of the Task Force on AAFP/Chapter Relations and the Committee on Public Relations and Marketing.

Dr. Fleming is a past president of the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians, a constituent chapter of AAFP. He also is past chair of the Board of Directors for the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians Foundation, the charitable arm of the organization. Dr. Fleming was honored as Louisiana Family Doctor of the Year in 1996.

Margaret B. Rennels, MD, FAAP

Dr. Rennels, has been a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Infectious Diseases since 1999 and is currently serving as Chair of the Committee. She is professor of pediatrics, clinical head of the Division of Infectious Diseases and Tropical Pediatrics, and chief of the pediatric clinical studies section of the Center for Vaccine Development at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore.

Dr. Rennels has been involved in the clinical development of pediatric vaccines. Her current major interests are conjugate pneumococcal, conjugate meningococcal, and combination vaccines. She has served as principal investigator for more than 30 clinical trials of vaccines; written numerous articles and book chapters; and lectured widely on pediatric infectious diseases and immunization.

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