

Global Health Security Conference – Breakfast Session Concept Note

Proposed (Working) Title: Advancing Pandemic Prevention: From Risk to Action

Overview

This session will present a forward-looking approach to pandemic prevention grounded in PAX *sapiens*' mission to reduce catastrophic global risks. As part of its work to prevent predictable global catastrophes, PAX *sapiens* is advancing new systems of collective coordination designed to stop major disease outbreaks before they spread—saving lives and reducing economic and societal disruption.

Working with governments, researchers, and cross-sector partners, PAX *sapiens* focuses on closing critical gaps across three core areas: **technical capacity, sustainable financing, and political will**. This session will demonstrate how these pillars come together in practice—bridging risk assessment, operational coordination, and incentive design to create actionable systems for pandemic prevention.

Objectives

- Highlight emerging approaches to pandemic risk assessment and surveillance, integrating ecological, epidemiological, and economic factors
 - Demonstrate how strengthened technical capacity enables earlier detection of disease threats, including at or before spillover
 - Examine sustainable financing mechanisms, including the alignment of incentives for early outbreak reporting through initiatives such as the Pandemic Compensation Initiative (PCI)
 - Explore how political will and cross-sector coordination- particularly through nongovernmental organizations- can be mobilized to sustain attention and action on pandemic prevention
 - Present how these elements—capacity, financing, and governance—are being operationalized through real-world collaboration and continuous learning models
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Format

Structured presentation with curated discussion

The session will combine framing remarks, presentation of conceptual frameworks, and real-world examples of operational implementation. It is designed to present our evolving approach,

and related initiatives, for integrating non-governmental actors into pandemic prevention, followed by targeted audience engagement and discussion.

Session Description

The session will begin with a strategic framing of the Global Pandemic Prevention issue area at PAX *sapiens*. It will touch on PAX *sapiens*' evolving approach to integrating technical capacity, financing, and governance into operational systems by incubating ideas and then scaling them through strategic partnerships—thereby moving from risk identification to coordinated, scalable action.

Building on this foundation, the session will present emerging global health security principles developed through a partnership with the Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands, which convened cross-sector leaders to define actionable frameworks for collaboration to advance health security. These principles are informing the development of a **nongovernmental Health Security Operations Center (HSOC)** which stood up in time for the 2026 FIFA World Cup in North America designed to enable coordinated surveillance, rapid response, and sustained cross-sector engagement.

The session will highlight the scale and momentum of this work, including engagement across more than 30 collaborators and growing demand from over 400 local, state, and federal and international officials seeking access to surveillance data and insights.

Finally, the session will examine the role of economic incentives in pandemic prevention. Drawing on the Pandemic Compensation Initiative, it will explore how aligning economic incentives with public health objectives can enable earlier reporting, faster response, and improved global outcomes.

Proposed Speakers

Dr. Rebecca Katz

Dr. Rebecca Katz serves as an advisor to PAX *sapiens* on pandemic preparedness and leads the organization's work on innovative financing mechanisms for epidemic and pandemic response. She is a professor at Georgetown University, where she directs the Center for Global Health Science and Security, and is a co-founder of the Georgetown/MedStar Health National Center for Health Security and Resilience. She is leading efforts to stand up a nongovernmental Health Security Operations Center in time for the 2026 World Cup.

Dr. David Bowen

Dr. David Bowen is a Senior Fellow at PAX *sapiens*, where he leads the Pandemic Compensation Initiative, which has the goal of reducing the economic disincentives that can impede early reporting of disease outbreaks. David previously served as Health Policy Director for the Senate HELP Committee and was one of the lead developers of the Affordable Care Act. David also served as a Deputy Director at the Gates Foundation as part of the campaign to eliminate polio, and was CEO of Malaria No More, an advocacy organization.

Sabeeha (“Sabs”) Quereshi

Sabeeha Quereshi is Vice President, Global Pandemic Prevention at PAX *sapiens*. She has spent nearly 20 years in domestic and global health policy and operations spanning WHO, USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, UNICEF, the Rockefeller Foundation, the California Surgeon General’s office, and as a Biden Administration Presidential Appointee at the Department of Defense.

Target Audience

Policymakers, global health leaders, scholars, and practitioners engaged in pandemic preparedness, response, and system design.

Expected Outcomes

- Clear articulation of how risk assessment, operational coordination, and economic incentives intersect in practice
 - Increased understanding of the role of incentive alignment in enabling early outbreak detection and response
 - Demonstration of how emerging models can be operationalized in real-world settings
 - Identification of opportunities for collaboration and scaling integrated pandemic prevention approaches
 - Improve familiarity with PAX as an organization and its priorities in pandemic preparedness
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Logistics

- Breakfast Session – June 11, Kuala Lumpur (TBC)
- Estimated Attendance: 50

- Format: Structured presentation with moderated engagement

AI disclosure statement: Microsoft 365 Copilot GPT 5.3 was used to convert compiled initial concept note draft into a more grammatically refined draft document, which was then edited by humans.