



Roundtable VI: Effective Policies to Enhance Health & Human Performance

Speaker Biographies

*Bioethics in Commercial Space Travel:
Charting Humanity's Next Frontier*

**May 21, 2026
12:00–1:30 p.m. EDT
Via Zoom**



CHARLES DOARN
SolaMed Solutions
Subject Matter Expert

Charles Doarn serves as the director of the University of Cincinnati (UC) Armstrong Institute for Space, Technology and Research (ASTRO). In addition, he is an Emeritus Professor in the Department of Environmental and Public Health Sciences, UC College of Medicine. He has academic appointments at the full professor level in Political Science at UC, Aerospace Medicine at Wright State University, and Emergency Medicine at George Washington University. From 1990-2023, he provided subject matter expertise in aerospace medicine and telemedicine to NASA's Chief Health and Medical Officer and served as the co-chair of Federal Telehealth Working Group for the U.S. Government. Professor Doarn has worked closely the NATO, the Department of Defense, and the Department of State as a Fulbright Specialist.

He received his undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences (Microbiology) from The Ohio State University in 1980 and an MBA from the University of Dayton in 1988. Additional training includes the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Aircraft Mishap Investigation Course, Ashburn, VA and Advanced Program Management at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, VA.

As the Editor-in-Chief of the Telemedicine and e-Health Journal (since 2005), Doarn is a highly recognized leader in telemedicine and telehealth as a scholar and teacher, having published 10 books, over 475 manuscripts, editorials, federal reports and nearly 55 book chapters. Doarn is an award-winning author and editor. He is an editor of the 4th edition of Space Physiology and Medicine: Evidence to Practice (ISBN 978-1-4939-6650-9); an editor of A Multinational Telemedicine System for Disaster Response: Opportunities and Challenges. NATO Publication (ISBN 978-1-61499-727-6); an editor of Engineering, Life Sciences, and Health/Medicine Synergy in Aerospace Human Systems Integration. The Rosetta Stone Project. NASA SP-2017-633. (ISBN 978-1-62683-044-8); and Telemedicine, Telehealth, and Telepresence: Principles, Strategies, Applications and New Directions. Editors. R Latifi, CR Doarn, RC Merrell. Springer, New York. ISBN 978-3-030-56916-7. 2021. He co-authored NASA's Mishap Investigation Flight Surgeon Handbook - NASA SP-2020-5006891.

Professor Doarn is a fellow of the ATA and Chair of that College and a fellow of the Aerospace Medical Association, a member of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), an Honorary NASA Flight Surgeon, recipient of the Astronaut's award, the Silver Snoopy for his work in Telemedicine for NASA worldwide, and received NASA's Exceptional Public Service Medal (2024). Professor Doarn was recognized by the ATA with the 2016 Individual Leadership Award for his efforts nationally and internationally in telemedicine and in the 2023 with the ATA CEO Special Recognition Award. He and his co-authors were recognized with the IAA's 2018 Luigi Napolitano Book Award in the Life Sciences.



DR. SARALYN MARK
SolaMed Solutions
Moderator

Saralyn Mark, MD, FAMWA, is an endocrinologist and women's health specialist and the founder and CEO of **SolaMed Solutions**, including its space medicine subsidiary. She is also the founder of **iGIANT®**, a nonprofit focused on advancing sex- and gender-specific design.

Dr. Mark has served as a medical and scientific advisor to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, NASA, and other public- and private-sector organizations. She previously served as Senior Medical Advisor to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health and to NASA, where she contributed to initiatives spanning public health, emerging technologies, and human performance in space.

She is an adjunct Associate Professor at Yale and Georgetown Universities and a Distinguished Senior Fellow at George Mason University. Dr. Mark is the author of *Stellar Medicine* and has received multiple awards for distinguished public service.



DR. SHAWNA PANDYA

Aviv Clinics
Discussant

Dr. Shawna Pandya is the first named female commercial Canadian astronaut and is expected to fly to space with the International Institute for Astronautical Sciences (IIAS) aboard the Virgin Galactic Delta class spacecraft as early as late 2026. She is also an emergency and aeromedical transport physician, aquanaut, Director of IIAS' Space Medicine Group, Executive Director of the IIAS Flight Opportunities Program, and Chief of Space Medicine at the Advanced Spacelife Research Institute. She serves as an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta and lectures there on "Technology and the Future of Medicine."

Dr. Pandya was on the first crew to test a commercial spacesuit in zero gravity in 2015. She earned her aquanaut designation during the 2019 NEPTUNE (Nautical Experiments in Physiology, Technology and Underwater Exploration) mission and completed a second aquanaut mission, NEP2NE, in 2023, totaling 11 days and 10 nights underwater. She served as medical lead and co-PI of the 2023 IIAS-01 suborbital research flight and as PI and/or co-I for Ax-2, Polaris Dawn, and Blue Origin payloads.

Her publications include work on medical guidelines for commercial suborbital spaceflight and book chapters addressing space technologies in terrestrial medicine, psychological resilience, reproduction and sexuality in long-duration spaceflight, the future of space medicine, and emergency procedures in spaceflight. Her work is permanently exhibited at the Ontario Science Centre alongside Dr. Roberta Bondar.

Dr. Pandya is a Fellow International of The Explorers Club and was named among its "50 Explorers Changing the World" in 2022. In 2024, she received recognition from the Women's Space Awards in Medicine and Health and became a full member of the International Astronautical Federation Human Spaceflight Committee. In 2025, she was named a Karman Fellow and a finalist for "Playmaker of the Year" at the inaugural Global Space Awards. She also serves on the XPRIZE Brain Trust and mentors with Creative Destruction Lab.



DR. VASILIKI RAHIMZADEH
Baylor University College of
Medicine
Ethicist

Vasiliki Rahimzadeh, PhD, is an assistant professor of medical ethics and health policy at Baylor College of Medicine. Her National Institutes of Health-funded research program investigates the ethical, legal and social issues (ELSI) of sharing genomic and related health data on Earth and in space. She directs the Mission to Enhance Ethics Education, Outreach and Research in Space (METEORS) program where she contributes to evidence-based standards for human research protections in the commercial spaceflight industry and supports space medicine investigators navigate emerging ELSI in their work. She is also a standing member of the Bioethics Panel for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and chairs the Astro-Ethics Affinity Group through the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. Dr. Rahimzadeh has a BS in microbial biology from the University of California Berkeley and earned a PhD with specialization in biomedical ethics from McGill University before completing a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University.



BAILEY REICHELT, ESQ.

Aegis Space Law
Discussant

Bailey is a founding member and partner at Aegis Space Law, a boutique firm focused on the space industry. Her primary expertise is in international trade law (ITAR, EAR, OFAC) with a secondary emphasis on regulations as they pertain to U.S. launch regulations. In addition to her legal work at Aegis, Bailey is a Board Member and part of the founding team of the Association of Commercial Space Professionals (ACSP), a non-profit established to democratize access to space by teaching regulatory compliance and advocacy to commercial space startups.

Prior to establishing Aegis, Bailey designed and managed international trade compliance programs for various multi-national aerospace and defense manufacturers. She also provided expertise in government and commercial contracting and anti-bribery laws. Before all that, she was a public defender in Texas and a law student at the University of Mississippi School of Law.

Bailey enjoys hanging out with her husband, daughter, and menagerie of pets at her home in North Carolina. She has many hobbies but isn't particularly good at any of them because she can't seem to pick one. Her favorite activities are meeting new people and learning new things.



**REBEKAH DAVIS REED, PHD,
JD, LLM**

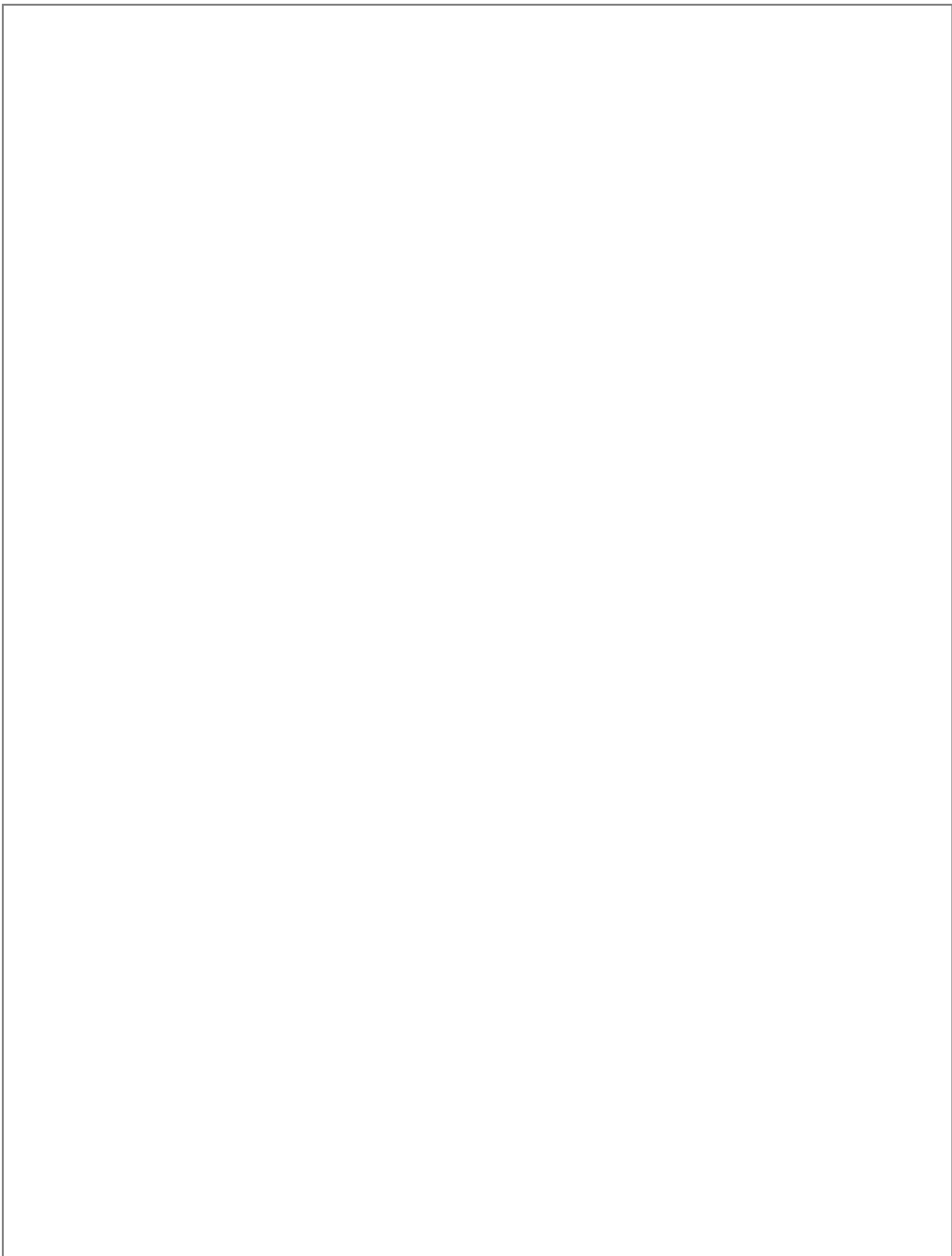
Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer
Center for Science and International
Affairs
Discussant

Rebekah is the Associate Director of the Program on Emerging Technology, Scientific Advancement, and Global Policy at Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. The program addresses one of the defining challenges of this era: how legal, regulatory, and governance institutions must evolve to keep pace with rapid advances in emerging technologies, encouraging innovation while simultaneously identifying and mitigating societal and geopolitical risk.

Rebekah joined the Belfer Center in May 2025 after retiring from the Federal Government with nearly 30 years of service. She spent 25 years at NASA where she led international relations, policy, legal, and technical functions at NASA Headquarters and the Johnson Space Center. In addition to leading Management Integration and Planning for the Space Shuttle Program and serving on the agency's Return to Flight Planning Team after the *Columbia* Accident, she served as Counsel to the NASA Flight IRB; Chief of the Space and Occupational Medicine Branch; Program Manager, Crew Health and Safety Program; and Associate Director of the Exploration Integration, Architecture, and Science Directorate at the Johnson Space Center. In her final position at NASA, Rebekah was the principal international advisor to NASA's Associate Administrator for Exploration and served as Chair of the multilateral International Space Exploration Coordination Group.

Rebekah began her federal career at the Foreign Agricultural Service, where she served on U.S. delegations to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and Food and Agriculture Organization; she also coordinated the sub-cabinet level Food Security Working Group, which developed the United States' first global road map for food security.

Rebekah received a Ph.D. in diplomatic history from Georgetown University, where she was a University Fellow and Davis Teaching Fellow. She also holds a JD and LLM in health law from the University of Houston Law Center, where she was a member of the Order of the Barons and the Order of the Coif, and was an adjunct professor of legal negotiations.





**DR. VICTOR S.
SCHNEIDER**

Associate Professor of Medicine
Baylor College of Medicine,
Center for Space Medicine
Discussant

Dr. Schneider formerly worked for the NASA Headquarters Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer as a Senior Medical Advisor where he participated as part of the Office of Research Assurance and as a member of the NASA Bioethics Committee which provided guidance on human bioethics, genetics, and medical privacy for NASA-sponsored research.

He also served in the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate as a Program Executive for Crew Health and Safety and the Human Research Program. He had participated as the Chief Scientist for both the NASA US/Russian Mir Space Flight Program and the Life and Microgravity Sciences Space Lab Mission and previously served as a NASA flight surgeon.

Order of the Barons and the Order of the Coif and was an adjunct professor of legal negotiations.



MEGAN SIEFFERT, ESQ.
Applied Materials
Discussant

Megan Sieffert is an aerospace, semiconductor, and advanced-technology attorney whose career bridges federal oversight, cutting-edge space programs, and high-growth commercial innovation. She currently serves as Segment Business Counsel at Applied Materials, guiding complex commercial, government, and technology transactions for global semiconductor and precision-manufacturing programs. Previously, she was Associate General Counsel at Vast and held senior in-house roles at Axiom Space and Slingshot Aerospace, supporting commercial space station development, astronaut missions, and national-security space software. Megan's foundation as an aerospace lawyer was forged at NASA's Office of Inspector General, where she helped safeguard federal resources by supporting investigations and oversight across NASA's Earth Science portfolio, launch services, and the Commercial Crew Program. She also maintains a robust pro bono practice advising scientific and aerospace startups at the pre-funding stage to accelerate innovation and expand access to space.



KONRAD SZOCIK
University of Information
Technology & Management
Ethicist

Konrad Szocik is a philosopher and bioethicist, and professor and vice-rector for research and international cooperation at the University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszów, Poland. His research focuses on the philosophy, ethics, and bioethics of space exploration, human enhancement, feminist bioethics, population ethics, and selected issues at the intersection of futures studies, technology, and the environmental crisis. He is the author of *The Bioethics of Space Exploration* (Oxford University Press, 2023) and *Feminist Bioethics in Space: Gender Inequality in Space Exploration* (Oxford University Press, 2024), as well as numerous journal articles and book chapters on space ethics, space bioethics, antinatalism, and climate-related existential risk. Previously, he was a Visiting Fellow at the Yale Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics (2021–2022).



DR. MATTHEW WYNIA
University of Colorado
Ethicist

Dr. Wynia is a clinician-researcher and leader in bioethics with a history of exploring some of the most contentious ethical issues in health care, focusing on those related to the social roles of health professionals. He is a professor of medicine and of public health at the University of Colorado, where he directs the CU Center for Bioethics and Humanities.

Prior to his current role, he spent 18 years at the American Medical Association, where he led the AMA's Institute for Ethics and Center for Patient Safety, and he was the Director of Patient and Physician Engagement for the Improving Health Outcomes team. While there, he co-founded the Commission to End Health Care Disparities and he led the Project on the History of African-Americans and the Medical Profession that, in 2008, prompted the AMA's public apology for a legacy of racial discrimination and exclusion in organized medicine. He has served on advisory boards for the US DHHS Office of Minority, the Joint Commission, the American Board of Medical Specialties, American Board of Internal Medicine, and other national medical, public health and bioethics professional organizations. At the National Academies, he currently serves on the Board on Health Sciences Policy and has served on multiple consensus committees and chaired special projects on team-based care, transdisciplinary professionalism, and public health approaches to preventing ideologically-motivated violence.



DR. PAUL ROOT WOLPE
Emory University
Moderator

Paul Root Wolpe, Ph.D., is the Raymond Schinazi Distinguished Research Chair of Jewish Bioethics at Emory University and Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Sociology, and Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology. After 16 years directing Emory's Center for Ethics, he is now building the university's Center for Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation (PACT). Dr. Wolpe spent 17 years as NASA's first Senior Bioethicist, shaping policies for human health in spaceflight, and served as the first National Bioethics Advisor to Planned Parenthood Federation of America. He is Past President of both the Association of Bioethics Program Directors and the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, and is a Fellow of the Hastings Center and the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. He received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in 2019.

A national thought leader, Dr. Wolpe's work examines the ethical, social, and ideological impact of medicine and biotechnology. A founder of neuroethics and former Editor-in-Chief of *AJOB Neuroscience*, he was named one of Trust Across America's "Top 100 Thought Leaders in Trustworthy Business Behavior" and received the 2011 World Technology Network Award in Ethics, the 2022 Tzedek Award, and the 2025 Humanitarian Award from the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Author of more than 150 publications and over 500 invited presentations, Dr. Wolpe has been recognized as a Faculty Row "SuperProfessor" and a Teaching Company "Superstar Teacher." His TED Talk has over two million views, and he has been featured widely in media, including *60 Minutes* and a personal profile in the *New York Times Science Times*.



LAURIE ZOLOTH
University of Chicago
Ethicist

Professor Laurie Zoloth holds the Margaret E. Burton Chair of Religion and Ethics at the University of Chicago. She has a distinguished career as a bioethicist and scholar of Jewish ethics, writing or editing 10 books, and over 350 articles. She was both President of the American Academy of Religion and President of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, receiving its Distinguished Service Award in 2007. She was a co-founder of the Society for Jewish Ethics and founding chair of the HHMI Bioethics Board. She served on the NASA National Advisory Council, for which she received the NASA National Public Service Award. She has served as both the dean of the Divinity School and as Senior Advisory on Social Ethics at the University of Chicago. Her honors include the Graduate Theological Union's alumna of the year, an honorary doctorate from the American Jewish University, the Engelhardt Award in Bioethics and the Borsch-Rast Book Award in Religion. She is a Fellow of the Hastings Center and a Life Member of Clare Hall, University of Cambridge. In addition to her 1999 book about justice and health care policy, The Ethics of Encounter, and five edited books, her most recent books (2022-2023) are Second Texts and Second Opinions: Essays toward a Jewish Bioethics and Ethics for the Coming Storm: Climate Change and Jewish Thought, both from Oxford University Press, and May We Make the World?: Gene Drives, Malaria, and the Future of Nature, from MIT.