

BMGF Tech: welcome everyone. And thank you so much for being here today. If you're online. Good morning. Good evening. Good afternoon. We welcome you as well.

BMGF Tech: here. My name is Deborah Sepulveda, and I manage our public programs and partners here at the Discovery Center. I use she her pronouns

BMGF Tech: and I am wearing a blue shirt. I have short brown shoulder-length hair, and I'm wearing gold rim glasses. Also, behind me is a screen that says the name of the program. Together we can stop cervical cancer really excited about the vent. This evening

BMGF Tech: the Discovery Center sits on the traditional, unseeded territories of the Duwamish and the coast salish peoples.

BMGF Tech: We acknowledge and honor them with gratitude, and recognize that this land continues to be their home. We know this only becomes meaningful with

BMGF Tech: developing relationships and taking like very intentional actions.

BMGF Tech: I want to thank all of our partners this evening. If you haven't had a chance. After the conversation. Please take the time to go into the next gallery and visit our partners. We have many amazing organizations today. I'm going to list them all. Also, if you're online, we'll make sure to put the names and the links to their organization. So you can visit them online and get involved

BMGF Tech: survivor, path school nurse organization of Washington together for health UV. Or University of Washington, Itch. We care, and within reach. I also want to thank our Asl interpreters tonight.

BMGF Tech: Courtney Coddington, who's up right now, and later on Lucy Woods.

BMGF Tech: a couple logistics. I think most of you have found the food and drinks, but if you haven't, it's all the way at the end. Encourage you to visit our exhibit. And hopefully, I'll talk a little more at the very end of the program. We do have a survey at the end. We have upcoming programs. You can follow us at discover gates.

BMGF Tech: You can get a newsletter that features all our upcoming programs. And the last thing our bathrooms are to the right, and if you don't haven't noticed, make sure you get a drink out of the toilet on the way in. So part of our sanitation exhibit. So yeah, so we're gonna kick off with a short video. And then my colleague, Diane, will kick us off

BMGF Tech: died from cervical cancer. That's preventable. We know what causes it. We know how to diagnose it early, and we know how to cure it. If we can eliminate Hpv, we can eliminate cervical cancer. This vaccine works really well. But delivering 3 doses is a little bit of a challenge. If people cannot access vaccination.

BMGF Tech: You cannot prevent disease. We've been working on evaluating whether a single dose of Hpv. Vaccine is effective. We enrolled girls into research. We sample them after every 6 months. Now we have all this data from the observational studies that showed that the people who got one dose have stayed protected because you're only giving

BMGF Tech: countries with limited resources, will be able to vaccinate more girls with the same amount of vaccines. What we need is put our minds together and make a commitment and declare that we need to eliminate this cancer.

BMGF Tech: If you're a woman somewhere, please go for screening, take your child for vaccination. If you're a policymaker, please invest in women, I'd like to envision a future where cervical cancer is a disease of, did that really happen? And we can make that possible.

BMGF Tech: So Hello, I'm curious. By a show of hands, how many people recognize Dr. Mugo in the video. Yeah, kind of a local. Another local hero. Besides, of course, Dr. Eckert, as well

BMGF Tech: as Deborah, says, my name is Diane Scott, and I manage our communications for the foundation's work in vaccines.

BMGF Tech: So basically, my job is to try to tell people that vaccines are amazing and they save lives. They improve lives. And then to get governments to support organizations like Avi's and many others. To make sure people in lower income countries have the same access to the vaccines as we do here in Seattle.

BMGF Tech: Because my work is global. I'm never. I'm seldom on a phone call in this time zone. It's usually globally. And so in particular, this moment at the Discovery Center is so important for me personally on different fronts. But I get to bring my global work together with the local work and just talk to people locally about some of the work we do and and the great work of others. So it's very exciting to be here.

BMGF Tech: So I've worked

BMGF Tech: across many. I've been at the foundation for a long time. I worked across a lot of issues, and I I say, I probably shouldn't confess that my favorite work has been on vaccines just because they are amazing tools.

BMGF Tech: And again, I'm not supposed to say I have a favorite vaccine.

BMGF Tech: But I do.

BMGF Tech: I just remember, in particular, the moment I realized that there's a vaccine for cancer, I didn't know that even existed. And so that kind of blew my mind

BMGF Tech: how it can. Just the impact it can have on people's lives is so amazing. And so I got really excited about this work.

BMGF Tech: The foundation has worked in vaccine worked in cervical cancer elimination for many, many years. And we've invested almost a half a billion dollars. So like 500 million dollars in this area for the 3 kind of areas that support eliminations, green treat and prevent. But most of our work has been in the vaccines area.

BMGF Tech: and most recently, the focus is making sure. Girls in low and middle income countries have access to the vaccines.

BMGF Tech: That's very important. And 10, Zela and Nicholas and others here are doing that work and then making sure that there are new vaccines available, because supply is always an issue. And so we want to make sure that there are enough supplies to make sure they get to the girls who need it most again.

BMGF Tech: And then the work that we do is with

BMGF Tech: so many important partners like Unicef and WHO. And Path, is right down the street, and maybe in the audience, and so many other partners are here for the meeting that Tenzila and others have been hosting. So I can't name you all. But Hi, and so glad that you're able to be here today, and I just feel so grateful to have so many great people to work with.

BMGF Tech: I got introduced to Dr. Eckert to Linda kind of a random email one day one of my colleagues said, Hey, Diane, you're working on Hpv. Vaccines right? You should meet Linda, and that was about 2 years ago, and so

BMGF Tech: a lot of text messages, a lot of emails, a couple walks around Green Lake, and I've gotten to know her. And I was just so excited to help put together this event so people could come and listen to her and hear about her book.

BMGF Tech: So I'm just going to call them up.

BMGF Tech: So I'm gonna hand it over to Tenzila and Dr. Eckert. But first quickly. Tenzel again. My colleague here at the foundation she leads the Hpv. Learning agenda and country engagement work, and she can tell you a little bit more about that when she comes up.

BMGF Tech: She has more than 12 years of experience as an epidemiologist, and has spearheaded numerous observational and clinical trials in the Us. And in Imic so

BMGF Tech: low and middle income countries. Another hero, right?

BMGF Tech: And then Dr. Eckert, of course, is a professor of obstetrics and gynecology with an infectious disease fellowship. I just had to say it all at the University of Washington, and a recognized expert in immunization.

BMGF Tech: So just a pleasure to have these 2 come up on stage and so come on up.

BMGF Tech: Thank you so much. Diane, really appreciate all this humble introduction.

BMGF Tech: So I'm going to start with. I'm Tanzila tasking, as Diane mentioned that I'm a program officer here at the foundation, and I lead our Hpv. Learning agent and country engagement.

BMGF Tech: I'm brown. I'm wearing a hijab, and then I'm also wearing sari.

BMGF Tech: I'm a mother of 2 wonderful genius, sons and a very humble man.

BMGF Tech: So here I am.

BMGF Tech: So about this cervical cancer. Definitely, we all know I want to start the conversation by just telling that. Let's be hopeful and positive, and let's hear it. That cervical cancer is preventable.

BMGF Tech: But the fact is, the Imic every year 303,000, no.

BMGF Tech: 350. No, sorry. I'm losing my number. Yeah, 350,000 people. Women die from cervical cancer.

BMGF Tech: And it's the fourth common cancer among women.

BMGF Tech: So and 90% of these women are from Imic. So this is kind of a point where we have to think about this is the point of inequality

BMGF Tech: where the foundation put their interest, and they want to make sure that this vaccine is available among these girls who are in need.

BMGF Tech: So we are very happy to lead the program, help our partners to roll out the vaccines and every way possible where the help is needed.

BMGF Tech: So with that thing. I would like to go back to Linda and

BMGF Tech: if you just start

BMGF Tech: on describing you first. Thank you. I ask you the question. I'm getting to the book. I also want to add my welcome. It's pretty overwhelming to just sit here and look at all these faces, and I'm just so thankful to be here and thank you for the invitation, and thank all of you for coming.

BMGF Tech: I have blonde hair, white skin. I'm wearing glasses and a brown suit. We're a little bit color coordinated up here, which is unplanned but pleasant. And yeah, I work at the University of Washington at a Harborview Hospital for over 32 years, caring for women of all nationalities. Cause. That's what we do at Harborview, and also have done about 15 years of global health policy

BMGF Tech: work with the World Health Organization and other organizations. And so I'm here in a delighted way to talk about this book.

BMGF Tech: Yeah, wonderful. So I would like to start with a very basic question first, can you tell about the book a little bit more like, what motivated you about this book? Is there a specific story that you'd really like to talk about?

BMGF Tech: So I

BMGF Tech: like, I said, I've been working for a long time in women's health and in all resource settings, and when I was 25 I had a really pivotal experience. I was training at University of California, San Diego and I traveled to Liberia for 4 months to work as a clinician as a fourth year medical student, and on my second day there I met a patient who was brought in by her son

BMGF Tech: because she was quite ill, and it turns out she had advanced cervical cancer, and her diagnosis was quite a profound moment for me, because I also realized at that moment that in Liberia there was no screening or treatment.

BMGF Tech: that the the cases there, you know, were just sent home essentially to die, and that essentially all of Africa was that way. And here I was, this young idealistic 25 year old medical student wanting to do good in the world, and was faced with this equity issue. That just kind of broke my heart.

BMGF Tech: So I carried mama with me. That was her name. And then I went on through my training and gradually met mamas everywhere at Harborview, in San Diego, in Texas, Nicaragua. And all over I kept seeing, here's this cancer.

BMGF Tech: It's preventable. And it's taking away women who are so valued to their families, their societies, their cultures.

BMGF Tech: I mean, when women leave the world, they leave a huge gap that just can't be filled easily. And so I decided eventually that I wanted to work on that. And then, as I was working on that in policy and data, and so forth.

BMGF Tech: which are all great things. I had this moment when I was sitting in a big conference room

BMGF Tech: we were about to start guideline work for the cervical cancer elimination strategy. And I was really happy to be in this big room with 50 other people with my little name Tag in front of me.

BMGF Tech: And then I thought.

BMGF Tech: But where are the women?

BMGF Tech: Where

BMGF Tech: are the women whose stories are what we're talking about.

BMGF Tech: And why aren't we talking about the women?

BMGF Tech: And

BMGF Tech: that night I went home and I wrote in my journal, and I said, enough, I have seen enough.

BMGF Tech: we actually have enough.

BMGF Tech: Why aren't we doing enough?

BMGF Tech: And so I thought.

BMGF Tech: I have to write a book which was a little bit of a crazy idea. I have to write a book where I collect stories from women around the world.

BMGF Tech: and I have to put with it information that everybody can understand that's written for the general population. It's not a medical book.

BMGF Tech: So everybody can understand why this is a preventable cancer. And everybody can understand how remarkable these humans are. These aren't numbers. These are people.

BMGF Tech: And so that's what I set off to do.

BMGF Tech: Thank you. What a tremendous story!

BMGF Tech: And I can.

BMGF Tech: I can definitely relate that the part that you mentioned about how wonderfully the book was written, because, being a nonmedical person, understanding, Hpv is a huge thing. So really, really it was wonderful reading how Linda was presenting from the prevention to the treatment and its impact on women's life, because a lot of the time it doesn't come into the stories. So I would really encourage everyone to read it for a pleasure. Understand? Yeah.

BMGF Tech: So I'm really, really interested. Because when I was reading the book I found you shared lots of stories about the women from multiple countries across the world.

BMGF Tech: I'm really curious to know, like, how did you get connected with these women. How did you? Because it's a great deal for them to trust you to share their stories? So if you can tell us some of those stories. Yeah, I also felt like so honored that people would tell me their stories, and

BMGF Tech: through my work I had made contacts in several different countries. So my original plan is, I got a year off of work, and I was going to go travel. But then 2,020 happened, and I couldn't travel anywhere.

BMGF Tech: And so instead, what I tried to do was use these same connections and reach out to survivor organizations reach out to various global health contacts reach out locally and eventually also established a web page where I said, You know, I'm looking for stories. And if you are interested in potentially being in a book, please contact me.

BMGF Tech: And so people had to reach back to me first before I reached out to them, and they reached back to me with the knowledge that I was interested in writing this book and interested in stories.

BMGF Tech: and I got a lot of help from survivor organizations and just individuals around the world and over the course of the year, was able to collect over about 30 stories over Zoom, and then some other personal studies. And so the book is really an accumulation of stories. People shared with me specifically for the book, but also kind of my life's work of taking care of people around the world. And I just

BMGF Tech: I still feel so

BMGF Tech: humbled at

BMGF Tech: I'm going to cry that people would be vulnerable enough to tell a perfect stranger their cancer story, and the reason they did it is because they care so much that nobody else suffer the same fate.

BMGF Tech: and that to me was so empowering, and kept me going.

BMGF Tech: Wonderful!

BMGF Tech: I think now I will be having a hard time holding my tears as well, because hard tears remind me actually one of the incident. While I was reading the book I was coming back from London. I was in a waiting room reading the book, and at 1 point.

BMGF Tech: She wonderfully described a story where

BMGF Tech: the discrimination was there, and she

BMGF Tech: so elegant way. She represented the whole thing that I couldn't hold my tears, and the person next to me. I think the person was like so confused like they don't know how to handle my emotion, because I was literally like crying and definitely wearing a hijab is something that people cannot like. Just come and like, hug you, they're like, Are you? Okay? Like, what's happening? I'm like, no, it's just like, so close to my heart. So yeah.

BMGF Tech: so okay.

BMGF Tech: I'm breathing. I'm holding my breath. Let me ask you a question. Yeah, you are in cervical cancer work. So what brought you into cervical cancer work?

BMGF Tech: Wonderful?

BMGF Tech: I don't know where to start. I think like

BMGF Tech: couple of the things is very interesting for me is one.

BMGF Tech: I'm very close to cancer. I'm super afraid of cancer because it runs in my family. I have lost all my uncles and my only aunt from cancer.

BMGF Tech: So, being a child going through all this trauma, not only emotionally, financially, socially, I can connect the cancer

BMGF Tech: so that actually driven my passion for cancer prevention, and on top of that, being a

BMGF Tech: person of a color. Being a woman representing a religious, conservative, religious community.

BMGF Tech: we know that we do not talk about women health, and especially if it's a reproductive organ, related right? There is a lot of stigma and hesitancy, and when you talk about HPV. That's a big thing. We don't talk

BMGF Tech: so. That actually inspired me to choose HP. Vv. As my passion.



BMGF Tech: Then I can be the breach. I can be the connector. I can be the voice of those women that let's do it together. Let's talk about it

BMGF Tech: because we can prevent the cervical cancer and just coming from Lmic. I have seen my friends suffering from Hpv. Where she was coming from, a well educated family from a wealthy family, but still she couldn't describe the thing to her family members. It was that hard accessing to the care was so hard. But I was not in Hpv. At that time.

BMGF Tech: but I think those are. The factors really drove me to work and be the strength of those women. Well, thank you for what you're doing. Yeah, wonderful. Thank you.

BMGF Tech: And also I should say that my father and both father in law are cancer survivor. So definitely, it's there.

BMGF Tech: It's very close to my heart.

BMGF Tech: So, as I was talking about these discrimination, I was just wondering if you can tell me any stories where you saw the differences, how the treatment or access.

BMGF Tech: I think that the difference between the Us. Versus globally, because you have such a global experience. So is there anything that you would like to bring to our audience from your book.

BMGF Tech: Well, I I think one of the stories that you're talking about is a really profound was. It's in chapter 7, and how the book is set up is each of the chapters has at least one story, or, if if not one, but several stories. But it's got a story that really tries to help

BMGF Tech: bring home. The main point of the book. And Chapter 7 is about the inequity of cervical cancer kind of laying the stories like you were talking about at the beginning, and it's a woman, Kim, who's from Ohio, who travels to Haiti to work, and she meets Elvia, and Elvia is working in Haiti. They become really good friends, and their children become really good friends. And if you've

BMGF Tech: ever traveled overseas, you know it's your children that actually make all your friends for yourselves, because they're like running around. And then all of a sudden, you're all hanging out together. And so they got to be really good friends, and they would stay in touch when Kim would go back to Ohio and then come back to Haiti, and at 1 point they took a picture together of Kim with Lvia's 2 children.

BMGF Tech: and then Kim went back to the Us. And she had several children, and she finally realized, I have to get my cervical cancer screening. It's been many years. And when she went and got her cervical cancer screening she was found pretty quickly to have cancer.

BMGF Tech: and within 3 weeks she was in treatment. She had already had her biopsies. She'd had her diagnosis. She'd had her visit to oncology. She was already starting treatment, and that was super fast,

and her head was whirling. But she got her treatment and her treatment worked, and they thought they got all the disease, and she went on to have all these complications, but still she was living. But then she learned that at the same time that picture was taken.

BMGF Tech: Her friend Lvia actually was suffering from cervical cancer, and they didn't know it. But Elvia lived in Haiti and in Haiti. They don't have pap smears, and they don't have treatment. They have no radiation machines in Haiti, and if you are rich you can leave the country, but otherwise you just don't get treatment.

BMGF Tech: So Elvia died pretty quickly, and she left these 2 children that used to be part of their common community.

BMGF Tech: and Kim's words to me were so profound about how. Yes, you know, she suffered a lot of difficult complications, but she got treatment.

BMGF Tech: She got treatment, and she is parenting her children

BMGF Tech: because she lives in the United States.

BMGF Tech: and her friend Elvia, whose picture she keeps right by her bed.

BMGF Tech: is gone, and her children are orphaned. Well, they have their father, but they don't have their mother

BMGF Tech: because of where Lvia was born, and it's just the life lottery of where you're born gets to determine whether you get to live

BMGF Tech: from cervical cancer, and unfortunately, that life lottery is still

BMGF Tech: continuing to this day.

BMGF Tech: This is

BMGF Tech: this is so unfortunate, and no women should die from a disease that can be preventable. Right? So it's just not acceptable. And I think that's one of the driving force for us as a foundation to work more towards it. And let's see how we can save millions of life because we can save it.

BMGF Tech: So when you were talking about these because I, when I was reading the book, I have seen that you really really traveled a lot across the world. So I was wondering there are like so many meets and misconceptions, is out there. So how did you address those meets and misconception globally in your book?

BMGF Tech: Well.

BMGF Tech: well, thank you. And I would be the first to admit that I still have a lot to learn about addressing myths and misconceptions. But you talked about stigma, and I feel like stigma is such a killer

BMGF Tech: is killing women because women can't talk about. They can't say the word cervix. They can't say the word vagina. They can't say the word uterus. They may not even know what it is necessarily.

BMGF Tech: and so I feel like pretty much everybody I interviewed for my book. It didn't matter what country they were from didn't matter what income level they were from talked about the stigma of cervical cancer.

BMGF Tech: and how they've had amazing things said to them even by their doctors like. Oh, you must have had too many partners, or you must have had sex too young or so forth, and the trouble with not the trouble, but the thing about Hpv. That's this common myth that I hope that I try to address in the book is just how common. It is 80% of adults. 88 0 will have an Hpv infection.

BMGF Tech: and the unlucky ones are the ones where they have the types of Hpv. That can cause precancer changes, and then the body doesn't get rid of it, and it sticks around.

BMGF Tech: So it's not a behavior choice.

BMGF Tech: It's a biology. And it's it's a disease. And so the fact that it gets labeled as this behavior choice, I think, is a huge myth and misconception, and if the book does anything. I really hope it helps battle that

BMGF Tech: the other thing I think that is difficult is this is a disease that strikes individuals with Cervix, most of whom identify as women, not all, but most of whom do, and in many places they aren't able to really advocate for themselves that well to get themselves to the doctor to get themselves care to be

BMGF Tech: value in the way that they should be valued. And so I go a lot into the book about the economic value of women.

BMGF Tech: Not that I feel like you should put a dollar on it, but that is how policy decisions can be made, and also the social value of women. And what happens when you have all these children that are left without their maternal units? And so I think that I really try to battle stigma. I try to battle the misconception about Hpv. Being associated with bad behaviors.

BMGF Tech: I really try to talk about the value of women and the impact of patriarchy. And so I hope that through the stories and through the information that those also can become more common conversation points

BMGF Tech: wonderful. Thank you.

BMGF Tech: So when I was hearing all of when you were answering all of these things and sharing your ideas and what you have seen

BMGF Tech: like, I'm curious to know, because I was hearing so many keywords like policy finance, because these are the things that we did in the last 2 and a half days convening that we had.

BMGF Tech: Can you tell our readers, as well as our audience that what they are expecting, or what kind of insight they can get through your book.

BMGF Tech: Well.

BMGF Tech: I should probably ask the people who've read it, too, feel free to talk to each other, but I guess that I hope people will understand about Hpv. The biology of it, and how it causes disease and how you can prevent it. I hope people will understand about cervical cancer screening.

BMGF Tech: And the interesting thing about this disease and why we say it's preventable is because we have this huge long lead time between. When you get Hpv to you get precancer to you get cancer is often many years. So we get to intervene along that way in many ways. But all of those interventions are not easy.

BMGF Tech: And so through the book I talk about what those interventions are, and I talk about what are obstacles to them. And then I talk about how we can overcome those obstacles, and there are a lot of really exciting things going on. I don't want to make it seem like the book is all gloom and doom, and you'll just cry. But it's really got a lot of hopeful information.

BMGF Tech: and there are a lot of promising things happening, including the single dose of Hpv. Which, when I started my career, we were giving 3 doses, which is infinitely harder than giving a single dose.

BMGF Tech: and so there are a lot of good things, so I do hope that people will carry with them some knowledge that will be useful, and also

BMGF Tech: they'll carry the stories with them like you were talking about. I think some of these stories I will carry with me the rest of my life. Having talked to these individuals. And there are people in this area in this room that are in the book. If people are interested in finding out more what it's like from that perspective. But I feel like the stories make it real. It's not a disease about numbers. It's a disease about people.

BMGF Tech: Yeah, I was. I was holding my breath while I was hearing, and then

BMGF Tech: I'm going to tell, as you say, that. Ok, you are not going to cry while you are reading the book. One thing I really, really, I really loved because I worked on the vaccine delivery. And I forgot which chapter you say that

BMGF Tech: innovation of a vaccine can win a Nobel Prize, but not a vaccine delivery. So I was like, I highlighted that section and I'm gonna share it with my delivery people because we know how challenging it is. And maybe we can just tell, like, can we just invent very close to Nobel Prize? Because, yeah, we see all the Nobel Prize are coming inventing something, but we are the one

BMGF Tech: making sure that every single girl who are vaccine eligible can get the vaccine. So shout out to my Hpv. Vaccine team and all the members here.

BMGF Tech: Well, and also I mean tensila was just convening a big meeting here about people who are in the trenches who are doing the vaccine delivery in really hard situations. And so why don't you tell us a little bit about what you've gleaned the last couple of days. Oh, that's my fun part. I'm I'm fully energized. With all these 2 and a half days convening that we had in the foundation, and it was it was not at all our traditional workshop.

BMGF Tech: We were running

BMGF Tech: rooms from from this room, from that room we were on the clock we are on the feet. Felt like an elementary school

BMGF Tech: camp, a summer camp. Let's put it like that way. It was a summer camp, well organized. Everybody acted like an adult child. So okay, that's the background of it. I really really loved it. It's gonna energize me, I don't know. And I can see Nicholas and Chris and all my Hpv. People are like laughing.

BMGF Tech: But the goal of our convening was basically to strategically thinking what are the gaps and barriers in Hbo vaccine delivery as well as how we can prioritize the gaps because it's a big elephant. So we have to prioritize so many things. So that was our goal, and the other goal was kind of like open open.

BMGF Tech: There is no boundary, because, as

BMGF Tech: As a gates foundation, we are connected with our grantees, our internal external partners. But then we wanted to make this convenient as an opportunity to open the doors.

BMGF Tech: There is no border, so let's get connected. Let's mingle. Let's build the community because we cannot do it siloed. So we need that open space. So I hope we did a good job. I'm just taking the credit. I don't know how the survey will come, but, like, let's say, like we really did a good job and thank you all for that. Yeah. And I, I would say that. You know, we talk about immunization policy, and we talk about doses. And we talk about age ranges.

BMGF Tech: But again, what does it take to get a vaccine? You have to have transportation. You have to keep a cold. You have to record who gets the vaccine. And who doesn't? You have to teach all the people about the vaccine? Not just the people receiving it, but their parents, their communities, their educators, you know, every all of this. So if you really think about oh, we're just gonna put a vaccine in an arm and into cancer, which is an amazing thing to say.

BMGF Tech: That is amazing. But what goes into making that happen is huge.

BMGF Tech: So a follow up question coming, a burning one, my favourite one

BMGF Tech: how we can make men involved in this whole process.

BMGF Tech: I think that's a great question. And I actually have a chapter about that raising male champions, because you will not eliminate cervical cancer without everybody being involved.

BMGF Tech: And this is a disease that impacts society. It doesn't just impact individuals with services. I mean, if you just think about all of the unpaid work in the world

BMGF Tech: that individuals with services do.

BMGF Tech: And you think about the community organizations, they run the school help. They offer the voting drives, the caring for people who are sick, their parents, I mean. You go on and on, and you think about losing that person. Of course it's a societal issue, and of course we bring everybody in the society along. So I think men can be involved, first of all, with education

BMGF Tech: by learning about Hbv. Disease. Learning what a cervix is learning, what a pap smear is there? I don't know if you saw this really amazing funny meme recently about a comedian who was at a show, asking men in the audience what a pap smear was, and the various answers that were given to that comedian

BMGF Tech: was illuminating, and it makes you realize that you know we have education to do for everybody about this disease, and that will be helpful. Certainly men contribute to Hpv. Spread, and so they can learn about ways to combat that

BMGF Tech: I'm often asked about the vaccine for men, which I'm sure you are as well and in high income countries. Most of the men are offered the vaccine, and I think in an equity world

BMGF Tech: everybody should get this vaccine because HPV. 16 causes most of throat cancer.

BMGF Tech: It's a very high in the United States right now. There's more people dying of Hpv. Cancers who are male than female.

BMGF Tech: But right now we are in a world where there's a supply constraint.

BMGF Tech: We are in a world where you cannot get the vaccines to the people that really need them, because there's not enough.

BMGF Tech: And if you are in that world, then I think it makes sense to prioritize the people who have the highest burden of Hpv. Which is females who have the highest cancer burden, I mean. And so I, you know, when you might hear us talking about. Why are you talking about just vaccinating girls? And and that's why we don't have enough vaccine to vaccinate the whole world, which I wish we did

BMGF Tech: so. I I kind of got off track there. Sorry. No, about males. I think. Males, education, advocacy, valuing the health of their, the individuals around them who have services and trying to just do things like make sure they watch the kids so they can go to their appointment, you know, or really practical things talk about it like be open to that is one thing, and advocacy is another thing.

BMGF Tech: Yeah, thank you. This is very, very thoughtful, and

BMGF Tech: it's a deep dive.

BMGF Tech: Some of us can connect the world with deep dive, because that's what we did in the last 2 and a half days at the foundation.

BMGF Tech: So my, the other question is.

BMGF Tech: what kind of advice would you like to give the people who would like to

BMGF Tech: get involved in cervical cancer? Not just

BMGF Tech: like, not just at an organizational level, but like more at individual level policy level, or for the healthcare providers.

BMGF Tech: well, I am delighted to have the 6 tables next door.

BMGF Tech: So I encourage people to stop by and talk to the individuals here, because those are 6 opportunities for how you can get involved with cervical cancer prevention.

BMGF Tech: And I really am thankful for the groups that came and the organizations here in the back of the book there is a resource section that lists organizations that may or may not have been talked about in the book.

BMGF Tech: And so you can see if there's any of those who peak your eye

BMGF Tech: every January. We have cervical cancer prevention month, and you will see a lot of information about that. And I think that's the perfect time to ask your neighbors. Ask your friends, ask your colleagues. Are you current on your screening? Have you gotten your

BMGF Tech: your child vaccinated? Do you have any questions. Can I answer questions for you? Because I really think also, when you get knowledge from this book, you'll be a local resource on your soccer field, sideline, and anywhere else you might be that can really help answer questions.

BMGF Tech: Thank you. My very last question. I know people are tired, so I want to open the floor. But before that I want to ask you one last question that I know is a tremendous book. So how do you think that people can utilize this book as a resource. And then, if there is anything, any last thing that you would like to talk about about the book that I didn't ask

BMGF Tech: thank you.

BMGF Tech: well, I think we've talked about. Some ways that could be used as a resource.

BMGF Tech: I, personally, of course, wrote the book, so I think everybody should read it, but I realize there's a little bit of a conflict of interest there. But the reason I think everybody should read, it is because I feel like Hpv. Disease is common.

BMGF Tech: and it's something that

BMGF Tech: currently we don't know enough or talk about enough.

BMGF Tech: And if we think about the billions we spend on the cancer moonshot in this country.

BMGF Tech: We have the moonshot for cervical cancer. It's done. We know what causes it. We know how to prevent it. We have the tools.

BMGF Tech: but we have all these obstacles getting in the way. So I think the book would help people thinking about the obstacles and how to overcome that.

BMGF Tech: And I hope it becomes a book cup book. I hope it becomes a book that people talk about just with everybody. It's written for the general population. It's not a medical book. I was excited to see school nurses here. I hope school nurses use this book. I hope

BMGF Tech: you know general healthcare providers might benefit from it, so I just hope it can become a resource and part of the ongoing dialogue of of the importance of centering people's voices who have cervical cancer, of centering women with cervical cancer



BMGF Tech: in the picture of cervical cancer and using their voices and information behind their voices to help humanize this problem, put a face on it and realize that we really can do something about it.

BMGF Tech: Thank you. Wonderful.

BMGF Tech: I think, that we, too, had enough.

BMGF Tech: So now let's open the conversation. Open the conversation for the audience who are here as well as who are online.

BMGF Tech: Thank you. I'm going to have the mic, so you can raise your hand. I do have one question to kick us off from the virtual audience. So thank you. Everyone online. Please feel free to put your questions in the chat.

BMGF Tech: But they asked, How do you think we can best energize and inform girls and young women to seek out the Hpv. Vaccine.

BMGF Tech: Well, I think

BMGF Tech: Talking about it in a way that is relatable to girls. I feel like social media is a good tool for that.

BMGF Tech: I feel like conversations with trusted adults and trusted peers that are just a little bit older in Europe. They have this education group called Esco Teens, which is the European Society of Gynaecology and Oncology Teen Group. And they actually have

BMGF Tech: given teams training about going into schools and talking to their peers about Hpv. Vaccinations. So I think that's a really good model. There's a group here called we care that's working on educating individuals in India about the Hpv. Vaccine again teens young people talking to teens. So I think we do have some models currently that we can build on.

BMGF Tech: Thank you. I will add with Linda, but this is not me talking. I'm cheating at this point, because I have all the things in my head for what we did in the last 2 and a half days.

BMGF Tech: What what I was hearing, or what we were hearing, was more like involve these girls, while because we always say that. Okay, let's go. Do this intervention. Do that. This is important. But a lot of the time we forget to include these adolescent while we are planning, creating some materials. And that's what I was hearing that. Let's

BMGF Tech: get these girls be on board. Let's develop something with them that will be more efficient, and that will also show the inclusiveness. Yeah, sorry for my cheating. Yeah, no, that's a great. That's a great idea.

BMGF Tech: Great. Any questions for the audience

BMGF Tech: me to

BMGF Tech: thank you, Dr. Eckert. There was a New York Times article

BMGF Tech: about

BMGF Tech: I wonder what you think about this article that came out talking about Merck, which I guess is main provider of the Hpv.

BMGF Tech: Vaccination, that there's manufacturing problems or something. And so there's less going to be available. And

BMGF Tech: I'm concerned about that being a real equity problem

BMGF Tech: globally. And I'm interested in what your response to that article was.

BMGF Tech: Hold on. Let me take a deep breath and choose my words carefully here.

BMGF Tech: Thank you for that, and these are my words. This is not the Gates Foundation words.

BMGF Tech: I was really distraught at this article. How many people have seen the New York Times article know what we're talking about.

BMGF Tech: So essentially.

BMGF Tech: the main manufacturer of the vaccine that is used by Gavi, which is the group that funds vaccines to the 52 poorest countries based on Gdp had committed a certain number of doses to come to Gabby, and then, just last week there was this article about how they're going to be 10 million doses shy. And so at least 6 countries were listed in this article as needing to hold back on their Hpv. Rollout plans.

BMGF Tech: And I actually lost sleep 2 nights about this, wondering about a response, because this is actually chapter 9. In my book, Deja Vu. This has been happening

BMGF Tech: repeatedly, and since 2,018

BMGF Tech: there's data out at least by in the gabby investment strategy that 34 million girls

BMGF Tech: have lost out on Hpv vaccine.

BMGF Tech: 34 million.

BMGF Tech: And in these girls, where there isn't treatment for cancer in these countries, and there isn't screening. You only have to vaccinate 70 girls to save a case of cervical cancer. And a case of cervical cancer is essentially a life, because the treatment is so hard to come by.

BMGF Tech: So if you count that up, that's 34 million doses that were promised that didn't come.

BMGF Tech: That's 500,000 cases of cervical cancer.

BMGF Tech: which is a city.

BMGF Tech: And these are people. These aren't doses, these are people.

BMGF Tech: And so I

BMGF Tech: am appalled by this news. And I. You know I have my little 680 Instagram followers, and we've been like posting about it. And they're all saying, What can we do? What can we do? What can we do? And I'm certainly open to that conversation.

BMGF Tech: But I also feel like I'm I'm mindful of the fact that it's very difficult to manufacture vaccines in high volumes.

BMGF Tech: and I'm mindful of the fact that we need more global suppliers. This is why you don't want a monopoly. This is why you want a lot of suppliers, and I'm mindful that things do happen. But I'm also mindful that if you pay \$160 a dose for this vaccine. You can get it.

BMGF Tech: and if you pay \$5 a dose you cannot get it.

BMGF Tech: And there are so many things to say about that, but I have to say it's heartbreaking, and if anyone has ideas for how to try to mobilize, please tell me.

BMGF Tech: Thank you.

BMGF Tech: Hello, Dr. Eckart! How are you? My name is Gil, and I was born in Kenya, but primarily raised in the States, and the daughter, cousin, niece of of many physicians, and my question to you is, the the continent of Africa is very rich in knowledge, right? And what we tend to see is this stricken resource? Almost

BMGF Tech: not not necessarily corruption, but it's been removed right. And for many systemic factors, as we look at things like bringing vaccines or kind of being the supplier vaccines I sometimes feel like

that's more of a Band-aid than anything, because we're not creating this infrastructure where the physicians on the ground and the policy makers are held accountable

BMGF Tech: to their citizens. But also we're teaching them to some extent how to fish, giving them and empowering that knowledge that is on the continent.

BMGF Tech: What do you suggest? And while that

BMGF Tech: that solution in the short term is extremely necessary because it's life giving, what do we do in the long term to say we are giving you the power, the we're. We're harnessing the work that you're doing. You're seeing people like you cause. Often it's not necessarily that they don't want to, or they're not interested in these vaccines. Sometimes it's a matter of culture.

BMGF Tech: right? It's a matter of what they've seen growing up, what their mothers have said. And sometimes you're not just necessarily saying, Hey, come to the hospital because you don't have a ride. You're changing their minds about why they should even trust Western medicine.

BMGF Tech: So my question to you is, what do we do to make long-standing perpetual change versus just sometimes being the supplier and having to be there.

BMGF Tech: Well, I really appreciate your comment, and I think it's incredibly crucial, and I think it's not simple, and I think the main thing for me as a person is listening

BMGF Tech: listening to people like yourself who are in the situation. I would say, I think there's a lot of

BMGF Tech: increased listening happening. I was just at University of Washington lecture yesterday talking about decolonizing global health and trying to work more, you know, with

BMGF Tech: African driven policies and African driven agendas. And I know there's a lot of

BMGF Tech: capacity transfer and capacity training going on to try to just do what you're talking about enabling.

BMGF Tech: I would say

BMGF Tech: I'd say that has happened in our country, too. But to a lesser extent

BMGF Tech: one of the hopeful

BMGF Tech: pieces of that, for instance, I have a story in my book about American Indians, who in the Navajo nation they combined a coming of age ceremony for girls with their periods with getting the Hpv. Vaccine. And they did a lot of education. And because that's a ceremony where you always have the

aunties and the moms and the people coming together. And then they combine that with education, about cervical cancer, screening and vaccination.

BMGF Tech: And so I think, using, like you said, the local culture, the local ideas, people's people's thoughts, what you were talking about, like listening to the girls and what they're saying, I mean, I I think that I think that there's a shift that has to happen that started to happen. But it's just in its emphasis.

BMGF Tech: Hello, everybody! Hi, Tanzila! Hi, Dr. Record.

BMGF Tech: I have this question about.

BMGF Tech: So my friend has a nonprofit organization, and

BMGF Tech: he sponsored an orphanage in Kenya, and

BMGF Tech: we, as a family, a sponsor of

BMGF Tech: girl that escaped like early marriage, and they've gone through a lot of already in their life. And I'm thinking now I'm learning that they don't have

BMGF Tech: resources available to prevent them from Hpv.

BMGF Tech: And as I, you know.

BMGF Tech: I'm caring for that person that is somewhere far away.

BMGF Tech: What what can I do like? How can let's say, my friends organization get in contact with maybe the Gates foundation or some other organizations where they can cooperate and get the necessary education. Care for for the people that I care over there.

BMGF Tech: Sure.

BMGF Tech: it's so that's a wonderful question. And I really really appreciate the way you showed your passion. How you can contribute. And I would love to have a conversation after the meeting, because I think it's a lot of way we can do it. So how about we? We? You stay, and then I can stay, and then we can talk, and we can see how we can connect. Who would be the right resource to make it happen because we are here to make it happen. Right? So let's make it happen.

BMGF Tech: And also Kenya is rolling out the Hpv. Vaccine. They have the Hpv. Vaccine in the public sector.

BMGF Tech: Yeah.

BMGF Tech: Hi, Dr. Eckert and

BMGF Tech: Tangela. Thank you so much for the conversation. My name is Dr. Heather White. I

BMGF Tech: run a nonprofit called together for health, and we do work in Kenya so happy to be a part of that conversation as well as in the Us. Here in Alabama. I'm a public health practitioner by training, and

BMGF Tech: have worked in this space for a long time. But one of the things

BMGF Tech: that we talk a lot about within the context of our work is how to move this outside of

BMGF Tech: medical communities, public health communities

BMGF Tech: really, what is that work that takes to thread this, pull this conversation through to wider populations, and I would just love to hear from you

BMGF Tech: first, let me say I think your book is a huge

BMGF Tech: part of that, and resource.

BMGF Tech: It was everybody's stocking stuffer in my

BMGF Tech: January gifts, because it came out in January, but I gave it to my circle of friends and family.

BMGF Tech: But in your conversations with people, as you've talked about the book, and what it means to you, and how it can be a vehicle for getting this conversation out more broadly.

BMGF Tech: Where do you see sparks?

BMGF Tech: Of the brush fire, so to speak.

BMGF Tech: Well, that is such a good question, and it's something I'm actively learning about, you know, when you go to medical school they don't really teach you how to promote a book.

BMGF Tech: So. But as someone said to me, you can learn hard things. And so I'm learning I really think that I would like to get this into like health organizations. For instance, I live in Seattle. So Microsoft has a women's employee organization. Amazon has one. All these people have employee organization so cervical health, not necessarily to sell the book, but cervical health. Hpv. Disease.

BMGF Tech: That is a way for a general population. I mentioned book clubs. I think so many people have book clubs, and this is active book club material. And I think for that word of mouth like you're talking

about. You know, I keep waiting for the New York Times or Today show to call me. But they haven't yet. So you know that would be. If anyone knows those people. Please send them my way. But I

BMGF Tech: I think this is going to be a grassroots thing like you said, and how to pull the thread through. And you should talk to Heather at her booth about what they're doing in Alabama. It's really remarkable, and Alabama is one of the few states in the country that has a cervical cancer elimination effort signed on by the Department of Health largely through their work.

BMGF Tech: and that is great because it's a little bit hard to get screening sometimes in Alabama. And so they're working really hard on that. But so I think there's all kinds of

BMGF Tech: ways to try to thread this, and I'm always open for ideas, and I'm certainly in the learning phase of this.

BMGF Tech: Thank you. Before we go to the next question. One thing I cannot stop myself to intervene like when you said about the Book Club. I see Katie is laughing. She is from our team. So we were showing each other. The book on the Zoom call not the zoom in the teams call showing the book and how it's going. So it is just reminding our Internal Book Club is happening here. So

BMGF Tech: I think it's our last question. Right?

BMGF Tech: Okay? The last question, do, Hasan.

BMGF Tech: Good evening and thank you for your time.

BMGF Tech: Tanjila is my boss.

BMGF Tech: He's just making it teasing me. I'm a vaccine delivery guy, right? We're all vaccine delivery guys and girls.

BMGF Tech: But sometimes we miss girls, and if you go, we miss as difficult. Sometimes girls age out. So if we start a campaign for 9 to 14, they become 15, they age out.

BMGF Tech: So how do we not reach those build a vaccine because they're no longer eligible for it? But with all the other stuff like, perhaps may in resource constrained environments to stop them from getting cervical cancer. Yeah. And thanks. You know, that's a big topic. And it is 2 chapters in my book. But screening is difficult.

BMGF Tech: and there are a lot of tools becoming more easily available for low resource settings. But they haven't hit prime time yet.

BMGF Tech: Hpv. Screening with a simple swab that's cheap and easy to do isn't prime time yet. But there's a lot of research going into that. There are also techniques of using visualization of the cervix with vinegar water. That doesn't require a lab, but none of these are easy. They take infrastructure. And I would say of the who cervical cancer elimination effort

BMGF Tech: working on getting the screening rate up to 70% is a really heavy lift. And a lot of people are really working on that. And so I think technology is going to help us, as the Hpv tests get better and better and simpler and simpler and cheaper and cheaper

BMGF Tech: right now they still are limited by the need for lab capacity, and they are still costly, too costly for low income settings. \$5 each is what I've seen as the cheapest Hpv screen, which is too expensive. But there's a lot of work and investment going into that and

BMGF Tech: also using cell phones with artificial intelligence to be able to look at a cervix and tell a provider that's not as skilled in looking at the cervix what they need to do. So there's a lot of technology coming

BMGF Tech: and much research and investment going into this.

BMGF Tech: But it's it's still hard.

BMGF Tech: Thank you. It was. It was wonderful question. And I think that it was a

BMGF Tech: very appropriate answer that you provided because you have tons of field experience. So it was very connectable.

BMGF Tech: So I know you guys must be tired of hearing my voice, but it's like just a couple of minutes like hold on it.

BMGF Tech: So I think that I would like to close us off by just telling it that remember, the cervical cancer is preventable, but then we cannot do it by ourselves. No one can do it, so let's do it together. We got this. We can fight it together, and we can do it together. Let's win it together

BMGF Tech: and then save lives, because that's all of our goal. All the people here. I'm sure that they are so passionate about

BMGF Tech: how, however, you can do it. We can. We should do it in everybody's own capacity.

BMGF Tech: I would like to thank definitely, Linda not only writing this wonderful piece of resources I would not tell. It's a book. It's a piece of resources for every level.

BMGF Tech: And also I would like to thank Deborah and



BMGF Tech: your entire team to hosting us here at the

BMGF Tech: Discovery Center. I would also like to thank Diane. She's over there guiding us, helping us through this entire process.

BMGF Tech: All the audiences who came here who took their time to stop by, who are online. I really really appreciate and big shout out

BMGF Tech: to my Hpv. Learning agenda convening team members not only supporting me

BMGF Tech: but just coming here. They're so tired because a lot of them just not only travel across the Us. Not drove through these traffic at Seattle. We know how bad that could be around 5.

BMGF Tech: But also they came across the world. So a big shout out to my Hpv convening team members, thank you all.

BMGF Tech: Thank you. I'm gonna hand over my mic to Deborah. I had enough.

BMGF Tech: Thank you both so much. Can I say? Of course, there's an opportunity to sign up from my mailing list and put your email name into a basket, and I'm going to have a drawing, and I have swag if you win the drawing. So if you're interested in being on my mailing list. Please sign up. It's part of what I'm learning about how you network a book.

BMGF Tech: Thank you so much. Thank you so much for having this. Yeah, what a wonderful conversation! And so inspiring both of you. I really appreciate, both of you taking the time as well. So just a little plug for the discovery Center upcoming programs. And if you how many of you have not been to the discovery center before?

BMGF Tech: Wow! Oh, my gosh! Almost like at least half the room.

BMGF Tech: Okay? Well, so we're a free space. We are open 10 to 5 Wednesday through Saturday, and we offer school tours. Educator programs. It's an incredible space for our community. So if you're from Seattle, please come back. If not, follow us online and come back when you're in town. Our upcoming programs are also online and virtual. We do most of our public programs hybrid. Now.

BMGF Tech: ever since Covid, we've moved to a hybrid in person and public and virtual programs. So we have our make way for the future of sanitation to connect back to the exhibition that hopefully, you've spent some time looking at, and then a connection to love your gut, understanding the microbiome and and fermented foods. So please take time to do that. That scan oops. Oh, go back for 1 s.

BMGF Tech: If

BMGF Tech: you want to learn more and follow us at discover Gates and get on our E news and our email

BMGF Tech: on that scan that on your phone, or we can get you signed up today. And then, lastly, we'd love to get feedback. So we have 2 of my colleagues in the back. Sidney and Jess are going to hand out some paper surveys, but if you'd rather do it online, we'd love to get your feedback so helpful for us to continue to do programs like this.

BMGF Tech: That is everything I have except, please visit our partner tables. They're going to be there for the next half hour, get another bite to eat or drink at the last gallery, and if you have any questions for any of us, please let us know.

BMGF Tech: Thank you. Thank you so much.