

DR LARRY BRILLIANT

President, The Skoll Urgent Threats Fund, USA

Dr Larry Brilliant is currently the President of the Skoll Global Threats Fund. Prior to that he had a three-year stint as Google VP and was the first executive director of Google.org, the company's philanthropic arm.

Larry is an MD and MPH, board-certified in preventive medicine. He lived and worked in India for ten years as a member of the UN team that led the successful World Health Organization smallpox eradication programme in India and South Asia. He later founded the Seva Foundation, whose projects have given back sight to nearly 3 million people worldwide through their work to eliminate preventable and curable blindness.

In 1985, Larry co-founded The Well, a pioneering digital community and holds a telecom systems patent. He was a professor of international policy and epidemiology at the University of Michigan and has authored two books and dozens of scientific articles on infectious diseases, blindness and international health policy. He volunteered as a physician during several disasters, including the Asian Tsunami in Sri Lanka and Indonesia and the Bihar Floods. After the anthrax attacks in the US in 2001, he volunteered as a first responder for CDC's bio-terrorism effort.

Larry chairs the National Bio-Surveillance Advisory Subcommittee, created by Presidential directive, and is a member of the World Economic Forum Global Advisory Council on Catastrophic Risks. He was elected to the Council on Foreign Relations in 2008.

Recent awards include Time Magazine 100 Most Influential People and top 20 Scientists and Thinkers (2008), UN Global Leadership Award (2008), TED Prize (2006), Peacemaker Award (2005) and International Public Health Hero (2004) and two honorary doctorates. In 2009, the documentary about polio eradication in India which Larry created, The Final Inch, was nominated for an Oscar.