

# Biography Ann Aerts



**Head, Novartis Foundation**

**Moderator**

Dr. Ann Aerts has been Head of the Novartis Foundation since January 2013, where she has played a key role in devising new policy recommendations. She has the exciting responsibility of heading an organization committed to exploring innovative solutions to public health problems. The Foundation has the challenging goals of expanding access to quality healthcare and eliminating diseases such as leprosy and malaria.

Early on in her career, Ann enjoyed working as a clinician but realized she could have more impact working in public health to provide healthcare access to populations in some of the most deprived areas of the world. She discovered a real passion for solving global health challenges, which continues to feed her love for her work.

Before her current role, Ann was Franchise Medical Director Critical Care for Novartis Pharma in Basel, and Therapeutic Area Head Cardiovascular and Metabolism in Novartis Pharma Belgium. Previous to joining Novartis, she served as Director of the Lung and Tuberculosis Association in Belgium from 2002 to 2006 and as Head of the Health Services Department of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva and Health Coordinator the ICRC in several countries.

Ann started her overseas career in 1991 as a District Health Officer in Angola and worked as an emergency physician in Mozambique, Burundi, Rwanda, RDC, East-Timor, Sudan and Ivory Coast.

Ann holds a Degree in Medicine and a Masters in Public Health from the University of Leuven, Belgium, as well as a Degree in Tropical Medicine from the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium. In July 2014, Ann was nominated by PharmaVOICE as one of the 100 Most Inspiring People in the life science industry. Ann has published numerous publications and studies and is a member of numerous boards, including the Global Health Group Advisory Board of University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), the NetFWD of the OECD Advisory Board and the Project Steering Board for the World Economic Forum Health Systems Leapfrogging in Emerging Economies.

A Belgian native, Ann speaks Dutch, French, English and Italian fluently, in addition to German and Portuguese. She is married with two daughters – Jade (9) and Yuan (12). When she is lucky enough to have some free time, she enjoys hiking, sports, reading and photography.

For more information on the Novartis Foundation:  
[www.novartisfoundation.org](http://www.novartisfoundation.org)  
[www.youtube.com/novartisfoundation](http://www.youtube.com/novartisfoundation)

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