

Mentors

JULIE MILSTIEN



Julie Milstien is a virologist, formerly with the World Health Organization and most recently at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Julie, who is American, began her career as a postdoctoral fellow in biophysics at the National Institute of Health, in Bethesda, MD, USA, and then worked for the US Food and Drug Administration in the area of biologics regulation.

She joined WHO in 1988 at their headquarters in Geneva, initially working on assuring the quality of vaccines used in immunization programs around the world, and then for the polio eradication initiative. At the time of her retirement from WHO in 2002, she was the coordinator of the Access to Technologies Team in the Division of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals, and oversaw WHO's work in vaccine regulation, prequalification, procurement, production, and cold chain, including assessment and training initiatives.

Her post-retirement work has focused generally in two areas: with WHO training initiatives in immunization delivery, primarily in Mali, for the University of Maryland, and many consultancies for WHO, mostly focused on assuring sustainable production of high quality, innovative and affordable vaccines for the world's children.

"The systems we have been able to strengthen at global, regional and national levels have now evolved so that the dream of equitable access to priority vaccines is realizable," says Julie.