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Catalyzing win-win
collaborations for global
health and development

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Your Excellencies, distinguished leaders, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Our next Laureates remind us of another powerful truth about the diaspora: **sometimes the greatest bridges are built when people on different continents decide that distance should never be a barrier to working together.**

The story of **Dr. Kathleen Corey and Dr. Samson Okello** is such a story.

Dr. Corey, a physician at Massachusetts General Hospital and Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, began traveling to East Africa in 2009. Dr. Okello, a Ugandan physician and faculty member at the Mbarara University of Science and Technology, understood firsthand the enormous unmet need for specialized gastrointestinal care in southwestern Uganda.

Together, they asked a deceptively simple question: **What if we could build the expertise and infrastructure here, so patients would not have to travel hundreds of kilometers to receive care?**

That question became action.

Together they co-founded the **Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Unit at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital**. Before this collaboration, endoscopy was available only in Kampala, about 270 kilometers away. Today, Health Uganda reports that the unit has performed **more than 6,000 upper endoscopies**, diagnosing more than **1,000 cases of esophageal cancer and 1,400 cases of gastric cancer**, while also providing treatment and building local clinical capacity.

And from that partnership grew **Health Uganda**—an organization dedicated to strengthening healthcare in Uganda through sustainable programs, equipment, education, clinical care, and collaboration. Dr. Corey serves as its founder and president, while Dr. Okello remains central to the Uganda-based clinical and academic partnership.

Their work reminds us that global health is at its best when it is **not about one side helping the other—it is about building together.**

This is the spirit of the Global Diaspora Laureates: connecting people, institutions, knowledge, and opportunity across borders—and turning those connections into capacity that lasts.

Today, we honor **two physicians, two educators, two bridge-builders, and two Global Health Catalysts** whose partnership has helped bring advanced care closer to thousands of patients.

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, please join us in celebrating and welcoming to the podium Inaugural Global Diaspora Laureates—Dr. Kathleen Corey and Dr. Samson Okello of Health Uganda.



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www.globalhealthcatalystsummit.org